

The Ailbe Seminary
A Ministry of The Fellowship of Ailbe

The Coming of the Kingdom
Introduction and Overview

Summary

A good bit of confusion exists today about the nature and status of the Kingdom of God. Most Christians, of course, know *about* the Kingdom, yet *what* they know may not be adequate to help them *experience* the Kingdom, must less to *express* and *advance* it in their own life spheres. In this course we look at the coming of the Kingdom of God as it unfolds in the pages of Scripture and as it takes shape as a spiritual ecosystem of ecosystems in our lives and times.

Rationale

The calling of every Christian is to the Kingdom and glory of God (1 Thess. 2.12). Jesus commands all His followers to seek the Kingdom and righteousness of God as the highest priority and defining motif of every aspect of their lives (Matt. 6.33). He promises that the Kingdom is something we can *see* as it unfolds in righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit in all our relationships, roles, and responsibilities (Mk. 9.1; Rom. 14.17, 18). The Kingdom of God exists not merely in *words* but in *power* to make us witnesses for Jesus Christ and ambassadors of His realm (1 Cor. 4.20; Acts 1.8; 2 Cor. 5.20). Whenever we pray, we are to pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6.10).

Thus, unless we *understand* the Kingdom and its coming, we will neither *desire* nor *seek* it as we should. This course intends to equip us with the understanding we require to fulfill our Kingdom-and-glory calling from the Lord.

Course overview

In this course you will:

1. Discover the Biblical basis, design, and progress of the Kingdom of God;
2. Learn the disciplines essential for seeking the Kingdom of God;
3. Discover the beauty and complexity of the Kingdom as a system of spiritual ecosystems;
4. Understand why the Gospel of the Kingdom is such Good News;
5. Explain to others the nature of the Kingdom and help them begin seeking it for themselves.

We will pursue these objectives through a varied approach to learning, including brief video presentations, interaction with Scripture, readings and discussions, assessments and written exercises, interaction with prayer partners and other believers, and regular tutorials with a Course Guide.

For more specific details on course outline, resources, and format, see the Introduction that follows.

Introduction

Welcome

The Coming of the Kingdom explores the Biblical teaching about the nature, design, implementation, and progress of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel *of the Kingdom*. In our day this Good News has become overshadowed by a gospel which in a variety of forms focuses on the needs and interests of people, rather than the promises and agenda of God. This course provides a Biblical theology of the Kingdom, which then serves as a basis for entering, experiencing, and expressing the Kingdom in every area of our lives, from the depths of our soul to the far people and culture of our times.

Format

This course unfolds around the following activities:

Presentation: Each lesson includes at least one brief online video.

Studies in Scripture: This course features a series of studies on the unfolding of the Kingdom of God throughout Scripture. By examining the “Kingdom visionaries” of each age of divine revelation, we see how God prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, Who brought the Kingdom near and poured it out into human history by the giving of His Spirit. As we look at the way Christ is presented in the book of Psalms, our vision of His Kingdom and rule will be greatly enlarged and enhanced.

Reading: This course requires two books, which can be purchased from The Ailbe Bookstore at www.ailbe.org. **Please note:** If you cannot afford to purchase the required texts for this course, let us know through the contact channel at The Ailbe Seminary, and we will send them to you for free in PDF.

The Kingdom Turn, T. M. Moore ([click here to order](#))

Kingdom Ecosystems, T. M. Moore and Marshall Adams ([click here to order](#))

Christ in the Psalms (PDF), T. M. Moore

Practical exercises: Each lesson includes one or more “next steps” practical exercises, focused on that lesson. In addition, you will be asked to secure a prayer partner to meet with and pray for you as you proceed through this course. You will have many opportunities to share with your prayer partner what you are learning about the Kingdom of God.

Readers and Discussions: Each student is assigned a Reader to review course assignments. Students may also participate in optional monthly online discussions regarding the course.

Each Lesson in the course is presented in several parts. You can do as many parts as you like at a time, but you should try to **finish an entire lesson in one week**. The assignments are prepared to allow you to spend a little time each day working through the material of the course. You need not do them daily, but we recommend you try to finish each lesson within a week, to keep on pace for the course. At the end of every three Lessons, complete the brief Review Exam, and send it to your Reader. You will not be able to go on to the next Lesson until the current Review Exam is sent.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Kingdom Prospects

What is the Kingdom of God? When should we expect it? What should be the impact of its coming?

