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# **The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of Heaven.**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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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 Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.

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## Topics.

- The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven.
- Three reasons God's Kingdom is called the Kingdom of Heaven.
- A brief overview of the past, present and future Kingdom of God.

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## The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

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The title the Kingdom of Heaven does not mean that the Kingdom is in heaven, Matthew is the only writer that uses this title, both Mark and Luke use the title the Kingdom of God the two titles refer to the same Kingdom and are both titles for God's Kingdom. The following verses show that Matthew in his parables uses the title Kingdom of Heaven while Mark and Luke for the same Scriptures use the title, Kingdom of God.

Mathew wrote:

- Jesus answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *Kingdom of Heaven* (Matt. 13:11).

Mark wrote:

- Jesus said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the *Kingdom of God* (Mark 4:11).

Luke wrote:

- Jesus said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the *Kingdom of God* (Luke 8:10).

Mathew wrote:

- In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the *Kingdom of Heaven* is at hand (Matt. 3:1-2).

Mark wrote:

- The time is fulfilled, and the *Kingdom of God* is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15).

Mathew wrote:

- From the days of John the Baptist until now the *Kingdom of Heaven* has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force (Matt. 11:12).

Luke wrote:

- The Law and the Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the *Kingdom of God* is preached, and everyone forces his way into it (Luke 16:16).

These verse show that Matthew uses the title Kingdom of Heaven almost every time he mentions the Kingdom, but when Mark Luke and John refer to the same Scriptures, they use the title Kingdom of God throughout their writings clearly showing that God does not have two Kingdoms.

**The meaning of Kingdom:** the word Kingdom speaks of the right of royal power, kingship, dominion and authority to rule over a kingdom. The kingdom itself is the territory that is subject to the rule of the King. When the New Testament refers to God's Kingdom it has in mind the reign

of Christ as the King over the Kingdom whether it is the present spiritual Kingdom established by faith in the heart and mind of all who belong to the King or the literal future Kingdom to come when Christ returns. Though the Kingdom of God existed in the Old Testament and exists now in the New Testament era it will not exist in its full majestic royal and perfect glory until Christ is literally ruling over this world as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) with royal power as the triumphant Messiah and King and those who have died in faith and those who are alive have been gathered together to be with LORD during this glorious millennial Kingdom age.

### **Three reasons God's Kingdom is called the Kingdom of Heaven:**

1. Many Jews avoided using God's name for fear of using it in vain.
2. The Kingdom should reflect on earth God's good character of righteousness, justice, love, compassion, mercy, grace, forgiveness, joy and peace.
3. God and the Lord Jesus Christ are the Kings of the Kingdom.

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### **Throughout history God's Kingdom has been called**

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- The Kingdom of Israel, the Kingdom of David and the Kingdom of Solomon.
- The Fathers Kingdom, the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven.
- The Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour and the Kingdom of Christ.
- A Kingdom which cannot be moved and an everlasting Kingdom.
- The promised Kingdom of God, the heavenly Kingdom and the Kingdom of God's beloved Son.

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These titles show that the Kingdom of God has appeared in different shapes and different forms at different periods of time. In the New Testament the title God's Kingdom can refer to the body of Christ (i.e., the global and worldwide church). In the future at God's appointed time when the Lord returns in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords God's Kingdom will embrace the world. Scripture says:

- God's Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom and his dominion endures throughout all generations (Psalm 145:13).

It is God's Kingdom because He has the sovereign power over it. It matters not whether the Kingdom is seen or unseen or whether it is perfect or full of imperfections it is still called God's Kingdom because God is the King of it. This is because it is not the appearance of the Kingdom (good or bad, seen or unseen) that determines whose Kingdom it is, but the King who has rule and authority over it. The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God refer to the same Kingdom it is God's Kingdom, because God and the Lord Jesus Christ are the King of it. The Kingdom in its perfect eternal state is not here at this present time and won't be here until Christ returns in glory as King of kings and Lord and lords and reigns on earth with those who have been gathered together with him to establish God's majestic royal Kingdom of justice, joy and peace on earth. 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 this present time God's Kingdom is a spiritual Kingdom established in the heart and mind by faith and love of all who are devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches that the present spiritual Kingdom of God in this world is made up of:

- Good and caring believers and unforgiving, unloving and evil thinking believers.
- Wise servants and foolish servants.
- Good labourers and lazy labourers.

