

A Little Bit About the Kingdom of God

INTRODUCTION

There are over 150 references to the “Kingdom” in the New Testament alone. The phrases “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of Heaven” carry the same meaning. Matthew uses the term “Kingdom of Heaven.” Mark, Luke, John, and the other writers of Scripture use “Kingdom of God” (KOG). In both phrases, “Kingdom” is the same word in Greek, which is the original written language of the New Testament.

Jesus’s sole reason for coming to earth was the KOG:

He preached about the KOG.

He lived the KOG.

He came to make men, women, and children citizens of the KOG.

He died for the sake of the KOG.

He rose from the dead to secure the KOG.

The New Covenant is about the KOG.

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to ensure the KOG would be lived out on the earth through believers until His return.

When Jesus returns, He will fully establish the KOG on the earth.

All people, Christian and non-Christian, will be judged according to the laws of the KOG.

Jesus is the King of the KOG.

The Father will cause every knee to bow and every tongue to confess that Jesus is Lord of the KOG.

All of Jesus’s teachings were about the KOG.

Jesus spent forty days on the earth after He rose from the dead teaching His disciples about the KOG before His final ascension into heaven. *Acts 1:3*

Paul’s ministry and letters were about the KOG. Peter’s ministry and letters were about the KOG. John’s ministry and letters were about the KOG. ALL the New Testament books are about the KOG.

WHAT THE KOG IS NOT

A geographical location

The nation of Israel (or America!)

The Church or a church

A democracy

Inherited or received through natural birth



WHAT THE KOG IS

The rule and reign of God

The chief work of God: what God is invested in and what He's advancing in heaven and on earth

The whole plan of God for Creation

Revealed in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation

God's rule over everything: the universe, the earth, nature, mankind, the animals, and the spiritual realm

THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

God is love. God does love. The commands tell us how God wants to be loved and how He wants us to love others because the KOG is about love. *1 Corinthians 13*

The commandments, God's laws, are the "rules" of the KOG.

The commandments are MORE than do's and don'ts. They express the character of God, the way God wants to be loved, and the lifestyle of those who belong to the KOG.

The commandments are meant to define and distinguish Christians from the rest of the world — citizens of the Kingdom of Light vs. citizens of the kingdom of darkness.

When we obey the commands, we place ourselves under God's rule and reign. When we disobey, we reject God's rule and reign over our lives.

We express love to God by obeying His commands. *John 14:15; 1 John 5:3*

The summary of ALL KOG law in the Old Testament is found in Matthew 22:37-40, the Great Commandment (love God and love people).

The summary of ALL KOG law in the New Testament is found in John 13:34-35, the New Commandment (love others *the way* Jesus loves you).

God advances His Kingdom through His people. This is the importance and purpose of the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20.

"The Kingdom of God is found wherever Jesus rules without resistance."

– Jerry Brandt

