

What People Are Saying About Dr. Myles Munroe and *The Purpose and Power of the Holy Spirit*...

[Dr. Myles Munroe's] wisdom is to the believer what a phone booth was to Superman! Step into every page and be changed!

—Bishop T.D. Jakes

The Potter's House of Dallas

Myles Munroe stands as a pillar of strength in the midst of so much wind-blown confusion that is ripping apart sectors of the church. His commitment to integrity and spiritual passion—to a biblical lifestyle uncluttered by dead tradition—is a joy to behold.

—Jack W. Hayford

Chancellor Emeritus, The King's University, Los Angeles, CA

Myles Munroe gives a fresh look at the ministry and person of the Holy Spirit. *The Purpose and Power of the Holy Spirit* is a powerful book that makes the truth simple and easy to understand.

—Billy Joe Daugherty

Founder and Senior Pastor, Victory Christian Center, Tulsa, OK

Every kingdom features a carefully structured administrative system. In this book, Myles Munroe focuses on the administration of God's kingdom on earth from a heavenly perspective. In doing so, he offers fresh and challenging insights into the principles of kingdom citizenship, the character and purpose of the divine administrator, and the resources our Governor provides to enable kingdom citizens to fulfill the responsibilities of citizenship.

—Dr. Jerry Horner

Founding Dean, School of Divinity, Regent University,
Virginia Beach, VA

Former Dean, School of Theology, Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, OK

THE
PURPOSE & POWER
OF THE
HOLY
SPIRIT

GOD'S GOVERNMENT ON EARTH

DR. MYLES MUNROE



WHITAKER
HOUSE

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THE PURPOSE AND POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: God's Government on Earth (formerly titled *The Most Important Person on Earth*)

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INTRODUCTION

Human beings of all ages, genders, nationalities, and ethnic groups are on a search for purpose and significance. Consider:

- the multitude of religions in the world that seek to explain our existence.
- the large and growing number of books on the “self-help” shelves in bookstores.
- the enormous emphasis in Western countries on self-actualization.
- the scientific community’s continual pursuit of the origins of life.
- the ongoing struggle of Third-World peoples to gain freedom and a sense of identity for their nations and themselves.

We seek to understand why we are here, the significance of the world we live in, and how we can fulfill our personal potential. We want to know if our individual lives have any real meaning in the vast expanse of history and time.

Why do we struggle with these questions? Why don’t we already know the answers to them?

What makes us so introspective and continually longing to find meaning for ourselves and our world?

“RETURN TO MANUFACTURER”

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if all human beings were born with “manufacturer’s instructions” tied to their wrists, explaining who they are and how they work? (Of course, even if we did, most of us would probably skip the instructions and try to figure out life as we went along!)

I believe human beings do come with the equivalent of operating instructions that give us answers to our deepest questions about ourselves and our world. Some of this information has been placed within us; the rest has been given to us by our Creator, or “Manufacturer,” in written form. The reason we’re filled with such uncertainty and confusion about life is that we’ve lost our connection to these original instructions. We haven’t stopped to recognize our internal programming or to read our life manual in order to understand our personal potential or how we work. This is why we can’t see the purpose of the world itself and how it is supposed to function.

When we try but fail to solve what is broken in our lives and in our world, it is because our Manufacturer’s labels have become faded, and we haven’t read this crucial instruction: “Do not try to repair yourself. Return to Manufacturer.”

It is the Manufacturer who...

- ✦ has the original blueprints.
- ✦ knows how to repair what is broken inside us.
- ✦ can provide the replacement piece for what is missing in our lives.

When we rediscover the Manufacturer’s original intent, we come to understand our purpose, our potential, and the significance of our role in this world.

KINGDOM GOVERNMENT

The mind of our Manufacturer didn’t invent the fragmented life we have today, with its divisions among nations and people groups, its strife among families, its double-mindedness and double standards, its abuse and waste. He conceived of an orderly but energetic life in which every person could reach their fullest potential in conjunction with others for the greatest good of individuals and the community of human beings.

