

1. Definition:

- a. A politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.
- b. In the Bible it refers to God's eternal kingdom or some facet of God's kingdom program. It is the realm in which God's will is administered and fulfilled.

2. Vocabulary:

- a. מְלָכוּת - malekoth, (noun, fem., Heb.) - kingdom - (Dan. 7:14, 27; 7:14; 9:1)
- b. מְלָכָא - malekav, (n., fem., Aramaic) - kingdom - (Dan. 2:1, 44)
- c. βασιλεία - basileia, (n., f., Greek) - kingdom - (Matt. 16:28; 25:34)
- d. βασιλείς τοῦ θεοῦ - basileis tou theou, (Gk.) – “Kingdom of God” – (Matt. 6:33; Matt. 12:28; Mk. 1:14, 15; 4:11; 14:25)
- e. βασιλείς τῶν οὐρανοῶν - basileis ton ouranon, (Gk.) - “Kingdom of the heaven(s)” - (Matt. 3:2; Matt. 5:23; 13:11)
- f. “Kingdom of His beloved Son” - (Col. 1:13)
- g. “Kingdom of the Christ and of God” - (Eph. 5:5; Col. 1:13)
- h. “Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” - (2 Pet. 1:11)
- i. χίλια ἔτη, - chilia ete, (Gk.) - thousand years (reign) - (Rev. 20:4)

3. The Meanings of these terms:

- a. The term “*Kingdom*” and the phrases, “*Kingdom of the Heavens,*” and “*Kingdom of God,*” etc. are used interchangeably in the Bible, particularly in the Gospels. Therefore, their meanings must be determined by their **usage in context**.
- b. In fact, **in parallel accounts**, the authors, Matthew, Mark and Luke, use different **phrases to describe the same usage** of the Kingdom. While Matthew uses the “*kingdom of heaven(s)*” in Matthew 13:11, Mark and Luke uses the “*kingdom of God*” in Mark 4:11 and in Luke 8:10.
- c. The Gospel of Matthew was written primarily to a Jewish audience who had a special sensitivity to the use of the name of God.
 1. The orthodox Jews would not use God's name but would replace *Elohim* (God) with *Elokim*, changing the middle letter, to avoid pronouncing the name of God.
 2. Instead of saying God's name they would simply say “the Name.” Often, they would use the name “heaven(s)” to replace saying the word “God.”

3. Instead of pronouncing the **tetragrammaton**, יהוה – YHWH (Jehovah), the Jews would substitute the Hebrew word, adonai, meaning Lord.
4. Therefore, it is understandable that Matthew would use mostly the phrase “*kingdom of heaven(s)*” rather than “*the kingdom of God.*”

4. There are five facets of God’s Kingdom program:

a. The universal kingdom or the eternal kingdom:

1. God’s sovereign or providential **rule over all of His creation**. (Psa. 90:1-6; Psa. 145:1-21; 1 Cor. 10:26; cf. Psa. 24:1; 50:12)
2. The name **eternal kingdom** emphasizes the timeless aspect of God’s rule. There is never a time when God is not in control of His creation. (Psa. 10:16; Psa. 29:10; 74:12; 93:1-5; Jer. 10:10; Lam. 5:19)
3. The name **universal kingdom** emphasizes the sphere and scope of His kingdom. **Everything that ever exists at any time** is always under God’s control. (1 Chron. 29:11-12; Psa. 103:19-22; 148:1-14; Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; 6:23)

b. The spiritual kingdom:

1. This is **the rule of God in the hearts of those who believe in Him** and His plan of salvation. This includes all such believers and **only believers of all time**. (Matt. 6:33; Acts 8:12; 20:25; Col. 1:13-14; 4:11; 1 Thess. 2:12)
2. The **Spiritual Kingdom** is equal to **everlasting life** and is called the “**Kingdom of Heaven**” in Matthew 19:16, 23.
3. The **Spiritual Kingdom** is equal to **everlasting life** called the “**Kingdom of God**” in several passages. (Matt. 19:24; John 3:3-5)
4. This kingdom includes Adam and Eve and **all believers saved throughout human history** up to and including the last person saved at the end of the millennial kingdom.

c. The Theocratic Kingdom:

1. This is **God’s rule over Israel historically**. Israel was a **theocracy**, in that God ruled over the nation as a king. (Ex. 19:5, 6; 1 Sam. 8:7)
2. This kingdom was **established at Mt. Sinai** with the Mosaic covenant, and the Mosaic law served as the constitution of the Theocratic Kingdom. (Ex. 20:1-17)
3. The **Theocratic Kingdom** had two phases:
 - (a) This Kingdom from the time of Moses to Samuel was **Mediatorial**, in that God ruled through mediators: Moses, Joshua, and the judges to the judge, Samuel. (Ex. 19:5, 6; 1 Sam. 8:5-22)

