

10 THE KING'S
CONTROVERSIES

A STUDY OF
Mark



The King's Controversies

1st Encounter - Challenging Jesus' Authority (11:27-12:12)

2nd Encounter - A Political Controversy (12:13-17)

3rd Encounter - A Theological Question (12:18-27)



Mark 12:13-17 ^{ESV}

And they sent to him some of the Pharisees and some of the Herodians, to trap him in his talk. ¹⁴ And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” ¹⁵ But, knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why put me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me look at it.” ¹⁶ And they brought one. And he said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to him, “Caesar's.” ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” And they marveled at him.

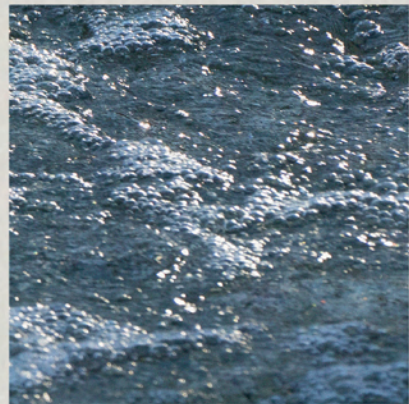


Herodians

Identity wrapped in power/influence
Allegiant to & aligned with Rome
Progressive

Pharisees

Identity rooted in their faith traditions
Wanted nothing to do with Romans
Conservative





Whose Likeness

Caesar - “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s”



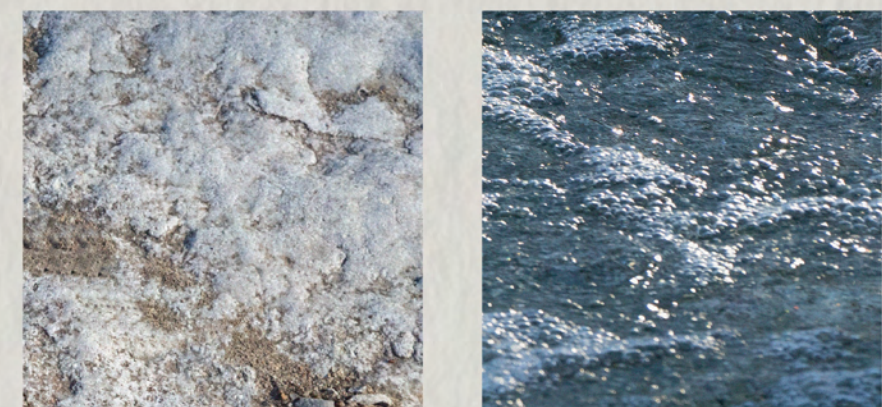
Whose Likeness

God - “Give God what is God’s”



The Question

Should Jews pay taxes to Caesar?

