

Fundamentals Of The Church

The Kingdom

(Co 1:13)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting.
2. Series of lessons on "Fundamentals Of The Church."
 - a. Finished up the subseries on the "Biblical Family Roles."
 - b. We are going to continue on this week looking at some of the fundamentals that every Christian needs to know.
 - i. One of those basic concepts is that the church is Christ's Kingdom.
3. Most claim that the kingdom and the church are not the same.
 - a. This is based on a doctrine that says that there will be an earthly kingdom set up usually during the millennial reign.
 - b. This idea that the kingdom and the church are not the same is both right and wrong.
 - i. The problem lies in the understanding of the term kingdom.
4. Kingdom
 - a. Webster's defines it as such...
 - i. "a politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen" (Merriam-Webster, I. (2003). Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. (Eleventh ed.). Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, Inc.)
 - b. There Greek word is "βασιλεία" or "bō-sē-lā-a"
 - i. "an area or district ruled by a king" (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (15). New York: United Bible societies.)
 - ii. "is primarily an abstract noun, denoting "sovereignty, royal power, dominion," e.g., Rev. 17:18, translated "(which) reigneth," lit., "hath a kingdom" (RV marg.); then, by metonymy, a concrete noun, denoting the territory or people over whom a king rules, e.g., Matt. 4:8; Mark 3:24." (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W. (1996). Vol. 2: Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words (344). Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
 - iii. Brother Jackson put it this way, "As with most words, "kingdom" can be used in a variety of senses, depending upon the context." (<http://tinyurl.com/5v26xj2>)
5. With that in mind let us examine some of these different contexts concerning the word "kingdom."

I. "Kingdom" Can Mean Geographical Territory

- A. Kings have had kingdoms for centuries
 1. Nebuchadnezzar was king over his kingdom Babylon.
 2. Cyrus was king over his kingdom Persia
 3. Though slightly different now-a-days we have the queen of the common wealth realm.
 - i. Queen Elizabeth II

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- B. We see kingdom referred to this way in the O.T.
 - 1. **Gn 20:9** "And Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, "What have you done to us? How have I offended you, that you have brought on me and on my **kingdom** a great sin? You have done deeds to me that ought not to be done."¹
- C. We see kingdom referred to this way in the N.T.
 - 1. **Mk 6:23** "He also swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, up to half my kingdom."
- D. Thus kingdom here means geographical territory

II. "Kingdom" Can Mean Mosaic Government

- A. Israel, God's chosen people, were considered God's kingdom
 - 1. **Mt 21:43** "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."
 - i. Remember this was after the parable of the wicked tenants where Jesus points out the fact that the Jews had been killing God's prophets and would eventually kill His son, which lead to this statement.
 - 2. Kingdom here refers to God's authoritative reign then over Israel.
- B. This relationship would ended however
 - 1. Why because Jesus would be crucified by the Jews
 - i. **Mt 21:39** "So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him."
 - 2. The kingdom would be transferred therefore to the new holy nation.
 - i. **1 Pt 2:9** "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light"
 - 3. This transfer is a fulfillment of what the angel prophesied concerning Jesus.
 - i. **Lk 1:33** "And He will **reign** over the house of Jacob forever, and of His **kingdom** there will be no end." (emphasis mine)

III. "Kingdom" Can Mean The Church

- A. Christ calls the church the kingdom
 - 1. **Mt 16:18-19** "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. 19 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."
- B. God stated that Paul was in the kingdom
 - 1. **Co 1:13** "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and **transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son**" (ESV)
 - i. Notice transferred is in the past tense. Paul and the others had been already transferred into the kingdom & thus were in it.
 - ii. Notice who's kingdom they were in...Christ's kingdom.
 - a. **Co 1:18** shows Christ as the "head" of the "church."

¹ All quoted verse are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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CONCLUSION

1. There is so much confusion about this seven letter word that it behooves me why it is not studied more by everyone.
 - a. However with the studying of this word we can come to a clear biblical understanding of a word that plays such a vital role in God's Word.
2. Let us each be a people of God's Word and thus know His word concerning God's present kingdom, and future one as well.
3. Invitation
 - a. Are you a part of the present kingdom? Because it is the only way to get to the eternal kingdom.
 - b. God's Plan of Salvation
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**