

Chapter 1 : What Is the Kingdom of God? - Life, Hope & Truth

The Kingdom of God is a real, perfect government. Only under God's loving rule will all people enjoy a happy, secure life. Would you like to be a citizen?

Due to various electronic necessities, insignificant formatting, punctuation, capitalization, etc. Spelling has been addressed especially where scanning has caused errors. Links to the various sections can be found at the bottom of the page. We take note of his birth at this time, because we are to hear more about him later on. Among the Jewish exiles in Babylonia under Nebuchadnezzar was the prophet Ezekiel. In the midst of a land of pagan idolatry it strengthened their hope of again worshiping the true God, Jehovah, at his temple. Two years after the temple vision Ezekiel gave a final prophecy concerning King Nebuchadnezzar. For twelve years Nebuchadnezzar had carried on a siege of the commercial city of Tyre. Although he established control over it, he failed to take its vast wealth. But for this executorial service against Tyre, Nebuchadnezzar was to be rewarded with the conquest of Egypt with all its wealth for him to plunder. This meant that he would extend the Babylonian Empire over the land of Egypt itself. This he did in the year B. Of course, Nebuchadnezzar also had daughters, and it appears that the husbands of two of these were also to occupy the throne, as history worked out. One of these sons-in-law of Nebuchadnezzar was named Neriglissar and the other Nabonidus. According to the book Nabonidus and Belshazzar, by R. Dougherty page 79 , certain circumstances favor the view that Nabonidus married a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar named Nitocris, who was the daughter of his Egyptian wife of the same name. In this way Belshazzar was really a grandson of Nebuchadnezzar and a great-grandson of Nabopolassar, the founder of the last dynasty of Semite kings of Babylon. The table below sets out this dynasty of Neo-Babylonian kings corresponding to the table drawn up by Professor R. This king, though reportedly wicked, receives mention in the Bible as doing a kindness to the exiled Jewish king whose line of descent was to run down to Joseph the foster father of Jesus Christ. And he took off his prison garments; and he ate bread constantly before him all the days of his life. As for his allowance, an allowance was constantly given him from the king, daily as due, all the days of his life. After reigning but two years King Evil-merodach was murdered by his brother-in-law Neriglissar. According to the inscriptions that have been found, this usurper of the throne spent most of his time in building operations and reigned four years. When he died, his son Labashi-Marduk, though not yet of age, succeeded him. He was a vicious boy, and within nine months he had his throat cut by an assassin. He was given to literature, art and religion. He is reported to have been the son of a priestess of the moon at Harran Haran , which fact had endeared him to Nebuchadnezzar. Says The Encyclopedia Americana, Volume 2, page He was an enthusiastic religionist and antiquarian. He built and rebuilt many temples in the principal cities of his kingdom. In doing this he alienated the priesthood, and even aroused their active opposition. For throughout the history of Babylonia each city had its own patron deity, to which its temple was dedicated and its people devoted. The images and shrines of these various divinities were collected to Babylon. This act, with others of similar offense to the priests, paved the way for his downfall before a mightier power. As regards the religiousness of the Babylonians, G. Tabouis says, in Nebuchadnezzar, page of English translation: By the side of their depravity, the Babylonians were the most religious people of antiquity, and their morality and liturgy are among the most beautiful. For, surprising as it may seem, they had no morality apart from religion. Just as their religion prescribed their duties toward the gods, so it prescribed their duties towards other men. For some reason religious Nabonidus did not choose to rule at Babylon. He set up a second capital for Babylonia at the oasis of Tema in Arabia. He left the control of the capital city Babylon largely to Nitocris his wife and to Belshazzar his son. There are six cuneiform texts that have been discovered that run from the fifth year to the thirteenth year of the reign of his father Nabonidus that prove this fact. Belshazzar even paid the Babylonian religious tithe. Hence there is no question that he was interested in the gods of his nation. So it could occur that the oldest son, as crown prince, was raised to the position of coregent with his reigning father. There are cuneiform tablets that prove that Belshazzar issued orders and commands. His father, when absent from Babylon and down south in Tema, did not give up his kingship but held onto his position as first ruler of

