

## The Nature Of The Kingdom

*John 18:36, "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."*

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## Usage Of The "Kingdom Of God" In The Scriptures

- ▶ God's Universal Dominion. Psalms 145:10-13
- ▶ The Hebrew Nation Or Twelve Tribes Of Israel. Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Chronicles 28:5; 2 Chronicles 13:5, 8
- ▶ The Redeemed Of God Under The Present Reign Of Christ.
  - Anticipated in prophecy. Daniel 2:44
  - Prophesied by Jesus. Matthew 21:43
  - Existed in N.T. times. Colossians 1:13; Revelation 1:9
  - Established in Acts 2. "The beginning ..." Acts 11:15
- ▶ The Redeemed in Heaven, The Heavenly Kingdom. 2 Peter 1:10

What is the nature of this kingdom?

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### Two Positions:

- ▶ Earthly, theocratic, position (Premillennialism).
  - "There are three major movements in the Gospel of Matthew:
  - (1) The presentation and authentication of the king (1:1-11:1);
  - (2) The opposition to the king (11:2-16:12);
  - (3) The final rejection of the king (16:13-28:20)." (Things to Come, by J. Dwight Pentecost, page 456)

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### Two Positions:

- ▶ Spiritual kingdom. (The Church)
  - Jesus promised to establish such a kingdom and the apostles were to be in it. cf. Matthew 16:18-19; Mark 9:1
- ▶ **Preached "at hand"** by:
  - John the Baptist. Matthew 3:2
  - Jesus. Matthew 4:17
  - The apostles. Matthew 10:7
  - The seventy. Luke 10:9

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## The Nature Of The Kingdom

NOTE: The ministry of Christ begins and ends with teaching about the nature of the kingdom.

### The Beginning Of His Ministry. John 3:1-16

- ▶ "Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (verse 3)
- ▶ "How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (verse 4)
- ▶ "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!" (verse 5)
- ▶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." (verse 6)
- ▶ "Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?" (verse 9)
- ▶ "Art thou the teacher of Israel, and understandest not these things?" (verse 10)

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### The Beginning Of His Ministry. John 3:1-16

#### ▶ Jesus taught five things about the kingdom of God.

1. The kingdom is not of "earthly things," but of "heavenly things." (verse 12)
2. The kingdom would come after he ascended up to "heaven." (verse 13)
3. The Son Of Man must be "lifted up" as Moses lifted the serpent. (verse 14)
4. The kingdom would consist of "believers" in Him, not of physical descendants of Abraham. (verse 15)
5. God was moved to establish this kind of a kingdom because of his love for "the world," not his love for Israel. (verse 16; cf. John 6:45)

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### The Close Of His Ministry Before Pilate. John 18:36

1. Jesus charged with intention to set up a kingdom in opposition to Caesar. (Luke 23:1-2; John 19:12)
2. When Pilate asked, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Thou sayest" (Luke 23:3) ... "*My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight ... To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world*" (John 18:36-37)

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### The Close Of His Ministry Before His Ascension.

*Acts 1:3, "To whom he also showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing unto them by the space of forty days, and speaking the things concerning the kingdom of God"*

*Acts 1:6 - The apostles asked him, saying, "Lord, dost thou at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*

*Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come upon you ..." (cf. Mark 9:1)*

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### Observations:

*Luke 17:20-21, "And being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God cometh, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo, here! or, there! for lo, the kingdom of God is within you."*

*Fills earth by means of gospel, not force. Zechariah 9:10: Isaiah 2:3-4*

*John 18:36, "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."*

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### Observations:

*Romans 14:17, "the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."*  
(cf. 1 Corinthians 11:22, 34)

*Peace and safety. Isaiah 9:6  
Fulfilled in salvation. Isaiah 11:6-10; Romans 15:12  
With God. Romans 5:1  
With man. Ephesians 2:14-18*

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### Are you a citizen in the Kingdom of God?

- ▶ *John 3:3-5, "Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!"*
- ▶ **Christ on throne with all authority.**
- ▶ **When Jesus returns and abolishes death, the kingdom will pass into the eternal realm of existence.**
- ▶ **You can have kingdom blessings now: Mercy, peace, and eternal life.**

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