

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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THE KINGDOM: HOW IT IS USED

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The Greek word is BASILEIA which denotes sovereignty, royal power, and dominion (Vine's Dictionary). We see the kingdom emphasizing God's rule. Jesus told the Pharisees that the kingdom is within you. (Luke 17:21). In other words, the kingdom was to rule in their hearts. By examining the context of each passage where the word kingdom is used we can see the extent of the kingdom.

The Kingdom Is Used

As: God's Rule. Jesus says in Matthew 6:33, “to seek first the kingdom of God”... The kingdom of God here refers primarily to God's rule, or His authority. (Romans 13:1-2; Psalm 22:28).

Also in 1Corinthians 15:24 Paul says, “Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.” Here the kingdom is referred to as His dominion, or reign. God exercises His power .

The Kingdom Is Used

As: The Spiritual Kingdom. In John 18:36 Jesus says, “My kingdom is not from this world”... In this context Pilate was fearful that

Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom. Even though Christ is the King, it was not in the sense in which the Jews or Pilate understood it. His kingdom was not going to be of the same nature as other earthly kingdoms. This kingdom is purely spiritual and divine (Acts 17:24).

In Romans 14:17 Paul says, “the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” This kingdom represents spiritual qualities we are to manifest in serving God.

The Kingdom Is Used As:

The Church. This concept is misunderstood in the religious world today. Notice first, Jesus says, “I will build My church and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven”... (Matt. 16-18-19). Friend, what do you think the keys unlock? Peter was given the keys to unlock access into the church, which is the kingdom.

Furthermore, in Hebrews 12:28 Paul says, “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and

Godly fear.” Ladies and Gentlemen when we come to the church, we are coming to the kingdom. The word kingdom and church are sometimes used synonymously. (Rev.1:9).

The Kingdom Is Used

As: Heaven. For instance, The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of Heaven are at times used synonymously. In Matthew 7:21 Jesus says, “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of Heaven”...

Second, in Corinthians 6:9 Paul says, “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God”?... As you can see our Lord and the apostle Paul use The Kingdom of God and The Kingdom of Heaven synonymously. Each refer to entering the heavenly abode where God rules.

As you can see the word kingdom emphasizes different aspects of the kingdom. It represents God's rule, our eternal state in heaven, and the church as comprised of those who acknowledge His rule. Are you a part of this kingdom over which Jesus is ruling?