

LESSON 3

Kingdom Comparisons

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INTRODUCTION

The Protestant teaching of the Church and Kingdom has resulted in confusion when it comes to these two topics. This teaching comes in the form of the Universal, Invisible Church. It states that when a person is born again, at the time of their new birth, they enter the Universal, Invisible Church. By presenting this idea, Protestants in the Reformation were able to claim there had always been this true, invisible church inside the Catholic organization. So then, when the Protestants departed from the Catholics, the true church came out to form a more godly organization.

This position taken by the Protestants also required the Kingdom of God to be invisible. Seeing that the church, according to their teachings, was invisible and possessed the keys to the Kingdom, it followed this Kingdom must also be invisible. To go a step farther, the idea that the Kingdom was in the heart of every true believer allowed a person's position in the Kingdom of God to be on an individual basis. This view of the Kingdom is as untenable as the other on the Church.

Other views have surfaced over time regarding the Kingdom of God. A popular one states that there is a difference between the Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven. By offering this distinction, some conclude that a person enters one at

the new birth but does Not enter the other until a born again person joins the Church when baptized. This position also fails the test of scripture as shall be seen shortly.

In order to clarify what the Bible teaches regarding the Kingdom, the following comparison is offered. It is believed that this comparison helps to simplify what God means when He presents it in His word. The comparison will focus on the titles of “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven”.

“Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven” – Interchangeable.

The following verses are shared in order to demonstrate that the “Kingdom of God” and the “Kingdom of Heaven” refer to the same Kingdom. Note should be made that the “Kingdom of Heaven” is uniquely found in Matthew. However, this is Not true in the rest of the Gospels. When Mark and Luke are ready, the “Kingdom of God” is found there.

In the following comparison, a verse from Matthew will be provided first. Afterwards, the same reference will be provided from Mark or Luke so that it will become obvious that the same Kingdom is being referred to even though in Matthew it is called the “Kingdom of Heaven” but called the “Kingdom of God” in the other Gospels. In this way, it will be found they are interchangeable.

Comparison of Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God

The Kingdom is at Hand

Mat 4:17, From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the *Kingdom of Heaven* is at hand.

Mar 1:15, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the *Kingdom of God* is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

The Kingdom is for the Poor in Spirit

Mat 5:3, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the *Kingdom of Heaven*.

Luk 6:20, And He lifted up His eyes on His disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the *Kingdom of God*.

The Least in the Kingdom is Greater than John

Mat 11:11, Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the *Kingdom of Heaven* is greater than he.

Luk 7:28, For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the *Kingdom of God* is greater than he.

Church is to Know the Mysteries of the Kingdom

Mat 13:11, He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the *Kingdom of Heaven*, but to them it is not given.

Mar 4:11, And He said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the *Kingdom of God*: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Kingdom is Like a Man Sowed a Field

Mat 13:24, Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, the *Kingdom of Heaven* is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Mar 4:26, And He said, So is the *Kingdom of God*, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

Kingdom is Like a Grain of Mustard Seed

Mat 13:31, Another parable put He forth unto them, saying, The *Kingdom of Heaven* is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

Mar 4:30-31, And He said, Whereunto shall we liken the *Kingdom of God*? or with what comparison shall we compare it? (31) It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

Kingdom is Like unto Leaven

Mat 13:33, Another parable spake He unto them; The *Kingdom of Heaven* is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Luke 13:20-21, And again He said, Whereunto shall I liken the *Kingdom of God*? (21) It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Entering the Kingdom

Mat 18:3, And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the *Kingdom of Heaven*.

Luk 18:17, Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the *Kingdom of God* as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Of Such is the Kingdom

Mat 19:14, But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto Me: for of such is the *Kingdom of Heaven*.

Mar 10:14, But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the *Kingdom of God*.

The Rich and the Kingdom

Mat 19:23, Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the *Kingdom of Heaven*.

Luk 18:24, And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, He said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the *Kingdom of God*!

Serving God Means Doing So in His Kingdom

The following verses take up serving God in the Kingdom that the Lord Jesus Christ established during His personal ministry. The Kingdom of God, also known as the Kingdom of Heaven, is made up of all scriptural Churches who are Kingdom executives under the headship of the Lord. Seeing that previous lessons have stated and defended these statements, the following verses are offered without further explanation.

Job 21:15, What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?

John 12:26, If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour.

Mal 3:13-18, Your words have been stout against Me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken [so much] against thee? 14 Ye have said, It [is] vain to serve God: and what profit [is it] that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, [they that] tempt God are even delivered. 16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it], and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name. 17 And they shall be Mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern

between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not.

Hebrews 12:28-29, Wherefore we receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire.

The Scriptural Churches; Truly Serve the Lord in His Kingdom

Romans 1:9, For God is my witness, Whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Romans 16:17-18, Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (18) For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

Col 3:24, Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

1Th 1:9, For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God

Heb 9:14, How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Eternal Promises from God's to Those Who Serve His Son Now

Rev 7:15, Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple: and He that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

Rev 22:3, And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: