

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST:

The Kingdom of Heaven

LESSON ONE: MANY HEAVENS

MEMORY VERSE: “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.”
(II Corinthians 12:2)

Definition of heaven: lifted up; high; the sky; happiness; state of bliss.

Usually, when people talk about “heaven,” they are talking about the eternal heaven in which the family of God will be when this time in this world is over. Controversy often stems from the question, “What do we have to do to go to heaven?” Many do not know that the Scriptures repeatedly talk about different heavens. Most people respond in reference to one heaven.

It is important to know the truth that there are many different heavens mentioned in the Bible. Then, when we are talking about heaven, we must always identify which heaven we are discussing.

The following are some of the verses which use the word “heavens”... NOT one heaven, but “heavens” plural. Of course, there is only one heaven when we die and this world is over. But right now, there are many different heavens, one of which is the eternal heaven.

Bible Study Scriptures:

Genesis 2:1,4

Deuteronomy 10:14

I Chronicles 16:26,31

II Chronicles 6:18,25,33,35,39

Job 9:8

Psalms 2:4; 8:1,3,4; 18:13; 19:1

Psalms 33:6; 68:4,8,33; 97:6

Psalms 103:19

Isaiah 34:1-4; 40:22; 55:9

***Isaiah 65:17-19; 66:15-24

***Jeremiah 4:23-31; 10:11-13

Jeremiah 51:16

Ezekiel 1:1

***Joel 2:10,11,28-32; 3:16

Haggai 2:6,21

Matthew 3:16; 24:29

Luke 12:33

Acts 2:34; 7:56

II Corinthians 5:1

Ephesians 4:10

Hebrews 1:10; 4:14; 7:26; 8:1

***II Peter 3:5,7,10,12,13

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. "Thus the _____ and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." (Genesis 2:1).
2. "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the _____ also, with all that therein is." (Deuteronomy 10:14).
3. "For all the gods of the people are idols: but the _____ made the heavens." (I Chronicles 16:26).
4. "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, The Lord _____." (I Chronicles 16:31).
5. "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this _____ which I have built!" (II Chronicles 6:18).
6. "Then hear thou from the heavens, even from thy _____ place...." (II Chronicles 6:33).
7. "Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the _____ of the sea." (Job 9:8).
8. "He that sitteth in the heavens shall _____: the Lord shall have them in derision." (Psalm 2:4).
9. "By the _____ of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." (Psalm 33:6).
10. "Sell that ye have, and give alms: provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a _____ in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth." (Luke 12:33).
11. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the _____ of the heavens shall be shaken." (Matthew 24:29).

12. “And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man _____ on the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56).
13. “And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine _____.” (Hebrews 1:10).
14. “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, _____ the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.” (Hebrews 4:14).
15. “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, _____ in the heavens.” (II Corinthians 5:1).
16. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the _____ shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.” (II Peter 3:10).
17. “...Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be _____, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (II Peter 3:12).
18. “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new _____ and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.” (II Peter 3:13).

TRUE or FALSE

1. There is more than one heaven mentioned in the Bible. _____
2. There is a heaven of heavens. _____
3. God is in the heavens. _____
4. There are some heavens that will be dissolved. _____
5. It took billions of years to make the heavens. _____

SUMMARY

The word “heaven” means _____.

There are at least _____ heavens taught in the Bible.

_____ made the heavens.

Write down the memory verse, and memorize it.

LESSON TWO: THE PHRASES “KINGDOM OF HEAVEN” AND “KINGDOM OF GOD” ARE THE SAME THING

MEMORY VERSE: “...a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the **kingdom of God**.” (Matthew 19:23,24).

This heaven on earth is often called the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God. The phrases “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably in the Scriptures. When Matthew is writing about this heaven, he usually records the words of Jesus as “the kingdom of heaven.” When Luke is writing about the same day in the life of Jesus, he usually records this heaven as the “kingdom of God”.

CONTRAST: Matthew 5:3 with Luke 6:20
Matthew 13:11 with Luke 8:10
Matthew 19:14 with Luke 18:16
Matthew 8:11 with Luke 13:29

Jesus Himself, sometimes in the same conversation, would in one sentence speak of this heaven as the “kingdom of heaven”, and in the next sentence call it the “kingdom of God”. Please look carefully at one occasion where He did this:

“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the **kingdom of heaven**. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the **kingdom of God**.” (Matthew 19:23,24).

