

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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What is the Kingdom of God?

The “Kingdom of God” is the rule of the Living True God our Father and the realm over which He rules.

Introductory Comments

The Jewish people of Jesus’ day were expecting, and looking for “the Kingdom of God” to come. By this they meant a decisive intervention of God to restore their fortunes and liberate them from their enemies, *Ac 1:6*.

Many Old Testament prophecies in the Psalms and the Prophets **spoke of a future manifestation of the Kingdom of God** coming to Israel, *Is 2:2,3, Jer 33:14-16, Ps 22:27,28, Ps 67:3,4*.

John the Baptist announced that the Kingdom of God, (or heaven), was at hand, Mat 3:2. Jesus followed, preaching that the Kingdom of God had come, Mat 4:23,24, and performed all kinds of healings and miracles of power, *Lk 7:22,23*. This proclamation was of **sensational, significance** to the whole of Israel, *Mat 3:5, Jn 1:19, Mk 1:4,5, Lk 3:1-8*. **John the Baptist’s announcement** focused on the need for personal and national humility and repentance, before God, from all sins, *Mat 3:2,7,8*. He warned the people of God’s coming wrath, and the necessity to give proof of their genuine repentance, by doing good works of mercy, truth and righteousness, *Mat 3:10, Lk 3:11-14, Jn 1:19-33*.

God’s Authority, Power and the Kingdom of God in the Earth.

It is true that God has authority over all things now, Eph 1:20-23, Heb 1:3, Phil 2:9,10,11, Mar 28:18, Ps 103:19, Ps 22:28.

In *Gen 1:26-28*, **God gave to man**, whom He had created, **a measure of His authority** to rule over the earth on His behalf.

In *Gen 3:1-8*, through satan’s temptation, **man rebelled against God’s authority and fell into sin**. Through obeying the temptation of satan, man lost His authority over creation, and man’s authority was transferred to satan.

Man was created righteous, in fellowship with God, to live and not die, to love and serve God. **When man sinned he became unrighteous**, lost fellowship with God, came under the power of death and became self centred and selfish. **Man became independent from God**, centred on living for the benefit of self, and autonomous.

Now, as a result, satan is the “god of this world,” the prince of this world, and the whole world is under his authority, *Jn 12:31, 2Cor 4:4, Jn 14:30, Eph 2:1, 1Jn 5:19*.

Satan’s authority is called the “power of darkness,” *Col 1:13*, or the kingdom of satan, *Mat 12:26*.

By natural birth, man inherits a fallen nature that is unrighteous. He is separated from God, under the sentence of eternal death and is centred on living for self. **By natural birth**, man is under the authority of satan, the power of sin, and this evil world system, *Rom 3:10, 23, 1Jn 5:19, Eph 2:2*.

However from before the foundation of the earth, God had planned, that in the event of man falling into sin, God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity, would pay the price to redeem man and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth, *Rev 13:8*.

This being the case, **God preached the Gospel to Adam and Eve the day they sinned, Gen 3:15,** and gave them the promise of the Coming Saviour. Abel knew this and by faith received salvation, *Gen 4:4, Heb 11:4*. From then on **the Gospel was preached through the line of Seth, Gen 4:25,26,** and many were saved, such as Enoch, Noah and so on, *Gen 5:22,29, Gen 6:8*.

When God called Abraham, Gen 12:1, Ac 7:2,3, the truth of the Gospel, and salvation by faith, Gen 15:6, became much clearer. In fact it is used to explain the Gospel in the New Testament, *Rom 4: 1-22, Gal 3:8*.

Through Moses and the prophets, such as *Deut 30: 11-14, Is 40-66,* the Gospel was made clear, *Is 53:5,6*.

