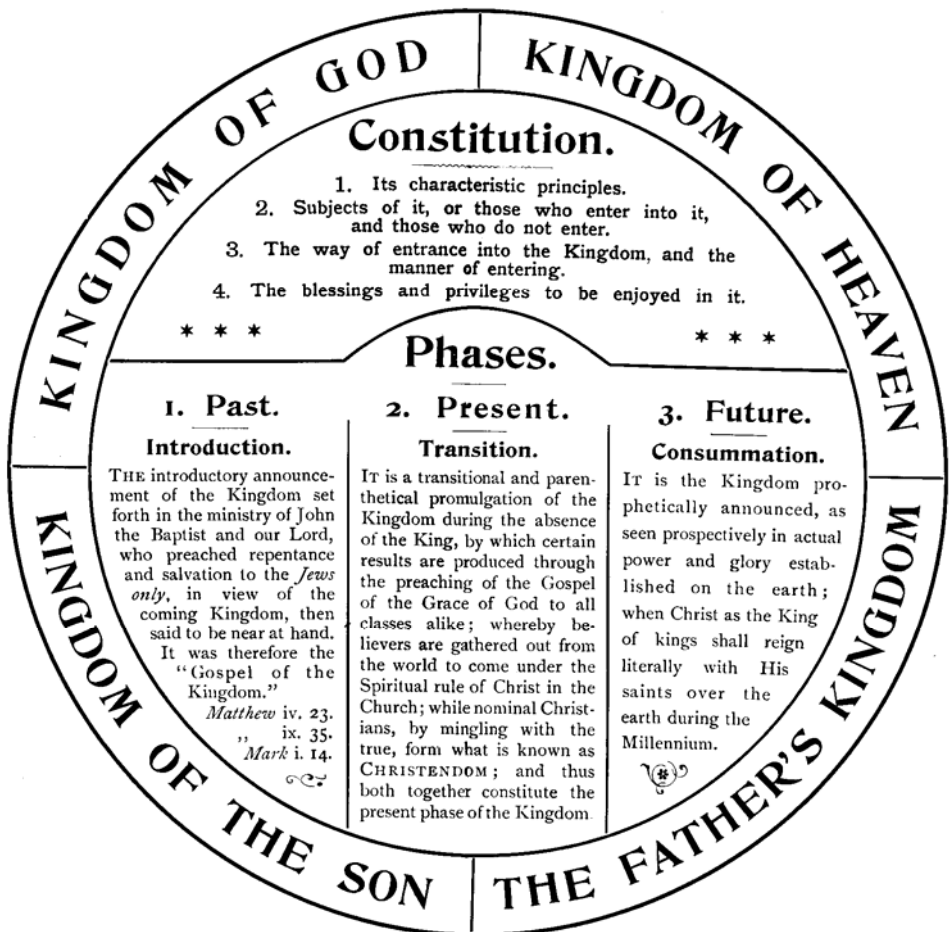


THE KINGDOM OF GOD & OF HEAVEN

John Ashton Savage

The Chart



List of Scripture References

List of the direct references in scripture to the words Kingdom, Kingdom of God, Kingdom of heaven, Kingdom of His Son, and the Father's Kingdom.

KINGDOM IN OLD TESTAMENT ¹

Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted	1 Chr.29:11
For the kingdom is the Lord's	Ps.22:28
The sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre	Ps.45:6
His throne is in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all	Ps.103:19
They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom	Ps.145:2
And the glorious majesty of his kingdom	Ps.145:12
Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom	Ps.145:13
His kingdom to order it, and establish it with judgment	Isa.9:7
The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed	Dan.2:44
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom	Dan.4:3
His kingdom is from generation to generation	Dan.4:34
His kingdom shall not be destroyed	Dan.6:26
A kingdom that all people, nations and languages should serve him	Dan.7:14
The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom	Dan.7:18
The time came that the saints possessed the kingdom	Dan.7:22
The kingdom and dominion and greatness of the kingdom given to the saints	Dan.7:27
And the kingdom shall be the Lord's	Obad.21
The kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem	Micah 4:8

KINGDOM IN NEW TESTAMENT

P1	Jesus went preaching the gospel of the kingdom	Matt.4:23
P3	Children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness	Matt.8:12
P1	Jesus went about cities, villages, and synagogues preaching the gospel of kingdom	Matt.9:35
P3	This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all nations	Matt.24:14
P3	Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world	Matt.25:34
P3	Blessed be the kingdom of our father David	Mark 11:10
P3	Thy kingdom come, thy will be done	Luke 11:2
P3	It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom	Luke 12:32
P3	A nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom	Luke 19:12
P3	Wilt thou restore again the kingdom to Israel	Acts 1:6
P2	Who hath called you into his kingdom and glory	1 Thes.2:12
P3	We receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved	Heb.12:28
P3	Heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised	James 2:5
P2	Companion in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ	Rev.1:9
P3	The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ	Rev.11:15

¹ All these relate to the Third Phase of the Kingdom – The Millennium

KINGDOM OF GOD

C3	Seek ye first the kingdom of God	Matt.6:33
P1	The kingdom of God is come unto you	Matt.12:28
C2	Through eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God	Matt.19:24
P1	The harlots go into the kingdom of God before you	Matt.21:31
P2	The kingdom of God shall be taken from you	Matt.21:43
P1	Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God	Mark 1:14
P1	The kingdom of God is at hand, repent ye, and believe	Mark 1:15
P2	To know the mystery of the kingdom of God	Mark 4:2
P2	And he said, So is the kingdom of God as if a man cast seed	Mark 4:26
P2	Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God	Mark 4:30
P3	Till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power	Mark 9:1
C3	Better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye	Mark 9:47
C2	Children for of such is the kingdom of God	Mark 10:14
C2	Whosoever shall not receive kingdom of God as a little child	Mark 10:15
C2	How hardly shall they that have riches enter kingdom of God	Mark 10:23
C2	How hard for them that trust in riches to enter kingdom of God	Mark 10:24
C2	Easier for a camel through eye of needle than rich man to enter kingdom of God	Mark 10:25
C2	Thou art not far from the kingdom of God	Mark 12:34
P3	Till that day I drink it new in the kingdom of God	Mark 14:25
P1	Joseph of Arimathea, which waited for the kingdom of God	Mark 15:43
P1	I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities	Luke 4:43
C2	Blessed ye poor, for yours is the kingdom of God	Luke 6:20
P2	Least in the kingdom of God is greater than he	Luke 7:28
P1	Preaching and showing glad tidings of the kingdom of God	Luke 8:1
P1	is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God	Luke 8:10
P1	He sent them to preach the kingdom of God	Luke 9:2
P1	Received them and spake to them of the kingdom of God	Luke 9:11
P3	Shall not taste of death till they see the kingdom of God	Luke 9:27
C2	And looking back is not fit for the kingdom of God	Luke 9:62
P1	The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you	Luke 10:9
P1	Be sure the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you	Luke 10:11
P2	No doubt the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you	Luke 11:20
C3	But rather seek ye the kingdom of God	Luke 12:31
P2	Unto what is the kingdom of God like?	Luke 13:18
P2	Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God?	Luke 13:20
P3	Ye shall see all the prophets in the kingdom of God	Luke 13:28
P3	From east, west, north, and south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God	Luke 13:29
P3	Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God	Luke 14:15
P1	Since that time the kingdom of God is preached	Luke 16:16
P3	Was demanded when the kingdom of God should come	Luke 17:20
C1	The kingdom of God cometh not with observation	Luke 17:20
P1	Behold the kingdom of God is within (or among) you	Luke 17:21
C2	Little children: for of such is the kingdom of God	Luke 18:16
C2	Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child	Luke 18:17
C2	How hardly shall they that have riches enter into kingdom of God	Luke 18:24
C2	Easier for a camel through eye of needle than rich man to enter kingdom of God	Luke 18:25

C3	Left house, parents, brethren, wife or children for kingdom of God's sake	Luke 18:29
P3	They thought that the kingdom of God should appear	Luke 19:11
P3	When he was returned, having received the kingdom	Luke 19:15
P3	Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand	Luke 21:31
P3	Not eat till it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God	Luke 22:16
P3	I will not drink of fruit of vine until kingdom of God shall come	Luke 22:18
P3	Joseph of Arimathea who himself waited for the kingdom of God	Luke 23:51
C3	Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God	John 3:3
C3	Except a man be born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God	John 3:5
P1	Things pertaining to the kingdom of God	Acts 1:3
P2	Philip preaching things concerning the kingdom of God	Acts 8:12
C3	Must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God	Acts 14:22
P2	Persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God	Acts 19:8
P2	Among whom preaching kingdom of God shall see my face no more	Acts 20:25
P2	To whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God	Acts 28:23
P2	Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching those things	Acts 28:31
C1	For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, etc.	Rom.14:17
C1	The kingdom of God is not in word but in power	1 Cor.4:20
C2	The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God	1 Cor.6:9
C2	Nor extortioners inherit the kingdom of God	1 Cor.6:10
C2	Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God	1 Cor.15:50
C2	They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God	Gal.5:21
C2	Nor covetous man who is an idolater hath inheritance in kingdom of Christ and of God	Eph.5:5
P2	My fellow-workers unto the kingdom of God	Col.4:11
P3	May be counted worthy of the kingdom of God	2 Thes.1:5
P3	Now is come the kingdom of our God	Rev.12:10

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

P1	Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand	Matt.3:2
P1	Jesus preached repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand	Matt.4:17
C2	Blessed the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven	Matt.5:3
C2	Blessed the persecuted for righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven	Matt.5:10
C4	Whoso shall do and teach (commandments) shall be great in the kingdom of heaven	Matt.5:19
C2	Except righteousness exceed scribes and Pharisees ye shall in no case enter kingdom of heaven	Matt.5:20
C2	Not every one that saith Lord, Lord, shall enter into kingdom of heaven	Matt.7:21
P3	Shall sit down with Abraham in the kingdom of heaven	Matt.8:11
P1	Go preach, saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand	Matt.10:7
P2	He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he	Matt.11:11
C3	The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence	Matt.11:12
P2	To know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven	Matt.13:11
P2	When any one heareth the word of the kingdom and understandeth	Matt.13:19
P2	The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed	Matt.13:24
P2	The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed	Matt.13:31
P2	The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven which a woman hid	Matt.13:33
C2	The good seed are the children of the kingdom	Matt.13:38
P2	The kingdom of Heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field	Matt.13:44

P2	The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking goodly pearls	Matt.13:45
P2	The kingdom of heaven is like a net cast into the sea	Matt.13:47
P2	Every scribe instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like	Matt.13:52
P2	I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven	Matt.16:19
C2	Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven	Matt.18:1
C2	Except ye be converted and as little children ye shall not enter kingdom of heaven	Matt.18:3
P2	The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a certain king	Matt.18:23
C2	That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven	Matt.19:23
P1	Made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake	Matt.19:12
C2	Little children, for of such is the kingdom of heaven	Matt.19:14
P2	The kingdom of heaven is like unto a man an householder	Matt.20:1
P2	The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king	Matt.22:2
P1	For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men	Matt.23:13
P2	Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins	Matt.25:1
P3	For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country	Matt.25:14

