



"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

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Mini Study

What Is The Kingdom Of God?

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you (Matthew 6:33 LITV)

And I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood is not able to inherit the kingdom of God, nor does corruption inherit incorruption (I Corinthians 15:50 LITV)

'Kingdom of God' is a term unique to Christianity. Jesus urges us to seek for it. It's the goal to which we aspire. There is, however, some confusion as to what it is, how to get there, when it happens. Often viewed as merely a future earthly kingdom - though ruled by the King of kings - yet it has a more far-reaching significance. It represents the heart of the Gospel

- A 'kingdom', in human terms, is a territory with recognized boundaries, a system of laws, and with subjects of the Sovereign. By extension it applies to any sovereign, independent nation whatever its Constitution.
- God's Kingdom has always existed; it's not just 'pie in the sky when you die.'
- The Father is its Sovereign, with Jesus - the LORD of the Old Testament - His appointed divine interface with His Creation. Jesus is the instrument of creation: '*for in Him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through Him, and unto Him; and He is before all things, and in Him all things consist*' (Colossians 1:16-17). And He stands between us and the Father: '*For there is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, Himself man, Christ Jesus.*'
- It is a spiritual Kingdom: '*God is Spirit*' (John 4:24). The Kingdom '*...is not of this world [Gk. kosmos]*' (John 18:36). To become a part of the Kingdom of God we must be changed from flesh to spirit. Said Jesus: '*Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God*' (John 3:3). And Paul: '*Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption*' (I Corinthians 15:50).
- The sovereign territory of the Kingdom of God is the entirety of the Universe, with its seat of government presently being Heaven; hence '*the Kingdom of Heaven.*' In the person of Jesus, however, the Kingdom was on Earth in first-century Palestine (Matthew 12:28). In the end it will be centered on Earth (Revelation 21:3).
- The members of the Kingdom are, now, both spiritual and physical: the Father and Jesus, and a portion of humanity. All men and women throughout history in whom dwelled the Spirit of God are part of the Kingdom. John wrote: '*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is*' (I John 3:2)

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KJV). Although now flesh, Christians - *i.e.* those having the Spirit - are members of the Kingdom: ‘*So, then, you are no longer strangers and tenants, but you are fellow citizens of the saints and of the family of God*’ (Ephesians 2:19 LITV). The God Kingdom is a ‘*family*’ - Father, Son and Christ’s brethren.

- The nation of Israel, alone among nations, had been under this divine supervision, but the opportunity to be a part was taken away from Israel because of their behaviour (Matthew 21). The brethren of the church of God, now members of the Kingdom, are commissioned to proclaim the message of the Kingdom - the Gospel (Luke 9:2). Wherever it is proclaimed ‘*the Kingdom of God has come near*’ (10:9). It is internal, and does not - at this time - appear visibly (Luke 17:21). Its presence will be manifest in events (Luke 21:31).
- At the return of Jesus to Earth as King of kings (the Father’s Vice-Regent) the divine Family, God’s ‘*Kingdom*’ - Jesus and the saints - will take back from mankind the reins of government (Revelation 20:4, Isaiah 2:1-4). Jesus will be ‘*king over all the earth*’ (Zechariah 14:9).
- When the Father’s Family is complete, His earthly plan finished, He will be ‘*...all in all*’ (I Corinthians 15:20-28). All that remains will be Spirit - the vastly expanded Kingdom of God (II Peter 3:10-13).
- Only those who have turned to the Father through Jesus our Saviour, been baptized and received God’s Spirit will be part of the Kingdom (Galatians 5:19-21).

(All Scripture references are ASV unless otherwise noted.)

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