

The Kingdom Of God And Our Responsibility

The Jews in the time of Christ rejected Christ as their Messiah; for He came not in power and glory to setup the kingdom of God on earth as they thought He would. He came as a man born of woman, the virgin Mary and humbled himself as a servant to save man by his death on the cross. The Jews fulfilled the prophecy of His death by having Him crucified on the cross.

Let me say now that the kingdom of God cannot be summed up in a sentence or a paragraph. The kingdom of God is dynamic, eternal and ever expanding. Since creation the kingdom of God has been a progressive revelation, as God has revealed his purposes and plans for His kingdom to man by His Word. The kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven (the phrase used by Matthew in his gospel as it was written to the Jews and they used the word heaven for God) is used over one hundred times in the New Testament. Jesus likened it to many things in the four gospels. We will not detail his teaching or list the scriptures in this study. I challenge you to take your Bible with a highlighter and skim through it and highlight the phrase kingdom of God or kingdom of heaven in the four gospels and the Book of Acts. Then go back and study those scriptures to increase your knowledge and understanding of the Word of God and His kingdom.

When was the kingdom of God setup?

The kingdom of God was setup at the beginning of creation. ***Genesis 1:1*** ***1*** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* (KJV) God is the Sovereign of all the universe. His realm (scope of His rule), reign (the power by which He rules, and regency (authority to rule) are described in Genesis. **His realm** is transcendent; that is, not only does it include the entire physical universe, but it exceeds it. He existed before all creation. He expands beyond it and by virtue of having begotten it, He encompasses all that it is. **His reign** is exercised by His will, His word and His works. By His own will He creatively decides and designs; by His own word He speaks creation into being; and by His own works, His Spirit displays His unlimited power. **His regency** is His preexistence and holiness, He is there before creation “in the beginning.” He deserves to be its Potentate (ruler). His benevolent intent in creating things “good” reveals His holy nature (complete and perfect), and thus His moral right to be creation’s King. All kingdom power and authority flow from Him. (From Spirit filled study Bible, KJV)

Has there been different phases or time periods of the kingdom of God?

In the beginning the kingdom of God was in heaven of times past with the created angels and archangels being the subjects of God. Through pride Satan sinned and rebelled against God and a rebel kingdom of Satan and the fallen angels came into existence. ***Revelation 12:7-8** ⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.*

In Genesis, God created Adam and Eve and gave them dominion over the earth. Now the kingdom of God was to be established on the earth through Adam and Eve. They sinned condemning themselves and all their future generations to the rule of Satan and his kingdom of darkness. God lost his authority on the earth.

God then made covenants with patriarchs, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The kingdom of God was maintained on earth through the faith and obedience of the patriarchs. The patriarchs were not perfect, but knew the rule and reign of God in their hearts and lives in the corrupt world of their time. The promises of Christ were preserved in them.

God called Moses and brought the nation of Israel, the descendants of Jacob, out of Egypt. In the nation of Israel He expanded His kingdom on earth by His laws given to Moses. Israel was to be the instrument God would use to demonstrate His rule and reign to other nations. Through Israel all nations would have the revelation of God. God was their King and Israel was a theocracy. Israel failed to obey God and God sent both houses Israel and Judah into captivity. The house of Israel was lost in history.

When the houses Israel and Judah were under judgment, the kingdom of God was on earth through the Gentile nations which he used to subdue his chosen children. God is sovereign as He rules in the heavens and the earth. He gives his kingdom to whoever He chooses. All the Gentile nations such as Assyria, Babylon, and the Roman Empire were given reign over the people of Israel and Judah because of sin. Remember God is supernatural and super normal. Earthly human logic does not apply in His kingdom rule.

