

The Kingdom of the Heaven
Interpreting the Gospel of Matthew

- Many Kingdoms; different realms of authority, different forms, different subjects, and different entry requirements.
- Terms: kingdom, of, heavens.
- The Kingdom from the Heavens.

Matthew 3: 1-2

1. Now in those days (the ones prophesied) John the Baptizer, making a public appearance declaring with authority in the uninhabited place of Judaea, 2. saying, “Change your mind for the Kingdom from the Heavens has (in the past with present results) drawn near.”

1. Repent; change your mind (2 Cor. 7:8-10).
2. Change your mind from what?
3. For the first 864 years of Law (1491-594 BC) Jehovah dwelt among Israel (Ex. 25:8, 19-22; 29:45; 33:7-11; 40:34, about 500 years later 1 Ki. 8:10-13; 27-29).
4. Jehovah leaves Israel (586 – 594 BC).
 - 1) Idolatry (Ez. 8:7-10).
 - 2) Judgment (Ez. 9:1-6).
 - 3) The Glory leaving (Ex. 10:4, 18-19).
 - 4) The Glory leaves Israel (Ex. 11:22-23).
5. Object of Faith after the Glory leaves Israel till Matthew 3:2.
 - 1) Wait for Jehovah’s return (Ps. 37:1-35 *cf.* Mt. 5-7; Is. 8:17; 25:9; 26:8; 33:2; 40:31; 51:5; 59:9-11 *cf.* Mt 24:27; Is. 60:9; 64:3-4; Lu. 2:25-30; Ps. 2:1-2; Dan. 9:25-26).
 - 2) Repent, no longer have to wait; Jehovah has returned.
 - 3) Prophecies that a herald would come (Is. 11:1-2 *cf.* Lu. 1:15, 41; Is. 40:1-5).