

# **The Word of Truth Ministry Presents**

## **Special Full Length Studies**

### **#SS29**

## **Thirty-five Contrasts**

### **Between The Kingdom Of The Heavens And The**

### **Thousand Year Reign Of Christ**

The kingdom of the heavens, announced by John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ, is a divine state of government that covers a definite period of time, the exact length of which cannot be established from the Scriptures. That which we commonly call the millennium is a succeeding divine state of government which is a thousand years in length. These two are not the same.

When John and the Lord Jesus Christ made their announcement of the nearness of the kingdom of the heavens, they meant that a divine government mediated by the heavens was about to be imposed upon the earth. This government of the heavens is called by other writers "the kingdom of God." In our language we would call these heavens' government and God's government. Since God governs the heavens, heavens' government can also be called God's government. But God's government cannot always be called heavens' government, since God governs in realms that do not come under heavens' rule.

There is nothing upon earth today that can be properly called "the kingdom of the heavens." The heavens exercise no control over mankind at the present time. They have no voice in the affairs of mankind. The heavens are now silent, and they cannot be blamed, criticized, or complimented for anything that happens upon the earth today. Heavens' government is now suspended, and man is in full control without any hindrance. Even when his ways lead to destruction and misery (Romans 3:16), the heavens do not interfere. The kingdom of the heavens in full manifestation is the order and rule of the heavens which will be imposed upon the earth in a coming day when God decrees that it shall be so. Then human government must give way to heavens' government.

In the study of Scripture the greatest possible confusion has been caused by making the kingdom of the heavens and the millennium to be one and the same. This eliminates the kingdom altogether, even though some of its truth is salvaged by wrongly applying it to the tribulation or the millennium. There is no reason for this

since many contrasts between the two can be made. Thirty-five of these contrasts will be now set forth. The Scripture references given are not proof texts. They indicate portions which the reader might like to meditate upon in connection with the contrast noted.

1. The kingdom of the heavens is God's government by means of the heavens (Dan. 4:26). The millennium will be God's government by and through Jesus Christ (Rev. 11:15).

2. The kingdom of the heavens was at hand in the days of John the Baptist. The millennium was not at hand. He heralded the nearness of heavens' government. He never said one word about the millennium.

3. The kingdom of the heavens is based upon the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit, exercising His irresistible influence among men. 2 Cor. 3 :6-8. The millennium is based upon the personal ministry of Christ, exercising the irresistible power of His presence. 2 Thess. 2 :8.

4. The kingdom is based upon the presence on earth of the Spirit acting as a Paraclete to mankind. John 16:7-11. The millennium is based upon the personal presence of Christ, acting as the Lord of all creation. 1 Cor. 15:25.

5. The kingdom is the time of Christ's unveiling (**apokalupsin**) and manifestation (**epiphaneia**). 1 Cor. 1 :7,2 Tim. 4:1. The millennium is the time of His personal presence (**parousia**). Matt. 24:3.

6. The kingdom of the heavens is based upon the first coming of Christ. The millennium is based upon His second coming.

7. The kingdom is based upon Christ's absence from the earth and His presence in heaven. John 14:12, John 16:7, Luke 24:26. The millennium is based upon His personal presence upon the earth and His absence from heaven.

8. In the kingdom Christ is ruling the earth from heaven (Micah 4:3, "far off," equals from afar). In the millennium He is governing upon the earth.

9. Some of the disciples lived to see the Son of man coming in His kingdom. Matt. 16:28. None of the disciples lived to see the millennium.

10. The kingdom of the heavens begins with a process of God enlightening those who do not know Him and who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. John 16:7,11, Isa. 60:2. The millennium begins by God punishing with everlasting destruction all who know not God and who do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. 2 Thess. 1 :7-10.

11. The kingdom of the heavens precedes the day of the Lord. Joel 2:28-31. The millennium is in the day of the Lord. 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 1 :10.

12. Satan's head is to be bruised in the kingdom of the heavens, but he is still free to act. Gen. 3: 15, Matt. 13 :25. Satan is bound in the millennium and (he) is not free

to act. Rev. 20:1-3.

