

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO CHRIST

CHAPTER 1

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Isaiah 2:4: And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. KJV

Could there be a better message?

CHAPTER 2

Sadly, Isaiah 2:4 has not been fulfilled. People – children – are learning war in ever-increasing numbers with ever-increasing destructive power. It doesn't matter whether a ten-year-old Palestinian is apprehended carrying a ten-pound bomb in his school backpack or an African child-guerrilla is apprehended carrying an automatic weapon taller than himself, peace has not come as promised in this scripture. Has this scripture-prophecy failed, or is its fulfillment yet to come?

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Let's take another look at Matthew 4:23 quoted in part above. Here is that scripture now quoted in its entirety. Pay special attention to what the gospel was that Jesus preached:

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INTRODUCTION

What would be the most welcome message this world could hear? Sometime back a presidential candidate was asked what his favorite scripture was. He replied it was Isaiah 2:4:

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Sadly, Isaiah 2:4 has not been fulfilled. People – children – are learning war in ever-increasing numbers with ever-increasing destructive power. Today's news often reports items like ten-year-old Palestinians being apprehended with ten-pound bombs in their school backpacks, or an African child-guerilla being apprehended carrying an automatic weapon taller than himself. Indeed, peace has not come as promised in Isaiah 2:4. Has this scripture-prophecy failed, or is its fulfillment yet to come?

The answer to this question is not a fable and is not “blowing in the wind” as the once popular folk song hopelessly proclaimed. The answer lies in understanding the

message Jesus Christ brought. That message is the true gospel:

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It would be hard to find a person who is familiar with the New Testament of the Bible who does not know something about a “gospel” message. Most would tell you the word gospel means “good news”. And they would also say the gospel is a message about mankind’s opportunity for personal salvation through Jesus Christ. Such a message is indeed good news! The Bible tells us Christ’s death did in fact make salvation available to mankind. However, as wonderful as that news is, it does not address the injustices of this world, the wars that rage from continent to continent, or the epidemics and diseases that plague mankind. Neither does it tell us what lies ahead for this world.

Let’s take another look at Matthew 4:23 quoted in part above. Here is that scripture now quoted in its entirety. Pay special attention to what the gospel was that Jesus preached:

Matthew 4:23: And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. KJV

If you will read this booklet in its entirety, and believe the scriptures quoted in it, you will see that the “good news” is much larger than a message about our personal salvation. The gospel Jesus Christ taught is a message that contains the complete answer to all – that is ALL – of the world’s problems. The true gospel is a GLOBAL message.

The Gospel Christ Preached

So let's start with finding out what the gospel was according to Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ brought a message from his Father. He was not merely preaching his own message: *John 14:10 tells us: Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (KJV).*

God had promised a messenger would bring a very important message to mankind in *Malachi 3:1:*

Malachi 3:1: Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. KJV

The messenger who was to prepare the way for Christ was John the Baptist as stated in Mark 1: 2-3:

Mark 1:2-3,6:As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey; KJV

But the Lord who is the messenger of the covenant (New Covenant) is of course Jesus Christ:

Mark 14:24: And He (Jesus) said to them, "This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many." NKJV

Now, what specifically was the messenger of the “new covenant” to bring? Let’s take another look at Mark 1:14. Here it is again:

Mark 1:14: Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, NKJV

This scripture clearly tells us that after John had been put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching the gospel of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying:

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

The first message Mark recorded in his gospel inspired by Jesus Christ is the message Christ brought about the gospel -- the Message of the coming Kingdom of God! Matthew also recorded these words in his gospel showing that Christ’s message to the people was a gospel about a Kingdom – the Kingdom of God.

Christ Replaces Satan

The Bible account of Christ’s life in the book of Matthew tells us that Christ was baptized by John the Baptist, not because he had sinned and needed to repent, but because he was setting the example for mankind. Following his baptism, Christ was immediately led by the spirit of God to go out into a wilderness area where he fasted for 40 days and 40 nights. Satan came to him at the end of this period of fasting to tempt him in a manner that would entice him to sin against his Father.

