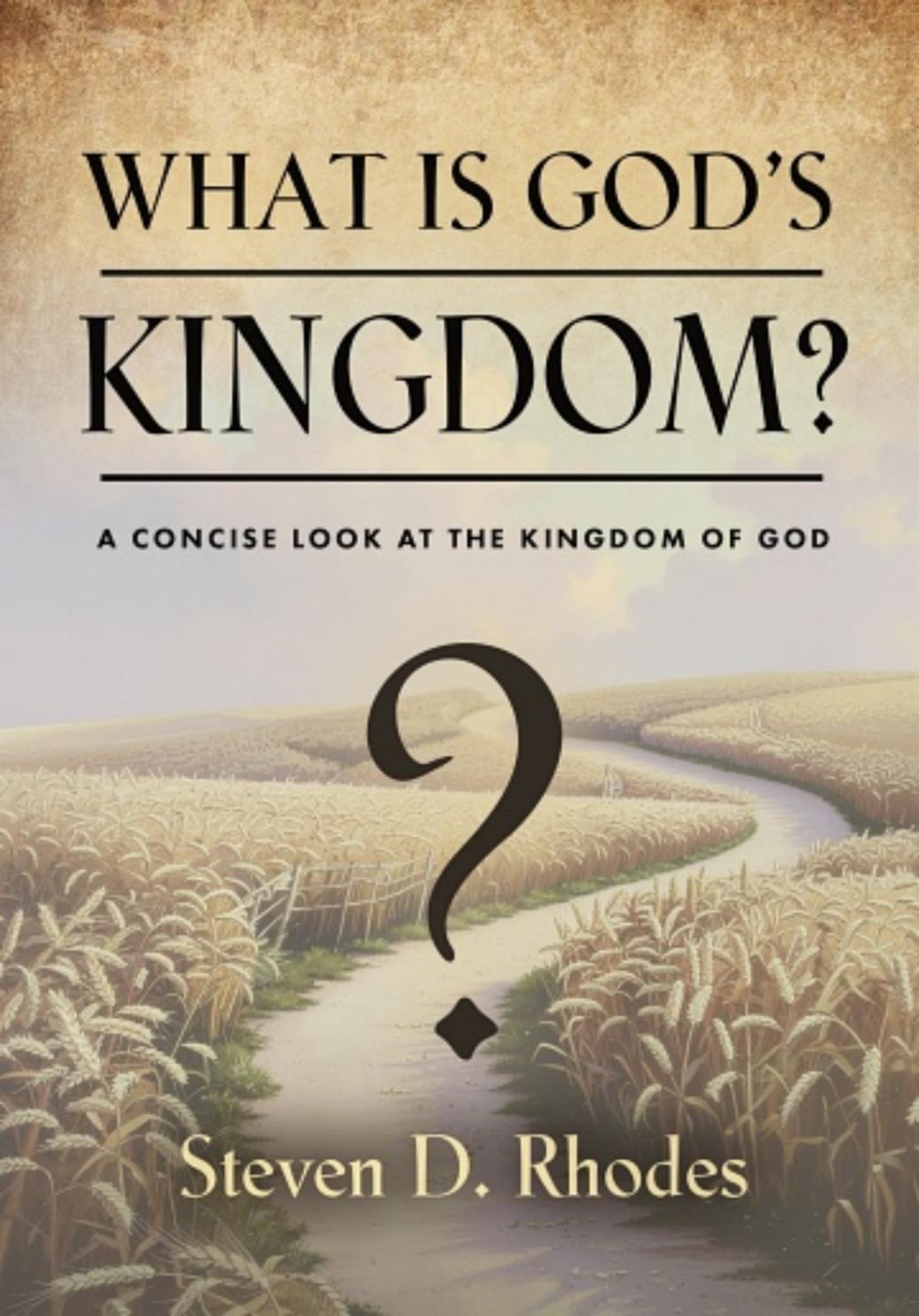


*This study introduces the major Bible theme of the kingdom of God. This subject requires examining biblical interpretation. Interpretation, and other puzzle pieces of the Bible, fall into place with a fuller understanding of God's kingdom.*

**What is God's Kingdom?  
A Concise Look at the Kingdom of God**  
By Steven D. Rhodes

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WHAT IS GOD'S

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KINGDOM?

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A CONCISE LOOK AT THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Steven D. Rhodes

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# **What is God's Kingdom?**

A Concise Look at the Kingdom of God

Steven D. Rhodes



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Print ISBN: 978-1-959622-17-8

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-931-7

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2026

First Edition

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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Rhodes, Steven D.

