

HEAVEN

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: SHAWN HOELSCH

DATE: JANUARY 23, 2022

HEAVEN: Our Shocking Destiny -- Co-Rulers in an Eternal Kingdom!

A (very) brief history of the Eternal Kingdom

God's human family was created as his faithful co-rulers on earth.

Gen. 1:27 So God created [humanity] in his own image...**28** 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."

Humanity failed, forfeiting our status to spiritual beings. *(see Ps. 82, 2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2, 6:12)*

Deut. 32:8 When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God.

On the cross, Jesus...

- ... defeated the corrupt spiritual rulers.

Col. 2:15 [God] disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in [Christ].

- ... received authority as God's faithful human partner. *(see Is. 49:6, Dan.7:13-14, Lk. 1:31-33)*

Heb.2:9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

- ... redeemed humanity for its original, royal purpose.

Revelation 5:9 ...by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, **10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

As his glorified human family, we will administrate Christ's Kingdom

Hebrews 2:5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking... **10** For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. **11** For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

1 Cor. 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? **3** Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

We lead as He leads

Matt. 20:25 "...You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them...**26** It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant...**28** even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In preparation for our anticipated Kingdom roles, we...

1. ... recognize our future honor is proportional to our present faithfulness.

Matthew 25: 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'

2. ... constantly remember our union with Christ and our royal status.

Col. 3:1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

3. ... cut off from our lives all that opposes the Kingdom of Heaven.

Col. 3:5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. **6** On account of these the wrath of God is coming... **8** But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. **9** Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

4. ... treat everyone who names Christ as family, fellow heirs with Christ.

Col. 3:11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

5. ... actively train in Kingdom living, especially in our relationship to one another.

Col. 3:12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, **13** bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Reflection & Discussion

1. How does it make you feel to know that God's purpose is for you to rule with Christ in the Eternal Kingdom?
2. How do Paul's 2 lists in Col. 3 ("put to death", "put on then") connect to your future glory and co-reign with Christ? How will an awareness of your future rule with Christ, fuel Kingdom living in your daily life this week?

SONGS

"10,000 REASONS" - Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman

"MY TESTIMONY" - Chris Brown, Steven Furtick, Brandon Lake, Tiffany Hudson

"FOREVER" - Kari Jobe, Brian Johnson

"O PRAISE THE NAME" - Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 23,102.50

WEEKLY GENERAL FUND NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$ 88,756.02

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$108,279.00