

STRONG
STUDENTS

*HIGH
SCHOOL*

STUDENT BOOK



Kingdom Come

Recovery from Royal Ruin



Kingdom Come

Jesus Christ is at the center of God's plans. As Israel's promised king, He will establish a literal Kingdom on earth. This course will trace the doctrines of the Kingdom and Christ's kingship through the Bible and encourage you to live confidently for Christ, knowing God's plan will surely come to pass.



Time with God

As you work through your Time with God each week, keep a journal. A great way to think through passages and gain insights is to ask yourself simple questions. See the list below and sample questions for each one.

Who?	<i>Who wrote this passage? To whom was it written?</i>
What?	<i>What is this passage about? What happened to the characters in the passage?</i>
When?	<i>When was this passage written? When did the events in the passage take place?</i>
Where?	<i>Where was this passage written? Where did the events take place?</i>
Why?	<i>Why was this passage written? Why is it organized as it is?</i>
How?	<i>How should this passage affect its readers? How might I live out this passage?</i>

As you answer these questions in a journal, you will begin to see what each passage means and how God wants you to use it in your life.



How to Go to Heaven

God has promised you eternal life. You can know for sure you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven (1 John 5:13).

1. You must understand that you are a sinner and God won't let any sin into Heaven. God is perfect and will never allow evil to dwell in His presence. We must face reality—we are guilty sinners (Romans 3:23).
2. We can't earn eternal life. Unless God miraculously saves us, we are destined for eternity in the Lake of Fire. Thankfully, God has miraculously provided salvation for everyone—including you (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
3. God sent His Son to earth to become a man and die to pay for our sins. Jesus Christ remained perfect because He remained the Son of God. When Jesus died on the cross, God the Father accepted His sacrifice to fully pay for our sins. Jesus' resurrection from the dead proved that God had accepted Jesus' death. Jesus can now offer us eternal life (Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:20).
4. Jesus did all the work to secure our salvation, but that doesn't make anyone automatically saved. We must accept His payment for our sins by placing our trust in His finished work on the cross. God will not accept anything else. When we place our trust in Jesus, God guarantees us eternal life (John 5:24).

If you aren't sure you are saved, simply place your trust in Jesus Christ right now, and you can know for certain you will spend eternity with Him!



GOD'S BACKUP PLAN

Theme: God is working His plan to restore humanity's rule over creation through Christ.

I. God Established Human _____ (Gen. 1:26–28)

A. _____ the earth

God commanded Adam and Eve to start a _____ so there would be more people to rule over creation and _____ His name.

B. _____ the earth

The word "subdue" means _____ upon something with _____ so that it is brought under the control. Man had to take charge of creation.

C. _____ dominion

"Dominion" describes man's established position of rule over _____.

We can't subdue the earth and exercise dominion over it as _____ did before the _____. God will one day restore human rule over the earth.

II. God _____ Humanity (Ps. 8)

A. He crowned them with _____ (8:1–4)

God crowned Adam and Eve with glory and honor, meaning _____, _____, value, and _____.

B. He gave them _____ (8:5–8)

God put the earth, its resources, and its creatures under Adam and Eve's _____.

III. God Promised Humanity's _____ (Gen. 3:15)

A. He promised a _____

Jesus represented humanity and offered to be our _____ and _____ the rightful place of humanity as the rulers on earth.

B. He promised _____

Jesus _____ by dying on the cross and then rising again.



Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 1:26–28.

Why did God want Adam and Eve to fill the earth? What did they need help doing?

Why should we not worry about overpopulating the earth? Who ultimately controls who is born into the world?

THURSDAY

Read Psalm 8:2; Matthew 15:14–16.

Jesus applied Psalm 8:2 to Himself because He is the solution to sin, the Savior to redeem humanity and restore rule over the earth. Thank God for sending Jesus.

What should you be doing now as you await Jesus' return for you and then with you to set up His Kingdom on earth?

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 1:28.

God tasked man with taking charge of creation. Why did the plants and animals need a ruler?

Sin ruined man's ability to rule creation. List three evidences of that truth. Consider what parts of God's creation we can't control.

FRIDAY

Read Psalm 8:3–5.

In God's vast universe, nothing has His care and attention like humanity. What did He do to show He created humanity to be special?

Knowing that God created people with dignity, honor, and worth, how should you treat others?

WEDNESDAY

Read Psalm 8:1.

God's "name" is His reputation and record. What about the universe gives God a good name?

Write a praise to God for His greatness.

SATURDAY

Read Psalm 8:6–8.

When Christ returns to earth, He will rule over a renewed earth to restore what was ruined by Adam's sin. Only those who have trusted Him as Savior will be part of His Kingdom. Who can you invite to trust in Christ?

Praise God again for His plan to redeem humanity and restore human rule over the earth.



Tough Questions Answered



Should people try to subdue the earth today?



God created Adam and Eve to be perfect and live in a perfect environment called the Garden of Eden. God then commanded them to subdue the earth, meaning He wanted them to rule it and cause it to reach the potential He built into it, its creatures, and its vegetation. God also commanded Adam and Eve to fill the earth so their descendants could assist them in subduing the earth.

