

The Rule of God (Kingdom of God)
Christian Life, Faith, and Ministry
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Resource: *Jesus and the Victory of God*, N.T. Wright. Fortress Press, 1996.

1. Jesus was a prophet, and the content of His proclamation was the kingdom of Israel's God. P.11
2. Jesus is reconstituting Israel around Himself. This is the return from exile – this is the kingdom of Israel's God. P.131
3. The long awaited kingdom of Israel's God was coming to birth, but it did not look like what had been imagined. P.201
4. Kingdom of heaven was a Jewish way of talking about Israel's God becoming king. Pp. 202-203.
5. Israel longed for YHWH to act. P.203
6. God's people would be established as the vice regents of the Creator God, ruling over His world. P.215
7. Kingdom language seems to have functioned as a kind of shorthand summary for the whole of what Christianity was about. P.215
8. Consider Eph. 5:5; Col. 1:13; 2 Pe. 1:11; Jn. 18:36f. The kingdom belongs to God and Jesus. P.216
 - a. Be sure of this, that no fornicator or impure person, or one who is greedy (that is, an idolater), has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Eph. 5:5
 - b. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son. Col. 1:13
 - c. For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. 2 Peter 1:11
 - d. Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is my kingdom is not from here."
9. The Creator God is completing, through the Messiah, the purpose for which the covenant was instituted, namely, dealing with sin and death, and is thereby restoring creation under the wise rule of the renewed human being. P.216
10. Redefinition of Israel/Jewish themes. Pp. 218-219.
 - a. Regular Jewish symbols are missing. "The story of the new movement is told without reference to the national, racial or geographical liberation of Israel."
 - b. "... the newly inaugurated kingdom claims as its sacred turf, not a single piece of territory, but the entire globe."
11. Israel's God is acting climactically in the career of Jesus Himself. P.262