

## The Kingdom(s)<sup>1</sup>

This article will attempt to show that the word Kingdom in the Bible is generic and can apply to Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, or Heavenly Kingdom.

The English word, Kingdom is found throughout the entire Bible. In the New Testament it is translated from the Greek noun, *basileia*: and is rendered either Kingdom (150 times), Kingdoms (4 times), or Reigneth (1 time). The root definition is *royalty* and refers to God as King and most of the references to Kingdom(s) pertain to God's Kingdom(s). To dispense with the one verse containing our word translated reigneth we will notice it has nothing to do with the Royalty of God as King:

(Revelation 17:18) “**And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**”

The rest of the references (Kingdom or Kingdoms) mostly fall either into God's earthly program of Prophecy (see this author's article: [The Millennial Earthly Kingdom](#)) or His heavenly program of the Mystery. The phrase Kingdom of God can be used to identify either program and can also be used to refer to the overall Kingdom of God including both programs. Without the principle of right division it is futile to try to understand the term Kingdom in Scripture. (See this author's article: [A Mid-Acts Dispensational Trip through the Bible](#) for information on this principle.)

Confusion on this topic can be understood when we further consider that in the book of Matthew the future earthly kingdom is referred to as Kingdom of Heaven 31 times. It is the only place this phrase is used and is a reference to that future earthly kingdom that Christ will receive from the Father *in* heaven and will bring with Him *from* heaven at the Second Coming. (See the parable in Luke 19:12 ff.)

Matthew also uses Kingdom of God as does Mark, Luke, and John in their Gospels for a reference to the future earthly kingdom from God in heaven. Luke also uses Kingdom of God 7 times and Kingdom 1 time in the book of Acts to refer to the Earthly Kingdom as well as the combined Kingdom of God.

The Apostle Paul uses the word Kingdom in his epistles 14 times and only two of those refers to the future earthly kingdom (II Timothy 4:1, I Corinthians 15:24). The other 12 times we have reference to the Heavenly Kingdom as: Kingdom of God (8 times), His Kingdom (1 time), Kingdom of Christ and of God (1 time), Kingdom of His Dear Son (1 time), and Heavenly Kingdom (1 time).

### **Kingdom of God**

(Overall Combined Kingdom)

#### **Earthly Kingdom**

Part of the Prophecy Program

To occur on Earth

Called: Kingdom of God

Kingdom of Heaven

Kingdom

#### **Heavenly Kingdom**

Part of the Mystery Program

To occur in the Heavens

Called: Kingdom of God

Kingdom of Christ and of God

Kingdom of His Dear Son

His Kingdom

Heavenly Kingdom

Also see this author's work: *Understanding the Bible & End Times* for a complete treatment of all the above points as they play into End Times.

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