KINGDOM OF THE SON

P3	The Son of man shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend	Matt.13:41
P3	Shall not taste death till they see Son of man coming in his kingdom	Matt.16:28
P3	Sit in throne of his glory and upon twelve thrones judging twelve tribes of Israel	Matt.19:28
P3	One on thy right hand and the other on the left in thy kingdom	Matt.20:21
P3	And of his kingdom there shall be no end	Luke 1:33
P3	Nobleman went to receive for himself a kingdom	Luke 19:12
P3	When he was returned having received the kingdom	Luke 19:15
P3	And I appoint unto you a kingdom as my Father hath appointed	Luke 22:29
P3	Ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom	Luke 22:30
P3	Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom	Luke 23:42
C1	My kingdom is not of this world. . . My kingdom is not from hence	John 18:36
P3	When he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God even the Father	1 Cor.15:24
C2	No whoremongers, unclean, covetous, an idolater, hath any inheritance in kingdom of Christ	Eph.5:5
P2	Hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son	Col.1:13
P2	Walk worthy of God who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory	1 Thes.2:12
P3	Shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom	2 Tim.4:1
P3	And will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom	2 Tim.4:18
P3	A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom	Heb.1:8
P3	Entrance ministered into everlasting kingdom of Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ	2 Pet.1:11
P2	Your brother and companion in tribulation and in kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ	Rev.1:9
P3	To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne	Rev.3:21
P3	The kingdom of the world is become the kingdom of our Lord and his Christ	Rev.11:15
P3	And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years	Rev.20:4

THE FATHER'S KINGDOM

P3	The righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father	Matt.13:43
P3	Until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom	Matt.26:29
P3	It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom	Luke 12:32
P3	Our Father in heaven, thy kingdom come	Matt.6:10,13 ; Lk. 11:2

SUMMARY

Kingdom in Old Testament	18
Kingdom in New Testament	15
Kingdom of God in New Testament	72
Kingdom of heaven in New Testament ²	33
Kingdom of the Son in New Testament	23
The Father's kingdom in New Testament	4
TOTAL	165 times

KINGDOM OF GOD

In Matthew	5
In Mark	15
In Luke	33
In John	2
In Acts	7
In the Epistles	10
TOTAL	72 times

² In Matthew only

1. EXPLANATION OF THE CHART...

...and the complete list of direct scripture references to the kingdom.

The Chart

In the divine order of things there could be but ONE Kingdom of God and of heaven, as obviously set forth throughout the Word of God, seeing there is but one Lord and King over all. "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be *one* Lord, and his name *one*." (Zech.14:9.) Therefore the Kingdom, as a whole, may be appropriately represented in the Chart as it appears in the frontispiece.

As, however, many different facts are presented to us in the Word concerning this one Kingdom, it is important and instructive to classify or group these facts under certain divisions of the subject, according to the meaning and application of the numerous passages. By this means we are enabled to arrive at a clearer and fuller apprehension of the whole subject in all its different bearings. Indeed, it seems indispensable to a right understanding of the Kingdom of God thus to arrange and classify all the texts of scripture relating to it. On a close examination of all these different texts, it will be found that they can be rightly and instructively arranged under three main divisions; namely, the ASPECTS, CONSTITUTION, and PHASES of the Kingdom, with a few sub-divisions under the last two heads.

On the Chart these three divisions are thus displayed. First, around the rim of the circle the four ASPECTS appear as the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of heaven, Kingdom of the Son, and the Father's Kingdom. Then within the circle is shown the second main division, the CONSTITUTION, with four sub-divisions; and the third head, the PHASES, having three sub-divisions, the Past, Present, and the Future phases, each of which is briefly defined on the Chart itself. All these divisions are fully explained in the body of the work, in regular order, as they appear on the Chart.

Now assuming that the foregoing summarized divisions of the subject are scripturally correct, as I take them to be, then all the passages in the complete List referring to the Kingdom must, as a matter of course, come under one or other of the divisions of the summary set forth in the Chart.

The List

To be used in connection with the Chart a List of all the direct passages of scripture alluding to the Kingdom is given in the abbreviated form of a concordance, in order to facilitate a ready reference to them, and at the same time present a full view of every direct allusion to the Kingdom.

There are besides these a very large number of direct allusions, both in the Old and New Testaments; but to take up all these would far exceed the limits assigned to this small work.

I have therefore confined my observations to the direct passages containing the words Kingdom, Kingdom of God, Kingdom of heaven, Kingdom of the Son, and the Father's Kingdom.

As most of the errors that are made with regard to this subject are chiefly due to a *misapplication* of the various references to it, it is manifestly of the first importance that we should be provided with some system of classification, whereby we might be enabled to assign to each of these numerous and diverse passages the right class or division to which it properly belongs or applies, and thus be found "Rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim.2:15) according to the obvious meaning and distinct application of the scriptures.

The Chart, as already described, is intended to furnish the basis of such a classification, which is now submitted for the consideration of all earnest Bible students, who cannot fail to be deeply interested in a subject of such importance, while it is hoped that the present plan of explanation may afford help to many to whom the subject is confessedly a difficult one, and with regard to which many conflicting opinions have been entertained by Christian readers of the Bible.

By using the List with the Chart, which serves as a key to the whole, the division or class to which every one of the one hundred and sixty-five passages on the List belongs may be readily ascertained, and their right *application* become known. By this means many difficulties hitherto encountered may be either greatly lessened or entirely removed.

The way of using the Chart with the List may be as follows: In the first place, the List itself shows all the references arranged under the four Aspects, looked at from that point of view. Then with regard to the other two divisions, the Constitution and the Phases, two initials, a letter and a

figure, are placed before every text on the List to designate the divisions and sub-divisions on the Chart to which they properly belong or apply. Thus the letter C stands for and refers to the Constitution, and P to the Phases; while the figures 1, 2, 3, 4, refer to the sub-divisions of the two main divisions.

For example, C1 is intended to indicate that the texts before which they are placed are classed under the *first* head of the Constitution (its characteristic principles); while C2, C3, C4 represent the *second* head (subjects of the Kingdom); *third* (way of entering in); and *fourth* head (the blessings provided). In like manner the letters and figures P1, P2, and P3 represent the *first*, *second*, and *third* Phases, and are intended to show that the texts to which they are affixed belong respectively to one or other of those three Phases. So that by thus referring to the List and Chart together it may be seen at a glance to which class every passage rightly belongs, whereby we may be helped to arrive at a true application of these scriptures, which is a matter of the utmost importance in our attempts to understand them; for the clear and accurate comprehension of all portions of God's Word largely depends upon a correct application of them.

With reference to the texts assigned to the Constitution, it must be borne in mind that they are looked upon as a separate class, because, unlike those belonging to the three Phases, which are strictly dispensational, they do not specially apply as a rule to any particular period of time or dispensation. They rather furnish us with the foundation principles of the righteous rule and government of God for all time, past, present, and future—the universal rule of God, which underlies every transaction and representation of all the dispensations—and in that sense are equally applicable to all the three Phases of the Kingdom.

Thus clearly to distinguish between the constitutional principles of God's rule, which apply universally to all periods of time, and those dispensational references to the Kingdom that absolutely require in most cases to be strictly and *exclusively applied* to their respective dispensations, helps materially to clear the whole subject, and give us a fuller and better understanding of it in all its various bearings.

With these introductory explanations we will now proceed to consider the several divisions of the subject more in detail, and in the order in which they appear on the Chart, with just a few general remarks on the Kingdom as a whole.

2. THE KINGDOM GENERALLY

Questions are often being asked at Bible readings and in religious periodicals with regard to this important subject, which is so largely dwelt upon in the holy scriptures; such as, What is the Kingdom of God? What is the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven, or Kingdom of the Son and Kingdom of the Father? To what period of time or to what dispensations do the various passages referring to the subject apply—past, present, or future? etc.

Many conflicting answers have been given to these questions from time to time, which evidently have not given full satisfaction to the enquirers, for they return to the same simple questions over and over again; showing that the subject of the Kingdom is still imperfectly understood.

The main difficulties that appear to confront the student, in his endeavours to understand the precise bearings of the numerous passages relating to the Kingdom, are the different names given to it, and the apparent dissimilarity of circumstances and meanings that seem to be connected with the terms “Kingdom of God” and “Kingdom of heaven,” etc.

How, say the enquirers, are we to understand and apply such dissimilar allusions to the Kingdom as the following: “The kingdom of God is at hand”; “That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel”; “The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field,” or a “grain of mustard seed,” or “is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal” ; “the kingdom of God is within (or among) you” ; “Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God”; “ He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” (John Baptist); “Shall not taste death till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom” ; “The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”; and many other different allusions.

In considering these and similar references we might at first sight be inclined to think that they refer to more than one, and to different Kingdoms, established at different times. But a moment’s reflection will suffice to convince us that this could not possibly be the case. For evidently there can only be one Kingdom of God for all time, and under all circumstances.

When, however, we are led to see that this one Kingdom is presented in different ways, and may be regarded from different points of view, or viewed in different aspects; and further, that the numerous allusions to it in scripture have reference to different periods of time, necessitating its presentation in different Phases, then we are in a fair way to understand the whole subject clearly.

A kingdom manifestly implies a king to rule or reign over it; and of this Kingdom of God the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is declared in scripture to be the King, for all power is given unto Him in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18); “All things are delivered unto me of my Father” (Matthew 11:27); “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Heb.1:8); “And the Lord shall be king over all the earth” (Zech.14:9); “Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!” (Psalm 24:10); “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion” (Psalm 2:6); “Yea, all kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him” (Psalm 72:11).

This Kingdom, regarded in its essential and fullest character, may be defined as the RULE OF GOD, or the sphere in which He rules and reigns supreme; which is equally true of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven. And this rule of God, that constitutes the basis of His Kingdom, is displayed in two ways; namely, (1) in God’s spiritual rule over the hearts and lives of believers, and (2) in the Lord as King, literally reigning over the house of Israel and the whole world in the millennium; which will be the glorious consummation of the Kingdom.

The foregoing definition applies to the Kingdom in all its phases, past, present, and future; for its character, resting on God’s immutability, must ever be the same throughout all ages.

On referring to the complete List, it will be seen that the word “kingdom” alone (without the words God or heaven) occurs about eighteen times in the Old Testament and fifteen times in the New, and taken in its general sense is equivalent to the phrase “kingdom of God” in the New Testament; but with this difference, that the passages (with perhaps a few exceptions) containing the word “kingdom” alone, both in the Old and New Testaments, exclusively refer to the third phase, or the establishment of the Kingdom on the earth during the millennium.

It is true that under the other names reference is likewise made to the millennial phase (thus showing identity of meaning throughout); but they are not so exclusively used as those in which the word Kingdom appears alone to set forth the third phase, or the reign of Christ on the earth.