When the time was ripe, Gal 4:4, God sent His promised Son, to take a human body, Phil 2:8, live a sinless life of total obedience to the will of God, and so establish the Kingdom and rule of God in the earth again through a Man. In fact He ended the old Adamic inheritance as the Last Adam, for those who believe, follow and obey Him, *1Cor 15:45*. **He established a new humanity as the Second Man, in the Kingdom of God, 1Cor 15:47.** He is the federal Head of the sons of God, *Gal 3:26, Rom 8:21,14, 2Cor 6:18*.

For the Kingdom of God to be established in the earth, it required a man to, live as Adam should have lived, in total obedience to the will of God, *Heb 4:15, Mat 3:17*.

The Man, Christ Jesus, 1Tim 2:5, did this, and established the Kingdom of God in the earth among men. *Mat 28:18, Eph 1:20-23, Phil 2:9-11, Heb 1:3*. Not only that, but **so that sinful men could enter into this Kingdom** He had established, **He offered up His sinless life as a full sacrifice** for all the sins of all men, *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, Eph 1:7, 1Cor 15:3*.

This means that whosoever repents, and is baptised into Christ, and obeys Him, is born anew and enters into God's Kingdom on the earth, *Ac 2:38,39, Jn 3:3,5, Rom 6:3, Gal 3:27*.

Through faith and obedience to Jesus Christ man is **redeemed from satan's rule, reconciled to God, cleansed from all sin, and set free from the evil world system**, *1Pet 1:18,19, Rom 5:10, 1Jn 1:7, 1Jn 5:4,5*.

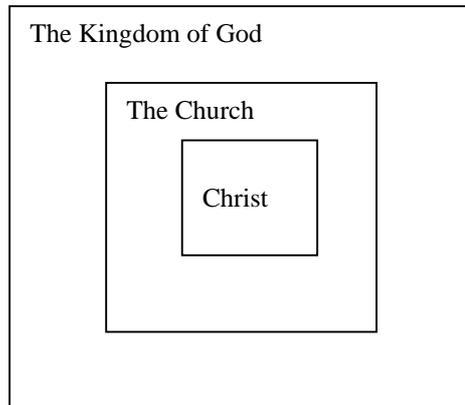
More than that, **God took man and put him into Christ's death, burial, resurrection and ascension**, *Gal 2:20, Rom 6:1-14, Eph 2:6*. **Water baptism** declares this, *Col 2:12,13, Gal 3:27*. This is the total end of the old Adamic inheritance and **the receiving of a totally new life in the power of the Spirit of God**, *2Cor 5:17*. Christ now lives His life in and through every believer, *Col 1:27*, and fulfils in him the will of God, *Rom 8:4*. So Christ has established the Kingdom of God in the earth for all who believe in Him and obey Him.

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

In general Matthew uses the "Kingdom of heaven", while Mark and Luke use "Kingdom of God". These two terms are identical, e.g. *Mat 13:31-33, Lk 13:18-21*. Matthew's Gospel is written for the Jews who avoided using the Name of God but Mark and Luke were written for the Romans and Greeks respectively.

The Kingdom of God and the Church.

The Church is a part or a portion of the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is of greater extent than the Church, as God is working in the earth and throughout creation in areas outside the Church.



For example, when the Berlin Wall "collapsed" and Communism's control of the USSR came to an end, Eastern Europe was opened up to the Gospel in a far greater way.

When God sets up a new leader and administration to control a nation, the Word says that they are "ordained by God," *Rom 13:1*, and carry His authority. God requires of them to do good for the people, punish evil doers and to use the tax money for the benefit of society, *Rom 13:1-7*. In *Rom 13*, the nation's leaders are called the "ministers of God," *v4,v4,v6*. If the leaders of a nation do not fulfil these three requirements, God removes them and raises up others who will, *Ps 75:6,7*.

When the Church fulfils its intercessory ministry, *1Tim 2:1, 2a, 2Chr 7:14*, the power of God is released upon the nation's leaders to bring a fulfilment of *1Tim 2:2b, 3, 4*, and the will of God, *Ps 110:2, Ps 149:6-9*.

Other examples of the Kingdom of God in operation outside the Church.