The original blueprint of the Creator was for a *kingdom government on earth* as an extension and reflection of his own greater, spiritual kingdom. This earthly government was to be a thriving colony with humanity as (1) its citizens, and (2) its local vice governors representing the home kingdom. Our mandate was to transform the colony into the nature of the kingdom.

The character of the initial colony was both peaceful and productive because of the generous nature of its Creator and Sovereign. His interests are the welfare, fruitfulness, and fulfillment of his citizens. His is a *perfect* government, a benevolent rule.

INTER-REALM CONNECTION

The key to the success of this plan was the establishment of an *inter-realm connection* and ongoing relationship between the home kingdom and the colony of earth. This connection was completely effective because it was direct—from Sovereign to individual citizens—through a super-natural communication that allowed the citizens to know the desires and plans of the King. That connection was the very Spirit of the Sovereign living within humanity—his Holy Spirit.

To understand this inter-realm connection, we have to look at the concept of *supernatural*, and we must address the various misconceptions people have when they hear the term *Holy Spirit*. I am not talking about some kind of “force,” “mist,” or “feeling,” but a Person. I am referring to the Creator “extending himself” to us in personal interaction, a Person-to-person communication.

THE CONCEPT OF THE SUPERNATURAL

The word *supernatural* does not exist in Scripture, but it does describe a concept clearly presented there. Supernatural simply means “outside” or “above” the natural; it is spiritual rather than physical. The supernatural world is above our natural world. Paul of Tarsus, the first-century theologian, defined this concept as *invisible* or *unseen*:

Since the creation of the world God’s *invisible* qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made.

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is *unseen*. For what is seen is temporary, but what is *unseen* is *eternal*.

The supernatural realm is therefore an invisible or unseen world that is distinct from our physical one. It is what the incomparable young rabbi,

Jesus of Nazareth, was referring to when he said, “My kingdom is not of this world....But now my kingdom is from another place.”

When someone “experiences” the supernatural world of the Creator-King, it refers to their encounter with the kingdom of their Sovereign. The key to their interaction with the unseen kingdom is the Holy Spirit communicating the King’s mind and heart to them so they can carry it out on earth.

The nature of this relationship between the unseen world of the kingdom government and the seen world of the physical earth underscores the incalculable value of the one who makes the connection between these two realms possible—the Holy Spirit.

THE CONCEPT OF THE KINGDOM

To fully appreciate the invisible kingdom government, we must realize that the *idea* of “kingdom” didn’t originate on earth with the ancient civilizations of Babylon and Egypt. It didn’t come from earth at all. The concept of kingdom is rooted in the desire of the Creator to design and sustain both the unseen and seen realms in order to express, represent, and manifest his nature.

Ideas are one of the most powerful forces in existence. We see how the greatest ideas transcend generations and serve as the source of people’s creative activity and the motivation for their productivity. Ideas are the starting point of all that is created. An idea becomes a full-fledged, viable concept when it is envisioned and executed. The concept of an ideal kingdom is so beautiful that only a Creator-King of a certain nature could have envisioned and established it. We need to understand the King and kingdom out of which we come.

The word *king* refers to the person or personality who influences and oversees the productive development and profitable service of everything under his care, for the fulfillment of his noble desires and the benefit of all those living in his realm. The environment, territory, and authority over which he presides are his “domains” or “realms.” A king effectually relating to his domains is the essence of the concept of kingdom.

Kingdom is thus the perfect example of the divine, creative act of the Creator. The first realm of his dominion is described as heaven. Heaven is the original kingdom; it was the origin of kingdoms. No kingdom existed before it, and nothing natural can be adequately compared to it. It is the first real kingdom because the first King created it. The kingdom of heaven is the only perfect prototype of kingdoms in existence.

