

The Kingship of God in the Gospels

The references below are those in the four gospels to the Kingdom of God/Heaven, though I have also included the two most significant references to the Jesus as the King of the Jews. I have also changed the word Kingdom to read Kingship in accordance with our theme throughout these studies in the hope of helping the reader have a freshness in their approach to many of these statements.

In the first section I have grouped many of them together in themes. There may be other groups, but these were the key ones I identified in the limited time I had to compile this list. The second group is the remainder of the passages where this word appears. The lists were compiled by working through the gospels in order, so Matthew - which has more than 50% of the passages - provides the backbone of this document, with the other gospels being fitted in around it. It may surprise some that the word Kingship occurs just four times in John's gospel, and those are in two passages.

Finally, I have colour coded each of the gospels to encourage readers to consider the different context in which each was writing.

Randall Hardy, May 2021

Lu 1:30-33

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingship there will be no end."

The King of the Jews

Matt 2:1-3

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "**Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?** For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Mt 27:11, Mk 15:2, Lu 23:3

Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" So Jesus said to him, "**It is as you say.**"

Repent, for the Kingship of heaven is at hand

Mt 3:1-2 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the Kingship of heaven is at hand!"

Mt 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the Kingship of heaven is at hand."

Mk 1:14-15 Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the Kingship of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingship of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The gospel of the Kingship

Mt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingship, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Mt 9:35 Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the Kingship, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Mt 10:7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The Kingship of heaven is at hand.'

Mt 24:14 "And this gospel of the Kingship will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Lu 4:43 but He said to them, "I must preach the Kingship of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Lu 8:1 Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the Kingship of God. And the twelve were with Him,

Lu 9:1-2 Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingship of God and to heal the sick.

Lu 9:10-11 And the apostles, when they had returned, told Him all that they had done. Then He took them and went aside privately into a deserted place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. But when the multitudes knew it, they followed Him; and He received them and spoke to them about the Kingship of God, and healed those who had need of healing.

Parables

Matt 13:11-15

He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingship of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'"

Mk 4:11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the Kingship of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

Lu 8:10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the Kingship of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.'

Mt 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the Kingship, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

Mt 13:24 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The Kingship of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field;

Mt 13:31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The Kingship of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field,

Lu 13:18-19 Then He said, "What is the Kingship of God like? And to what shall I compare it? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air nested in its branches."

Mt 13:33 Another parable He spoke to them: "The Kingship of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Lu 13:20-21 And again He said, "To what shall I liken the Kingship of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."

Mt 13:38 "The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the Kingship, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one.

Mt 13:41 "The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His Kingship all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness,

Mt 13:43 "Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the Kingship of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Mt 13:44 "Again, the Kingship of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Mt 13:45 "Again, the Kingship of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

Mt 13:47 "Again, the Kingship of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind,

Mt 13:52 Then He said to them, "Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the Kingship of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old."

Mt 18:23 "Therefore the Kingship of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

Mt 20:1 "For the Kingship of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard.

Mt 21:31 "Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the Kingship of God before you.

Mt 21:42-44 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD'S doing, And it is marvellous in our eyes'? Therefore I say to you, the Kingship of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

Mt 22:2 "The Kingship of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son,

Mt 25:1 "Then the Kingship of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

Mt 25:14 "For *the Kingship of heaven is like* a man travelling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. [NB Words in italics are not in the Greek text.]

Lu 19:11-13 Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and **because they thought the Kingship of God would appear immediately**. Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a Kingship and to return. So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

Mt 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the Kingship prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Mt 26:29 "But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingship."

Mk 4:26 And He said, "The Kingship of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,

Mk 4:30 Then He said, "To what shall we liken the Kingship of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it?"

Sermon on the Mount

Mt 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the Kingship of heaven.

Lu 6:20 Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, For yours is the Kingship of God.

Mt 5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the Kingship of heaven.

Mt 5:19 "Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingship of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the Kingship of heaven.

Mt 5:20 "For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the Kingship of heaven.

Mt 6:10 Your Kingship come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Lu 11:2 So He said to them, "When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your Kingship come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Mt 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingship and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Mt 6:33 "But seek first the Kingship of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Lu 12:31-32 "But seek the Kingship of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingship."

Mt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the Kingship of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

The greatest in the Kingship of Heaven

Mt 11:11-12 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the Kingship of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingship of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force."

Lu 7:28 "For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the Kingship of God is greater than he."

Lu 16:16 "The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the Kingship of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it. [RSV "and every one enters it violently."]

Mt 18:1-6

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the Kingship of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingship of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the Kingship of heaven. Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Mk 10:14-15 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingship of God. "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingship of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Lu 18:15 Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingship of God. "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the Kingship of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Lu 22:27-30 "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a Kingship, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My Kingship, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Mt 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the Kingship of God has come upon you.

Mt 16:19 "And I will give you the keys of the Kingship of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Mt 16:28 "Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingship."

Mk 9:1 And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the Kingship of God present with power."

Lu 9:27 "But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Kingship of God."

Mt 8:11-12 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingship of heaven. But the sons of the Kingship will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Mt 19:11-12 But He said to them, "All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given: For there are eunuchs who were born thus from their mother's womb, and there are eunuchs who were made eunuchs by men, and there are eunuchs who have made themselves eunuchs for the Kingship of heaven's sake. He who is able to accept it, let him accept it."

Mt 19:13-15 Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingship of heaven." And He laid His hands on them and departed from there.

Mt 19:23-26

Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingship of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingship of God." When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Mk 10:23-27

Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingship of God!" And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the Kingship of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingship of God." And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Lu 18:24-30

And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the Kingship of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingship of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Then Peter said, "See, we have left all and followed You." So He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the Kingship of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life."

Mt 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingship of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

Mk 9:47 "And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the Kingship of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire -

Mk 11:9-10 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Blessed is the Kingship of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

Mk 12:34 Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, "You are not far from the Kingship of God." But after that no one dared question Him.

Mk 14:23-25 Then He took the cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank from it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many. "Assuredly, I say to you, I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the Kingship of God."

Mk 15:43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the Kingship of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Lu 9:59-62

Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the Kingship of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the Kingship of God."

Lu 10:8 "Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The Kingship of God has come near to you.' But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, 'The very dust of your city which clings to us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the Kingship of God has come near you.'

Lu 11:17 But He, knowing their thoughts, said to them: "Every Kingship divided against itself is brought to desolation, and a house divided against a house falls. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his Kingship stand? Because you say I cast out demons by Beelzebub. And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the Kingship of God has come upon you."

Lu 14:15 Now when one of those who sat at the table with Him heard these things, he said to Him, "Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the Kingship of God!" [Not the words of Jesus.]

Lu 17:20-21 Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the Kingship of God would come, He answered them and said, "The Kingship of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the Kingship of God is within you."

Lu 21:29-31 Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingship of God is near.

Lu 22:15-18 Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the Kingship of God." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the Kingship of God comes."

Lu 23:50-52 Now behold, there was a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man. He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the Kingship of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Jo 3:3-8

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingship of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingship of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Jo 18:36 Jesus answered, "My Kingship is not of this world. If My Kingship were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My Kingship is not from here."