In examining all the direct references to the Kingdom in the Old Testament, it is interesting and instructive to note that, from the earliest period, the inspired prophets were enabled by the Spirit of God to extend their vision down the long vista of time, and across all the intervening ages of history (including the entire Christian dispensation, which was never made known to them or counted in Jewish history), to the time of the end when the Lord Himself should come in person to establish His glorious reign of righteousness on the earth, when all shall be subject to Him, the one holy and righteous King over all the world. It was the burden of most of their loftiest prophecies. It was the grand theme that inspired their rapturous songs and kindled their enthusiasm, while they seemed to be ever filled with holy delight in looking forward to it.

Thus through these inspired utterances of the seers specially sent to God's ancient people, the Israelites, this future prospect of the coming Messiah became their one grand and all-absorbing hope. And the bright halo that ever surrounded this glorious hope in their thoughts seems to have completely hindered them from ever seeing that any humiliation or suffering of their Messiah (although plainly predicted), could possibly intervene between their expectations and the full establishment of the Kingdom. Their eyes were solely fixed upon their Messiah King, coming in all the glory of His divine majesty to rule over the "house of his father David"; and it is this that still continues, up to the present day, to be the one cheering hope of every devout Israelite.

Now if a Jew were asked the question, "What is the Kingdom of God or of heaven?" his unhesitating reply would be, "The coming of the Messiah to reign over the house of His father David, and to be King over all the earth." And no doubt this would be substantially a correct answer and in strict accordance with the Old Testament scriptures, from which alone as a Jew any knowledge of the subject could be obtained. Moreover, it should be borne in mind that this is, after all, the main answer to the question in its *first* conception, while it contains the germ-thought or underlying principle that runs more or less through all the passages referring to the Kingdom in the New as well as the Old Testament.

But we have to supplement this answer by the further knowledge we derive from the New Testament references to the *spiritual* rule of God during the present interval, or Christian dispensation, which may be regarded as a mystical and parenthetical stage or phase of the Kingdom of heaven. Hence we cannot possibly arrive at a correct apprehension of a great many allusions in the New Testament to the Kingdom without taking into account the fact that they refer solely to this intermediate aspect or phase of the Kingdom and not to the millennium at all.

For example, the parables in Matt.13, in which the Kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man who sowed good seed in his field, and to a grain of mustard seed, and to leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, etc., must obviously be exclusively applied to the present phase of the Kingdom as seen in the state and circumstances of Christendom as a whole, and therefore could not in any sense be applied to the millennium.

We shall look a little more fully into this point when we come to consider the three branches of the subject, its Aspects, Constitution, and Phases, in regular order.

3. ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

An object may be looked at from different points of view, or presented in different relative positions to other surrounding objects, and thus assume a somewhat different appearance, though the object itself may not be changed in the least, but remain precisely the same throughout.

So in like manner the Kingdom, which is ever regarded as one and the same unchangeable RULE OF GOD, in every representation of it, when looked at in relation to various dispensational circumstances, or the character and condition of the persons addressed, is presented in different aspects, under the four names in which it appears in the Word; namely, "The kingdom of God," "The kingdom of heaven," "The kingdom of the Son," and "The Father's kingdom."

But these various names do not appear to be employed to set forth any essential difference of meaning in either the constitution or character of the Kingdom itself, but rather to mark the various applications as aspects in which it is presented with reference to different external circumstances, or to different classes of persons addressed. Thus it is presented in a general and comprehensive way to the *world* at large as Kingdom of God; to the *Jews* dispensationally, Kingdom of heaven; and to the *saints* of the present

era, in a special and confidential way, Kingdom of the Son and the Father's Kingdom.

Hence the phrases Kingdom of God and Kingdom of heaven—which have substantially the same meaning—are often used interchangeably (and therefore the equivalent) in the Gospels, as the following instances clearly show.

In the first column, under the “Kingdom of heaven,” the passages quoted are from the Gospel of Matthew, and in the second, under the “Kingdom of God,” from Luke, and in a few cases from Mark also.

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.5:3)

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt.4:17)

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.8:11)

And as ye go (the twelve) preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt.10:7)

He that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he [John Baptist]. (Matt.11:11)

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. (Matt.11:12)

He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. (Matt.13:11)

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field. (Matt.13:31)

Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. (Matt.13:33)

And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.18:3)

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.19:14)

A rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. (Matt.19:23)

KINGDOM OF GOD

Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. (Luke 6:20)

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. (Mark 1:14-15)

When ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God.... And they shall come from the east, and the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. (Luke 12:28-29)

And he sent them (the twelve) to preach the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:2)

But he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he [John Baptist]. (Luke 7:28)

The law and the prophets [were] until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it. (Luke 16:16)

Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God. (Luke 8:10; Mark 4:11)

Unto what is the kingdom of God like?... It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and cast into his garden. (Luke 13:18-19; Mark 4:30-31)

Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. (Luke 13:20-21)

Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. (Luke 18:17; Mark 10:15)

Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:16; Mark 10:14)

How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:24; Mark 10:23-24)

It will be observed that in the several corresponding pairs of the foregoing parallel passages from Matthew and Luke the very *same events* and *teaching* of our Lord are respectively referred to, thus conclusively proving that the phrases “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably in certain cases, and therefore mean precisely the same thing in these instances. Consequently we arrive at the conclusion that there is no difference in the thing described—*i.e.*, the Kingdom—either as to its nature, constitution, or purpose, but only in the different aspects from which it is viewed, or in the mode and circumstances of its presentation.

First Aspect—The Kingdom of God

In this view the Kingdom appears to be looked at and represented in its *widest* and *fullest* aspect, and presents to us the entire rule of God throughout all ages. The *whole* Kingdom of God is thus seen as originated and sustained by the infinite love, wisdom, and power of God Himself, embracing all the forms and developments of His rule in every stage of the history of believers, from the beginning to the end of the world.

In its full comprehensiveness it includes all the other aspects, the Kingdom of heaven, the Kingdom of the Son, and the Father's Kingdom. It is the *generic* term of the whole series of expressions employed.

Hence we see how the more comprehensive term Kingdom of God can be used interchangeably with the other aspects (as in the instances quoted above), because the greater includes the less; so that in certain cases what is true of the Kingdom of God must also be true of the Kingdom of heaven, although in some other cases this interchange might not be used exactly in the reverse way, though the meaning of both phrases may be intrinsically the same in each case.

It is, moreover, in this aspect that it is most commonly presented to the world at large in a general way in contrast to the kingdoms of men on the earth.

“Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.” (1 Chron.29:11). “Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.” (Ps.145:13; Dan.4:3.)

Of all the forms of expression used to set forth this wonderful rule of God, the words “Kingdom of God” are most frequently employed, there being in all some seventy-two instances in the Gospels, Acts, and Epistles. Then if

the passages containing the word “kingdom” alone—which appears to have exactly the same application—both in the Old and New Testaments be added, we shall have about one hundred and four references in all under these heads. [See the complete List.]

Second Aspect—The Kingdom of Heaven

In this aspect the ruling power of the Kingdom is looked at as originating in, and coming down from heaven; and thus heavenly in character, though exercised on the earth.

The rule of God from the heavens above over the earth, in contradistinction to the rule of earthly sovereigns on the earth. “The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom ruleth over all” (Ps.103:19). “The heavens do rule” (Dan.4:26). “The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom” (Dan.2:44).

It has mainly a two-fold dispensational application; first, to the spiritual and invisible rule of God in the hearts of believers during the present interval, and, second, to the visible reign of Christ in the millennium. In both these applications the rule is looked at as from the heavens above, and therefore called the Kingdom of heaven. Having thus a distinct dispensational aspect, it is more *limited* than the wider one of the Kingdom of God, that covers all periods.

Another peculiarity of this aspect is, that it is specially represented in this form to the Jewish nation, chiefly in view of its ultimate establishment on the earth, when the Jews as a nation shall be restored under the reign of their Messiah. Hence we do not find the words “kingdom of heaven” in any other book of the Bible than in the Gospel of Matthew, which we know is more particularly addressed to the Jews, and bears a Jewish character throughout. In this Gospel the phrase occurs some thirty-three times, and nowhere else in scripture.

But it is important to observe that while it bears this special Jewish application in one view of it, it does not follow that the Kingdom of heaven in itself is more Jewish in its character than the other aspects of it, as sometimes erroneously assumed. It is only in this particular *mode of expression* that the Kingdom is presented to the Jews, for obvious reasons.

For the Kingdom of heaven aspect, taken as a whole, plainly relates to the three phases of the Kingdom; namely, the past, the present or Christendom

phase (which is the very reverse in every feature of the Jewish order of things), and to the future or millennial phase. When the thirty-three references in Matthew are carefully read, it will be seen that about twenty-four refer to the present phase, and the rest to the past and future.

Apart from the appropriateness of the phrase Kingdom of heaven, as descriptive of the present invisible rule of God by the Holy Spirit sent down from heaven, we can, I think, also perceive a very good reason for the employment of these words in setting forth the Kingdom to the Jews.

They, in accordance with the covenant made with Abraham and his descendants, were taught to look for an earthly Kingdom of blessedness under the rule of the promised Messiah; and they were ever looking forward to the day when He as their King should come to sit on the throne of His father David, and reign over them as a nation on the earth. And though their prophets clearly declared the divine origin and character of the Christ or Messiah that should come (Isaiah 9:6-7), they often seemed to drift away from this important truth, and concentrate their thoughts more on the earthly side of Messiah's reign than on its heavenly character.

Some great prince of the house and lineage of David, and a prophet like unto Moses of human origin, came to be the uppermost thought in the minds of many Israelites, so that they needed to be reminded again and again of what their prophets had told them, that Christ the Son of God was to come down from heaven to be their Saviour and King. Hence we see how often our Lord presented the truth that He came down from heaven, the sent One from God the Father in heaven. "No man hath ascended up to heaven but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (John 3:13).

John the Baptist likewise testified to the same truth. "He that cometh from above is above all; he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth; he that cometh from heaven is above all" (John 3:31).

Throughout the Epistles, also, this fact is continually emphasized, that "Jesus is the Christ," "The second man the Lord from heaven."

We can therefore understand how necessary and important it was to direct the attention of the Jewish people (who had become so much occupied with the *earthly* glory of the Kingdom) to its true heavenly character, and that the rule of Christ, either in the present Christian dispensation or in the future reign on the earth, should ever be regarded as entirely *the rule of*

God from the heavens above. In view of these considerations we are led to perceive the appropriateness of thus representing the rule of God to the Jews as the Kingdom of heaven, and especially so to them in its future or millennial phase.

Third Aspect—The Kingdom of the Son

In this view the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God appears, taking His place as the sovereign ruler of the Kingdom committed to Him from the beginning by His Father; and is chiefly seen prospectively in His kingly character reigning over the earth. For of the twenty-one passages in which this aspect is given only some three (Eph.5:5; Col.1:13; and 1 Thess.2:12) appear to relate to the present Christian phase of the Kingdom, while all the rest directly refer to His future reign.

One very marked and interesting feature of this presentation of the Kingdom of the Son is that nearly all the allusions to it are addressed directly to believers, or the saints who should be partakers with the Lord Himself in His glorious reign, when He comes to establish His Kingdom on the earth.

In this representation we particularly see the amazing love of Christ shining forth so graciously, as He thus is pleased to associate His beloved ones with Himself in all the blessedness of His future reign.