Babylonia, but, during his absence, crown-prince Belshazzar acted in an administrative capacity in the capital Babylon and thus was the second ruler in the land. This may be the year referred to in Daniel 7: At that time he wrote down the dream itself. The complete account of the matters he told. The world powers were pictured as four wild beasts, and Daniel saw the Ancient of Days, the King of the heavens, execute judgment on these world powers. His rulership is an indefinitely lasting rulership that will not pass away, and his kingdom one that will not be brought to ruin. Hence, in the interpretation of the dream, Daniel was told that "the holy ones of the Supreme One will receive the kingdom, and they will take possession of the kingdom for time indefinite, even for time indefinite upon times indefinite. Their kingdom is an indefinitely lasting kingdom, and all the rulerships will serve and obey even them. The second beast, which was like a bear that was raised up on one side and that was given the command: In it a male goat with a conspicuous horn between its eyes came from the west and defeated and trampled down a two-horned ram. In explanation, this is what the angel Gabriel told Daniel: And the hairy he-goat stands for the king of Greece; and as for the great horn that was between its eyes, it stands for the first king [Alexander the Great]. We remember that his father-in-law Nebuchadnezzar as crown prince of Babylon had shared with the Medes and the Scythians in destroying the Assyrian capital, Nineveh, in B. Two years later the Median king dealt the final blow to the Assyrian army by defeating it at Haran Harran. He was thus able to take over all of northern Mesopotamia, whereas the king of Babylon held the lower Mesopotamian valley. The Persian kings who held territory to the east of the Persian Gulf were vassals to the Median Empire, but they held the province of Elam and its important city Anshan or Anzan. Cambyses I married Mandane, the daughter of Astyages, who succeeded to the throne of the Median Empire. He thus had Persian and Median blood in him. The revolt was successful. From then on, the Medes and the Persians followed the leadership of King Cyrus II and fought and served together unitedly. Cyrus then moved quickly westward, subduing the territory of the Median Empire as far as the eastern border of the Lydian Empire at the Halys River. Rich King Croesus of Lydia refused to accept the sovereignty of the Persian conqueror. Cyrus was now ready to turn his attention to the Babylonian Empire. By conquering it he would overthrow the Semitic domination of the Middle East and set up Aryan or Japhetic domination under the headship of the Persians. The danger to Babylon became critical first now. But more than years before this the Jewish prophet Isaiah had foretold the final preparations that were to be made for overthrowing the Babylonian Empire, the Third World Power. Isaiah began prophesying in the name of Jehovah during the reign of King Uzziah of Jerusalem. Yes, Isaiah was still prophesying when Rome was founded on the banks of the Tiber River, the traditional date for which is B. When Isaiah was prophesying, it was in the days of the Second World Power, the Assyrian Empire, and Babylon was then the coming world power. Micah, a contemporaneous fellow prophet of Isaiah, also set Zion and Babylon in sharp contrast, saying: And you will have to come as far as to Babylon. There you will be delivered. There Jehovah will buy you back out of the palm of your enemies. Lift up the voice to them, wave the hand, that they may come into the entrances of the nobles. I myself have issued the command to my sanctified ones. I have also called my mighty ones for expressing my anger, my eminently exultant ones. The ones whom Jehovah here commands to serve as his executional instruments against Babylon are the Medes and Persians and their allies from a number of other nations. In his own nation of Israel the Jewish warriors were sanctified religiously before undertaking a military campaign. Even in pagan nations the military campaigns were begun first with religious ceremonies. War was thus said to be sanctified. These military forces against Babylon are also mighty. They eminently exult at having the grand distinction of overturning Babylon, who made so many nations drink the cup of her anger. Because they serve the purpose of Jehovah God against his great enemy Babylon, he calls them "my sanctified ones," "my mighty ones. They must assemble to a definite signal. It is the new world power, that of the Medes and Persians, which must displace the Babylonian World Power. This signal must stand out as a common ground on which to unite together. It must become as plain to the view as if it were a signal upon a bare rocky mountain with nothing to block the view of anybody and so visible from far away. Thus Jehovah God let Cyrus the Persian come to world prominence as a man who had to be dealt with and not to be left out of sight, the founder of the Persian monarchy. It was not his purpose for the captive Jews to do this. The uproar of kingdoms, of nations gathered together! Jehovah of armies is mustering the army of war. They are

coming from the land far away, from the extremity of the heavens, Jehovah and the weapons of his denunciation, to wreck all the earth.