When our Creator-King desired to extend his perfect kingdom from the invisible realm to the visible realm, the result was the creation of the physical universe and the appointment of planet earth as the destination for a unique extension of his divine being. Paul of Tarsus attempted to communicate this divine process of creation and extension when writing to people in the city of Colossae: "By him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him."

The kingdom of heaven and its colony of earth exist through the will of our Creator-King. It is therefore impossible to comprehend humanity's purpose without understanding the kingdom concept and how we are meant to live it out on earth. An inter-realm connection through the Holy Spirit is what enables us to fulfill our very purpose as human beings. The kingdom government is the ultimate answer to our search for personal significance and the meaning of the world around us.

We can no longer ignore the fading instructions on our Manufacturer's label. Let us return to the initial intent of our Creator-King, so we may understand the original blueprints of both kingdom and colony.

PROLOGUE

In the beginning was the King's Word. His Word was himself and was inseparable from him. His Word was with him from the start. Everything that exists came into being through the King's Word; no other source of life exists. In his Word was life, and this life manifested the knowledge of the King and his kingdom to the darkened and confused minds of humanity. But although the light of this knowledge shines brightly, those who choose to remain in a darkened state cannot see it.

In the beginning, the King created a colony for his kingdom. The colony was raw and undeveloped, and there was no life there. The King's Governor was poised to bring order and kingdom influence to the colony through the King's Word...

PART 1

THE PROGRAM OF CELESTIAL EXPANSION

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

NOTHING IS MORE DAMAGING TO A NEW TRUTH THAN AN OLD ERROR.
—JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

I found myself sitting between kingdom and colony.

I was the guest of the United States ambassador to the Bahamas for an official state function at his residence. Also attending this function were both the premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and His Excellency, the royal governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This group of islands lies off the southeastern coast of my country of the Bahamas. At the writing of this book, the Turks and Caicos is a colony of Great Britain. The colony is overseen by the royal governor, who was appointed by Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain. He is the highest authority in that colony. The premier, however, is an elected official, approved by the Crown, who heads the local government.

The premier was the special guest of the American ambassador. The ambassador had also invited other members of the diplomatic corps, as well as distinguished governmental officials and guests from around the world. Previous to this gathering, I had already become well acquainted with the premier. At his invitation, I had visited his beautiful island territory to address governmental and civic leaders in a special national event, and we had become good friends.

During the state function at the US ambassador's residence, I also came to know the royal governor fairly well because I was seated between him and the premier for over three hours during the proceedings. While the premier is a native-born Turks and Caicos Islander, His Excellency the Governor is pure British. When he spoke, you knew immediately that he was not from the islands.

As I conversed with these two distinguished leaders, one on either side of me, I realized once again the principle of kingdoms and their impact on their colonies. It refreshed my perspective and reminded me of my personal experience as a citizen of a former colony of the kingdom of Great Britain. There I sat between the crown and the colony, the governor and the administrator, the authority and the power. The governor was sent from the kingdom to live in the colony, among the people, to represent the Queen and execute her wishes and will in the colony. His primary purpose was to maintain the kingdom's influence and presence in that territory.

THE KINGDOM LIFE

Years of research have led me to the conclusion that the practical out-working of kingdoms points us to truths and principles that transcend the mere political fortunes of individual empires. Seeing how they function actually:

- ✦ provides us with a deep understanding of our own nature as human beings,
- ✦ reveals the key to our remarkable life purpose, and
- ✦ enables us to exercise our full potential in the world.

These things have tremendous implications for the human race personally, professionally, socially, and politically; for our families, communities, nations, and the world.

I am in a somewhat unique position to discuss the nature of kingdoms and their colonies, having grown up in a land that was a British colony for nearly two hundred years, and having witnessed its peaceful transition to independence. I well remember what it meant to live under a monarch—both the mind-set of a kingdom and its functioning and procedures. Yet I also understand what it means to live in an independent nation, having eagerly followed our transition to self-government as a young person. My close acquaintance with these two ways of governing has been extremely beneficial to me as I have explored the nature of kingdom and what it means for every person on this planet.

