

Week 21 – The Kingdom of God & Eternity

The Kingdom of God and Eternity

A Brief Overview of The Kingdom of God

One of the most important topics of the Bible is the kingdom of God. When we are born again, the King invites us into His kingdom (John 3:3-7). God's kingdom becomes the central focus of the new believer (Matthew 6:33) and Jesus' main teachings focused on kingdom values in a fallen world (Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5-7). Because of the centrality of the kingdom of God in Scripture, we must have a basic understanding of what this kingdom is all about. The list below names the basic properties of the kingdom of God.

Basic Attributes of the Kingdom of God

1. God's kingdom is His sphere, rule or domain. The kingdom is the "King's Domain."
2. The kingdom of God is the same as the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 19:23-24). Some people make unnecessary distinctions between these two. Biblically they are the same.
3. The kingdom of God is not of this world but does have influence and impact in this world (John 18:36).
4. One is either of the kingdom of God or the Domain of Darkness (Colossians 1:12-13). There is no demilitarized zone between the two realms.
5. History is racing toward the time when His kingdom will ultimately fill the earth and God's throne will prevail: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ" (Revelation 11:15, see also 1 Corinthians 15:25, Revelation 22:1-5). Until then, we must "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7).
6. We are presently living in the gap between the inauguration of the kingdom (when Christ came to earth) and the consummation of the kingdom (when He will come again). That is, we currently experience God's power and presence in our lives, but we still experience the suffering and decay of this world, and we will not perfectly encounter God until the Second Coming of Christ. (1 John 3:2)

As Christians, we are in the kingdom of God, we are each advancing it, and we are waiting expectantly for it to come in fullness when Christ returns.

The Bible speaks about this consummation of the kingdom thus:

“Then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death. He has put all things in subjection under his feet. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.” (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

When Jesus returns, we will see Him in His glory. His rule, which has always existed, will become manifest for all to see. Until then, we live in a tension between His kingdom now and His kingdom not yet.

One way of looking at the kingdom of God is to contrast it with the kingdom of the enemy. The two kingdoms have different ruling regimes and resulting laws.

Review

1. What are some of the attributes of the Kingdom of God?
2. Briefly explain how the Kingdom of God is both ‘now’ and ‘not yet’.
3. How does the Kingdom of God differ from the Kingdom of Satan?