“And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29-30). “For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Pet.1:11). “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne” (Rev.3:22).

Fourth Aspect—The Father’s Kingdom

In this aspect the Lord Jesus presents the Kingdom especially to His disciples as the Father’s, for it ever is God the Father’s Kingdom, over which Christ has been appointed by the Father as its King and Administrator, in its future establishment on the earth. And in the few passages in which this aspect is given (there are only four, all plainly relating to the millennium) our blessed Lord’s particular purpose in uttering these gracious and comforting words to His disciples appears to be to point them to the marvellous assurance that they should be partakers

with Him in the coming glory of the Kingdom, in the same relationship to the Father as Himself, and as helpers in the administration of His and their Father's Kingdom. A millennial verification of the memorable words in John 20:17, "I ascend unto my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God."

The four references to this aspect are: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father" (Matt.13:43); "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" (Matt.26:29); "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32); "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matt.6:9-10; Luke 11:2).

In connection with the statement referred to above, that the Father in His eternal counsels and purposes had appointed His Son the Lord Jesus Christ to be the sovereign ruler or King of this Kingdom for a certain period of time (Luke 22:29), we have the additional fact stated that when all the purposes of God shall have been fully accomplished—some time after the expiration of the millennium—the earthly reign of the Lord shall come to an end, and the Kingdom shall then be delivered up to God the Father. "Then cometh the end when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet... And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all" (1 Cor.15:24-28).

4. CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM

The Word of God—as might be expected—abounds with references to this important point; so that we find the subject most prominently set forth, directly and indirectly, throughout the whole of the scripture.

And as the rule of God obviously lies at the root of all God’s counsels and purposes, with regard to this world, holy men of God were inspired at various times to proclaim its design and purpose, and to propound its righteous and holy principles, which we have abundantly recorded in the sacred Word.

But as it is quite beyond the scope of this little work to enter fully into so large a subject in its entirety, we shall simply confine our quotations and remarks to those passages that directly refer to the constitution of the Kingdom (chiefly those in which the words Kingdom of God, etc., occur), under the four following heads:

First—Its Constitutional Principles

- “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost” (Rom.14:17).
- “For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power” (1 Cor.4:20).
- “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world... but now is my kingdom not from hence” (John 18:36).
- “The kingdom of God cometh not with observation” [or with outward show] (Luke 17:20). “His kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever” (Isa.9:7).
- “A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Heb.1:8).
- “His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation” (Dan.4:3).
- “In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD” (Zech.14:20).

The sermon on the mount presents the fullest and most perfect exposition of the moral and spiritual principles and requirements of the Kingdom of God which has been given to us.

It begins with a direct allusion to the Kingdom in Matt.5:3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”; and eight times the Kingdom is thus directly mentioned in the sermon.

In this sublime discourse of our blessed Lord we have the grand foundation stones of truth, righteousness, and holiness presented to us, upon which the everlasting Kingdom of God is reared.

The law given by God to the children of Israel through Moses was, to a certain extent, an embodiment of the same principles; but our Lord in His discourse not only fulfils or endorses the law, but expands and raises it to a yet higher level (higher than the Jews could bear in the days of Moses, because of the hardness of their hearts, Matt.19:8), and He therefore says, “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled” (Matt.5:17-18); and in verse 19, He adds, “But whosoever shall do and teach them [the commandments], the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

So also in the sermon on the mount we have the everlasting and unchangeable standards of divine truth and holiness, by which everything in the Kingdom of God is ever to be measured and tested throughout every dispensation. But there have been some differences of opinion as to their application.

If it be allowed that the teaching of this sublime sermon is not *directly* applicable to Christians as their rule of life and conduct, yet it must be obvious that the holy and divine principles it unfolds permeate all Christian teaching more or less; so that these principles ever remain as God’s holy standards of truth and righteousness to all believers for all time.

But the Christian is on wholly new and different ground from that on which the Jew stood. The Jews were placed under law and accepted the responsibility of keeping it as a duty to God, while Christians are introduced into the liberty of “the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus” (Rom.8:2), whereby the heaven-born principle of *love*, begotten in their hearts by the Holy Ghost, becomes the motive-spring of all their actions, leading them to delight in keeping the words, the sayings, and commandments of their Lord Jesus Christ, whom they love. “We love him because he first loved us.” And this principle of love (vastly stronger than a mere sense of duty) answers to all the demands of practical godliness and keeping of commandments. “Therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” (Rom.13:10). Our Lord bases the whole keeping of His commandments on this principle of love. “If ye love me keep my commandments,” and “He

that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me” (John 14:15,21).

Second—The Subjects of the Kingdom; or those who Enter into it, and those who do not Enter

- “The saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever.” (Dan.7:18)
- “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.5:3; Luke 6:20)
- “Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for their’s is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.5:20)
- “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:29)
- “The good seed are the children of the kingdom.” (Matt.13:38)
- “Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt.18:3-4)
- “Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:14)
- “And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matt.25:33-34)
- “Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God’s sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.” (Luke 18:29-30)
- “Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” (James 2:5)
- “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?... Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.” (2 Cor.6:9-10)
- “They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” (Gal.5:21)
- “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God.” (1 Cor.15:50)
- “No whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.” (Eph.5:5)

- “How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God... How hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God.” (Mark 10:23-24; Luke 18:24.)
- “For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:25; Matt.19:23-24)
- “Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.” (Matt.21:31)
- “Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.” (Mark 12:34)
- “No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” (Luke 9:62)
- “But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.” (Matt.23:13)

Third—The Way of Entrance into the Kingdom, and the Manner of Entering

There is but one way of entrance, and that is through faith in Christ; for He is the door by which all must enter.

- “Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep... I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:7,9)
- “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.” (John 14:6)
- “For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
- “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.” (Heb.10:19-20)

This has ever been, and ever will be, the only way of coming under the rule of God or into His Kingdom; for Jews and Gentiles alike, for Christians now as for saints in the millennium; though not so clearly apprehended in former ages as it is in these days. And though the manner of entering in, and the circumstances connected with it, are variously set forth at different times, the door of entrance ever remains the same for all throughout every dispensation.

- “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3,5)

- “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” (Matt.3:2; 4:17)
- “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matt.6:33; Luke 12:31)
- “It is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.” (Mark 9:47)
- “Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children for the kingdom of God’s sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.” (Luke 18:29-30)
- “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” (Matt.11:12)
- “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22)

Fourth—The Blessings and Privileges to be Enjoyed in the Kingdom

All the blessings and privileges now enjoyed under the present, or Christian phase of the spiritual rule of God in the hearts of believers, such as forgiveness of sins, peace with God, eternal life, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, etc., might be enumerated under this head as the present though invisible blessings to be enjoyed. But to quote all the references to these spiritual blessings would involve a very large citation from all the Gospels and Epistles, such as would be beyond my present purpose. I have therefore in the following quotations only given the passages (with the exception of the first text, which probably relates to the present phase of the Kingdom) that directly refer to the blessings to be enjoyed by the saints under the reign of Christ in the millennium, which I have designated the third, or future phase of the Kingdom.

- “Among them that are born of women, there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (Matt.11:11; Luke 7:28)
- “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” (Matt.13:43)
- “But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.” (Matt.26:29)
- “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.” (Luke 14:15)
- “Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed me; that ye may eat and drink at my

table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Luke 22:28-30)

- When the Lord returns after “having received the kingdom,” He will give rewards to His faithful servants, and authority to rule over certain cities. (Luke 19:15-19)
- The saints shall judge the world and angels. (1 Cor.6:2-3)
- “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” (Matt.25:21)
- “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Matt.25:34)
- “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” (2 Tim.4:8)
- “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him.” (2 Tim.2:12)
- “He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.” (Rev.2:26)
- “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.” (Rev.3:21)
- “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev.5:10)
- “And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” (Rev.20:4)
- “And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.” (Rev.22:5)

In concluding these brief notes on this branch of the subject, I would again remark that the foregoing references to the Constitution of the Kingdom, and the principles upon which it is founded, evidently bear a distinct application to one or other, and in some cases to all the three Phases of the Kingdom, while this application in each case may be determined by a consideration of the specific meaning of the passages themselves.

5. PHASES OR DISPENSATIONS OF THE KINGDOM

The Kingdom, as already remarked, is ever one and the same in its constitution and fundamental principles; but we have different displays or representations of it at different periods of its history. Thus there has been a past representation or exhibition of the Kingdom as there is now a present one, while there will yet be a future and different display of it in the millennium. [See the Chart.]

These stages may be appropriately called the three PHASES of the Kingdom, which take their character from the different dispensational conditions and circumstances under which the Kingdom appears and is made known. And it is of considerable importance to see clearly the distinctly different characteristics of each of these phases or dispensations, as most of the errors that have been made on this subject are due to mixing and confounding these phases together, as if there were little or no difference between them.

We will therefore now proceed to consider these three phases—past, present, and future—in regular order, and specially note the principal passages that relate to each class respectively, with the view of rightly dividing the Word on this, as upon other subjects of scripture. [See complete List for all the passages.]

First—The Past Phase: Introduction of the Kingdom

This was the introductory announcement of the Kingdom, set forth in the ministry of John the Baptist and our Lord, who preached repentance and salvation to the Jews, in view of the coming Kingdom, then said to be near at hand. This preaching was therefore called the “Gospel of the Kingdom,” because the setting up of the Kingdom was then looked upon as imminent, provided the Jews accepted Christ as their King.

John, as the appointed messenger of God, called upon all to repent and mend their ways, as a preparation for the advent of their King then about to appear in their midst, and who some time after did actually present Himself to the Jews as their Messiah King, in fulfilment of the prophecy in Zech.9:9, “Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass” (Matt.21:5). Therefore it was John’s appropriate mission to announce “The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” because the coming presence of the King naturally suggested the inauguration of His Kingdom.

A new era commenced with the preaching of John, while his ministry and that of our Lord's, constituted a distinct and different dispensation (though but a very short one) from all that had preceded it, and quite different also from the Christian or Church dispensation which succeeded it after the Day of Pentecost. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it" (Luke 16:16; Matt.11:12-13).

That this was a distinct dispensation in itself, and unlike any other, may be clearly gathered from the passages that refer to the ministry of John and our Lord, in which we see the peculiar features that distinguish it from any other period. These may be briefly noted as follows:

1. It was marked by the actual presence of the King—though not recognized as yet in power to reign—who as such specially presented Himself to Israel, but was rejected. He said, "The kingdom of God is among you," because the King was there. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11; 5:43).

2. The King being then on the scene, our Lord's preaching specially directed attention to the establishment of the Messiah's reign on the earth, which at that time was declared to be near at hand. This was the one leading thought and object of the preaching of that day.

3. This gospel of the kingdom was then limited, and therefore only proclaimed by our Lord and His disciples to the Jews. It was wholly Jewish in its character. "Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt.10:5-6).

After the resurrection of Christ, when another great change was to take place and a new dispensation introduced, the disciples were commanded to "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." This fact in itself furnishes us with a very distinct line of demarcation between the past and the present phase of the Kingdom.

