

The Kingdom

1. "Kingdom of God" and Kingdom of Heaven" –
 - a. The name or word "God" was never spoken so as to avoid:
 - i. inaccurate statements about God
 - ii. Insincere, artificial, empty phrases involving God's name.
 - b. Replacement words for "God" were used such as "Heaven"
 - c. Thus, Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God are the same.
 - d. Although scholars and students have tried to find a distinction.
2. The kingdom is presently existing and active, while also being currently absent and a future hope.
3. The kingdom involves God's power over all of his creation
 - a. physical and spiritual,
 - b. seen and unseen,
 - c. eternal and temporal
4. For the sake of study the kingdom manifests in five areas or dimensions:
 - a. Time
 - i. Psalm 96 (96:10)
 - b. Space
 - i. Psalm 145 (145:10-13)
 - ii. The Jerusalem Temple was the temporal location, but ultimately there is a full cosmic revelation and universal understanding that produces universal worship.
 - c. Purpose
 - i. Psalm 10 (10:15-16)
 - ii. The kingdom is a force of justice that will ultimately overcome and reveal God's purpose.
 - iii. The kosmos is selfish, greedy and violent. The kingdom will reverse the fortunes of those oppressed by the kosmos.
 - iv. Psalm 9 and Psalm 10 together form an ACROSTIC with each verse beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
 1. God is referred to as king in both Psalm 9 and 10
 2. Psalm 9
 - d. Criteria
 - i. Psalm 24
 - ii. Psalm 24:3-4 and 5-6 describes the necessary personal criteria for entry into the kingdom
 - iii. Here the breakdown of legalistic, cultic Jewish practice occurs and the standard becomes universal based on individual ethical behavior
 - e. Extent
 - i. Psalm 47 (47:9)
 - ii. The princes of the people (Gentiles) gather before God as the people of Abraham.
 - iii. Israel is the center of a large universal, multi-national group that recognize the God of Jacob as the true God
 - iv. Psalm 47:6 – God is the king of Israel; Psalm 47:8 – ruling from Zion (Jerusalem; Mt. Moriah)
 - v. Psalm 47:7 – God is the king of the whole earth. Psalm 47:8 – ruling over all the nations.