

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND OUR WORK

By John Ridgway

King Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC) was one of the greatest kings of the Babylonian empire. Because of his arrogance, God sent him insane, until he acknowledged the God of heaven. When his sanity was restored, Nebuchadnezzar “praised **the Most High ... who lives forever**” (Daniel 4:34), and recognized “**His Kingdom is an eternal Kingdom**” and “**His Kingdom** endures from generation to generation” (Daniel 4:3, 34).

The New Testament describes the same two truths. “Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and **forever**” (Hebrews 13:8) and “we are receiving a **kingdom that cannot be shaken**” (Hebrews 12:28). These are the two great **ABSOLUTES** of the bible: an unchanging **KING** and an unshakable **KINGDOM**.

The exciting truth is that God wants us to be citizens of this Kingdom and that “he chose us in him before the creation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4) to not only **enter into this kingdom** but to also be part of **His work in this eternal kingdom**.

The work God intends for us to do in His Kingdom involves our **working for a living**, our **relationships** within our family and relatives and with other people. Also it includes the **redemptive work** of discipling the nations. God’s work in His Kingdom relates to every aspect of our lives and involves all of life. It starts at our birth (actually conceived before the creation of the world) and continues until our death and beyond death into eternity. It is lived out 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the years that have been given to us on this earth.

To be able to **enter God’s Kingdom** and **engage in His work**, we need to experience His grace by accepting the amazing gift of salvation found in Jesus Christ. This gift is received by faith alone and not because we are good people or have done many good works, Ephesians 2:8-9.

As a result of the Holy Spirit living in us, a **transforming work** begins to take place in our lives and we start to become “**God’s workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus to do **good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do**,” Ephesians 2:10. The good works that God wants us to do are in line with His workmanship in us.

Let us now look at three studies related in our work in the Kingdom of God. They are:

- The Biblical Understanding of Work
- The Totality of Work
- Business as Mission

These studies will embrace the whole Bible from Genesis 1 where we see the first great attribute of God: He is a **WORKER** and that **HIS WORK** is outstanding. Then we will journey through other portions of the scriptures learning how **GOD** and **HIS KINGDOM** and **HIS WORK** and **HIS WORK IN US**, are all part of His amazing purposes.