The Bible tells us further that Satan took Christ up into a high mountain where he could see all the kingdoms of the world:

Matthew 4:8: Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. NKJV

Few realize that Satan is the active ruler of this spiritually blind world. These scriptures from the Bible make it clear that he is:

2 Corinthians 4:4: In whom the god of this world (Satan) hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. KJV

Ephesians 6:12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world (Satan the Devil), against spiritual wickedness in high places. KJV

Revelation 12:9: And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. KJV

Because, as the Bible tells us, Satan is the ruler of this present evil world (*Galatians 1:4*), he was able to offer Christ rulership of all he could see, under one condition – that Christ bow down and worship him – Satan! Satan knew Christ had been born to be a savior and king, and that the Father had sent him to qualify to replace him as the ruler

over this world (*John 12:31; 14:30*). The temptation was the premier effort by Satan to destroy the plan of God. This was the turning point of history. If Christ had accepted Satan's offer, he knew he would not have to suffer the crucifixion that lay ahead of him. He would not have to wait for his Father to give him rulership; he could have it then and there...Or could he? Christ knew Satan was a liar.

Satan desperately desired to defeat Christ so that Jesus could not replace him on the throne of this world. He wanted to stop Christ from proclaiming a message about a coming Kingdom of God! But Christ chose to wait for his Father's will to be accomplished through him. He wanted to open the way for salvation for mankind, and in order to accomplish that, he had to finish his assigned task of being the sacrifice for all sin. If Christ had accepted Satan's bribe, the whole plan of salvation would have failed.

Following the temptation by Satan, Christ came into Galilee to begin his public ministry. As stated earlier, the first message he brought to man was the gospel of the Kingdom of God. It was not a good news gospel about himself, for at that time he had not yet paid the penalty for sin, removing the death penalty that was hanging over all humanity. The good news Christ wanted mankind to have was the message that Satan had been defeated, and that the Kingdom of God was on its way. **CHRIST HAD QUALIFIED FOR RULERSHIP IN THE KINGDOM!** He told men to repent and believe that gospel! He told them to repent and turn from the ways of this world under the influence of Satan the Devil, and to turn to the ways of God in preparation for the Kingdom that was now going to come.

The gospel of the Kingdom of God was preached throughout Judea. Many miracles were performed by Christ to demonstrate his authority to both forgive sins and to rule over the demon world. And then he submitted to the terrible ordeal of the crucifixion so that mankind would be able to find forgiveness of their sins and enter into the Kingdom.

Following Christ's death and resurrection, the holy spirit was delivered to his disciples on the day of Pentecost. This enabled the apostles to begin a public ministry of preaching that same gospel throughout Judea, then to the ten lost tribes of Israel [those who had been taken into captivity hundreds of years earlier as a result of their sins (*II Kings 17:5-7*)], and also to the gentiles (those who were not of the tribes of Israel). Christ's final instruction to the church was as follows:

Matthew 28:19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: KJV

The first recorded message the apostle Peter preached to the gentiles is found in the book of Acts, Chapter 10. Peter was instructed through God's holy spirit that he was to go to the house of a gentile Roman centurion named Cornelius, and instruct Cornelius and his household about Jesus Christ, who was now Lord of all, and to tell them about the Lord's message "*which was published throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John had preached*" (*Acts 10:36-37*). That message was the gospel of the Kingdom.

An Excerpt That Makes Things Clear

To summarize what has been discussed in this booklet so far, the following excerpt has been taken from a booklet by Herbert W. Armstrong titled *What is the True Gospel*. It is important that you carefully review this summary material so that you have the message of the true gospel firmly fixed in your mind:

“Notice carefully these points: 1) With whom did this Message – this Gospel – originate: Peter said (in *Acts 10:36-37*): ‘*The word which God sent.*’ 2) TO WHOM did God send it? Peter said: ‘unto the children of Israel.’ Although now, ten years later (after Christ’s death), this same Gospel was being opened up to Gentiles of ALL nations, originally it was sent to the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, and it was sent by GOD THE FATHER. It did not originate with Jesus Christ, nor with Peter, nor with the Apostle Paul. It was sent by God, the Father of Jesus Christ! 3) BY WHOM was it sent? Who was the divine Messenger who brought and preached the message? Peter said: ‘by Jesus Christ.’ Jesus Christ was the divine MESSENGER. Malachi called Him the Messenger of the COVENANT. That message, then, is the NEW Covenant Message; for Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, and Jesus Christ of the NEW, as affirmed by many scriptures. This message, then, is the NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL. Now, 4) WHERE was it first preached? To what geographical location shall we look for its beginning? Peter said: It ‘began from Galilee.’ Yes, GALILEE, then, is the place where it was first preached. Not Jerusalem! Galilee!