The Lord often spoke to His disciples about His coming Kingdom, when they should "eat and drink at his table, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel...". And we cannot wonder that, in view of all this, the disciples were led to enquire, "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" as they were evidently under the impression that it might come to pass in their day. "We trusted that it had been he which

should have redeemed Israel” (Luke 24:21). Moreover, the grand scene on the Mount of Transfiguration was expressly given to them as a glimpse of the coming glory of His millennial reign, while His remarkable prophecies in Matt.24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, all directly pointed to the events that should precede and usher in that glorious day of His triumph and reign.

Consequently, the current and all-prevailing thought of that time among devout Jews—who were “waiting for the consolation of Israel”—was the setting up of the Messiah’s Kingdom. It was the characteristic feature of that period. And from all this we can see the reason why the gospel preached by our Lord was specially designated the “gospel of the Kingdom.”³

³ The glad tidings of God, that brings salvation to all who believe, is in its essential character ever the *one* same *gospel* throughout all ages; but like the Kingdom, it is presented in the Word under different *aspects*, to set forth its different characteristics, and to mark the dispensational order of time in which it is proclaimed.

1. It is the gospel of God (Rom.1:1; 15:16, etc.) because God in “His eternal counsels and purposes of love originated it, and appointed” it to be proclaimed.

2. The gospel of Christ (Rom.1:9,16; 1 Cor.9:12,18, etc.) because Christ laid the foundation on which it rests, and provided it by His glorious work of redemption.

3. The gospel of salvation and peace (Eph.1:13; 6:15 etc.) because it provides these blessings for all who believe.

4. The gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24). The gospel now preached to all, both Jews and Gentiles alike, which is expressive of the free grace of God that gathers out believers in Christ from all classes, not only to be saved, but also to be associated by faith with Christ in heavenly places.

5. The gospel of the Kingdom (Matt.4:23; 9:35; Mark 1:14). The dispensational and limited gospel preached by Christ and His disciples to the Jews only, especially in view of the Kingdom of Christ on the earth, then proclaimed as near at hand. And that which will also be preached again (after the translation of the Church to heaven) by the godly remnant of Jews during the day of tribulation, having in view the immediate prospect of the setting up of Christ’s Kingdom on the earth. (Matt.24:14)

6. The everlasting gospel (Rev.14:6-7). Probably the same as the gospel of the Kingdom that will be preached to all nations during the day of tribulation, having the approaching judgments that are to precede the setting up of Christ’s Kingdom distinctly in view, as may be gathered from the words which will then be preached. “Fear God, and give glory to him, for the *hour of his judgment* is come, and worship him that made heaven and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

Four times only does the phrase “gospel of the Kingdom” occur in scripture; namely, in the three passages already referred to, *i.e.*, Matt.4:23 and 9:35, Mark 1:14, which relate to Christ’s personal ministry (“And Jesus went about preaching the gospel of the kingdom”), and the fourth time in Matt.24:14, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

The important point to note here is the significant fact that this phrase is used for the fourth time in the great prophecy of our Lord in Matt.24, and nowhere else, thus furnishing us with a connecting link between the preaching of Christ and His apostles and the preaching of the godly remnant, which is yet to take place in the day of tribulation. The conclusion that naturally follows from this striking coincidence is, that the gospel which will be preached by the Jews at the time of the end (Matt.24) will be the same, in its main features and character, as that which was preached by the Lord and His apostles nineteen centuries before, seeing that the very same words—gospel of the Kingdom—are employed to designate both these preachings, while these words are never used in any other connection.

In other words, both should be regarded as distinctly Jewish, while the burden of each appears to be identically the same, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand”; because the establishment of Christ’s Kingdom on the earth appeared, and will yet appear, an imminent fact, alike in both these proclamations of this special gospel.

Perhaps the more correct way of putting this view would be to say, that while Christ and His disciples *first began* to teach that His Kingdom was near at hand, this line of teaching was to be *continued*, as if on the morrow, by His Jewish brethren at the end of the age, without taking into account the long interval of time between these two periods. The duration of time appears to be entirely eliminated from our Lord’s representations, while the whole Christian dispensation (which was never the subject of prophecy) was *bridged over*; and the last days of the age and His day, when on earth, are brought together, as if they were today and tomorrow.

We have numerous instances of this in scripture, such as, “The time is at hand,” “Behold I come quickly”; “The acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance” (Isaiah 61:2; Luke 4:18-19), and many others. Of this mode of teaching adopted by our Lord, we have a very striking illustration

(that bears directly on the point we are now considering) in the tenth chapter of Matthew.

In this chapter we have the Lord directing and sending forth the twelve apostles to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel,” and to no others, while they were to say, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

After giving minute instructions to them, as to the way in which they were to conduct their mission, we find the Lord extending His discourse in a peculiar manner down to the Jewish remnant of the last days, thus connecting them with the twelve men before Him as preachers of the same gospel of the Kingdom, without noting the long interval of time between them, as if they were one and the same company.

This remarkable transition begins about the seventeenth verse, as we see from this to the twenty-third verse that the statements and directions given agree substantially with His prophetic teaching in Matt.24 and Mark 13.

This fact may be readily seen by a comparison of these passages when put side by side, as in the following parallel columns:

MATTHEW 10:17-23

“But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against [their] parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name’s sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”

MATTHEW 24:9-14

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

MARK 13:9-13

“But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. And the gospel must first be published among all nations. But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against [their] parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name’s sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

Seven points of similarity stand out very plainly in these parallel passages, showing that they relate to the same time and circumstances; namely, (1) Their preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom, (2) Brought before kings and rulers, (3) Persecuted for their testimony, (4) Should be helped by the Holy Spirit to speak right words to their persecutors, (5) Divisions and betrayals in families, (6) Hated of all for Christ's sake, (7) Those who endured to the end should be saved.

And as it is generally admitted that the portions just quoted from Matthew 24 and Mark 13 relate to the coming day of tribulation, so also must it be admitted that the passages quoted from Matthew 10 refer to the same period, because the statements in Matthew 10 are identically the same as those in the other two chapters. For they all describe the same persecutions and sufferings of the faithful Jewish saints at the time of the end (allowing that Matthew 10 may have had a *preliminary* and *typical* fulfilment in the history of the apostles); therefore it may be reasonably inferred that our Lord, while instructing the twelve apostles (Matthew 10), passed at the end of His discourse from them and that day, over the whole Christian dispensation of nineteen centuries, to connect the Jewish brethren of the last days with the twelve as if they were one company, inasmuch as both companies would be Jewish messengers of the same gospel of the Kingdom, and have to pass through the same trials and persecutions, though at different times.

Indeed, this inference seems to be fully and remarkably confirmed when we come to verse 23 of Matthew 10, "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."

Now the words, "Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come," could not possibly apply to the twelve apostles, seeing they have passed away hundreds of years ago, while the Son of man has not yet come. Moreover, no satisfactory explanation of this peculiar passage can be given but that which connects it with Matthew 24:29-30, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened... And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven"; and Mark 13:24-26, "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened... And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds, with power and glory."

Thus we find these three scriptures—Matthew 10 and 24 and Mark 13—exactly agreeing as to the events that are to transpire at the end of the age, during the day of tribulation, and the coming of the Son of man immediately after that day—looked at entirely from a Jewish point of view.

It may be well to observe here that in Luke 21 (which is another account of the same prophetic discourse of our Lord given in Matthew and Mark), in verses 12 to 19, we have very similar, and, indeed, almost the same words used as those given in the two parallel columns from Matthew 10 and 24 and Mark 13, which describe in like manner the Jewish persecutions, and how they were to be hated of all for His name's sake, while they were not to premeditate what they should speak when brought before kings and rulers, etc. But on carefully reading these eight verses in Luke 21 it becomes apparent that they were directly and solely applied to the apostles, whom He was then instructing, and not (as in Matthew and Mark) to the Jewish remnant at the time of the end.

This difference of application is seen in the words (verse 12), “But *before* all these they shall *lay their hands on you...*”. That is, before the tribulation described in the two previous verses (10 and 11) should come to pass. Also in the words, “Some of you shall they cause to be put to death...”. But this difference is still more strikingly indicated by our Lord's remark in Luke, “For I will give you a mouth and wisdom...”, whereas in Matthew and Mark He says, “For it is not ye that speak, but the spirit of your Father [or the Holy Ghost] which speaketh in you”; thus showing that the Lord Himself would give those who went forth as His messengers *while He was on the earth* the needed mouth of wisdom, while the messengers of the latter day, after He had ascended into heaven, would be guided as to what they should speak by the Holy Ghost, in accordance with Christ's teaching in John 16 and 17.

By comparing and contrasting the foregoing passages in Matthew, Mark and Luke, we also see how remarkably our Lord identified the Jewish remnant at the end with the disciples whom He was then instructing. They appeared to be in His thoughts as the continuation of one company, notwithstanding the long interval of time between their respective missions, so that the same directions would be suitable to both companies, seeing they would be preachers of the same gospel of the Kingdom, and be persecuted for their testimony in the same manner.

In all this we see the strictly Jewish character of the mission of our Lord and His disciples—the past phase of the Kingdom—which had nothing in common with the present order of things.

Summarizing these remarks and scriptural allusions concerning the past phase of the Kingdom, we may now briefly recapitulate the conclusions arrived at as follows:

1. That in this past phase we have the announcement of Christ the King then present to the Jewish nation, in prospect of the setting up of His Kingdom on the earth. This was its special and distinguishing feature.

2. This proclamation of the Messiah King and His Kingdom, in accordance with the prophecies of the Old Testament and the hopes and expectations of the Jews, was appropriately called the “gospel of the Kingdom,” and as such was a presentation of the gospel distinct from any other, and preached only to the Jews in that day.

3. The gospel preached by Christ and the apostles, while Christ was on earth, was connected with and appeared to be similar to, if not identically the same, as the gospel of the Kingdom that will yet be preached by the Jewish remnant in the day of tribulation, as shown in Matt.10 and 24 and Mark 13.

4. “The everlasting gospel” referred to in Rev.14:6-7, which is represented as being preached in the day of tribulation. “Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come...”. In one sense these words are equivalent to the message delivered by our Lord and His apostles, “The Kingdom of heaven is at hand,” though necessarily more explicit in calling attention to the hour of *His judgment*, which will then be very near, and on the eve of the Lord’s coming to judge the nations prior to the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom, as stated in Matt.24:29-30, and 25:31-32.⁴

5. This gospel of the Kingdom which was then preached was entirely different in its character and the objects it had in view from the present preaching of the “gospel of the grace of God.” Then it was, Repent and be

⁴ The everlasting gospel is probably so called because it will be the continued announcement of the Glad Tidings first made known in the Garden of Eden, which has been everlastingly proclaimed. under different forms, through all the ages. Therefore “everlasting,” and so set forth at the end, in view of the immediate setting up of Christ’s Kingdom through judgments.

ready for the Messiah's reign and Kingdom on the earth—the *earthly* calling; now it is “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” and His finished work of redemption for full salvation and eternal life, while hoping and waiting for the *heavenly* calling at the coming of Christ to translate the Church to heaven.

