

Question: "What is the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven?"

During my research of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven I realized some pretty cool things. First, each phrase is only mentioned in the New Testament. Not a single time is either of the phrases mentioned in the Old Testament. Also Jesus used both phrases sometimes even in the same story.

While some believe that the [Kingdom of God](#) and Kingdom of Heaven are referring to different things, I believe that both phrases are referring to the same thing. The phrase "kingdom of God" occurs 68 times in 10 different New Testament books, while "kingdom of heaven" occurs only 32 times only in the book of Matthew.

Tonight we are going to look at several verses proving this very point. Look up Matthew 19:16-24. Christ uses "kingdom of heaven" to speak of the spiritual kingdom. "Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven'" (v. 23). In the very next verse, Christ proclaims, "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." So, in answer to the rich young ruler's question concerning eternal life (v. 16), Christ uses the phrases "kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven" interchangeably.

But this raises the question as to why Matthew chose to use kingdom of heaven more than the kingdom of God. Lets compare the following verses

[Matthew 11:11-12](#) with [Luke 7:28](#)

[Matthew 13:11](#) with [Mark 4:11](#), & [Luke 8:10](#)

[Matthew 13:24](#) with [Mark 4:26](#)

[Matthew 13:31](#) with [Mark 4:30](#) and [Luke 13:18](#)

[Matthew 13:33](#) with [Luke 13:20](#)

[Matthew 18:3](#) with [Mark 10:14](#) and [Luke 18:16](#)

[Matthew 22:2](#) with [Luke 13:29](#).

In these verses you find that both phrases are being used. It is apparent that both phrases point to the same thing, Gods Kingdom. Also, you see that thru the comparison of these verses you quickly notice that the versus all describe the same event. The only difference is in which who is telling the story. Only Matthew chooses to use the phrase "kingdom of heaven" while the other disciples, Mark and Luke use the Kingdom of God. It is our conclusion that there is no difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of heaven. Only that they are written by different people.

One important note, only those that are saved will enter the kingdom of God or heaven. Deciding which expression is more important is irrelevant because they refer to the same place, the eternal kingdom where all those that are saved will be together in Heaven with all saints, God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.