Chapter 2 : "Babylon The Great Has Fallen!" God's Kingdom Rules! - Chapter 11

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His kingdom rules over all. Moreover, these scriptures and others make it clear that God is the only true King of all things 1. However, it should not be concluded from this that our God is, like a Greek god, in all points similar to a human king only immortal and ten thousand times more powerful. The kingdom of God is where God is King, not in word, but in power. The Kingdom of God is not this world. In this world there are many enemies of the King of the Kingdom of God John But it is not outward religiosity or any words spoken by us to other human beings which places one in the kingdom. After the religious leaders of the Jews questioned his authority, Jesus made the following comparison: He came to the second, and said the same thing. Which of the two did the will of his father? On the other hand, the kingdom took as subjects tax collectors and prostitutes who, quite obviously, had at first refused to obey God but later repented and gave him their lives when John the Baptist preached repentance to them. See, also, Luke 7: These truly became subjects of the King. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power I Corinthians 4: The Kingdom of God is. He has prepared his Kingdom for his people since the creation of the world. It "endures throughout all generations" and "from generation to generation. But according to the Lord quoted in John chapter 15, verse 18, this world is not the Kingdom of God. When Adam sinned, the third period began. God had given rule of the earth to man, and man had rebelled. Yet God did not take the prerogative to rule the earth away from man: Instead, God began to make demonstrations to people of his love and of the nature of his kingdom -- i. God began to demonstrate his kingdom not to all men and women, but to specific individuals and to the descendants of the man named Israel 9. One very noteworthy example of this is the code of laws God gave to Moses. God gave his Law to Israel after their fear had led them collectively to ask that he not speak to them directly. He gave the Law so that Israelites who kept it might maintain some favored relationship with him without having any direct contact which would trigger their fear. However, the New Testament makes it very clear that the Law was not given to help people make themselves acceptable to God Galatians 3: Rather, it was given as a schoolmaster to teach men and women that they could not make themselves acceptable to God, but could only become acceptable to God by faith Galatians 3: It can be helpful to compare with Exodus And during this period, men and women were free to disobey God. But God maintained control, primarily by working through a few chosen gentiles and His people Israel. On the individual level, God offered his own people a choice between obedience leading to life and blessing or disobedience leading to death and cursing Deuteronomy However, throughout this period, with the exception of a few brief periods of revival, most Israelites chose to disbelieve the true God and to die following other gods or their own lusts With only a few notable exceptions 11 which are all connected to the history of Israel in some way, during this third period God paid little attention to individual gentiles, permitting the gentiles to go on their own way and overlooking their collective ignorance Acts Nevertheless, God did maintain during this period overall control over gentile history, setting up and pulling down kingdoms, determining beforehand the exact times and places of their habitation and setting up over them as kings the basest of men as he chose Each king God chose for a gentile nation had the same freedom as any other human being to choose his own way and to have the consequences of his own choices The Kingdom then came to the world in the person of its King The next period began when the King himself was born on earth as a human Luke 1: When the King came to earth as a man, the kingdom followed him wherever he went, and the enemies of the kingdom could not stand in his presence. Though they killed him, even death could not stand before him. In this period, the kingdom was made visible on earth primarily through Jesus and a few chosen disciples It was made visible through the preaching of the good news of the kingdom and the disappearance of the consequences of sin, which are contrary to the King and his kingdom, wherever the King and his disciples went. Similarly, scarcity could not stand in the presence of the King who gives us richly all things to enjoy Even the forces of sin-corrupted nature which opposed Jesus were subject to him During this period the Lord also gave his chosen disciples the keys to the kingdom, and near the end of

this period he breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit and sent them out as the Father had sent him. The Kingdom now lives in every believer through the Holy Spirit. After King Jesus physically left the earth, he sent the Holy Spirit in order that he could live within everyone who believes. The kingdom now follows each believer wherever he goes. After this day the King was no longer present on earth in a physical body. However, before his death Jesus had promised his disciples that the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, would come, live in them, guide them into all truth, and show them Jesus who promised to come to them through his Spirit. Shortly after Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came as Jesus had promised. However, the Spirit came at first not just on the inner circle of 11 disciples, but on disciples -- and by the end of that day on 3, more. While Jesus was on earth, the kingdom was present in a single body -- that of the king. However, these thousands of bodies were in another sense only a single body: Jesus had prayed that his disciples and those who would believe through their message would be set apart and made one with himself, the Father and each other in perfect unity. Thus, all those who believe are the body of Christ on earth, which is spiritually a single unified body. The visible and invisible aspects of the growth of the kingdom. The growth of the kingdom has both visible and invisible aspects. In the present time and since Adam, the kingdom of God has been growing, with much resistance. An illustration of this is illustrated by the parable of the sower as told in Matthew. The seed is the good news of the kingdom -- that is, the good news Jesus had been preaching: The good news of the kingdom grows in the hearts of men. Still others allow the word to grow, but it is choked out by the cares of the world which the king promises to take care of for us, Matthew 6: It is only the last type of person who received the seed into good soil and permitted it to produce. Thus, the kingdom grows when the word which invites people into it is heard, grows in hearts and produces more of its own kind. A similar truth is illustrated by the parable in Mark 4: The seed contains the plant that mysteriously grows while the man goes about his other business. Once he has planted a seed, he only returns to the resulting plant when the harvest is ready. The growth of the kingdom has aspects that are visible to the world and other aspects that are invisible to the world. The seed, here a picture of the kingdom itself, grows into a tree large enough that the birds perch in its branches. What the world imagines the kingdom to be -- the visible church -- is a very large thing whose branches often hate each other; the visible church is not the Kingdom, though there are many of the Kingdom in the churches. Invisible growth of the Kingdom, is illustrated in Matthew. A woman hid this yeast in a large amount of flour until it had spread throughout the dough. Similarly, the kingdom is invisibly growing and spreading throughout the world, changing the world as it grows. Jesus gave the secret of the kingdom of God to his disciples, but spoke to those outside his kingdom only in parables, so that seeing they might not see and hearing they might not understand Mark 4: He gave the keys to the kingdom to his disciples Matthew. These keys were subsequently used to open the kingdom to believing Jews, Samaritans and gentiles. But the kingdom was never opened to unbelievers, because this would have been a futile act. No one can either see or enter the kingdom of God who has not been born again of the Spirit John 3: The kingdom is spiritual, and can only be seen by those who have heard and received spiritual words, who have allowed the word of the kingdom to grow. Also see John 6: The kingdom of God and the power of evil are growing simultaneously at the present time. The kingdom of God and the power of evil are growing simultaneously in the present world. As the King sees it, he sowed good seed in his field and an enemy later sowed weed seed there. However, because the wheat and the weeds sown are difficult to distinguish until they produce fruit, the king ordered that the wheat and the weeds be allowed to grow up together until harvest. Likewise, as Jesus explained, the present world contains both children of God and children of the devil, which outwardly look similar enough that even the angels the harvesters have difficulty distinguishing them from each other. Thus, in the present time, both good and evil are growing together -- the growth of each not necessarily diminishing the other -- until the harvest. The last period of this world is the harvest. Similarly, Paul expressed his confidence that God would deliver him from every evil attack and bring him safely to his heavenly kingdom 2 Timothy 4: Likewise, John recognized that, because of persecution on account of the word, suffering and patient endurance accompany the kingdom in the present world Revelation 1: Then, at the harvest, God will judge the secrets of men through Jesus Christ by the gospel Romans 2: Then, But each in his own order: Then the end comes, when he will deliver up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when he will have abolished all rule and

all authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The kingdom is always referred to in the singular, as it is in the passage quoted above. Thus, Nebuchadnezzar saw one rock cut out without hands which crushed the feet of the statue, and Daniel identified this rock as a symbol as "a kingdom" which God will set up to crush all others and endure forever Daniel 2: Similarly, Jesus conferred upon his disciples "a kingdom, just as his Father conferred one on him" Luke Jesus also compared the kingdom to one pearl, one net containing many fish, one banquet with many guests, one king, one vineyard, one mustard seed and one mustard plant with many branches The kingdom is, like God, an undivided whole. A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand Matthew

Chapter 3 : The Cedars Review: "God's Kingdom Rules!" - JWsurveyJWsurvey

God's Kingdom Rules! has ratings and 9 reviews. Millions have found a happy, secure life under God's perfect government. Would you like to be a citiz.

This new book attempts to harmonize the organizations teachings, mission and activities from the early days of Brother Russell to the present day and projecting into the future. You can get an pdf copy of the book by clicking here: In recent years, we have seen continuing growth over the Internet in the availability of increasingly more accurate information on early Watchtower history. Ignoring historical changes in doctrine and practice may no longer be an option. The JW Organization is now presenting these details with their own narrative and perspective on events. With a positive spin placed on the historical changes, perhaps most JWs will be satisfied and view other points of view as lies and distortions of the truth. Here are some of the areas of the book we would like to review: Is membership in a Church Organization a good or bad thing? The Great Crowd on Earth " Is that right? The Preaching work revived ? Had it ever stopped? From free association to tight organization " A good or bad change? Page 12, par 3 quotes Malachi 3: I am sending my messenger, and he will clear up a way before me. And suddenly the true Lord, whom you are seeking will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant will come, in whom you take delight. That group came to be known as the Bible Students. Those taking the lead among them " Charles T. Could it be because these were not the same as the close associates of J. Nation of Israel being restored, Ransom for ALL, many non-believers to survive Armageddon and live into the kingdom, Great Crowd a heavenly class, Bible Students to have liberty and independence to not be controlled by an Organization, etc. New light is not changing Truth. Rather, it is increasing clarity of established Truth. The time had come to focus attention on the gathering of the remaining number of that heavenly class! By most of the wheat had already been harvested out of Babylon and were already part of the Bible Student movement. So how then could the Harvest be said to have started in ? Is this the obedience required" and pleasing and acceptable to God? He [the church member] publicly entered into a covenant with the denomination when he joined it, and he should faithfully live up to all the conditions of that covenant until he" publicly renounces or cancels his membership. You have to turn in your hours, be on record and stay active or you will lose your place in the kingdom. His death revealed that some had been placing too much emphasis on one exemplary man. Though Brother Russell wanted no such reverence, a measure of creature worship had grown up around him. Many thought that the progressive revelation of truth had ended with his death, and some bitterly resisted efforts to move forward. That attitude contributed to an outbreak of apostasy that divided the organization. Is not singing hymns about the Governing Body in place of Jesus creature and organization worship? These so called apostates were defending established and consistently held truth against a hostile takeover from Rutherford and his close associates. For the first time in Watchtower history, doctrines and practices were being dramatically changed. So today if you try to change Watchtower doctrine, you are an apostate. Rutherford who succeeded [succeeded in a hostile takeover] C. They were unjustly sentenced to long terms of imprisonment in the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, U. To see how the ousted Board of Directors had legal authority to reclaim the Watch Tower, click here. Because the Bible Students had a humble attitude of turning the other cheek, they were not interested in seizing back power. They could leave the Watchtower since their commitment was to Jehovah and Jesus, not to an earthly organization. Rutherford was doing of special note in We do know that in he was discreetly expelled by Brother Russell from Bethel, we believe for indiscretions with women and alcohol from verbal testimonials passed down by Bible Students of the time. We also know that Br. McMillan kept in close contact with Rutherford. Knowing the Bible Students were gentle and trusting, if Rutherford and McMillan could move quickly, the Bible Students would never know what hit them. Find more detail by clicking here: Those who would not get in step with the work parted company with the faithful ones. No names or publications are mentioned. No quotes from writings are cited. I am not familiar with examples of the Bible Students who left the organization of engaging in slander, libel and joining the persecutors. Can anyone out there help? Can any of you cite such examples? Did Rutherford himself resort to slander and libel? Check this