My investigation into the concept of kingdom has convinced me that the success of your life and mine depends upon how well we understand

and live out what I will call the *kingdom life*. I am not referring to a political system or to any particular national government, but to a way of understanding and living everyday life.

AN ANTI-KINGDOM PERSPECTIVE

The concept of kingdom may seem antithetical to the contemporary mind. Empires and their colonies seem outdated in the twenty-first century, just fading remnants of the past. Many nations today have representative governments. A number of former colonies and protectorates have gained their independence. Opportunities for self-government have expanded greatly throughout the world, and we rightly celebrate the political freedoms and opportunities these changes have brought. Human history has seen enough tyrannical kingdoms and dictators to want to move on to a different form of government.

Democracy is essentially humanity's reaction to perverted kingdoms. The founders of the United States rebelled against what they considered an oppressive government, and the very genetics of contemporary Western society are anti-kingdom. Because of the strong influence of political and social ideas of independence and freedom, this perspective has permeated the world and affects many areas of our thinking, not just the governmental realm. It shows up in how we view and conduct ourselves in personal relationships, business, media, education, and even religion because our cultural experiences produce our definitions. This is why the concept of kingdom is dismissed by most people today as irrelevant and is even considered out-and-out frightening by others.

In the light of these developments, however, many people no longer understand what life in an authentic and uncorrupted kingdom entails. I believe this lack of understanding has hindered them in the way they've approached their lives. Most of us have forgotten why kingdoms historically had such a profound impact on people and nations for thousands of years, some of which is still being felt. They haven't recognized what the concept and history of kingdoms reveal that is vital to us today.

I therefore want to present to you, step-by-step, how the practical working of the kingdom life answers essential questions about our human existence, purpose, and fulfillment. We have approached our personal

goals and problems, as well as our national and global crises, from many vantage points, but not often from this perspective. Democracies are valuable political institutions for us today, but I'm referring to something that transcends our contemporary politics and government—something that speaks to the basis of our very being as humans. It has significance for people of all nations, religions, and creeds. It lies at the heart of the existence of every person on earth, *whether Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Jew, agnostic, or atheist.*

Just as I found myself sitting between kingdom and colony, you and every other person on the planet are, in a sense, supposed to find yourselves in a relationship between kingdom and colony, and to experience that dynamic in your own lives.

KINGDOM POWER

The character of this kingdom is, again, nothing like the political kingdoms of the past and present that seek to force others under their control based on territorial power, greed, or religious doctrine. Those kingdoms enslave. But the very nature of humanity, as well as the personal and corporate progress of the world, are designed to develop and thrive from the outworking of this kingdom.

I mentioned in the preface to this book that the principal issue of humanity is power, defined as “the ability to influence and control circumstances.” We all want to direct and influence our lives in a positive and fulfilling way. The nature of this kingdom speaks directly to this need.

Understanding our association with this kingdom begins with an exploration of what all human kingdoms have shared in common and how they were different from the contemporary experience of government most of us are familiar with today. Then we can move to the larger context of what these qualities reveal about our human existence and purpose.

THE NATURE OF KINGDOM GOVERNMENT

I define a kingdom as “**the governing authority and influence of a sovereign ruler who impacts his territory through his will, purpose, and intentions, which are manifested in the culture, lifestyle, and quality of his citizenry.**” A king must have his dominion, or his territory. We

call it his “king-dominion” or his kingdom. You cannot be a king without having territory; you have to be ruling over something. And you cannot be a king without having kingdom citizens who live and work in the kingdom.

In a true, traditional kingdom, all power is vested in the monarch. The king actually, personally *owns* the country, including the people. In contrast, a president or prime minister in a representative government doesn’t own the country; he governs it on behalf of the people.

