



1. The Kingdom and the Old Testament  
2. Jesus, the New Testament & the Kingdom  
3. Interpretations of the Kingdom  
4. Implications of the Kingdom



1





**1. The Kingdom in the Old Testament**



2

Phrase 'Kingdom of God' does not appear in OT  
BUT  
God is described as 'King' 41 times  
AND  
God's 'rulership / sovereignty'  
captures the attention of nearly every OT author.

3

The Lord has established his throne in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all. Psalm 103:19

**GOD IS KING: over all,  
in a people,  
through a people  
for all people**



**5** Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, **6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests** and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." Exodus 19:5-6 (NIV)




4

**6** But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. **7** And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king."

1 Samuel 8:

5

Ezekiel 34: 'The Sovereign Lord' (9x) will resume his leadership in person

**15** I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. **16** I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

**THROUGH** his anointed one

**23** I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. **24** I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them.








6

**9** "As I looked, thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.




**10** A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

7

**11** "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. **12** (The other beasts had been stripped of their authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.)

**13** "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. **14** He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

8

19 "Then I wanted to know the meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others and most terrifying, ... 21 As I watched, this horn was waging war against the holy people and defeating them, 22 until the **Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favour of the holy people of the Most High, and the time came when they possessed the kingdom.**

26 "But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. 27 **Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.'**

**GOD IS KING: over all,  
in a people,  
through a people  
for all people**



9

**Every warrior's boot used in battle**  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.**

**He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.**

The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:5-7



10



11



12

Matthew - 54 mentions  
Mark - 19 mentions  
Luke - 43 mentions  
John - 4 mentions  
Acts - 8 mentions

2. Kingdom in the Gospels

13

### 1. Headline of Jesus' mission

Matt.3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and saying, 'Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven** has come near.'

Matt. 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **proclaiming the good news of the kingdom**, and healing every disease and illness among the people.

2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### 1. Headline of Jesus' mission

Mark 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 'The time has come,' he said. '**The kingdom of God has come near.** Repent and believe the good news!'

Luke 8:1 After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, **proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.**

Luke 10:8 'When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. 9 Heal those there who are ill and tell them, "**The kingdom of God has come near to you.**" 10 But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 11 "Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God has come near."

2. Kingdom in the Gospels

15

### 1. Headline of Jesus' mission

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he presented himself to them [in Jerusalem] and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about **the kingdom of God.**

Acts 8:12 But when they [the Samaritans] believed Philip as he proclaimed **the good news of the kingdom of God** and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptised, both men and women.

Acts 19:8 Paul entered the synagogue [in Ephesus] and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about **the kingdom of God.**

Acts 28: 30 For two whole years Paul stayed there [in Rome] in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. 31 **He proclaimed the kingdom of God** and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ – with all boldness and without hindrance!

2. Kingdom in the Gospels

16

### 1. Headline of Jesus' mission

Matt 24:14 And this **gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### 2. To be 'entered'

Matt 5:20 For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not **enter the kingdom of heaven**.

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will **enter the kingdom of heaven**, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Matt 18:3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never **enter the kingdom of heaven**.

Matt 19: 23 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to **enter the kingdom of God**."

Matt 21:31 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are **entering the kingdom of God** ahead of you.



2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### 3. A Gift

Matt 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God **has come upon you**.

Matt 13:11 The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

11 He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven **has been given to you**, but not to them.

Matt 21:43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and **given** to a people who will produce its fruit.



2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### 4. Known through Parables

the Kingdom of God is like...

Matt 13: 24 like a man who sowed good seed in his field  
- **it's about a lifetime of fruitfulness not a momentary 'conversion'**

Matt 13: 31 like a mustard seed - **the minuscule becomes mighty**

Matt 13: 33 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast - **it is ultimately pervasive**

Matt 13: 44 like treasure hidden in a field  
- **it's worth relinquishing everything to possess**

Matt 13: 47 like a net that was let down into the lake  
- **only at the end will Kingdom people be finally separated**

Matt 20:1 'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner  
- **Kingdom rewards are all grace**

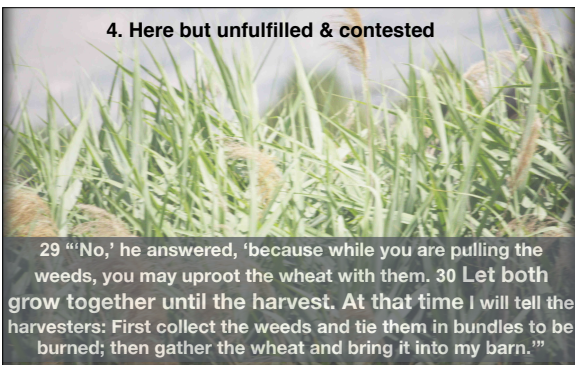
Matt 22: 2 'The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son  
- **if you dishonour the Son, you dishonour the Father; outcasts are invited to the table**



2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### 4. Here but unfulfilled & contested



29 "No," he answered, "because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn."



