

February 28, 2021

## The Kingdom of Heaven: Advance and Build

A greater understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven will give us a greater understanding of the government of Jesus Christ and His rule and reign on this earth. We have been calling forth (proclaiming) His Kingdom for 2,000 years and we are approaching the fulness of that proclamation as His Kingdom continues to manifest. His fire-glorious engulfing the earth.

**Do we Advance the Kingdom or do we Build the Kingdom? Both!**

The Kingdom of God is **advanced** through spiritual warfare, but it is fortified through **building structure**.

**Spiritual warfare:** Prayer, Praise and Proclamation. We release the Word of God (the sword) through prayer. Praise controls the gates and releases God's fire and glory. Proclamation calls forth the Kingdom of God. There are other elements to spiritual warfare like fasting, putting on the armor of God, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Spiritual warfare pulls down strongholds, arguments, and everything that exalts itself about the knowledge of God. We are to **engage the culture** in order to advance the Kingdom of God. We confront the culture; we don't hide and withdraw from it. This is first done in the spiritual realm, but must be accompanied by works in order to manifest in this physical realm. God partnered with man from the beginning and reconfirmed that partnership through His covenant with Abraham; to bless all the people of the earth through Abraham.

**James 2:14-17** *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.* Prayers should be said in faith, but if you are not putting "your hand to it" your prayers will not accomplish much. Sometimes all we can do is pray, but most often we can do something.

We can pray for God to prosper us and bless us financially, but at the same time, we "put our hand" to a job, we go to work. It is foolishness to pray for prosperity, and sit home doing nothing. We pray for God to bring us a job, a divine appointment with the right person, to be in the right spot at the right time. Our prayers are **spiritual warfare** against the spirit of poverty, laziness and lack. Our job is building structure to fortify our prosperity and learning financial wisdom.

**Building Structure:** The systems we put in place to hold our ground. Once we have pulled down a stronghold, we must put in place a strong tower. It is like casting demons out of a person; once the demons are gone, the person needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit and knowledge of God, or the demons will return. The structure is built to teach the person about the knowledge of God, be it a church, Bible study, small group, videos, notes, classes, websites, pod cast, daily devotionals and so on. All of these things **put structure** to the advancement of the Kingdom in order to maintain the advancement made by spiritual warfare. This manifests the spiritual realm into this physical realm.

**Matt 11:11-15** *"Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

"Jesus references to the **nonreligious style** of John and the **confrontive** miraculous ministry of Elijah teach that the Kingdom of God makes its penetration by a kind of **violent entry opposing the human status quo**. Jesus defines the "violence" of His **kingdom's expansion** by defining the "sword" and "fire" He has brought, as different from the battle techniques of political or military warfare. The upheaval caused by the Kingdom of God is not caused by political provocation or armed advance. It is the result of God's order shaking relationships, households, cities and nations by the entry of the Holy Spirit's power working in people" -Kingdom Dynamics SFLB. **The "status quo" is the culture.**

"The idea in this verse is that the Kingdom of Heaven which Jesus set up as a **powerful movement** or reign among men (suffers violence), requires of them an **equally strong and radical reaction**. The violent then who take it by force are people of keen enthusiasm and commitment who are willing to respond to and propagate with **radical abandonment** the message and dynamic of Gods reign" -Foot notes SFLB study Bible

**Matt 10:34-36** *"Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a **sword**. 35 For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; 36 and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'* The sword is the Word of God, the Truth and it will offend people and cause division. Pushing back against the culture (status quo) will offend people. Jesus was not concerned about offending anyone because the offense will show what is in the heart.

**Luke 12:49-52** *"I came to send **fire** on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed (compelled) I am till it is accomplished! 51 Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, **but rather division**. 52 For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three.* The division is from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God (**Acts 26:18**). This division is now coming into its fulness; wheat from the tares. Once it is complete the rapture will come.

**Matt 3:7** *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? John the Baptist being very bold, not your typical Christian of today who is afraid to offend someone with the truth. John operated outside the "religious" church box. This boldness is coming again upon Christians, not to intentionally offend anyone, but to not apologize and back down from the Truth. Many Christians water down the Word of God in order to appease sin, being worried about offending someone.*

**1 Kings 18:17-19** *Then it happened, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said to him, "Is that you, O troubler of Israel?" 18 And he answered, "I have not troubled Israel, but you and your father's house have, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord and have followed the Baals. 19 Now therefore, send and gather all Israel to me on Mount Carmel, the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal, and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."*

In order to advance the Kingdom of God, we engage the culture of this world; we don't back down. Babylon is symbolic of a sinful culture in rebellion against God and His Word. Many believe Babylon will fall before Jesus returns.

**One of the "strongholds" in Babylon is abortion.** A stronghold is a mind set or belief system contrary to the Word or knowledge of God. We first "pull" the stronghold down by spiritual warfare. Then we engage the culture with discussion (even arguments) lifting up the Truth and using the wisdom and the knowledge of God. Once people's eyes are open and people see the Truth, it breaks the stronghold. This is advancing the Kingdom of God. Now structure has to be put in place to fortify the advance.

The lie of abortion was exalted above the Word of God. The Supreme Court cases that ruled abortion is a woman's right were based on lies. This established the stronghold of abortion stating it is the woman's right, it is her own body, the baby is a blob of flesh, God is ok with abortion, it is woman's health care, abortion is legal so it is morally acceptable. The **structure built** to fortify this advancement was **Planned Parenthood**, one of the most aggressive abortion clinics around the world. The enemy also fortifies his advancements by building structure.

The people of God fought back. In spiritual warfare they prayed, fasted, gave, and spoke the truth about abortion. People are seeing all of the damage to women's health that abortions cause, the misery, the regret, that God loves these babies and He has a plan for each one, that progressives use abortion as population control especially of minority groups. As people started seeing the truth, movements started to rise up like **Right to Life** as the structures are being built to fortify the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Right to Life is the manifestation of the Kingdom of God, the government of Jesus.

**People didn't just pray about it and leave it up to God**, they "put their hand to it" and their prayers manifested into this physical realm. The structure included a game plan to rally like-minded prolife people together and **engage the culture** to fight for life. They supported politicians who support life. They got involved with the government and fought for laws to be passed to protect the unborn. Now there are states that are almost abortion free. They built **pregnancy centers** to help the pregnant moms who were scared, or wanted help or needed to know the truth about their baby. They fought to get prolife Supreme Court Justices nominated. This is manifesting the Kingdom of Life, the Kingdom of God on this planet; a part of the government being placed back on the shoulder of Jesus Christ. Laws that protect life are righteous laws of the manifested Kingdom of God.

Is the Kingdom of God in you? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit? Is your faith alive and manifested by your works? Are you the obedient to the Holy Spirit?