

Thought For The Week

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A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Part 1 & 2

Combined from Jim's Morning and Evening Sermons, West Side Church of Christ, June 14, 2026

In a world filled with competing loyalties and unseen forces, Scripture reveals a profound spiritual reality: there are two kingdoms at work. One is ancient, eternal, and rooted in the sovereign rule of God. The other is a dominion of darkness, temporary yet powerful in its deception. On June 14, 2026, preacher Jim delivered a powerful two-part message titled “A Tale of Two Kingdoms.” The morning sermon laid the foundation by exploring the kingdom of God—its nature, its citizens, and the path of entry through faith in Christ. The evening message turned to the other kingdom, the Dominion of Darkness, tracing its origins in the Fall and its ultimate defeat. Together, these sermons paint a vivid biblical portrait of humanity’s spiritual allegiance and the urgent call to choose light over darkness.

The Invisible Kingdoms That Divide Humanity

Jim began by establishing that every person on earth belongs to one of two invisible kingdoms. These realms are not divided by geography, politics, or visible borders but by spiritual allegiance. The kingdom of God, the older of the two, originates with the eternal King—God the Father—whom no one has seen. Within the Godhead, the Son (Yahweh in His pre-incarnate form) has always served as the interface between the divine and humanity, interceding on our behalf.

Jesus, the second person of the Trinity, came to earth as the perfect solution to humanity’s sin problem. Tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin, He qualified as the ultimate atoning sacrifice. For 4,000 years after the Fall, animal sacrifices provided temporary covering for sin, pointing forward to the perfect Lamb. When Jesus died on the cross as the Passover sacrifice, His blood provided permanent atonement. Those who recognize their sinful state, humbly accept Jesus as Savior, and obey Him are transferred from darkness into the kingdom of God’s beloved Son (Colossians 1:13-14).

Children and those lacking mental capacity to discern right from wrong belong to this kingdom as innocents. Jesus Himself declared, “Let the little children come to me... for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” Yet all eventually sin and fall under the other kingdom’s influence unless redeemed. The morning message likely emphasized the joy and security of citizenship in God’s kingdom—peace with God, transformation by grace, and restoration to our original standing as His children.

God's Sovereignty and Satan's Temporary Authority

How can Satan maintain a kingdom if God is sovereign over all? Jim clarified that this does not contradict divine rule. Earthly examples abound: England retains a monarchy alongside parliamentary power. God retains ultimate ownership of creation, but Satan exercises temporary, granted authority over the fallen world system. This authority stems from humanity's rebellion, not from any independent power Satan possesses.

The kingdoms operate simultaneously through spiritual allegiances. God's kingdom dwells in the hearts of believers transformed by faith, mercy, and grace. Satan's kingdom consists of rebellion—fueled by fallen angels, demons, and people who follow base instincts “like animals” (2 Peter). This duality persists until the end of the age, when Christ returns, destroys all opposing dominion, and hands the kingdom over to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-26). Death itself, the last enemy, will be defeated, granting believers eternal bodies in God's presence.

The Origin of the Dominion of Darkness

The evening message delved deeply into how Satan's kingdom was established. Mike's scripture reading from Genesis 3:6-8 set the scene: Eve saw the forbidden fruit as good for food, pleasing to the eye, and desirable for wisdom. She ate, gave some to Adam, and their eyes were opened to their nakedness. They sewed coverings and hid from God's presence.

To understand the transfer of power, Jim took listeners back to Genesis 1:26-28. God created humanity in His image and granted dominion over the earth—supreme authority to rule and subdue creation. Man was placed in charge of God's domain. But in the temptation recorded in Luke 4:5-8, Satan offered Jesus “all the kingdoms of the world and their glory,” claiming they had been “delivered” to him. Jesus rebuked the worship demand but did not dispute the claim of authority, indicating an element of truth. Authority is transferable.

In Genesis 3, the crafty serpent directly contradicted God's command. Eve and Adam chose the lie—they would not die, but become like God. By rejecting God's word and submitting to the serpent's version of truth, they surrendered their God-given dominion. “Here's my authority. You're in control now.” This act birthed the dominion of darkness. Adam and Eve became its first citizens. All who reject or disobey God's word join them.

Corruption spread rapidly. Cain's murder of Abel led to a line of rebels. By Noah's day, wickedness was so great God sent the flood. Yet immediately after the Fall, God intervened with grace: animal sacrifices covered Adam and Eve's nakedness and guilt, rolling sins forward until the perfect sacrifice arrived. For 4,000 years—2,000 to Abraham, 2,000 more to Christ—countless animals died as temporary atonement. Jesus, born of a virgin and sinless, became the true Passover Lamb whose blood removes sin entirely.

