

What is a Kingdom Kid?

The Scriptures clearly teach that when children (or anyone for that matter) are redeemed, they are redeemed not only from their sin, but also out of the kingdom of Satan and into the kingdom of God. This change of citizenship occurs at the time of our forgiveness, although we still look forward to the day of Christ's return and the destruction of the kingdom of Satan altogether. The two kingdoms are also referred to as the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. The people of God's kingdom are often called simply "the people of God". It might be new to some that we are already part of a kingdom, so a few passages are referenced below to promote further thought, study and family discussion. The references listed below are from the teachings of Christ, John, Paul, and Peter in order to illustrate how widespread and foundational this teaching was, and still is to the church.

In chapter one of Revelation, **John** is speaking of the church age when he writes; *"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **and** has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father... (Revelation 1:5,6)* And again, in verse 9 John addresses himself as "your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom". In his gospel, John teaches us through Christ's words that we must be born again to "see the kingdom of God". Finally, in his first epistle, John argues that if we consider ourselves people of the light, we have no business walking in darkness.

Observe **Peter's** description of believers in 1 Peter 2:9-10; *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy".* This is actually a quote from Exodus 19 where Moses identifies the Israelites the same way. God has always desired a people.

Paul teaches the same in his letters. Note especially Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:12-14, *"...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins".*

This teaching is actually part of the gospel message itself. Virtually everything **Jesus** taught was about his kingdom (see Matt 4:17 and 147 other passages in the gospels). The gospel is first called "the gospel of the kingdom". In fact, this gospel of the kingdom will be taught in the whole world, and then the end will come (Matt 24:14). (See also Matt 4:23; 9:35; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 16:16; and Acts 8:12.) Acts 8:12 shows that the gospel was still referred to as the "gospel of the kingdom" long after the death and resurrection of Christ.

Further articles will expand upon what it means to live as a part of the people of God, and how we would teach that to our kids. Perhaps this short article will help guide some through a study of the broader subject of the kingdom itself. As believers, this is our cause, our life, as well as our hope. (Other kingdom terms used in the New Testament include royal, dominion, realms, authorities, principalities, powers, rulers, kings, and even the very title of Jesus as "Lord".)

