

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God

Authored by
Arthur V. Braidic & Terry K. Moore

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There are hundreds of Christian denominations that all claim to preach the gospel. However, what is the theme of the message that they preach? Is it the same message that Christ proclaimed about the coming Kingdom of God? The answer is no! Few preach the profound truth about God's Kingdom. As a result, millions do not understand this primary topic of the entire Bible.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God reveals an astounding plan for humanity. It is mankind's purpose, but exactly that destiny has vastly not been understood. This is something that you need to know.

The Gospel of the Kingdom of God

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...

~ Matthew 6:33 ~

The gospel is among the most widely celebrated themes in all Christianity. The subject is so popular that it is often used as a catch phrase among believers. Ironically, differing gospel messages are preached. Competing denominations have advanced a gospel of grace, a gospel of salvation, a gospel of peace, a health and wealth gospel, a social gospel, and a gospel about Christ while ignoring the central subject of the gospel that Jesus preached.

While enormous attention has been focused on what various religious leaders have proclaimed, few have truly understood Christ's gospel of the Kingdom of God. Religious leaders have unwittingly deceived millions regarding Christ's message to mankind. They talk about His life and His death, but they overlook the profound good news that He proclaimed. They entice members by claiming that a mere profession to believe in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ gains an easy ticket to salvation. What they don't teach is the message that Christ preached—a coming Kingdom of God on the earth!

The Gospel Christ Preached

Christ powerfully and passionately preached a message about the Kingdom of God. This gospel was to be the motivating hope of true Christians. It was to be their reason for striving to live faithfully. Tragically, few have understood it. It is therefore necessary to review this gospel that Christ preached.

Christ launched His ministry in Galilee after years of prayer and preparation. Speaking with urgency and authority, the Savior taught that the Kingdom of God was coming:

The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15).

This profound message affected people in different ways. Some were inspired by it. Others were bewildered. Many felt threatened. Nevertheless, His declaration of the Kingdom was consistent from the beginning of His public ministry:

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ... And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people (Matthew 4:17-23).

When the crucifixion of Christ drew near, He entrusted the gospel of the Kingdom to His disciples. They were to continue to preach His message of hope. He explained that this gospel of the Kingdom would stretch far beyond their own lives. It would continue to be preached to the end of the age:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).

The apostles were deeply convicted of the reality of the Kingdom of God. They faced persecution and even feared for their lives. They traveled to local cities and faraway nations while passionately preaching Christ’s message. They taught that we must believe that He is the Messiah, but we must also believe that His Kingdom will come to the earth. In addition, to be a part of that Kingdom, we must repent, be baptized, and commit to keeping all of God’s commandments.

The Corruption of the Gospel

The apostles faithfully preached Christ’s gospel, but it wasn’t long until Satan began to corrupt this message. The Apostles Peter, John, and Paul had to battle false teachers who had infected converts. Jude compared them to fallen angels called “wandering stars” who “have gone in the way of Cain,

have run greedily in the error of Balaam for profit, and perished in the rebellion of Korah” (Jude 11-13). The Apostle Paul also warned brethren:

For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or *if* you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! (2Corinthians 11:4).

Some members in Corinth seemed to accept the heresy, and a false gospel began to spread. Then, Paul had to deal with a similar apostasy in Galatia:

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6-7).

False teachers were misconstruing Christ’s intended message. As a result, Paul gave them a stern warning. He rebuked all who would preach a different gospel:

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed (Galatians 1:8-9).

Paul confronted a growing perversion of the gospel that has continued to this day. The heresy widely preached today is a focus on the life of Christ while ignoring the theme of His ministry. This teaching purports that Jesus lived a sinless life and died to pay the penalty for our sins. This part is true, but they add a heretical twist by teaching that all one must do is believe on Him and they will live forever in heaven. In their theology, there is no need to keep God’s laws. They promote the idea that professing the life and death of Christ as our Savior grants people

eternal life. *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* summarizes this common belief:

One may conclude that the facts of Jesus' life constituted the Gospel, which was interpreted and applied to suit the occasion on which it was preached (p. 319).

The facts of Christ's life are a part of the gospel. The behavior He displayed, and the events surrounding His life, death, and resurrection, are essential. But they are not the complete story. They certainly were not the focus of His own ministry. They were only a part of the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Believing in the facts of Christ's life is a prerequisite, but there is much more that is necessary. Those who preach that this is all that is required give individuals a false sense of comfort. They teach followers that by accepting Him as Savior they will go to heaven when they die, but that is not true.

The consequence of such belief is that many are left with only a sentimental concept of Christ. Vast numbers think that if they give their heart to the Lord, He will accept them just as they are. They think that all they have to do is believe and they are suddenly "born again." They imagine a kingdom being established in their heart and eternal life is a guarantee. That is a false gospel!

Promoting the belief that we only need to believe in Christ's sacrifice does an enormous disservice to believers. It creates a false sense of security that can never be realized by such terms. Belief in Christ's atonement is essential, but it not the only brick in the foundation of what is required.

Consider that the devil recognizes the power and the majesty of God. He understands and believes in the life and sacrifice of Christ, but he has chosen the side of darkness and purposely violates God's law. In that context, James reminded:

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? (James 2:19-20).

Belief in Christ is the beginning of conversion. Real faith requires further steps to be taken. A true believer will be motivated to change how they live. It will result in subjecting our will to God so that we can harmoniously live forever in His Kingdom. Genuine faith will function as a catalyst promoting change in our character and producing the lasting fruit of obedience to God's law.

No matter what a man might say, the Almighty is the one we should listen to. He is clear on this point. Works of faith are a prerequisite to attaining God's Kingdom! Nothing in the Bible contradicts this fact. Without life-altering faith, there is no hope for salvation. To preach otherwise is a false gospel. Christ warned that some would profess belief in Him, but their faith would be unacceptable:

These people draw near to me with their mouth, and honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. And in vain they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:8-9).