The king implements his vision for the kingdom. There is no congress or parliament to discuss which laws they’re going to create. There is only the monarch, and he has immediate access to his handpicked, trusted council, who carry out his wishes. The job of these advisors is to take the will of the king, translate it into the law of the land, and make sure it is enacted throughout the kingdom.

A kingdom is therefore the governing influence of a king over his territory, impacting and influencing it with his *personal will*. In a kingdom, the king’s personal interest becomes policy, and the king’s personal will becomes law. Thus, the effectiveness of a kingdom and its power is its ability to influence and control the territory according to the vision of the king.

THE GOAL OF THE KINGDOM: RULING AND GAINING TERRITORY

Most kingdoms throughout history have sought to take additional land, sometimes at some distance from the home country, because the power of a king is related to the territory he owns. The more territory a king had, the greater he was respected by other kingdoms, especially if the territories had abundant natural wealth. The home country of the king was his *domain*, and the outlying territories were his *colonies*.

Once a colony was gained, the sovereign’s number one goal was to exercise his personal influence over it.

THE TRANSFORMATION OF COLONIES INTO THE KINGDOM

A colony is comprised of “a group of emigrants or their descendants who settle in a distant land but remain subject to the parent country.”¹ The word *colony* comes from the Latin word *colonia*, derived from *colere*, meaning “to cultivate.”² In this sense, a colony is:

- ✦ the presence of a distinct cultural citizenry in a foreign territory that is governed by the laws and customs of its home country.
- ✦ established to influence the territory for the home government.

This means that a colony's purpose was essentially to:

1. be an extension of the home country in another territory.
2. establish a prototype of the original country in another territory.
3. represent the values, morals, and manners of the home country.
4. manifest the culture and lifestyle of the original nation.

When a kingdom takes a territory, therefore, its goal is to make that territory exactly like the kingdom. The purpose is not only to gain lands, but also to transform those lands so that they mirror the country in its mind-set and lifestyle, its characteristics and culture. In this way, the kingdom not only extends its power, but it also expands the influence of its very nature.

The Roman Empire had a specific way of ensuring the permanency and effectiveness of kingdom influence over its colonies. When the Romans conquered a region, they planted a group of about three hundred of their own citizens, as well as a larger number of those allied with the empire, and a number of settlers, within it to serve as a type of military outpost. These constituted a "colony of Romans citizens" (*colonia civium Romanorum*) or a "little Rome." A colony of Roman citizens was free from taxation and military duty. It had its own constitution based on the Roman constitution and was allowed to elect its own senate and other offices of state. The original inhabitants had to adhere to this new government and its constitution.³ These "little Romes" brought the culture and values of the Roman empire throughout Europe and northern Africa.

CHARACTERIZING THE KINGDOM

A striking picture of the power and influence of kingdoms over a territory and the lifestyle of its inhabitants can be seen in the various nations of the Caribbean and West Indies. You can always tell who controlled a colony by studying its culture. The Bahamas, Jamaica, Trinidad, and Barbados are former colonies of the United Kingdom. Cuba was a colony

of Spain. Haiti was a colony of France. The cultures of all these islands are distinctly characteristic of the countries that claimed them.

You can still see the kingdoms' influence in the daily lives and customs of the people. If you visited the Bahamas, you'd see the influence of Great Britain in our narrow streets, our driving on the left-hand side of the road, and our habit of drinking tea. When I was a young boy attending school, my classmates and I grew up singing "God Save the Queen." We were being taught to be a "little Britain." Similarly, if you went to Cuba, you might think you were in Spain as you observed its architecture and food. Significantly for their cultures, each of these former colonies speaks the language of the kingdom that conquered it.

