

REVIEW:**I. The definition of the Kingdom.**

“The kingdom of God is the sovereign rule of God, manifested in the person and work of Christ, creating a people over whom he reigns, and issuing in a realm or realms in which the power of his reign is realized.” Ladd.

II. The Nature of the Kingdom.

A. There is only one Kingdom of God throughout Scripture.

We considered the one kingdom under different aspects.

THIS WEEK:

B. There are timeless and temporal aspects to the Kingdom.

1. Timeless aspects:

- a. God is the eternal king, from eternity past into the glorious eternity future. Ps 10.16, 29.10, 74.12, Jer 10.10, Lam 5.19
- b. God’s kingdom is universal; he reigns in all places at all times. 1 Chr 29.11-12, Ps 103.19, Dan 4.17, 25, 32.

2. Present (temporal) aspects:

- a. Christians are the people of the Kingdom, men in whose hearts God is now ruling, Rom. 14:17-18. [Note: Spiritual aspect as described above.]
- b. God’s people characteristically do God’s will. Mt 7.21; 1 Jn 2:4, 16-17.
- c. It is now a spiritual Kingdom, not brought about by world government or military force. Jn 18:33-37.
 - 1) God exercises sovereignty in time by providential control. Pr 21.1, Isa 10.5-6, Jer 25.8-12, et al.

“God deals sovereignly through men, some of whom recognize it, some of whom reject it, and some of whom are ignorant of it, yet God’s will is executed.”¹

2) God exercises sovereignty in time by miraculous intervention.
Ex 7:3-5.

- d. God is preparing in the present age a ruling class for the future age. 1 Co 6:2-3. Rev 2:26.
- e. The present stage of the Kingdom is slow growth. Mk 4:26-29
- f. The present Kingdom is largely internal; the future one is external and visible. Lk 17:20-21. Mt 19:28.
- g. Imperfections and sins mingle within the present aspect of the Kingdom; in the future Kingdom, God will remove all evil. Mt 13:38-43.

3. Future aspects:

- a. Nothing we can do will bring in the eschatological Kingdom; God will establish it by an earth-shaking cataclysm, Dan 2:44-45.
- b. Jesus did not repudiate the idea of the Messianic Kingdom:
 - 1) Mt 19:28. The throne of His glory.
 - 2) Mt 20:21-23. Position in the Kingdom is prepared.
 - 3) Lk 22:29-30. Position and authority is appointed in the Kingdom
 - 4) Ac 1:6-7. The time remains undetermined.
- c. The future Kingdom is to be the times of restoration prophesied by the prophets. Ac 3:21. Is 35:1-10. **{look up and read Isa}**
- d. The book of Revelation completes this view by prophesying: “They shall reign upon the earth,” and foresees its fulfillment. Rev 5:9-10; 20:6.
- e. The Davidic Covenant awaits exhaustive fulfillment. Lk 1:32-33. Hb 11:32, 39-40.

¹ Pentecost, 429.