



The Future Kingdom of God in the New Testament.

(2019)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Future Kingdom of God (in the New Testament).

Topics.

- Not all will enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
- Many will see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of Heaven.
- The righteous will shine like the sun in God's Kingdom.
- The Gospel of the Kingdom.
- The Kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world.
- Jesus will eat with the apostles again in the Kingdom.
- Satan's kingdom.
- Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the Kingdom of God.
- Today you will be with me in paradise.
- Christ delivers the Kingdom to God the father.
- Jesus will be revealed to be glorified in those who have believed.
- Christ's heavenly Kingdom.
- The Kingdom God promised to those who love him.
- An entrance into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ
- The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of God and of Christ.

The primary focus of this study is not the present spiritual Kingdom of God being established by faith in the heart and mind of all who are devoted to and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but upon the literal future Kingdom of God to come upon earth when Christ returns.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the Bible God has only ever had one Kingdom, but it has taken on many different shapes and forms. During the generations of the Judges it had one shape while under the reign of David and Solomon it had another form and during the generations of the Kings and prophets God Kingdom looked quite different again. Now during this the present New Testament era of grace the Kingdom of God is different again since it is established by faith in the heart and mind of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, but this is not the final shape of God's Kingdom since both the Old and the New Testament also teach a literal majestic and glories Kingdom will be established on earth when Christ returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King

forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

MATTHEW

NOT ALL WILL ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- **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.

Jesus words in this verse clearly show that when those who belong to his present spiritual Kingdom established by faith in the heart and mind by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ and in God's grace will one-day stand before him when he returns and that some who confess to believe in him will be denied entry into the future literal Kingdom of God on earth.

NOTE: no faithful brother or sister in Christ will be denied entry into Christ eternal Kingdom on earth because they could not overcome certain weaknesses of the flesh or failed to attain to the perfect standard the law demands or to God's Holiness. This is because no brother or sister in Christ is saved by their own righteousness, but by Christ's. If anyone of us could attain to a perfect state of sinlessness Christ died for no reason. The best New Testament example of those who Christ will deny entry into his future literal Kingdom are the religious leaders of Jesus generation the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes. The reason they will be rejected is because they were in the ministry, the priesthood and studied the Scriptures not to serve God, but to serve their own selfish ambition, their goal was not to expand God's Kingdom, but to expand their own religious empire because they loved the riches, power, importance and fame it brought them. Though they outwardly appeared godly and knew the Scriptures (more than most) inwardly they were full of pride, ego, greed, hypocrisy and pretence.

MANY WILL SEE ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- **Matthew 8:11-12:** I (Jesus) tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The title, Kingdom of Heaven is the same as the title, Kingdom of God. Matthew in his letter uses the title the Kingdom of Heaven while Mark and Luke for the same Scriptures use the title the Kingdom of God. This shows that the title the Kingdom of Heaven does not necessarily mean that the Kingdom in focus is in heaven. It is the context that determines whether it is God's Kingdom on earth or God's Kingdom in heaven that the writer has in mind and not the title of it since the title the Kingdom of Heaven and the title the Kingdom of God mean the same thing. Jesus with these words evidences that there will be a literal future Kingdom of God on earth because he says many will come and recline at his table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven (Kingdom of God in Mark and Luke) thus those that belong to God will eat with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in God's future Kingdom to be established on earth.

Outer Darkness: the sons of the Kingdom in this context refers to the Jews (especially the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes) they are called sons of the Kingdom because they are Jews and descendants of Abraham, but by extension it can embrace any Christian who believes they will be accepted, but are rejected, such as the hypocrites that stand before the Lord thinking they had done marvellous things for the Lord, only to hear him say, "Depart from me you workers of iniquity" (Matt. 7:21-23). "Outer Darkness" carries the idea of being the extreme opposite to light, it implies rather than people being in the light they will be in darkness meaning someplace outside the Kingdom of God and separated from God.

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Maybe "Outer Darkness" refers to being amongst the nations seen in the following verses that are living on planet earth outside the majestic New City of Jerusalem. Outer Darkness is certainly an apt description of living outside of the New and Holy City of Jerusalem when its light is contrasted to the light of the nations. There will be enormous grief because these sons of the Kingdom thought they would be accepted into the glorious city of the New Jerusalem to be established on earth with the Lord Jesus Christ its royal and majestic King.

THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE LIKE THE SUN IN GOD'S KINGDOM

- **Matthew 13:41-43:** The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his Kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, ⁴²and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Christ will send angels to take out of his present existing spiritual Kingdom those who break the law and cause sin amongst those within his Kingdom. When the angels have taken out of God's Kingdom the prideful and hypocritical who confess Christ then the faithful who belong to Christ will shine in the literal future Kingdom.

A WOMAN ASKS JESUS IF HER TWO SONS CAN SIT WITH JESUS IN HIS KINGDOM

- **Matthew 20:21:** he said to her (the mother of the sons of Zebedee), "What do you want?" She said to him, "Say that these two sons of mine are to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom."

There is no-doubt the mother of the sons of Zebedee clearly understood that there was a literal future Kingdom to come otherwise her request does not make sense. Added to this Jesus did not deny he believed in a future Kingdom, but rather confirmed it by telling her that any exalted positions in God's Kingdom is not his to give since they have been kept for whoever his Father has prepared them for (Matt. 20:23). We know this cannot apply to the present spiritual Kingdom because Christ is not yet literally with us except spiritually by faith and love in our mind and our hearts.

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

- **Matthew 24:14:** this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Prior to the cross Jesus said, the Gospel of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world and then the end will come. The Gospel of the Kingdom in this context is the Gospel that leads to eternal life it is that message that delivers a sinner from the domain of darkness and transfers them into the Kingdom of his beloved Son (Col. 1:130). The Gospel of the kingdom is the new covenant grace that proclaims sinners are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by Gods' grace in contrast to self-effort and adhering to ceremonial rites and keeping religious laws, customs and traditions.

NOTE: when talking about the Kingdom of God it is important to understand that there is a present spiritual Kingdom and a future literal Kingdom and a Gospel that shows sinners how to enter the Kingdom.

THE KINGDOM PREPARED FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

- **Matthew 25:31-34:** When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then 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.*

This verse shows us that there is a Kingdom that God in His eternal mind has prepared from the beginning of the world. This Kingdom refers to the ultimate Kingdom of God to be established after the resurrection of all who belong to Christ when the Lord returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. The right-hand-side symbolizes God's favour and exaltation, Jesus was resurrected to the right-hand side of God the most honoured position anyone could ever be exalted to. Likewise, those on Christ's right-hand side in this context primarily refers to those who have showed love and compassion to the less fortunate and helped the poor as they were able (Matt. 25:35-40) and been faithful and devoted in love to the Lord. In contrast to those on the right-hand side are those on the left-hand side who in this context are those who have confessed to believe, but lived their lives in a totally selfish manner and showed no compassion toward the less fortunate and offered no help to the poor (Matt. 25:41-46), but instead lived their religious lives in hypocrisy and pretence and with indifference to God's ways, but it would also include religious leaders who have used the Gospel of grace for their own selfish ambition and to establish their own religious empire for worldly riches, power, importance and fame.

JESUS WILL EAT WITH THE APOSTLES AGAIN IN THE KINGDOM

- **Matthew 26:26-29:** Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink *again* of this fruit of the vine *until* that day when *I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.*"

The following verses also show that the Lord will return to his Kingdom: -

- Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine *until* that day when *I drink it new in the Kingdom of God* (Mark 14:25).
- For I tell you I will not eat it *until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.* ¹⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine *until the Kingdom of God comes*" (Luke 22:16-18).
- I assign to you (the apostles) as my Father assigned to me, a *kingdom* ³⁰that you may eat and drink at *my table in my kingdom* and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:29-30).

Certainly Jesus death and resurrection ushered in the New Covenant of grace and God's Kingdom took on a different shape and form, but the Kingdom Christ has in mind in these verses is not the spiritual Kingdom existing now that is established by faith in the hearts and minds of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and manifested outwardly by love and good works, but the ultimate Kingdom to come when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords and gathers his brothers and sisters to himself. This is when the Lord will sit once again with his faithful family and eat and drink with them. Jesus tells the apostles that he will not eat again with them until the Kingdom of God comes. Jesus is not with us today, (except spiritually by faith and love), but a most glorious day is coming that will change the world as we know it when Christ returns and the sons and daughters of God are gathered in immortality to rule and reign with him. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

This glorious event will begin when Jesus returns to receive his faithful bride to himself (see notes following the introduction). At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

- **Mark 3:23-25:** And he called them (the apostles) to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a *kingdom* is divided against itself, that *kingdom* cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.
- **Luke 11:17-18:** But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every *kingdom* divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his *kingdom* stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul.

