

definition of the kingdom of God? Many answers have been given to the question, and there is substantial agreement among them all. There is no good reason why it should be otherwise, because we have ample data on which to base our conclusions. There are at least one hundred and six passages in the gospels alone referring to the Kingdom of God.

Speaking in general terms, viewing the kingdom in its most comprehensive sense, it may be said to consist of God's almighty power, guided by infinite wisdom and goodness, manifested in sustaining and governing all things. This government is carried on by what are called natural laws, which signify God's ordinary and uniform method of working. But in the exercise of His absolute sovereignty and freedom he may at any moment, for sufficient cause, depart from this method. In this unconditional sense "He hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all." (Psalm 103:19.)

His kingdom is manifest in a more limited sense in the moral government of men and angels, whom he rewards for well-doing and punishes for all departures from His law. "The constitution and course of Nature," to use Bishop Butler's phrase, is so ordered by Him that this necessarily takes place.

Still more specifically, He set up His Kingdom in a preparatory form known as the theocracy among His chosen people. This contained the moral germs of a final Sociological development. For example, as illustrative of this view, let me remind you in passing, how the wealthier members of the social compact were definitely charged with the care of the poor. The gleanings and the corners of the harvest fields were to be left for them. Every seventh year the whole land was to be let rest from tillage, and its spontaneous productions belonged to the poor. No capitalist, banker, or money-lender was allowed to charge interest on loans made to his poor Israelitish brother or neighbor. The year of Jubilee, in which every man returned to his own inheritance, put an effectual check upon the undue accumulation of property in the hands of any one man, an evil of enormous magnitude in