The gospel of the Kingdom demands much more of us than mere lip service! It requires repentance which means a moral change in the way we live. It requires that we overcome sin. This gospel of Christ insists that we stop behaving in ways that break God's law. We must literally keep all of God's commandments (Mat. 5:17-19, 19:16-19). The gospel Christ preached demands that believers prepare for the Kingdom of God by actively practicing the way of life that will be taught and lived in the world to come.

The Gospel of the Kingdom and Conversion

The gospel captivated and motivated Christ's followers to such an extent that they were dramatically changed. They became totally committed to obeying God. They were willing to give everything if necessary and many of them did. They were honored to suffer persecution, torture, and even the loss of their lives to advance this message of God's Kingdom. Why would they be willing to endure such suffering if a simple thought process of belief was all that was necessary to be saved?

The answer is found in the fact that, after Christ was resurrected, He visited His disciples and continued to teach them about the Kingdom of God. The disciples saw Christ in a resurrected state. They realized the reality of a future resurrection. They received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and this expounded their understanding of the gospel. They grasped what the Kingdom was about and were changed by what they learned by the guidance of God:

He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God (Acts 1:2-3).

Christ continued to teach them details of the Kingdom of God. It began to make perfect sense. They understood what Christ meant when He previously said, “Seek first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness” (Mat. 6:33). They were filled with a profound hope that deeply motivated them. They became totally convinced that the entire world would one day be under God’s rule, and that mankind would experience the joy and happiness that God intended for us to have from the beginning. They understood that the righteous behavior of Christ was the goal that all believers are to strive for. The disciples went forth into a hostile world and preached the gospel of the Kingdom with great hope.

We Need the Kingdom of God

When examining the documented history of mankind, we find that there have been relatively few years of peace. Since 3,600 B.C. the earth has seen approximately 14,000 large and small wars that have resulted in the death over more than 3.5 billion. These numbers have grown exponentially since the first printing of this booklet. Our planet is filled with enormous evil. As Christ and the Apostle Paul had prophesied, lawlessness will abound, the brotherly love of many will grow cold while evil men grow worse and worse (Mat. 24:12, 2Tim. 3:13).

Within the last century, we have witnessed genocide, hideous terrorist acts, biological warfare, and mass murder in jihadist religious wars. Each day we face the threat of a possible nuclear war. As Jonathan Schell wrote in his book, *the Fate of the Earth*, should nuclear war break out, there would be no way to contain it. The escalation would be swift and irreversible. Entire civilizations would be destroyed instantaneously and the environmental damage would last for centuries. In his words, America would become “a republic of insects and grass.”

The world today also suffers from rampant diseases. According to a leading pathologist, infectious diseases are the most dangerous enemies of mankind, much more so than war! Currently, six out of every ten adults in the U.S. have a chronic illness. Four in ten have two or more diseases. This threat has become even more worrying with the advent of virus manipulation in government sponsored laboratories.

Pollution is also out of control. Children and families have developed cancers and birth defects from tainted food, contaminated water, smog, and genetically modified organisms. Oceans are waning in their ability to sustain large quantities of healthy fish that they had once produced for millennia. In addition to the harm that man inflicts upon himself, our planet is experiencing convulsions in the form of an increasing frequency of disasters. In the last few decades, we have seen devastating earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and fires throughout the world.

We need to face the brutal reality. The world is filled with problems for which we have no real solutions. It is obvious that help will not come from more government intervention, regulation, or legislation. Throwing money at the problems will not alleviate human suffering. More ungodly government control is not going to help anyone! There is only one real and lasting solution—a superhuman solution. It can be found in the message that Christ came and preached to this world. It is the Kingdom of God!

Consistent Good News

A proverb states, “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country” (Pro. 25:25). The gospel of the

Kingdom of God is truly good news from afar. The word gospel comes from an Anglo-Saxon word *Godspell*. This term means “glad tidings,” or in modern language “good news!”

Because this gospel was the primary theme of His ministry, the first four books of the New Testament are called “gospels” because they are disciple accounts of Christ’s work. His gospel is the only real solution to a world that would otherwise be entirely hopeless. His profound message of hope began long ago and is documented in hundreds of prophecies throughout the pages of the Old Testament. There are intimate details about the Messiah and the Kingdom that He will eventually establish on the earth found in those ancient writings. It was portrayed by delivering Noah and his family from the flood. It was shown to Abraham in the covenant that God made with him and his seed. Finally, just before the Savior would be born, the angel Gabriel came to Zacharias with exciting news! This descendant of Aaron was informed that he would have a son who would do a great work:

“Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord... I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings” (Luke 1:13-19).

John would be a precursor to the prophesied Messiah and this was good news! Later, this same angel came to Mary and revealed details of the coming Messiah:

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and

shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end” (Luke 1:30-33).

The gospel includes the fact that Christ was born for the magnificent purpose to be the King of kings over a literal Kingdom. One day soon, He will return to this world with power, glory, and majesty to rule the world with a rod of iron in righteousness. He will set His hand to correct every problem man has created.

Christ’s Good News is the Kingdom of God

The prophet Isaiah foretold that a Son would be given, and that God’s government would be conferred upon His shoulders (Isa. 9:6). This is the good news that the angel proclaimed to Mary. She would bear the Messiah, and her child would one day sit on the throne of David to rule over a Kingdom which will never end. He will bring peace, harmony, happiness, and prosperity to all who choose to live by God’s laws. The result will be a literal paradise around the globe (Isa. 35:1-2).

