

People want to know whether the writers of the New Testament were speaking of the same thing when they used the phrase Kingdom of God, and Kingdom of Heaven, and we declare that they are. Matthew's gospel used the term "of heaven," and his intention was to portray the fully God nature of Christ.

You would think something as big as a kingdom could be easily understood. But even those who claim to know the scriptures struggle over the Kingdom of God, thinking it to be something that will "someday" be set up on the earth as an example of "how it could have been."

The timing of the kingdom is as important as the location. Once you've decided what the kingdom is, and where, you need to ask, when? As you consider all three, perhaps his kingdom will be revealed in a new light.

Let's consider some bible verses about the Kingdom and see if we can determine where, and when it takes place.

The Kingdom – Where? When?

The Kingdom of God:	
Mat 6:33 is to be "sought first."	<i>Before Heaven?</i>
Mat 11:12 suffers violence – is taken by force.	<i>Will Christ let heaven be taken? Overthrown?</i>
Mat 12:28 is come unto you.	<i>Not "you go to it?"</i>
Mat 19:24 is hard for a rich man to enter.	<i>Abraham was rich. Will he be in heaven?</i>
Mat 21:31 allows the publicans and the harlots to enter first	<i>Harlots in Heaven? Oh my! Must we wait for the publicans to enter first in a future kingdom?</i>
Mat 21:43 can be taken from you	<i>Doesn't sound heavenly. Must be earthly.</i>
Mar 1:15 is at hand:	<i>"At hand" sounds close.</i>
Mar 4:11 is a mystery revealed to insiders, told in parables to others.	<i>How do we get to be an insider?</i>
Mar 9:1 would be seen by some at the time of Christ	<i>On Earth, 2000 years ago</i>
Mar 9:47 can be entered into "halt or maimed."	<i>Halt or maimed are present tense. Will we still deal with infirmities in heaven?</i>
Mar 12:34 is not far.	<i>Like "at hand" it sounds close. Not far way like heaven Not thousands of years in the future.</i>
Mar 15:43 was anticipated by those living.	<i>Earthly and soon. 2000 years ago.</i>
Luk 6:20 is given to the poor.	<i>Will there be "poor" in heaven?</i>
Luk 14:15 is a place where bread will be eaten.	<i>Will we eat in heaven?</i>
Luk 16:16 is pressed into.	<i>Pressing sounds like works. No "pressing" in heaven.</i>
Luk 17:20 comes not with observation:	<i>Can't be seen with the "natural" eye.</i>
Luk 17:21 is within you.	<i>Now. "You" are in the present, aren't you?</i>
Jhn 3:3 cannot be seen unless one is born again	<i>Requires spiritual eyes.</i>
Jhn 3:5 cannot be entered unless one is born of water and [of] the Spirit,	
Act 14:22 is entered through much tribulation	<i>Sounds conditional – not at all like grace.</i>
1Cr 6:9 is not inherited by the unrighteous	<i>But we're ALL unrighteous...</i>
1Cr 15:24 is to be delivered up to God	<i>(from where it was, on Earth)</i>

When you consider carefully the folks entering, the need for spiritual eyes, the struggling continuing, the timing and all the statements the Lord made about the Kingdom, we have to conclude that A) it won't be heaven itself, and B) the earthly Kingdom won't be a future perfect heaven on earth. There will still be folks scrambling for food and clothing, undergoing much tribulation, halt and maimed (not healed and in perfect health), full of harlots and publicans, etc.

Given all that, we have to place the kingdom beginning at the time of Christ's earthly ministry, and allow that it exists in a still sin-cursed earth, inhabited by sinners, albeit, sinners saved by grace.

So now we look to scriptures describing this kingdom and see if our understanding is correct.

Dan 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Let's reason a little, shall we? The verse above clearly marks the WHERE of the kingdom, making it earthly, UNDER the heaven. So now, WHEN?

The scripture teaches **he hast (past tense)** made us Kings and Priests. It doesn't say he will make us kings and priests, it says he **hast made us** thus. I'm alive right now. I trust I'm serving in His kingdom; therefore, my participation can't be future. It must be now. Otherwise, I'm not a King and a Priest, but only have a hope to be one someday? When? In eternity? That won't stand up.

Dan 4:3 How great [are] his signs! and how mighty [are] his wonders! his kingdom [is] an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion [is] from generation to generation.

First, the kingdom **IS everlasting**, not WILL BE. Second, it's from generation to generation.

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

The "days of these kings" can not be futuristic post tribulation/rapture etc. It's happened and the kingdom is NOW.

The error can be traced to one man's failure to rightly divide the word of truth. C.I. Scofield wanted to force his idea of a future kingdom so strongly he convinced people that the 70th week of Daniel had to be separated from the first 69. It does not.