

The Book of Acts

Acts 1:3-11

Understanding the Kingdom

Salvation

Definition of the Kingdom

- Someone enters the kingdom of God when they submit to his rule.
- When you become a believer you put yourself under the rule of the God of heaven and earth, you enter the kingdom of God. *Colossians 1:13*

The Kingdom is Near

- When John the Baptist began his ministry he stated that the time for entering the kingdom was near or at hand. *Matthew 3:1-2*
- When Jesus began his public ministry he also stated that the time for entering the kingdom was near or at hand. By this he meant that the time for believing was about to begin. *Matthew 4:17*
- Israel under the Old Covenant was a temporary, unbelieving picture of the kingdom. *Matthew 8:10-12, Romans 9:30-10:4*
- With the coming of the Messiah and the introduction of the New Covenant era the time for believing had come. *Titus 2:11-12, Galatians 3:23-25*

The Kingdom has a Present Dimension

- One must be born of the Spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. *John 3*
- The parables give us information about the kingdom. *Matthew 13:1-23*
- The casting out of demons by Jesus was tangible evidence that the kingdom had indeed come. *Matthew 12:28*

The Kingdom has a Future Dimension

- By far the most common use of the concept of the kingdom of God is in reference to the fullness of the kingdom that will come about when Jesus returns and the believers have resurrected bodies and the new heaven and earth. *Galatians 5:19-21, 2 Peter 1:11*
- The kingdom is introduced in the new covenant era but the fullness of the kingdom must await the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:50-54*

Kingdom of God vs the Kingdom of Heaven

According to classic Dispensationalism the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God may refer to two different things, but in reality they are both used interchangeably.

Matthew 19:23-24, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15

Restoring the Kingdom

- When the disciples asked Jesus when he was going to restore the kingdom to Israel he did not answer their question with a full answer.
- There is the Old Covenant picture version of the restoration of Israel. This version in its original context prophesies about the regathering of literal Israel into a literal land. *Romans 9:22-26, Hosea 1:10, 2:23*
- There is the New Covenant fulfillment version of the restoration of Israel. This version is not a literal fulfillment but a spiritual fulfillment of the real people of God, the church, and a land that does not end. *Romans 9:22-26, Hebrews 4:1-11*