

THE KINGDOM OF GOD
Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Key Word: Kingdom

Key Thought: What Is Important to Know about the Kingdom of God/Heaven?

Many of you know that the Bible also speaks about the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus spoke about it in the first three gospels. The Kingdom of God is used 68 times in the New Testament and the Kingdom of Heaven is used in ONLY the Gospel of Matthew 32 times. That is most likely because Matthew was written with the Jewish people in mind and they were not allowed to take the name of God in vain which would hinder most writers from using the full name God from being used. Only G-d could be used (except for Matthew 19:24).

There are differences of opinion whether they are the same or if we should distinguish between them. I am of the understanding that they were sometimes used interchangeably.

*“Then Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.
24. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’”*

Matthew 19:23-24 NKJV

Yet I can also accept that there may have been a difference in understanding and use between the Jews and the Gentiles. **So I Want to Take this Time to Answer 4 Simple Questions in the Hope That the Answers May Help Us in Understanding this Important Truth in God’s Word.**

I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8)?

II. WHO REIGNS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

III. WHEN WILL THE KINGDOM OF GOD BE REVEALED?

IV. WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8)?

“The Kingdom of God is the realm where God reigns supreme, and Jesus Christ is King. In this kingdom, God’s authority is recognized, and His will is obeyed. The concept of a Kingdom of God is not primarily one of space, territory, or politics, as in a national kingdom, but rather one of kingly rule, reign, and sovereign control.”

www.learnreligions.com/what-is-the-kingdom-of-god-701988

I. WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8)(Contd.)?

*“Your throne, O God, **will last** for ever and ever; a scepter of justice **will be** the scepter of your kingdom.”*

*Psalm 45:6
NIV*

*Your throne, God, **is** forever and ever; The scepter of Your kingdom **is** a scepter of justice.*

*Psalm 45:6
NASB
(And most other reliable versions)*

When writing about the comparison between angels and the Son of God we find written in Hebrews . . . But about the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, will last **(most reliable sources use “is” instead of “will be”)** for ever and ever; a scepter of justice **will be (most reliable sources use “is” instead of “will be”)** the scepter of your kingdom.”*

*Hebrews 1:8
NIV*

II. WHO REIGNS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

When asking this question we often try to answer it by what we see very limited in the physical realm and therefore often make an error of who is reigning at this time? We conclude it cannot be God because His scepter of justice and righteousness doesn't seem to be reigning anywhere.

Everyday life is full of beauty and God's presence if we keep our spiritual eyes open. **Much of what we see and THEN believe is a distraction of what is truth.** Part of our fallen human nature is that we tend to focus upon the negative things of life.

*“**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full [in abundance - till it overflows - AMP].”***

John 10:10

II. WHO REIGNS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Contd.)?

We have got to be convinced that the devil and his cohorts are squatters. They own nothing. They simply convince spiritually blinded people a never-ending string of lies hoping we will believe even some of them. These teachings lead us into bondage because they eventually become a habit of our thought patterns.

“The chains of habit are too weak to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.”

Samuel Johnson

Squatters on other people’s land really don’t care about what the true owners know to be correct. They just keep changing the narrative to favour their speaking points until they gain enough support that dilutes the truth. They are very determined and brazen in their words and actions.

The same is true in the spiritual realm. God has never given up even a single part of His Kingdom. I’ve heard people say that Adam passed over the kingdom of God to the devil. Where is that written in the Scriptures? All that Adam and Eve were **given to rule over** were the fish of sea, the birds of the air, the livestock, wild animals and every creature that moved along the ground (Genesis 1:26). They were told to increase and fill the whole earth and **subdue it** (Genesis 1:28).

The Bible makes it clear that the serpent was cursed and there was enmity (hostility) **between the serpent and its offspring** as well as the **woman and all her offspring** (male and female) and **her offspring (Jesus)** will crush the serpent’s head.

God never gave up His kingly rule, reign, and sovereign control over to Adam and Eve so they couldn’t hand it over to the devil. The devil has never rightfully reigned over what God created! Remember what the devil tried to do to tempt Jesus?

*“The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant **all the kingdoms of the world**.
6. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to.
7. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*

Luke 4:5-7

Why would God give up the Kingdom of God/Heaven for the Kingdoms of this world? Satan couldn’t give Jesus the Kingdom of God/heaven because he didn’t reign over it and never will. God reigns in His sovereignty over those who obey Him. The devil deceives those who disobey God and His Word.

III. WHEN WILL THE KINGDOM OF GOD BE REVEALED?

John the Baptist came to prepare the way for the Lord. **He began by telling the people that God's reign had already begun to be experienced on earth.**

*“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!
(Many versions say this kingdom IS NEAR)”*

Matthew 3:2 NKJV

It became the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah beginning with two of the northern tribes that bordered on each other West of the Jordan River. It was also known as Galilee because of its location next to the Sea of Galilee. Many Gentiles lived in that region. Nazareth was in the land of Zebulun. It was NOT central to the stronger influence of teaching found south of the area in Jerusalem.

*“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles-
16. The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
17. From that time on Jesus began to preach,
‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’”*

Matthew 4:15-17

Jesus made it the central point of His preaching shortly after His Baptism as He began to choose His disciples beginning with Simon Peter, Andrew and then James and John the sons of Zebedee. So the kingdom of God/Heaven began to be revealed in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour in the fifteenth year of the Roman Emperor Tiberius (Luke 3:1) when Jesus was 30 years old (cf. Numbers 4:3; Luke 3:23). This incredible Kingdom of God has never stopped being revealed since Jesus began to spread the light of the Gospel in this spiritually darkened world. The final revealing will take place at the end of the age.

“Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching (aorist tense) them (all nations) to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (when Old Testament and New Testament Believers) is taken up to be with Jesus forever.”

Matthew 28:18-20

IV. WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.”

Isaiah 66:1

“After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.”

Revelation 4:1-2

The apostle John goes on to describe the Only ONE who was worthy to sit upon the throne.

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being (and for thy pleasure they are and were created - KJV).”

Revelation 4:11

“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.”

Revelation 20:11

“Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea (chaos and evil).”

Revelation 21:1

None of the old creation will remain. This final Kingdom of God will replace everything that God initially created. There will be no remnants of mankind’s sinful ways to give evidence of the past rebellion of God’s perfect ways.

IV. WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? (Contd.)

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

18. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy.”

Isaiah 65:17,18

*“And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.***

4. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’[a] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

*5. He who was seated on the throne said, **“I am making everything new!”** Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

*6. He said to me: **“It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.** To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.*

*7. **Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’***

Revelation 21:4-7

“he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 25:8

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Date: Nov 27/22

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

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Kingdom Living

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II. WHO REIGNS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD? - John 10:10

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Luke 4:5-7

III. WHEN WILL THE KINGDOM OF GOD BE REVEALED? - Matthew 3:2 NKJV; Matthew 4:15-17; Luke 3:1; Numbers 4:3 cf. Luke 3:23; **Matthew 28:18-20**

IV. WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD? - Isaiah 66:1; Revelation 4:1-2; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 20:11; Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 65:17,18; Revelation 21:4-7; Isaiah 25:8