Col 1:17 Christ upholding all things in order: the sun, the moon, planets, stars, seasons, tides, *Heb 1:3*.

Mat 18:10 The angels who are serving God.

Eph 6:9 Businessmen who choose to make Christ the Head of all they do, *Col 4:1*. "God Runs My Business," – Le Tourneau, "The Reason Why," – R A Laidlaw.

Col 3:17, 22-24 The slave/servant who chooses to do all he does for Christ, as he obeys his master/employer.

S.H.I.P. Such as Small Herds Improvement Programme.

Joshua School at Magugu, is, maybe on the boundary of the Church and the Kingdom. Involvement by Christ's followers in education, sport, law and justice, commerce, politics, banking, social care and welfare, law enforcement agencies, health care etc. where they choose to obey Christ and do all to please Him, *Col 3:17*. The believer who buys a new property and drives out the demons from the house and land, is establishing the Kingdom of God. *Mat 12:28*.

The Kingdom is the whole of God's redeeming, ruling activity in this world; whereas the Church is made up of those who belong to Jesus Christ, and obey Him.

The Church is the people, who have accepted the Gospel of the Kingdom, *Mat 4:23, Mat 9:35*. By faith, they have received the salvation of the Kingdom, which includes forgiveness of sins, healing from all sickness, deliverance from all demons, release from all curses, adoption by God, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the possession of eternal life, *Jn 5:24*. They are those who have taken the yoke of the Kingdom and live to obey and serve the King, *Mat 11:28-30, Lk 6:46, Lk 11:28*.

The Church is the vehicle of the Kingdom, *Mat 6:33*, the headquarters, the powerhouse, of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God is extended, established and maintained through the work of the Church. The Kingdom of God is extended through the Church's **intercession, worship, obedience, healings,** *Mk 16:20*, **evangelism, teaching, preaching, casting out of demons,** *Mat 12:28*, **miracles,** *Ac 3:1 – 4:4*, **suffering in faith,** *Mk 10:30, Ac 16:16-34*, **caring ministry,** *Mat 25:35,36*, **Church planting,** *Ac 14:23*, and **apostolic teams,** *Ac 13,14*.

In fact everything the Church does is to be measured against the standard, "does it extend God's Kingdom?" If not, then the Church needs to get rid of it, *Mat 6:33, Mat 28:18-20*.

The Church is the "Mount Zion" of God, in the earth, *Heb 12:22-24*. It is God's control room. From there He extends the rod of His authority and rule, over all the nations, *Ps 110:2, Ps 48, Ps 149:6-9*. He does this through the intercession, faith, witness, obedience, willing suffering and ministry of His people, *2Chr 7:14*, as they go out into the world in His Name, power and truth, *Mk 16:15-20*.

The Pharisees demanded to know when the Kingdom of God would be fully established over all peoples in the earth? Jesus replied, "The Kingdom of God does not come with outward manifestation for behold, **the Kingdom of God is within you,**" *Lk 17:20,21*, **or among you, or around you.** (See AmpV.) **It is in the hearts** of the believers in Christ, as righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, *Rom 14:17*. **It is in power to save, heal, deliver, forgive** and not only in Word, *1Cor 4:20, 1Thes 1:5, Rom 15:18*. **It is in the midst** of a group of believers who meet to pray in Jesus' Name, *Mat 18:20*.

The central theme of Jesus' ministry was the Kingdom of God. *Mat 4:17,23,24, Mat5:3,10,19,20, Mat 6:10,13,33, Mat 7:21, Mat 8:11,12,16,17, Mat 9:35, Mat 10:1,7,8, Mat 11:3--12, Mat 12:28, Mat 13:11,19,24,31,33,38,41,44,45,47, Mat 21:5, 43, Mat 24:14, Mat 28:18, Lk 4:40—43, Lk 6:17—20, Lk 8:1,2, Lk 9:1,2,11, Lk 10:1,2,9,11,19,20, Lk 11:20, Lk 16:16, Lk 17:20,21, Ac 1:3,4,5,8, etc.* (Greek: basileia, Kingdom, 161x in New Testament.) He preached and taught the **"Gospel of the Kingdom."** Like John the Baptist he preached for people to repent to enter the Kingdom of God, *Mat 4:17*. **But unlike John,** He declared that the

