

# THE BIBLE WORD SERIES

*A Brief Study of those Important Words found in the Bible that we need to understand, not just skip over.*

## KINGDOM OF GOD

*"The Kingdom of God" is the same as "The Kingdom of Heaven" in the Bible. However, Matthew used one phrase and Mark & Luke used another.*

*Matthew 4:17 From that time (after He left Nazareth), Jesus began to preach and to say, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'.*

*Mark 1:15 After John the Baptizer was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand...*

*Luke 21:31 After sharing the parable of the fig tree, Jesus said, "so you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near".*

1. What phrase did Matthew use? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What phrase did Mark & Luke use? \_\_\_\_\_

*Matthew referred to "the kingdom" 38 times: 35 - "kingdom of heaven";  
3 - "kingdom of God"*

*The Gospel writers wrote to:*

Matthew	Jewish people of his day
Mark	Gentile (non-Jewish) converts
Luke	Gentiles (converted or not)
John	Christians with Greek background)

*Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold Him guiltless who takes His name in vain.*

*Since the Jewish people of that day (and today also) believe that Commandment #3 forbids even saying God's name, Matthew did not use it most of the time so as not to offend those Jewish people he was trying to preach & witness to,*

**BOTTOM LINE - THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN = THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

3. What did Matthew say about the "Kingdom of Heaven"? (Match the two columns.)
  - a. Matthew 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_ It's a mystery not known to all.
  - b. Matthew 6:33 \_\_\_\_\_ You can seek & pursue it.
  - c. Matthew 9:35 \_\_\_\_\_ It is "at hand" = it is here.
  - d. Matthew 11:12 \_\_\_\_\_ It is prepared for us as an inheritance.
  - e. Matthew 12:28 \_\_\_\_\_ There is turmoil & unrest in it.
  - f. Matthew 13:11 \_\_\_\_\_ It is being preached to all.
  - g. Matthew 25:34 \_\_\_\_\_ It has come to us - to our lives.

*It appears that the "Kingdom of Heaven" is ruled by God. It appears that where Jesus is, that is where the kingdom of Heaven is. It appears we humans can enter into this kingdom*

4. What did Mark say about the "Kingdom of God"? (Match the two columns.)
- |               |                          |  |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| a. Mark 1:14  | <input type="checkbox"/> | An unbeliever can be close to the "kingdom". |
| b. Mark 1:15  | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is a mystery not known to all.            |
| c. Mark 4:11  | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is being preached to all.                 |
| d. Mark 9:47  | <input type="checkbox"/> | People can enter the "kingdom of God".       |
| e. Mark 10:14 | <input type="checkbox"/> | If you don't receive it, you don't enter it. |
| f. Mark 10:15 | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is "at hand" = it is here                 |
| g. Mark 12:34 | <input type="checkbox"/> | The "Kingdom of God" can be received by us.  |
5. What did Luke say about the "Kingdom of God"? (Match the two columns.)
- |               |                          |  |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| a. Luke 1:33  | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is a mystery not known to all.            |
| b. Luke 4:43  | <input type="checkbox"/> | It will never end.                           |
| c. Luke 6:20  | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abraham, Jacob, & the prophets are in there. |
| d. Luke 8:1   | <input type="checkbox"/> | The poor, lowly, and weak are welcome there. |
| e. Luke 8:10  | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Kingdom of God is good news.             |
| f. Luke 10:9  | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Kingdom of God is close to us.           |
| g. Luke 13:28 | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is being preached to all.                 |
6. What did John say about the "Kingdom of God"? (Match the columns.)
- |               |                          |                                    |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| a. John 3:3   | <input type="checkbox"/> | It is not part of this world.      |
| b. John 3:5   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Must be born again to get in       |
| c. John 18:36 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Must be a human who is a Christian |
7. What is your definition of the "Kingdom of God" after reading all these verses.

