

the heavens and the earth; Thine is the dominion, O Lord, and Thou dost exalt Thyself as head over all. Both riches and honor come from Thee, and Thou dost rule over all, and in Thy hand is power and might; and it lies in Thy hand to make great, and to strengthen everyone."

Daniel 4:34-35 -- "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Host High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, "What hast Thou done?"

b. God's spiritual rule in the lives of regenerated human beings

In this sense, God rules in the hearts of all who trust in His salvation. According to this meaning God's kingdom is already present in the hearts and lives of His people. This meaning is found in several Scriptures, of which the following may be noted:

Luke 17:20-21 -- "Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, 'The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, "Look, here it is!" or, "There it is!" For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst.' " (or within you)

John 3:3-5 -- "Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?' Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.' "

Romans 14:16-18 -- "Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. For he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by man."

Colossians 1:13 -- "For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son"

c. God's eternal rule in the recreated universe

The reality conveyed by this conception is marvelously pictured for us in the last 2 chapters of the book of Revelation, in which the throne of God and of the Lamb are located in the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, following the creation of the new heavens and earth. In addition, two other Scriptures should be noted: