What is the Difference Between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God?



There is no difference — it is the same thing or place referred to in different ways. It is the realm of the saved. Jesus came to bring the gospel (good news) of the Kingdom of God/Heaven and taught how one could enter this Kingdom. He brought immortality and salvation to light:

2Tim 1:9 [God] has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time,

2Ti 1:10 but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Jesus also told Nicodemus that the condition for seeing the Kingdom was to be born again (John 3:3). He also spoke of the Holy Spirit, which Paul in Romans 5:5 tells us brings God's Love into our hearts.

Jesus was the first to possess God's Divine Love and commanded his disciples to love one another as he loved them. (John 13:34, 15:12).

He is the firstborn of many siblings (Rom. 8:29), and the first to have entered the Kingdom of God/heaven. The church can be seen as "the Kingdom in embryo" — those who are following in Jesus' footsteps as younger brothers and sisters (Col. 1:18).

So the new birth/salvation means to have one's soul transformed by the Divine Love from the image of God into the substance of God and to become at one with God through fully acquiring His divine nature. (2 Pet. 1:4). Those so transformed become God's redeemed children who can enter the Kingdom of God.

For more on this subject, go to <u>Salvation that Jesus Taught and Exemplified</u> and <u>Reflection on the Gospels</u>.

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