Before Adam and Eve had hardly begun subduing the earth, they sinned against God and ruined both themselves and the rest of creation. God banned them from the Garden of Eden, sending them out to grow their own food. They soon learned that they could no longer subdue the earth. The earth fought back, bringing forth thorns and weeds to choke out their crops (Gen. 3:17–24). Eventually animals became hostile and the weather violent.

Trying to reverse or eliminate the effects of God's curse on the earth would be futile.

Has the curse on creation changed? Obviously not. No one would stick his hand into a beehive to fetch some honey without wearing protection. And no one would try to hug a wild bear or snuggle a lion. Concerning the weather, we have become great at predicting storms and warning people of potential threats, even spotting tornadoes on radar before they touch down. But no one can stop a tornado, a hurricane, or even a light breeze. Man can't rule the weather because it is a symptom of the earth being under God's curse.

So should we try to subdue the earth today and bring it under our control? Trying to reverse or eliminate the effects of God's curse on the earth would be futile. We can still manage the earth and use its resources responsibly. We can also research ways to use it more effectively. But our focus should be on sharing the gospel, the solution to sin's effect on people's souls. Eventually Jesus will return to lift the curse and restore man's rule (Rev. 20:1–4). But only those who trusted in Jesus as Savior will enjoy His Kingdom. Focus, then, on heart change rather than climate change. It's the only change with eternal consequences.

Adrift at Sea



Jose Salvador Alvarenga, a Salvadoran fisherman, set off on a fishing trip with Ezequiel Cordoba on November 17, 2012. They left from a Mexican fishing village and headed into the Pacific Ocean. After only a few hours at sea, a storm rose and battered their ship for five days. They lost their electronics and engine, leaving them to drift in the ocean.

Alvarenga and Cordoba survived eating raw fish, raw turtle meat, and jellyfish. They caught rain to drink but had to resort to drinking turtle blood at times. After five or so months, Cordoba became sickened from eating so much raw meat. He passed away, leaving Alvarenga to drift alone for another nine months. Alvarenga never gave up hope and eventually spotted a small island. He abandoned his ship and swam to shore to learn he had reached the Marshall Islands. In all, Alvarenga drifted for 438 days and covered between 5,500 and 6,700 miles. Alvarenga and Cordoba had no plan B when their trip met disaster. Their failure to plan cost Cordoba his life.

Six thousand or more years ago, God put Adam and Eve in charge of the newly created earth. Not long after receiving the assignment, Adam sinned and disqualified himself to rule. God didn't panic. He had a backup plan already in place. One day Jesus will return to earth to set up His Kingdom to restore rule over earth. We can anticipate that day by serving and praising God.



Memory Verse Review



Memory Verses—Psalm 8:4, 6

God placed Adam and Eve over the rest of His creation to have dominion over it. Such an appointment was an act of grace. Because Adam sinned and disqualified himself to rule, though, God sent Jesus to earth as the Son of Man. Jesus will return someday to set up His Kingdom.

1. What hope does humanity have of creating a perfect society on their own?
2. Why can you be confident in God's plan to restore rule to humanity?
3. How should you respond to God's plan to restore earth's rule through Christ?

Measuring Growth



On the final day of creation, God made man and appointed him as the ruler over the earth. God blessed Adam and Eve, giving them the privilege of filling and subduing the earth. When Adam sinned, God revealed His plan to send Jesus as the Son of Man to restore order. As believers, we will take part in Jesus' Kingdom. We will rejoice to see Him rule.

Look for the following indicators that you are confident in God's plan to restore rule to earth.

1. I recognize sin ruined Adam's rule over the earth.
2. I believe God will execute His plan to restore human rule over the earth through Christ.
3. I know that no one can stop God's plans for Christ's rule over the earth.

Additional Memory Verses—Job 42:2; Psalm 135:6; Isaiah 14:24.



GOD NARROWS HIS PLAN

Theme: God advanced His kingdom plan by narrowing the bloodline through which the King would come.

I. Narrowing Promises to _____ (Gen. 12:1–3; 17:6)

A. Promise of _____ blessing (12:1–3)

God's promise to make Abraham a blessing to the _____ of the earth refers to God's offer of _____ to all nations through Christ.

B. Promise of _____ (17:6)

King David, Israel's second king, became the first king in the _____ that eventually produced _____.

II. Narrowing Prophecies through _____ (Gen. 49:1–12)

A. _____ prophecies for Judah's older brothers (49:1–7)

Reuben, Simeon, and Levi all disqualified themselves from receiving the _____ of succession that normally belonged to the _____ son.

B. _____ prophecies for Judah (49:8–12)

1. _____ (49:8, 9)

Jacob prophesied that Judah would _____ from the other tribes for dominating common _____.

The ultimate fulfillment of Judah's victory won't be until Jesus returns to earth to _____ His enemies and establish His _____.

2. _____ (49:10)

When Jesus returns to earth at some point in the future, He will rule the world from _____, wielding Judah's _____.

3. _____ (49:11, 12)

No one will run out of _____ during Jesus' _____.