- Lesson 1: Kingdom Introduction
Presentation 1: The Problem of the Kingdom
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Introduction, Chapter 1
- Lesson 2: Biblical Foundations (1)
Presentation: 2 The Kingdom of God: Adam and Eve
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Chapters 2 and 3
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 1, Lessons 1-3*
- Lesson 3: Biblical Foundations (2)
Presentation 3: Abraham
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Chapters 4 and 5
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 1, Lessons 4 and 5*
- Lesson 4: Biblical Foundations (3)
Presentation 4: Moses
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Chapters 6 and 7
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 1, Lessons 6, 7*

Optional Online Discussion 1

- Lesson 5: Biblical Foundations (4)
Presentation 5: David
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Chapters 8 and 9
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 2, Lessons 1-3*
- Lesson 6: Biblical Foundations (5)
Presentation 6: The Prophets
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Epilogue
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 2, Lessons 4 and 5*

Review Exam

Unit 2: Kingdom Come

How did Jesus bring the Kingdom to earth? How was that immediately evident?

- Lesson 7: Biblical Foundations (6)
Presentation 7: Jesus
Reading: *Christ in the Psalms*, chapters 1 and 2
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 3, Lessons 1-5*
- Lesson 8: Biblical Foundations (7)
Presentation 8: The Apostles
Reading: *Christ in the Psalms*, chapters 3 and 4
Study Guide: *Kingdom Visionaries Part 3, Lessons 6 and 7*

Review Exam

Optional Online Discussion 2

Unit 3: Kingdom Coming

How is the Kingdom of God like natural ecosystems? What can we learn from natural ecosystems to help us in seeking the Kingdom?

Lesson 9: Windows of Glory: The Kingdom and Creational Theology
Presentation 9: Two Books, Six Windows
Reading: *Kingdom Ecosystems*, Introduction, Chapter 1

Lesson 10: Natural Ecosystems (1)
Presentation 10: Natural Ecosystems (1)
Reading: *Kingdom Ecosystems*, Chapters 2 and 3

Lesson 11: Natural Ecosystems (2)
Presentation 11: Natural Ecosystems (2)
Review all previous presentations on the Kingdom in the Old Testament
Reading: *Kingdom Ecosystems*, Chapters 4 and 5

Optional Online Discussion 3

Unit 4: Seeking the Kingdom

What are the disciplines, objectives, and challenges in seeking the Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven?

Lesson 12: Kingdom Ecosystems
Presentation 12: Kingdom Ecosystems
Reading: *Kingdom Ecosystems*, Chapters 5 and 6

Lesson 13: Presentation 13: Ecosystems and the Kingdom
Reading: *Kingdom Ecosystems*, Chapters 7 and 8
Reading: *The Kingdom Turn*, Epilogue

Review Exam

Optional Online Discussion 4

Final Assignment

Objectives

In the Kingdom of God, we seek ever to improve our walk with and work for the Lord by growing in love for Him and our neighbors (1 Tim. 1.5). Accordingly, the following objectives have been identified for this course:

1. Love for God:
 - 1.1 To the Kingdom of God and to seek it daily
 - 1.2 To increase in our ability to express and advance the Kingdom in our own life spheres
2. Love for Neighbor:
 - 2.1 To express the reality of the rule of King Jesus by loving our neighbors more consistently
 - 2.2 To exemplify and explain the reality of the Kingdom of God as we are able

By the end of this course you will:

1. Understand the Biblical teaching about the nature, coming, and impact of the Kingdom of God.

2. Begin to realize more of the presence, promise, and power of the Kingdom in your daily life.
3. Become better equipped to embody and proclaim the Kingdom to the people in your life.
4. Teach your prayer partner and others about our Kingdom-and-glory calling.

Course materials

The materials required for this course are incorporated into the Lessons and explained in the introductory video. Additional resources are available from the bookstore of The Fellowship of Ailbe, and should be purchased there (www.ailbe.org). These are:

Kingdom Ecosystems by T. M. Moore and Marshall Adams

The Kingdom Turn by T. M. Moore

Again, if purchasing these texts is a hardship, please let us know through the contact channel at The Ailbe Seminary, and we will provide them in PDF at no charge.

Getting started

To get started, complete the registration on this page. Once your registration has been processed, we will assign you a Reader, and you can begin your studies. Please follow the schedule so that you complete all the work of this course within the prescribed time. You will need a prayer partner to pray with you and review your studies during this course. Your spouse would be a good candidate, or a close Christian friend or mentor. As soon as you complete your registration, enlist your prayer partner and give your prayer partner a copy of this Introduction and Overview, and of the Lesson Assignments (which you will download here, with the other course materials).