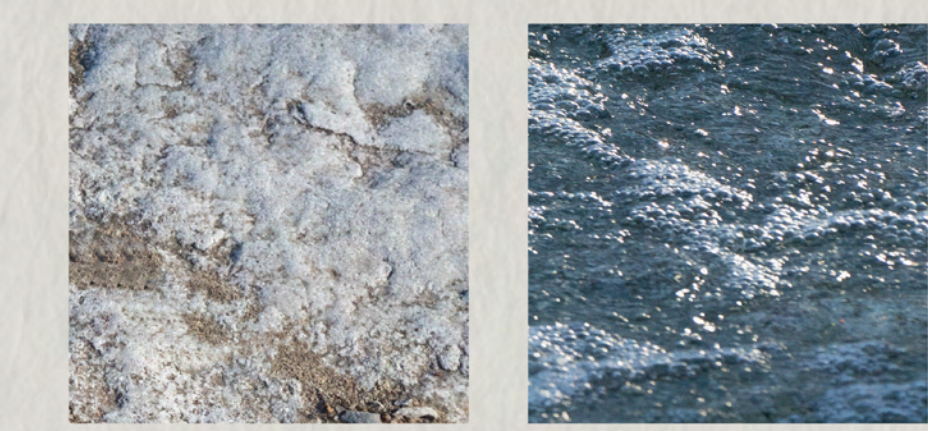
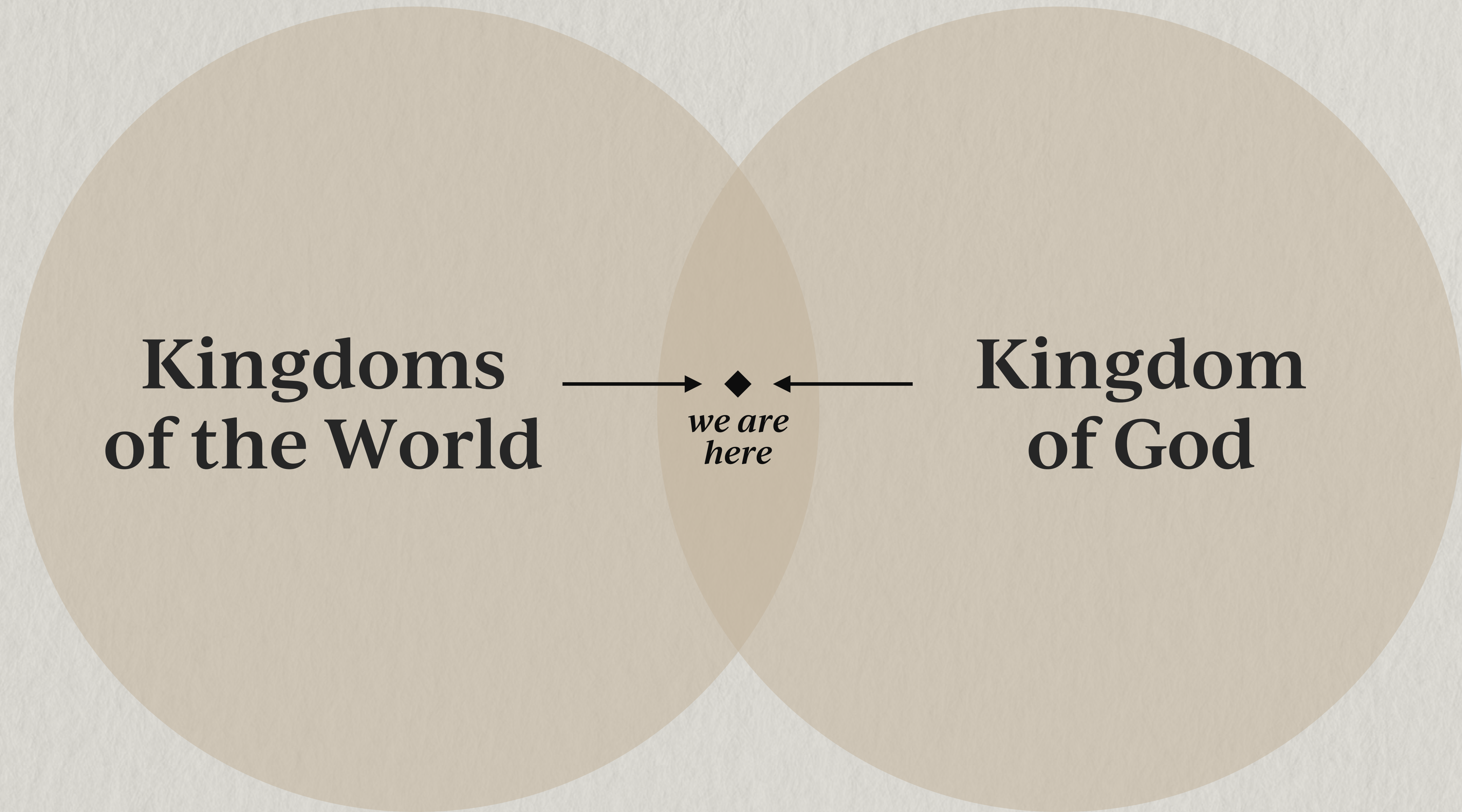


Bigger

The Question

What relationship *should* the people of God have with governments on earth?







- Being a citizen of heaven means that our first allegiance is to the King of our home country.



Kingdom of God

- Being a citizen of heaven means that our first allegiance is to the King of our home country.
- Before we can know how to live in the kingdoms of the earth, we have to make sure that we have a right perspective of our place in the kingdom of heaven.



Kingdoms of the World

Romans 13:1-2 ^{ESV}

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.



Kingdoms of the World

Romans 13:3-4 ^{ESV}

For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.