Jesus will reverse the _____ so people won't suffer _____.

Under Jesus' rule, those believers with unglorified bodies will experience excellent _____ and prolonged _____.



Time with God

Read each passage and answer the questions to spend personal time with God.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 12:1–3; Galatians 3:7–9.

Who is the descendant of Abraham through
Whom all the families of the earth are blessed?

What did He do to bless the world?

THURSDAY

Read Genesis 49:8, 9.

What did Jacob say Judah's brothers, meaning
their descendants, would do to Judah (v. 8)?

What can you learn about Jesus by comparing
Him to a lion who has defeated his foes and is
resting without a worry (v. 9)?

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 17:6.

What did God promise Abraham?

Who is the most important king to come from
Abraham?

FRIDAY

Read Genesis 49:10.

Who has the power to remove the scepter, the
right to rule, from Judah?

What will happen to all other kingdoms when
Jesus returns with His scepter to rule?

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 49:1–7.

To whom did Jacob not give the right to rule the
rest of their brothers' descendants?

What disqualified them?

SATURDAY

Read Genesis 49:11, 12.

What do we learn about Christ's Kingdom from
verse 11? Will there be anyone who suffers
need?

In verse 12, what did Jacob communicate about
people's health during Christ's rule?



What is God's relationship with Judah today?



God promised a scepter would not depart from Judah, one of the tribes of Israel (Gen. 49:10). What does that mean for Israel, and especially Judah, today?

Beginning with His call to Abram (Gen. 12:1–3), God revealed He would make Abram's descendants a special nation that would live in covenant relationship with Him. God's promises to Abraham, called the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 15:13–20), will one day provide Israel with a bountiful land from which Jesus will rule as their king.

God has never gone back on His promises to Israel. He loves Israel with an "everlasting love" (Jer. 31:3) and said He would allow the sun, moon, and stars to disappear before He would do away with Israel (31:35).

God will keep His promises with the nation He chose and loves. But He temporarily set aside His plans to fulfill His promises to Israel after they rejected Jesus, their rightful Messiah and King. God now works through the church to accomplish His will on earth. The church includes all those who trust in Jesus as their Savior. Like the Jews in Jesus' day, most Jews today reject Jesus as their Savior. Those few who have trusted in Jesus are part of His church. God deals with current believing Jews as church members rather than as a nation.

One day, however, God will again deal with Israel as a nation. He will send Jesus to remove His church from the earth and start seven years of trouble on earth. We call those troubling years the Tribulation. Countless Jews will turn to Jesus as their Savior during the Tribulation (Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:25–36). Following the Tribulation, God will fulfill His promises to Israel, giving them a land and setting up Jesus in Jerusalem as their loving king. In the meantime, God still loves Israel and wants them to trust in Jesus as their Savior.

God deals with current believing Jews as church members rather than as a nation.

Ancient Emperors



Some Japanese claim their monarchy started in 660 BC with Emperor Jimmu. They believe he is a direct descendant of their sun goddess, Amaterasu, through her celestial grandson.

Jimmu, though, like all of the Japanese emperors before AD 539, is legendary. No one, therefore, can prove he even existed. So did the Japanese empire begin in 660 BC? No one could tell for sure.



Emperor Jimmu

Around 1700 BC, God predicted a monarchy would arise. He said the monarchy's scepter would remain with the tribe of Judah until the One to Whom it belonged arrived. Jesus is that One. He came to earth but was rejected. He has set aside His scepter for now, but one day He will take it up and return to earth. He will conquer the world with the word of His mouth and set up His worldwide rule. We can be sure His scepter does exist and that He will return. Emperor Jimmu can't be verified. And the sun goddess, Amaterasu, never existed of course. Jesus is real. He made the sun, and He will return to reign on earth.

Memory Verse Review



Memory Verse—Genesis 49:10

Of the twelve tribes of Israel, God gave the right to rule to the tribe of Judah. The tribe still retains that right to this day. Jesus, the One to Whom the scepter belongs, descended from the tribe of Judah. He will return someday to rule the world. The nations (people) will serve Him during His reign.

1. What's your response to God's revelation of Jesus' scepter 3,700 years or so ago?
2. How would you respond to someone who thinks Jesus is ancient history or a legend?
3. How should Jesus' future reign affect your life goals?

Measuring Growth



God made a covenant with Abraham, promising him the world would be blessed through him. Jesus is that blessing. God also revealed that Abraham would be the father of royalty. Jacob inherited God's Covenant with Abraham. Jacob's blessing of his son Judah revealed a scepter would not depart from Judah until the One to Whom it belonged arrived. Jesus is the One to Whom it belongs. He will one day return with His scepter to rule the world.

Look for the following indicators that you understand the implications of God's promises to Abraham and through Jacob.

1. I believe Jesus fulfilled God's promise to bless the world through Abraham.
2. I believe Jesus will return to earth to rule with the scepter of Judah.
3. I anticipate Jesus' return by faithfully serving Him now.

Additional Memory Verses—Genesis 12:1–3; Galatians 3:7–9.