

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, just before His crucifixion, Pilate asked Him if He was indeed the King of the Jews. "Jesus told him, **My kingdom is not of this world.** If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." (John 18:36) Christ's kingdom is one of influence and authority, not borders and cities. Another telling characteristic comes from Paul's assertion that **"The Kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power."** (1 Corinthians 4:20) The way we live indicates whether we are abiding in His kingdom. Paul encouraged believers **"To walk in a manner worthy of the God Who calls you into His Own Kingdom and Glory."** (1 Thessalonians 2:12) He goes on to say that we do this by receiving His Word. This evidence that we have received it comes when it **"performs its work"** in us. Its work is changing our minds. When our minds change, aligning with His truth, it changes everything – the way we think, speak, and act. This enables us to spread His kingdom by expanding His influence.

"The Kingdom Of God That Lies Within You"

The proof of His kingdom will come during the week when you're one on one with others. It's not about how loudly it's declared, but how soundly it's lived. When we allow the love of God to pour out of us in the manner in which we treat people then the Kingdom of God has come to that person.

"When Times Are Not Going Well, Even So, The Kingdom Is Near"

When transgression takes hold, discord sets in, discontent reigns, patience evaporates, and every other fruit of the Spirit withers, the Kingdom Of Heaven is not present. Even so, it is still near. It's just a matter of repenting of our sin and renewing our spirit.

"God's Kingdom Is Here And It's For You."

The Kingdom of God is Within You

You need not die to enter into His Kingdom. It's as simple and profound as, **"Your Kingdom Come."** It comes when **"Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"** (Matthew 6:10). It brings peace, joy, and righteousness.

His Kingdom in your life impacts those around you. It can be beautifully shocking to people, when they see God's love poured out on to them from a stranger. The promise of power in the Holy Spirit means you can touch others with the supremacy of His Kingdom, showing them the entrance. The way we live indicates whether we are abiding in His kingdom, so today we can choose again to live and walk with Jesus.



"Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus' answer was that the kingdom of God was not coming in the manner the Pharisees were expecting. The kingdom would not be inaugurated with spectacle or splendor; there would be no great and magnificent leader who staked out a geographical claim. The kingdom would come silently and unseen, much as leaven works in a batch of dough; **"Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." (Matthew 13:33).** In fact, Jesus says, the kingdom had already begun, right under the Pharisees' noses. God was ruling in the hearts of some people, and the King Himself was standing among them, although the Pharisees were oblivious to that fact.

Better Translated "Kingdom Of God" As The "Rule Of God."

The Kingdom of God was one of Jesus' most talked about topics, but it's hardly a well-grasped concept for believers today. If you asked a group of people to define it, you would probably get a variety of answers. The Greek term for kingdom is used 162 times in the New Testament, with most of them referring to the Kingdom of God and some refer to the Kingdom of Heaven. Yet, how often do we as believers discuss God's Kingdom and keep it on the forefront of our hearts? I believe one of the reasons we don't talk about God's kingdom as much as we should is because we don't fully understand this mysterious concept. Both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament the term "Kingdom" is understood as dynamic in nature and refers primarily to the rule or reign of a king. It is seldom used in a stationary sense to refer to a territory. As a result, in the vast majority of instances it would be better to translate the expression "Kingdom Of God" as the "Rule Of God."

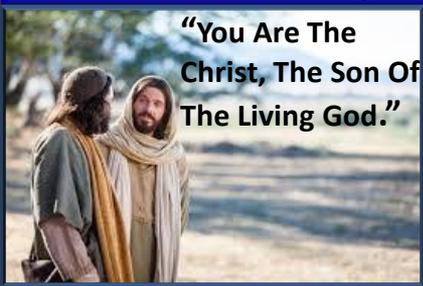
"The Kingdom of God Is Not a Physical Place... So What Is It?"

Many people think of the Kingdom of God as heaven or as the church. However, the Kingdom of God is not an actual physical place. A working definition of God's Kingdom from a biblical perspective can be seen as God's universal reign as Creator and Christ's exhaustive work as Redeemer. Since God is eternal, His kingdom is eternal. The Kingdom of God transcends time and space.

“Christ The King”

This promised day of God’s reign as King would come through the coming of Messiah, the Child Who would be born, the Son Who would be given. **“Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His Kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.”** (Isaiah 9:7) Messiah refers to a Jewish King, just as Pharaoh was an Egyptian King or, in more recent times, Czar was a Russian king. The word **“Messiah”** in Greek is **Christos**, which became anglicized into **“Christ.”** In other words **“Christ,”** the title given to Jesus, means **“King.”** **Jesus came as the fulfillment of Israel’s hope, expectations, and prophecies. Jesus came as the embodiment of Israel’s God.**

“God Became King In And Through This Story Of Jesus”



“You Are The Christ, The Son Of The Living God.”

(Matthew 16:13-20) **“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, Am?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter**

answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus answered and said to him, **“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom Of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”** Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.” And those who believed in Jesus believed He was Israel’s Messiah ushering in the return of God’s presence to reign as King. The Gospel writers tell this very story. According to N.T. Wright, **“All four Gospels are telling the story of how God became King in and through this story of Jesus of Nazareth.”**

“Jesus The Kingdom Bearer”

Jesus the Kingdom Bearer manifested this Kingdom to us. As His people we are to extend His Kingdom. Everyone has a kingdom: **“This is your range of effective will.”** This range could be your position in your family, position in church, position where you work or any place you have a realm of influence.

Basically what you want to happen will happen. God has created us to be kingdom minded. (Genesis 1:26) **“Let them have dominion.”** Our personal kingdoms and the kingdoms of this world are stained with sin a system of personal power. The kingdoms of the earth are economic, political and cultural. I would guess we could look around and see that the kingdoms of the earth not going so well.

“There Is Another Domain”

There is another domain. It is God’s Kingdom and it is spiritual and real. **“The Kingdom of God”.** This is the range of God’s effective will. Where ever God’s will is being done. **“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the Kingdom of God is within you.”** (Luke 17:20-21) This Kingdom is where God’s love is celebrated. Jesus said this is what I Am going to do . I will bring the **“KINGDOM OF GOD’S REIGN IN HEAVEN TO EARTH”** through all those who have received Me as their Lord and Savior. Jesus expressed this in His prayer: **“THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE ,ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.”**

“Jesus Taught Us What The Kingdom Is Like”



The Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 13:24-53) This passage contains several parables describing the kingdom of heaven. **Heaven is where “The King” reigns from, but His Kingdom describes where His people live. It’s here and now –not somewhere that we go after we die.** Each parable has a different context: a farmer, a gardener, a cook, a treasure seeker, a merchant, a fisherman. The intent is for the reader to identify himself with at least one of these so that the message is relevant to him. But the theme is the same. God has sown His message and the Devil has sown his. It’s up to us to decide which one will take root in our heart. One brings eternal life (presence forever with God); the other brings eternal death (an on-going existence in torment). And while we (who have believed His message) live here we will encounter the same rejection from the world (which has believed the enemy’s message) that Jesus received because it has not believed Him.