Most who practice Judaism realize that the Messiah will rule over Israel, but the complete truth is that His government will expand to include the entire planet. One of the most wonderful aspects of this gospel is that Christ’s divine rule will bring heavenly counsel that will solve all of mankind’s problems. This message of hope was the prime subject that Christ preached throughout His ministry. It is specifically stated more than one hundred times throughout the pages of the New Testament. Regarding all of the necessities mortal beings need in this life, Christ said not to worry:

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you (Matthew 6:33).

Christ’s gospel primarily consisted of a divine government that currently exists in heaven and will be established on the earth. The new world order will be composed

of thousands of other leaders that will be born of the spirit (John 3:3). They will be chosen because they showed themselves to be faithful to God by developing divine character and integrity. Such leaders will be capable of discerning the hearts of men, and they will be given the authority of God to judge righteously. They will always serve God and make decisions that are truly in the best interest of others.

This is the focus of Christ's good news! It is the gospel of the glorious Kingdom of God that is coming to the earth. It is the central message of Christ's ministry. The Savior said "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent" (Luke 4:43).

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages,
teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of
the kingdom (Matthew 9:35)

The prophesied Kingdom of God is a common thread woven throughout all that Christ had said and done. For example, when He gave the Sermon on the Mount, Christ reminded His followers that the poor in spirit were blessed "for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." He taught that the meek "shall inherit the earth." He said that those who are persecuted for righteousness will ultimately receive the Kingdom (Mat. 5:3-10).

When the disciples asked Christ to teach them how to pray, the Savior taught them that the Kingdom was to be an integral part of their daily thoughts and communion with God. He said, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven." This means that we should always have God's Kingdom in mind. Jesus also said, "For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever" (Mat. 6:10-13).

The Kingdom was always on Christ's mind. It was His magnificent obsession. He lived and died in order to make it possible to bring children of God into that Kingdom. His divine rule is the most glorious hope that mankind will ever envision. It was this good news that inspired His followers to continue preaching the same gospel message.

Apostles Preached the Kingdom

Christ commanded His disciples to preach the same gospel that He powerfully proclaimed:

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-2).

Christ later sent out another group of men seventy strong. They were sent in pairs to preach and perform miracles:

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go (Luke 10:1).

Christ told these men to go out and spread the good news of His coming Kingdom. They were to do it with more than words. These men were given the ability to perform miracles that reflect what that Kingdom of God will bring. Christ instructed them to heal the sick and say to that the Kingdom of God has come near to you (Luke 10:9).

This expression was used for several reasons. First, Christ is the King of that Kingdom who had come near to people. His disciples were also sent out as His representatives. Second, the miraculous healings picture the nature of the Kingdom of God. Christ's reign will usher in an era of renewal. The Apostle Peter called it "the times of restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21). Jesus will reclaim the earth and restore it to the way God originally intended. In so doing, He will demonstrate His awesome power to comfort and heal mankind. The blind shall see, the deaf will hear, and the lame will walk (Isa. 35:5-6).

Christ commanded His disciples to go into the world preaching the gospel to everyone who would listen (Mat. 24:14). His disciples obeyed and spread this hope to many people and nations. That message continues from Christ's day unto ours. This gospel has been preached and it will not be silenced. In fact, Christ said that before He would return to establish the Kingdom on earth, this gospel must be announced to the entire world:

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:14).

As the early Church faithfully fulfilled their commission to preach the gospel, they encountered much opposition. Persecution broke out in Jerusalem. Many fled to escape the violence. One newly ordained deacon went to Samaria and preached the gospel of the Kingdom, and many were converted:

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized (Acts 8:12).

The Apostle Paul said that he was taught through revelation of Christ (Gal. 1:11-12). He continued to preach the same gospel of the Kingdom of God. This is noted when Paul was forced to leave brethren that he had served:

And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more (Acts 20:25).

Paul was responsible for one of the largest ministerial works of the apostles. He ended up being placed under home arrest near the end of his life. Nonetheless, Paul would not stop preaching the gospel of the Kingdom:

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him (Acts 28:30-31).

Christ preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God. His disciples continued to preach about the Kingdom of God. The apostles preached the Kingdom and faithful servants of Christ continue to preach that Kingdom today. But what exactly is the Kingdom of God? Does it exist right now? What will it be like when it comes to the earth? When and how will it come? In order

to understand the answers to these questions, we must first understand what the Kingdom is not.

The Kingdom is Not in the Heart

Some believe that the Kingdom Christ spoke of is not literal, but a feeling that God places in people's hearts. Those who teach this attempt to support the belief by a statement Christ made to the Pharisees. When religious leaders demanded that Christ tell them when the Kingdom of God would come, He answered by saying:

The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:20-21).

Many have been confused by what Christ said. It has been thought that people can somehow have God's Kingdom within their heart. This is not true. Christ said that the majority of these men he was in the mist of were hypocrites—blind leaders of the blind, full of extortion and self-indulgence (Mat. 15:14, 23:25). In fact, many of these men wanted Christ put to death (John 8:37). They were actually opposed to the advancement of God's Kingdom at that time. Would Christ say that these heretics that they had the Kingdom of God in their hearts? No.

The Bible refers to the heart over 900 times. Upon examination of each verse, there is no evidence supporting the view that God's Kingdom is a mere concept that dwells in the heart. Therefore, since the Kingdom of God does not dwell within the hearts of people, what exactly did Christ mean?

The answer is found by considering the context of the word "within." It is a term frequently used to convey various aspects of inclusion. A person may dwell within the walls of a building. One sits within a car while driving to work. While standing in a crowd, each person is within a group of people. This helps us to recognize what Christ meant by His statement.

Christ is the King of the coming Kingdom, and He was "within," or in the midst of, these men who inquired about it.

Vines Complete Expository Dictionary of the New Testament explains the real meaning of His words:

The RV margin (has) “in the midst of,” (and this) is to be preferred; the kingdom of God was not in the hearts of the Pharisees (p. 680).

