

# BibleSanity.org – Remote Bible Study

## The Sermons, Parables, and Teachings of Jesus Christ

Session 5 – The Kingdom, September 13, 2022

---

**The Kingdom** (The word meaning is generally dynamic – not a ‘place,’ but a scope of ‘reigning.’)

Is it the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom?

Only Matthew uses “Kingdom of Heaven” instead of “Kingdom of God” (with a four exceptions). This is thought to be because of the Jewish tradition of avoiding using the name of God. Even today, some Jewish literature uses “G\_d” instead of saying “God.” Also, in (only) one verse, Matthew 6:29, Jesus says “**the kingdom of My father.**”

### **Matthew 4:12-13, 17**

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim... From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven** is at hand.

### **Compare to Mark 1:14-15**

Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of **the kingdom of God**, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

### **Matthew 4:23**

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of **the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

### **Matthew 6:33**

But seek ye first the **kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

How we can know the two phrases are the same:

Jesus uses them interchangeably in Matthew 19:16-26

#### **Matthew 19:23-24**

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.

Parallels in the other Gospels make the synonymous meanings obvious. One good example is Matthew 13:11, compared to Mark 4:11 and Luke 8:10 (also similarly compare Matthew 11:11, 13:24, 13:31, 13:33, 18:3, 22:2 to parallel Scriptures).

#### **Matthew 13:11**

He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.

#### **Mark 4:11**

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the **kingdom of God**: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

#### **Luke 8:10**

And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

The tougher question is: What is this "Kingdom of God?"

- Is it all Believers
  - If so, is the Kingdom the Church?
- Is it Jewish Believers
  - If so, is it the Millennial Kingdom of Revelation 20?

### **First, the Millennial Kingdom:**

Revelation 20:4-5 – The Millennial Kingdom is only occupied by unspecified judges (Matthew 19:28 – the 12 disciples) and the generation which endured the Tribulation, also, the Millennial Kingdom only lasts 1,000 years – it will be a time of satisfying prophecies to Israel, but is not the full resurrection of believers or believing Jews is not eternal, therefore the Millennial Kingdom should be seen as the beginning of the Kingdom, but it does not, by itself, fully satisfy the prophecies to Israel as the Kingdom of God associated with the promised Messiah.

#### **Revelation 4-5**

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

### **Is the Kingdom comprised of Believers:**

Consider the parable of Matthew 21:28-32

#### **Matthew 21:28-32**

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father?

They say unto him, The first.

Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

## **Is the Kingdom the same as the (universal) Church?**

The Church is the “called out’ believers of this current age of Grace, the Church is called the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), Christ prepared the church to be holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:25-27), but the Church was not yet initiated when Jesus was talking about entering the Kingdom. The Church begins with Pentecost (Acts 1:1-14, 2:1-47) and ends with the Rapture (1 Corinthians 15:51–54; 1 Thessalonians 4:14), so the Church is understood to INCLUDED in the Kingdom of God, but believers before and after the church age are also INCLUDED.

### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

### **Ephesians 5:25-27**

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

## **My Conclusion?**

The Kingdom of God includes All Believers of All Ages, but has a distinct starting point in time which is the return of Jesus Christ, at which time he will slaughter the unrighteous nations, and set up His Millennial Kingdom. After 1,000 years, there will be a time of final judgement (Revelation 20:11-15), followed immediately by the creation of the new heaven and earth, and New Jerusalem, which will mark the beginning of the eternal state, which is an uninterrupted continuation of the Reign of Jesus Christ, i.e. His Kingdom. (Revelation 21-22).

For purposes of a study of the Gospels, this means that the Kingdom of God is made up of those with Saving Faith, and is defined by the reign of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. When Jesus says things like “the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2) or “the kingdom of God is come unto you” (Matthew 12:28), he speaks of himself as Messiah.