

vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor. iv. 5-7.

"Now then *we* are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us : we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. v. 20.

"We are of God : he that knoweth God heareth *us* ; he that is not of God, heareth not *us*. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." 1 John iv. 6.

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

### No. 4.

#### The Elements of a Kingdom.

We must understand the type, or we cannot understand the anti-type. We must understand that which is natural, before we can understand that which is spiritual. What, then, are the essential elements of a kingdom as existing among men ?

In every well regulated political kingdom, *in the order of nature*, the elements stand thus—1. Constitution ; 2. King ; 3. Subjects ; 4. Laws ; 5. Territory.

In the kingdom which God set up by Moses, the elements stood in this order. The constitution was first proposed under which God condescended to be their King, and they were to be regarded as his people or subjects ; he then gave them laws and established them in the territory before promised.

Having ascertained the essential elements of a *kingdom*, and marked the order in which they stand, before we particularly attend to these elements in order, we shall ask but why is this kingdom called the Kingdom of *Heaven* ?

#### The Name

Heaven, and the Kingdom of Heaven are not one and the same thing. God is not the Kingdom of God. But as the Kingdom of God is something pertaining to God, so the Kingdom of Heaven is something pertaining to Heaven, and consequently to God.—Whether always the phrases "the Kingdom of God" and "the Kingdom of Heaven" exactly represent the same thing, certain it is that both phrases are often applied to the same institution.\*

\* If the following passages are carefully examined and compared, it will appear that both these phrases often represent the same thing :—Math. iii. 17. Mark i. 14. Luke iv. 43.—Math. xiii. 12. Mark iv. 11. Luke viii. 10.—Math xi. 11. Luke vii. 28. To these three distinct evidences many more might be added. What Matthew calls "the Kingdom of HEAVEN," Mark and Luke call "the Kingdom of God."