During the ministry of Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God was in Christ until his death. Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom and demonstrated the power of the kingdom with signs wonders and miracles. ***Matthew 4:23** 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. (KJV) **Mark 1:4** ⁴ John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. (KJV)*

Jesus taught that the kingdom of God was at hand and for all to repent. **Matthew 4:17** ¹⁷ *From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (KJV) **Mark 1:15** ¹⁵ *And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.** (KJV)**

The ministry of Jesus was preparing the world to receive the next stage of the kingdom when He died. **Matthew 12:24-28** ²⁴ *But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, **This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.***²⁵ *And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, **Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:***²⁶ *And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand?*²⁷ *And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.*²⁸ *But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. (KJV) **Luke 11:20** ²⁰ *But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you. (KJV) **Luke 16:16** ¹⁶ *The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (KJV)***

The disciples were instructed by Jesus to preach the kingdom of God. **Matthew 10:7** ⁷ *And as ye go, preach, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is at hand.** (KJV) **Luke 9:2** ² *And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (KJV) **Luke 9:60** ⁶⁰ *Jesus said unto him, **Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.** (KJV) **Luke 10:9-11** ⁹ *And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.***¹⁰ *But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,*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. (KJV)****

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, He said pray “Thy Kingdom come”-- **Matthew 6:6-10** ⁶ *But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*⁷ *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.*⁸ *Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.*⁹ *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*¹⁰ *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. (KJV) **Luke 11:1-2** ¹ *And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his**

disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.² And he said unto them, *When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.* (KJV)

Jesus said to his disciples some of you will not die until you see the kingdom of God come to power. *Matthew 16:28* 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.* (KJV) *Mark 9:1* 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.* (KJV) *Luke 9:27* 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.* (KJV)

What did Jesus mean the kingdom of God come to power? *Acts 1:8* ⁸ *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* (KJV) *Acts 2:1-4* ¹ *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*² *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*³ *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* (KJV)

Later in the Gospels, Jesus said **He would not eat or drink until He did it anew in the kingdom of God.** *Matthew 26:29* 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.* (KJV) *Mark 14:25* 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.* (KJV) *Luke 22:16-18* ¹⁶ *For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.* ¹⁷ *And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves:* ¹⁸ *For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.* (KJV)

Jesus demonstrated after His resurrection, communion with His disciples, as He did eat and drink. *Acts 10:41* *Then God allowed him to appear,*⁴¹ *not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen beforehand to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.* (NLT) *John 21:12-14* ¹² *Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine.* *And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord.*¹³ *Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.*¹⁴ *This is now the third time that Jesus shewed himself to his disciples, after that he was risen from the dead.* (KJV)

We are to partake of the meal, the bread and drink in remembrance of the death of Jesus until He comes again, when we assemble together as the Body of Christ. We are in the physical and Christ is in our midst in the Spiritual when we partake of the meal. *1 Corinthians 11:23-32* **23** *For this is what the Lord himself said, and I pass it on to you just as I received it. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took a loaf of bread,***24** *and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* **25** *In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and you, sealed by the shedding of my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it."* **26** *For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.* **27** *So if anyone eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily, that person is guilty of sinning against the body and the blood of the Lord.* **28** *That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking from the cup.* **29** *For if you eat the bread or drink the cup unworthily, not honoring the body of Christ, you are eating and drinking God's judgment upon yourself.* **30** *That is why many of you are weak and sick and some have even died.* **31** *But if we examine ourselves, we will not be examined by God and judged in this way.* **32** *But when we are judged and disciplined by the Lord, we will not be condemned with the world. (NLT)*

After the resurrection of Jesus the kingdom of God was given to the New Testament Church because the Jews of the house of Judah and the religious Jews of the area rejected Christ through unbelief. When the Jews had Jesus crucified they cursed themselves and their children saying—"Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children."(Matt 27:25) *Matthew 21:42-44* **42** *Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?* **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.* **44** *And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. (KJV)* *1 Peter 2:5-9* **5** *And now God is building you, as living stones, into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are God's holy priests, who offer the spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ.* **6** *As the Scriptures express it, "I am placing a stone in Jerusalem, a chosen cornerstone, and anyone who believes in him will never be disappointed."* **7** *Yes, he is very precious to you who believe. But for those who reject him, "The stone that was rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone."* **8** *And the Scriptures also say, "He is the stone that makes people*

stumble, the rock that will make them fall." They stumble because they do not listen to God's word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them. 9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are a kingdom of priests, God's holy nation, his very own possession. This is so you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. (NLT)

Jesus said "upon this rock I will build My Church." (Notice His church is singular and not plural. Are denominational churches today His church?) **Matthew 16:18-19** *18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 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. (KJV)*

The Church is now the instrument God uses for the demonstration of the kingdom of God on earth and is the final representative until Christ comes. The Church is given the "**keys of the kingdom**" to administrate with authority the kingdom of God on earth. Again the Church must be singular and united as one Church under Christ with kingdom power and signs following. (Where is Jesus' Church today?)