link out. What do you think? Those holding to and defending the original Watch Tower views were disfellowshipped and cast out of Bethel. Rutherford removed all opposition, just as did one of his favorite WW2 pen pals. At the convention held in Washington, D. Check out these articles. The independent and associated Bible Students had been preaching the Kingdom all along to the public. This did not cease while Rutherford and his close associates were in jail. Although Bible Students had always utilized the publications of the Watch Tower for public preaching, the members of each congregations were independently involved in the preaching work in whatever way the Holy Spirit guided the congregations and each of them individually. This included colportering, newspaper advertising, public events, etc. How do they end up in the kingdom? The book describes the changes in the organizational structure as gradual and improving progress. On the other hand, Bible Students view it as a degree change from Christian Liberty and Congregational elections of Elders to a dictatorial and controlling organizational structure, similar to the organizational structure of the Catholic Church. Find more details here: This book attempts the impossible goal to connect the Watchtower philosophy, teaching and structure in the days of Brother Russell and find harmony, progress and cohesion with the organization today. In brothers known as pilgrims “ ministers sent by the Watch Tower Society to give talks to the congregations and take the lead in the preaching work ” recommended that a regular meeting be devoted to a study of The Watch Tower. This suggestion was adopted and at first, Watch Tower studies were held either midweek or on Sunday. Click here for an eye witness account of the event. Over the months that followed, many Bible Students continued to leave the Chicago JWs and join back up with the Chicago Bible Students who had split off. Using as a model the study that was conducted in the Bethel Home, the article stated that a brother should lead the meeting. However, the April 15, , Watchtower suggested that all congregations use the current issue! The Watchtower Study continues to be the primary meeting through which the faithful slave provides spiritual food at the proper time Matt This suggestion was more of a directive. The Congregations was expected to cooperate or offending members would be punished. Gog of Magog will attack the remaining anointed ones and their other sheep companions. It is interesting that the book is pointing out the Chart of the Ages that the JWs long ago disposed of; one of the biggest problems being the restoration of Natural Israel depicted in the Millennial Age section of the chart. We covered some of the areas of the book that we found interesting and wanted to comment on. What did you find interesting in the book? Has the JW Organization provided an accurate history? We look forward to reading your comments.

Chapter 4 : What is the kingdom of God?

This week the midweek book study begins in the new book entitled God's Kingdom Rules! At the request of a few readers The Watchman's Post will feature a weekly commentary based upon each lesson.

