When God created he earth he designed it to be under the ruler ship of Himself...With Jesus as the King over the whole earth and the citizens of his Kingdom will manage and rule as members of his family and heirs of the earth! It's a great day today! official citizenship in the Kingdom of God will grow by ____ today. why do I say that?

Well before you can be a citizen of the Kingdom of God, a person starts by being a member of 'god's family. which he decided long before you were born...to adopt you into his family

<u>Ephesians 1:5</u> God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.

You were included when

Eph 1:12 13 And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

• So now our core identity is a child of God by Right...As John tells us..

John 1:12 But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God.

- So through receiving Jesus you become a personal child of God adopted by God the Father! Related to him personally, it is not a feeling it is a real relationship...
- And Through Jesus You now have the rights of a child of God
- it is not feelings it is a legal adoption!

And as a child of God not only do we have rights as a family member we also have responsibility ...you now also belong to his Kingdom as a citizen. two thousand plus years ago the King arrived, and His kingdom rein has begun

Luke 1:31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

- The gathering of all those called to be in his Family belong to this Kingdom is in full swing....generation to generation...you are the callled in this generation with the business of gathering more to the Kingdom...taking back what the enemy has enslaved.
- and His resurrection...overcoming death is the proof the King will live and reign forever, so his kingdom is not temporary and your exisatence is not temporary...you will be raised also!

1 Cor15: 20 Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died. ²¹ So you see, just as death came into the world through a man, now the resurrection from the dead has begun through another man. ²² Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam, everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life. ²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back.

You as a child of God and a citizen of heaven have the rights of royalty You have the right to approach God's throne when in need...

Hebrews 4:16 ⁶ So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

• and someday this will happen first Our King Jesus COMES BACK...

AS proclaimed by Daniel

Dan 7:13 As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient One and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

The kingdoms of the world will come before the Lord...and his court of Justice and rights..

Daniel 7:26 "But then the court will pass judgment, and all his power will be taken away and completely destroyed.

• The heavenly court of justice will judge.. And the world's governments will be handed over to us to rule under the king and according to the laws of the kingdom!

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power, and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be given to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will last forever, and all rulers will serve and obey him."

And what is the sign of our membership in the Kingdom....Baptism!!

Romans 6:4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. ⁵ Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

- Baptized into his death, therefore buried with him...flesh died
- Raised with him into eternal life...freed from the power of sin
- Verses 10-11... now we live with him

Romans 6: 10 And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. ¹¹ The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And

just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him. ⁹ We are sure of this because Christ was raised from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

• we tell the world we are new people...members of God's family and citizens of Christ Kingdom...

<u>2 Corinthians 5:17</u> This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a **new** person. The old life is gone; a **new** life has begun!

Baptism tells the world we are new people ...

<u>Galatians 3:27</u> And all who have been united with Christ in **baptism** have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes.

- Right now we live by faith waiting for the establishment of that country united with the heavenlies called the kingdom of God
- Right now you have rights as a child of God and a citizen and future ruler in the kingdom of God exercise them...
- You have the right to wear the armor of God! You have the right to save up treasure and rewards in heaven...

Matt 6: ²⁰ Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

and we will reign with him on the new earth

Rev 22:3 No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. ⁴ And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. ⁵ And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

Baptism is your citizenship papers!

lets take a moment to hear from those being baptized today about when they received forgiveness became members of the family of God and commemorate that today through baptism today

end

- Baptized into his death, therefore buried with him...flesh died
- Raised with him into eternal life...freed from the power of sin
- Verses 8-10... now we live with him

So Baptism signifies our understanding of the need of forgiveness, our uniting with Christ through his substitutionary death...and the rising to new life through his resurrection.

TIT 3:3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. ⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Baptism has been practiced since the command of Jesus.

²³ But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised as the first of the harvest; then all who belong to Christ will be raised when he comes back. ²⁴ After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the

Father, having destroyed every ruler and authority and power. ²⁵ For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. ²⁶ And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

two things happen that show we belong to the family and Kingdom of God...

Luke 20: 11 Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. ¹² She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. ¹³ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. ¹⁵ "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." ¹⁶ "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). ¹⁷ "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

We are saved into the Kingdom with his sacrificial death, man is forgiven his sin and rebellion against God, and the relationship fully restored when we come back to our King...we will reign with him!

Eph 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

• our inheritance is the Earth!

• the King is coming back...as prophesied by Daniel..

Daniel 2: 44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Dan 7:13 "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

• The kingdoms of the world will come before the Lord...and his court of Justice and rights..

²⁶ "But the **court will sit,** and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever.

- The heavenly court of justice will judge..
- And the world's governments will be handed over to us to rule under the king and according to the laws of the kingdom!

²⁷ Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'

Lets reflect a minute on what this means....for it is our destiny!!

The kingdom of God has a government ...that is ruled by justice and rights...not by feelings, or opinions ...the king is sovereign and has established a form of Government that rules by justice and rights...

- Through faith in Jesus You now have the rights of a child of God...
- it is not feelings it is a legal kingdom right!
- My core identity is a child of God by Right...just like I am an American by right! I was born in this country
- I was born into the family of God...in the kingdom of God...I have rights...
- Right now we live by faith waiting for the establishment of that country united with the heavenlies called the kingdom of God
- Right now you have rights as a child of God and a citizen and future ruler in the kingdom of God exercise them...
- You have the right to wear the armor of God!

• You have the right to save up treasure and rewards in heaven...

Matt 6:1 "Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

Matt 6:20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

• You have the right to grow in your leadership skills so that you get promotion in the future kingdom...

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!

- You have the rights of royalty
- You have the right to approach God's throne when in need...

Hebrews 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

And you have the responsibility to do justice!

Matthew 21:43 "Therefore I tell you that the **kingdom of God** will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit...

• For this is what kingdom Government is about!

Micah 6:8He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act **justly** and to **love mercy** and to walk humbly with your God.

• At the final judgment....Jesus puts it this way...

Matt 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

- This is the inheritance of the children of God...a planet remade...where Justice and righteousness rule under the banner of Love...
- So what are we to do in the mean time?
 - 1. First you must belong to the Kingdom... have you been reconciled to the King..
 - 2. Second...be about the Kingdom business... you are now an ambassador of the King

² Cor 5:17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

- Then recognize this ... that what you are going through ...Justice will prevail...but you must be faithful to exercise even now the fruit of the kingom...... God and his kids...and obedient to Kingdom rule..
- Daniel 7:18 But the holy people of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—yes, forever and ever.
- So let the Kingdom be established in you! is there something else ruling your life right now? You have the right to overcome it through the power of the Kingdom of God!!!

John's vision on Patmos..

^{Rev 5:6} Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people.

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

^{1.} Daniel 6:26 "I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never end.

^{2.} Daniel 7:14 He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language would obey him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed.

^{3.} Luke 1:33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."