

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?