As we have already seen in this series of posts, the coming Kingdom of God will be directly governed by Jesus Christ. He will lead a government of spirit beings who will govern the nations of the world with supreme authority and power. This government will be characterized by complete justice and fairness. What will set that government apart from the many failed human governments that have come and gone throughout history? Jesus Christ will not administer a government based on whims or circumstances or with the goal of pleasing specific constituencies. His government will be based on the perfect and just administration of law. An administration based on perfect law Unlike so many human governments throughout history, Jesus Christ will not administer a government based on whims or circumstances or with the goal of pleasing specific constituencies. It will be the core of an entire way of living that will transform the lives of everyone on earth! The core of this law will be the 10 Commandments. These 10 laws will form the basis of human conduct and education during the 1,year reign of Jesus Christ on earth. This changes everything Consider some of the ways that implementation of the 10 Commandments will change the world. Under the rule of the Kingdom of God, the false religions that permeate the world will be ended. People will learn who the true God is and how to worship Him. Egypt is just one example of a nation that will turn to God. Under the rule of the Kingdom of God, all false religionâ€”especially religions that use idols in their worshipâ€”will be destroyed. Under the rule of the Kingdom of God, human beings will learn the appropriate use of language. Under the rule of the Kingdom of God, one of the most drastic changes will be the global observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. Under the rule of the Kingdom, the family will be the building block of societies and nations. God will restore the proper family model and allow those families to live in safety Micah 4: Under the rule of the Kingdom, one of the greatest changes in society will be the absence of violence and warfare. There are scores of prophecies that paint beautiful prophetic pictures of this truth, such as: Not only will this environment of safety benefit individuals Zechariah 8: Under the rule of the Kingdom, married couples will learn to be faithful within their marriages. This command will strengthen families, and it will also be the basis for ending all of the sexually perverted behavior that plagues the world today. Under the rule of the Kingdom, crime will decrease dramatically! Under the rule of the Kingdom, human beings will learn the importance of truthfulness. This will lead to a society where people genuinely trust one another and will not have to be skeptical of what others say. This will also end cheating and corruption in corporations and governments. Under the rule of the Kingdom, all people will learn the importance of contentment 1 Timothy 6: Not only does this describe a world without violence, it also describes a society where people are at peace and content with what they have. The 10 Commandments will literally change society in almost every way possible! Life will be transformed when the whole world understands and lives by these laws. You do not have to wait for this time to experience the blessings of these laws in your life. You can learn and begin living them now.

Chapter 5 : God's Kingdom Rules! by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society

A new book is being released at the "Keep Seeking First God's Kingdom" series of conventions. Entitled "God's Kingdom Rules!," it marks the centenary of with a heavily sanitized version of Jehovah's Witness history over the past .

A kingdom - like any nation today - cannot function without laws. There must be a standard of conduct for subjects and citizens to follow, or chaos and anarchy would result. Following the laws of a kingdom or nation does not grant a person citizenship - that is not the purpose of law. Law is simply a guide for people to follow to ensure cohesion, agreement, and peace in civil and interpersonal relationships. Without an understood standard, enforced by a sovereign ruler, everyone would act according to his own whim or desire, and nothing good or worthwhile would be produced. Judges The Kingdom of God is no different. God is not the author of confusion I Corinthians His Kingdom will be peaceful and orderly because everyone who will enter into it will have voluntarily submitted himself to the law - the commandments - of God. God will not have anyone in His Kingdom who demonstrates, by the pattern of his life, that he will not obey Him Matthew 7: And the second is like it: The commandments merely define further how to love God and love man. We love God in general by placing Him first, by not adopting physical aids in worshipping Him, by not bearing His name in vain, and by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy. We love man, in general, by honoring our parents, not murdering, not committing adultery, not stealing, not lying, and not coveting. When Jesus Christ came, He revealed the spirit - the intent - of His law. He showed that the sixth commandment extends much further than merely prohibiting the taking of human life, but covers even hating Matthew 5: Similarly, the intent behind the seventh commandment is to stop adultery at its source: When Jesus was asked what one must do to have eternal life, His response was simple: He was giving them and us instruction that would not be absolved by His death: If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you show partiality, you commit sin , and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: After all, eternal life is more than just length of days - living forever would be a terrible curse if there were not also quality of life to match it. Our Savior tells us what He means by eternal life: He defines eternal life as "to know God. It indicates experiential knowledge, not theoretical. We know Him, in large part, by living the same law of love that He lives by.

Chapter 6 : God's Kingdom Rules! - or does it? - The Watchman's Post

UPDATED WITH MORE LINKS TO RELATED INFORMATION - Oct 1, This year () the Jehovah's Witnesses Organization published a new book, "God's Kingdom Rules," which will be studied by JWs around the world starting in early

