

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus instructed us to seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all we needed will be added to us. Matt 6:33 In context Jesus is talking about not being anxious about the things you need. God knows you need these things and by putting Him first you are setting yourself up for God to provide for you.

If seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness will ensure all our needs are met it behooves us to understand what the Kingdom of God is.

The basic definition of “Kingdom” is the King’s Dominion or that over which the King rules. Simply put, the Kingdom of God is all that God rules over. When you repent of your sin and accept Jesus’ atonement for your sin you become part of the Kingdom of God because you put yourself under His Kingship.

We know the kingdom of God is not here on earth yet because of the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to pray – “Our Father who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Your Name. Your Kingdom come...” We see in Rev 11:15 where the kingdoms of the world become the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is mentioned 105 times (32 times in the Book of Luke). The kingdom of Heaven is mentioned 47 times (32 times in the Book of Matthew). The kingdom of God encompasses the kingdom of Heaven (this kingdom is part of the kingdom of God). Jesus could have said the kingdom of Heaven in this passage but He did not.

So if we are told to seek it first of all, and its not here yet, what is it?

Mark 4:11 - We can know what the Kingdom of God is! It has been given to us; to believers.

Jesus gave us several word pictures (parables) as to what the Kingdom of God is like.

Mark 4:26-32

The kingdom of God is like a man scattering seed and the earth yields to crop. So we plant and water the “seed” of the Gospel but God gives the increase. God is the one that draws people into His Kingdom. 1 Cor 3:6

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, small, but when grown is so large birds can rest under it. Again the word picture is God gives the increase. It doesn’t matter how small the start (seed) is.

Mark 12:32-34 - Acknowledging the One true God and loving Him and others, according to Jesus, is close to the Kingdom of God

Luke 4:43;8:1 - The Kingdom of God is what Jesus preached, which was glad tidings (telling or news)

Luke 9:1-2,11 - Jesus sent the 12 to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick, as He did.

Luke 10:9 – When the sick are healed by the power of God is was because the Kingdom of God came near them.

Luke 11:20 – Jesus said He illustrated the power of the Kingdom of God when he cast out demons.

Luke 16:16 – The Kingdom of God has been preached since Jesus came into the world.

Luke 17:20-21 – You can’t see the kingdom of God! It is IN YOU by the Holy Spirit.

John 3:3 – the ONLY way to see the kingdom of Heaven is to be born again, or born from above.

Romans 14:17 – The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor 4:19-20 – the Kingdom of God is demonstrated by power. God backs up His Word with power.

1 Cor 15:50 - The kingdom of God is inherited (willed to) those who are born again of incorruptible seed (the righteous).

1 Cor 6:9-10 – Lists those who will not inherit the Kingdom of God (the unrighteous).

Broadly speaking, the kingdom of God is the rule of an eternal, sovereign God over all the universe. Several passages of Scripture show that God is the undeniable Monarch of all creation: “The LORD has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all” (Psalm 103:19). And, as King Nebuchadnezzar declared, “His kingdom is an eternal kingdom” (Daniel 4:3). Every authority that exists has been established by God (Romans 13:1). So, in one sense, the kingdom of God incorporates everything that is.

More narrowly, the kingdom of God is a spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God’s authority. Those who defy God’s authority and refuse to submit to Him are not part of the kingdom of God. In this sense, the kingdom of God is spiritual—Jesus said His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36), and He preached that repentance is necessary to be a part of the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 4:17) which is part of the kingdom of God. That the kingdom of God can be equated with the sphere of salvation is evident in John 3:5–7, where Jesus says the kingdom of God must be entered into by being born again.

There is another sense in which the kingdom of God is used in Scripture: the literal rule of Christ on the earth during the millennium. Daniel said that “the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44; 7:13–14), and many of the other prophets predicted the same thing (e.g., Obadiah 1:21; Habakkuk 2:14; Micah 4:2; Zechariah 14:9). Some theologians refer to the future, open manifestation of the kingdom of God as the “kingdom of glory” and the present, hidden manifestation of the kingdom of God as the “kingdom of grace.” But both manifestations are connected; Christ has set up His spiritual reign in the church on earth, and He will one day set up His physical reign in Jerusalem.

Practical application:

First and foremost, seek the Kingdom of God and trust He will keep His Word and provide all you need. Stay humble and submitted to God. Resist being anxious about what you need. This is a step of faith, which, no matter how small, God can increase. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and it is demonstrated by the power of God. God backs up His Word with power. When you share the Gospel you are sharing the kingdom of God.