

# **Reformed University Fellowship**

## **How to Share Your Faith Conference**

### *Session 1: God's Kingdom and Its Mission*

- I. The Creator and His Kingdom.
  - A. The story of William Penn.
    1. He was given a colony in the New World as payment for a debt. Subsequently he went to his possession, built a city (Philadelphia), made laws, built his own house, and ruled the land.
    2. Men instinctively seek kingdoms for themselves. This is because they are following the habits of their creator.
    3. God is like William Penn, only (much) more so.
  - B. The story of God. (Genesis 1:1-2, 24-31)
    1. Self-existent. (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2)  
God has always been there and has gotten along fine by himself. He does not need anything for his fulfillment. He even has friendship with himself (the Trinity).
    2. Good. (Psalm 100:5; Genesis 1:4,31)  
Everything he thinks, says, and does is good by definition. "Bad" only has meaning when compared to God. Everything he thinks, says, and does helps everything else in the universe.
    3. Powerful. (Genesis 1:1-3; Psalm 29:1-5; 46:4-7)  
No limit to God's power. Omnipotent. He can create and destroy at will.
  - C. The Story of Creation.
    1. God loves to create new things.  
That is what he is like. It is part of his nature.
    2. All that he created was good.  
Not surprising since God is totally good.
    3. God ruled over the creation.  
Ie., he did not abandon the earth to go somewhere else. He liked what he made. He stuck around to enjoy it and take care of it. Taking care of it is ruling. Like a good king, he did good things to the creation, so the earth would flourish. He kept adding to it (plants, celestial lights, animals), then kept everything operating in a "good" pattern.
  - D. The Story of Man.
    1. Man was also created, but with a difference.  
All creation reflected the glory of God, but man much more so. Man, like the rest of creation, is completely distinct from God, but he is much more like God than anything else. (Psalm 8:3-5)  
  
When you look at creation you see God's character reflected. When you look at man, this reflection is much clearer, stronger, and more detailed.
    2. Like all else, man was ruled by God; but man was made sub-ruler over all else, (Psalm 8:6-8).
    3. Consequently, man was given special instructions: Rule, and Fill. (Genesis 1:28)
      - Rule: Man reflects (imitates) God by ruling.
      - Fill: Man reflects (imitates) God by (pro) creating and filling the earth.

## E. The Complete Kingdom

1. King: God.
2. Land: Whole earth.
3. Subjects: All created beings.
4. Law: Word of God (Commands of the King).  
Special Words
  - Fill the Earth (Genesis 1:28)
  - Rule the Earth (Genesis 1:28)
  - Do not eat from one tree (Genesis 2:16-17)
  - (Later) Scripture
5. Government: Monarchy, administered by Nobles (men).
6. Mission (Purpose): Man should fill and rule the earth. (Genesis 1:28)
7. Scripture tells us that this Kingdom was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

All the creation was good and beautiful. The government God established would protect and develop the earth. All signals pointed to a land increasingly filled with people and creatures who worshiped God and loved each other.

8. We would expect people to work hard caring for the earth, marry and establish families.

Men would serve each other. No one would have great needs because they would care for each other. They would be characterized by love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Consequently, the whole earth would flourish in peace, prosperity and happiness.

9. Unfortunately, that was not to be.

## II. The Rebel Kingdom.

### A. The Fall of Satan.

1. Angels.

In addition to creating the physical universe, the earth and all that was in it, God created a whole array of spiritual beings - beings we call angels.

The angels are God's servants. They worship and obey him always.

2. Aspiration of Lucifer.

There came a time, however, when one angel, called Satan or Lucifer, decided that he wanted to be King and Lord over all creation. He persuaded one third of the angels to join him in an attempt to seize the throne. The Bible tells us there was a great war in heaven, and Satan and his followers were thrown out. However, they were free to roam the new universe God created.

3. Result of Rebellion.

God is the source of life and virtue. Apart from him, in rebellion against him we see the opposite, death and vice. God is loving, but Satan is full of hate. God is creator, Satan is destroyer. God beautifies, Satan ruins. God protects, Satan ravages. God organizes, Satan causes chaos.

4. Retreat and New Strategy.

Satan lost the first battle and retreated to earth, but the war still goes on. Satan is opposed to anything that God would attempt. God's purpose was that we should rule the earth according to His law and to perfect it. Satan therefore needed to recruit men to his side and

cause him to destroy the earth.

B. The Fall of Man.

1. Man's Rebellion.

There came a day Satan succeeded. Adam and Eve had been faithful, loving, and obedient to their Father and Lord, but Satan persuaded Adam to join in the rebellion. Adam consciously, willfully disobeyed God and ate the fruit of the forbidden tree.

2. Results of Rebellion.

– Individual People.

Man was no longer perfect. That fact could never be changed. He had joined the rebellion and consequently had assisted in Satan's program of spreading hate, chaos, ugliness and destruction throughout the universe.

