

KINGDOM OF GOD AND KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”

- Colossians 1:13

1. Defining Kingdom

- a. God created thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers - Col 1:16
- b. Kingdom *def* ~ a supreme rulership, government, dominion of a king
- c. “kingdom” found 369 times in your Bible; 350+ times it is earthly
- d. Israel was promised an earthly kingdom – Exo 19:5-6, Jer 23:5-6, Dan 2:44
- e. Messiah was to be the king of that dominion on the earth - Jer 23:5-6, Isa 9:6-7
- f. Dispensational truth teaches we are a new creature in heavenly places
- g. Paul talks about a “kingdom”, and says we are in it – Col 1:13

2. Comparing ‘Kingdoms’

- a. Kingdom of God/ Kingdom of Heaven, but there are others -Col 1:13, 2 Tim 4:18
- b. Are they the same or different? Yes, they can be both.
- c. (32x) KoH is always the promised Jewish kingdom: it is only found only in Matt
- d. (69x) KoG is inclusive: found everywhere, even in Paul’s writings (so what?)
 - i. Both: Matt 19:23; Earthly:Luk 22:16, Spirit:Luk 12:31; Paul: Rom 14:17
- e. (9x) They overlap: probably metonymy (Psa 73:9); but not always equal
 - i. Ex: Matthew 3:2 & Mark 1:15; Matt 11:11 & Luke 7:28
- f. (8x) Paul uses KoG, never about earthly kingdom; MMLJ always about earthly
- g. “kingdom” can have different meaning, depending on prophecy/mystery

3. The Church is Not a Kingdom

- a. Kingdom of heaven is not you in heavenly places – Eph 2:6
- b. The church is not a kingdom or a nation – Mat 21:43, Gal 3:28
- c. You do not enter the church, you are the church – Mat 5:19,20 vs. 1 Cor 3:16
- d. The kingdom is dominion / rule; church is a body – Mat 19:28, Eph 5:30
- e. Kingdom is the subject of prophecy – Psa 103:19
- f. The church is the subject of the mystery – Eph 2:15, Col 1:15-27
- g. The kingdom come will be on the earth, church in heaven – Acts 1:6, 11, Col 3:2
- h. The kingdom has earthly components, the church does not – Col 2:10, 20

4. The Church Under the Rule of Christ

- a. The head of every man is Christ – 1 Cor 10:3
- b. We are under his authority and rule – Col 1:13-18
- c. The reclamation of heavenly places was not made known before, it was mystery
- d. Paul reveals the purpose of God in both spheres – Eph 1:10, Phil 2:10, Col 1:16
- e. Christ is the head of all principalities... even those in heaven – Col 2:10, Eph 4:10
- f. We are raised up in heavenly places far above all earthly positions – Eph 1:21-22