

BIBLICAL DISTINCTIONS ABOUT THE KINGDOM – Part 2

A. BASIC BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

B. UNIVERSAL VS. MEDIATORIAL KINGDOM OF GOD

1. God's universal kingdom exists in the _____ (Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:17), but the mediatorial kingdom is yet _____. (Matthew 6:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 14:21-22; Hebrews 12:28)
2. The universal kingdom of God is _____ in duration (Psalm 145:13; Lamentations 5:19; Daniel 4:34), whereas the mediatorial kingdom is _____ in its beginning phase of 1,000 years but unending thereafter (Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14, 26-27; Revelation 19:16; 20:4-6).
3. God's universal kingdom is _____ in scope (1 Chronicles 29:12; Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:35; Matthew 28:18), while the mediatorial kingdom is primarily _____ to begin with (Daniel 2:35; Zechariah 14:4,9).
4. The universal kingdom is God the Father's _____ rule (Psalm 135:6-9; 148:8), while the mediatorial kingdom will involve His _____ rule through a human _____ - Jesus Christ. (Psalm 2:6-12; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25)

C. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN VS. KINGDOM OF GOD

1. The phrase "kingdom of heaven" (lit. "kingdom of the heavens") does not mean the kingdom which _____ heaven, but the kingdom that comes _____ heaven. (Daniel 2:18-19, 28, 37-38; 4:26, 31, 34-35, 37; 5:23; 6:27; 7:13, 27)
2. In Matthew's Gospel, "kingdom of heaven" occurs _____ times and "kingdom of God" _____ times (Matthew 6:33; 12:28; 19:24; 21:31, 43) with the two phrases used _____ in Matthew 19:23-24.

* Why did Matthew use the phrase 'kingdom of heaven' repeatedly?

- Some have speculated that Matthew uses "kingdom of heaven" out of sensitivity towards the Jews' avoidance of saying the name of God, so he substituted the _____ in place of _____.
- Matthew uses the word "kingdom" unqualified, expecting the readers to understand what he is talking about. It is singular.... _____, so there cannot be a distinction between the "kingdom of heaven" and the "kingdom of God".

3. In Matthew 13, the parables about the “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” (13:11) do not describe a new _____ form of the kingdom for the current age between Christ’s first and second comings, but previously _____ truths (13:16-17) about the spiritual conditions of good and evil that will coexist in this inter-advent age leading up to the establishment of the kingdom.

* Confusion regarding the term “the kingdom of heaven is like”

- Matthew uses the expression “the kingdom of heaven is like” ___ times in Matthew 13 (vs. 24, 31, 33, 44, 45, 47, 52) and ___ times in Matthew 18:23, 20:1, 22:2, 25:1, 14.

D. THE KINGDOM VS. THE CHURCH

1. Though Jesus Christ is _____ of the church (Ephesians 1:22; 4:15), _____ of all (Matthew 28:18; Acts 10:36), and even _____ of kings (1 Timothy 6:15), He is not presently _____ as king over the church; nor is the church ever said to be God’s _____ in the present age. (Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).
2. There is nowhere in scripture that says that Christ _____ or _____ the promised, messianic kingdom at His first coming.
3. What about those “_____” verses that make it sound like the Kingdom is already here?
 - 1) It is teaching that the kingdom had been offered to Israel with all signs and manifestations to _____ that Jesus was the genuine _____ of Israel, but they rejected Him and the kingdom was postponed. (Matthew 12:28)
 - 2) You can become a citizen of heaven (born again), with guaranteed entrance into the kingdom of heaven without the kingdom necessarily being _____ right now. (Matthew 23:13)
 - 3) Jesus was addressing the unbelieving, Christ-rejecting Pharisees → It makes no sense that He would be telling them that the kingdom of God was _____ them. (Luke 17:20-21)
 - 4) Jesus is indicating that the kingdom was not yet established, but once it was, only those who are born again will _____ the kingdom. (John 3:3, 5)
 - 5) Jesus is simply saying that His kingdom is not from _____ here, it will come from up _____ . (John 18:36)
 - 6) We are citizens of heaven _____ “in Christ” → since Christ is coming back to set up His kingdom, it is guaranteed we will be part of the _____ with Him. (Colossians 1:13-14)
 - 7) These were fellow workers with a view toward the _____ kingdom of God, not workers in a _____ kingdom. (Colossians 4:10-11)
 - 8) We are to _____ in light of that future kingdom that we are _____ to. (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)

Key Terms: The Kingdom, Universal Kingdom, Mediatorial Kingdom, Millenium Kingdom

Key Verses: Psalm 103:19; Daniel 4:17; Matthew 6:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; Acts 14:21-22; Hebrews 12:28

- 9) Living a righteous life now can reflect the _____ of the coming kingdom and will affect our _____ in the kingdom. (2 Thessalonians 1:4-5)
- 10) Paul is saying that evil men could take his life, but he was _____ to be in the future coming that will come down from heaven to Earth. (2 Timothy 4:18)

* Do all these distinctions really matter?

- 1) Universal vs. mediatorial _____.
- 2) The _____ of heaven vs. _____ of God.
- 3) Church vs. _____.
- 4) Yes, it _____ matter.
- 5) This kingdom truth should _____ how we _____ our _____ in the here and now.