Kingdom of God was a present reality in the earth, manifested in His own Person and ministry, *Mat 12:28*. The Gospel, the Good News of the Kingdom, that Jesus preached and ministered, was the full salvation of God to needy mankind, in forgiveness, healing, miracles, deliverance, provision, safety, resurrection of the dead, and reconciliation with God, *Lk 7:22,23*.

Like any Kingdom, the Kingdom of God has the laws of the King. These laws are collected for us in *Mat 5,6,7*, "The Sermon on the Mount." This is the "Law of Christ," *1Cor 9:21, Jn 13:34,35, Jn 14:15,21, Jn 15:10-14*. This law of Christ incorporates and supercedes the law of Moses, *Mat 5:22,28,32,34,39,44*, giving a higher standard of life in the Spirit, *Rom 8:2, Rom 13:8,10, Gal 5:14*.

The prayer of the Kingdom, *Mat 6:9-13, Lk 1:2-4*. The Godward aspect of the Lord's Prayer is that the Kingdom of God would come in us, in our families, our churches, our town, city and nation as it is in heaven.

The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom is always in **Word and Power, Truth and the Demonstration of God's Presence,** *Lk 7:22, Lk 24:19,49, 1Cor 2:4, Mat 11:5, Mat 10:1,7,8, Mat 12:28, Lk 4:18,19, Mk 16:15-20, 1Cor 4:20, 2Tim 1:7, Ac 1:8, 8:12, 1Thes 1:5, Lk 22:29, Ac 3:12,16*. This destroys the Kingdom of darkness and evil, *Ac 10:38, 1Jn 3:8, Ac 26:18, Is 10:27(KJV), Lk 11:20—22, Is 61:1,2*. Through the ministry of Jesus, the Gospel of the Kingdom was fully manifested to all Israel. The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom, and the outward demonstration of the power and presence of the King of Glory, exploded throughout the whole world through the ministry of the early church. *Ac 2:4,11, 17—19, 36, Ac 3:6—8, 12,16, Ac 4:10—12, 29—33, Ac 5:14—16, 19,20, 28, 42, Ac 6:5,8, Ac 8:5—8, 12, 17,19, 35,39, Ac 14:22, Ac 17:6, Rom 15:18,19*.

The Parables of the Kingdom of God in Jesus' Ministry.

For Example:	<i>Mat 13</i>	Parables	
1.	The Parable of the Sower	v3-23	This is the most important parable, <i>Mk 4:13</i>
2.	The Wheat and the Tares	v24-30,36-43	Kingdom of God and Kingdom of evil, both present.
3.	The Mustard Seed	v31,32	Kingdom of God is a tiny seed, but becomes a huge tree.
4.	The Leaven	v33	Kingdom of God spreads and fills all things.
5.	The Hidden Treasure	v44	Kingdom of God costs all a man has, to get it.
6.	The Pearl of Great Price	v45,46	Kingdom of God is the greatest treasure of all.
7.	The Drag net	v47-50	Kingdom of God gathers in some who do not belong.

Some other parables of Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom

Parable of Forgiveness *Mat 18:23-35,* **Parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard** *Mat 20:1-16,*
Parable of the Two Sons *Mat 21:28-32,* **Parable of the Vinedressers** *Mat 21:33-45,*
Parable of the Wedding Feast *Mat 22:2-14,* **Parable of the Virgins** *Mat 25:1-13,*
Parable of the Talents *Mat 25:14-30,* **Parable of the Sheep and the Goats** *Mat 25:31-46,*
Parable of the Hidden Seed *Mk 4:26-30*