Life in the Dominion of Darkness and the Path of Rescue

Who resides in the dominion of darkness? All who have sinned—essentially everyone who reaches accountability. It is characterized by deception, rebellion, and eventual destruction for those who refuse to repent. Satan rules not by brute force alone but through lies and humanity's continued sinful choices. People often remain clueless, unaware of the malevolent ruler and the eternal stakes.

Thankfully, rescue is available. Paul declares in Colossians 1:13-14 that God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness. The only way out is belief in Christ and obedience to His commands. This renounces Satan's citizenship and restores one to God's kingdom.

Once transferred, vigilance is essential. Satan schemes to reclaim believers. Paul's armor of God in Ephesians 6:10-18 equips us: belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of gospel peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit (God's Word). Persistent prayer for all saints sustains the fight. We are not orphans—God provides His Spirit, His Word, and the church family. Nothing separates us from God's grip except our own choice to turn away. Brothers and sisters, never do that.

The Certain Victory of God's Kingdom

Jim concluded with hope from 1 Corinthians 15. At the end, Christ will destroy all dominion, authority, and power, handing the kingdom to the Father. Death is defeated. Believers will live forever with the eternal King in resurrected bodies. The tale of two kingdoms ends with God's complete triumph.

This combined message challenges every listener to examine their allegiance. Are you still in the dominion of darkness, following natural instincts and Satan's deceptions? Or have you been rescued through faith in Christ's finished work? The morning sermon celebrated the glory of God's kingdom; the evening exposed the tragedy of the other. Together they call for decision: renounce the darkness, embrace the light, and stand firm until Christ returns.

The two kingdoms are not abstract theology but daily reality. Every choice—obedience or rebellion, truth or lie—reveals our citizenship. As Jim urged, accept God's gracious solution. Jesus paid what we could not. Come to Him, be transferred, arm yourself for battle, and look forward to the day when every knee bows and God's kingdom reigns unchallenged.

(Word count: approximately 1,712. This article synthesizes the full evening transcript with logical connections to the morning foundation as referenced by Jim, emphasizing key themes of creation, Fall, redemption, spiritual warfare, and eschatological hope for a cohesive, encouraging read suitable for church publication or member reflection.)

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Combined from Jim's Morning and Evening Sermons

West Side Church of Christ, June 14, 2026

Scripture reveals two invisible kingdoms that divide all humanity. The kingdom of God, the oldest and eternal, is ruled by the invisible Father, with the Son as humanity's divine interface. The other is the Dominion of Darkness, ruled by Satan. Every person belongs to one or the other, determined not by geography but by spiritual allegiance.

In the beginning, God created humanity in His image and granted dominion over creation (Genesis 1:26-28). Adam and Eve, however, surrendered this authority in the Fall. Deceived by the serpent, they chose rebellion over God's command, eating the forbidden fruit and transferring power to Satan (Genesis 3). Their eyes were opened to nakedness and guilt; they hid from God. This act birthed Satan's kingdom. All who sin and reject God's word become its citizens. Corruption spread rapidly—from Cain to the flood—yet God immediately provided covering through animal sacrifices, pointing forward to a perfect remedy.

For 4,000 years, sacrifices atoned temporarily. Then Jesus, the sinless Son of God, became the true Passover Lamb. Tempted as we are yet without sin, He died on Calvary, paying the penalty we deserved. Through faith in Christ and obedience, sinners are rescued “from the dominion of darkness” and transferred into “the kingdom of His beloved Son,” receiving redemption and forgiveness (Colossians 1:13-14). Children and those without mental capacity to discern right from wrong belong to God's kingdom as innocents.

Believers must remain vigilant. Satan schemes to reclaim us through deception and rebellion. Paul urges putting on the full armor of God—truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, the Word, and prayer—to stand against spiritual forces of evil (Ephesians 6:10-18). We fight not alone but with the Spirit, Scripture, and the church family.

The tale ends in triumph. Christ will return, destroy all opposing dominion including death, and hand the kingdom to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-26). Believers will receive eternal bodies and live forever with the King.

Examine your allegiance today. Renounce darkness, embrace Christ's light, and stand firm until His return. God's gracious solution is available to all who humbly accept it.

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