Then Jesus Christ sets up the kingdom of God on earth for 1000 years with the resurrected saints. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** *16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. (NLT)*

Not only will we be incorruptible, but all of the earth will be incorruptible also. **Romans 8:19-25** *18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later. 19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. 20 Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. 21 **All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.** 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And even we Christians, although we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us. (NLT)*

After the 1000 reign with Christ on earth, the eternal kingdom of God will be the final revelation of the time periods of the kingdom of God. For Jesus will

turn over the kingdom to His Father and God will be with us. *1 Corinthians 15:24-28* **24** *After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind. 25 For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet. 26 And the last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For the Scriptures say, "God has given him authority over all things." (Of course, when it says "authority over all things," it does not include God himself, who gave Christ his authority.) 28 Then, when he has conquered all things, the Son will present himself to God, so that God, who gave his Son authority over all things, will be utterly supreme over everything everywhere.* (NLT) *Revelation 21:1-3* **1** *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. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.* (KJV)

Where is the kingdom of God today?

Luke 17:21 **21** *Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.* (KJV) If the kingdom of God is within us, then it must be invisible. A kingdom is a place where a king rules. The kingdom of God is wherever God reigns over the lives of His subjects. God is not visible hence the kingdom of God is not visible. It is a spiritual kingdom, not seen by human eyes. In the invisible kingdom of God, everything is subject of God's power instantly with no question. In our world which is visible, there is resistance to God's will. The kingdom of God is eternal and invisible in our midst. When we as Christians, sons of God through Jesus Christ, in truth and love do the will of God the kingdom of God is at work in us.

What is the nature of the kingdom of God?

The kingdom of God is God coming into the world to assert His power, glory and rights against the dominion of Satan. It is God expressing Himself with power in all His works and through the chosen vessel of the time period. The Church collectively and the Body of Christ individually is God's vessel in this time dispensation by the power of the Holy Spirit upon and within every believer to combat Satan. We must be born **both** of water and of Spirit to serve God in power.

For the world belongs to Satan the prince of the air and the world will remain throughout this age an enemy of God and His People. *John 15:19 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.* (KJV) See also Rom. 12:1-2, James 4:4, and 1 John 2:15-17, 4:4.

Through the Body of Christ, God asserts Himself with power. The world hating God, denies His truth and power enters into a crisis. This truth and power fills the devil's empire with alarm and everyone is confronted with the decision whether to submit to God's rule or not. *Mark 1:24 24 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.* (KJV) *Matthew 4:17 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.* (KJV)

Jesus taught that there are three steps to enter into the kingdom of God. Step one--*John 3:3 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.* (KJV) Steps two and three-- *John 3:5 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.* (KJV) We **must be** born again to see the kingdom of God. We **must be** water baptized and baptized by the Holy Spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. This is the Word of God spoken by Jesus Christ.

The mission and duty of the Church and the Body of Christ as God's vessel is set forth in the Word of God. *Mark 16:14-18 14* *Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15* *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16* *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17* *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18* *They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.* (KJV) If we are trying to do Kingdom work without signs following, we had better seek God and find out what we are doing wrong. Even John the Baptist waited for a word from God before he started his work for God. *Luke 3:2-3 2* *Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living out in the wilderness. 3* *Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had turned from their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.* (NLT)

We must use the Spiritual power given to us by God to defeat Satan's rule and dominion. *Matthew 12:28 28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.* (KJV)

We must use the gifts of the Spirit to work miracles and to heal the sick. *Matthew 9:35 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.* (KJV)

Those who are called by God, by His anointing and the office given by Christ are to preach the gospel; bringing conviction of sin, righteousness, and judgment. *John 16:8-13 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. 12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.* (KJV)

Our Lord and Savior set the pattern for us to follow and gave the commandments to go and share the Gospel, but He also told us wait for power to come upon us before we go. The Holy Spirit is the power upon you to preach the gospel. The salvation and sanctification are for those who believe the gospel and repent. See John 3:3 & 5 above. *Acts 2:38-41 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. 41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.* (KJV)

An essential evidence that one is experiencing the kingdom of God is a life of "righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." *Romans 14:17-19 17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. 19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.* (KJV)

What is the believer's role in the kingdom of God?