There are many reasons this heaven is sometimes called the kingdom of heaven and is also called the kingdom of God. Please carefully read and think about Revelation 21:1,2. “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, **coming down from God out of heaven**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

This new heaven and new earth **came down from God!** And this new heaven and new earth **came down out of heaven**. Since it came down from God, we can understand it being called the **kingdom of God**. Since it came down out of heaven, we see why it is called the **kingdom of heaven**.

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. "Blessed are the _____: for their's is the **kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 5:3).
2. "Blessed be ye poor: for your's is the **kingdom of _____.**" (Luke 6:20).
3. "Because it is given unto you to know the _____ of the **kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given." (Matthew 13:11).
4. "Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the **kingdom of God**: but to others in _____; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." (Luke 8:10).
5. "Suffer little _____, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the **kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 19:14).
6. "Suffer little children to come unto me, and _____ them not: for of such is the **kingdom of God.**" (Luke 18:16).
7. "And I say unto you, That many shall come from the _____, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the **kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 8:11).
8. "And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall _____ in the **kingdom of God.**" (Luke 13:29).
9. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall _____ enter into the **kingdom of heaven.**" (Matthew 19:23).
10. "And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a _____ man to enter into the **kingdom of God.**" (Matthew 19:24).

HINT: The answers to the next questions are found on page one of this lesson!

1. When Matthew writes about this heaven (kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God), he usually refers to it as the _____.
2. When Luke writes about this same heaven, he usually calls it the _____.
3. Give one Scripture from Matthew and one from Luke, which show that the terms kingdom of heaven and kingdom of God are the same thing.

LESSON THREE
THE HEAVEN MOST MENTIONED
IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

MEMORY VERSE: “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17).

Even though there are many heavens mentioned in the Bible, there is one heaven which is preached most often in the New Testament. Every preacher in the New Testament concentrated on preaching about the **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**, which is a heaven God has prepared for His obedient children while they are living here in this world. While we are in this kingdom of heaven, we are having close communion and fellowship with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, as well as the Holy Spirit.

Please carefully study some of the following Scriptures to see that all the New Testament preachers were preaching about this kingdom of heaven.

EVERY NEW TESTAMENT PREACHER PREACHED
ABOUT THIS HEAVEN (KINGDOM OF HEAVEN)

Matthew 3:2- John the Baptist
Matthew 4:17- Jesus Christ
Matthew 10:7- Twelve Apostles
Luke 10:1,9- Seventy disciples
Acts 28:30,31- Apostle Paul

Jesus preached about this heaven (kingdom of heaven)
repeatedly in His sermon on the mount:

Matthew 5:3,10,19,20,
Matthew 6:10,13,33
Matthew 7:21

Everywhere Jesus went, He was preaching
about this heaven (kingdom of heaven)

Matthew 9:35	Matthew 20:1
Matthew 11:11,12	Matthew 21:31,43
Matthew 13:11,19,24,31,33	Matthew 22:2
Matthew 13:44,45,47,52	Matthew 23:13
Matthew 18:1,3,4	Matthew 24:14
Matthew 19:12,14,23,24	Matthew 25:1,14,34

Fill in the Blank

1. “In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, And saying, Repent ye: for the **kingdom of _____** is at hand.” (Matthew 3:1,2).
2. “From that time, Jesus began to preach, and to say, _____: for the **kingdom of heaven** is at hand.” (Matthew 4:17).
3. “And as ye go, preach, saying, The **kingdom of heaven** is at _____.” (Matthew 10:7).
4. “And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, **The kingdom of God** is come _____ unto you.” (Luke 10:9).
5. “Preaching the **kingdom of _____**, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.” (Acts 28:31).
6. “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for _____ is the **kingdom of heaven.**” (Matthew 5:3).
7. “Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness’ sake: for their’s is the **kingdom of heaven.**” (Matthew 5:10).
8. “For I say unto you, That except your _____ shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the **kingdom of heaven.**” (Matthew 5:20).
9. “But _____ ye first the **kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33).
10. “Not every one that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the **kingdom of heaven**; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21)

HINT: See page 1 of this lesson for the answer to the next two questions!!!!

*****There were at least 85 preachers in the New Testament who preached about the kingdom of heaven (kingdom of God), this heaven we can have here on earth. Who were they?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

LESSON FOUR

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN OR KINGDOM OF GOD?

and

WHERE IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN OR KINGDOM OF GOD?

MEMORY VERSE: “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**” (Romans 14:17).

MEMORY VERSE: “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! For, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**” (Luke 17:20,21).

The lesson for today will be a little different. We will ask you to memorize two verses this week. They are two of the most important verses in this series of studies on this heaven we can experience while we live here on this earth.

WHAT IS THIS HEAVEN? It is “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

WHERE IS THIS HEAVEN? It is “within you.”