These verses clearly show that Satan has an invisible spiritual kingdom. This kingdom of Satan dwells in the heart and minds of those who deny God and oppose His ways and is manifested outwardly in evil and wicked actions that are in opposition toward God, toward Christ, toward the law of love and toward those who belong to God's Kingdom. In the same manner God has an invisible spiritual Kingdom that is established by faith in the hearts and minds of all who are faithful and devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ that is outwardly manifested in love toward God and doing-good to others. In the fullness of time this present spiritual Kingdom will be a literal Kingdom on earth when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, WAS LOOKING FOR THE KINGDOM

- **Mark 15:43:** Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Council, who was also himself *looking for the kingdom of God*, took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.
- **Luke 23:51:** who (Joseph, of Arimathea) had not consented to their decision and action; and he was *looking for the kingdom of God*.

Joseph of Arimathea and all faithful Jews were looking for a literal physical Kingdom of God to come on earth where they would have a King who would be the head of all nations. There is no-doubt Joseph and many other Jews like him accepted Jesus as their Messiah and the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world and by faith entered into the present spiritual Kingdom of God, but the Kingdom they were looking for refers to the literal Kingdom to be established on earth when Christ returns. The prophet Zechariah inspired by God in prophecy said when this glorious and world changing event comes God will:

- Pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they *look on me, on him whom they have pierced* they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10).

There is no-doubt the present spiritual Kingdom of God established by faith in the heart and mind of those who believe in Christ is worth more than all the riches and treasures of this world, but this spiritual Kingdom is only the beginning of God's most majestic and glorious eternal Kingdom to come when the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

LUKE

ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB AND ALL THE PROPHETS IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- **Luke 13:28-29:** In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the *kingdom of God* but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the *kingdom of God*.

It is obvious to all that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets are not with us at this present time, clearly Jesus when he made this statement did not have the present spiritual Kingdom in mind, but the

literal future Kingdom to come when Christ returns and we are all able to banquet not only with the Lord himself, but with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets this is the beginning of the glorious and eternal inheritance of every faithful brother and sister in Christ.

BLESSED IS EVERYONE WHO WILL EAT BREAD IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- **Luke 14:12-15:** Jesus said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the *resurrection of the just*." ¹⁵When one of those who reclined at table with him heard these things, he said to him, "Blessed is everyone who will *eat bread in the kingdom of God!*" (Luke 14:12-15).

Certainly every brother and sister in Christ who fellowships and share meals together are truly blessed, but they still suffer hardships, temptations, troubles and sickness, whereas the Kingdom the Lord is referring to when he told the man that those who eat bread in the Kingdom of God will be blessed is the Kingdom of God to be established after those sleeping in Christ and those who are alive at Christs return are gathered together to be with him as eternal and immortal sons and daughters of God to be a Kingdom of priests to God on the earth (Rev. 1:5-10). At the end of this most glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a great White Throne the sea, death and hades give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, second death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its royal majestic fullness and eternal glory.

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TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE

- **Luke 23:42-43:** And he (the criminal on the cross) said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into *your kingdom*." ⁴³And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Paradise in this context refers to place of future happiness in this world or the world to come. Clearly paradise cannot refer to the present spiritual Kingdom since the criminal was put to death and has had no part of Christ's Kingdom as we know it today. Therefore, paradise in this context must refer to the future and literal Kingdom of righteousness justice joy and peace (the restored Garden of Eden) to be established on earth when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. John in the book of Revelations wrote:

- To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God (Rev. 2:7).

