

Relationship of the Church to the “Kingdom”

The Universal Kingdom

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- It is called, “Universal” because it encompasses everything.
- God rules the whole world (2Ch.29:11; Ps.145:13). He rules over all including nations (Re.15:3), and angels. He appoints rulers, and judges the world (Ps.96:13; Da.2:37; Ps.110:6).

Time:

His rule includes all time and eternity.

Relationship to the Church:

The church is in the world, thus is part of the Universal kingdom. God rules over it as He does all aspects of His universe.

The Davidic / Messianic Kingdom

- It is called, “Davidic” because of the promises (covenant) God made with David (2Sa.7:12-16)
- It is called “Messianic” because the Jewish Messiah. Jesus Christ will be the ruler over all the earth.

Time:

It begins after Christ returns to the earth, and will last for 1,000 years (Re.20).

Relationship to the Church:

The church is not a part of this kingdom at all, but will reign with Christ over this kingdom. The promises of this kingdom are for Israel (physical and earthly promises) not the church which has spiritual promises.

The Mystery Form of the Kingdom

- It is called, “Mystery” because Christ taught His disciples things about the kingdom that were not previously known.
- Christ taught a mystery form of the kingdom (Mt.13:11) where God is the Ruler.
- Those ruled include believers and unbelievers.
- It involves men’s relationship to “Christianity” as a whole.
- Those who would not listen / receive Christ were not able to “know” (Mt.13:11) or understand these truths. Unbelievers are warned of not entering the kingdom (1Co.6:9-10; Ga.5:19-21; Ep.5:5).

Time:

This idea of the kingdom began when Christ taught and will end when He returns at His second coming (Mt.13:39-40).

Relationship to the Church:

Since the church is related to “Christianity” she is part of this kingdom concept.

Heavenly or Spiritual Kingdom

- It is called, “Spiritual” because all believers are placed into this heavenly kingdom (Col.1:13) by a new birth (Jn.3:1-8).
- In this kingdom sense, Jesus Christ is the Ruler only of believers.

Time:

This relationship exists now in the church age.

Relationship to the Church:

The church is equivalent to this kingdom concept.

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In order to determine the relationship of the church to the kingdom, one must define which form of the kingdom is meant. There are four forms of the kingdom. (1) Universal; (2) Spiritual; (3) Mystery; and (4) Davidic / Messianic. Paul, and others labored “unto the kingdom of God” (Col.4:11). Also, Paul, for two full years, preached “the kingdom of God, and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered” (Ac.28:30-31). These examples, for us in the church, would be either the Spiritual or Mystery form of the kingdom. The Universal form encompasses all forms of the kingdom.