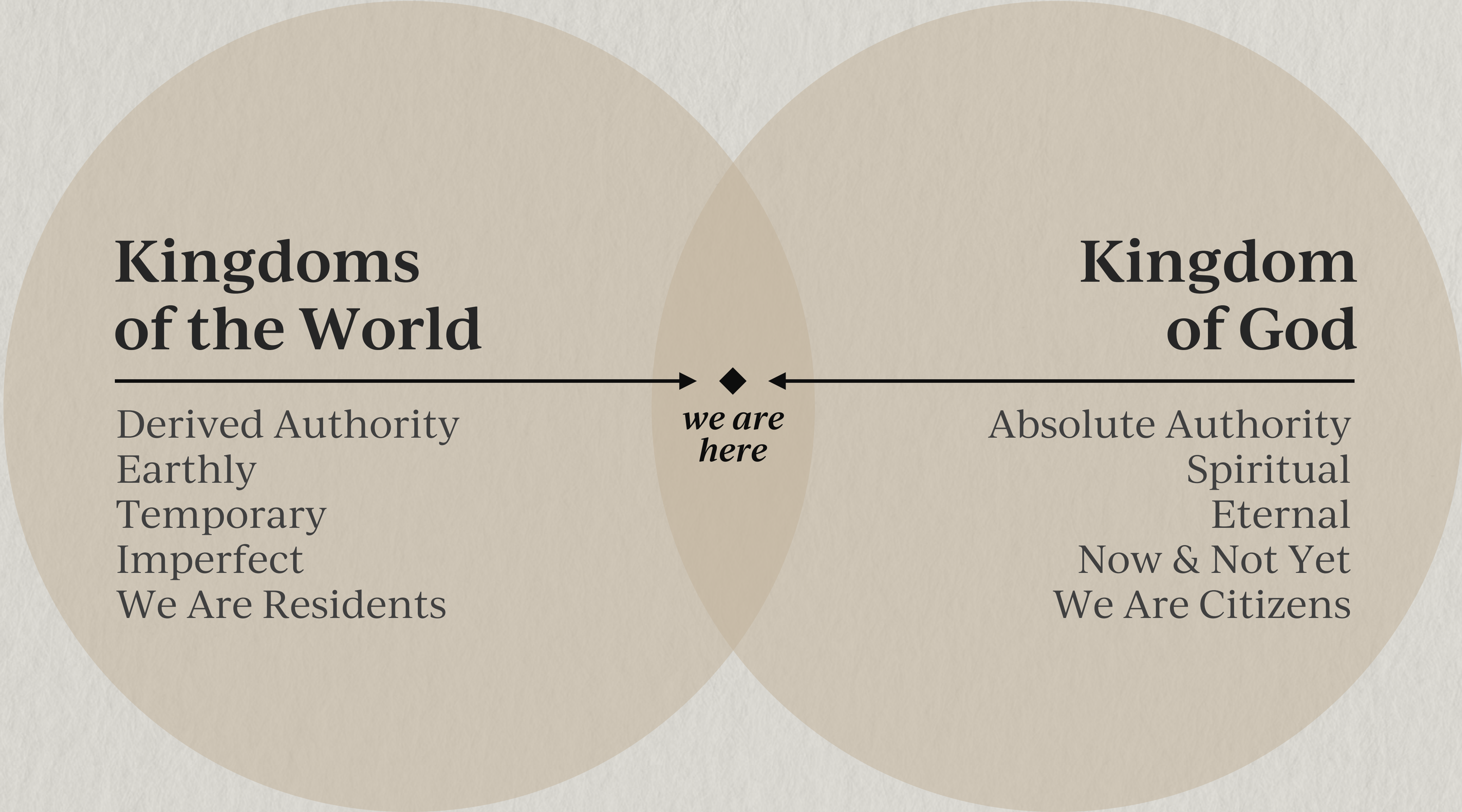


Kingdoms of the World

Romans 13:5-7 ^{ESV}

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.





“Christians are no different from the rest in their nationality, language or customs...They live in their own countries, but as sojourners. They fulfill all their duties as citizens, but suffer as foreigners. They find their homeland wherever they are, but their homeland is not in any one place...

They are in the flesh, but do not live according to the flesh. They live on earth, but are citizens of heaven. They obey all laws, but they live at a higher level than required by law. They love all, but all persecute them.”

- Letter to Diognetus / 125 A.D.



1. We must live under the rule of earthly kingdoms (governments) that are imperfect and incapable of fixing what is wrong with the world.

2. We belong to heaven's kingdom & our allegiance is to heaven's King.

3. The kingdom of heaven will only come in its fullness when the King Himself comes to bring it.

4. The greatest impact we can have on the earth is when we draw a circle around ourselves, and our homes and pray, "Let your kingdom come here, and let your will be done here."