This article actually considers the information presented in the first two lessons. Subsequent articles will appear under the WT Review category. Russell announced to the Bethel family that the Gentile times had ended, that their kings had had their day, it was just three months after archduke Ferdinand "the presumptive heir of the Austro-Hungarian empire" had been assassinated in his motor carriage, along with his wife Sophie. A few weeks later virtually all of the nations of Europe declared war upon each other, which prior to the assassination had been manipulated into forming two opposing blocs of nations with entangling military alliances. What had convinced Russell that was a marked year on the divine calendar? Russell explained that God had provided two witnesses "the Bible and the Great Pyramid of Egypt" the so-called witness of stone. It was believed that the mere measurements of various ascending and descending passageways were encrypted as inch-years. Never mind that the measurement of the inch did not exist then Thus, the diligent searcher could supposedly divine esoteric knowledge that God had concealed in stone. Rutherford "scrapped pyramidology, so there is no reason to debunk it now. However, it should not be forgotten since, after all, it is part of our spiritual heritage. The suspended capstone symbolizes that the new world order has not been accomplished, yet. For the uninitiated, the U. Federal Reserve is not a federal institution. It is a banking cartel that lends money to the U. Treasury, the principal owners remaining secret. But it is not so secret that eight families exert controlling interests " the Rothschild dynasty apparently being the most prominent. And America is symbolized in prophecy as the greater Egypt "ultimately to be eclipsed by the eighth and final king; hence, the hovering, Delphian capstone. Most thought-provoking in all of this, the Federal Reserve did not come into existence until December 23, , and the masonic eye of Horus in the capstone insignia did not appear until The belief that a study of the pyramids could impart hidden knowledge of the very coming of Christ is divination "plain and simple. Now consider the prophecy of Zechariah, written after the destruction of Jerusalem, which brought an abrupt end to idol worship among the Jews. Yet, through Zechariah Jehovah speaks of the reappearance of divination among Christians "even among the shepherds, as a preliminary to the actual coming of Christ: They speak about worthless dreams, and in vain they try to comfort. That is why they will wander like sheep. They will suffer, for there is no shepherd. The Coming Fall of the House of God. Paul explained in the opening verses of the second chapter of his second letter to the Thessalonians, writing: Let no one lead you astray in any way, because it will not come unless the apostasy comes first and the man of lawlessness gets revealed, the son of destruction. No doubt many were. Here is a quote from the November 15, Watchtower: The great day of Jehovah is the day for salvation. Its completion is the time looked for and hoped for in Christian hearts for centuries. This day in complete fulfillment had its beginning in the autumn of A. The evidence is undeniable. Passing the test will require more than underlining the correct answer in the Watchtower Magazine. Having focused the attention of the Bible Students on powerful, deceptive signs appeared when the nations of Europe tumbled into war. And from the filth of blood and guts spilled in the caldron of madness sprang the Spanish Flu. That cruel pestilence claimed more souls in a few months than the ghastly war itself. The parable thus indicates that the Kingdom would be established, not in the first century C. As matters worked out, the growing season ended and the harvest season began in Think of what the Watchtower is claiming: What does that mean? How can that possibly be true? It is a nonsensical notion that defies all reason "bearing all the telltale signs indicative of a deluding influence. But think about it. Apparently, it is because Jesus specifically connected the harvest with the conclusion of the system of things. Those pioneers who work so hard to bring such persons into the truth might rightly wonder why the angels are working counter to them and killing off their Bible studies. What may we conclude? The above statement is a bald-face lie. The Governing Body surely knows that to be true. By their own teaching all the aspects of the composite sign that Jesus provided are clearly not in evidence.

People will become faint out of fear and expectation of the things coming upon the inhabited earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But as these things start to occur, stand up straight and lift up your heads, because your deliverance is getting near. That lies ahead of us. But not all humans will then be in such fear as to make them become faint. On the contrary, Jesus said: The simple answer is, it cannot be true. It is simply unthinkable, considered out of the realm of reality that the fulfillment of the other features of the sign could also lie ahead us; namely, nation rising against nation in warfare. Yet, here we stand on the brink of world war three. Paragraph 16 showcases the extent to which the Watchtower is compelled to go to keep the delusion in force.

Chapter 7 : Repost of God's Kingdom Rules! scriptures. - Topics - The World News Media

His Kingdom will be peaceful and orderly because everyone who will enter into it will have voluntarily submitted himself to the law - the commandments - of God. God will not have anyone in His Kingdom who demonstrates, by the pattern of his life, that he will not obey Him (Matthew ; Hebrews).

