

What will we do in Heaven?
Part 3

What does it mean to reign?

11/28/10

Over the last couple of lessons, we have learned that by the grace of God we have become His children through faith in the sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since we are His children, we are also His heirs, and co-heirs with our senior brother, the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Father has entrusted everything.

On this earth when an earthy father passes away, his children are entitled to take ownership of what belonged to the Father. If the father owned land, the children become landowners. If the father owned a business – the children become business owners.

Our Heavenly Father, will never pass away, but He does desire to pass along what he owns – which just happens to be everything, everywhere – to His children for their enjoyment, use and for His glory.

It turns out that and owning and running the universe just happens to be a family business.

“Reign”

Royal authority, the dominion, sway, or influence of one resembling a monarch

There are literally dozens and dozens of passages in the scripture that confirm God’s children will rule the new Earth. What you will reign over on the new Earth will be determined by how you lived here on this Earth.

Jesus said, “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in

My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
Luke 22:29-30

The idea of mankind ruling the universe might seem presumptuous and self important – if it were our idea. But it is not our idea it is God’s.

Mankind’s reign of the new Earth is:

1. Introduced in the first chapters of the Bible.
“Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Gen 1:26

2. Mentioned throughout the OT
“LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.” 2 Chron 20:6

Does God really reign over North Korea, Saudi Arabia or the USA?

On the new Earth God’s reign will be absolute

“You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things.” Psalm 8:6 (NLT)

3. Taught by Jesus in the Gospels
“Well done, my good servant!” his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.” Luke 19:17

On the new Earth there will be a social hierarchy of government, but there will be no relational hierarchy.

Even though the Apostle Paul will have a greater leadership position than most of us, he’ll still be accessible. There will be no

pride, envy, boasting, or anything sin related like we see in leadership today.

“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’” Matthew 25:23

4. Discussed Paul in the Epistles

“If we endure, we will also reign with him” 2 Tim 2:12

Paul discusses the subject as if it were Theology 101

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world ... Do you not know that we will judge angels” 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

5. Repeated by John in the final chapters

“(You) have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” Rev 5:9-10 (NKJV)

6. Not limited to the New Earth

“Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end” Is 9:7

Have we ever experienced the “peace on Earth” promised at Christ’s birth? We haven’t yet. But we will.

“He shall speak peace to the nations; His dominion shall be ‘from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.’” Zech 9:9-10

God’s purpose and plan will not fully be achieved until Christ confers up us the Kingdom he has won.