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The doctrine of “The Kingdom of God” is a major theme in the New Testament. Unfortunately, historical misunderstanding, misinterpretation, and / or misapplication of this doctrine has led to some of the gravest errors in Christendom. These errors pervade the thinking of many believers to this day.

A careful study of what the Bible teaches concerning the Kingdom of God is necessary to a proper understanding of the doctrine of the church, and to an extent, the doctrine of salvation.

I What Is The Kingdom Of God?

The word “kingdom” is defined as “the power or authority of a king, realm, or domain over which this extends.”

Therefore, the Kingdom of God is both the “rule of God” and the “extent of His rule.”

A. Other Names for the Kingdom of God.

1. Read Ephesians 5:5 *⁵For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and of God.***

Read 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit **the kingdom of God?** Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit **the kingdom of God.***

Read Galatians 5:21 (from verse 19) *¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time*

*past, that they which do such things shall not inherit **the kingdom of God.***

2. Read Colossians 1:13 *¹³Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*
3. Read 2 Peter 1:11 *¹¹For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

B. The Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Heaven.

The term “kingdom of heaven” is peculiar to the Gospel according to Matthew. For this reason *some distinguish it from the kingdom of God, teaching it to be the earthly rule of God – thereby encompassing both good and bad elements.*

The question is: Is this differentiation between “kingdom of God” and the “kingdom of heaven” justified?

The way to answer this is by comparing scriptures to see if there are any differences and, if so, what those differences might be.

<p>Matthew 4:17 <i>¹⁷From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand</i></p>	<p>Mark 1:14-15 (from verse 13) <i>¹³And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. ¹⁴Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom</i></p>	<p>Luke 4:43-44 (from verse 42) <i>⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. ⁴³And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. ⁴⁴And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.</i></p>
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	<p>of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.</p>	
<p>Matthew 5:3 ³Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the <u>kingdom of heaven</u>.</p>	<p>Luke 6:20 ¹⁷And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; ¹⁸And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. ¹⁹And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. ²⁰And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is <u>the kingdom of God</u>.</p>	
<p>Matthew 8:11 (from verse 8) ⁸The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. ⁹For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. ¹⁰When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. ¹¹And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, <u>in the kingdom of heaven</u>.</p>	<p>Luke 13:28-29 (from verse 22) ²²And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, ²⁴Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: ²⁶Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. ²⁷But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. ²⁸There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. ²⁹And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in <u>the kingdom of God</u>. ³⁰And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.</p>	
<p>Matthew 10:7 (from verse 5) ⁵These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as ye go, preach, saying, <u>The kingdom of heaven</u> is at hand.</p>	<p>Luke 9:2 ¹Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. ²And he sent them to preach <u>the kingdom of God</u>, and to heal the sick.</p>	

<p>Matthew 11:11 (from verse 10) ¹⁰For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger [John the Baptist] before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. ¹¹Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.</p>	<p>Luke 7:28 ²⁷This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. ²⁸For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. ²⁹And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John.</p>
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CONCLUSION: The Kingdom of Heaven and the kingdom of GOD are:

- Different?
- **The Same?**

II Who Belongs To The Kingdom of God?

If the Kingdom of God is the rule and realm of God, who or what are the subjects? The answer becomes apparent when we consider the following.

A. The Kingdom of God Must Be ENTERED.

1. Requirements for entrance:

- a. **RIGHTEOUSNESS.** Read Matthew 5:20 and more: ²⁰For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. ²¹Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: ²²But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire... and more: Note: **God looks into your heart!**

- b. **DOING THE WILL OF THE FATHER.** Read Matthew 7:21 ²¹*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*
- (i) Also read John 6:40 ⁴⁰*And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.*
- (ii) Also read II Peter 3:9 ⁹*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*
- c. **MUST BE CONVERTED.** Read Matthew 18:3 ³*And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
- d. **MUST BE BORN AGAIN.** Read John 3:5-7 ⁵*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.*
- e. **MUST BE TRANSLATED FROM THE POWERS OF DARKNESS.**
Read Colossians 1:13 ¹³*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*
2. Hindrances to entrance:
- a. **TRUSTING IN RICHES.** Read Matthew 19:23-24 ²³*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.*

- b. **“Religion” can be hindrance:** Read Matthew 23:13 (from verse 12)
¹²And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. ¹³But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in... ¹⁵Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.
- c. **SIN can be a hindrance.** Read Mark 9:47 *⁴⁷And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:*
- d. **PRIDE can be a hindrance.** Read Mark 10:15 *¹⁵Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.*

The Kingdom of God is a **SPIRITUAL** kingdom. Every believer enters the Kingdom at the instant of regeneration {salvation}.