Thus we see dissimilarity in every feature between these two presentations of the gospel, and it is a great mistake to regard them as one and the same, or that one is a *continuation* of the other. It is this sad error that has been used to deprive thousands of believers of the “blessed hope” of the Lord's personal return, *at any moment*, to take His waiting saints to heaven, according to His own words, “Behold, I come quickly,” “Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come,” and “blessed are those servants whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching.”

For it is argued by those who hold that these two different presentations of the gospel are the same, that the Lord could not come at any moment, until the gospel is first “preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations” (Matt.24:14), erroneously assuming that the gospel of the Kingdom in this passage is *the same* as the gospel of the grace of God now preached (Acts 20:24), which it plainly is not, as the text itself and the context show.

Then on this false assumption they conclude that as a great many nations have not yet heard the gospel of grace that is now being preached, the Lord cannot come (according to their version of Matt.24:14) until that event has been accomplished; and so, in this way, they postpone the blessed Lord's coming indefinitely.

It is therefore of the utmost importance to see distinctly the dispensational difference between these two gospels, and to clearly understand the true meaning of these two scriptural phrases.

The present gospel of grace will be preached until the Lord comes to translate the Church—which may take place at any moment; then the gospel of the Kingdom which was first preached by Christ and His apostles will again be resumed and preached, chiefly by godly Jews, during the whole day of tribulation, “in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come.” The “end” mentioned here will be the end of the age and of the great day of tribulation, when the Lord will come to judge the nations and set up His Kingdom. And those who endure to the end of that day shall be saved to enter into the full enjoyment of millennial

blessings on the earth. Here again the word “saved” is erroneously supposed by many to mean going to heaven, when it is obvious, from the whole tenor of the chapter, that it is the millennium which is in view, and not heaven at all. The two companies in Rev.7, the 144,000 and the palm bearers, are examples of this, for they both pass through the day of tribulation, and the sealed Israelites are seen after it safely on Mount Zion with the Lamb (surely not in heaven, but in Palestine, where Mount Zion is); while of the palm bearers it is said, “These are they which come (not came) out of the great tribulation,” the blessings described as their portion being also millennial.

At the same time it is quite true that this preaching of the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations must take place before the *second stage* of the Lord’s coming WITH His saints; but it is never stated that the present gospel of the grace of God is to be preached to all the world before the rapture (1 Thess.4:15-18) or the Lord’s coming FOR His saints. Therefore we may and should be ever looking for His coming at any moment, as the Thessalonians were. (1 Thess.1:10)

6. The past phase of the Kingdom ceased with the death of Christ and will be revived again, to a certain extent and for a short period, when the present or Christian dispensation comes to an end. For then the Jewish order of things will be partially restored. Thus the past and future phases join in this point, with a long interval between.

7. In noting these dispensational distinctions (*i.e.*, the difference between the Lord’s time on the earth and the present) it is important ever to bear in mind that our Lord’s general teaching, as well as His prophetic utterances, extended far beyond the day of His personal ministry down to the present time, and even to the millennium.

We must therefore regard much of His teaching as applicable to all times and to every phase of the Kingdom, especially the great moral and spiritual principles that always distinguished His divine teaching.

But for all this the dispensation in which He lived and wrought was unique, and should not be considered as identical with the present, from which it was so entirely different. For everything was changed on the Day of Pentecost, when the Church was formed and a new dispensation commenced.

Many who have not clearly seen this point have often seriously misapplied some of our Lord's teachings, in which they endeavour to adapt Jewish thoughts and observances to Christian believers and the Church.

On consulting the list of references it will be found that there are about twenty-two *direct* passages (marked P1) referring to this past phase of the Kingdom.

We will now proceed to consider the present phase.

Second—The Present Phase: Transition

It is a transitional and parenthetical promulgation of the Kingdom, during the absence of the King, by which certain *results* are produced through the preaching of the gospel of the grace of God to all classes alike, whereby believers are gathered out from the world, to come under the spiritual rule of Christ in the Church, while nominal Christians, by mingling with the true, form what is commonly known as *Christendom*; and thus *both together* constitute the present phase of the Kingdom.

These religious conditions only partially existed in our Lord's day, but He anticipatively described them in His numerous discourses as a state of things that was to exist after His ascension on high. And these circumstances, and the incidents connected with them predicted by our Lord, were to occur during a peculiar interval, between the first proclamation of the Kingdom by the King Himself and John (the past phase) and the consummation or setting up of the Kingdom in full power in the millennium—the future phase.

Two very marked points of contrast appear between this phase and the past.

First. In the present we find that the gospel of God's grace was appointed to be preached to all classes without distinction. The commission was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature," while in the past the gospel of the Kingdom was only to be preached to "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt.10:6).

Second. In the past phase the believing Jews alone were looked upon as the saints or children of God, who then entered the Kingdom, while the Gentiles were considered as outside, strangers and afar off. But now under the present phase, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ Jesus"

(Gal.3:28). “For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us” (Eph.2:14).

These two points present us with the most prominent and distinguishing features of these two phases (the Jewish and Christian), in which we see their marked dissimilarity.

The error of regarding these two distinct manifestations of the Kingdom as the same religious order of things, and the present phase as merely a continuation of the past, has been the fruitful cause of much confusion in the interpretation of these portions of God’s Word.

The great change from the Jewish to the Christian dispensation was brought about by the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost in a way that was never known before, by which an entirely new order of things was commenced.

Moreover, it is well to remember that this could not have taken place until the Lord had ascended to heaven (John 7:39); nor could the disciples go forth to execute their new mission, until the descent of the Holy Ghost upon them. Hence the Lord “commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father.” “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” (Acts 1:4,8).

Mighty consequences were thus to follow the descent of the Holy Ghost, such as had never happened before, when a new order of preaching and a new religious dispensation were to be introduced, which we now see exemplified in the present phase of the Kingdom. And as the first result of this new order of things we see (Acts 2) precious souls gathered out from the world (Jews and Gentiles alike) to the Lord Jesus Christ, to constitute the one body, the Church. The doctrine of this was revealed at a later period to the Apostle Paul (Eph.3:2-10).

Then, for a short time at least, the true Church of God was seen in all its pristine beauty, fashioned by the Holy Ghost. But after a while false professors crept in and essayed to join themselves to the true believers, claiming to be called by the same name, and to be associated with them in all their acts of religious worship and service.

So that in process of time it came to pass incidentally that mixed assemblages of true and nominal Christians were formed, constituting the state of things now known as Christendom, which our Lord describes in several of His parables as the present condition of the Kingdom of heaven.

In the true Kingdom itself, regarded as the divinely constituted sphere of God's holy rule, no such admixture could for a moment be recognized, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Rom.14:17).

It is intrinsically the holy Kingdom of heaven where God reigns supreme (*i.e.*, the true Church side of it), and as such was intended to be the expression of God's wisdom, truth, and righteousness to the whole world, which it is, when true to its mission as God's testimony on the earth. (Eph.3:10).

Consequently while looking at the fundamental principles of the true Kingdom of God, as set forth for instance in the Sermon on the Mount—apart from its external representation in the present dispensation—we see nothing but truth, righteousness, and holiness as its distinguishing characteristics, and in this light these principles are applicable to it in all its aspects and phases. But *incidental* to its promulgation in the world the elements of evil have come in to mingle with the good; for while the Son of Man has been diligently sowing the precious wheat, the enemy has also been busy sowing tares.

And though the tares or nominal Christians cannot be considered as forming any part whatever of the real Kingdom of God, yet the circumstances arising out of their *professing* to be followers of Christ, and claiming to be called Christians, while outwardly assuming the position and responsibilities of servants of Christ, are all taken into account in the representation of the Kingdom of God or of heaven, which we have in the Gospels.

In these accounts it is the *whole profession* of Christianity that is set forth, and the results (both good and bad) that grow out of this profession.

In the parables of our Lord—especially the seven notable ones in Matthew 13—we have a clear and circumstantial representation of the Kingdom of heaven as it now exists, showing the effects that would be produced by, and the results that would follow, the proclamation of the Kingdom through the preaching of the gospel, partly during the latter part

of our Lord's ministry, but chiefly from the Day of Pentecost down to the end of the present age.

These parables are given, as our Lord explained, that the truth of God concerning the Kingdom should be fully made known to the disciples, to whom it was given to understand these mysteries; while to those who wilfully shut their eyes to the truth they should still remain as mysteries and not be understood by them, and thus be a testimony against them for the hardness of their hearts.

All except the first—the Sower—begin with the words, “The kingdom of heaven is like or likened unto,” and are therefore similitudes of the Kingdom; that is, comparisons of moral and spiritual with natural things.

In the first the Son of man is the Sower, and the field is the world; and this parable appears to be more general or universal in its application than the other six, while as the opening or introductory discourse it unfolds the originating cause and groundwork that are obviously implied in all the other parables; namely, the proclamation of the Word of God, and the effects produced thereby.

These effects, so clearly described in the four different grounds on which the seed fell, were, in the first instance, partially seen in connection with Christ's ministry, but are now much more fully exemplified in what we see continually taking place in Christendom, and therefore need no further explanation.

Mainly, these parables apply to the present period, as already stated, but as they were delivered towards the end of our Lord's ministry, when He had given up the Jews as a nation because of His rejection, and was consequently entering upon a new line of teaching, we see that the results of the new order of things He was then introducing were already beginning to be manifested in His day, such especially as we see described in the parable of the Sower. So that we have in this fact a slight overlapping, to a certain extent, of the past with the present phase of the Kingdom.

One point of resemblance between the parable of the Sower and some of the others is seen in the exhibition of both bad and good results, the unfruitful as well as the fruitful soils, and at the same time an evil agency—the fowls—at work picking up the good seed that fell by the wayside. “Then cometh the wicked one and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.”

The first four of the seven parables present the Kingdom in its outward or external aspect, and were addressed to the multitude by the seaside; while the following two—the Treasure and Pearl—present the Kingdom in its internal aspect, according to God’s estimate of it and the reality of its character, and were appropriately addressed to His disciples alone in the house. The seventh, or last, is similar in character to the first four, showing an admixture of good and bad.

In the second—the Wheat and the Tares—we have a very instructive and comprehensive view of the Kingdom in this dispensation, that embraces in its two classes the main features of some of the others that follow, showing the results of the promulgation of the Kingdom generally, and the final consequences to these two classes at the end of the age, as explained by the Lord Himself.

In this, as in the Sower, we see that the good seed is sown by the Son of Man, involving, no doubt, the continuation of this sowing of the Word of God by the apostles, and others after them. Anyhow, the Kingdom is outwardly connected with man’s administration as to the results produced by the truth being sown on the earth, for through the inability of the servants to guard the field evil comes in. “But while men slept, his enemy came, and sowed tares among the wheat.” The proclamation and outward care of the Kingdom being committed to man as to its external form, the present mixed system, represented by the wheat and the tares, will continue to the end, or as long as man has any responsibility in the matter.