Since these words of Jesus have been held to provide evidence that Jesus expected an immediate presence in heaven for himself and the thief on the cross the following might be helpful for those who may not have a clear understanding. Certainly, upon reading this verse it seems to imply that the criminal would be with Jesus in paradise that very day, but Jesus

did not ascend to heaven for another three days, so the criminal could not possibly have been with Jesus in paradise on that very day, so what did Jesus mean? It is helpful to remember that the original manuscripts of the Bible did not have the verse references or commas in them; it was the translators of the original manuscripts who have added them to make it easier for people to find a particular verse. The comma in this sentence should be after the today instead of before it, so it would read:

- Truly, I say to you today, you will be with me in Paradise.

Jesus is saying to the criminal:

- Today I am telling you that you will be with me in Paradise.

Meaning when everyone is resurrected to be with Christ the criminal will be with them this is in total harmony with all the Bibles teaching regarding the resurrection. Following are some Old Testament examples of the coma being used in this manner:

- You shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong (Deut. 11:8).
- Therefore you shall set up these stones, which I command you today, on Mount Ebal (Deut. 27:4).
- Moses said I am one hundred and twenty years old today. I am no longer able to go out and come in (Deut. 31:2).

These verses show that it would be perfectly natural to punctuate Luke 23:43 as follows:

- Truly I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise.

Paul uses a similar turn of phrase saying:

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- Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. (Acts 20:26).

In view of the thief's request, the reply of Jesus makes good sense to be punctuated in this way he had asked that Jesus remember him when he came in the power of his Kingdom, that is, at the resurrection when the Kingdom is to be manifested in glory. The Lord's assertion more than satisfies the thief's request since he assures the criminal that he is remembered on that very day, in advance of the coming of the Kingdom. The thief will indeed be with Jesus in the paradise of the future Kingdom. The following gives us two more evidence that this is how Luke 23:43 should be read:

1. Jesus said, "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40) and King David spoke concerning the resurrection of the Lord saying that "Christ's soul was not left in Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption" (Acts 2:31). According Jesus statement he was in the tomb for three days and three nights and according to King David's prophecy of Jesus death, cited by Peter, Jesus was in the tomb until the resurrection, therefore, Jesus could not have been in paradise on the day of his crucifixion.
2. Jesus said to Mary, "Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God.'" Even on the Sunday of his resurrection Jesus had not yet ascended to the Father (John 20:17).

The glory and wonder of God's grace in Christ: this criminal (near death) acknowledge his guilt, fears God, accepted his punishment, rebuked those who mocked Christ, knew Jesus was innocent and that he was the Christ of God we know this because if he didn't believe Jesus was

who he said he was then his asking Jesus to remember him when he comes into his Kingdom would be pointless. This criminal had committed a crime deserving of death, he knows he is guilty and only moments away from his last breath he in honest heartfelt repentance asks Jesus for acceptance and Jesus promises he will be with him in paradise. There is a beautiful message in this for us all, no-one is beyond the forgiveness of God, this criminal in the last moments of his life repented and accepted Christ and in doing so was forgiven, his entire life was wiped clean before God such is the power of the blood of Christ and the grace of God.

1 CORINTHIANS

THE UNRIGHTEOUS WILL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-10:** Do you not know that the unrighteous will *not inherit the kingdom of God*? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the *kingdom of God*.

Paul says the same thing in his letter to the Galatians and Ephesians:

- Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will *not inherit the kingdom of God* (Galatians 5:19-21).
- For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has *no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God* (Ephesians 5:5).

Inherit: means to become the owner of something when somebody dies, in accordance with legal succession or the terms of a will, or as the result of a bequest or legacy. After Christ's death and resurrection Paul makes the statement that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of Christ or the Kingdom of God. The key word here is, inherit, because it implies something to be gained after death. The Kingdom the unrighteous will not inherit refers to the glorious literal eternal Kingdom to come when Christ returns and the sons and daughters of God who belong to Christ's present spiritual Kingdom by faith will be manifested in eternal glory and immortality when the Lord returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

NOTE: since the word homosexuality in these verses has been used as a harsh and cruel battering ram to condemn everyone who is in a same sex relationship and cast them out of God's grace I would encourage anyone who has been seeking God and come against fierce rejection or anyone who has a family member or a friend who has experienced religious condemnation because they or someone they know has been in a same sex relationship to see the title:

- Same Sex Relationships (ON WEBSITE MENU).