Christ made it known that the Kingdom was in the midst of this crowd of people. Since Christ had come from the Kingdom of Heaven, His statement was true. Most Bibles with marginal notes also indicate that the word “within” should be understood as “among.” Therefore, the point Christ made was that He was a representative of the Kingdom of God right there in their midst. Sadly, they did not recognize Him for who He was (John 1:5). They refused to understand this truth, and Christ had said that these religious leaders were spiritually blind.

The Kingdom of God is not within the hearts of people. Christ’s very next words were directed to His disciples, and He explained to them that the King of that Kingdom would come at a later time both externally and visibly:

Then He said to the disciples, “The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see *it*. And they will say to you, ‘Look here!’ or ‘Look there!’ Do not go after *them* or follow *them*. For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day” (Luke 17:22-24).

The Apostle John also wrote of the visual start of God’s Kingdom on the earth:

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1:7).

Christ revealed that His return to establish the Kingdom would be visible. It will be like the rising of the sun which cannot be hidden. Christ will come with a myriad angels and tens of

thousands of His chosen saints (Jude 14). He will literally descend to the Mount of Olives to begin His rule from Jerusalem (Acts 1:9-11, Zec. 14:4-16).

Therefore, rather than telling the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was in their hearts, Christ warned these men that their minds were so spiritually darkened that they could not comprehend what was right before their eyes. The Savior that they claimed to be waiting for was before them and they did not know who He was:

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it (John 1:5).

Heaven is Not the Reward of the Saved

Heaven is the place of God's realm. His Kingdom exists right now in that location. What a relative few understand is that Christ is going to extend that Kingdom to the earth. As He said:

Blessed *are* the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... Blessed *are* the meek, for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:3-5).

In some cases, believers read the term “kingdom of heaven” and think that the Kingdom of God will remain in that location. Heaven is the source of that Kingdom which is why Christ frequently used those terms. It is a Kingdom that is of, or from, the place where God resides and Christ rules with the Father in heaven right now.

However, the Savior will return with power and majesty to administer laws, statutes, and judgments. Christ is going to bring God's Kingdom to this planet and He will rule on the earth! For this reason, the profound, end-time, prophecy states that faithful Christians will reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-4).

Christ plainly said that no other human being has ascended to heaven (John 3:13). Before He ascended, Christ told His disciples they could not follow Him where He was going (John 13:33). Other prophecies say that King David will be a leader in God's Kingdom who will rule over all of Israel (Eze. 37:24-25). However, Luke wrote that “David did not ascend into the heavens” (Acts 2:34).

There is no verse in the entire Bible that promises heaven as a reward of the saved. People have haphazardly accepted unsubstantiated claims that they will go to heaven when they die instead of focusing on what the Bible does say. For more on this topic please read our booklet—*The Truth about Heaven*.

Christ repeatedly said that He would leave this planet and that He will return to set up God's Kingdom on the earth. The Scriptures also reveal that a select group of saints will rule with Him when He returns. Notice the prophecy in which the chosen saints will sing to Christ using the following words:

You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals;
for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by
Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people
and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our
God; and we shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

Christ will bring the resurrected saints with Him when He returns to take over the nations. He will rule in righteousness, restore His law, and bring peace to the world. The saints will rule with Him on the earth. This is the good news! It is the message of enormous hope that Christ preached during His ministry. It is the message that His apostles preached after His resurrection, and it is the same message that continues to be preached today.

The King of Kings and Priests

Christ is an all-powerful King ruling the limitless universe. Magnificent angels come before His throne for counsel, guidance, and instruction. Upon hearing His judgments, angelic beings willingly give their full attention and submission to the Most-High God. This is depicted in a prophetic vision of an event where angelic elders fall before Him in unabashed worship, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their

crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:8-11).

The angels are superior to humans in many ways (Psa. 8:5). They witness the day-to-day administration that occurs at God’s throne. They are so impressed with Him that they are moved to openly praise the Almighty God. They understand that it is He who sustains the entire universe by His Word. As the psalmist exclaimed:

The LORD reigns, He is clothed with majesty; The LORD is clothed, He has girded Himself with strength. Surely the world is established, so that it cannot be moved. Your throne *is* established from of old; You *are* from everlasting (Psalm 93:1-2).

The holy government is now in heaven and it will come to the earth. The Kingdom of God will bring the majesty, power, and righteousness of God to a world that is spinning out of moral control. Christ is going to bring His vast knowledge and perfect judgment to correct the problems created by wicked men and women. At the sound of the seventh trumpet, Christ will take control of the earth. He will replace the governments of men with the government of God. The Apostle John recorded this event:

Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (Revelation 11:15).

Christ is going to return and take over the entire planet. Not everyone will be obedient at first. Some will need persuading through divine plagues (Zec. 14:18). Eventually, all of the kingdoms of this world will be His!

Prior to this, God will resurrect a relative few from the dead (Mat. 22:14). They will be born again as spirit beings (John 3:3). They will be like Christ and as such they will see Him as He

is (1John 3:1-3). In their glorified state, they will become a part of the family and government of God. The Apostle John explained:

Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

The prophet Daniel was also given a vision of the Kingdom and Christ's glorious return:

I was watching in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom *the one* which shall not be destroyed (Daniel 7:13-14).

Components of a Kingdom

There are four components to any kingdom that must be in place in order for the realm to exist in that state. There must be rulers, territory, citizens, and laws. Christ's gospel shows us that the Kingdom of God includes each of these categories.

Christ is the King who currently sits on a throne at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 8:1). God's government has elders, cherubim, and other angels who serve in the Kingdom of Heaven. Christ will come as a King of kings and Lord of lords to reign over the nations of this earth (Rev. 9:16). In fact, when Pilate asked Christ if He were a king, the Savior replied "to this end was I born" (John 18:37). Under him will be lesser kings, priests, princes, and governors placed in positions of authority (Rev. 5:10, 19:6).

