

A Mystery of the Kingdom

Background – Jesus Christ changes His public ministry –

1. From the Offer of the Messianic Kingdom on earth to the nation of Israel – Dan. 7:13-14; 2 Samuel 7:12-13 & 16

The offer: Matthew 3:2 – from John – “the Kingdom is at hand;” Matthew 4:17 – Jesus – “the Kingdom is at hand”. **The offer rejected:** Matthew 12:14, 24; 26:63-66 – The refusal to believe Jesus was the Messiah, Son of the Living God.

2. To a delayed earthly kingdom to Christ’s Second Coming – because the nation of Israel and their leaders rejected Jesus as the Christ – Messiah. Matthew 16:16, 20; Acts 1:6-7 – restoring the kingdom to Israel. This is often misunderstood.

- At the same time, there is the offer of a “**spiritual**” kingdom – all the way through -- by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior from sin – Matthew 4:23; 8:10-12; or John 3:3 – see or enter the “kingdom of God” – John 3:16 – the message of the gospel of all ages. But it is not the only meaning for the Kingdom of God.

“The Mystery of the Kingdom” a new concept: Matthew 13:10-15

The Wheat and the Tares – Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

True believers in the kingdom – the wheat. This is true before, after and during the church age. At the end of the age, at Christ’s Second Coming the believers living at that time will go into the Messianic kingdom on earth – Matt. 13:43, 49; 24:31, righteous left on earth – 24:40; 25:21, 23, 34; Rev. 19-20.

False believers in the kingdom – the tares. At the end of the age, they will be judged and cast into hell – Matt. 13:41-42; 13:48-50; 24:36-40; 25:30, 41-46.

Church age mystery – Ephesians 3:3, 6, 9 – Gentiles are equals with the Jews in the church age. (This is from Pentecost to the Rapture of the Church).