

**Introduction:**

Today we will be looking at, *the Kingdom of God*.

**Things we will look at in this lesson:**

Part One: Terms Associated with the Kingdom

Part Two: The Definition of the Kingdom and Its Aspects

Part Three: The Kingdom in Perspective

**Part One: Terms Associated with the Kingdom:**

**01. Why do we need to examine Christ's teaching on the kingdom of God?**

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**02. What is the central theme of Jesus' teaching?**

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**03. How many times does the term "kingdom", appear in the Synoptics?**

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**04. How many times does Matthew use the term "kingdom of heaven"?**

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**05. Is there a difference between the terms “kingdom of God”, and “kingdom of heaven”?**

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**06. What prompted Matthew to use “heaven” instead of “God”?**

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**Note)**

There are still questions to be answered...

- (1) What exactly did Jesus mean when He spoke of the Kingdom?
- (2) Did His kingdom then exist, or was it still to come?
- (3) What were its physical limits?
- (4) Where was it to be located?
- (5) Who were its rulers and subjects?
- (6) What were the conditions for entering it?

These questions are basic to our study of the kingdom of God.

And we will find that some are easier to answer than others.

**Part Two: The Definition of the Kingdom and Its Aspects:**

***07. What do we usually think of when we use the term “kingdom”?***

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***08. According to Jesus’ definition, how can we describe the kingdom of God?***

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***09. What was the evidence of the reality and authenticity of God’s kingdom?***

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***10. What did Christ indicate regarding the Law apart from his fulfillment of it?***

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## Article 1)

Concerning the Kingdom of God:

- (1) It is God's kingdom where Christ is the ruler. According to Christ, this kingdom operates among His followers (Luke 17:20, 21).
- (2) There is no geographical location of the kingdom of God. We cannot drive or fly there. However, it is close to all of us.
- (3) The kingdom of God is best represented as Christ's kingship. Jesus, being God's only begotten Son, inherited the right to rule in His Father's kingdom.
- (4) Jesus demonstrated His authority as God's Sovereign Ruler through His miracles over nature, His healing of sickness and disease, and His encounters with the kingdom of darkness.
- (5) Jesus' main credential as ruler is the victory He purchased on the cross, defeating death.
- (6) When we are in the presence of Jesus, we are in the kingdom of God.
- (7) We experience and participate in the present aspect of God's kingdom breaking into our world when the good news is preached to the poor, freedom is proclaimed to the prisoner, the blind recover sight, and the oppressed are released from their bondage (Luke 4:18).
- (8) We anticipate the future aspect of the kingdom yet to come.
- (9) There will be a day when Christ will return and set up His kingdom on earth.
- (10) We can view the kingdom of God as already among us but not yet here.

As a working definition, we can define the kingdom of God as; *the rightly inherited kingship of Christ seen presently through changed human lives and miracle demonstrations of His divine power and authority while anticipating His future reign as the Sovereign Ruler.*

### 11. What did Christ's teaching on the kingdom reveal?

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**12. What is necessary for Christ to bring about the devil's final destruction?**

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**Article 2)**

Fulfillment of the Kingdom:

- (1) Christ describes this future fulfillment of the Kingdom as a wedding banquet (Matthew 22:1–2; Luke 22:29–30).
- (2) As the gateway into eternal life (Matthew 25:46).
- (3) As the age to come (Mark 10:30).
- (4) As the kingdom of God (Mark 10:24).

Therefore, based on the Synoptic record, Christ's coming, which will be accompanied by the resurrection (Luke 20:35–36) and final judgment (Matthew 25:31–46), is the major event of the future consummation.

**13. What is the major difference between the ethics of the kingdom of God and those of a worldly kingdom?**

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**Article 3)**

Requirements of the Kingdom:

- (1) Deny oneself (Matthew 16:24).
- (2) Watch every word (Matthew 12:36).
- (3) Consider possible persecution (Matthew 5:10).
- (4) Be merciful (Matthew 5:7).
- (5) Be pure in heart (Matthew 5:8).

**Article 3) Continued...**

- (6) Hate one's own life (Luke 14:26).
- (7) Carry one's own cross (Luke 14:27).
- (8) Destroy bodily parts if necessary (Matthew 5:29–30).
- (9) Watch and pray (Luke 21:36).
- (10) Go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19).

**Part Three: The Kingdom in Perspective:**

**14. What did Christ's teaching on the kingdom of God stress?**

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**15. What did Christ's teaching on the kingdom of God shift emphasis away from?**

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**16. What is the joy of this present age?**

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### Personal notes & questions:

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