

THE KINGDOM

Article 9

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King.

Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6;
Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-
52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1;
Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21;
23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-
31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians
15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews
11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13;
Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.*

“But seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness, and all these
things shall be added to you”
(Matthew 6:33).

“The true and living God is King,
and His kingdom represents His rule
and His power” (p. 108).

“The Kingdom is primarily the dynamic reign or kingdom rule of God.”

(George Eldon Ladd)

THE KINGDOM IN SCRIPTURE

The kingdom is a dominant theme throughout the Bible.

1. In the Old Testament God is portrayed as a King whose sovereignty extends to the ends of the earth.

Psalms 47:2—”He is a great King over all the earth.”

2. God raises up and tears down earthly nations.

Job 12:23—”He makes nations great, and destroys them.”

3. His rule and reign is righteous, fair, and just.

Psalm 99:4—”You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.”

4. In the New Testament, Jesus announced that His presence marked the visible presence of the kingdom of God.

“From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matthew 4:17).

5. When John the Baptist wanted to be sure that Jesus really was the coming King, Jesus told John's followers to look at the miracles that Jesus had done (Matthew 11:2-6).

Before the miracle of the church, the miracles of Jesus and the preaching of Jesus were signs that He truly is the King of the Kingdom!

THE KINGDOM AND THE CHURCH

1. The church is not the Kingdom (Acts 8:12).
2. The kingdom creates the church.
3. The church witnesses to the kingdom (Matthew 24:14).
4. The church is the instrument of the kingdom.
5. The church is the custodian of the kingdom (Matthew 16:19).

(cf. George Eldon Ladd, *A Theology of the New Testament*.)

**HOW DOES A PERSON ENTER
THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

1. The gospel of the kingdom is preached (Acts 8:12).
2. The Holy Spirit, working in the heart of a sinner, enlivens the heart of the sinner, and he or she believes the gospel. (John 3:3, 8)
3. That person becomes a citizen of the Kingdom of God, and demonstrates that citizenship by baptism and being joined to a local church (Acts 2:41).

An important word about ministry:

Churches get it wrong when we try to “build our church.” We get it right when we try to expand the Kingdom of God, by calling people to repent and trust in the King. Then, some of those kingdom citizens will join our local church, and some other churches. We rejoice in all genuine Kingdom gains!

- The local church is the visible expression of the kingdom of God.
- The local church oversees an assigned group of citizens in the Kingdom of God.
- However, the church preaches and proclaims the Kingdom of God; not the church!

“And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God” (Acts 19:8).

“We do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord...” (2 Corinthians 4:5).

Note The Kingdom theme in our Model Prayer:

“⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye:
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed
be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in
earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

King James Version (KJV)

Public Domain

Conclusion:

1. Are you in the Kingdom? Have you been born again?
2. Are you a fitting, accurate representative of the Kingdom of King Jesus?