
Appendix 4

The Words “Kingdom” And “Kingdoms” In the New Testament

The basic meaning of the word “kingdom” in the New Testament is “rule, power, or sovereignty.” The kingdom of God, therefore, is the rule or sovereignty of God.

The word “kingdom” appears in about six different contexts in the New Testament. First, the word is used in reference to an earthly, political rule. (See Matthew 4:8.) Second, it is used in reference to the kingdom of Israel. (See Matthew 8:12.) Third, it is used in reference to the power or rule of God. (See Matthew 12:28.) Fourth, it is used in reference to the church, the special rule of God on earth today. (See Matthew 11:11; 16:18; John 3:5; Colossians 1:13.) Fifth, it is used in reference to heaven as the eternal kingdom of God. (See Luke 13:28.) Sixth, it is used of Satan’s realm of dominion. (See Matthew 12:26.)

Matthew predominantly used the phrase “kingdom of heaven.” Mark, Luke, and John used, without exception, the phrase “kingdom of God.” The two

phrases obviously have the same meaning.

Study carefully the use the Holy Spirit made of the word “kingdom” in the New Testament. The numbers in parentheses indicate *the number of times* that particular word or expression appears.

“A kingdom” (2)

Luke (1)—22:29, 30.

Hebrews (1)—12:28.

“The kingdom” (11)

Matthew (4)—6:13 (the last sentence of this verse is not found in most reliable manuscripts); 8:12; 13:19; 13:38; 25:34.

Mark (1)—11:10.

Luke (1)—12:32.

Acts (2)—1:6; 20:25.

1 Corinthians (1)—15:24.

James (1)—2:5.

Revelation (1)—1:9.

“Kingdom of heaven” (31)

Matthew (31)—3:2; 4:17; 5:3; 5:10; 5:19 (twice); 5:20; 7:21; 8:11; 11:11; 11:12; 13:11; 13:24; 13:31; 13:33; 13:44; 13:45; 13:47; 13:52; 16:19; 18:1; 18:3; 18:4; 18:23; 19:12; 19:14; 19:23; 20:1; 22:2; 23:13; 25:1.

“The gospel of the kingdom” (3)

Matthew (3)—4:23; 9:35; 24:14.

“Kingdom of God” (67)

Matthew (4)—12:28; 19:24; 21:31; 21:43.

Mark (14)—1:15; 4:11; 4:26; 4:30; 9:1; 9:47; 10:14; 10:15; 10:23; 10:24; 10:25; 12:34; 14:25; 15:43.

Luke (32)—4:43; 6:20; 7:28; 8:1; 8:10; 9:2; 9:11; 9:27; 9:60; 9:62; 10:9; 10:11; 11:20; 13:18; 13:20; 13:28; 13:29; 14:15; 16:16; 17:20 (twice); 17:21; 18:16; 18:17; 18:24; 18:25; 18:29, 30; 19:11; 21:31; 22:16; 22:18; 23:50, 51.

John (2)—3:3; 3:5.

Acts (6)—1:3; 8:12; 14:22; 19:8; 28:23; 28:31.

Romans (1)—14:17.

1 Corinthians (4)—4:20; 6:9; 6:10; 15:50.

Galatians (1)—5:21.

Colossians (1)—4:11.

2 Thessalonians (1)—1:5.

Revelation (1)—12:10.

Kingdom of Christ (15)

Matthew (3)—13:41; 16:28; 20:21.

Luke (3)—1:33; 22:30; 23:42.

John (3)—18:36 (three times).

Colossians (1)—1:13.

2 Timothy (2)—4:1; 4:18.

Hebrews (1)—1:8.

2 Peter (1)—1:11.

Revelation (1)—11:15.

The Father's kingdom (7)

Matthew (4)—6:10; 6:33; 13:43; 26:29.

Luke (2)—11:2; 12:31.

1 Thessalonians (1)—2:12.

"The kingdom of Christ and God" (1)

Ephesians (1)—5:5.

Earthly "kingdom" or "kingdoms" (20)

Matthew (4)—4:8; 12:25; 24:7 (twice).

Mark (5)—3:24 (twice); 6:23; 13:8 (twice).

Luke (6)—4:5; 11:17; 19:12; 19:15; 21:10 (twice).

Hebrews (1)—11:33.

Revelation (4)—11:15; 17:12; 17:17; 17:18 (the Greek text has "a kingdom over the kings of the earth").

Satan's kingdom (3)

Matthew (1)—12:26.

Luke (1)—11:18.

Revelation (1)—16:10.