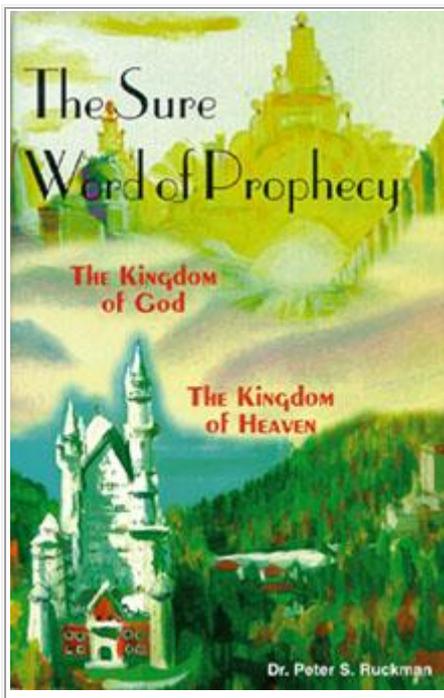


The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven

Introduction

The definitive work on the subject of **The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven** is undoubtedly that of Dr Ruckman's. See item below available from www.timefortruth.co.uk/ruckman-material/.



The Sure Word of Prophecy

(Otherwise called The Kingdom of God versus the Kingdom of Heaven). This book is a Christian political history, or a Christian philosophy of history. It draws the line between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, and proves conclusively that they are different and never have been (nor ever will be) the same. The origin, development, history, and consummation of both Kingdoms are given, and then secular history is placed alongside for an enlightening comparison.

- Full colour cover
- 303 pages
- Gluebound

Price: £9.50

What follows is a summary study of these two kingdoms that grew out of correspondence with another Bible believer on the parable of the pearl. See below. It is hoped that this study will prove helpful to the reader as Paul exhorts.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints Ephesians 1:17-18.

The Parable of the Pearl

On the parable of the pearl, Matthew 13:45-46 state **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.**

This parable of the pearl I think has a dual application as some of the kingdom of heaven parables do. I took the pearl to be Israel as a nation on the basis that Israel is God's **peculiar treasure** Exodus 19:5, Psalm 135:4.

Note also Isaiah 43:1, 3-4 **But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine...For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.**

However, Peter Ruckman in his commentary *The Book of Matthew* p 247 makes spiritual application to the church, which is a **peculiar people** 1 Peter 2:9, for which the Lord also paid a great price.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot 1 Peter 1:18-19.

The Mysteries of the Kingdoms

I think both of the above applications are valid for this particular parable of the pearl. However, the application to the church would appear to be one of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven Matthew 13:11 where the kingdom of heaven exists in the church age *not as a literal kingdom* but in a separate *mystery* form. Note also the expressions the mystery of the kingdom of God Mark 4:11 and the mysteries of the kingdom of God Luke 8:10. All three expressions follow on directly from what the Lord called the parable of the sower Matthew 13:18 introduced in Matthew 13:3 **And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow.** This parable pictures *soul-winning in the church age by dissemination of the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation* Ephesians 1:13 where the best outcome is as Luke states And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold...But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience Luke 8:8, 15. They are the best example of those in the church age who receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls James 1:21.

The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven Matthew 13:11, the mystery of the kingdom of God Mark 4:11 and the mysteries of the kingdom of God Luke 8:10 are centred in how that salvation is effected for the church age. The mysteries are conjoined in the mystery of Christ as Paul states.

...by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power Ephesians 3:3-7.

That central element of salvation effected in the church age is as Paul said during the church age Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved Acts 16:31 because the Lord Jesus Christ is God...manifest in the flesh 1 Timothy 3:16 and in turn the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe 1 Timothy 4:10.

Precisely how belief on the Lord Jesus Christ results in salvation and all that then pertains to the church age believer in Christ...a new creature 2 Corinthians 5:17 comes about are *mysteries* after the manner that Solomon describes. As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all Ecclesiastes 11:5. Church age salvation is among the works of God as Paul states For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them Ephesians 2:10.

