

Glossary of Terms

The terms below are not fully descriptive but rather introductory in nature. The content is collected from various uncited sources.

Kingdom of God / Kingdom of Heaven

Kingdom of God and kingdom of heaven are synonymous terms that Jesus used. The phrase “kingdom of God” occurs 68 times in 10 different New Testament books, while “kingdom of heaven” occurs only 32 times, and only in the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 19:23-24 is a good example of how the terms are used interchangeably.

Amillennial

Amillennial is the name given to the belief that there will “not” be a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ upon the earth. The prefix “a-” in amillennial means “no” or “not.” Hence, “amillennial” means “no millennium.” Amillennialists believe that the reference to Christ reigning on earth for 1000 years (Revelation 20:4) is not to be taken literally but figuratively as a way of expressing that Christ will rule for a *long time* which He is presently doing from Heaven.

Postmillennial

Postmillennial is the name given to the belief that Jesus will return after (i.e. post) an age of Christianization on the earth. Postmillennialists believe that Jesus’ spiritual kingdom is permeating all areas of society, Christianizing the world through the spread of the gospel. They believe that when the gospel has triumphed over all areas of society, then Jesus will return. Postmillennialists do not take the reference to Christ reigning on earth for 1000 years (Revelation 20:4) as literal. They teach that the 1000 year reign of Revelation 20:4 is a figuratively unexpressed *long period* of time between the two comings of Christ.

Premillennialism (CrossWay Church’s Position)

Premillennialism is the name given to the belief that there will be a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ upon the earth (a literal kingdom on earth). Premillennialists believe that the reference to Christ reigning on earth for 1000 years (Revelation 20:4) is to be taken literally. Premillennialism can be further explained through the terms *universal kingdom* and *mediatorial kingdom*.

Universal Kingdom of God (or Eternal Kingdom)

In summary, God rules. The universal or eternal kingdom of God is God’s sovereign rule over all of creation, a rule without pause or end. According to Psalm 145:13, God’s universal kingdom is everlasting: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*

Mediatorial Kingdom of God (or Earthly Kingdom)

Within the over-arching universal kingdom of God, there exists a more limited kingdom, an earth-oriented and time-related kingdom which can be called the mediatorial or earthly kingdom of God. The mediatorial kingdom is a term used to express the rule of God on earth through an appointed representative (mediator) who speaks and acts for God and represents the people before God. The mediatorial kingdom of God on earth is characterized by two phases, namely the theocratic kingdom and then the Messianic kingdom.

Mediatorial Kingdom – Phase 1 The Theocratic Kingdom: The theocratic (i.e. ruled by God) kingdom was an Israelite kingdom over which God ruled. This kingdom came into existence at Mount Sinai. In Exodus 19:6, Israel was called to be a “*kingdom of priests and holy nation.*” Israel was called to mediate between God and all the other nations. Unfortunately, Israel ceased being a mediatorial theocratic kingdom when Israel was exiled to Babylon. Nevertheless, the prophets prophesied to Israel that the kingdom will be re-established (Lev. 26:40–46; Ezek. 11:14–20; Hos. 1:10–11). This kingdom will be restored after four Gentile kingdoms had ruled the world (Dan. 2, 7).

Mediatorial Kingdom – Phase 2 The Messianic Kingdom: After Adam’s fall, God promised that He will restore humankind’s kingdom rule over the earth (cf. Gen. 3:15). This will be achieved through a descendant of Abraham, more specifically, through a descendant of David, whose throne shall be established forever (cf. 1 Chr. 17:14). The Old Testament teaches that God will appoint the Messiah to rule not only over Israel, but over all the nations of the earth (Isa. 2:2; Dan. 2:44-45; Zech. 14:9). Revelation 11:15 states that after the seventh angel blows the trumpet, *the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.* Much of the Bible’s storyline is about the Last Adam (Jesus) restoring what the first Adam lost. The messianic kingdom will be led by Jesus who will restore Israel as the leading nation of the world within His Messianic kingdom thereby fulfilling the kingdom prophecies given to Israel.

What the Kingdom of Heaven is Like

Part 1 - Matthew 13:18-23

Through the parable of the wheat and tares, Jesus explained 3 features about His kingdom program.

1) Matthew 13:24, 36-38. The messianic kingdom is on hold while kingdom citizens will be placed throughout the world. This phase of the Lord's kingdom program is referred to as the mystery age (13:11). It could also be called the *citizens only* phase.

2) Matthew 13:25, 38-39. During the mystery age of the Lord's kingdom program, Lucifer will be allowed to place his counterfeit impostor operatives throughout the world. Spiritual warfare will transpire between the Lord's kingdom citizens and Lucifer's impostor operatives.

3) Matthew 13:30, 39-43. At the end of the mystery age, Jesus will return to earth with His angels. He will send His angels throughout the earth to harvest all of Lucifer's impostor operatives and then the Lord will banish them to Hell. The promised Messianic kingdom will then commence here on earth.