“When did Jesus begin to preach this particular Gospel in Galilee? Peter said: ‘after the baptism which John preached.’ The true GOSPEL of the NEW Covenant, then, did not begin with John the Baptist. It began *after* John had completed his baptismal ministry.

“Now these very definite directions lead us directly to the first chapter of Mark. The first verse tells us this is the record of the BEGINNING of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then it relates the baptizing ministry of John, preaching, NOT the Gospel, but ‘the baptism of repentance,’ which prepares the way for the GOSPEL which the living God sent by Jesus Christ.

“And then we come to verses 14 and 15: ‘Now after that John was put in prison’ – there is the exact TIME for the beginning of the preaching of the TRUE GOSPEL – ‘Jesus’ – ‘came into GALILEE’ – the precise geographical location. So we now have the TIME, the Israelites residing there TO WHOM God sent the Message, the PLACE, and the MESSENGER – so whatever we find Jesus preaching here IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOSPEL.

“And what do we read? ‘Jesus came into Galilee, PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the KINGDOM OF GOD is at hand: REPENT YE AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.’ (End of Excerpt)

There can be no mistake. The gospel preached by Christ is the same gospel Peter was sent to preach to the gentile Cornelius and to his household. It is the announcement of the good news of the coming Kingdom of God.

Christ continued to teach the gospel throughout his ministry, and he commissioned his disciples to do the same:

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

Luke 10:1-2 & 9: 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. 2 Then He said to them, “The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. 9 And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ NKJV

The Gospel According to Paul

After Christ’s ascension, Peter was sent to open the way to the gentiles (Acts 10:36); however, Paul was commissioned as the apostle to the gentiles:

Romans 11:13: For I (Paul) speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles... NKJV

What was the message Paul brought to the gentiles? Was it the same as what Peter taught Cornelius?

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

In the above scripture the Greek word *kerusso* which is translated “preaching” in verse 31 means to herald, proclaim, or publish. Paul was publicly proclaiming the Kingdom of God to all who came to his rented house over a period of at least two years. Many came and heard him preach, believing the gospel. After proclaiming the gospel about the kingdom to them, Paul then taught them about their savior – the coming ruler of the Kingdom of God -- Jesus Christ. Paul’s actions were in perfect harmony with Christ’s example as set out in Mark 1:15:

Mark 1:15: and (Christ came into Galilee) saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” NKJV

BY ANY OTHER NAME, IT IS THE SAME MESSAGE



At different times, Paul referred to the message he preached as HIS gospel. Does that mean Paul had a different gospel than Christ? Paul makes it clear he did not:

Galatians 1:11-12: But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. 12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ. KJV

Throughout the New Testament, the gospel of the Kingdom of God is referred to in different ways. It is called the “gospel of God”, the “gospel of Christ”, the “gospel of the grace of God”, the “gospel of peace”, and so on. These different references allude to various aspects of the same message.

The Gospel Reveals God's Plan For Mankind

If we are not careful, we can read over this scripture and completely miss both its meaning, and the enormity of what it says. Modern-day Christians have been virtually brainwashed into believing the message of the gospel is solely about Jesus Christ and their personal salvation. They find it hard to believe they have not learned the truth about what Christ himself taught. That is why it is important that this booklet devote extra time and space to dispelling this false notion.

