

Kingdom Concepts

Kingdom: Territory or realm over which a king has dominion.
Psa. 22:28, Isa. 37:16

However, the term is also used to designate a particular line of promises made to Israel nationally and exclusively.

The kingdom concept begins with the Abrahamic Covenant.
Genesis 12:1-3, 15:5-21, 17:1-8, 18:18-19, 22:15-18, 28:12-15.

Jacob had 12 sons who became the progenitors of the 12 tribes of national Israel. Through Joseph, just as God told Abraham, the family wound up in Egypt. After a pharaoh arose who did not remember Joseph, the large and growing offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were placed in bondage and they served 400 years.

The assignment of Moses was to bring the Israelites out of Egypt and back into the land of Canaan. After 40 years in the wilderness, Joshua completed the task.

Joshua 21:43-45 versus Hebrews 4:7-8

The David Covenant

After being ruled by a succession of judges, Israel wanted a king. God gave them Saul. But Saul was a faithless king. 1Sam. 13:13-14

The “man after my (God’s) own heart,” (Acts 13:22) was King David. 2Samuel 7:4-17

David was the only faithful king of Israel to rule over the united 12 tribes. During the reign of Solomon, due to his love for foreign women and their gods, (1Kings 11) God separated the northern 10. Solomon had a servant named Jeroboam. 1Kings 11:29-39

Israel was split between the northern and the southern kingdom.

The southern kingdom (Judah, Benjamin, and the Levites of the temple) became known as “the house of Judah.” Sometimes, they were collectively called “Jerusalem.”

The northern kingdom became known as “the house of Israel” or “the house of Ephraim” or “Mount Ephraim.” And sometimes “Samaria.”

Invasions and deportations

Assyrians / Babylonians / Medo-Persians / Greeks / Romans

BUT – despite this situation, the prophets of Israel speak with a unified voice. To a man, they all predict a time when God will reunite the 12 tribes, both houses, ruled by David’s greater son.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14 / Ezekiel 37: 15-28, Isaiah 9:6-7

The Prophet Daniel

Daniel’s succession of kingdoms, culminating in the return of Christ. Daniel 2: 36-45

This is a succession of provably earthly, physical kingdoms, all located in the Middle East, and all having a direct effect on national Israel.

Promises of Restoration

Micah 4:8 / Psalm 2 / Zephaniah 3:11-13, Zechariah 12:10 / Zechariah 14:16-19

Jesus

Luke 1:26 -33 ... and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end.”

This language, spoken by Gabriel, is identical to the OT predications concerning the Messiah’s purpose – to establish the kingdom and reign over Israel specifically.

Against this background, it’s not surprising that when Jesus walked on the planet, the Jews attempted to make Him king. He was Messiah. And they wanted Him to establish the prophetic visions.

Mark 11:9

In His Model Prayer (Lord’s Prayer), He included the petition, “They kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.”

Matt. 6:31-33 -- ...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you.”

How would Jesus’ original audience have understood those words? Given their Jewish heritage and promises, would have they been thinking about a physical kingdom, or a spiritual one?

Mark 15:43 -- Joseph of Arimathea. Was Joseph merely waiting to die? Or did He understand the kingdom of God to be a future, earthly, coming event?

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matt. 4:23 -- And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Matt. 9:35 -- And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.

The kingdom of Heaven

Matt. 3:2, Matt. 4:17

Kingdom of Heaven Vs. Kingdom of God

Matt. 19:23-24

Jesus Anticipated the Arrival of the Kingdom

Matt. 26:29, Luke 23:42, Luke 22:28-30, Revelation 21:10-14

The word “kingdom” appears 125 times in the synoptic gospels, but only three times in the gospel of John --

John 3:3, John 3:5, John 18:36

The Acts of the Apostles

Acts 1:3, 6-8

So, the question at this moment in time is: What’s the deal with Israel? Has God replaced them? Is the church the “new Israel” or the “spiritual Israel” (language not found in Scripture)?

The **New Covenant** is repeated in both Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8. And it is made specifically to “the house of Judah and the house of Israel.” Then it refers to them collectively as Israel. Jeremiah 31:31-37

More References to the Kingdom of God

- In the book of Acts there are five different references to the disciples of Jesus preaching “the kingdom of God.”
- Paul mentions the kingdom of God five times to the Corinthians.
- Once to the Romans and Galatians.

- “Kingdom of Christ and God” to the Ephesians.
- Once to the Colossians, as well as “the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Col. 1:13).
- “His kingdom and glory” in 1Thes. 2:12. And kingdom of God once.

It appears that Paul expected the kingdom to appear future to him --

Acts 14:19-22, 2Tim. 4:1, 1Cor. 15:22-24, Heb. 12:28, James 2:5

And then Revelation --

Rev. 1:6, Rev. 1:9, Rev. 5:10, Rev. 11:15, Rev. 12:10

And all of that takes us to Revelation 20.