As long as the spiritual war rages between pride and humbleness it will always be so until Christ returns. The Scriptures teach that God will separate the wheat from the chaff when He brings this fallen world as we know it to an end and ushers in Christ's majestic royal and glorious millennial Kingdom when the Lord returns in glory. The Kingdom of Heaven as Mathew calls it or the Kingdom of God as Mark, Luke and John refer to it is used to describe the global body of Christ (the church) and to picture God's worldwide global Kingdom on earth. God's present spiritual Kingdom will be gloriously transformed when Jesus returns to rule and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords on earth, but as majestic and wonderful as this age will be for those who love the Lord and are looking with anticipated excitement forward to his return it is not the final glory that will descend upon the earth. This is because at the end of Christ's glorious millennial age God Himself descends to earth and ETERNITY in its perfect majestic eternal fullness begins in all its royal glory. Throughout history there has and will be various changes in the appearance of God's Kingdom, but though it appears in different shapes and forms as it takes on its different stages of growth through the ages it is always God's Kingdom, because God is always its King.

### **A brief overview of the past, present and future Kingdom of God**

Prior to Christ's death and resurrection the Jews focus was the promised literal Kingdom to be established on earth rather than the present spiritual Kingdom this is because prior to Christ's death and resurrection no-one, not even the apostles fully understood that Jesus was going to be crucified and rise again this is why prior to the Lord's brutal, bloody and cruel death the primary focus is upon the Kingdom of God on earth. After Jesus death and resurrection the focus of the apostles message changed from being on the Kingdom to being on the King of the Kingdom and to being upon the Gospel of the Kingdom which proclaims that sinners are saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and not by self-effort or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions.

**It is interesting to notice:** almost every verse in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that speak about the Kingdom of God are spoken by Jesus prior to his death and even when others speak of the Kingdom, they are all prior to Jesus death. The following comments are what people other than Jesus said about things concerning the Kingdom of God: -

- John the Baptist said, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."
- When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a colt, the people shouted, "Blessed is the coming Kingdom of our father David!"
- We are told Joseph of Arimathea, was also looking for the Kingdom of God.

- Gabriel prior to Mary's conception said, "Her child will reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his Kingdom there will be no end."
- The criminal on the cross said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

The death and resurrection of Jesus abolished the Old Testament Kingdom of God with its outward priesthood and ceremonial rites and religious customs and traditions, and established a new spiritual Kingdom in the heart and mind of those who by faith and love belong to God's beloved Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This present spiritual Kingdom will be manifested to the world when Jesus returns as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to gather to himself out of this present spiritual Kingdom those who have died in faith and those who are alive and then the sons and daughters of God will shine like the sun (Matt. 13:36-43) and reign with Christ on earth as a Kingdom and priests to God (Rev. 1:5-10) to establish the majestic, royal and glorious promised literal Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. At the end of this majestic, royal and glorious Kingdom age God Himself is pictured descending 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 eternal glory.

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### The Kingdom of God is not perfect

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The Kingdom of God existed in the Old Testament under the Judges, David and Solomon and the many kings of Israel in different shapes and forms. It was not a perfect Kingdom and many of the kings that did reign were far from godly, nevertheless it was God's Kingdom because God was the sovereign KING of it. Now in the New Testament God's Kingdom has taken on a different shape and different form to that of the Old Testament Kingdom and like God's Kingdom in the Old Testament is still not a perfect Kingdom nevertheless it is still God's Kingdom because the Lord Jesus Christ is its King.

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### From this study we learn

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From this study we learn 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 whether the Kingdom is seen or unseen simply because God and the Lord Jesus Christ is their King. This is why the apostles and Paul's primary focus after Jesus death and resurrection is on the King of the Kingdom rather than the actual Kingdom because whoever belongs to the King will inherit the Kingdom. The literal future Kingdom of God is not the path to salvation but the inheritance of those already saved. The path to salvation is through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ he is the golden door and the royal path to salvation to eternal life while the Kingdom of God is the inheritance of those who have already been saved and belong to the King.

**NOTE:** when Jesus, the apostles and Paul refer to the Law of Moses, the Old Testament Scriptures and the Prophets their primary focus is not on teaching the Old Testament Scriptures, but using them to prove to the unbelieving and doubting Jews that Jesus is the 'ONE' the prophets said was to come and the 'ONE' the Scriptures speak of.

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**For further information see titles:**

- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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