

Matthew 3:1-3
“The Kingdom of God vs. The Kingdom of Heaven”

The difference in vocabulary

English	Hebrew	Greek
God	אֱלֹהִים	Θεός
Heaven	שָׁמַיִם	ουρανός

The difference in definition

God: “In Christianity, the creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority; the supreme being.”

Heaven: “The dwelling place of the Deity and the blessed dead.”
 “The expanse of space . . .over the earth”

The difference in description

Kingdom of God: Spiritual: “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24)

Is a spiritual kingdom. One enters the kingdom of God by the new birth (John 3:3-5). The kingdom of God is realized and confirmed by the presence of the Holy Ghost in you (1 Cor. 6:19-20). Christ is in you and you are in Christ (Col. 1:27).

Kingdom of Heaven: Physical: “In my father’s house are many mansions (John 14:2)

Is a physical, literally, earthly kingdom; just as heaven is physical, so is this kingdom. Only found in Matthew’s Gospel (33 times) because it emphasizes the literal, physical, earthly kingdom fully realized at the “second coming.”

Similarities in scripture

“At hand”: KOH (Matt. 4:17) KOG (Mark 1:15)

“Mustard seed” KOH (Matt. 13:31) KOG (Mark 4:30-31)

“Leaven”: KOH (Matt. 13:33) KOG (Luke 13:20)

“Sower”: KOH (Matt. 13:1-23) KOG (Mark 4:1-20)

Simple differences

Kingdom of Heaven: Taken by “force” (Matthew 11:12)

Kingdom of God: Sought with the heart (Matthew 6:33)