

## **“KINGDOM LIVING”**

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The Old Testament prophets were sent by God to the rebellious nations of Israel and Judah to call them back to the Lord they had forsaken. Therefore, they had a message for their own times. However, the prophets were often led by the Holy Spirit to look into the future and predict the coming of the glorious kingdom of God. A recurring theme of the prophets was, “The Kingdom Is Coming!” God reigned in the hearts of His Old Testament people, but the prediction of the coming kingdom of God centered in the reign of God in human hearts through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. This reign was to come in the days that Rome ruled the world (Daniel 2); it was to be a reign of peace (Zechariah 9:9); it was to be an everlasting kingdom (2 Samuel 7:12-16); and it was to be the Messiah’s kingdom (Daniel 7:13,14). So, when the New Testament opens, one is not surprised to hear John announce that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). Jesus had a similar message (Mark 1:15). In Mark 9:1 Jesus said that the kingdom would come during the lifetime of his contemporaries. Beginning in Acts 2 the message of Scripture changes to say, “The Kingdom Is Here!” When people obeyed the gospel they were ushered into the Kingdom ... the rule of God through King Jesus. Therefore, Paul and the Colossians and John were all in the kingdom (Colossians 1:13,14; Revelation 1:9). Kingdom living brings righteousness, peace and joy into our lives (Romans 14:17). Kingdom living honors King Jesus as we acknowledge our dependence upon Him, as we mourn over our sins, as we live under His control, as we hunger for righteousness, as we show mercy to others, as we

dedicate ourselves to the single purpose of serving Him, as we seek to be peacemakers, as we are willing to suffer for His cause and as we anticipate heaven (Matthew 5:1-12). Kingdom living sets us apart to lead holy, prayerful and active lives in His service. Kingdom living prepares us for an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom ... “The Kingdom That Is Yet To Come.” How are you doing in Kingdom living?