

# Uses of the word “kingdom”

- God’s universal reign or rule
  - Psalm 103:19; 93:1-2
- God’s people in the nation of Israel in the Old Testament
  - Exodus 19:5-6; 2 Samuel 5:12
- The church
  - Matthew 16:18-19
- The heavenly phase of the kingdom
  - Acts 14:32; 2 Peter 1:10-11

# The church is the kingdom of Christ

- Church and kingdom used interchangeably
  - Matthew 16:18-19
- Parables set forth the church as the kingdom
  - Matthew 13:24, 44, 45, 47
- Christ purchased the church with his blood and made the same called out ones a kingdom of priests
  - Acts 20:28; Revelation 5:9-10

# The church is the kingdom of Christ

- Saved individuals are called out people described as a kingdom
  - 1 Peter 2:9-10
- The church is entered upon baptism by penitent believers, and these same ones are translated into the kingdom
  - Acts 2:41, 47; Colossians 1:13

# The church is the kingdom of Christ

- The Lord's Supper is in His kingdom; it is in His church
  - Matthew 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30
- Christians are in the kingdom today!
  - Colossians 1:13
  - Hebrews 12:22-28

# The kingdom of Christ is a spiritual Kingdom

- John 18:36
- Luke 17:20-21
- Philippians 3:20

# Elements of a Kingdom

- The word “kingdom” identifies God’s people as the ones over whom Christ reigns.
- Kingdom also emphasizes the government of the church.
- Four elements of a kingdom to consider:
  - King
  - Law
  - Subjects or citizens
  - Territory or realm

# Jesus Christ: The King in His Kingdom

- Claimed
  - John 18:37
- Reigning now
  - Acts 2:30, 34-36
- A conquering king
  - Hebrews 2:9, 14-15
- Authority & throne
  - Matthew 28:18; 1 Peter 3:22
- A benevolent king
  - Hebrews 2:9-10; Revelation 5:8-9
- Duration of His reign
  - 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

# The gospel: The law of His Kingdom

- The law of His kingdom described variously
- “under Christ’s law”
  - 1 Corinthians 9:21
- The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
  - Romans 8:2
  - c.f. 2 Timothy 1:10
  - Same law of Romans 1:16
- The law of Christ
  - Galatians 6:2
- The perfect law of liberty
  - James 1:25; 2:12
- The standard by which men will be judged
  - John 12:48
  - Romans 2:16



# Christians: Subjects in His Kingdom

- Entrance by the new birth
  - John 3:5
  - Acts 2:36-41
- Citizenship in heaven
  - Philippians 3:20
  - Ephesians 2:19
- Greatness is according to service
  - Matthew 20:20-28
- Live according to His law
  - Matthew 7:21-23

# The whole earth: The extent (“territory”) of His Kingdom

- Matthew 28:18-20
- Parable of the sower
  - Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
- Realm – the hearts of men
  - Hebrews 8:7-13

# Review Questions

- The church is the K \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- What are four characteristics of any kingdom?
  - Does the kingdom of Christ have these?
- Compare the government of a kingdom to governments we are familiar with, like a republic or democracy.
- How much authority does a king have in his kingdom?
- What did Jesus say one must do to enter His kingdom?
- To what extent does a subject or citizen in a kingdom obey the king?
- Does being subject to a king in a kingdom carry rights, privileges, and responsibilities?
  - Name some of these in the kingdom of Christ.
- What does the law of a king provide for the subjects?
- Since the kingdom of Christ is for all people of all nations, what is the responsibility of those who are already subjects in His kingdom?