What is God's Kingdom? A Concise Look at the Kingdom of God by  
Steven D. Rhodes

Library of Congress Control Number: 2026903923

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## **Introduction:**

### **Why write this book?**

In the world today it seems mankind is always dealing with government in one form or another. Warfare is constantly being dealt with in the news, as well as government corruption and incompetence. New governments seem to pop up around the world almost regularly. Leaders are continuously seeking to implement some kind of program to bring peace to people in conflict.

Is there a way to bring harmony to mankind? Has there ever been a plan, ancient or modern, that would succeed in unifying the world? If one accepts the idea God exists and has revealed a plan for the ages, answers can be determined for these important questions.

The Bible has major themes running through it including the doctrines of God, man, sin, redemption, and others. One major theme deals with power, authority, and governance. This would be the major theme of God's kingdom. An important aspect of these various biblical themes is their intertwining nature. The themes and doctrines of the Bible are so interrelated, the

understanding of one doctrine really does affect the understanding of the rest. Without understanding how these themes interrelate, one is left with an incomplete picture of God's working in the progressive history of mankind. The major theme of God's kingdom is particularly important in understanding how the puzzle pieces of the Bible form an eye-opening mosaic.

A thorough study of the kingdom of God, and its introductions to mankind, will even present answers involving contemporary issues: issues such as whether or not the use of tongues or the gift of healing are in affect today. Without a significant understanding of God's kingdom, the answers to these modern questions remain incomplete.

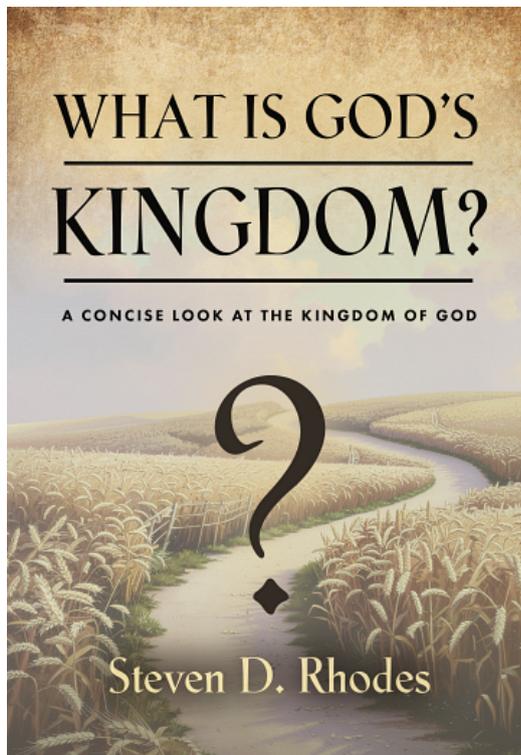
In the circle of theologically conservative Christians I've mostly associated with in my life, it seems there exists much confusion over what the kingdom of God is all about. Is the kingdom of God a physical kingdom, a spiritual kingdom, or both? Did Christ offer a kingdom to Israel during His earthly ministry, or not? If so, what was the nature of that kingdom? What kind of a kingdom was Christ talking about in Acts chapter one? Is the church today that kingdom? What was the "gospel of the kingdom"? Is there any difference between *that* gospel

*What is God's Kingdom?*

and the gospel as it appears in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4? What is the relationship between the church and Israel? Is the church *spiritual* Israel? Are the four gospels about the church or Israel? Are there any prophecies in the gospels dealing with this kingdom? Are there Old Testament prophecies which can shed light on the kingdom?

It is my intention to present a study which, while not exhaustive, can provide some answers as to what the Bible teaches on this subject. What this study more importantly will examine is the basis of a consistent hermeneutical (method of interpretation) approach to the Scriptures in general, as well as defining some distinctions between God's dealing with the church and with Israel.

Notice that I have referred to this book as a study. If one is not familiar with this subject matter, much will not be well understood without continuously referring to the listed Scriptures *in their contexts*. It is my hope the serious student of the Bible *will* look up every Scripture reference when it appears in the reading of this book, for the power truly is in the Word (Isaiah 55:11).



*This study introduces the major Bible theme of the kingdom of God. This subject requires examining biblical interpretation. Interpretation, and other puzzle pieces of the Bible, fall into place with a fuller understanding of God's kingdom.*

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