---



---



---

## **GOD RULES OVER TWO REALMS OR SPHERES OR KINGDOMS.**

### **Kingdom #1**

<i>Psalm 10:16</i>	<i>The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations have perished out of His land.</i>
<i>Psalm 29:10</i>	<i>The LORD sat on His throne at the "Flood", and the LORD sits as King forever.</i>
<i>Psalm 103:19</i>	<i>The LORD has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.</i>
<i>Genesis 1:1</i>	<i>In the beginning God created the heavens &amp; the earth (the universe).</i>
<i>Hebrews 1:10</i>	<i>You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.</i>
<i>Revelation 10:6</i>	<i>....by Him Who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it ....</i>

- Which realm would these verses describe?  Physical  Spiritual
- Did God already exist on His throne before creation?  Yes  No
- Is there anything in the universe or on this planet that would not be part of this kingdom?  Yes  No

*Notice these words in the verses: "forever", "established", "rules over all", "in the beginning", "foundation", "created". Is there any doubt that God made this kingdom and is completely in charge of it.*

4. Check the items that are included in His "created" kingdom. (Only check things He created.)

- |                                      |                                  |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> earth       | <input type="checkbox"/> man     | <input type="checkbox"/> storms      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> outer space | <input type="checkbox"/> nations | <input type="checkbox"/> air         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Satan       | <input type="checkbox"/> evil    | <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mountains   | <input type="checkbox"/> Himself | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit trees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> molecules   | <input type="checkbox"/> water   | <input type="checkbox"/> hell        |

**Summary: Kingdom #1 is the Physical, Universal, External Kingdom.**

- a. This kingdom was created by God.
- b. This kingdom is ruled or controlled by God alone.
- c. This kingdom reveals God to man by **NATURAL REVELATION.**  
(The natural things we see around us in creation - they reveal God)

- Genesis 1:31* Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.  
*Psalms 19:1* The heavens declare (shout & show loudly) the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.  
*Matthew 5:45* ...that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust.  
*Acts 14:17* God did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.  
*Romans 1:19-20* For God has shown Himself to them, for since the creation of the world his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are created, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that mankind is without excuse.  
*Romans 2:14-15* For when Gentiles (non-Jewish people), who do not have or live by the law, live their lives according to what the law teaches, they must have that law within them. They show that the work & teachings of the law are written on their hearts (as in their conscience), which battles between the right and the wrong.

5. From these verses, how is God seen or revealed to man in creation (Christian or not)?

- a. Genesis 1:31 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Psalm 19:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Matt. 5:45 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Acts 14:17 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Rom. 1:19-20 \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Rom. 2:14-15 \_\_\_\_\_

**Remember, that God rules or reigns over two kingdoms.**

## Kingdom #2

**What the Old Testament Jews thought the "Kingdom of God" would be like.**  
(Don't forget that the Jews were sick of being attacked, hassled, & conquered.)

- 2 Samuel 7:13* God says, "David shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever."  
*Psalms 22:27-28* All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the LORD'S, and He rules over the nations.  
*Daniel 2:44* And in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed...  
*Daniel 4:3* How great are His signs, and how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation.  
*Joel 2:28* And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;  
*Joel 2:29* ...I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

6. If a throne is mentioned, someone must be in charge. \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No
7. The Lord's reign lasts how long? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Who will the Lord reign over? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do any of these verses describe how Jesus acted in the New Testament?   Y  N

*You can probably understand why the Jewish leaders & people did not think that Jesus was the King (the Messiah) of the Kingdom of God.*

- a. *He did not set up a kingdom in Palestine.*
- b. *He did not retaliate when abused, attacked, and ridiculed.*
- c. *He talked about being arrested & then dying.*
- d. *Rather than punish his enemies, He talked often about loving them.*

10. The writings of the Old Testament prophets seem to indicate that they expected the Kingdom of God to take over the whole world.   Yes   No

*Matthew 24:3 Now as he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, Saying, "Tell us, when will these future things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age." (His kingdom) (Mark & Luke both also recorded these questions at this same meeting.)*