- (b) This Kingdom from the time of Saul and David to King Zedekiah and the destruction of the city of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BC by the Babylonians was **Monarchial**. God ruled through **human kings** from Saul and then the house and lineage of David. (1 Sam. 10:1ff)
4. The **Theocratic Kingdom** began in Scripture in Exodus 19 and continued until the time of 2 Chron. 36.
- d. **The Messianic Kingdom or the Millennial Kingdom (the Stone Kingdom):**
1. This Kingdom is a **literal earthly kingdom** in which the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, will rule over the entire earth as “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*” (Rev. 19:16)
 2. This Kingdom was **proclaimed** by **John the Baptist** (Matt.3:2; Mk. 1:14-15) and by **Jesus Christ** Himself (Matt. 4:17, 23; 6:10; 16:28; 26:29; Mk. 14:25; Luke 4:43; 22:18).
 3. The **disciples** were to preach that “*The Kingdom of heaven was at hand*” (Matt. 10:5-7); and they later asked Jesus when the kingdom would be restored to Israel. (Acts 1:6)
 4. This Kingdom was **prophesied in the Old Testament**. (2 Sam. 7:12, 13, 16; 1 Chron. 22:10; 28:5, 7; Dan. 2:44; 4:3; 7:13, 14, 18, 22, 27; cf. Psa. 2:6; Psa. 47:1, 2, 8; 48:1)
 5. This Kingdom was **offered to Israel** by Jesus; however, it was **rejected** in Matthew 12, particularly Matthew 12:22-37.
 6. This **Messianic Kingdom** is destined to be **re-offered** to the generation of Hebrew people living in the future tribulation; and they will accept it. (Psa. 2:6; Isa. 27:9; 49:1-13; 59:20, 21; Ezek. 37:24-28; Zech. 12:7-10; Matt. 25:34; Luke. 12:32; Rom. 11:25, 26)
 7. This Kingdom is an **Everlasting Kingdom** that will begin with a thousand year earthly reign. (Rev. 5:10; Rev. 20:2-7)
 8. This Kingdom will be **ruled by Jesus Christ** from the throne of David and from Jerusalem. (Luke 1:32-33)
- e. **The “Mystery Kingdom:”** (Matt. 13:11)
1. This kingdom is **one of ten mysteries mentioned in the Bible**. There are a total of eight divine mysteries and two Satanic mysteries.
 2. The term **mystery**, used 28 times in the Bible, is a **transliteration** of the Greek word *musterion* – μυστήριον, which means something **totally unrevealed** previously **in the Old Testament** and only now revealed in the New Testament.

3. The term **mystery or mysteries** is used with the term **Kingdom** to describe a particular facet of God's **Kingdom Program**. It is found only once in each of the synoptic Gospels: Matthew 13:11; Mark 4:11; and Luke 8:10.
4. This "**Mystery Kingdom**" was **instituted by Jesus Christ** as a result of Israel's rejection of His Messiahship, and therefore, their collective rejection of His offer of the Messianic Kingdom at that time.
5. The "**Mystery Kingdom**" began after this rejection of Jesus (Matt. 12:22-37; Matt.13:2-17) and will end with Israel's acceptance of His Messiahship toward the last part of "the Great Tribulation." (Matt. 23:37-39; 24:1-25, 26)
6. The "**Mystery Kingdom**" overlaps and includes part of the **Dispensation of the Hypostatic Union** (the Incarnation of Jesus Christ); plus all of the **Dispensation of the Church** (the Church Age); and part of the seven years of the future "**Tribulation**" (the seventieth week of Daniel).
7. **Jesus began to teach in parables** in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8 to describe the **conditions on earth** and God's rule from that time on and while the king, Jesus Christ, would be absent from the earth in Heaven.
8. This "**Mystery Kingdom**" and the "**parables of the Kingdom**" include both believers and unbelievers.
9. Just as **a human kingdom has a human king** who rules over his subjects, some who are loyal to him and some who are not; in the same way, God rules over **His Mystery Kingdom**, in which some are believers and some are not.
10. The "**Mystery Kingdom**" is that facet of God's Kingdom Program taught in Matthew 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-20, 26-34; and Luke 8:4-15.
11. There are **nine parables** of the "*mysteries of the kingdom.*" The phrase "**Mystery Kingdom**" is derived from Matthew 13:11; cf. Mk.4:11; Luke 8:10. (Reference: Fruchtenbaum, Arnold G. *Footsteps of the Messiah: A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events*. Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries Press, 1982, page 665)