God's Kingdom also has a vast expanse of territory. It currently exists in the heavens, but will include the earth. Christ explained that His province on this planet was not yet of this age (John 18:36). He promised to one day return and bring all nations under His rule. From the moment Christ steps down on Mt. Olivet, He will begin to establish the Kingdom on this planet

(Zec. 14:4). That domain will expand until it eventually encompasses the whole world. That is why Christ compared the Kingdom of Heaven to leaven that is placed in measures of flour and eventually spreads throughout the dough (Mat. 13:33).

A kingdom must also have citizens who are subject to the King. Currently, there are only angels. Once Christ returns, He will establish His headquarters in the Middle-East. He will gather the scattered tribes of Israel from all over the world (Eze. 11:17). He will require representatives from all nations to come and keep the Feast (Zec. 14:16-18). As Christ expands the influence of God's government, nation after nation will fall under His rule until all people will be citizens of that Kingdom.

Essential to this Kingdom will be law and order. Christ will establish a vast educational program that will teach God's laws to the entire world:

Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem (Micah 4:2).

Everyone will have the same commandments as a standard upon which all legislation will be founded. All people in every location on the planet will have the same ethics as a guide for making decisions at work and in the home.

Christ promised that when He returns, He will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 19:15). This means He will be unbending in administering God's commandments. That law is the same one given to ancient Israel. He will reign without ever compromising God's standards. While continuing to show mercy and express love, He will not allow concessions to be negotiated with criminals. He will not overlook ordinances to benefit the popular and wealthy. God's statutes, laws, commandments, and judgments will be the civil code for everyone in both in heaven and on the earth.

Positions of Authority in the Kingdom

God's government consists of many offices. There are angels of differing rank called cherubim and seraphim along with 24 elders and four living creatures. There are seven that serve as eyes of the LORD on the earth (Zec. 4:10). Others have positions of responsibility in heaven and/or on the earth.

Those people who are chosen for the better resurrection will be given positions of authority in God's hierarchical form of rule. Patriarchs of faith will be among those who will fill important roles. As an example, Christ gave three disciples a vision of the future by portraying Himself conversing with two men who will be leaders at that time:

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him (Matthew 17:1-3).

This vision fulfilled Christ's prophecy that some of the disciples would not die before seeing the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:27). Beyond the vision, there are multiple prophecies explaining that Christ will gather the descendants of the tribes of Israel to the Promised Land. He will unite them and resurrect King David to rule over the twelve tribes. Ezekiel prophesied of that future event:

Thus says the Lord GOD: "Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God.

David My servant *shall be* king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them” (Ezekiel 37:21-24).

David will again be a ruler over Israel after Christ’s return. The twelve apostles will be given authority to assist in governing Israel under David’s rule. Christ made this point after the disciples asked Him what reward they would receive:

But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed *one* upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Luke 22:28-30).

As the earth is being restored to its intended beauty and productivity, the population will swell over the centuries. The resurrected saints will have key positions in governing cities and communities of the nations (Luke 17:17-19). They will play intimate roles in instructing mankind about how all people are to live and work in peace, harmony, and unity. Functioning as both kings and priests, they will assist Christ in ruling over a world that will become filled with the knowledge of God’s way of life (Rev. 5:10, Isa. 11:9).

Satan Will Be Bound

The devil has deceived mankind for thousands of years (Rev. 12:9). Before taking control of the earth, Christ will eliminate Satan and demonic influence. John recorded a vision of this awesome event:

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished... (Revelation 20:1-3).

With Satan restrained, the world will be poised for an entirely new civilization. Everything that the wicked angels have tainted will be removed. Christ will take over as the leader of both Church and state. There will no longer false religions and various denominations with pet doctrines and personal interpretations of the law. There will not be corrupt politicians who consider themselves exempt from the moral standards of common people. No longer will companies be allowed to influence policy with lobbyist campaign “donations” that are nothing less than bribery.

Think of what it will be like with no more corruption in government. Consider how wonderful life will be when people are not deceived by half-truths and lies. Consider the possibilities when everyone seeks the greater good, and righteous judgments result in true freedom and justice throughout the earth. The social aspect widespread integrity, sincerity, and truth will result in centuries of peace and prosperity.

Unlike the world today, the Kingdom of God will be a safe place for all people to live. There will no longer be a need for bars on windows and security alarms. No one will fear to go out at night alone. There will be genuine peace and safety. If a wrong does occur, there will not be judges who trivialize criminal acts and penalize victims. God’s courts will be fair and just. Any necessary punishment will be executed swiftly and will not be drawn out in years of appeals and litigation (Ecc. 8:1).

True Religion Will be Taught

Christ will take over religious instruction of the entire world. Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and false Christianity will be eliminated. He will institute His faith for all mankind. His statutes and laws will be taught and enforced. His holy days will be observed and pagan holidays that masquerade as if they are Christian will be abolished. Every false idol man has devised will be cast out like the filth that it is:

You will also defile the covering of your images of silver, and the ornament of your molded images of

gold. You will throw them away as an unclean thing;
You will say to them, “Get away!” (Isaiah 30:22).

Rather than being misled by symbols used to reflect various false gods and fertility rites, people will worship only God. They will observe His holy days and learn how they have long reflected God’s plan for humanity. Isaiah also wrote:

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the
LORD As the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:9).

The waters of oceans and seas are encompassing. So will the knowledge of God’s way be everywhere and unstoppable. Those who might resist will quickly learn that the love of God is the life of men (Jude 21).

When you see a shadow of a man, you know a man is coming. The Apostle Paul said that God’s holy days foreshadow things to come (Col. 2:16-17). When people begin to observe them, they learn what God has purposed for mankind. This can be known right now if you desire. For more on this subject please read our book—*The Magnificent Meaning of God’s Holy Days*.