We may think of it this way. The whole world lies enslaved to the reign of Satan. Into this world breaks the reign of God, freeing many from the misery, terror, sin, death, and hell of the dark lord, translating them into the knowledge, righteousness, peace, and life of His reign. This is what Jesus proclaimed at the beginning of His ministry: The rule of God is at hand! This is the explanation, why the gospel is called the gospel of the kingdom: It is a mistake to understand the kingdom exclusively, or even mainly, in terms of a realm, or in terms of citizens. The kingdom of God is certainly a realm, a territory, just as the United States is a certain land-mass with clearly defined boundaries. Jesus spoke in John 3: The church has the keys of the kingdom, giving entrance into the realm to some and barring others from it. This realm is the church, including the godly lives of her members in every sphere of earthly life. The kingdom of God has citizens, just as every earthly nation has citizens. These are the elect out of all earthly nations and races. These persons show themselves citizens by obeying God the king: They believe the gospel, and submit to the laws of the kingdom. It is a grievous error on the part of Reformed ministers and churches to minimize the seriousness of the Baptist heresy. Indeed, this error will prove fatal to the Reformed faith in these churches. Reformed ministers are guilty of this error. They cooperate freely with Baptists in public religious activities. They refuse sharply to condemn the Baptist exclusion from the covenant and church of God of many for whom Christ died and to whom the Spirit of Christ is promised see Heid. In flat contradiction of their own creed, which declares that the Reformed faith detests the error of the Baptists, they write openly that the issue of infant baptism is not of fundamental importance see Bel. The inclusion of the children of believers in the kingdom of God, by infant baptism, is an essential truth of the kingdom. It is a truth that must be vigorously defended and promoted wherever the Reformed faith makes its distinctive witness. It is a truth that is fundamental to the oneness of the kingdom of God in the Old and New Testaments. It is a truth that is fundamental to the rejection of the miserable corruption of the kingdom by dispensationalism. As regards its citizens, the kingdom of God is made up of such infant children. What earthly king would not be irate at the attempt by some underling to strip a substantial number of his people of their citizenship and banish them from his realm? In addition to being a realm and having citizens, the kingdom of God provides benefits. The kingdom can be identified with these benefits, just as one might have said in the early days of World War II, that England was liberty in the midst of the tyranny of a Europe overrun by Nazi Germany. Paul identifies the kingdom of God with its wonderful blessings in Romans The main thing is the rule of God. First and central in the kingdom of God is the king. The kingdom of God is simply God the king and His kingship. We modern Westerners have a hard time grasping this, familiar as we are with democracy and unfamiliar as we are with real monarchs. Hitler dominated that kingdom. It existed for him. That was certainly true of the great empires of Old Testament times. Babylon was simply Nebuchadnezzar enlarged. This will be the case also with the coming kingdom of Antichrist. It is the kingdom of God because God establishes, maintains, and perfects the kingdom. He conceived and planned it in His decree. He founded it in the cross of the incarnate Son. He builds it by the preaching of the gospel in all the world in the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. He brings every one who is a citizen according to eternal election into the kingdom by the sovereign wonder of regeneration: Having regenerated, He sanctifies every citizen to live the life of the kingdom and preserves him to the glory of the perfection of the kingdom. He will perfect the kingdom in the Day of Christ, raising the dead and renewing the entire creation of heaven and earth. God, God only, is the creator, the origin, of the kingdom. The kingdom comes from Him, not from man. The kingdom is the kingdom of God also because it is for God, has its ultimate goal in His glory, and is about Him. The kingdom of God is God-centered. How Christ and the apostles proclaim this! We think at once of the conclusion of the model prayer in Matthew 6: Describing the perfection of the kingdom, when Christ shall have put all enemies under His feet, the apostle declares that then

God will be all in all I Cor. The kingdom is for the sake of God in these respects. First, the message, or gospel, of the kingdom is all about God, is a God-centered message. This is the content of the gospel in Scripture. This was the content of the gospel preached by the Reformation. This is still the content of the gospel proclaimed by the true church. How much is this true in the preaching and teaching of evangelical and even Reformed churches today? The kingdom is the kingdom of God. The king does not exist for the citizens, but we citizens exist for the king. What all this truth about the kingdom of God comes down to is the grand testimony of the Reformed faith, that salvation is by sovereign grace alone to the glory of God only. The message of the kingdom of God is nothing other than the gospel of sovereign grace. God saves His elect by regenerating grace, apart from any worth of theirs, any faith or decision of theirs, any acceptance of an offer that distinguishes them from others whom He is supposed to love also. God preserves His elect, regenerated people. God so rules His own by the sanctifying Spirit that they yield to His lordship, obeying His law in every sphere of life and gladly suffering the loss of all for His sake. God builds His church. That God is God in Jesus Christ is not some queer, parochial, and even sectarian message of a small Reformed denomination in North America, but the very gospel that Jesus came preaching and that He Himself still preaches by a faithful church and her ministry. Is God central in the kingdom? Is He all in all? Where now is this kingdom of God, this rule of God in Jesus Christ? It is in heaven, according to Philippians 3: It is also in the world. It is wherever Christ the king is. We ought to press into it, as Jesus taught in Luke We do this by believing in Him, the king. By the gospel and the sacraments the rule of God, which liberates sinners, is established in the heart and life of every one who has been born again by the Spirit. The institutional form of the kingdom is the church. The relation of the kingdom and the church will be the subject of following editorials. Are we in the kingdom? Has God translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son? He has, if we see it, if we live its life, if we find in ourselves some zeal for glorifying God the king. Let us be thankful. Our life must be our seeking the kingdom first. We will reign with Christ forever in the new world.

Chapter 8 : What are the Laws of the Kingdom?

The basic idea of the kingdom is the rule of God—the living, actual, liberating, saving, blessed rule of God in Jesus Christ. We may think of it this way.

Chapter 9 : JW News & Archive – God's Kingdom Rules! is a new book released this

The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. Contemporary English Version God has set up his kingdom in heaven, and he rules the whole creation.