

Text, Context and The Soul
The Divine Conspiracy #3

**Understanding The Kingdom Of God,
And Its Presence On Earth**

GOD: THE BASIC REALITY

- “I AM THAT I AM.” (Exodus 3:14)
- “The Father has life in Himself, and the Son also.” (John 5:26)
- “Gives life to all things.” (1 Tim 6:13 & 19)
- Life = self-initiating, self-sustaining, self-directing activity.

BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

- The sweet society of God in Himself.
(John 17:5, 22-26)
- The Trinity extends its kind of love
throughout a redeemed community of
humans. (John 13:35 and 17:21-24)
- “The greatest of these is love.”
(1 Cor. 13:13) God’s basic nature.

GOD'S ULTIMATE INTENTION

- To bring out of human history a community of every “tongue, tribe and nation,” who will play a major role in the future of the universe.
- The church a revelation to the universe (Eph. 3:10 and 2:7)
- TO “JUDGE ANGELS” (1 Cor. 6:3)
- To rule with Him for ever and ever. (Rev. 22:5)
- We don't yet know. (Col. 3:3-4, 1 John 3:2)

THE UNITY OF THE BIBLE: PROGRESSIVE “WITH-NESS”

- INDIVIDUALS—e.g. Isaac (Gen. 26:24), Jacob (Gen. 28:15).
- THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. (Ex. 29:44-46)
- Disciples from all nations. (Matt. 28:29 and Col. 3:11-14)
- The Church. (Eph. 2:20-22)
- Heaven. (Rev. 22:3-5)

THE PROBLEM OF THE MEANING OF HUMAN LIFE

- Basically a problem of what individual and corporate life leads to and what shall endure.
- On the secular view, nothing and nothing.
The myth of Sisyphus!
- If that view is true, so be it. We must accept it.
- But the presence of Jesus and his kingdom shows it is not true.

THE MEANING OF LIFE FOR THE BELIEVER IN CHRIST

- The love and purpose of God for us. (Rom. 8:29-37) –embedded in His eternal life.
- All of the hard things turn to our good. (Rom. 8:28, 2 Cor. 4:16-18)
- Every thing done with him will be preserved and rewarded. (1 Cor. 3:11-14)
- We look forward and are carried forward. Drama. Meaning.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

- Looking at Matthew 3, 4, 5, 9:35-38, 24:14;
Luke 4:43, 10:8-11, 11:20
- The parables of the kingdom.
Matthew 13 etc.
- The change of doorway to the kingdom.
Matt. 11:11-12, Luke 16:16
- Birth into the kingdom. John 3:5
- The kingdom in the church. Rom. 14:17

THE SUBSTANCE AND ESSENCE OF THE KINGDOM

- The kingdom of God is the range of God's effective will—where what God wants done is done.
- The only thing outside it is rebellious human and angelic wills.
- It is not a political reality.
- It is not hidden in your heart.
- There are future dimensions to it.