

# The kingdom of YHWH, the kingdom of Heaven, His heavenly kingdom

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## **1) "What is "the kingdom of God?"**

The kingdom of God is the "kingdom" that God promised (Daniel 2:44) that He would "set up in the days of these kings." Therefore, the term "the kingdom of God" found in the NT should bring to mind the One that was going to set up the kingdom, i.e. God the Father. Daniel 7 reveals that this kingdom was going to be set up for a very specific purpose and for a very specific people, i.e. the Son of man and the people of the Son of man. However, we must have the NT to discover the details of the setting up of this kingdom and the actual identity of the Son of man and the people of the Son of man.

In the NT this kingdom is also referred to as the "kingdom of heaven" which title identifies the location of this new kingdom. In 2Tim 4:18 Paul uses another term for this heavenly kingdom, i.e. "His heavenly kingdom." In context, we see that Paul is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ preserving and delivering him into the "heavenly kingdom" of his Lord Jesus Christ which he had previously explained would occur along with the judgment of the "living and the dead" in the "appearing and the kingdom" (2Tim 4:1) of Jesus.

Thus, we learn that **this new kingdom, set up by God, would be set up in heaven and would be ruled over by the resurrected Jesus Christ.**

In 1Cor 15:23, cf. Rom 8:29 and many other NT passages, we learn that

this new kingdom which will be set up in heaven will be populated by the many resurrected brothers of Jesus Christ.

## **2) "Where is this kingdom located?"**

As demonstrated above, the kingdom which God sets up will be located in heaven.

### 3) "Who are the "people of God?"

The people of God are the many "brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ" (Rom 8:29<sup>1</sup>, et al.). This brotherhood only occurs through resurrection

### 4) "Which "beast" were the people of God "liberated" from?"

This question says "beast" because that is Ryan's term. The people of God, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ were actually liberated from two beasts. These two beasts were -- the compound sea beast with seven heads (Rev 13:1-10, 17:8-11ff), i.e. the Roman Empire and the compound "land beast" (Dan 7:11, 8:9-14, 23-25, 11:36-39, 1Rev 13:11-18, 2Thess 2:3ff) composed of the titular king of the Jews, i.e. the Herodian dynasty and apostate Judaism.

### 5) "Just how was it established that "a people were free to live under the reign of Christ?"

The kingdom was established by resurrection and harpazo of the saints [1Thess. 4:13-17; 1Cor 15:23c, 51-54]. Therefore, the resurrected and harpazoed people were set free from their sin and so shall we ever be with our Lord Jesus Christ. Raised into immortality and totally freed to live and serve within the reign of the resurrected King, our Lord Jesus Christ as His resurrected people.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "the firstborn of many brethren refers to the resurrection of Jesus Christ [Psalm 2:7] and subsequently to the resurrection of His saints, i.e. all of those who belong to Jesus in His Parousia [1Corinthians 15:23c]

**6) Which specific event occurred in the first century** that “liberated the people of God from the beasts” and at the same time “established a people free to live under the reign of Christ?”

It was the Parousial resurrection of Eze 37; Dan 7:22, 27, 12:2, 13; Hosea 13:14; Matthew 19:28, 24:3, 27, 37, 39, 25:31, 34, 46b; Luke 21:27-28, 31-32, 36, 22:18,29-30; John 14:1-3, 6, 16:28, 24; Heb 9:28, 10:37,12:22-24; 1Thess 4:14-17; 1Cor 15:23c, 50-54, Rev 3:21, 11:15ff, 19, 15:5, 19:7-9, 20:4, 21:3-5, et al.

**7) "Where were/are these people** that “are free to live under the reign of Christ?”

They are in heaven, within this heavenly kingdom [2Tim.4:18] of Jesus Christ and they are totally free to live within His glorious reign and serve Him unimpeded 2Sam 7:10; Amos 9:14-15, et al. And when we “die in Christ” [Rev 14:13], we will instantaneously join them there in that “heavenly kingdom” [2Tim 4:18] and so shall “we ever be with our Lord” Jesus Christ [1Thess 4:17c].

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