CHRIST DELIVERS THE KINGDOM TO GOD THE FATHER

- **1 Corinthians 15:22-26:** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.²⁴ Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The most helpful way (I think) to treat these verses is most likely to shine a spotlight on them separately since they cover thousands of years.

Verse twenty-two: shows that every man and woman on planet earth is destined to die and that all who have died in faith in Christ will be resurrected to eternal life.

Verse twenty-three: shows that Christ is the first to be resurrected to eternal life and everlasting glory and after him all who have died in faith will be resurrected in the same manner when the Lord returns.

Between: verse twenty-three; and verse twenty-four is Christ's glorious millennial Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth in which the Lord rules and reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords with those who have been gathered together to him. The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

Verse twenty-four: ends with Christ having destroyed every government rule and authority that withstands God's ways and his laws and handing the established Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace over to God his heavenly Father.

Verse twenty-five: tells us Christ must rule as King of kings and Lord of lords until all his enemies are put under his authority and rule.

Verse twenty-six: tells us the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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NOTE: at the end of Christ's glorious millennial Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and Hades give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, second death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its royal and majestic eternal glory. For further information see titles:

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In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

These verses clearly show that there is a present spiritual Kingdom that has existed from the time of Christ's death and resurrection and will continue to exist until he returns. Then there will be a Kingdom in which all those who belong to the Lords family will rule and reign with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God Himself descends to earth and is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its eternal glory.

FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- **1 Corinthians 15:50-52:** I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot *inherit the kingdom of God*, nor does the perishable *inherit* the imperishable. ⁵¹Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

Contained in these glorious verses are the following two Kingdoms:

1. The present spiritual Kingdom established by faith and by love in the hearts of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. The future literal Kingdom to come on earth when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords establish God Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth, before God Himself descends on a great White Throne and eternity in all its majestic royal and glorious fullness begins.

These are not really two different Kingdoms since they are both the Kingdom of God, they are simply the same Kingdom, but in a different form and different shape. God only has one Kingdom, but throughout history it has taken on different shapes and forms, under David it had one form, under Solomon another, while it appeared different again under the Judges and the Kings of Israel, but though it appears in different shapes and forms it is the one Kingdom because regardless of what shape or form it takes God is always its King. The present spiritual Kingdom established by faith and love in the hearts of those who believe will take on a different form when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords, but even this is not the final shape of God's Kingdom since at the end of this glorious age God Himself descends to earth on a Great White Throne and is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY in its royal majestic eternal fullness and glory begins.

The title the Kingdom of God can refer to:

- God's Kingdom in the Old Testament.
- The spiritual Kingdom existing now by faith and love in the heart and mind of all who belong to Christ.
- The literal visible glorious and future Kingdom on earth when the Lord Jesus Christ returns.

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It is the context that gives which of the three Kingdoms the title the Kingdom of God is referring too. The Kingdom of God in most of Paul's teaching is the present spiritual Kingdom existing by faith and by love in the heart and mind of those who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and manifested outwardly in a lifestyle of compassion grace and forgiveness toward others and behaviour that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith (howbeit none of us attain to this standard perfectly or as we would wish), nevertheless there is a deep heartfelt desire in the heart and mind to honour Christ's good name.

2 THESSALONIANS

JESUS WILL BE REVEALED TO BE GLORIFIED IN THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED

- **2 Thessalonians 1:5-10:** This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the *kingdom of God*, for which you are also suffering—⁶since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, *when the Lord Jesus is revealed* from heaven with his mighty angels⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.⁹ They will suffer the punishment of *eternal destruction*, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,¹⁰ when he *comes on that day* to be *glorified in his saints*, and to be marvelled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

In these verses we are told that:

- Certain faithful brothers and sisters in Christ's present spiritual Kingdom are suffering because of their faith in the Lord.

- When Jesus returns, he will be glorified in his faithful brothers and sisters and they will be overwhelmed with wonder as they gaze upon each other. This is because their mortal body will be transformed to an eternal immortal body who can comprehend such glory? Is it any wonder we are overjoyed in marvellous wonder.
- When Christ returns in majestic and royal glory those who persecute the Lord's people and those who deny God will be eternally destroyed (eternally dead) (i.e., utter and total extinction).

