

WELCOME TO GOD'S KINGDOM

Kingdoms have come and gone throughout history. They usually have a ruler, the ruled and rules. The ruler usually has much territory, many resources and requires honor, obedience and of course....taxes! The word kingdom itself reveals its simple meaning: King Dom, a king's domain. A kingdom is a king's realm and all that is in it. Here is a dictionary definition.

1. A political or territorial unit ruled by a sovereign
2. The eternal spiritual sovereignty of God or Christ. The realm of this sovereignty
3. A realm or sphere in which one thing is dominant

- American Heritage Dictionary

KINGDOM DEFINITIONS by Christian leaders

All that God is, all that God has. All that is in submission to His authority. - Mike Shreve

The rule of God in the hearts, minds and wills of the people. - Pat Robertson

The dynamic reign of God, the realm of God's activity, the sphere where God's will is done. It is present and also future. - George Ladd

Any situation in which..... Christ is recognized as **King** (they bow before Him)
His will is **obeyed** (they live as the King wishes)
Where obedient subjects reap the benefits of His reign.
- David Mains

God's Eternal Plan to:

- * Destroy His enemies - Matthew 13:36-43, 1 Corinthians 15:23-25, 1 John 3:8
- * Liberate mankind from their grasp - Luke 4:14-21
- * Establish His rule upon earth through His Son Jesus Christ - Revelation 11:15; 12:10
- Larry Poland

The whole universe that is under God's Throne. - Tommy Reid

The emerging order of God through Christ in the affairs of humankind on earth. God's rule (reign) over everything and everybody, everywhere, in eternity, past, present and future. The kingdom of God is supreme reality and the greatest theme in the universe. God's purpose and plans for His kingdom on earth is His cosmic initiative. - Jack Taylor

KEY ANNOUNCEMENT

Jesus began His public ministry with this proclamation: *'The kingdom of God is here!'* It was, because the king was there. There is no kingdom without a king. The kingdom is present when Jesus is there. As we go through our study, we will discover the kingdom priorities, qualities, characteristics, principles and privileges.

Kingdom Defined by God's Word

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 14:17 NIV

Worldly kings and kingdoms focus on physical and material things like eating and drinking. Kings sometimes begin well, but then descend into ungodliness, injustice, immorality, selfish ambition, carnal indulgence, greed, lies, lust for power and tyranny. A government reflects the values, nature and character of its leaders. Most governments in the world have areas of corruption, crookedness and injustice. For example.....

Her leaders judge for a bribe, her priests teach for a price, and her prophets tell fortunes for money. - Micah 3:11 NIV

GOD'S KINGDOM BASED ON RIGHTEOUSNESS

God's rule is based on truth, justice, mercy, love, goodness and faithfulness to His perfect values of always doing that which is right. It is not just for the glory of His name, but for the blessing to those in His kingdom. He is a generous and good Father. - (learn more in our section on Knowing God). Learn more about the King (Jesus) in our section called King of kings.)

For the word of the Lord is right and true; He is faithful in all He does. The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of His unfailing love. - Psalm 33:4-5 NIV

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the great deep. - Psalms 36:5-6 NIV

Surely His salvation is near those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other. Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest. Righteousness goes before Him and prepares the way for His steps. - Psalm 85:9-13 NIV

Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you. - Psalm 89:14 NIV

But about the Son He says, Your throne O God, will last forever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. - Hebrews 1:8-9 NIV

**RIGHTEOUSNESS.... DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.....
TRULY DOES LEAD TOPEACE and JOY !!!**

KINGDOM PRAYER

What we call the Lord's Prayer gives us another explanation of the kingdom. (see our section on Prayer for deeper study.)

'Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. The kingdom is where God's will is being done. The Greek language says it like this in the imperative tense.

Come Thy Kingdom! Be done Thy will!

Jesus is the best demonstration of God's will on earth.

For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of Him who sent me. - John 6:38 NIV

Jesus came to reveal the Father's name. - John 17:6. In the Bible, to know a person's name is to know their character, capability and causes. Jesus started the Lord's Prayer with: Our Father, who is in heaven, **hallowed be thy name.**

He uttered it as a petition, as the first petition. There is a kind of sequence within the prayer. God's kingdom will never come where His name is not considered Holy. His will is not done on earth as it is in heaven if His name is desecrated here. In heaven the name of God is holy. It is breathed by angels in a sacred hush. Heaven is a place where reverence for God is total. It is foolish to look for the kingdom anywhere God is not revered.

R.C. Sproul 'Holiness of God' 1985

There are different ways to describe the content of the Bible. You might say it is all about God and His plan for mankind. It certainly is about the great redemptive and restoration process of God towards mankind. Here is another description I especially like.

THE BIBLE IS THE BOOK OF THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD

When you read about Jesus in the Bible, say to yourself:

I AM READING ABOUT THE GREATEST OF KINGS !!!

johnbeckerink@yahoo.com