B. The Kingdom of God Must Be RECEIVED.

1. **As [like] a little child.** See Mark 10:15 (above).
2. **A kingdom which cannot be moved (coerced)** Read Hebrews 12:28
²⁷And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God

acceptably with reverence and godly fear: ²⁹For our God is a consuming fire.

The Kingdom of God is a voluntary kingdom. No coercion is applied (as is often the case in the kingdoms of men).

C. The Kingdom of God IS AT HAND.

1. Read Matthew 3:1-2 *¹In those days came [John the Baptist](#), preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, ²And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
2. Read Matthew 4:17 *¹⁷From that time [Jesus](#) began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
3. Read Mark 1:14-15 *¹⁴Now after that John was put in prison, [Jesus came](#) into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
4. Read Matthew 10:5-7 *⁵These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: ⁶But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
5. Read Luke 10:9-11 *⁹And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹⁰But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, ¹¹Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

The Kingdom of God is a convenient kingdom. It requires no long journey to reach it, no life long quest. It has no closed borders. It is near to all who seek it.

- Mark 12:33-34 ³³And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. ³⁴And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.
- Luke 11:20 ²⁰But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

D. The Kingdom of God Must Be INHERITED.

The Kingdom of God is NOT anyone's by right or natural birth.

Read:

- I Corinthians 6:9-11 ⁹Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.
- Galatians 5:19-21 ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

- Ephesians 5:5 *⁵For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.⁶Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. ⁷Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*

1. The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (I Corinthians 6:9)
2. Only those who are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God will inherit the Kingdom of God. (I Corinthians 6:11)

E. The Kingdom of God Comprises PEOPLE of FAITH.

Read:

- Matthew 8:10-12 (Jesus speaks about the centurion) *¹⁰When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.¹¹And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. ¹²But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*
- Luke 13:23-30 *²³Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, ²⁴Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: ²⁶Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. ²⁷But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. ²⁸There shall be weeping and*

gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. ²⁹And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

1. There will be many who come into the kingdom of God to join Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets.
2. Jesus marveled at the centurion's great faith.
3. The "children of the kingdom" shall be cast out (Matt 8:12) or thrust out (Luke 13:28g).
 - a. Jesus was referring to His own. Read John 1:11-12 *¹¹He came unto his own, and his own received him not. ¹²But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*
 - b. The nation of Israel had all the opportunities (Luke 13:26), but so many has missed the one necessary thing. (Luke 13:27). Luke 13:26-27 *²⁶Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.²⁷But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.*

Note: The Kingdom of God is unassailable – it cannot be entered into any other way than through the straight gate. In Matthew 11:12, Jesus said "the violent take it by force", and in Luke 16:16, "every man presseth into it." The words "violent" and "press" are translated from the same Greek word ('biazo') and refer to the

vain attempts of the self-righteous to force their way into God's kingdom. Read Luke 16:14-15 *¹⁴And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. ¹⁵And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*

F. The Kingdom of God Embraces CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

1. It is to be the subject of our PREACHING. Read:
 - a. Matthew 10:7 *⁷And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
 - b. Mark 1:13-15 *¹³And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. ¹⁴Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
 - c. Acts 8:12 *¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*
2. We are to be FELLOWWORKERS onto the Kingdom of God. Read Colossians 4:11 *¹¹And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.*
3. We are to be totally committed to Jesus Christ and WE CANNOT LOOK BACK. Read Luke 9:57-62 *⁵⁷And it came to pass, that, as they went in the*

way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. ⁵⁹And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. ⁶⁰Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. ⁶¹And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. ⁶²And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Note: A ploughman can only produce straight furrows by setting his sights on some far / distance point and heading for it. If he looked back to see how he's doing, he would plough all over the place, Read Philippians 3:13-14 ¹³Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, **forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,** ¹⁴I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

III Where is the Kingdom of God?

