

God's Kingdom Universal and Eternal

(Dempsey Collins)

Kingdom defined. The Hebrew *malkut* used 91 times in OT has two primary uses: "Royal authority, dominion or territory, realm." (McGuiggan, *The Reign of God*, p 16)

"The primary meaning both of the Hebrew word *malkuth* in the OT and of the Greek word *basileia* in the NT is the rank, authority, and sovereignty exercised by a king...First of all, a kingdom is the authority to rule, the sovereignty of a king." (The Gospel of the Kingdom, p 19)

Of the Greek term for kingdom (*basileia*), Vine says: "Primarily an abstract noun, denoting sovereignty, royal power, dominion, e.g. Rev 17: 18, translated '(which) reigneth,' lit. 'hath a kingdom' (R.V. marg); then, by metonymy, a concrete noun, denoting the territory or people over whom a king rules, e.g., Matt 4:8; Mark 3:24. It is used especially of the Kingdom of God and of Christ." (Vine's Dictionary, p 294)

1. God is absolute monarch of all.
1 Chron. 29:11,12; Daniel 2:21; 4:17,34,35; Jer. 10:10;
Psalm 10:16; 29:10 "Everlasting King"
2. God's absolute rule is rooted in His divine power as creator and sustainer.
Isa. 37:16; Psalm 19:1-4
3. Man has persistently refused to submit to God's rule.
Gen. 6:5,19; Rom. 3:10-19,23
4. God's sovereignty is not relinquished by rebellious subjects.
Psalm 29:10
5. Despite man's sin, God has patiently sought man's allegiance.
Gen. 12:2; 35:11; 49:10

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

- Heavenly hosts
- Universe, Earth and all kingdoms of earth
- All men, living and departed – Eccl. 12:7,13,14
- The covenant nation of Israel, a kingdom of priests –
Ex. 19-24 cp. 15:18

Christ's Sovereignty

- Heavenly hosts, universe, earth, all kingdoms of earth, all powers, all that is seen and unseen, known and unknown save the Father.
(Eph. 1:20-23; Mt. 28:18)

Summary

- 1) The enthronement of Christ was not the enthronement of God.
(1 Chron. 29:11,12; Ps. 29:10)
- 2) When Christ was enthroned (Dan. 7:13,14), He was given dominion over everything save the Father (1 Cor. 15:27)
- 3) Christ's kingdom or sovereignty includes much more than the ekklesia of Mt. 16:18,19. The church and sovereignty of Jesus are not co-extensive. (Eph. 1:20-23)
- 4) The ekklesia of Christ is one aspect of His rule. The ekklesia of Christ's Kingdom are the righteous among men. They have freely submitted to His Lordship, were forgiven of all sins by Him and became His holy nation of priests. (Ps. 110; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 2:9) They are His covenant people among men (Mt. 26:28).
- 5) Christ's covenant people are in fellowship with all the heavenly hosts and saints of all ages. (Mt. 8:11,12; Heb.12:22-24)