God’s sabbaths will be observed by all. His law will not be banned from colleges and classrooms. Prayer will not be offensive in public. It will be an intimate part of a new system of government and commerce. The holy law of God, and the way of true Christianity, will be the single most important topics taught and practiced throughout the world.

An End to War

No longer will a mother or father have to watch their offspring go off to kill other human beings. Families will not have to suffer with the terrifying fear that their loved one might be disfigured or killed in war. The prophet Micah foretold of that time when:

He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke
strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into
plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Micah 4:3).

The resources of the earth will no longer be exploited to make weapons of death. Instead, they will be used for constructive purposes. Imagine the prosperity the nations will enjoy at that time. Think of the magnificent building projects, libraries, inventions, and cultural events that will be sponsored. The Kingdom of God on earth will bring with it amazing personal growth for every human being! There will be peace and prosperity as every man, woman, and child will enjoy their own fruitful piece of land:

But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make *them* afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken (Micah 4:4).

Healing For the Nations

One of the most wonderful aspects of God's Kingdom is reflected in the mercy demonstrated during when Christ and His disciples miraculously healed the sick and lame. When Christ returns to this earth, it will be after the four horsemen of the apocalypse have ridden long and hard (Rev. 6:1-8). Those who survive the tribulation will have suffered ravages of starvation, pestilence, squalor, biological and chemical warfare, and supernatural disasters the likes of which mankind has never experienced. Hundreds of millions will die as a result. That kind of violence will be necessary in order to change the hearts of many, but it is not something that God looks forward to. What God longs for is the reconciliation that will allow for Him to bind our wounds.

When Christ walked this earth as a man, He looked out over Jerusalem and longed to comfort the people and heal their pain (Luke 19:41-45, Mat. 23:37-38). This was on His mind long before His ministry, but it was not always possible for God to implement. The reason is because those people vastly rejected

God's law. Their rejection of His commandments is akin to rejecting God. Therefore, He would not take them under His wing.

When Christ returns as King of Kings, He will function in the role of "God our Healer." Christ will apply His sacrifice to heal the sick just as He did when He was on earth the first time. He will mend a broken humanity and His government will reeducate people in the ways of proper living. When those ways are applied, God will heal all who are afflicted:

Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *with* the recompense of God; He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing" (Isaiah 35:4-6).

Prosperity Will Abound

In addition to vibrant health, certainly one of the most joyful aspects of God's Kingdom will be the elimination of hunger. There will be no need of campaigns asking people to help feed the children. No longer will we see people with disfigured limbs and distended stomachs. The drought and famine that now plagues our planet will come to an end.

God's way of life will be taught to all peoples. Families who once lived in poor countries will learn how to properly obey God. As they submit to His rule, He will send them bountifully rich blessings. There will be plenty of food and drink for all:

And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees (Isaiah 25:6).

Christ will also remove the curse from the land (Gen. 3:17). Mankind will no longer have to toil to eke out a living. God will open the underground springs and they will water the arid deserts so that they bloom. The land will begin to produce as never before. Isaiah again prophesied of this time, writing:

Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat *them* small, and make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the LORD, *and* glory in the Holy One of Israel. The poor and needy seek water, but *there is* none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; *I*, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree *and* the pine and the box tree together, that they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it (Isaiah 41:15-20).

In the Kingdom of God, the whole world will respond to Christ's loving rule. Even the nature of the animals will be changed so that they no longer rip and tear at each other. Venomous creatures will be changed. Survival of the fittest will not be the premise by which the animals live:

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:6-9).

In the Kingdom, Christ will restore all things to the state that God intended at the beginning. Peter referred to it as "the times of restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21). Hope, happiness, and joy will abound. But—there will be much more! Christ will

rule in such a way that the Kingdom will forever expand. Life will continue to improve throughout all eternity:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

The Kingdom of God will expand from Jerusalem to cover the entire planet, but its growth will not stop there. After 1,000 years, there will be another resurrection of men, women, and children that lived and died before Christ's return. This will be a resurrection to a physical existence and will include billions of people. Countless numbers will have their opportunity for salvation (Rev. 20:5-6).

After a number of years, all of those who lived and died during the Millennium and beyond will finally be judged in what is called the white throne judgment. Those who proved themselves to be faithful will be saved while the others are condemned. It is at that time that every shred of the evidence of sin will be burned up. Please read our booklet *Three Resurrections of the Dead* for more about this topic.

The government of God will continue to expand/ There will be an entirely new phase of the Kingdom called "new heavens and a new earth." The Apostle John was given a glimpse of the glory that God has planned:

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in

them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful" (Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-5).

Christ said that He would go away to prepare a place for His followers. He stated that He would return and receive them to Himself (John 14:2-3). Christ is preparing the holy city, the New Jerusalem, right now for those who will qualify to receive it. That great dazzling city will eventually descend from heaven to the new earth and accompanying it will be God the Father. Only then will we be able to plumb the depths of the Almighty and fully comprehend what God has ultimately planned for all who are saved (1Cor. 2:9).

You can believe this gospel with absolute confidence. It will be an absolutely magnificent future beyond human comprehension. This is the gospel of the Kingdom of God. It is our immense hope. It is an expectation so grand that it cannot be contained. In fact, this good news is so important, and so sure, that it was written into each day of the week.

A Constant Reminder

This gospel of the Kingdom is so paramount to God's plan of salvation that He engraved it into the rotation of our solar system. We get a first glimpse of this in the book of Genesis

where it explains how God set the heavenly bodies in specific positions to give us an astronomical calendar:

Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years (Genesis 1:14).

