

The Kingdom of God

What is the Kingdom of God?

If you ask this question you will probably get many different answers.

Is it a physical kingdom as some will say, or is it a spiritual kingdom?

Or is it still something else yet different than either of these?

So then, let us consult the most important authority on the Kingdom of God. And who would this be?

Yes! How does Jesus define the Kingdom of God?

First, since Mark's Gospel was written first, let's look at it for the first hint :

Mar 4:31-32

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? **It is like a grain of mustard seed**, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, **yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants** and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

Now let's look at Matthews Gospel for the second hint:

Mat 13:33

He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven **is like leaven** that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

Now let's look at Luke's Gospel:

Luk 13:18-21

He said therefore, "What is the kingdom of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like **a grain of mustard seed** that a man took and sowed in his garden, and it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches." And again he said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, until it was all leavened."

Now by a comparison of these Gospels, did you notice that something immediately jumps out at us?

Yes, The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven is the same Kingdom!!

So when we say that something **is at hand**, does this mean **something far off into the future?**

So what did Jesus mean by this statement?

Matt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

So since Jesus said the kingdom of God was at Hand, the natural follow up to this is When? When did Jesus say the kingdom of God would come?

He gives us a clue in Mar 9:1: And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who **will not taste death** until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

Do you understand the significance of what he said to his audience? Yes! The audience being spoken to would see God's Kingdom come in power! History shows that **this did indeed happen within the lifetime of the disciples, and it happened in AD70!** But that is beyond the scope of this discussion.

Now let's get real specific:

How specifically did Jesus define the Kingdom of God?

Luke 17:20-21

"The kingdom of God is **not coming in ways that can be observed**....for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you." – English Standard Version

"God's kingdom **isn't something you can see**God's kingdom is here with you." – Contemporary English Version

"The Kingdom of God **does not come in such a way as to be seen.**the Kingdom of God is within you." – Good News Bible

The Apostle Paul confirms this in Romans 14:17 where he noted:

"God's kingdom isn't about eating and drinking. It is about pleasing God, about living in peace, and about true happiness. All this comes from the Holy Spirit"

Now let me ask you, does this sound like a physical Kingdom?

How much clearer could it be in the Bible? After all of the verses that are mentioned here, how is it that so many people have gotten it wrong?

These scripture passages make it clear that the Kingdom of God is **present now among us!** It is **not** something for which we have to wait for in a future cataclysmic event. We can experience the Kingdom of God **right now in our present lives!** This kingdom is not a physical kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom which is now within us, and through us who believe. The question is the same as it was when he was explaining to his disciples that the second coming of Elijah was spiritual, and that question is: "Do you believe it?" (Matt. 11:14)

As Christ put it when speaking to Pilate:

"My kingdom is **not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting,** that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." John 18:36

Yes, the Kingdom of God was something which was introduced with the presence of Jesus on the earth. He described it as a "Mustard Seed" when planted, but which grew steadily and eventually became huge in scope. This is in fact what is happening right before our eyes, and **nothing can stop it!** It is as described in the Old Testament book of Daniel:

“At the time of those rulers the God of heaven will establish a kingdom that will never end. It will never be conquered, but will completely destroy all those empires and then last forever. “ – Daniel 2:44

What Jesus was saying was that this Kingdom was at hand in his time. It was established when he came to earth and **it is here right now in our midst, and it is staying forever!** It is just as King Solomon said: “A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.”(Eccl 1:4)

So now it always comes down to this. What are the implications of this for us sitting here 2000 years later?

We have often heard the expression, “You can’t see the forest for the trees.” This describes the mass confusion about the Kingdom of God. What we must realize is that it is up to us to live out the Kingdom of God NOW! Why? Because we ARE God’s Temple. Note what the Apostle Paul says:

1Cor 3:16 Do you not know that **you are God's temple** and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1Cor 3:17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and **you are that temple.**

1Cor 6:19 Or do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit** within you, whom you have from God? **You are not your own,**

Where does it all begin with us? By putting our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. As I have said before, You may be able to con me, but you cannot con God! The Bible is very clear. As the Apostle Paul stated in Romans 10:9-12:

“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. “

Maybe this is the new beginning you have been looking for, maybe there is an empty spot in your heart that nothing seems to be able to fill.

And finally, our Lord Jesus said it so simply in John 5:24:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.”

When you do this, and seriously mean it, you will begin to see amazing changes in your life. You will look forward to serving Him! So won't you put your trust in Him today, so that you can begin living in the Kingdom of God **right now** and into all eternity?