The believer's responsibility is to seek unceasingly the kingdom of God in all its manifestations. Including the gifts of the Spirit. **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** **1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. **2** Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. **3** Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. **4** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. **6** And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. **7** But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. **8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; **9** To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; **10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: **11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (KJV)

Hungering and thirsting for God's presence and power both in the believers life and in the midst of the Christian community. **Matthew:33** **33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.* (KJV) **Romans 12:1-2** **1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV) **James 4:7-10** **7** Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. **8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. **9** Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. **10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (KJV)

The believers can take hold of the kingdom of God by forceful commitment by breaking away from the sinful and immoral practices of this world and the denominational churches. Turning truly to Christ, His Word, and His righteous ways no matter what may be the cost to themselves. Such people vigorously seek the kingdom of God and all of its **power**. Those experiencing the kingdom of God and all of its blessings requires earnest endeavor and constant exertion. A fight of

faith, accompanied by a strong will to resist Satan, sin, man's denominational church doctrines that are contrary to the Word of God and ignoring parts of the Word of God. The believer must shun from the lusts of this world and its siren calling by easy credit and its activities that separates the believer from time with God in prayer and the Word. Sometimes even the believers family will shun him. *1 Peter 4:1-2* **1** Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; **2** That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. (KJV) *Matthew 10:34-39* **34** "Don't imagine that I came to bring peace to the earth! No, I came to bring a sword. **35** I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. **36** Your enemies will be right in your own household! **37** If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. **38** If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. **39** If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will find it. (NLT)

We must be maturing everyday and bear our fruits. We must not drift away from the truth of the Word, but seek the kingdom daily with never ending cries to God with upraised hands giving Him thanks and the glory for the blessings in our lives here on earth and looking forward to our salvation with the coming of Christ. *Hebrews 2:1-4* **1** So we must listen very carefully to the truth we have heard, or we may drift away from it. **2** The message God delivered through angels has always proved true, and the people were punished for every violation of the law and every act of disobedience. **3** What makes us think that we can escape if we are indifferent to this great salvation that was announced by the Lord Jesus himself? It was passed on to us by those who heard him speak, **4** and God verified the message by signs and wonders and various miracles and by giving gifts of the Holy Spirit whenever he chose to do so. (NLT)

Is the kingdom of God for everyone?

The kingdom of God **is not for** those who seldom pray, compromise with the world, neglect the Word, have little or no spiritual hunger, say "I know Jesus" with no fruits, and denying the baptism of the Holy Spirit saying it is of the devil with vain words. These actions are sin. Sin separates us from God. God is holy. The sin is disobedience to God's Word, the truth. These kinds of people will see but not enter into the kingdom of God. *John 3:3-7* **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.* **4** *Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?* **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.* **6** *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* **7** *Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.* (KJV)

In summary, the kingdom of God in its application varied over the centuries, but it was always God's Kingdom. The kingdom of God has always been one kingdom. The purpose of God has never changed and that is to setup an eternal kingdom with man, his creation, for communion and fellowship. When do we get to see God face to face? It is only when Jesus turns over the kingdom to God.

1 Corinthians 15:23-25 **23** *But there is an order to this resurrection: Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised.* **24** *After that the end will come, when he will turn the Kingdom over to God the Father, having put down all enemies of every kind.* **25** *For Christ must reign until he humbles all his enemies beneath his feet.* (NLT)

When we enter into the New Jerusalem through the gates, it is at that time we will have eternal salvation and see God face to face. We will be with God for eternity in His eternal kingdom with communion and fellowship. Amen.

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