The sun and moon serve many functions including for “signs.” This term is translated from the Hebrew *oth* and means a “flag, beacon, token, or mark” (*Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, H226). It is the same term that God used when saying His Sabbaths are a “sign” (Exo. 31:13). The word “seasons” is *moed* used to describe an “appointment, fixed time, festival, assembly, place of meeting, congregation, or feast” (*Strong’s*, H4150). What this term describes are God’s appointed holy days.

Therefore, He set the planets and stars in specific positions for the purpose of indicating times to observe His weekly and annual Sabbaths. As a related side note, God’s seventh day Sabbath is not, and has never been, Sunday. For more on this subject, read our booklet—*Sabbath Confessions*.

The Sabbath is described in the Bible as being a sign between Him and His people. We are reminded of this every day as the week progresses toward the seventh day. The Sabbath continually points toward the millennial rest of God’s Kingdom. This was explained in what appears as a riddle when the author of Hebrews explains an example from Israel:

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them... For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh *day*... Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, again He designates a certain day... There remains therefore a rest for the people of God... Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience (Hebrews 4:1-11).

People are given six days to work and do all our labor. The seventh day was set aside for man to stop his work. As Christ said, “The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27). God created the Sabbath to constantly remind us what we should be striving for—the millennial rest of the Kingdom of God. The prophetic significance of this can be understood by comparing the words of the Apostle Peter:

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day (2Peter 3:8).

Since a day pictures 1000 years, the seven-day week reflects a 7000-year plan. For 6000 years, mankind has designed his own governments and religions. The seventh day pictures a millennial period where mankind will be able to rest from the toil against evil. As the Apostle John wrote of those chosen for leadership positions:

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4).

Belief that there would be a thousand-year millennial rest has been taught for centuries before our time. It was recorded in the writings attributed to Barnabas, works of Irenaeus, and the secular historian Hippolytus. It is even found in the Talmud. This was commonly preached in all the churches of God up until the fourth century when Augustine began to propagate the false belief that the Catholic Church was the manifestation of the Kingdom of God on earth. That heretical doctrine brought with it enormous persecution upon those who did not fall in line with the Roman church and state government. The *Encyclopedia Americana* explained:

It is admitted on all sides that these views were, if not general, at least very common in the ancient church. The belief was generally founded on Psalm 90:4, according to which 1,000 years are before the Lord as one day, compared with the account of creation as given by Moses. The six days of creation are taken as designating 6,000 years of toil, and the subsequent Sabbath as designation 1,000 years of rest and happiness. The millennium was to be the Sabbath rest of the new creation of mankind in Christ (Vol. 19, p. 116).

God's plan is displayed on a continual basis in His unique sequence of time. There are seven 24-hour days in which the seventh day is God's designated time of rest. Even though Sabbath was made for man, God makes it clear that they are declared by Him, and that He sanctified those days:

They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths (Ezekiel 44:24).

The seventh-day Sabbath pictures the time when God will intervene to fix all of the problems that we have created by doing things our own way. Mankind will experience a reprieve from the suffering and tragedy that has been experienced throughout these 6000 years of human history.

The Heavens Preach the Gospel

The sun and moon, both day and night, trumpet a message to every human being on earth every week. If we would only listen, they send this remarkable message by providing environments of light and darkness.

The sun provides life-giving light and warmth to the earth. It's energy silently preaches the gospel while billions go about their lives without knowledge. But we can understand when considering what the Scriptures say about the heavens daily message. This was poetically described by King David in a beautiful psalm:

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters

speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is* no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; And there is nothing hidden from its heat (Psalm 19:1-6).

The heavens display God's creative ability and almighty power. Both day and night speak to us, and it does not matter what language you understand because the message is not audible—it is visible and it goes out to the entire planet!

Psalm 19 likens the heavens to a tabernacle where the sun is compared to a bridegroom that comes to shine upon the whole earth. The bridegroom is portrayed as a strong man who is running a race. This symbolism is striking.

The Church of God is described as being a bride for Christ who is the Bridegroom (Mat. 25:1, Rev. 19:7). His disciples are called friends of the bridegroom (Mat. 9:15, John 3:29). Just as the tabernacle and later temple with its Holy Place was a type of God's throne, Psalm 19 actually reveals how Christ will leave His throne in heaven to come to the earth and retrieve His bride. The prophets Joel and John:

Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room (Joel 2:15-16).

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him (Revelation 1:7).

Like the sun pierces through the clouds, Christ will return from this location. For this reason, Christ is likened to the sun in the scriptures Who gives light to a world in spiritual darkness (John 1:5). When He returns, He will bring His glorious light. The Prophet Malachi referred to this:

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves (Malachi 4:2).

The sun is symbolic of Christ. It pictures the light of truth, holiness, and righteousness. John stated:

This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all (1John 1:5).

Something else that is revealed each day is the fate of those who reject God. When we gaze upon a sunset, with its beautiful shades of yellow, orange, red, purple, and blue, it resembles a massive fire in the sky. This represents Christ executing judgment on the incorrigible. When those sentences are carried out, all who chose to live contrary to God's way will be destroyed in a massive lake of fire. John described:

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Revelation 21:8).

In addition, as each of us sleep through the night, we awake to an opportunity to begin anew and start fresh. This process pictures death and resurrection. Even Christ referred to death being a type of sleep (John 11:11-14). Ultimately, everyone's mortal bodies will die. But death is not something we should fear if we are striving to be faithful to God. God designed this process knowing full well that sleep and death would also reflect His plan. Paul illustrated this point:

Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light (Ephesians 5:14).

The heavens have preached, and they continue to preach a silent gospel every day, every week, every month, and every year throughout all of human history. They are plain as day for all to see if we would only open our eyes and listen.

The Entire Bible Preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom

The Kingdom of God is such a preeminent part of what God is doing that the message was preached long before Christ was born. It has been called the “everlasting gospel” and has always been preached (Rev. 14:6). Each of God’s servants have contributed to that gospel until we have a practical and prophetic instruction manual for mankind.