Most kingdoms in the colonial period had to fight for new territory because there was a limited amount of land in the world. Under European control, the Bahamas was initially claimed by the Spaniards. The French tried to conquer it, but the Spaniards held them off. Finally, the British won out over the Spanish. If the British Empire hadn't won, I might be speaking Spanish today. So even though the Bahamas, Haiti, and Cuba are all part of a chain of islands, whoever controlled the domain controlled the language and culture of the people. If you really want to investigate the power of kingdoms, study the island of Hispaniola, home of both the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Two kingdoms grabbed the same island, and now there's a border separating the eastern part from the western part; one side speaks French, while other side speaks Spanish.

THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE COLONY

The transformation of a colony into the culture of the kingdom didn't happen automatically. A purposeful development was involved. The king didn't usually directly extend his influence to his colony by physically going there. He administrated his will through his personal representative, called a governor or regent. He sent his representative to physically live in the colony in his place. Therefore, the royal governor was the *presence of the absent king* in the colony.

With the governor in the colony, you didn't need the physical presence of the king to experience and be changed by the king's influence. I mentioned that the British monarchs who influenced the English-speaking

Caribbean nations didn't frequently visit their colonies. Yet, in the Bahamas, we all learned to speak English, drink tea, wave the Union Jack, and sing the songs of Britain. We became part of the United Kingdom. And the royal governors were the direct instrument of that transformation.

The governor was therefore the most important person in the colony. We get a greater appreciation for why this was true when we look at his purpose.

THE GOVERNOR'S PURPOSE

The governor's purpose was sixfold:

1. *Relationship:* The governor was the guarantee that the kingdom could always have access to the colony. The interrelationship between king and colony was totally dependent on him.
2. *Communication:* Anything the king wanted the colony to know or to receive, he would send through his governor, his avenue of communication.
3. *Representation:* The governor was the chief representative of the king and his kingdom in the colony. He also represented the colony to the king.
4. *Interpretation:* The governor understood intimately the king's desires, ideas, intent, purposes, will, and plans; therefore, he was the only one who could effectively interpret these aspects for the colony.
5. *Power:* The governor was the only one empowered with the authority and ability to execute the king's desires and commands for the colony.
6. *Partnership:* The governor was effectively the king's partner in rulership.

THE GOVERNOR'S QUALIFICATIONS AND ROLES

The qualifications and roles of a governor were significant in terms of kingdom and colony:

1. *The governor was appointed by the king.*

Unlike the governors of representational governments, the royal governor was not voted in; he was appointed by the king.

2. *The governor came only from the kingdom, never the colony.*

Governors were never chosen from the indigenous peoples of the colonies. They were always appointed from the home countries. Why? A governor had to be steeped in the *original culture* of the kingdom. He had to be a person who knew the kingdom and understood the heart, mind, desires, will, and intent of the king in carrying out the kingdom's purposes in the territory.

3. *The governor represented only the king.*

Again, the difference between the governors of colonies and the governors many of us are familiar with in representative governments is like night and day. Every state in the United States has a governor who is voted in by the people and can also be voted out by them. He or she is ultimately accountable to the people of the state, not to the federal government or its leaders. In contrast, the royal governor was responsible and accountable to the king alone in his allegiance, attitude, actions, and responsibility.

4. *The governor only expressed the mind and will of the king.*

The governor was not there to promote his own personal policies or agendas. He was to take the vision and will of the king and communicate them to the people, translating them into policy and law.

5. *The governor was responsible for converting the colony into the kingdom.*

Once more, it was the governor's job to oversee and carry out the transformation of the colonies according to the character of the kingdom. The governor was "planted" in the colony to sow the seeds of the home country into the culture of the new territory. Colonization was for the purpose of *conversion*—to exchange the culture of the territory for the culture of the kingdom. Whatever was happening in the kingdom was supposed to happen in the colony, as well.

6. *In converting the colony, the governor transferred the kingdom's culture, values, nature, language, and lifestyle to the people.*

The governor made sure that every subject of the kingdom took on the kingdom culture in language, attitude, dress, food, and so forth. The

colonists were even to take on the history of the kingdom as if it were their own, which in fact it now was, because they had become a part of the chronicles of the nation. The subjects were to take on the mind-set and lifestyle of the kingdom until, if you visited the territory, you would think you were in the home country itself.

