

DOCTRINE | The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is referenced often in the [Gospels](#).

(Mark 1:15, 10:15, 15:43, Luke 17:20)

Broadly speaking, the Kingdom of God is the rule of an [eternal](#), sovereign God over all the universe.

(Psalm 103:19, Daniel 4:3, Romans 13:1)

More narrowly, the kingdom of God is a [spiritual](#) rule over the hearts and lives of those who willingly [submit](#) to God's authority.

(John 18:36, Matthew 14:17, John 3:5-7)

There is another sense in which the kingdom of God is used in Scripture: the [literal](#) rule of Christ on the earth during the [millennium](#).

(Daniel 2:44, Obadiah 1:21)

The [millennial](#) kingdom is the future reign of Jesus Christ on earth as He sits on David's throne in Jerusalem.

Those who occupy the millennial kingdom with [glorified](#) bodies can be divided into three subgroups:

- [The church](#), whose bodies were either resurrected or changed at the rapture. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 1 Corinthians 15:21–23, 51–53)
- [Tribulation martyrs](#), who are resurrected after Christ returns to earth. (Revelation 20:4–6)
- [The Old Testament saints](#), who we assume are resurrected at the same time. (Daniel 12:2)

[Revelation 19:11–16](#) describes the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Part of Jesus' setting up the kingdom will be His judgment of the [sheep](#) and the [goats](#) (Matthew 25:31–46).

- [The "sheep"](#) are the righteous Gentiles, who showed their faith by their good works toward God's people.
- [The "goats"](#) are the unrighteous Gentiles, who failed to aid God's children.
- Christ will cast the unrighteous into the lake of fire for eternal punishment. (Matthew 25:46)
- Because of this judgment, and because all Israel will believe at that time. (Zechariah 12:10; Romans 11:25–32)
- No unbeliever will enter the millennial kingdom. (Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43)