Then, again, the impotence of the servants is seen in their inability to distinguish between the good and bad, or to root out the tares from the wheat without disturbing the latter. This was to be reserved for the reapers, or angels, at the harvest time. In all this it must never be forgotten that the *field* is the *world*, and not the Church, as so often erroneously assumed. It is owing to this sadly mistaken notion, that many have entertained the strange thought that inconsistent, or merely nominal Christians, even when their walk is known to be contrary to God’s Word, should not be excluded from the Church, or that true believers should not come out and be separated from them! The Church is not in question here, but the Kingdom, or Christendom. We also see that the tares are to be gathered together *first*, and bound in bundles to be burned. Some think, and perhaps rightly, that this gathering of the tares into bundles is going on now, in the natural and providential coming together and grouping of worldly professors, which is

so plainly visible all around us, so that they are thus being prepared in bundles for the judgment, or the burning, at the end of the age.

But before this judgment of the tares or chaff the wheat will be gathered into the garner at the rapture, though this fact is naturally omitted from the parable, because it only treats of the mixed Kingdom and not of the separated Church.

Then, again, it seems that at the end, when the Lord comes to judge the nations and set up His Kingdom, there will be a *visible* gathering out of the wicked of *that day*, to be judged as only fit to be burned and then set aside in Hades, with all the tares or chaff of former periods, to await their common doom at the judgment of the great white throne.

It does not, however, follow that because these two facts are so closely connected together in the text that one will take place immediately after the other, for there will be—as we find from other scriptures—a thousand years at least between them. (See a similar passage in Matt.25:46.) Sentence is pronounced at the first judgment, and the condemned are consigned to the abyss to await the judgment of the white throne, when they and all the wicked shall be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev.20:15.)

As this typical parable—the Wheat and the Tares—contains the chief characteristic features that are implied in the other four (namely, the mixture of good and bad, and their ultimate separation), the four following parables may be regarded as two distinct sub-divisions of it.

Thus the Mustard Seed and the Leaven may be intended to represent two further or later developments of the evil element—the tares—introduced into the Kingdom; while the Treasure and the Pearl may, in like manner, be taken as setting forth the higher relationships and heavenly characteristics of the good element, the wheat. Continuing this line of thought, we see the drag-net naturally introduced at the end of the series, to show the final separation of the two elements, which were to be allowed to grow together through the whole of the present dispensation.

In the Mustard Seed we see one result of the evil principle, already introduced, in its expansion into a great tree, (the emblem of *worldly* power and greatness), “so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”

A striking picture of Christendom as we find it today. Nominal Christians finding a delusive rest in the profession of Christianity, in outward association with true believers, while their hearts are wholly in the world, their worldly ways and dead formalism marring and falsifying the testimony of God on the earth—an unholy alliance between the Church and the world that all true saints ever deplore. The tree is wholly evil, while true Christians are connected with it only by the outward link of similar profession.

In the Leaven we have another development of the evil principle, in which we see it diffusing itself throughout the whole of the Kingdom by the secret introduction of false doctrines and all manner of heresies, whereby the whole mass of professing Christendom becomes ultimately permeated and corrupted, as so largely described in most of the Epistles. It is the mischievous “Leaven which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.”⁵

Another and different line of truth was presented in the next two parables, the Treasure and the Pearl, in which the deeper and more hidden things of the Kingdom were unfolded to the inner circle of His own disciples in the privacy of the house. These two parables seem to present us with two further views of the good features of the Kingdom—the Wheat—as we had two views of the evil element—the Tares—shown in the Great Tree and the Leaven.

The beautiful parables of the Treasure and the Pearl—in which no admixture of evil is seen—appear to represent the heavenly relationship of the true Church of God to Christ its head, together with the preciousness of that spiritual relationship to Him, and the true and holy testimony on the part of the saints that flows from it.

⁵ Leaven in scripture is always a figure of evil doctrine or evil practice, as the following passages plainly show: “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees... Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees” (Matt.16:6,12). “Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod” (Mark 8:15). “Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1). “Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump? Purge out therefore the old Leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened... Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Cor.5:6-8).

The characteristics of the Philadelphian Church (Rev.3) seem to correspond, in some measure, with these two parables, displaying Christ's estimate of and satisfaction in His saints, who have kept His word and have not denied His name. This delight and satisfaction of the Lord in His saints—His precious possession—specially appears in the promise to the overcomers of that Church. "Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God; and he shall go no more out; and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name" (Rev.3:12).

Then at the end of this series of parables we have in the "net" (which gathers in the good and the bad) the final separation of these two classes—as already indicated in the explanation of the Wheat and Tares—now fully carried into effect at the end of the age, when the wicked are seen separated and cast away, to be finally judged at the "great white throne." "The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity... So shall it be at the end of the world (or age): the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth" (Matt.13:41-42, 49-50).

This severing of the wicked from among the just will practically take place when the Lord comes to judge the nations at the end of the Day of Tribulation (Matt.25:31-32; Rev.14:14-18); while the final casting of the wicked into the furnace or lake of fire will take place a thousand years later, at the judgment of the "white throne" (Rev.20:11-15).

In reviewing the foregoing remarks, the leading features of the present phase of the Kingdom as a whole may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. We have the manifestation of certain effects and results that were to follow the promulgation of the Kingdom of heaven, during a peculiar interval between its introductory announcement (by Christ and John) and its consummation in the millennium.
2. The central thought that runs through the whole being the *Rule of God* over the souls of men, either submitted to by the true or rejected by the nominal hearers of the gospel, and the results that would follow in either case.

3. The King being absent—*i.e.*, not visibly present in reigning power—His rule is spiritual in the hearts of all who accept the gospel, and who by being born of God enter the Kingdom, and thus come under the rule of Christ. During this absence of the King the Holy Spirit takes His place as the Comforter, Guide, and Teacher of His saints, ever directing them to their Head in heaven. (John 14:26; 16:13.)

4. Two distinct classes of persons appear outwardly or professionally mingled together in a religious way, specially described in five of the parables of Matt.13 (the Wheat and the Tares, or the true and the false), who thus continue together to the end of the age, or the “Harvest.” This may be considered the distinguishing feature of the present phase of the Kingdom.

5. At the time of the harvest these two dissimilar classes are to be finally separated, and the future destiny of each class will then be irrevocably decided by the righteous Judge, the Lord Jesus Christ. This separation is also foretold, in a general way, without any reference to time, in another scripture (Matt.3:12), “Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

The separation and judgment of the two classes at the end of this dispensation, or harvest time, more especially refer to living people on the earth, when the Lord comes to judge the nations; *i.e.*, the “quick” or living nations.

This fact becomes clearly apparent when we note the explanation given by our Lord, that “The harvest is the end of the world, and the reapers are the angels”; and further, that when the Son of man comes “He shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity” (Matt.13:39-41).

These wicked and rebellious rejecters of the gospel of the Kingdom, which will be preached during the Day of Tribulation, will be destroyed in the awful judgment mentioned in Rev.19:15, while the righteous who believe and receive the gospel of that day [see the saints mentioned in Rev.7] shall be preserved through that terrible day, and thus come out of the Great Tribulation at its close, to enter into the full enjoyment of millennial blessings on the earth, when they shall “ Shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt.13:43).

The account given in Matthew 25 of the separation and judgment of the nations at the end of the age presents us with another aspect of the same events that we have been looking at in the foregoing remarks, in which we find the King saying to the sheep—the good class—“Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world”; and to the goats—the bad class—“Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels” (verses 34,41).

The Kingdom in the above passages doubtless refers to the millennial kingdom, into which the saints who have passed through the tribulation shall be introduced, to enjoy all the privileges of that blessed reign of Christ.

While the judgment at the end of the age is evidently limited to the people actually living on the earth at the time, it appears to be looked at in the parables and other scriptures as involving and applicable in principle—as to its execution and final results—to the judgment of all the true and nominal believers of the whole dispensation, though the time and mode of execution would be different.

Comparing these peculiar features of the present phase of the Kingdom with the circumstances of our Lord’s time and ministry, we see at once that they could not be applied to that day—the past phase of the Kingdom—seeing that the circumstances of that time were quite different from those described in the parables and other scriptures; nor can it be said that they represent in any sense the characteristics of the millennium, in which totally different conditions and relationships will be manifested.

We are therefore driven to the conclusion that these illustrative parables and other similar references *wholly relate* to the present phase of the Kingdom—the Christian or Church dispensation. This obvious fact has, however, led many to conclude that the Kingdom is the Church, making these two terms synonymous. But such a sweeping and unqualified conclusion cannot be correct. because the Church and the Kingdom represent two very distinct and widely different characteristics and relationships, which fact becomes plainly apparent when we consider the special conditions of each; for they are different in formation, character, and administration.

The Kingdom of heaven in its full development implies the presence of the King visibly reigning over His subjects; while these subjects are regarded

as entering into and inheriting this Kingdom and being reigned over by their King, the Lord Jesus Christ, on the earth.

The Church, on the other hand, consists of the whole assembly of true Christian believers, who are born of God, renewed and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and gathered to be associated with the Lord Jesus their Head, thus constituting the members of His body, which is the true Church of God.

Now neither of these definitions—*i.e.*, of the Kingdom or the Church—can be said to answer to the descriptions of the present phase of the Kingdom in its entirety, which we have been considering, as set forth in the parables of our Lord, and other portions of the New Testament.

For in these delineations we have a *mixed condition* of things that belongs only to the present dispensation, in which we see true and nominal Christians *outwardly* united in one common profession of Christianity and the observance of religious ordinances, but which is not the true Church of God either in its constitution or essential features. And this outward profession as a whole, including both classes, true and false, we call CHRISTENDOM.

At the same time, when we say that the Kingdom is not the Church, nor the Church the Kingdom, we have to bear in mind that *individual Christians* who, in another aspect, are members of and constitute the Church, are included in the Kingdom, and are indeed one essential part of it, although they are not in this outward connection seen in their peculiar *church character* as the body of Christ.

There are many other references to this present phase of the Kingdom, in which we see only the true or holy side of it represented, while in others we have the mixed condition of things shown, as in most of the parables. Of the first class, that well-known passage may be cited which directly relates to blessings and privileges of Christians of the present day, “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (Col.1:13). Evidently this is a present as well as a future privilege, to be thus introduced into the spiritual Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, preparatory to being partakers with Him in the glory of His millennial Kingdom.

Of similar import, as belonging to the first class, we have also the following examples: “For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he that is

least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28). “That ye would walk worthy of God who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory” (1 Thess.2:12). “There came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus” (Acts 28:23,31). “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matt.21:43).

To the second class, or mixed condition of the Kingdom, we have also many references besides those quoted, such as, “And I will give unto thee [Peter] the keys of the kingdom...” (Matt.16:19). “For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard...” (Matt.20:1). “The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son...” (Matt.22:2; 18:23). “Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom” (Matt.25:1).

All the direct references to this present phase, given in the complete List, are marked P2, signifying the second or present phase of the Kingdom, and number forty-seven in all.

There are numerous other *indirect* allusions to this phase of the Kingdom, not enumerated in this short treatise, both in the Acts and the Epistles as well as in the Gospels.

