

Four Realities of the Kingdom of God

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I. Introduction. The kingdom is important because the gospel is about the kingdom.

II. The kingdom is the rule, reign and active presence of God. (Matthew 5)

A. A kingdom in Scripture is the idea of reigning—it is royal power or rule.

B. Currently, Satan is ruling the world. (I John 5:19)

C. The kingdom of God breaks through.

D. Enemies of the kingdom that Christ is at work to destroy.

1. Death, which is answered through resurrection. (I Corinthians 15:20, Revelation 20:4-5, 20:13-14, Psalm 103:19)

2. Satan, who was bound, will be destroyed in the lake of fire. (Hebrews 2:14, Revelation 20)

3. Sin. (Romans 5:12)

III. The kingdom is both now and then.

A. There has to be a change to inherit the kingdom of God—we have not received it yet. (Matthew 24-25, I Corinthians 15:50, Matthew 13, II Peter 1:11)

B. The kingdom is also present. (Hebrews 6:5, Colossians 1:16, Luke 16:16, Matthew 21:31)

IV. The mystery of the kingdom.

A. A mystery is something that was once hidden. (Colossians 1:26, Matthew 13:11)

B. When the kingdom comes, it will crush everything. The kingdom was a mystery because the Jews were expecting this to happen literally. Jesus came to destroy the power of Satan. (Daniel 2)

C. The kingdom came quietly. The kingdom could be rejected, and John the Baptist did not understand this. (Matthew 3, 11)

V. The life of the kingdom.

A. Life in the kingdom has a different quality—it is eternal.

B. It is futuristic. (Matthew 25:34-36)

C. Eternal life and entering the kingdom are tied closely.

D. Eternal life is received when Jesus comes into the life. (I John 5:11-12, Philippians 4:19)

E. Eternal life penetrates this current life as the kingdom approaches. Eternal life is knowing God. (John 3:36, 5:24, 17:2-4)

F. One must be born again to receive eternal life. (John 3:3-5)

G. Eternal life means reigning with Christ. (Romans 5:17)

H. Eternal life is for engaging in God's good works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Application questions:

1. What is the kingdom of God, and how is it different from other kingdoms?

2. How can the kingdom be both now and future?

3. What is the relationship between the kingdom and eternal life?
