

Kingdom of God Part 2

Kingdom of God in the New Testament

Matthew 5:3, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:13-21, Matthew 13:44-47, Matthew 21:43, Matthew 25:34-36, Mark 1:14-15, Mark 8:34, Luke 17:20-21, Luke 18:17, John 3:3-5, John 18:36, Acts 14:22, 1 Thessalonians 2:12, 2 Timothy 3:10-12, 2 Timothy 4:18, 2 Peter 1:10-11, Revelation 11:15

KINGDOM FACTS:

- The teachings of Jesus Christ revolve around the Kingdom of God.
- Appears the most in Matthew, Mark and Luke (the Synoptic Gospels).
Synoptic Gospels: because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar or sometimes identical wording
- Appears more than 80 times in the New Testament.
- The mention of God's Kingdom is expressed in the Old Testament.
However, the exact term "Kingdom of God" is not found in the Old Testament.
- Was compared to "A Sower", "A Mustard Seed", "Hidden Treasure", "Fine Pearls", "A Fishing Net" and "Yeast".

God's Kingdom... Past, Present, Future

Leader Reads:

The Bible speaks of a Kingdom that has already been prepared for us, as followers of Christ...

Matthew 25:34 - "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

The **present** reality of the kingdom is spoken of in...

Mark 1:14-15 - Jesus Preaches in Galilee - Now after John had been taken into custody, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Luke 17:20-21 - Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Leader Reads:

In **Luke 17:20**: "*The kingdom of God is within you.*" This speaks of a heavenly reality of a kingdom viewable by faith rather than sight (**2 Corinthians 4:18** and **Hebrews 2:8-9**). Even Paul speaks of this supernatural reality as already here, saying that "*even now we are raised up and seated together with Christ Jesus in the heavenly places*" (**Ephesians 2:6**). And the author of Hebrews claims that "*we, by our faith, have already come to the Holy City and the New Jerusalem*" (**Hebrews 12:22**).

By this understanding, the kingdom is already come and its ruler is Christ, the Davidic Messiah who rules over the throne of David forever (**Isaiah 9:6-7**, **Matthew 28:18**, **Revelation 19:16**, and especially **Colossians 1:13**).

Q1: Are there any examples that you can share that would show evidence of this “Heaven on Earth” reality?

*The **future** reality of the Kingdom of God is the promised return of our King, at which point the heavenly kingdom, once seen by faith alone, will then be seen by sight. In all His promised glory, Christ will return and establish the visual fulfillment of His heavenly rule forever. The old heavens and earth shall be done away with and shall be replaced by the Kingdom Eternal.*

Revelation 11:15 - Christ's Reign Foreseen - Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever." which began when God's Word became flesh as our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Any Questions or Comments?

The past, present and future understandings of the kingdom of God are in the bible and coexist in a type of “already/not yet” reality. In fact they are so interwoven that to refer to them as different things would be incorrect; rather, we ought to think of the God's Kingdom as an all future kingdom that has penetrated the present, who's King has and will reign, over all, from before the beginning of time through eternity.

He says, “Pray for it. It's coming”, “It's not yet here”, “It's not going to be immediate and yet already present, in your midst, upon you and at hand.”

Q2: What does this mean... How can the kingdom of God be both not here yet but already in our midst?

Not of this world

Leader Read...

John 18:36 - Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [Play Video](#)

How to enter into the Kingdom of God

Take turns around the circle, each reading a verse...Pause between for comments or questions.

Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Luke 18:17 - Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child, will not enter it at all."

John 3:3-5 - Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. "Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:15 - and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

Matthew 7:21 - "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:3 - "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Acts 14:22 - Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Q3: How would you explain to someone how to enter the Kingdom of God?

Q4: Does entering the kingdom mean getting saved?

Like a Hidden Treasure

Matthew 13:44-47 - "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. A Costly Pearl. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea and gathering fish of every kind;

Q5: What is Jesus trying to communicate here?

Q6: At this point in these lessons... How would you define what the Kingdom of God is?

Take turns around the circle each reading each of these next verses...Pause between for comments or questions.

Matthew 25:34-36 - Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

1 Thessalonians 2:12 - so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.

Matthew 21:43 - Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it.

Romans 14:17 - for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 3:10-12 - Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, persecutions and sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium and at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

Q7: How do your attitudes and actions compare with those who “inherit the kingdom”?

Mark 8:34 - And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

Q8: What does Jesus mean when He says “take up his cross and follow Me”?

2 Timothy 4:18 - The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

2 Peter 1:10-11 - Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

Q9: How do you enter and inherit the Kingdom of God? _____

Practice having **overcoming faith, true repentance, understanding the immutable Law of sowing and reaping, care for others, be willing to deny yourself** for the sake of the King and His Kingdom.

Q10: What are some of the truths we’ve discovered so far in this study about the Kingdom of God?

- Those who inherit the Kingdom of God are to bear its fruit
- The Kingdom of God does not conform to the standards of this world
- To experience the kingdom one must deny themselves

Q11: In what ways could our thinking about God’s Kingdom, operating here and now, in our midst, help us to make better decisions?

Q12: What are some of the things we can do, that would help us experience God’s Kingdom in our lives?

Take Away Verses:
John 18:36 & Matthew 6:33