

The Reformation of the Kingdom of God (Hebrews 9:10)

- I. Definitions.
 - A. kingdom: Kingly function, authority or power; sovereignty, supreme rule; the position or rank of a king, kingship.
 - B. power: II. As a person, body or thing. One who or that which is possessed of or exercises power, influence, or government; an influential or governing person, body or thing; in early use, one in authority, a ruler, governor.
 - C. The *kingdom* of God is the *government* of God.
 - D. government: The action of ruling; continuous exercise of authority over the action of subjects or inferiors; authoritative direction or regulation; control, rule.
 - E. Of particular interest for this study is the Messianic government. **ISA 9:6-7.**
 - 1. This prophecy spoke of a coming government/kingdom of God.
 - 2. This government would be Messiah's.
 - 3. This government's seat of authority would be David's throne.
 - 4. This government would be established with justice and judgment.
 - 5. This government would a continuous form: *for ever*.
 - 6. God's zeal would make it happen, regardless.
- II. The kingdom of God is the kingdom of heaven: they are the same thing.
MAT 11:11 c/w LUK 7:28; MAT 13:11 c/w MAR 4:11; MAT 13:33 c/w LUK 13:20-21; MAR 10:24-25 c/w MAT 19:23-24.
- III. Scripture sets forth five things which are referred to as the *kingdom of God*:
 - A. God's universal rule over all creation.
 - B. God's elect, regenerate family.
 - C. The eternal, heavenly state of glory.
 - D. The O.T. nation of Israel.
 - E. N.T. churches of the resurrected God-man, Jesus Christ: the Messianic government.
- IV. Consider "kingdom of God" as it refers to His universal government over all of creation.
 - A. This embraces God's rule over all things in heaven and earth.
1CH 29:11-12; PSA 103:19-22.
 - B. This aspect of the kingdom of God has been from the beginning of the creation and endures for ever. Nothing ever is outside of this rule.
 - C. This aspect of the kingdom of God presently exists in the face of opposition.
ROM 8:21-22.
- V. Consider "kingdom of God" as it refers to His elect, regenerate family. God by His Spirit reigns in the *inner parts* of men. **ROM 5:17, 21 c/w COL 1:13; EPH 2:4-6 c/w EPH 1:19-23; JOH 3:5.**
 - A. Inclusion in this kingdom is based on the sovereign, electing purpose of God from before the foundation of the world. **EPH 1:3-6.**
 - B. Inclusion in this kingdom is not based upon creature obedience. **JOH 1:12-13; TIT 3:5.**
 - C. This kingdom knows no racial, national, genealogical, historical, social, class, sexual or any other false boundary. **GAL 2:28; 6:15; COL 3:11-12; REV 5:9.**
 - D. This kingdom consists of saints of both testaments. **ROM 11:1-6; GAL 4:28-29.**
 - E. This kingdom's membership is secure, unalterable and eternal. **ROM 8:29-30; REV 22:5.**
 - F. This kingdom is at warfare with Satan, the world and the flesh. **ROM 7:22-23.**

- G. This kingdom is not organizational, hierarchical, geographical, tangible or visible. It is entirely the work of God the King in the inward part of the elect regardless of anything else.
- VI. Consider “kingdom of God” as it refers to the eternal, heavenly state. **2TI 4:18.**
- A. This is the ultimate inheritance of every elect child of God in Christ. **ROM 8:30; EPH 2:6.**
 - B. It will be fully realized at the Second Coming and Final Judgment. **MAT 25:31-34, 46.**
 - C. No form of corruption is permitted in this kingdom. **REV 21:7-8.**
 - D. The souls of saints who have died enter it presently. **LUK 9:30-31; 16:22; 23:43.**
 - E. Corrupt bodies of saints must be changed before they can enter this kingdom. **1CO 15:50-52.**
 - F. This kingdom has no warfare in it. It is a place of peace. **ISA 57:1-2.**
 - G. Regeneration is requisite and an earnest of this kingdom. **ROM 8:11.**
- VII. Consider “kingdom of God” as it refers to the O.T. nation of Israel.
- A. Israel was to be God's kingdom on earth, His peculiar treasure and nation. **EXO 19:5-6.**
 - B. It was an organized system of human government with citizenship requirements, a divine body of law (the Books of Moses), judicial system, an acceptable and necessary form of religion, a priesthood, geographical boundaries, military, etc.
 - C. Inclusion in this kingdom required that one be born to an existing family of this kingdom or converted to Israel's God (proselyte), circumcised if a male, etc. It was emphatically a racially oriented kingdom for which genealogies were critically important. **EXO 12:48-49; NUM 9:14; EZR 2:62.**
 - D. God was its King (**1SAM 12:12 c/w 8:7**) and, after Saul, then David's line.
 - E. This kingdom's continuance was conditional (**EXO 19:5**) and had a limited duration. **DAN 9:24.**
 - F. Regeneration was in no way a requirement for this kingdom.
- VIII. Consider “kingdom of God” as it refers to the earthly institution of N.T. local churches.
- A. During the time when national Israel was God's kingdom, a “kingdom of God” was prophesied to come. **DAN 2:31-45.**
 - B. In the days of the Roman empire (and right on schedule) John the Baptist and Jesus Christ announced that kingdom to be “at hand.” **LUK 3:1-2; MAT 3:1-2; MAR 1:14-15.**
 - C. This kingdom of God was a reality in their day. **LUK 16:16; HEB 12:28.**
 - D. Men were entering the kingdom by penitent baptism. **MAT 21:31-32 c/w LUK 7:28.**
 - E. The church is a kingdom founded upon Jesus Christ and the apostles. **MAT 16:18-19 c/w EPH 2:19-20; 1PE 2:5-6.**
 - F. Communion is a church ordinance observed in a kingdom. **LUK 22:29-30.**
 - G. This kingdom would never be destroyed. **DAN 2:44 c/w MAT 16:18; EPH 3:21.**
 - H. Proof of regeneration is a requirement for entry into this kingdom. **1JO 5:1 c/w ACT 8:37.**
 - I. Jesus is its King in heaven by virtue of His resurrection. **ACT 2:30-32.**
 - J. Race, circumcision, genealogy, etc. mean nothing here. **EPH 2:11-14; COL 3:9-11.**
 - K. This is an organized form of human government with a divine King, body of laws (the N.T.), judicial system, an acceptable and necessary form of religion, a priesthood (**1PE 2:5**), military (**2TI 2:3-4; EPH 6:13-17**), etc. with a heavenly capital city. **HEB 12:22.**
 - L. It is the ONLY thing called “kingdom of God” that came into existence in the days of the Roman empire (**DAN 2:31-45**) when national Israel's clock was expiring (**DAN 9:24**) that endures as promised and shall continue in exalted form for ever. **1CO 15:24; EPH 3:21.**