The Kingdom of God in this context can refer to both the present spiritual Kingdom and the future literal Kingdom to come when Christ returns to be glorified in those who have believed.

NOTE: the Bible does not teach that unbelievers will be sent to a place of eternal flames to not only suffer the extreme and intense pain of burning flames of fire upon their bodies, but also to be cruelly and brutally tortured by evil sadistic entities called demons for all eternity as many in traditional Christianity have been led to believe. This teaching is a gross misunderstanding of many symbolic Scriptures and even worse presents God as the most sadistic God of all gods. In contrast to this eternal horrific horror story the Bible teaches the following two eternal destinations:

1. Eternal life, immortality and everlasting glory.
2. Eternal death, meaning total and utter extinction.

To discover more concerning this topic, see the title:

- Hell.
- Lake of Fire.
- Both titles are in Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

2 TIMOTHY

CHRIST'S HEAVENLY KINGDOM

- **2 Timothy 4:18:** The Lord will rescue me (Paul) from every evil deed and bring me safely into his *heavenly kingdom*. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The words, "Heavenly Kingdom" do not mean that the Kingdom is in heaven, but that it is a godly and glorious Kingdom one that is full of joy and peace a Kingdom free of pain, suffering and sorrow. Matthew throughout his letter uses the title the Kingdom of Heaven while Mark and Luke for the same Scriptures use the title the Kingdom of God. The titles, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God refer to:

- God's present spiritual Kingdom established by faith and love in the hearts and minds of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The literal future Kingdom to be established when Christ returns.

They are called heavenly because they are both God's Kingdom and the citizenship of those who belong to these Kingdoms is in heaven. The deep and central desire of the hearts, mind and passion of those who belong to Christ the King is not for the things of this world, but for the things of God. This is the reason God's Kingdom can be titled the Kingdom of Heaven or the Kingdom of God.

JAMES

THE KINGDOM GOD PROMISED TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM

- **James 2:5:** Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and *heirs of the kingdom* which he has promised to those who love him?

The Kingdom those who love Christ will inherit refers to the Kingdom God promised Abraham. Here is the wonder, majesty and glory of the Christian faith. Thousands of years ago the LORD swore by an oath to Abraham that He would make of him a great nation and that he would be the father of a multitude of nations. God swore He would make Abrahams name great, bless him, nations, and kings would come from him and He would give to him and to his offspring after him all the land of Canaan/Israel for an everlasting possession. God promised Abraham that his offspring would be as the dust of the earth and the stars of heaven so that they cannot be numbered and God will be their God. The LORD confirmed this promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their offspring after them throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant promising Abraham that in his offspring all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

(Gen. 12:1-3) (Gen. 13:14-17) (Gen. 15:4-7) (Gen. 17:1-8)
(Gen. 22:15-18) (Deut. 9:5).

Now the majestic wonder and beauty of God's promise is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul writes that the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. that is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all Abrahams offspring—not only to the adherents of the law (referring to the Jews) but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham (referring to the Gentiles), who is the father of us all (Jews and Gentiles), as it is written:

- I have made you (Abraham) the father of many nations—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist (i.e., creation, prophecy and the resurrection).

In hope Abraham believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." Paul tells us that "The twelve tribes of Israel earnestly worshipped night and day hoping to attain to this promise (Acts 26:7). And then gloriously points out that the Scripture does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. Some may think the promises made to Abraham was for the Jews only, but Paul magnificently explains in the book of Galatians that the promises of God have been extended to all nations through being baptised into the Lord Jesus Christ and clearly shows that the promises made to Abraham and to his offspring the Lord Jesus Christ are not limited to the Jews only but embraces whoever will come to God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ

(Rom. 4:13) (Rom. 4:16-18) (Gal. 3:16) (Gal. 3:27).

For further information see the title:

- Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

Though we are at this present time in the spiritual Kingdom of God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the majestic climax of God's promise will be when the Lord returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign. In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies

and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

2 PETER

AN ENTRANCE INTO THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

- **2 Peter 1:11:** For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the *eternal kingdom* of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Prior to this verse Peter says that those who are saved by faith and God's grace and by the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ should make every effort to add to their faith integrity, honesty, knowledge, self-control, loyalty, faithfulness, godliness and brotherly affection with love, because if they continue to increase in these qualities not only will they never fall, but they will also be effective in serving the Lord and be richly given an entrance into the eternal Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The people Peter is speaking to are brothers and sisters in Christ which means they are already saved therefore the Kingdom Peter has in focus is not the present spiritual Kingdom established by faith in the hearts and minds of those who love Christ but, the future Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace to be established on earth when Christ returns and resurrects those who have died in faith and gathers those who are alive to himself and richly gives them an entrance into his glorious eternal Kingdom to be priests to God and reign on the earth with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:11-16) (Revelation 1:5-10).

REVELATION

THE KINGDOM OF THE WORLD HAS BECOME THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND OF CHRIST

- **Revelation 11:15:** Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, 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 shall reign forever and ever."

Clearly this chapter is full of very symbolic language and contains far too much to cover in this study, so we will only focus on the Kingdom. It is certain no-one has any doubt that the world at this present time has not become the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, we know from this verse that there is a time coming when the Lord Jesus Christ will rule over every government, authority and ruler. This glorious age will begin when Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) and the dead in Christ are raised and those that are alive are gathered out of the Lord's present spiritual Kingdom to rule and reign with the Lord during the establishment of Christ's glorious millennial Kingdom on earth. This is when the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of God and God's eternal promise as well as multitudes of majestic Old and New Testament prophecies will be fulfilled.

SUMMARY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Prior to the resurrection no-one, not even the apostles fully understood that Jesus was going to be put to death and rise again they basically preached only the Kingdom of God on earth because they never really understood that Jesus was going to be its eternal King, but after the resurrection the apostles focus is on the King of the Kingdom rather than the actual Kingdom, this is because whoever belongs to the King will inherit the Kingdom. Jesus the King is the royal and golden path into the Kingdom, while the Kingdom is the inheritance of those who belong to the King. The Kingdom of God has existed, in different forms and shapes throughout history. In the Old Testament it existed in vastly different forms and shapes under the Judges, under David and Solomon as kings and under many other kings of Israel. It was not a perfect Kingdom and never has been.

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Jesus was not the King and many of the kings that did reign were far from godly nevertheless, it was God's Kingdom because God was the King. Today there is a spiritual Kingdom of God existing through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ which has taken on a different shape and form to that of the Old Testament Kingdom. When Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God literal and visible Kingdom on earth God's Kingdom will take on a different shape again, but even this is not the final and ultimate shape of the Kingdom as it will once again change its appearance at the Great White Throne judgment when God descends to earth and is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its royal and majestic eternal glory. This shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that it is the King who determines whose Kingdom it is and not the shape or form of it. Even though all the Kingdoms mentioned have been different in shape, form and appearance they are all called God's Kingdom simply because God and the Lord Jesus Christ is their King whether the Kingdom is seen or unseen.

It should be noted: The Kingdom of God is not the path to salvation, but the inheritance of it. The royal path to salvation is to surrender by faith our hearts, minds and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ he is the golden door to salvation while the Kingdom of God is the inheritance of those who have been saved by faith in its King. The global spiritual Kingdom of God exist in this present age by faith it is an invisible worldwide Kingdom dwelling in the hearts and minds of all those who have made the Lord Jesus Christ King of their heart, mind and lives. This spiritual Kingdom of God is presently manifested outwardly through the lives of all who believe in Christ and collectively through the global worldwide church. The Kingdom parables (Matt. 13:36-43) (Matt. 13:47-50) teach that within the present spiritual global Kingdom of God there are good servants and foolish servants (Matt. 13:24-30) and that when Christ returns as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:11-16) he will sort out of his present

spiritual Kingdom the good sheep from the bad sheep (Matt. 13:36-43) (Matt. 13:47-50). Then Christ will rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace during his majestic and royal millennial reign on earth.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL

It is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and David is Christ, all the promises to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew) this means that Jews and Gentiles become one new nation in Christ (also called, a new man, a new creation, the church, the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God). The Apostle Paul said:

- **Ephes. 2:11-22:** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

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Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles). In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God since in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF WHAT THIS MEANS TO ALL WHO BELONG TO CHRIST

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states:

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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