2. Kingdom in the Gospels

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### Synoptics Kingdom

John  
**Eternal Life** (life of the age to come)

Paul  
**New Creation / In Christ Jesus**  
(to see Acts 28:31; Col 1:12,13; 1 Thess 2:12)



2. Kingdom in the Gospels & NT

22

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, **6** and **has made us to be a kingdom** and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

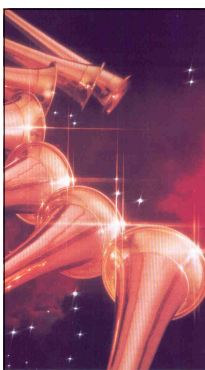
**7**  
"Look, he is coming with the clouds,"  
and "every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him";  
and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him."  
So shall it be! Amen.

Revelation 1 (Daniel 7)



2. Kingdom in the Gospels & NT

23



### The Seventh Trumpet

**15** The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

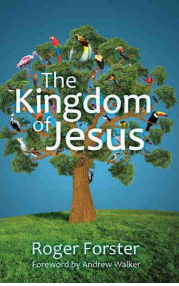
**"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,  
and he will reign for ever and ever."**

**16** And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, **17** saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign.



2. Kingdom in the Gospels & NT

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Four expectations raised by Jesus' announcement of God's Kingdom

- The presence of God by his Holy Spirit
- The defeat of Satan, his kingdom and evil
- Salvation (=fulness of life) offered to all
- God's new society brought into being

the KINGDOM of GOD

25



in your own experience of coming to faith, how central was the 'good news of the kingdom'?

the KINGDOM of GOD

2. Kingdom in the Gospels & NT

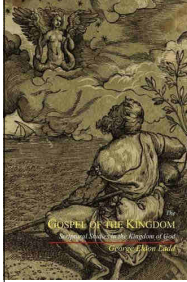
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3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

the KINGDOM of GOD

27



The *primary* meaning of both the Hebrew word *malkuth* in the Old Testament and of the Greek word *basileia* in the New Testament is the rank, authority, and sovereignty exercised by a king. A *basileia* may indeed be a realm over which a king exercises his authority; and it may be the people who belong to that realm and over whom authority is exercised; but they are secondary and derived meanings.

First of all, a kingdom is the authority to rule, the sovereignty of the king."

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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The Kingdom as...

- 'Christendom' (Augustine)
- Sovereignty in ALL things
- God's Evolutionary Activity
- 'Built' or 'Extended' by human activity
- Future Reality
- God's Reign in the heart

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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Keyword: **Justice**

Kingdom work is when good people do good deeds in the public sector for the common good. Culture can be redeemed by human efforts or political process apart from salvation or the new birth. The church plays little or no role here.

Keyword: **Salvation**

Kingdom - not a place, space, realm or people but the abstract dynamic that God is now at work redeeming individuals through Christ, and this rule will be completed at the eschaton

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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Kingdom in Jesus' world would have meant 'a people governed by a king'... An array of shifts will occur when Jesus becomes King over a people, but the word 'kingdom' cannot be reduced to either 'justice' or 'salvation' without doing it serious damage.

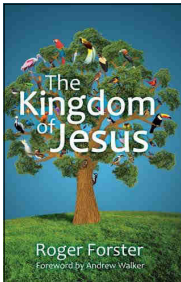
**When Jesus said the kingdom has drawn near, he meant we are about to see a new king governing a new people - a people marked by justice and salvation - but it is a people first and foremost**

**GOD IS KING: over all, in a people, through a people for all people**

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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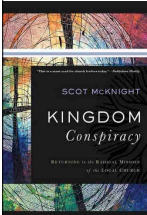
God's Kingdom coming is when His will is getting done on earth. The means by which God gets his will done on earth, is through his Body, the church. Through the church God releases his power and authority into the earth...

**GOD IS KING: over all, in a people, through a people for all people**

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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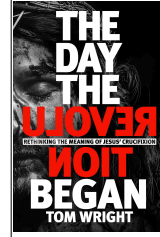


Kingdom mission is church mission, church mission is kingdom mission, and there is no kingdom mission that is not church mission (p96)

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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"To reflect the divine image means standing between earth and heaven, even in the present time, adoring the Creator and bringing his purposes into reality on earth, ahead of the time when God completes the task and makes all things new. **The 'royal priesthood' is the company of rescued humans who, being part of 'earth' worship the God of heaven and are thus equipped, with the breath of heaven in their lungs, to work for his kingdom on earth.** The revolution sets us free to be in-between people, caught up in the rhythm of worship and mission"

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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Experienced reality of salvation  
Love for God

Kingdom of God

Inauguration of God's new society (church)  
Love for one another

Call to justice and activism  
Love for God's lost world

the KINGDOM of GOD

3. Interpretations of the Kingdom

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which of the views of the kingdom have you come across, and which do you find most helpful?

the KINGDOM of GOD

2. Kingdom in the Gospels & NT

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the KINGDOM of GOD

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the KINGDOM of GOD

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the KINGDOM of GOD

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the KINGDOM of GOD

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