Earthly kingdoms have discernable localities, dimensions, and borders. But what of the Kingdom of God? Where is it? Where are its borders?

- A. The Kingdom of God is INTANGIBLE.
 1. The Kingdom of God cometh not with OBSERVATION. Meaning you cannot see it. Read Luke 17:20 ²⁰And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, *The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:*
 2. Read Luke 17:21 ²¹Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

3. It is not word, but in POWER. Read I Corinthians 4:20 ²⁰*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.* This is explained in I Thessalonians 1:5 ⁵*For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.*

4. The Kingdom of God is NOT OF THIS WORLD. Read John 18:36 ³⁶*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

It is not a not a political kingdom. The sword was never shaped for the hand of the Lords churches: Gods work is to be only with the “sword of the spirit.” Read:

- Ephesians 6:17 ¹⁷*And take the helmet of salvation, **and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:***

 - Hebrews 4:12 ¹²***For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***
5. It is nevertheless a kingdom, which brings real, tangible sufferings to its subjects. Read: II Thessalonians 1:5 ⁵*Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer: **AND** Revelation 1:9 ⁹*I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

- a. PERSUCUTION FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS SAKE. Read Matthew 5:10
¹⁰Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

- b. ENTERED THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION. Read Acts 14:22
*²²Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must **through much tribulation** enter into the kingdom of God.*

B. The Kingdom of God is INVISIBLE.

1. **It is within you.** Read Luke 17:21 (from verse 20 for context): *²⁰And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.** ²²And he said unto the disciples, The days will come, when ye shall desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and ye shall not see it. ²³And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. ²⁴For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day.*

Like the wind, the Kingdom of God is manifested only **in the fruit** resulting from the miracle of regeneration. Read John 3:8 *⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

What are the fruits? *²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. ²⁴And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*

2. Look up Romans 14:17 *¹⁷For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.*

The Kingdom of God is NOT meat and drink (visible, tangible things) but:

- Righteousness
- Peace
- Joy

All intangible, invisible realities

IV When Will the Kingdom of God Come?

In the model prayer (Luke 11:2-4 *²And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. ³Give us day by day our daily bread. ⁴And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.*), Jesus taught His disciples (and us) to pray **“Thy Kingdom Come.”**

What does this mean? How does this line up with scriptures such as:

- Matthew 12:28 *²⁸But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*
- Mark 9:1 *¹And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.*
- Luke 10:11 (from verse 10) *¹⁰But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, ¹¹Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you:*

notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹²But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city.

The answer is that the Kingdom of God has phases or various manifestations. There are three distinct phases taught in the New Testament.

A. The Present Phase.

1. This is the spiritual, invisible, intangible, universal realm of the redeemed. Read Matthew 6:10 ¹⁰*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*
2. Thus in Matthew 12:28 (²⁸*But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.*), this phase has indeed come - as attested by the power of God in Christ **casting out devils**. Also, read Luke 11:20 ²⁰*But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.*
3. The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God began with John the Baptist. Read Luke 16:16 ¹⁶*The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.*
4. Whenever and wherever the Gospel is preached, the Kingdom of God is brought nigh to people. Read Luke 10:8-11 ⁸*And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: ⁹And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. ¹⁰But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, ¹¹Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

B. The Prospective Phase.

1. Read Matthew 6:10 *¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.* This is the time when God's will is done in earth as it is in heaven.
2. This Prospective Phase is the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ.
 - a. **When the King of Kings shall rule with a rod of iron**
 - Read Revelation 2:27 *²⁷And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*
 - Read Revelation 12:5 *⁵And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.*
 - Read Revelation 19:15 *¹⁵And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*
 - b. **The age of universal peace, judgment, and justice.** Read Isaiah 9:7 *⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*
 - c. **An age of universal worship of the Lord Jesus Christ.** Read Zechariah 14:16 *¹⁶And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.*
 - d. **An age of universal knowledge of the Lord.** Isaiah 11:9 *⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