*Luke 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered, "The kingdom of God does not come with observations (signs & wonders); nor will they say - HERE IT IS OR THERE IT IS. For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."*

11. What did the disciples ask about the kingdom of God?

---

12. What did the pharisees ask about the kingdom of God?

---

13. It seems everyone was expecting something they weren't seeing?   Yes   No

*Luke 17 says that there will be no signs & wonders in the sky & on earth in the first part of the revealing of the Kingdom of God (when Jesus is on earth & the church is growing). However, for the second part, after the church leaves the earth (the rapture), when Jesus & His kingdom take charge, then - there will be signs & wonders.*

### THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT KINGDOM #2

- A. This kingdom #2 is a kingdom within kingdom #1.
- B. 1 Cor. 15:23 This kingdom belongs to those who belong to \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Colossians 1:9-14 - It belongs to those who:
  - (1). "are partakers of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints in light"
  - (2). "are \_\_\_\_\_ from the power of darkness"
  - (3). "have \_\_\_\_\_ through His blood"
  - (4). "have the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins"
- D. This kingdom is in the heart of man if he responds to the good news of Christ.
- E. 1 Cor. 15:51 - Can every man who has flesh & blood enter the Kingdom of God just because he is on the earth & alive?   Yes   No
- F. The prophets did not see this part of the kingdom of God.
  - 1. They knew that they were part of the physical, created kingdom that is everything contained in the universe.

2. They knew that the Messiah would come, defeat & destroy all enemies of God & of Israel, and set up His eternal kingdom (Messianic Kingdom).
3. **THEY DID NOT KNOW** the part of the kingdom we call the "church age".

Mark 4:11 To you (the disciples) it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God, but to those who are outside, all things come in parables.

Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to My gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began, but now made manifest (revealed).

Ephesians 3:9 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace (of God) was given, that should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery...

4. What word is repeated in the verses? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The "New Testament Church" is the same as the "Kingdom of God."
6. Is there something in this section that you did not know or understand? Please explain. \_\_\_\_\_

**Isn't this incredible? Before Christ (the King of the kingdom) takes over the world, He wants as many as possible to become believers (enter the "kingdom of God") - so, the "church" forms & begins winning people for Christ & growing them.**

**REVIEW: THERE ARE TWO KINGDOMS THAT GOD RULES OVER:**

- Born physically → A. The physical, external universe that was created by God.
- Born again → B. The spiritual, internal "church" where man has been recreated by God.
- C. Mankind is within the "Physical External Kingdom of God" (The Universe)
- D. The "Spiritual Internal Kingdom of God" is within us (The Church)

### THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS "WITHIN YOU" (LK. 17:21) HOW COULD THIS BE?

Luke 17:21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered, "The kingdom of God does not come by visible signs & events; nor will they say - Here it is or There it is. Here's the bottom line - **THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.**"

John 14:15-17 If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide (live in you) forever; (who is this Helper?) the Spirit of truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and will be in you.

14. God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is the "King" of the kingdom.
    - a. If the "Kingdom of God" is within you, then, the Father is within you.   Y   N
    - b. If the "Kingdom" is within you, then, the Son is within you.   Y   N
    - c. If the "Kingdom" is within you, then, the Spirit is within you.   Y   N
    - d. God the Holy Spirit works in our lives & lives in our lives.   Y   N
  15. "If you love Me" refers to believers. They will be in the "kingdom".   Y   N
  16. "The World" refers to unbelievers. As long as they remain as unbelievers, they will not have the Holy Spirit in them & thus, not be in the kingdom).   Y   N
  17. "But you know Him" means you accepted Christ as your Savior. That means that you are "in the Body of Christ", "in the church", and in the "Kingdom".   Y   N
- GOOD NEWS, RIGHT?**

The Spirit of God has been with His people through the history of mankind from the moment of creation until now.

**However, the Spirit operated differently in the Old Testament than He did in the New Testament.**

Check out these verses and determine what the difference was.

