

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

REQUIREMENTS OF A KINGDOM

John Edwards

The kingdom of Christ has been misunderstood by many. In order to have a kingdom, there must be several things. Let's notice some requirements of a kingdom.

A KING. The Bible teaches that Jesus is King over His kingdom. Christ is described as the *“King of kings, and Lord of lords”* (1 Tim. 6:15). He has been *“crowned with glory and honour”* (Heb. 2:9). Have you bowed before the King?

A THRONE. An angel told Mary, *“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David”* (Lk. 1:31-32). God swore to David that He would *“raise up Christ to sit on his throne”* (Acts 2:30). Christ is now sitting on the throne reigning over His kingdom (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

A TERRITORY. The territory of the kingdom extends to all nations. The Lord said, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and*

of the Holy Ghost” (Mt. 28:18-19). Paul revealed, *“For the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof”* (1 Cor. 10:26).

AUTHORITY. Christ claimed, *“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”* (Mt. 28:18). The Lord taught, *“as one having authority”* (Mt. 7:29). The authority of Christ is expressed in the words of His mother: *“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it”* (Jn. 2:5). God *“put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church”* (Eph. 1:22).

LAWS. A kingdom has a set of laws. King Jesus has given laws for us to abide by. John recorded, *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ”* (Jn. 1:17). The laws of the kingdom are contained in His Word. Jesus said, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (Jn. 12:48). Paul taught that we are *“under the law to Christ”* (1 Cor. 9:21). The laws of the kingdom of Christ do not become outdated and do not need to be revised — they are perfect (Jas. 1:25).

SUBJECTS. The apostle Peter spoke of Christ saying, *“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God;*

angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him” (1 Pet. 3:22). Through obedience the Gentiles became *“fellowcitizens”* (Eph. 2:19). The Colossians were *“translated into the kingdom of his dear Son”* (Col. 1:13).

The thought of a kingdom suggests service. Greatness in the kingdom of Christ is measured by service (Mt. 20:20-28). Are you in the kingdom?

THE ABILITY OF GOD

John Edwards

Our God is a God of ability! He is all powerful and holds the world in His hand. Let's take a look at some things God is able to do.

ABLE TO DO WHAT WE ASK. Paul impressed the ability of God upon the hearts of the Ephesians. He said, *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us”* (Eph. 3:20). When we pray to God we should never doubt His ability to do what we ask.

ABLE TO DELIVER US. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego declared, *“...our God who we serve is able to deliver*

us...” (Dan. 3:17). God Himself uttered, “*And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee...*” (Ps. 50:15). God is able to deliver us from afflictions (Ps. 34:17-19), temptation (2 Pet. 2:9), the wrath to come (1 Th. 1:10), the darkness of this world (Col. 1:13), and from sin (Rom. 6:17-18).

ABLE TO DESTROY BOTH SOUL AND BODY. Man is limited as to what he is able to do to us. But God’s ability is unlimited. The Lord taught, “*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell*” (Mt. 10:28). This passage indicates that man is composed of body and soul, and that God has power over both.

ABLE TO MAKE ALL GRACE ABOUND. The grace of God is of great importance. Paul told the Corinthians, “*But by the grace of God I am what I am...*” (1 Cor. 15:10). Paul again said, “*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you...*” (2 Cor. 9:8). Some misunderstand grace in God’s plan of things. Some say that man is saved by grace alone, while others rule out grace altogether. Neither is so! The Bible says, “*For by grace are*

ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8).

ABLE TO RAISE THE DEAD. Abraham had faith in God that He was able to raise up his son. “*Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure*” (Heb. 11:19). God raised up His Son (Acts 2:32) and others. God has but to speak the word and the dead will be raised (Jn. 5:28-29).

ABLE TO SAVE. God desires all men to be saved. “*For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth*” (1 Tim. 2:3-4). It is said of Christ, “*Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them*” (Heb. 7:25). God has the ability to save you, if you will only let Him!

thing? The word of God catalogues some things which are sure. Take a look:

YOUR SIN WILL FIND YOU OUT. Moses said, “*But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out*” (Num. 32:23).

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD. Writing about God the Psalmist penned, “*...all his commandments are sure*” (Ps. 111:7).

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH. God declared, “*Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation...*” (Is. 28:16).

JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD. Peter told the Lord, “*And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Jn. 6:69).

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD IS ACCORDING TO TRUTH. “*But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth...*” (Rom. 2:2).

SURE THINGS

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Are you looking for a sure

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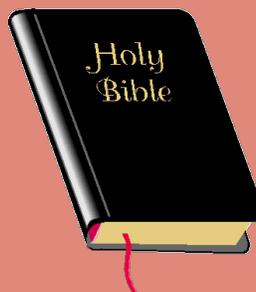
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