When you can feel close communion and fellowship with God within your soul, you are in the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God, AND it is within you! How can you be in something, and at the same time it be in you? If you were standing on a bridge over a river, and you dropped a cup into the river, would the cup be in the water, or the water in the cup? BOTH!!! The same thing is true when we are in this heaven, which is called the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God. We are in this heaven, and this heaven is in us! Oh what joy and peace floods our soul when we feel so close to God!

The Jews had been looking for a kingdom of heaven, but they thought it was going to be a natural, material kingdom where they would be rich in material things like silver and gold. They thought Jesus was going to rule this earth on a throne in the old Jerusalem, and did not know the old Jerusalem (that natural city) was going to be destroyed.

The kingdom of heaven (kingdom of God) about which everyone had been preaching was a spiritual heaven, NOT a material heaven. It was NOT meat and drink, it was righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. It was NOT something you could see with the natural eye, it was something within the soul! No matter where on this earth a child of God lives, he can enter this kingdom of heaven which God has prepared for His obedient children while they live here on this earth.

Fill in the blank

1. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but _____ and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
2. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and _____, and joy in the Holy Ghost."
3. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and _____ in the holy Ghost."
4. "The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is _____."
5. "The kingdom of God cometh not with _____: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! For, behold, the _____ is within you."
6. "The _____ cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, Lo there! For, behold, the _____ of God is _____."
7. "I knew a man in Christ above _____ years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the _____."
8. "A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of _____. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of _____."
9. "From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, _____: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
10. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but _____, _____, _____, _____ in the Holy Ghost."

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The kingdom of heaven is within you. _____
2. The kingdom of God is meat and drink. _____
3. The kingdom of heaven can only be felt in the church. _____
4. The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. _____
5. The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are the same thing. _____
6. _____ We can enjoy the kingdom of heaven before we die. _____

LESSON 5

WHAT MUST WE DO TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN?

MEMORY VERSE: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21).

First, remember that we are studying about the kingdom of heaven, a heaven we can experience here on earth, not about the eternal heaven where we go when we die. We do nothing to enter the eternal heaven. We go to the eternal heaven because of the work of God, and the blood of Jesus Christ alone!

BUT IN ORDER TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, TO HAVE THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND PEACE, AND JOY IN THE HOLY GHOST, THERE ARE THINGS WE MUST DO!

Look at the parables. They are telling us about **things we must do** to enter the kingdom of heaven!

1. **Parable of the ten virgins** (Matthew 25:1-13)- they had to keep their lamps burning to enter into the marriage, which represents the kingdom of heaven.
2. **Parable of the talents** (Matthew 25:14-30)- they had to use their talents and produce more talents to enter into the joy of the Lord, which is the kingdom of heaven.
3. **Parable of the sower** (Matthew 13:3-8, 18-23)- they had to receive the word of God and bring forth fruit to perfection to enter into the kingdom of heaven.
4. **Parable of the hidden treasure** (Matthew 13:44)- a man has to forsake all that he hath in order to purchase the joy of the kingdom.
5. **Parable of the goodly pearls** (Matthew 13:45)- a man had to sell all that he had to purchase the pearl of great price, which represents the kingdom of heaven.
6. **Parable of the laborers** (Matthew 20:1-16)- each laborer had to work in the vineyard to get his “pay” or reward, which represents the kingdom of heaven.
7. **Parable of the marriage of the king’s son** (Matthew 22:1-14)- the only ones who could participate in the wedding were those who had put on the wedding garment.

These parables are all showing that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be letting our lights shine, working in service to God, and making sacrifices to put God first in our lives. Jesus makes it most plain in our memory verse for today when He says, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that **doeth** the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21). Talking about our love for God, calling Him Lord, Lord, is NOT what gets us into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus says, “he that **doeth** the will of my Father” is the one who will enter the kingdom of heaven!

Jesus tells us in Luke 16:16, “**The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**”

Notice the last 5 words of that verse: ‘every man **presseth** into it.’ You are not simply born into this heaven (kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God). You must work, labor, or **press** into the kingdom of heaven.

The Scripture tells us that Paul returned to several cities, “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that **we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.**” (See Acts 14:22.) It requires much tribulation to enter into the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God.