The Second Coming of the Lord will be a **DAY** of final universal **CRISIS**, when the **KINGDOM OF GOD** will be fully, completely and visibly established in and over the whole earth. *1Thes 4:13—18, Mat 24:29—31, 2Thes 1:7—10, 2:8.* This will be an all conquering reign of peace and salvation. There will be a new heaven and a new earth filled with the righteousness and glory of God, *Num 14:21, Ps 22:27,28, Ps 46:10, Ps 66:4, Ps 67:4, Ps 72:19, Ps 86:9, Is 2:2-4, Is 9:7, Is 11:9, Is 24:23, Jer 3:17, Jer 23:5,6, Jer 33:14-16, Dan 2:35,44, Dan 7:13,14, Hab 2:14, Zech 14:9, Mat 19:28, Tit 2:13, Rev 11:15, Rev 12:10.*

Jesus taught us to pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your Name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth, as it is in heaven.” *Lk 11:2.* That is to pray for the kingdom to come in **me**, in my **family**, in my **church**, in my **town**, in my **country**. **As we pray, believe and obey, Mat 6:33, the Kingdom of God is continually increasing. Is 9:7.** There is a day coming when this prayer will be completely and outwardly fulfilled in all the earth. *Is 2:1-4.* **For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trump of God.** The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall ever be with the Lord, *1Thes 4:16,17, 2Thes 1:7,8, Mat 24:30, Dan 7:13, Rev 1:7, Tit 2:13.*

The Second Coming, (parousia), of the Lord Jesus Christ is the Coming of the King of Kings to take the place of rule and reign over the earth, *Is 2:17-21, Rev 6:15-17.*

He will come in flaming fire upon those who know not God and do not obey the Gospel, with everlasting destruction. His Coming will consume the wicked one, (“antichrist”), *1Thes 1:8,9, 1Thes 2:8.* Satan will be bound a thousand years and cast into the bottomless pit, *Rev 20:2,3.* The nations will be gathered before Him in judgment, *Mat 25:31-46.*

His saints shall be raised from the dead, gathered to Him and judged for rewards of faithful service, *Mat 25:14--30, 1Cor 3:13--15, 1Cor 15:51—55, 1Thes 4:16,17, Rom 14:10--12.*

And the Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever, Zech 14:9,16, Rev 11:15, Rev 21:24.

In the **Old Testament**, the Coming of the Kingdom of God is seen as **one sudden, single, climactic event**, destroying all evil, and fully establishing God’s Kingdom rule over the earth. *Dan 7:13,14, Dan 2:34,35,44.* This explains why the apostles asked the question of *Ac 1:6.*

The church age, from *Ac 2* to the Second Coming of Christ, *1Thes 4:13-18*, is not revealed in the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ reveals the truth of the Church in His teaching, *Mat 16:18, Mat 18:17-20.*

Paul’s teachings reveal much detail, on the truth of the Church. *Eph 3:2-7, Col 1:25-29, 1Cor 12:12-29.*

The revelation of the Body of Christ, the Church, made up of Jews and Gentiles, all believers in Jesus Christ, was not made known to previous ages. *Eph 2:11-22, Eph 3:3-7, Col 1:26,27.* The apostles and prophets raised up by Jesus Christ unfolded this revelation to us. *Eph 3:2-7.*

A “mystery” is some truth, previously hidden in the counsel of God, but now revealed by the Spirit. *Eph 3:4,5. 1Cor 14:2,* reveals why **speaking in tongues** is so important. It is the present means for us to be **speaking out the “mysteries” of God, by the Spirit.** As we speak in tongues the Holy Spirit will reveal these mysteries into our understanding. *Jude 20.*

We are given the ability to understand the mystery of the Kingdom of God. Mk 4:11.

Speaking in tongues is an important key to this understanding. *1Cor 14:2.*

It is God’s will for us understand the mysteries of His Word. Mk 4:22. God will reveal them unto us as we seek His face. Jer 33:3. “great and mighty things or great and hidden things”.