– Society.

Man is designed by God to produce children like himself. Man instead of producing children who love God and care for the earth, he produces children who serve Satan. Instead of building countries, cities, and nations which glorify God, he will build a society which opposes God.

C. The Nature of the Rebel Kingdom.

1. The Question of Master.

The essence of rebellion is the change of masters. There are two great kingdoms which are competing to rule the earth. If you do not serve God, you will serve Satan. If you are not in God's kingdom, you are in Satan's.

2. The Deception.

However, God is so obviously good and generous, Satan is so obviously wicked that no one willingly desires to serve Satan. The heart of rebellion is not seeking to serve another King, it is to *be king* yourself. Satan deceives us into thinking that we can be our own masters, but in reality we end up serving him.

3. The Controlling Desire.

**Selfishness**, the desire to please yourself without regard for the cost to others is a characteristic central to the Rebel Kingdom.

4. The Change of Law.

With man acting as his own master, controlled by his desire to please himself, the law is changed. Instead of being the decrees of God, the law is the whim of man.

5. Effect on Society.

Each man has different whims, however, so there is no longer an absolute standard of behavior. Society is ruled by chaos, and the strongest impose their will on the rest.

6. Examples of rebellious values (video).

D. The Rebel Kingdom.

- |                |                                    |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. King:       | Satan.                             | Man.                         |
| 2. Land:       | Wherever people rebel against God. | His own sphere of influence. |
| 3. Subjects:   | All unbelievers.                   | Whoever he can control.      |
| 4. Law:        | Arbitrary decree of Satan.         | Whim of the moment.          |
| 5. Government: | Dictatorship.                      | Self-rule.                   |
| 6. Mission:    | Destroy God and His creation.      | Please self.                 |
7. The land becomes filled with people who worship self and hate God, who please self and exploit others.
8. People compel others to work hard to please them. They rape the earth for their pleasure.
9. Everyone serves themselves. They are characterized by immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, arguments, divisions, drinking, and carousing. Consequently the whole earth is characterized by war, destruction and misery.

III. The Mission of God's Kingdom.

A. The Result of Rebellion.

1. The Law.

God, being wise and all-knowing, had made provision for rebellion in the Law of the Kingdom. Death was the penalty. Execution became the fate of all men.

2. The Earth.

In addition, since man was in charge of the whole earth, death came to the whole earth. That is why we have violence, disease, and destruction even among plants, animals and rocks.

3. The Divine Mystery.

But now we see the mystery, the deeper wisdom of God.

Man's death came in stages: spiritual death first, then physical death. Also, God promised that through man who lived on the earth he would provide a savior (Genesis 3:15). Man, and in fact the whole earth, would be rescued from death by this great deliverer.

B. Jesus the Savior.

1. In the fulness of time, God sent Jesus to save his people.
  - He rescued them from the death they chose.
  - He gave them life.
  - He destroyed the power of the Rebel King.
2. Not only did he rescue people from death, He restored the Kingdom that man destroyed.
  - He became the new King to replace Adam.
  - Those who follow him are brought into the church, where the benefits of this Kingdom are increasingly realized.

C. The New Kingdom. (Matthew 28:18-20)

1. King: Jesus (v. 18).
2. Land: Whole earth (v. 18).
3. Subjects: All created beings (v. 19).
4. Law: Word of God (Scripture) (v. 20).
5. Government: Monarchy, administered by Nobles (man).
  - Elders and deacons are special leaders in church.

- Magistrates are special leaders in the state.
  - 6. Establishment: Ascension of Jesus to Heavenly Throne. (Acts 1:9)
    - Partially now.
    - Fully when Jesus returns.
  - 7. Mission: Godly men should fill and rule the earth. (Genesis 1:28)
- D. How will this happen?
1. Christians faithfully fulfill God's commands.
    - Be fruitful and multiply.
    - Rear Godly children.
  2. Go, preach, baptize people in all the earth. (Matthew 28:18-20)
- E. The War of the Kingdom.
1. Satan is still warring against Christ and His people.

We are returning the favor. Our goal in this war is to rescue people from Satan's power and teach them to follow Christ.
  2. Satan uses the weapons of lies, deceit, hatred, death, and destruction. We use our weapons: scripture and prayer.
  3. We will win, but it will take a long time.

We do not know when Christ will return.
  4. Now we must all do our part to preach the gospel to all the earth.

This conference is going to help us do that more effectively.

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Law: Word of God (Commands of the King)

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– Rule the Earth (Genesis 1:28)

– Do not eat from one tree  
(Genesis 2:16-17)

– (Later) Scripture

Government: Monarchy, administered by Nobles (men)

Mission (Purpose): Man should fill and rule the earth (Genesis 1:28)

# The Rebel Kingdom

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Law: Decrees of Satan Whim of the  
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