



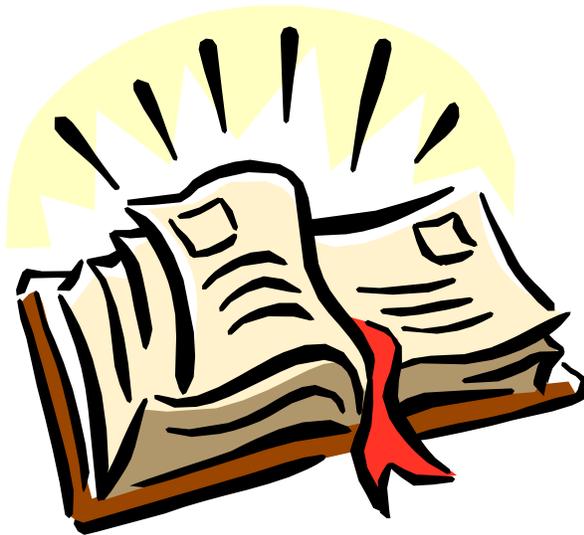
THE KINGDOMS

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Introduction

He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” Matthew

13:52



If There Were Eternal Truths Taught Throughout The Bible That You Were Not Aware Of, Would You Want To Know About Them? If Your Answer Is Yes, Then Please Continue Reading.

DEAR READER, SOME OF YOU WILL NOT READ PASS THIS SECOND PARAGRAPH. I DESPERATELY WISH IT WERE NOT SO, BUT WE MUST FACE REALITY. CHRIST HAS SPOKEN TO SOME

*OF US IN THE PAST THROUGH HIS DIVINE WORD AND THROUGH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BUT, ALAS, WE HAVE BEEN SLOW TO RECEIVE IT. HIS WORDS HAVE FALLEN AMONG THE THORNS OF THIS WORLD THAT WE HARBOR IN OUR HEARTS. THE CARES, THE RICHES, AND THE PLEASURES OF THIS LIFE HAVE CHOKED THEM DOWN AND THEY WILL NEVER BRING ANY FRUIT TO PERFECTION. **WE CAN NOT CHANGE THE MINDS OF SOME READERS ANY MORE THAN MY MASTER WAS ABLE TO CHANGE THE MINDS AND THE DESTINY OF MANY OF THOSE WHO HEARD HIM SPEAK DURING HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY.***

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.” ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become callused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears,

understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ ”

“¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.” Matthew 13:10-17

Does the Bible contain contradictions?

Yes, there does seem to be contradictions in the Bible. When we compare our instructions about "the kingdom" in one passage of God's word with the teachings about "the kingdom" in another passage, the two passages often appear to disagree. As an example, please consider the following two scriptures.

"But the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 8:12 KJ).

"Verily I say unto you, among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matthew 11:11 KJ).

God tells us in the first passage that the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness. In the second passage, God tells us the least in the kingdom is greater than John the Baptist. Does the kingdom in Matthew 8:12 and the kingdom in Matthew 11:11 refer to the same kingdom? Are the people who will be cast into outer darkness greater than John the Baptist?

Do you agree 2nd Samuel 11:1-17 reveals to us that King David committed adultery with Bathsheba? Please note God tells us:

" 19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this **will not inherit the kingdom of God.**" (Galations 5:19-21 NIV)

We are told in Galations 5:19 that those who are sexually immoral will not inherit the kingdom of God. If there is only one kingdom and that kingdom is composed of all the saved, then according to Galations 5:19, David will not be saved since he committed adultery.

The confusion that arises from what appears to be contradictions in God's divine word when it speaks of "the kingdom" has motivated me to write this book. It is not an attempt to reinvent the wheel. It is, rather, an attempt to remind ourselves of the teachings that have been handed down to us over the last 2,000 years in Gods completed, divine word.

Why is it important that we know and understand the Word of God?

Jesus Christ, when He finished His instructions to the first eleven members of the Church in Jerusalem said:

"... and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:20 NIV)

The Holy Spirit re-enforced this admonition from Christ when He led Paul to counsel Timothy.

" You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2: 1-2 NIV)

I fear, however, that many members of God's Churches have failed to learn and to teach the things their instructors have attempted to hand down to them. We are seeing a fulfillment of 2nd Timothy 4:3-4:

" For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths." (2 Timothy 4:3-4 NIV)

What is this book about?

Before we begin a study of the verses which refer to "the kingdom", we need to consider a few basic concepts which will help us to better understand the subject. Our beginning chapters will be devoted to laying foundations to aid us in discerning God's intent when He spoke of "the kingdom". In the beginning chapters, we intend to answer the following questions.

Is there only one kingdom? Do the scriptures always refer to the same kingdom?

From the beginning, God desired an agency that would publish the good news of salvation to the rest of the world. **When** did God begin to fill that need? **How** did God fill that need?

What was the purpose of the ministry of John the Baptist? Why did God send him into the world? Was John the Baptist a member of the Bride of Christ? Is John the Baptist a member of the Bride of Christ at this point in time? What authority did John the Baptist receive from God? Could John the Baptist pass his authority down to his disciples?

What were two important tasks Jesus accomplished while He was here on this earth? What did His Father give Him to empower Jesus to accomplish those two appointments?

Did Jesus begin a new kingdom while He was here on this earth? If so, who or what comprises that kingdom?

Is there a universal church to which all the saved belong? If so, when was it established and what scriptures refer to it? If there is a universal church, did it exist before the earthly ministry of Christ? If there is a universal church, where will the members of the universal church spend eternity? Will any one else be there with them?

What did the church in Jerusalem receive on the day of Pentecost? What was the purpose of those gifts from God and what was the church in Jerusalem to do with them?

What was Abraham promised? Was Abraham promised a city, a country or a new earth? If Abraham was promised a new earth, will only Abraham and his "sperm"

dwell on it through eternity? If so, where will the rest of the family of God dwell?

Has there been more than one kingdom in existence since the beginning of the world? If there has been more than one kingdom, how many are still in existence? If there has been more than one kingdom, how many have had a covenant with God?

What is a covenant?

A covenant is an agreement or a contract made between two parties. The covenant or contract may be written or it may be verbal.

A covenant between God and man may be (1) between God and an individual or it may be (2) between God and a group of people.

A covenant between God and man may be based upon (a) an agreement by an individual or a group of people to meet a set criteria so God will fulfill a promise. A covenant, on the other hand, may be based upon (b) an agreement by God to fulfill promises regardless of the actions of an individual or a particular group of people.

Are you familiar with some of the covenants God has made?

Understanding the covenants God has made (1) with His creation, (2) with mankind, (3) with certain individuals and (4) with certain groups of people will aid us in understanding what God meant when He referred to "the kingdom".

There exists a definite need today for a handbook to help in the proper understanding of God's purpose when He speaks to us about "the kingdom". It is our intent that this book will fill the need as we examine God's divine word together through the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Robert Tanner

Please Note!

I have listed the introduction of my book "The Kingdoms" on our website, www.bayourouge.net. If you would like a free copy of the following chapters, please correspond with me at medic@kriicket.net.

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