

The Kingdom of God

Key Verse: Matthew 6:33

A. It's Preeminence:

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| 1. In Jesus' ministry | ~ Mark 1:15; Luke 8:1 |
| 2. In the 12 apostles ministry | ~ Acts 1:3; Mat 6:33 |
| 3. In Paul's ministry | ~ Acts 19:8; 20:25; 28:23,31 |

B. It's Description:

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| 1. It's Invisible & internal | ~ Luke 17:20-21 |
| 2. It's Spiritual (not carnal) | ~ Romans 14:17 |
| 3. It's Incorruptible & eternal | ~ 1 Corinthians 15:50 |
| 4. It's Pure & Righteous | ~ 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 |
| 5. It's Powerful | ~ 1 Corinthians 4:20 |
| a. The word | ~ Ecclesiastes 8:4, Luke 4:32 |
| b. The work of: | |
| Casting out devils | ~ Luke 4:36, Luke 11:20 |
| by Prayer & fasting | ~ Mark 9:28-29 |

** Notice how all the characteristics of the kingdom are the same as God himself! This is because the kingdom of God flows out of God's very nature.*

C. It's Origin and Changes:

1. The kingdom of God began in heaven: In the beginning God created the heaven AND the earth. He created the heavenly host for heaven (angels, cherubims, seraphims, etc...) and the earthly host for earth (man, beasts, cattle, etc...). God ruled his kingdom directly in heaven and he appointed man to be in dominion of earth (under God's rule). Thus, this kingdom was over both the heavenly realm AND the earthly realm.
~ Genesis 1& 2; Psalm 104; Revelation 4
2. The fall in heaven: Lucifer (a cherub, Ezekiel 28) and 1/3 of the angels fell from their positions in the kingdom of God. Thus, vacancies were created in the kingdom of God up in the heavenly realm.
~ Isaiah 14:12; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:3-9
3. The fall on earth: Man also fell into sin, thus causing God to pull the direct dominion of his kingdom far away back into heaven.
~ Genesis 3; Psalm 103:19-22
4. During the Old Testament: In the OT there are a few glimpses of the kingdom of God but it was not being offered to man. Man's hope was not heaven, but just to be resurrected and live on the earth.
~ Job 14:14; Job 19:25-27; Daniel 12:2
5. The New Testament: Through Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God is now offered to Israel first, and then to people from ALL nations (the believers

will become the church) to be able to replace those who fell in heaven.

~ Mark 1:15; Hebrews 12:22-29; Revelation 21:10-14

D. It's Entrance for man requires:

1. Humility ~ Luke 18:14-17
2. Poverty ~ Luke 6:20,24; Mark 10:23-25
3. Understanding ~ Mark 12:32-34; Mark 4:10-12
4. The new birth ~ John 3:3-5
5. Righteousness ~ 1 Cor 6:9-11, Gal 5:19-24, Eph 5:1-12
6. Tribulation & Suffering ~ Acts 14:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:5

E. It's 3 Phases relating to believers:

1. Rule by the Holy Ghost: For 2,000 years during "the church age" God is ruling in the hearts, minds, spirits, souls and bodies of those who repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ by his Holy Spirit (the Holy Ghost).
~ Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17
2. Rule of Jesus Christ: For 1,000 years during "Christ's millennial kingdom" God will rule those who have been regenerated directly through the word and authority of Jesus Christ on THIS earth.
~ Mark 9:1-5; Luke 21:25-31; Revelation 20:1-6
3. Rule of The Father: After the final judgment (in the "new heaven & new earth"), God the Father himself will directly rule ALL those who have been born again and perfected for ever and ever! There will be no more separation between the Father and us!
~ 1 Corinthians 15:22-28; Revelation 21:1-7