- e. **An age when mankind shall not learn war any more.** Read Micah 4:3 *³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*
- f. **An age which lasts for a thousand years, during which Satan is bound.** Read Revelation 20:1-7 *¹And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ⁴And 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.** ⁵But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him **a thousand years.** ⁷And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*
3. This Prospective Phase is the phase of God's kingdom Peter, James, and John were permitted to see in preview when Jesus was gloriously transfigured before them. Read Mark 9:1-7 *¹And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. ²And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and*

John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them. ³And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them. ⁴And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus. ⁵And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias. ⁶For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid. ⁷And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

Also, read 2 Peter 1:16-17 ¹⁶For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

4. It is the Prospective Phase of the Kingdom of God when the Lord Jesus will once again sit down to eat and drink with His Church.
 - Read Luke 22:16-18 ⁶For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. ¹⁷And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: ¹⁸For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.
 - Read Mark 14:25 ²⁵Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.
5. It is the visible kingdom that many believers thought would be ushered in in at the first advent of Christ. Read Luke 19:11 ¹¹And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

Note: The Lord Jesus Christ did NOT offer the millennial kingdom at His first coming (and that at some point in His earthly ministry change plans because of the rejection by Israel). Like many dispensationalists today, these Jews missed the TWO-FOLD message of the prophets – that Christ should first SUFFER to bring salvation and then RETURN the 2nd time to bring the “restitution of all things”. Read Acts 3:18-21 *¹⁸But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. ²⁰And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.*

6. It is the restored “kingdom to Israel” inquired about by the Lord’s churches in Acts 1:6 *⁶When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?*

Note: Jesus had been teaching His church about the kingdom of God for 40 days. The fact of the question and the Lord’s answer demonstrate a distinction between the kingdom of God NOW and its coming phase (in the father’s own time).

- Read Isaiah 9:6-7 *⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*
- Read Jeremiah 23:5-6 *⁵Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶In his*

days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

7. In the Prospective Phase, the kingdom which will ‘come’ at Christ’s appearing (His second event). Read:
 - a. II Timothy 4:1 ¹I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
 - b. Revelation 12:10 ¹⁰And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Note: The expression: “Now is come salvation... and the kingdom” found in Revelation 12:10 (above) illustrates this concept of phases. Salvation is the present possession of each believer, but there is also a sense in which it is prospective.

Read Hebrews 9:28 ²⁸*So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

In the same way, every believer is [now] in the kingdom of God, yet the full manifestation of that kingdom is still future.

C. The Perpetual Phase.

1. This is the heavenly kingdom. Read: II Timothy 4:18 ¹⁸*And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. The Millennial [earthly] kingdom will end Satan being loosed to lead mankind's final rebellion against God (!) – read Revelation 20:7-9 *⁷And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, ⁸And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ⁹And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

3. Read: I Corinthians 15:24-28 *²⁴Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ²⁷For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. ²⁸And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.* After Jesus has put down all rule, authority, and power. He will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father.

Note: Regardless of which “phase” [**the present, the prospective, or the perpetual**] of the Kingdom of God one may be considering, the entrance requirement is the same: salvation by grace through faith in Christ.

The Kingdom of God is the Rule of God

Now: in the hearts of the willing subjects (i.e. believers) [universal, invisible]

Soon: over nations of the whole earth [universal, visible]

V The Kingdom, the Family, and the Church of God.

A study of Ephesians 2:19-22 reveals three distinct entities involving saved people: Ephesians 2:19-22 ¹⁹*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;* ²⁰*And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;* ²¹*In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord;* ²²*In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

- Verse 19 – “¹⁹*Now therefore ye are ... fellowcitizens with the saints,”*
- Verse 19 – “¹⁹*Now therefore ye are ... of the household of God;”*
- Verse 20-21 – “²⁰ ... *are built ... unto an holy temple in the Lord:”*

Citizens belong to kingdom: ... a household suggests a family; ... and the temple is a metaphor [a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance, as in “A mighty fortress is our God.”] for a New Testament church.