Though mysteries, salvation and its results of course happen for real and are delineated in the scriptures as Paul states ye are washed...ye are sanctified...ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God 1 Corinthians 6:11. The association with the kingdom of heaven Matthew 3:2 and the kingdom of God Matthew 6:33 for the church age believer in Christ...a new creature 2 Corinthians 5:17 is that he becomes a subject of both kingdoms, to be fully revealed at the Second Advent. See below.

The believer in effect becomes one of those of whom the Lord, Who is called The everlasting Father Isaiah 9:6, states Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father Matthew 13:43, which is his kingdom Matthew 13:41, 16:28, consisting of both the kingdom

[of heaven](#) Matthew 3:2 and [the kingdom of God](#) Matthew 6:33 because the Lord Jesus Christ is King of *both* kingdoms in that [our Lord Jesus Christ...is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords](#) 1 Timothy 6:14-15.

Those that resist are those of whom the Lord said [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; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth](#) Matthew 13:41-42.

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Matthew* pp 226-233, 388-397 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1240-1246, 1254, 1259-1262, 1268, 1273, 1298.

That said, while [the kingdom of heaven](#) Matthew 3:2 and [the kingdom of God](#) Matthew 6:33 and indeed their respective mysteries merge in the Lord Jesus Christ, they are nevertheless distinct as will now be explained in more detail.

The Distinct Kingdoms

One reason that [the kingdom of heaven](#) Matthew 3:2 and [the kingdom of God](#) Matthew 6:33 are distinct is that the expression [the kingdom of heaven](#) appears only in Matthew's Gospel. When the King [our Lord Jesus Christ...is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords](#) 1 Timothy 6:14-15 is here, as at the First Advent, as Dr Ruckman points out, *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1298, both kingdoms meet in Him so He gives similar-sounding messages but with distinctly different meanings.

The Kingdom of Heaven

Note first [the kingdom of heaven](#):

[From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand](#) Matthew 4:17. The Lord will impose this kingdom as a military dictatorship by force at the Second Advent, unilaterally, brutally, decisively – the Biblical Jesus, that is, not the evangelical Jesus that loves everybody indiscriminately and for whom all passages on literal, physical, visible warfare must be spiritualised or devotionalised to defuse them of their prophetic military reality.

[Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion...Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel](#) Psalm 2:6, 8-9 with [Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.](#)



The UN chucklarsen.com/2011/03/30/beat-their-swords-into-ploughshares/ is vainly trying to bring in the kingdom without the King by wresting Isaiah 2:4 **unto their own destruction** 2 Peter 3:16.

(If even Orlando Bloom couldn't bring in the kingdom, the UN cannot hope to do so. See:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Heaven_%28film%29

www.rogerebert.com/reviews/kingdom-of-heaven-2005.)

When the Lord preached **the kingdom of heaven** Matthew 4:17, He set forth its constitution and rules according to the commandments that the Lord enunciated in Matthew 5-7, for anyone seeking to abide in the kingdom as one of the Lord's subjects. Note the Lord's admonition to that effect in Matthew 5:19 **Whoever 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 whoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.** That is never said of **the kingdom of God** Matthew 6:33.



Note that nothing in Matthew 5-7 applies explicitly to **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved** Acts 16:31 according to **the gospel of the grace of God** Acts 20:24 **That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise** Ephesians 1:12-13. Matthew 5-7 is doctrine for abiding in **the kingdom of heaven** Matthew 4:17 as the Lord set it out at the First Advent, *not* Pauline doctrine for the church age and **preaching the kingdom of God** Acts 20:25, 28:31 and **the gospel of God** Romans 1:1, 15:16, 2 Corinthians 11:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:2, 8, 9 as Paul did.

Following a two-millennia postponement, the Lord Jesus Christ visibly and physically brings in **the kingdom of heaven** as follows at the Second Advent.

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever Revelation 11:15. They won't necessarily submit to the Lord immediately but they will submit:

These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful Revelation 17:14.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war...And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS Revelation 19:11, 14-16.

King David sets out in summary the terms and conditions for remaining in **the kingdom of heaven** for those on earth at the Second Advent who were not among **they that are with him...called, and chosen, and faithful** by for example becoming **in Christ...a new creature** 2 Corinthians 5:17 in the church age. Note that these terms and conditions are directly imposed on surviving national leaders. See also Matthew 13:41-42 above for the fate of dissenters.

