

# Dominion

## Key Verse

*Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)*

## Exploring the Bible

### I. Man Is Given Dominion

*Genesis 1:26-28 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

Question: In whose image is man created?

Answer:

Question: Over what is man supposed to rule?

Answer:

When man is created, he is given dominion over the earth and all that God created. When God chooses to do this, it defines the way God accomplishes His will on this earth. God now works in a cooperative relationship with man. God would work with man and through man to accomplish His will on this earth.

Read *Psalms 8:3-7*

Question: What did God make man ruler over?

Answer:

Even after man fell into sin in the garden, man's rule over creation was still intact. The Psalmist still declares long after man's fall into sin that man is the ruler over all of God's creation. God did not remove man's dominion from him.

But, with man now separated from God by sin, this cooperative effort between God and man is broken. God cannot work through man to expand and extend His Kingdom. In fact, the Kingdom that was established in the Garden of Eden is gone. Man is now under the dominion of the kingdom of darkness serving the devil.

## II. The Kingdom Returns

Read *Matthew 4:12-17*

Question: What does Jesus begin to preach to the people (verse 17)?

Answer:

Question: When does Jesus begin to preach this message (verse 12)?

Answer:

John the Baptist's ministry is over as he is put into prison. The way has been prepared for Jesus. Now Jesus arrives on the scene and begins to preach. But His message is not about salvation or healing. He begins declaring that the Kingdom of Heaven is near or at hand. Jesus is here on earth to re-establish God's Kingdom. This Kingdom re-establishes the cooperative relationship between God and man in carrying out God's will on this earth. Jesus becomes the first person to walk out this relationship and demonstrate what it looks like. He brings healing, deliverance, and salvation to all who come to Him. He destroys the works of the devil through His ministry and His work on the cross.

## III. Greater Works

*John 14:12 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."*

Question: What would those who believed on Jesus be able to do?

Answer:

It is clear that Jesus intended that those who follow Him continue on doing the works He did. As people believe on Jesus and enter the Kingdom, they start living out this cooperative relationship with God, carrying out the Father's will, destroying the works of the devil, and expanding the Kingdom of Heaven. As these works continue to multiply, more and more people are drawn into this Kingdom and become activist citizens of light. Let's look at what Jesus said about the spread of this Kingdom.

## IV. The End Is Near!!

*Matthew 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. (NIV)*

Question: Where will the gospel of the kingdom be preached?

Answer:

Question: What happens after this?

Answer:

The world is not going to go on forever. There is an end. But it is not the massive scene of war and destruction that is many times portrayed as the end of the world. Instead, it is the accomplishment of the great task of preaching the good news of the Kingdom to the whole world.

## V. The Great Reclamation

Often times we talk about Jesus' commissioning of His disciples as the Great Commission. But God already gave a great commission to man in Genesis 1:26-28 when He gave man dominion over this earth. With the Kingdom of Heaven re-established by Jesus on this earth, He re-commissions the disciples, and us. Let's look at what Jesus had to say.

### The Commission

*John 20:21 - Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." (NIV)*

Question: Who is sending us?

Answer:

### The Power

*Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (NIV)*

Question: Once you receive power from the Holy Spirit what are you supposed to be?

Answer:

Question: How far are we supposed to go to be witnesses?

Answer:

## **The Message**

*Luke 24:46-47 - He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (NIV)*

Question: What two things are to be preached?

Answer:

Question: Where is the message to be preached?

Answer:

## **The Scope**

*Mark 16:15-16 - He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (NIV)*

Question: To whom should the good news be preached?

Answer:

## **The Plan**

*Matthew 28:18-20 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (NIV)*

Question: What are we supposed to go and make?

Answer:

Question: In how many nations are we supposed to do this?

Answer:

There is one inescapable theme through all of these verses. The good news of the Kingdom is to be preached to everyone in the world. That task is not complete. There are many people groups in the world which have not heard the gospel for the first time.

The world's population is growing every day and most of these new babies are being born into an environment where the good news is not known or where there is actual hostility to the good news. If we look at the sheer size of the task we can feel overwhelmed and give up in hopelessness. But that is not the response our heavenly Father wants us to have. This is where our destiny intersects with the mission.

## **VI. A Place to Start**

*Psalm 2:7-8 - I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.*

Question: What is offered to the Son?

Answer:

While this offer was made to Jesus by the Father, the offer comes to us also because we are in Jesus Christ. We can ask for and receive the nations as our inheritance. When we have the nations as our inheritance, we have authority to speak into the affairs of that nation in prayer.

## **Practical Application**

Have you ever considered asking the Father for one or more nations as your inheritance? What nation or nations would you ask for and why? How would such an inheritance change your view of reaching the nations?