The Bible is a unique manuscript compiled of 66 books to prepare us for the future. It was penned by a variety of authors over thousands of years, and yet the theme of the Bible is the same throughout. Every one of its books bears the impress of a divine being who inspired its contents. It consistently it carries the same laws and principles of God’s Kingdom. That is why Jesus Christ is described as being “the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Heb. 13:8). When Jesus began His ministry, His declaration followed that of the prophets whose proclamation was recorded throughout the books of the Old Testament:

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life (John 5:39-40).

The pages of the Old Testament speak of Christ hundreds of times. Further, Jesus made it known that He is in fact the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM” (John 8:58).

The first account foreshadowing the gospel of the Kingdom took place shortly after Eve and Adam’s sin. God prophesied about a savior and a curse:

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel (Genesis 3:15).

Theologians refer to this verse as the “proto-evangelium;” meaning the first declaration of the gospel. The words contain

condemnation for the devil, but also enormous hope for mankind. The judgment includes a prophecy for the woman's "seed." However, the word "seed" does not refer to all of humanity. The verse uses a singular term pointing to the Son of Man which is Christ. This terminology was clarified when the Apostle Paul explained something that God had promised to Abraham:

Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made.
He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "and to your Seed," who is Christ (Galatians 3:16).

Christ was the Son of God, but He was also among the posterity of Abraham. This helps us to realize that the seed of prophecy in Genesis 3:15 is speaking of Jesus. While Satan would bruise Christ's heel, the Savior will ultimately bruise the devil's head. This means that the injuries are both harmful, but they occur in different parts of the body indicating a severity of injury. The wound of the devil will result in a greater consequence (Mat. 4:9, Rev. 20:3). His death will not be temporary as was Christ's. It will eventually be permanent! For more on this subject please read our booklet—*Satan's Fate*. Enoch was also a preacher of the coming Kingdom. Jude makes note of Enoch's age-old message:

Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints" (Jude 14).

Enoch declared Christ's coming with resurrected saints. Later, God preached the gospel to Abraham revealing that the Messiah would be born through His seed:

And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (Genesis 26:4).

Miraculously, the entire book of Exodus preaches the gospel of the coming Kingdom. The ancient Israelites were slaves in Egypt, and they were delivered by divine plagues

foreshadowing the end time destruction of Babylon the Great. The Israelites were saved and brought into the promised-land that foreshadows the promise to deliver God's people into a future world that will flow abundantly with the sweetness of life. The comparison was made by Paul when he wrote:

Now all these things happened to them as examples,
and they were written for our admonition, upon whom
the ends of the ages have come (1Corinthians 10:11).

As another example, Joshua led the people to the Promised Land. The name "Joshua" in the Hebrew language literally means "Savior," and it is a Hebrew form of the name "Jesus." Thus, Joshua was a forerunner picturing Christ who will one day lead the resurrected saints in a conquest to take over the earth.

Jericho fell as the priests shouted and blew trumpets seven times. This pictured the blowing of the seventh trumpet plague when "the kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" (Jos. 6, Rev. 8:2, 11:15, 18:2).

The books of Ruth and the Song of Solomon display the love that Christ has for His future bride. The Psalms repeatedly mention the Kingdom of God proclaiming Christ's coming and a future time when all will live by God's perfect law:

For He is coming to judge the earth. With righteousness
He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity
(Psalm 98:9).

All Your works shall praise You, O LORD, and Your
saints shall bless You. They shall speak of the glory of
Your kingdom, and talk of Your power, to make
known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the
glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom *is* an
everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion *endures*
throughout all generations (Psalm 145:10-13).

The book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies relating specific details about God's Kingdom. God gave Daniel the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the prophet

explained how several empires would rise and fall before Christ would come to subjugate the nations:

And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever (Daniel 2:44).

The prophet Amos also speaks of God's future Kingdom. Ezekiel related many prophecies of the Kingdom—including extensive details about a millennial temple that will be built when Christ returns (Eze. 40-48). Zechariah spoke of the time when Christ will rule over all people on the earth:

And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The LORD *is* one," and His name one (Zechariah 14:9).

All of the prophets gave witness to Christ's message of the Kingdom of God. In fact, the whole Bible can be likened to a tapestry in which the message of the gospel is woven in different colored threads to form a beautiful picture. It gives to us a vision that stirs the highest hope in the heart of man. The gospel of the Kingdom of God is a message that has no end. It was preached from ancient times and must continue to be our focus right now!

You Can Be a Part of God's Kingdom

Mankind has continued to try and form his own governments in an attempt to bring peace to the earth, but he has utterly failed.

However, a form of utopia is coming. It will not come through the democratic or socialistic efforts of men and women who deny God's authority in their lives. It will come through the miraculous, supernatural, intervention of Christ. This is the gospel of the Kingdom of God to be preached in every age unto the end and beyond. It is precious knowledge indeed!

You are now in possession of this invaluable truth. Once we come to understand it, we have a responsibility to further the advancement of that good news. We must turn to God, ask Him

to forgive our sins, be baptized, and join the effort to advance this gospel. Shift our focus from seeking the pleasures of this world to seeking God's Kingdom:

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness
(Matthew 6:33).

Christ is coming soon. If you are convicted by this truth, you must prepare for His return and support the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Eternal Church of God offers a variety of books, booklets, articles, audio, and video to help people better understand the Bible. Some of the printed material available includes:

Understanding the Mark of the Beast

Three Resurrections of the Dead

The Ten Commandments

The Trinity – fact or fiction

The Magnificent Meaning of God's Holy Days

The Truth about Christmas

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The Eternal Church of God

PO Box 80248
Billings, MT 59108
USA

eternalcog.org