

Assignment for God Thoughts, Year Two, Hermeneutics

Books: *Breakthrough: Discovering the Kingdom*, by Derek Morpew (1991 Vineyard International Publishing).

Write a brief paragraph on each of the following topics, and discuss with your mentoring partner or group:

1. Morpew uses a number of guiding metaphors for the Kingdom, one of these is the notion of confrontation. This idea is also present in Wimber's understanding of power encounters. Reflect on how confrontation helps you understand the Kingdom of God.
2. Morpew establishes a biblical foundation for Kingdom theology from both Testaments. Reflect on why it is important to understand the Kingdom from both the Old (First) Testament and the New (Second) Testament? Draw on the themes of the Kingdom that Morpew identifies.
3. Oscar Cullmann offers the classic analogy used to understand the Kingdom of God as a now and not yet reality. He refers to D-Day and V-Day (see pgs. 78-79). Quite a few Kingdom theologians have used this analogy. Reflect on how this analogy helps us understand our own experience of the Kingdom today.
4. In the Chapter titled "The Implications of the Kingdom" (pgs. 95-108) Morpew lists ten (10) implications. Some of these you may have already connected with. Choose two to reflect on, one you have experienced and one that might be more of a new idea for you. Use these reflections as the starting point for a conversation with your mentoring partner or group.
5. The notion that the Church and the Kingdom were not the same thing has had a tremendous effect on Christian theology in the 20th century. How does this understanding challenge your own ideas of the church? What is the relationship between the Church and the Kingdom? (for another perspective Roman Catholic theologian John Fuellenbach has an excellent little book called *Church: Community for the Kingdom*).

After you have shared your conclusions with your mentoring partner or group, send a copy of your completed material to your regional Thoughtworks coordinator to receive a certificate of completion for this course.