### OLD TESTAMENT

- Genesis 41:38 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Can we find such a man in whom is the Spirit of God - (yes we can) ... there is no one as discerning & wise as you. You shall be over my house & my people ..."
- Judges 6:34 (As the enemy was gathering), But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet and the troops gathered behind ...
- 1 Samuel 11:6 Then the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard news, and his anger was greatly aroused.
- 1 Samuel 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul ...
- 1 Samuel 16:13 and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward ...

### NEW TESTAMENT

- John 14:16 He (God) will give you another Helper (besides Jesus) that He may abide (live in you) forever.
- Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who dwells (lives) in you.
- 1 Cor. 6:19-20 Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.

18. Describe how the Spirit of God operated in the Old Testament? ("Came upon")

---

---

19. Describe how the Spirit of God operated in the New Testament? ("dwelled in")

---

---

*The Spirit of God empowered His people whether in the Old or New Testament.*

20. The Spirit of God in the O.T. came into people: \_\_\_ Temporarily \_\_\_ Permanently

21. The Spirit of God in the N.T. came into people \_\_\_ Temporarily \_\_\_ Permanently

*The blessing of being in the "Kingdom of God" ("the Church") as a born-again believer is that the Holy Spirit comes into our lives in full power & forever.*

### THIS KINGDOM REVEALS GOD TO MAN THROUGH SPECIAL REVELATION.

*God makes an effort to reach out to us. He loves us too much to leave us alone.*

22. How did God reach out to you when you were young, growing up?

---

---

23. How did God reach out to you when you were looking for God?

---

---

24. How did God reach out to you when you were wandering & in rebellion?

---

---

25. Let's examine this "Special Revelation". Match the two columns. How does God make a special point & effort to guide & teach us?

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Ephesians 2:18    | ___ The Holy Spirit       |
| b. Ephesians 5:26    | ___ Scripture (The Bible) |
| c. Romans 8:26-27    | ___ Angels                |
| d. 1 Cor. 2:10       | ___ The Holy Spirit       |
| e. 2 Timothy 3:16    | ___ Scripture (The Bible) |
| f. Hebrews 4:12      | ___ Miracles              |
| g. 2 Peter 3:2       | ___ Jesus                 |
| h. James 5:10        | ___ The Holy Spirit       |
| i. 1 Timothy 2:5     | ___ Prophets              |
| j. Luke 2:9          | ___ Men (Bible Writers)   |
| k. Galatians 1:11-12 | ___ Jesus                 |
| l. Mark 4:35-37      | ___ The Holy Spirit       |
| m. Matthew 3:17      | ___ Prophets              |

*God wants to communicate with us desperately. He is building a kingdom of believers who will reign & rule the world with Him. We are in that training now. We don't see much of miracles, or angels anymore but the Bible, the Holy Spirit, the writers of the Bible - **THEY** are providing truth to us. **THIS IS SPECIAL REVELATION.***

***This is the purpose of the "Kingdom of God".***

#### **WHAT'S NEXT WITH THIS "KINGDOM OF GOD".**

- 1. The kingdom of God will continue to grow in numbers & maturity.*
- 2. When God decides, Christ will bring His kingdom (church) (us) to heaven.*
- 3. The unbelieving world will remain on earth & face punishment. (O.T. taught this)*
- 4. Christ will then return with us & eliminate all enemies. (O.T. taught this)*
- 5. Christ will create a "New Heaven & New Earth".*
- 6. Christ the Messiah will rule His kingdom (Millennial) forever. (O.T. taught this)*

#### **THE WHOLE BIBLE HAS BEEN LEADING US TO THE REST OF THE STORY.**

- 1. The Old Testament has been looking forward to Jesus Christ.*
- 2. The Gospels have been presenting Jesus Christ as a man on earth.*
- 3. The Acts has been preaching the good news of Jesus Christ.*
- 4. The Epistles have been explaining how to live in & for Jesus Christ.*
- 5. The Revelation reveals that Jesus Christ is King & He wins.*