That said, note the blessing in what follows for those who opt to become *loyal* subjects of the King.

Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him Psalm 2:10-12.

The Kingdom of God

Note now **the kingdom of God**:

Now after that John was put in prison, 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: repent ye, and believe the gospel Mark 1:14-15. This is a spiritual kingdom entered now by the new birth, which is in effect **the gospel of the kingdom of God** Mark 1:14, **the gospel of the grace of God** Acts 20:24, **the gospel of Christ** Romans 1:16, **the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation** Ephesians 1:13 and **the gospel of God** Romans 1:1, 15:16, 2 Corinthians 11:7, 1 Thessalonians 2:2, 8, 9.

The Lord Jesus Christ expressed **the gospel of the kingdom of God** Mark 1:14 in John 3:3 **Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God** and manifested now by the spiritual fruit, namely **love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance** Galatians 5:22-23 – including **faith**, not faithfulness as is wrongly stated by the NIVs, NKJV, the two are different, see *The Fruit of the Spirit Galatians 5 Question 11* www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ – of moral and spiritual righteousness as Paul explains.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost Romans 14:17.

Definitive Distinction Between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God

As a definitive and indeed stark distinction between **the kingdom of heaven** Matthew 3:2 and **the kingdom of God** Matthew 6:33, note the Lord's words as follows.

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

See graphic *Kingdom of Heaven* that typifies the earthly violence associated with **the kingdom of heaven** that will not be ended until as Paul states of the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent **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** 1 Corinthians 15:24-25.

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it...And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you Luke 16:16, 17:20-21.

Romans 14:17, Galatians 5:22-23 explain Luke 17:21. **The kingdom of heaven** is *never* said to be *within* an individual but **the kingdom of God** within the individual is as Paul states **What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. Observe that unlike **the kingdom of heaven**, **the kingdom of God** *cannot* be taken by force because it isn't physical but **every man presseth into it** who genuinely wants in and does not delay, like Zacchaeus once he knew the invitation was there. **And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully** Luke 19:5-6.

The Matching Kingdom Parables

Note finally that the kingdom parables that match are those of the sower and the seed, the mustard seed and the leaven, Matthew 13:18-23, 31-33, Mark 4:3-11, Luke 8:10-15, 13:18-21. These parables apply to both [the kingdom of heaven](#) Matthew 3:2 and [the kingdom of God](#) Matthew 6:33 because they have both earthly physical and spiritual components. Rome for example, the woman with the leaven, Matthew 13:33, Luke 13:20-21, is both an earthly physical and a spiritual entity – watch out for those birds in Matthew 13:31-32, Luke 13:19, they depict unclean spirits. See below – **and don't have anything, ever, to do with Catholicism, it is all evil and any saved Catholics should leave it according to the Lord Himself And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues** Revelation 18:4. The *Alberto* series www.chick.com/catalog/comiclist.asp#alberto gives unassailable, irrefutable details of both Rome's evil earthly physical and spiritual components.

This is Rome's evil earthly physical component:

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication...And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth Revelation 17:1-2, 4-6, 18:24. (That last includes the Tunisian victims www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-33304310. The SJ will have orchestrated everything from the shadows, somehow. Note what a 'good' boy the shooter was/is, just like the 7/7 mass murderers news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/uk/05/london_blasts/investigation/html/bombers.stm)

The wine of her fornication includes fake bible versions, extant (NIVs) and imaginary ('the-Hebrew-and-the-Greek' – there's no such thing, as a single, definitive, authoritative extant entity, those who say otherwise, saved or lost, are bare-faced liars of the first order). Try and get today's professing Christian fundamentalist winos to go on the wagon from their NIVs etc., Hebrew/Aramaic/Greekolatry and originals-onlyism. They'll react like any alcoholic abruptly denied his next 'shot' or like a psychotic cat in desperate need of Jackson Galaxy. [*'Our critic'*] was a good example and I've seen others since. See:

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Cat_from_Hell

www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/ 'O Biblios' – *The Book, King James Bible Supremacy*

This is Rome's evil spiritual component. **The Lord God** will destroy *both* components at His Return:

And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird Revelation 18:1-2.

Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her Revelation 18:8. Finally:

Church Age Kingdom Promise

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen 2 Timothy 4:18.