13. Satan sows tares (sons of the wicked one) in the world in the kingdom, after Christ has sown the world with the good seed (sons of the kingdom). Matt. 13:24-30, 36.42. Satan cannot do this in the millennium

14. The wheat and the tares will be permitted to grow together for a time in the kingdom. Matt. 13 :29, 30. No such mixture of good and evil will be permitted in the millennium.

15. In one aspect the kingdom of the heavens is like a man who sowed good seed in his field, after which his enemy sowed tares. There is nothing about the millennium of which this is a likeness.

16. The kingdom in another aspect is like unto a grain of mustard seed. Matt. 13:3], 32. There is no aspect of the millennium that can be likened to a grain of mustard seed.

17. The kingdom of the heavens is likened unto leaven which a woman hid in three measures of meal. Matt. 13 :33. The millennium cannot be likened to leaven.

18. The kingdom of the heavens is likened unto a treasure hid in a field, which when a man finds he sells all his possessions to purchase the field and possess the treasure. Matt. 13 :44. There is nothing about the millennium that compares to this likeness. It is never hid, and cannot be bought.

19. The kingdom of the heavens is in one aspect like unto a merchantman seeking goodly pearls. Matt. ]3:45,46. This presents no picture of the millennium.

20. The kingdom of the heavens is likened to a dragnet which when it is cast into the sea gathers of every kind. Matt. 13 :47, 48. This likeness would be altogether false if applied to the millennium.

21. The twelve disciples were given the keys of the kingdom of the heavens. Matt. 16:17-19. They were not given the keys to the millennium.

22. The kingdom is likened unto seed which when placed in the ground develops through stages such as the blade, the ear, the full grain in the ear, and the ripened grain. Mark 4:26.29. The millennium does not begin and it does not develop after this fashion.

23. The kingdom of heavens is established detail by detail after the salvation of God returns to Israel. Isa. 42 :1-4. The millennium will be established by one overwhelming and universal action by the second coming of Christ.

24. When the kingdom of the heavens begins all living men are offered an opportunity to conform to it and to live and be blessed under it. Matt. 12 :20. The millennium begins by all men being destroyed who do not conform to God. 2 Thess. 1 :8, 9.

25. The kingdom of the heavens began in that stage which is comparable to the blade in growing grain when Christ arose from the dead. Matt. 27 :52, 53 is proof of this. The millennium is still future.

26. The kingdom was suspended at Acts 28 :28 when the Salvation of God was sent to the Gentiles. The millennium never began and was never suspended.

27 The kingdom of the heavens has a gap in it. This is the dispensation of grace, the time in which we live. The millennium by its very nature can have no gap in it.

28. The kingdom of the heavens does not come by observation. Luke 17 :20. The millennium will come with the greatest display of power and glory the world has ever witnessed. Matt. 24:27-31.

29. The kingdom of the heavens is the day of Christ. The millennium is the day of the Lord.

30. The kingdom precedes and is preparatory to the millennium. The millennium precedes and is preparatory to the new heaven and new earth.

31. The kingdom of the heavens is followed by the rebellion that is put down in the great tribulation. Psalm 2. The millennium is followed by the rebellion that is put down in the little season. Rev. 20:7-9.

32. The rebellion against the kingdom comes when God loosens the merciful restraining influence which He has imposed upon mankind. 2 Thess. 2, Psalm 2 :3. The rebellion at the end of the millennium comes when Satan is loosed for a little season.

33. There is open warfare between Christ and Satan during the kingdom of the heavens, with Christ winning every battle. There is no warfare between Satan and Christ in the millennium. Satan is bound and in no position to fight.

34. Satan is bound at the end of the kingdom of the heavens. He is destroyed at the end of the millennium.

35. In the kingdom of the heavens men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. There will be no swords or spears in the millennium. Isa. 2:4, Matthew 13:41.

There is no other conclusion possible. The kingdom of the heavens is not the millennium.

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