7. The governor prepared the subjects for citizenship.

When a king took over a colony, the people essentially became his possessions. The inhabitants of the colony did not automatically become citizens; they were called *subjects*. For example, when the Bahamas was a colony, the people were not citizens of Great Britain. We couldn't vote, and we didn't have other rights of British citizens.

In a kingdom, citizenship was a privilege. Who became a citizen was the king's prerogative, and he personally granted it. The reason citizenship wasn't automatic is that, once a person was appointed a citizen, he had special benefits and protections in the kingdom. In the Roman Empire, citizenship was a high honor and privilege involving many rights. In the first century, Paul of Tarsus was arrested in Jerusalem by the Roman commander for allegedly disturbing the peace. He was about to be whipped when he declared to a nearby centurion that he was a Roman citizen. Immediately, the soldiers' attitude toward him changed. The following exchange dramatically reveals the power of kingdom citizenship in the Roman Empire, especially if you were *born* a citizen:

As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, "Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn't even been found guilty?" When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. "What are you going to do?" he asked. "This man is a Roman citizen." The commander went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" "Yes I am," he answered. Then the commander said, "I had to pay a big price for my citizenship." "But I was born a citizen," Paul replied. Those who were about to question him withdrew immediately. The commander himself was alarmed when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains.

Once you are a citizen, your privileges, rights, and demands upon the throne change. The king is responsible for taking care of you. Therefore, the governor's role of preparing subjects for citizenship was a tremendous responsibility. If the governor believed a subject was ready to be a citizen or especially deserved citizenship, he recommended the subject to the king. Since the governor lived in the colony and knew the subjects firsthand, the king accepted the suggestions of the governor in this regard.

8. *The governor lived in a residence built by the government of the home country.*

A kingdom would build a residence in its colonies specifically for its royal governors to live in. This emphasized that the governor, the chief representative of the kingdom in the colony, was not just a visitor; he lived there, he was there to stay, and this was his legal residence. The British built a governor's mansion in Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas, specifically for the royal governor to live in, which today is called the Government House. Great Britain similarly built governors' houses in Jamaica, Trinidad, Barbados, and in every colony where it ruled.

9. *The governor's presence in the colony was evidence that the kingdom itself was in the colony.*

As long as the governor lived in the colony, the kingdom itself was present. The first time the Bahamas was declared a British colony was when a royal governor drove out the remaining Spanish garrisons, solidifying its ownership by the kingdom of Great Britain.

10. *The governor left if the colony declared independence.*

Either by force or recall, the royal governor would leave a colony if it declared independence and the kingdom was no longer officially governing. In the American Revolution, the royal governors of the colonies were forced to withdraw from their posts. When the Bahamas received independence, it was through negotiation with Great Britain, and the governor was recalled because he no longer had a legal right to be there.

THE VALUE OF THE GOVERNOR

In kingdom terms, then, the governor was the most powerful and important person in the colony. Because he introduced the kingdom's

culture, language, and lifestyle—every unique aspect of the kingdom—to the colony, he had great value for the kingdom and its larger purposes. To summarize, the governor was valuable:

1. *As the presence of the government.* Without him, the kingdom would not exist in the colony.
2. *For representing the government.* If he wasn't there, the king would not be adequately or effectively represented.
3. *For the enablement of the colony.* He was the one with the authority and ability to supply power and resources to the colony.
4. *For protection.* As long as the kingdom was represented in a colony by the governor, the king was obligated to protect the territory from outside threats and danger.
5. *For his ability to know and communicate the mind of the king.* The governor represented the king's interests and will to the colony and made sure they were carried out.
6. *For enabling the colony's citizens and subjects to fulfill the will of the kingdom.* The colony received its instructions only through the governor and therefore was dependent on him for its effectiveness. The citizens and subjects would not be able to carry out their kingdom mandate without the governor's guidance and empowerment.