Please write down the following three Scriptures:

Matthew 7:21 _____

Luke 16:16 _____

Acts 14:22 _____

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven."
2. "Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten _____ which took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom."
(See Matthew 25:1.)
3. "For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own _____, and delivered unto them his goods."
(Matthew 25:14).
4. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the _____ of thy lord." (See Matt. 25:21.)
5. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto _____ hid in a field."
6. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man seeking goodly _____."
7. "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire _____ into his vineyard." (Matthew 20:1).
8. "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a _____ for his son." (Matthew 22:2).
9. "... we must through much _____ enter into the kingdom of God." (See Acts 14:22.)
10. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man _____ into it." (See Luke 16:16.)
11. "Not every one that _____ unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the _____ but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in _____." (Matthew 7:21).

List three Scriptures which show we must do something to enter the kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God.

LESSON SIX

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

In the last five lessons, we have been studying primarily about the Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God, a heaven which God has prepared for His obedient children while they live here in this world. The word of God teaches that there are many heavens, including one where we will go when we leave this time world, which we call the eternal heaven, and one we can enjoy here, which we call the kingdom of heaven.

Entering the **eternal heaven** is **NOT** of our works, **NOT** by our works, and **NOT** according to our works. **But entering the kingdom of heaven IS based on us doing what God commands us to do.** The heaven most mentioned in the New Testament is not the eternal heaven, but is the kingdom of heaven, which is defined as righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. This heaven we can experience while we live here is also called the Kingdom of God, and Jesus says this kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God is **within you!**

The phrases Kingdom of Heaven and Kingdom of God are used interchangeably in the Scriptures. Sometimes Jesus called this heaven the kingdom of Heaven, and sometimes He called it the Kingdom of God. When Matthew is recording the words of Jesus, He usually called this heaven the Kingdom of Heaven. However, when Luke records the same day in the life of Jesus, he usually says Jesus said the Kingdom of God. They are not contradicting each other! Matthew just uses one phrase, while Luke uses the other most of the time. Jesus Himself used the phrases interchangeably in Matthew 19:23,24. In verse 23, He calls it the kingdom of heaven; then in verse 24 He calls it the kingdom of God.

Always remember the definition of the Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God! It is “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost!” (Romans 14:17). You can be in the kingdom of heaven when you are in church, and you feel real close to God. Or, you may be having your bedtime prayers with your family and be in the kingdom of heaven. Or, you may be almost anywhere and feel that you are in the kingdom of heaven. Whenever you feel lifted up into a sacred nearness to God, and feel His presence abundantly in your heart and soul, you are in the kingdom of heaven.

Also remember that Jesus said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21). We must be doing the will of the Father, obeying God’s word, and serving Him in order to be able to enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

FILL IN THE BLANK

1. “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the _____ heaven.” (II Corinthians 12:2).
2. The preceding verse tells us there are at least _____ heavens.
3. “Behold, the heaven and the heaven of _____ is the Lord’s thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.” (Deuteronomy 10:14).
4. When Matthew is writing about this heaven we can have while we live in this world, he usually refers to it as the kingdom of _____.
5. When Luke is writing about this heaven on earth, he usually calls it the kingdom of _____.
6. There are two verses in Matthew where Jesus uses the expression “kingdom of heaven” in one verse, then calls it the “kingdom of God” in the next verse. Where are those two verses? _____.
7. “Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of _____, but to them it is not given.” (Matthew 13:11).
8. “Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of _____ but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.” (Luke 8:10).

9. Even though there are many heavens mentioned in the Bible, what is the one heaven most mentioned in the New Testament? _____.
10. Jesus and John the Baptist both preached, “_____ for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (See Matthew 3:1,2 and Matthew 4:17.)
11. When Jesus sent out the twelve apostles, He told them to go preach, “The kingdom of heaven is _____.” (Matthew 10:7).
12. When Jesus sent out the seventy disciples, He told them to say, “The kingdom of God is come _____.” (Luke 10:1,9).
13. “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but _____, and _____, and _____ in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17).
14. “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here!, or Lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is _____.” (Luke 17:20,21).
15. “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the will of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 7:21).
16. “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man _____ into it.” (Luke 16:16).
17. Paul and Silas went to several cities, “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much _____ enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22).
18. Entering the eternal heaven is by _____, but entering the kingdom of heaven is by _____.