Read:

- I Corinthians 3:9-10 ⁹*For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*
- I Corinthians 3:16 ¹⁶*Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
- I Timothy 3:15 ¹⁵*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*

While these entries are closely related, they are distinguished in the Word of God.

A. The Kingdom of God.

As seen above, this is the rule of God in the hearts of willing subjects (believers). Jesus was rightfully called “King” by His disciples because they were His subjects. Read Luke 19:37-40 ³⁷*And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;* ³⁸*Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.* ³⁹*And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.* ⁴⁰*And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.*

Note: The idea that the rejoicing multitudes of Palm Sunday became the same bloodthirsty crowd crying out to Pilate “crucify him!” is not supported in Scripture. [The two groups were different groups of people.]

The kingdom of God is apparently an earthly in sphere (the perpetual phase).

B. The Family of God.

1. The family of God consists of all the saved in heaven and Earth. Read Ephesians 3:15 ¹⁵*Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...*
2. Believers are the **children** of God. Read:
 - a. Ephesians 1:5 ⁵*Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*
 - b. Ephesians 5:1 ¹*Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*

c. John 1:12 ¹²*But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

3. God is our Father. Read:

a. Ephesians 1:2 ²*Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

b. Ephesians 4:6 ⁶*One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

C. The Church of God.

1. The Church and the Kingdom of God CONTRASTED:

The Kingdom	The Church
Universal	Local
Invisible	Visible
No Organization	Organized
Entered through regeneration	Entered through baptism
One Kingdom	Many churches
Theocracy	Qualified democracy
No Officers	Pastors and deacons
No ordinances	Baptism & The Lords Supper
No earthly discipline	Church exercises discipline

Failure to distinguish between the “Kingdom: and the “church” leads directly to the universal “Church” heresy.

Cyprian (200-258 AD) the “bishop” of Carthage, was first to promote the “ONE true universal church” error. The so called conversion of the Roman emperor Constantine I in 311 AD, and his subsequent elevation of Christianity to the status of the official religion of the empire made it the reality. Augustine’s (354-430 AD) formulation of it into doctrine then produced the Roman Catholic (universal, visible) church. [“catholic” means a wide variety of things; all-embracing. Synonyms are: universal, diverse, diversified, wide, broad, broad-based, eclectic.]

Medieval Catholic scholars were taught that there was no salvation except IN the “[Catholic] Church.” That there was no service to God except service TO the “Church.” They declared there could be no subjugation of peoples and nations except by the “Church”.

The protestant reformation merely changed the Catholic concept of the “Church” into a universal invisible one.

2. The Church and the Kingdom in COLLABORATION:

While a Church and the Kingdom are not the same, there is nevertheless a vital interrelation between the two. A New Testament church is the visible, audible, tangible manifestation of the invisible, inaudible, intangible Kingdom.

Read Matthew 16:19 *¹⁹And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.* Christ gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven to His Church.

Keys symbolize two things: authority and assignment.

- a. The authority of a church to make binding decisions in matters concerning the lives of kingdom subjects is seen in Matthew 18:17-18

17And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. 18Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- b. The assignment of a key is to lock or unlock. What is the key which unlocks the door to the kingdom? Surely it is the Gospel! The commission of unlocking the door of the salvation through the application of the Gospel is given in John 20:23 *23Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

Every Bible-believing Baptist Church is designed to be a “recruiting agency” for the kingdom.

VI The Parables of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of God has MYSTERIES according to:

- Matthew 13:11 (from verse 10) *10And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11He 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 4:11-12 *11And 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: 12That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.*
- Luke 8:9-11 *9And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? 10And 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. ¹¹Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

A MYSTERY is defined by Romans 16:25-26 as a truth not revealed in the Old Testament but which has been revealed in the New Testament.