Third—The Future Phase: The Consummation

It is the Kingdom prophetically announced and described, as seen prospectively in actual power and glory established on the earth, when Christ, as the King of kings, shall reign literally with His saints over the earth during the millennium.

In the present stage of the Kingdom, when viewed in its true and divine character, it is the *spiritual* rule of Christ in the hearts of His saints that stands out as the most prominent thought; but in the future phase, while the saints of that dispensation will be morally and spiritually under His guidance and rule, *THEY will* also be under the *literal* and *visible* reign of the Lord on the earth, who shall then be King over all.

But as many maintain that the reign of Christ *always* means His spiritual reign in the hearts of believers, and nothing else, and that He will never

come to this earth to reign personally over it, I will now quote a few passages, out of a large number that might be cited, to show how unscriptural such a thought is.

- “The Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (Isaiah 24:23).
- “Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion” (Psalm 2:6).

Clearly “mount Zion,” the “holy hill of Zion,” and “Jerusalem” are not the hearts of saints, nor are they the Church, as so often erroneously assumed. Never is the Church called Zion in scripture, for it always refers either to the literal mount Zion of Jerusalem, or to God’s earthly people the Israelites.

Once it is used in Hebrews 12:22, but even there it is not applied to the Church, as shown by the fact that in verse 23—which is a continuation of the sentence—we have the words, “To the general assembly and Church of the firstborn,” from which it may be fairly inferred that the words “assembly and Church” would not be thus repeated if Zion, used in the first part of the sentence, meant the Church.

- “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David” (Luke 1:32).

Surely “the throne of his father David” could not possibly mean the hearts of his saints, or the Church even in figure. Moreover, it would be equally unmeaning to say that this throne of His father David is the Lord’s throne in heaven.

These words must therefore refer to the literal throne which shall be given to Him when He comes to reign over the twelve tribes of Israel on the earth after they are restored to their own land.

- “Of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it” (Isaiah 9:7). Again, “Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations... And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east... And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one” (Zech.14:3,4,9).

Nothing could be plainer than the literalness of this; and as if to guard the words “mount of Olives” from being spiritualized, it is added, “which is before Jerusalem on the east,” where this well-known mountain is situated.

In only shows to what an amazing extent the spiritualizing of scripture has been most unjustifiably carried, when in the face of such plainly literal and

explicit words as these, and many others that could be mentioned, there are some who still maintain that the Lord will not come personally to reign over the earth!

The scriptures throughout abound with references to this glorious reign of the Lord in the millennium, which will be the future phase and consummation of the Kingdom, while the most glowing and sublime language is used in setting it forth.

In the covenant which God made with Abraham the promise was specially given to him and his seed that they should possess the land of Canaan “from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates,” and enjoy a blessed time of rest and peace under the righteous sway of the promised Messiah, who was to come in due time as their King to reign over them.

And as it was fore-ordained in the counsels of God that Christ should be born of the seed of Abraham, it was but fitting that the Israelites should have the special privilege held out to them of being reigned over in the coming Kingdom by a son of the seed of Abraham and of David, of whom David was particularly the type in his kingly character. Therefore this promised Kingdom has ever been the undying hope of the children of Israel—given to them expressly by Jehovah Himself—that has cheered and animated them in all their wanderings and afflictions, and to which the faithful among them are still earnestly looking forward, especially now in these last days.

The prophets of old, under divine inspiration, seemed to be illumined prospectively by the radiance of that bright and yet future day when the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings. (Mal.4:2.)

The great King and His glorious Kingdom was ever one of the heart-stirring themes that inspired the sweet singer of Israel and other psalmists, as we see in many of their beautiful and divine songs. Such, for instance, in Psalm 45, “My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God has blessed thee for ever. Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy

right hand shall teach thee terrible things.” This is the lofty strain that runs through all this grand and expressive psalm of the Kingdom.

In the Transfiguration on the Mount—recorded in Matt.17, Mark 9 and Luke 9—our Lord was pleased to give to three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, a very remarkable representation of the millennial Kingdom, six days after He had told them they should not taste death, till they had seen the Kingdom of God come with power (Mark), or as given in Matthew, “the Son of man coming in his kingdom.”

And they then beheld the Lord in all His kingly glory “transfigured before them, and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light,” while Moses and Elias appeared with Him in the glory talking with Him. And as the disciples wondered and feared, Peter exclaimed, “Master, it is good for us to be here.”

In all this we have a wonderful picture of millennial scenes. The King in all His majesty is there in the midst, while Moses and Elias present with the Lord aptly represent the two classes of saints of the First Resurrection; Moses representing the saints that have died, as he died, and Elias the saints who shall not die, but be changed, as he was, and caught up together with the dead who rise first, as described in 1 Thess.4:16-17. The three disciples, moreover, may be taken to represent the people on the earth in the millennium, who shall be delighted with the visitations and presence of their heavenly visitors, coming down from the New and holy Jerusalem above, when they with the Lord shall be reigning over the earth.

That this scene was intended to represent the King coming in His glory to establish His future Kingdom on the earth, is conclusively shown by Peter’s allusion to it in his second epistle, chapter 1:16-7, “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

It will be found that there are more allusions in scripture to this future phase of the Kingdom than to any other branch of the subject; but as it is not our purpose to deal with the whole of these—which alone would fill a small volume—we shall, as before, confine ourselves to those direct passages that contain the words Kingdom or Kingdom of God, and even of

these we shall only be able to select some of the leading and most striking ones.

Of the passages in which the word “Kingdom” alone is used there are about 23 instances in the Old Testament, all of which, with one or two exceptions, relate to the millennial phase of the Kingdom [see the List], as the Church or Christendom phrase was never the subject of prophecy, for obvious reasons.

The following may be taken as typical examples of these direct references to the coming Kingdom.

- “They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations” (Psalm 145:11-13).
- “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever” (Isaiah 9:7).
- “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” (Dan.2:44). “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed... Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom... 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” (Dan.7:14,22,27).

In the New Testament also, where about fifteen passages containing the word “Kingdom” alone are given, it will be found that, with few exceptions, they refer, like the Old Testament references, to the future phase of the Kingdom.

For example, “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt.25:34).

- “Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest” (Mark 11:10).
- “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6).
- “Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?” (James 2:5).

Similar to these a large number of passages will be found throughout the New Testament that refer exclusively to the future or millennial phase of the Kingdom in connection with the words Kingdom of God, or of heaven, or of the Son, or of the Father.

A few of the most distinctive of these may be quoted as follows:

- “There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God” (Luke 13:28-29; Matt.8:11-12).
- “The Son of a man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity” (Matt.13:41).
- “And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom” (Matt.20:21).
- “Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt.13:43).
- “Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God” (Luke 14:15).
- “And it came to pass, that when he (the nobleman) was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading” (Luke 19:15).
- “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” (Matt.26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:16-18).
- “And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:29-30).
- “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer” (2 Thess.1:5).
- “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Rev.3:21).
- “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God; and those who had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (Rev.20:4).

In thus briefly tracing out the several aspects, constitutional principles, and phases of the kingdom of God, we are introduced to one of the most sublime subjects that could ever occupy the attention of either men or angels, compared with which all that relates to the kingdoms of this world sink into utter insignificance. Empires and kingdoms of this world, great and many, that stood high in the estimation of men, have through successive ages passed away into complete oblivion, but the glorious Kingdom of God, of which Christ will be its exalted and righteous King, shall abide for ever; for His Kingdom will not only be superlatively grand and blessed above all others, but will also be an everlasting Kingdom.

Yet few alas! comparatively, appear to have their eyes opened, to see and realize the greatness and glory of this coming Kingdom of Christ.

For mankind, being for the most part blinded by the false glitter of earthly greatness and the evanescent pomp and show of worldly things, find little or no interest in the wonderful revelations that God has been pleased so graciously and condescendingly to give us concerning the transcendent Kingdom of His well-beloved Son that is now drawing near to its consummation. The fleeting things of time and sense, and the ever-changing affairs of these earthly kingdoms, wholly absorb the time and attention of the vast majority of mankind, although they are continually reminded by passing events that all these things, and, indeed, everything that appertains to the pride and glory of man, are but as the flower of the field, that flourisheth for a moment and is gone. “As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more” (Psalm 103:15-16).

It is only when we ascend the Mount of God, in company with the prophets of old, and look down from thence on this little world, as we hear the voice of Jehovah speaking to them, that we can in some measure realize the littleness of all these earthly things. Let us listen for a moment to what the Omnipotent God had to say to Isaiah the prophet, touching the things of this world, and the inhabitants thereof.

- “The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodness thereof as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever... Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in

scales, and the hills in a balance? ... Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing... All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity... It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: that bringeth the princes to nothing: he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity” (Isaiah 40:6-8,12,15,17,22-23).

Though Jehovah has thus spoken, man in the pride of his heart is, in effect, ever repeating the proud boast of Nebuchadnezzar the king—“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?” (Dan.4:30), as he gazes with admiration upon the fascinating scene spread out before him by the great tempter, of “all the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them.” And instead of saying as the Lord did, “Get thee behind me, Satan,” he is captivated by the delusive picture, forgets God, and sets at nought His counsel, so that he has neither heart nor inclination to hear what the mighty God, the Creator and Upholder of all things, has to say concerning the great and wondrous Kingdom He is going to establish on this earth.

But a momentous crisis is approaching when a mighty change—unlike anything that has ever occurred before—shall take place; for assuredly the day is coming (and there are not a few who think it near) when the “Stone, cut out of the mountain without hands,” shall smite the great national image and break it in pieces, as recorded in Daniel 2:34-35—“Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the Stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”

This is further explained in verse 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.”

Also in Daniel 7:14, we have the same facts announced with other particulars, “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages should serve Him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

This is the great event that will be called forth at the sound of the Seventh Trumpet (but executed a little later on), when the great voices in heaven

shall shout, “The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev.11:15).

That will be a tremendous day of awakening to many when the vaunted glory of earth’s little kingdoms, which had so engrossed the time and energies of mankind for ages, will be seen in its true insignificance in comparison with the greatness and splendour of Christ’s coming Kingdom; and when some of the leading nations, then found in direct and defiant rebellion against God, will melt away at the presence of the Lord, the King of kings, coming forth in majestic power and with judgment to establish His righteous reign on the earth (Rev.19).

In view of these stupendous events that are now rapidly drawing near, how inestimably precious and cheering are the prospects of the children of God, when compared with the dread outlook of the poor worldlings (“the dwellers on the earth”) whose hearts and lives are wholly centred on earthly things, and who have nothing beyond to look forward to but “a certain fearful looking for of judgment.”

For the true Christian possesses not only present rest and peace, and the full assurance of eternal life through faith in the finished work of Christ, but has, moreover, that “blessed hope” and the soul-inspiring joy of looking forward with delightful anticipation to the bright and happy day—now near at hand—when they shall be caught up to be with the Lord in glory; and then after a brief interval in heaven to come forth as the “armies of heaven” with the Lord Himself, to judge the nations, and be partakers with Him in His glorious reign over the earth. (Rev.19.) So that they can, and do, most heartily join with all the saints of every age in ever repeating that first petition in the beautiful prayer which our Lord taught His disciples, “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”