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN/ THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- I. There is more than one heaven taught in the Bible. While we look forward to the eternal heaven when this world is over, we can experience a heaven while we are still living here on this earth.
 - A. II Corinthians 12:2
 - B. Revelation 21:1
- II. This “heaven on earth” is usually called the “kingdom of heaven” or “the kingdom of God”. The phrases “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably in the Bible.
 - a. Contrast the expressions used in Matthew with those in Luke. While Matthew uses the expression “kingdom of heaven” referring to this heaven on earth, Luke uses the expression “kingdom of God”.
 - i. Matthew 5:3 with Luke 6:20
 - ii. Matthew 13:11 with Luke 8:10
 - iii. Matthew 19:14 with Luke 18:16
 - b. Jesus Himself used the expressions “kingdom of heaven” interchangeably with “kingdom of God” in Matthew 19:23,24.
- III. The “kingdom of God” (kingdom of heaven) is specifically defined in the Bible as “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17) We experience this “heaven”, this abundant life, when we are in close fellowship with God.
- IV. Jesus tells us clearly that “the kingdom of God is within you.” (Luke 17:20,21)
- V. This “kingdom of heaven / kingdom of God” is the heaven most mentioned in the Bible.
 - a. This “heaven on earth” (kingdom of heaven / kingdom of God) is the subject of every New Testament preacher.
 - i. Jesus- Matthew 4:17
 - ii. John the Baptist- Matthew 3:1,2
 - iii. The 12 Apostles- Matthew 10:5-7
 - iv. The 70 disciples- Luke 10:1,8,9
 - v. Phillip- Acts 8:12
 - vi. Paul- Acts 20:25; 28:30,31
 - b. Every Parable in the New Testament is about this heaven on earth (kingdom of heaven or kingdom of God). See Matthew 25:1-13; 25:14-30; Matthew 13:24; 13:31; 13:33; 13:44; 13:45; 13:47, etc.
- VI. Though entering the eternal heaven after we die is completely by the grace of God, (not of our works), the kingdom of heaven we experience here on earth while we live is based upon our works!
(See Matthew 7:21; Luke 16:16; Acts 14:21,22)

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 4:17 From that time **Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Mt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

Mt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Mt 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Mt 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called **the least in the kingdom of heaven**: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called **great in the kingdom of heaven**. 20: For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, **ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Mt 6:10 **Thy kingdom come.** Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Mt 6:33 But **seek ye first the kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Mt 7:21 **Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**

Mt 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall **sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.**

Mt 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and **preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Mt 10:7 And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Mt 11:11 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**. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now **the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

Mt 12:28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then **the kingdom of God is come unto you.**

Mt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it is not given.

Mt 13:19 When any one heareth **the word of the kingdom**, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. ...24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:** ...31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed**, which a man took, and sowed in his field: ...33 Another parable spake he unto them; **The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven**, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. ... 43 Then shall **the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father**. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. ...44 Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field**; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.45 Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls**:47 Again, **the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind**:52 Then said he unto them, Therefore **every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.**

Mt 16:19 And **I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven**: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. 28: Verily I say unto you, **There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.**

Mt 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, **Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?** ...3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, **ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**. ... 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, **the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven**.23 Therefore is **the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king**, which would take account of his servants.

Mt.19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for **of such is the kingdom of heaven**. ...23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a **rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven**. 24: And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a **rich man to enter into the kingdom of God**.

Mt 20:1 For **the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder**, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

Mt 20:21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, **Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.**

Mt 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, **That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.**

Mt 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, **The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

Mt 22:2 **The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,**

Mt 24:14 And **this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world** for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Mt 25:1 Then shall **the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins**, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Mt 25:14 For **the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country**, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

Mt 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, **Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Mt 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when **I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.**

Mk 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, **preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God**, 15: And saying, The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Mk 9:1 And he said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.**

Mk 9:47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to **enter into the kingdom of God** with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

Mk 10:14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for **of such is the kingdom of God**. 15: Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive **the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein**.

Mk 12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, **Thou art not far from the kingdom of God**. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

Mk 14:25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that **I drink it new in the kingdom of God**.

Mk 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also **waited for the kingdom of God**, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent**. 44: And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee.

Lk 4:43 And he said unto them, **I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent**.

Lk 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, **Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God**.

Lk 8:1 And it came to pass afterward, that **he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God**: and the twelve were with him,... 10: And he said, Unto you it is given to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of God**: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Lk 9:2 And **he sent them to preach the kingdom of God**, and to heal the sick....11: And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and **spake unto them of the kingdom of God**, and healed them that had need of healing.

Lk 9:27 **But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God**.

Lk 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but **go thou and preach the kingdom of God....** 62: And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, **is fit for the kingdom of God**.

Lk 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and **say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you....**11: Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that **the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.**

Lk 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, **no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.**

Lk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for **it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

Lk 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time **the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.**

Lk 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, **when the kingdom of God should come,** he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:**21: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**

Lk 18:16 But Jesus called them unto him, and said, **Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.**

Lk 21:31 So likewise ye, **when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.**

Jn 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, **he cannot see the kingdom of God....** 5: Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, **he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

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