

The Church In God's Eternal Plan

What Is the Relationship Between Israel & the Church?

- Great Similarities
 - Both contain the true people of God.
 - Both OT Israel and the NT church are saved by the work of Christ.
 - Both appropriate the salvation accomplished by Christ in the same way—by faith alone.
 - Both benefited from the work of the Spirit.
 - Both were assigned the same responsibility—to be a witness nation.
 - Both are beneficiaries of the New Covenant.

What Is the Relationship Between Israel & the Church?

- The Clear Distinctions between Israel and the Church
 - Different in their Distinct Identities
 - Different in their Distinct Economies
 - Different in their Distinct Promises
 - a) A Future Restoration to the Land
 - b) A Leading Role in an Earthly Kingdom

What Is the Relationship Between the Church & the Kingdom?

- Kingdom
 - Dominates OT prophecy.
 - E.g., Dan. 2:36-44
 - Permeates Jesus' teaching.
 - E.g., Matt. 13:1ff
 - Summarizes the apostles' message.
 - Acts 8:12; 20:24
 - Climaxes in Revelation.
 - Rev. 1:9; 5:10; 11:15; 12:10; 20:4

The Kingdom Defined

- It's history.
 - The Tabernacle, and later the Temple, housed the Ark of the Covenant which served as YHWH's throne from which He ruled as Israel's king.
 - Promised to David and his descendants
 - 2 Sam. 7:16 "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."¹
 - Promised of Christ (Luke 1:46-55, 67-79)
 - Announced by John the Baptist as imminent
 - Matt. 3:2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
 - Announced by Jesus at the outset of his ministry
 - Matt. 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

The Kingdom Defined

- It's meaning
 - The rule of God
 - Two distinct realities:
 - 1) the universal sovereign rule of God
 - Ps. 103:19 - The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.
 - 2) the messianic or mediatorial rule of God
 - God's rule through his Messiah, His Son the mediator.

The Kingdom in the OT

- Gen. 3:15 – a conquering Person would come
- Gen. 49:10 – "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.
- 2 Sam. 7:16
- Ps. 2
- Ps. 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."
- Dan. 2:44; 7:13-18
- Is. 9:1-7
- Micah 5:1-4

The Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Heaven

- Some classic or traditional dispensationalists make those two phrases refer to two totally different realities.
- The two expressions are used synonymously in the synoptics:
 - Matt. 19:23-24 vs. Mark 10:23-24
 - Matt. 4:17 vs. Mark 1:15
 - Matt. 13:11 vs. Mark 4:11
 - Matt. 13:31 vs. Mark 4:30-31
 - Matt. 13:33 vs. Luke 13:20-21
 - Matt. 18:3 vs. Mark 10:15
 - Matt. 19:14 vs. Mark 10:14
 - Matt. 8:11-12 vs. Luke 13:28-29
- Matthew: kingdom of heaven about 50x and kingdom of God 5x.
- The rest of NT: kingdom of God or similar expressions

The Kingdom of God & the Kingdom of Heaven

- One kingdom
- Two distinct aspects:
 - a present aspect
 - a future aspect

The Present Aspect of Christ's Kingdom

- The kingdom is connected to Christ and his coming.
 - Col. 1:13 -- He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.
 - Matt. 12:28 - "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."
 - Luke 17:20-21 - Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst."
 - John 18:36 - Jesus answered, "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."
 - Matt. 19:16, 23-26

The Present Aspect of Christ's Kingdom

- It was the ministry of the apostles:
 - Acts 1:3 - To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a *period* of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.
 - Acts 8:12 - But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.
 - Acts 20:24-25 -- "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face."
 - Acts 28:23 - When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.
 - Acts 28:31 - preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.

The Present Aspect of Christ's Kingdom

- The present aspect of the kingdom is "the people over whose hearts Christ rules."

The Future Aspect of Christ's Kingdom

- [Matt. 19:27-30](#)
- [Matt. 20:21](#) - He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right and one on Your left."
- [Matt. 26:26-29](#)
- [Luke 1:32-33](#) - He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.
- [Luke 19:11ff](#) *
- [1 Cor. 6:9](#) - Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals (cf. Gal. 5:21; Eph. 5:5)
- [2 Th. 1:5](#) - *This is a plain indication of God's righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.*
- [2 Tim. 4:1, 18](#) - *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom... The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*
- [Jam. 2:5](#) - Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

The Future Aspect of the Kingdom

- (1) The millennial kingdom
 - [Matt. 8:11-12](#) - "I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline *at the table* with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 - [Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43](#)
 - [Matt. 25:31-34](#)
 - [Rev. 20:1-4](#)

The Future Aspect of the Kingdom

- (2) The eternal kingdom
 - [2 Pet. 1:11](#) - the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.
 - [1 Cor. 15:23-25](#) - But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

The Kingdom Distinguished

- The church is not the kingdom.
- The church and the kingdom are closely related.

The Main Points for Us

- We must not confuse the kingdom of Christ today with any earthly kingdom ([John 18:36](#)).
- We must make sure we have truly entered Christ's kingdom ([Matt. 7:21-23](#); [1 Cor. 6:9](#)).
- We must pray for the kingdom to come ([Matt. 6:10](#)).