26. What have you learned in this lesson that has blessed your life?

---

---

---

---

**IN THIS KINGDOM HE: CHOSE US, DIED FOR US, CLEANSSES US, TEACHES US, AND COMES FOR US. AMEN!!**

## **THE FIRST 4 PARABLES REGARDING THE "KINGDOM OF GOD"**

*The disciples & the pharisees ask about the "Kingdom". The world out there rejected His message. As a judgment, He began using parables to confuse the world; they did not want the truth but He held it out there for them anyway.*

*Let's conclude this lesson by looking at the parables He used to explain the "Kingdom". He is explaining the very kingdom we are living in right now.*



### **The Nature & Character of the Kingdom of God**

#### **Parable #1**

*Matthew 13:3-9 Behold a sower (seed farmer) went out to plant seeds. As he sowed, some seeds fell by the side of the field; and the birds came and devoured them. Some seeds fell on stony ground where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, they were scorched & they withered away. And some fell among the thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop - 100, 60 or 30-fold. He who has ears to hear - let him hear.*

1. What kinds of people are going to hear the good news about Christ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. As you look around the world, and in especially your circle, are you surprised that some people get saved & thrive & others drift away?      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
3. Isn't it true that some people are not interested in God even though they may hear messages, know believers, or attend church sometimes?      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
4. The devil wants no one to respond positively to the Gospel.      \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

#### **Parable #2**

*Matt.13:24-30 The kingdom of God is like a man who sowed goods seed in his field; but while he slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares (weeds) also appeared. (The servants wanted to weed the field.) He said, "No, because when you gather up the weeds, you will also uproot wheat. Let both grow together until the harvest. Then, I will instruct the reapers to gather up the weeds & burn them before putting the wheat in my barn.*

5. If the "field" is the world, and the "sower" is the Lord, who is the "enemy"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. It is sad that people can attend church & be around Christians, and yet not really be a believer at all even though they "sort of" act like it. Did you do this? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Matt. 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to Me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but rather he who does My Father's will. Many will say we prophesied, we cast out demons, we did wonders in Your name. Then, I (Jesus) will say I never knew you; depart from Me ...*



The "Kingdom of God" has an enemy hoping for hard ground & weeds to confuse & drive seekers away to hopelessness & hell.



## The Power of the Kingdom of God

### Parable #3

Matt. 13:31-32 *The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.*

7. A mustard seed is small; the kingdom of God will start small.  Yes  No
8. At this point in this phase of the "kingdom of God" (the "church-age phase), who is in the kingdom? Jesus is the King; the disciples are the "kingdom.  Yes  No
9. If you read through the Gospels, more people are making decisions to follow Christ. These new converts entered the "Kingdom of God".  Yes  No
10. It will continue growing until we are taken to heaven (rapture)  Yes  No
11. "Greater than the other herbs" means that the "Kingdom of God" is going to grow into a huge kingdom bigger than all other nations.  Yes  No
12. "Birds of the air" means all the people in the world.  Yes  No
13. "In its branches" means that the "Kingdom of God" all the weak & poor & subservient can enjoy the comfort & blessings & protection.  Yes  No

### Parable #4

Matt. 13:33 *The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the leaven has permeated or expanded throughout the meal (grain).*

14. The "Kingdom of God" will grow from within and will become more dense and mature, and in control.  Yes  No
15. People are very different; some are private in their faith and some are more open and public in their faith. Which are you?  Private  Public
16. Whether private or public, the leaven of your faith will continue to grow and begin taking over your life which is pleasing to God?  Yes  No

*You will probably be a private believer before you become a public believer. Then it happens.*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.*

2 Timothy 1:12 *I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until the Day I see Him.*

James 2:5 *Has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of God which He promised to those who love Him.*

**God wants to fill His "kingdom" with these kinds of people.**

**God wants all of us, as we grow in His kingdom" to quote Philipians 4:13, "I can do all things through the power of Christ, that same Christ Who strengthens me every day of this "Kingdom Journey".**