Romans 16:25-26 ²⁵Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, ²⁶But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

These mysteries are given in the parables of the kingdom, found chiefly in the Gospel according to Matthew. The truth not explicitly revealed in the Old Testament was the spiritual nature of God's kingdom, the requirement that its subjects be born again.

The Old Testament prophets foretold the glorious earthly, millennial kingdom of Christ; the present invisible, intangible form was the mystery. The true kingdom of God is not seen in an outward form but in the hearts of men, and only God knows His true subjects.

In these parables, the key word is "*like*." They describe the perceived appearance or manifestation of the kingdom of God during the course of the present age. One of the major themes in these parables of the kingdom is that there are within the kingdom **two spheres**:

- The sphere of the (religious) profession and
- The sphere of (regenerate) possession.

A. Necessity of REGENERATION in the Kingdom.

1. The Parable of the Four Soils. Read Matthew 13:2-9 *²And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: ⁵Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: ⁶And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: ⁸But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. ⁹Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*
 - a. The seed is the word of the kingdom.
 - b. The wayside pictures those who do not understand.
 - c. The stony places represent a shallow, emotional hearing of the Word.
 - d. The thorny ground pictures the hearer who is choked out by cares and riches.
 - e. The good ground represents the hearer who brings forth much fruit.

2. The Parable of the householder and laborers. Read Matthew 20:1-16 *¹For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. ²And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. ⁵Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? ⁷They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye*

receive. ⁸So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. ⁹And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. ¹⁰But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. ¹¹And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, ¹²Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. ¹³But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? ¹⁴Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. ¹⁵Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good? ¹⁶So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

3. The Parable of the Marriage. Read Matthew 22:1-14 *And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, ²The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, ³And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. ⁴Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. ⁵But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: ⁶And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. ⁷But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. ⁸Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they which were bidden were not worthy. ⁹Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. ¹⁰So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. ¹¹And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: ¹²And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. ¹³Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness,*

there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.

4. The Parable of the Ten Virgins. Read Matthew 25:1-13 *¹Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. ²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. ³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: ⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. ⁶And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. ⁷Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. ⁹But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. ¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. ¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

5. The parable of the Cast Seed. Read Mark 4:26-29 *²⁶And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; ²⁷And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. ²⁸For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. ²⁹But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

Above parables demonstrating the necessity of REGENERATION.

B. The TRUE and FALSE Kingdom.

1. The Parable of the Tares among the Wheat. Read

- Matthew 13:24-30 ²⁴Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, *The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: ²⁵But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. ²⁶But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. ²⁷So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? ²⁸He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ²⁹But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*
- Matthew 13:36-43 ³⁶Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. ³⁷He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; ³⁸The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; ³⁹The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. ⁴¹The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; ⁴²And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Tares are a noxious weeds which looked like wheat. The thrust of this parable is that within the kingdom of God there is a counterfeit, “Look-alike” kingdom.

In this case...

- a. The good seed are the children of the kingdom (the saved).
- b. The tares are the children of the wicked one (unsaved).
- c. Both wheat and tares will grow together until the harvest, which is at the end of the world.

Note: God's judgment upon professing Christendom [the fire] cannot take place while the "wheat" is still present. (Matthew 13:29). Christians will NOT pass through Daniel's 70th week and the Great Tribulation! Read:

- I Thessalonians 5:9 *⁹For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,*
 - Revelation 3:10 (God speaking to church in Philadelphia) *¹⁰Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.*
2. The Parable of the Net. Matthew 13:47-50 *⁴⁷Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: ⁴⁸Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. ⁴⁹So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, ⁵⁰And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

Two parables speak on the abnormal growth of the counterfeit kingdom.
Remember: “leaven” symbolizes sin or false teaching.

3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed. Matthew 13:31-32 ³¹Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: ³²Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.
4. The Parable of the Hidden Leaven. Matthew 13:33 ³³Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Note: These last two parables speak on the **abnormal growth of the counterfeit kingdom**. Leaven symbolizes sin or false teaching.

C. The BLESSINGS of Kingdom Truth.

1. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure. Matthew 13:44 ⁴⁴Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.
2. The Parable of the pearls of great value. Matthew 13:45-46 ⁴⁵Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: ⁴⁶Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.