

Things Concerning the Kingdom of God
(Acts 8:12)

Introduction:

1. In the book of Acts we read about some great men who served the Lord in the early church.
2. One of these men was Philip the evangelist who:
 - a. was 1 of the 7 men who served the Jerusalem church
 - b. led many people to the Lord in Samaria
 - c. taught and baptized the eunuch of Ethiopia.
3. We are especially interested in something Philip did in Samaria -- he preached "*the things concerning the kingdom of God*" (Acts 8:12).
4. In our lesson we are concentrating on "3 things concerning God's kingdom."
 - a. God's kingdom has a King.
 - b. God's kingdom has subjects.
 - c. God's kingdom has a law.
5. Let us begin by showing that . . .

Discussion:

I. GOD'S KINGDOM HAS A KING

- A. In order for a kingdom to exist there must be a king.
- B. A king is one who:
 1. possesses power and authority
 2. reveals his law to his subjects
 3. receives honor and respect from his subjects.
- C. In God's kingdom, Jesus is King.
 1. In 1 Timothy 6:15 Jesus is described as "*King of kings, and Lord of Lords.*"
 2. As King, Jesus possesses all authority (Matthew 28:18).
 3. He alone is the head of His church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).
- D. The fact that Jesus is the head of His church brings us to our next point.

II. GOD'S KINGDOM HAS CITIZENS

- A. In order for a kingdom to exist there must be citizens or subjects.
- B. In God's kingdom, Christians are citizens.
 1. (Ephesians 2:19) Christians are "*fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*"
 2. (Colossians 1:13) The citizens of God's kingdom are those who have been delivered "*from the power of darkness*" and "*translated*" into it (see 2:12-13).
 3. Jesus explained how we enter God's kingdom in John 3:3, 5 [remember how the people in Samaria reacted when Philip preached there -- Acts 8:12].
- C. The citizens of God's kingdom are subject to the King (Colossians 3:17).
- D. For our final point we need to understand that . . .

III. GOD'S KINGDOM HAS A LAW

- A. In order for a kingdom to exist it must have a law or system of laws.
- B. In God's kingdom, the New Testament of Christ is the law.
 1. (Hebrews 9:15) Jesus, the King, "*is the mediator of the new testament.*"
 2. (Hebrews 8:6) Jesus "*is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*"
- C. Citizens of God's kingdom have a responsibility concerning our law (Colossians 3:16a).
- D. Those who comply with the Lord's law enjoy special blessings.
 1. See James 1:25.
 2. To be more specific, see John 8:31-32; John 14:21, 23; John 15:7.

Conclusion:

1. We have examined "3 things concerning the kingdom of God."
2. Is Jesus your King?
3. Are you a citizen of His kingdom?
4. Are you complying with His law?