THE INFLUENCE OF ANOTHER KINGDOM

These were the main features of a kingdom-colony relationship, including the pivotal role of the governor in the process of transforming colonies into the home country. This brings us back to the kingdom I mentioned earlier in this chapter, which transcends our human governments and speaks to the basis of our very nature and existence as human beings. This kingdom has properties that are similar to, but go beyond, those of the traditional earthly kingdoms we've been looking at.

Two millennia ago, a startling young teacher described this transcendent kingdom. When Jesus of Nazareth began traveling and speaking around Palestine, the first thing he is recorded as saying is, "The time has come.... The kingdom of God is near."

This statement intrigues me and brings up several questions for us to explore in terms of kingdom:

- ✦ What “time” was he speaking about? And why then?
- ✦ What was the nature of the kingdom he was referring to?

He was announcing the imminent return of a kingdom and its influence on earth. Notice that he didn’t proclaim the entrance of a new religion, nor did he announce the beginnings of a democratic form of government. We have to ask:

- ✦ Why would he use this particular governmental reference at the beginning of his public life?
- ✦ What did it signify about his message and purpose?
- ✦ If the influence of a kingdom was entering the world, what new culture would emerge for the citizens of earth?

To understand the context of these thought-provoking statements and their implications, we need to go back to the first book of Moses, the book of Genesis, to the origins of this kingdom. For this wasn’t the first time the transcendent kingdom had entered the world and impacted its inhabitants...

CHAPTER ONE STUDY QUESTIONS

QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

1. Would you rather live under a kingdom or under a republic/democracy? Why?

EXPLORING PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

2. What does the success of your life depend on, according to Dr. Munroe's investigation into the concept of kingdom?
3. Why is the contemporary world generally anti-kingdom?
4. You are meant to find yourself in a relationship between _____ and _____.
5. What essential questions does the transcendent "kingdom life" answer for people of all nations, religions, and creeds?
6. What principal issue of humanity does the kingdom life address? How is this issue defined?
7. What is Dr. Munroe's definition of kingdom?

8. What is the job of a king's advisors?

9. What is a sovereign's number one goal after gaining a colony?

10. What was the word *colony* derived from in the Latin?

11. List the four purposes of a colony:
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)

12. What made the governor the most important person in a colony?

13. Match the six purposes of a governor with their significance:

(1) <i>relationship</i>	(4) <i>interpretation</i>
(2) <i>communication</i>	(5) <i>power</i>
(3) <i>representation</i>	(6) <i>partnership</i>

Clarifies the king's desires, ideas, intent, purposes, will, and plans:

Conveys what the king wants the colony to know or receive:

Shares rule with the king: _____

Provides the kingdom access to the colony: _____

Acts on behalf of the king to the colony, and on behalf of the colony to the king: _____

Exercises authority to execute the king's desires and commands for the colony. _____

14. List several reasons the governor was of great value to the colony.

15. What statement did Jesus of Nazareth make about a kingdom that transcends human governments and speaks to the basis of our very nature and existence as human beings?

16. What properties does the transcendent kingdom have in relation to traditional earthly kingdoms?

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES OF KINGDOM LIVING

THINKING IT OVER

- ✦ What did you learn about the relationship between kingdoms and colonies in this chapter that you hadn't thought of before?
- ✦ What kingdom do you think Jesus of Nazareth was referring to? What do you think is the nature of this kingdom?

ACTING ON IT

- ✦ Do a search of the various references Jesus made to *kingdom* in the accounts of his life in the Scriptures. (See the first four books of the New Testament, also called the Gospels. A Bible concordance [topical index] or a computer Bible program is a good way to do this.) What do you learn about the transcendent kingdom from these statements?

The success of your life depends upon how well you live out the kingdom life.