The gospel Christ taught revealed the plan of God for mankind. Up until the time of Christ, man did not understand about God the Father (*Matthew 11:27*). They did not know He existed (*John 1:18*). Christ came to reveal Him, and to proclaim that his Father's kingdom would some day be established on the earth; that he, Jesus, was going to return to this earth to replace Satan as ruler over the earth; and that he was going to make a way for mankind to enter into that kingdom. That message dispels the idea many hold that they will ascend to heaven upon death to float endlessly about, strumming harps or staring up into the face of God. Rather, Christ taught about a literal Kingdom to be established on the earth that would be under the government of God the Father and ruled over by Christ and the saints (*Revelation 5:10*). Entrance into that kingdom was the goal he wanted all men to strive for.

Not long after the founding of the church, however, a false gospel began to supplant the true gospel. Paul alludes to it in Galatians 1:8-9:

Galatians 1:8-9: 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. 9 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. NKJV

You will notice that in the above scripture, Paul actually pronounced a curse on any who would preach another gospel! He knew that to alter the gospel by making it a message solely about salvation or about Jesus Christ would cause Christians to lose the knowledge of God's plan for his creation. And it has, because that gospel message is not proclaimed in the Christian churches of this world to this very day. Rather, they preach a false gospel – one that Paul warned against!

What is the Kingdom of God?

To answer the above question, it is important that we define what a kingdom is. Literally, a kingdom is a nation ruled by a king. That's simple enough, yet many confuse this plain statement by replacing it with ideas like: The kingdom of God is something in your heart; or it is a particular church organization. By redefining the kingdom, much of what God has planned for man has been hidden from professing Christians. The penalty for that error will some day be laid at the door of those who have preached a false gospel to those seeking the truth of God.

So let's understand. The kingdom is simply a nation ruled by a king that has laws, territory and subjects. Christ, we are told, was born to be a king:

John 18:37: Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born..." NKJV

But the kingdom Christ was born to rule was not of this world – not of man's devising – as he clearly stated:

John 18:36: Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." NKJV

Christ wasn't simply going to take over the small nation of Israel and begin ruling from Jerusalem at that time, as his disciples hoped. Rather, the kingdom Christ was being prepared to rule over lay yet in the future, and was to be established on the earth after many Christians had qualified to enter into it. The Bible further reveals that the kingdom Christ is to rule over will not be limited to one small area of the earth -- Israel. Rather, the Kingdom of God will encompass the entire earth. The following scriptures describe the one who is coming to rule over the nations of this world:

Revelation 19:11-16: Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He (Jesus Christ) who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will

rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. NKJV

Zechariah 14:9: And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — “The LORD is one,” And His name one. NKJV

The above verse makes it clear that there will not be a border for the Kingdom of God as kingdoms have today. Rather, it will encompass the entire earth, ruling over all mankind. There will be one world-ruling government. Man's diverse governments will be thrown down, and Satan the Devil, whom Christ has deposed, will no longer have power (Revelation 20:10). The continual turmoil brought about by kingdoms or governments warring with other governments will be brought to an end.



IS THE KINGDOM WITHIN YOU?

There is a false notion widely believed among certain Christian denominations that the Kingdom of God lies in a person's heart: that it is the body of beliefs a Christian adheres to combined with his or her emotional and mental will that makes the Kingdom of God a way of life, not a literal kingdom. That is a fuzzy notion at best that has no foundation in scripture, except where scripture is misapplied. Here is an example:

The Gospel According To Christ

Luke 17:20-21: And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. KJV

Was Christ telling the Pharisees who were soon to have him put to death that the Kingdom of God was in their hearts? Obviously not. However, what he was telling them was something that would cause them to have him put to death. He was explaining the king of the Kingdom of God was standing there in their midst, and they could not accept it. A better rendering of the above verse states: The Kingdom of God is in the midst of you.

Another misunderstood verse is Mark 1:15 which states: *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.* Most translations will have a note in the margin that explains the phrase “at hand” is better rendered, “has drawn near”. Christ, the king, was there announcing to them that the Kingdom of God was on its way. But as later scriptures show, many things were to occur before that Kingdom could arrive.

In both these instances where scripture has been misinterpreted to mean the kingdom is here now, Christ was merely showing that He, the King of the Kingdom, was present with them. This meant the door for salvation was now open, and that God would begin preparing men for their part in that Kingdom. Christ was announcing that he was there, at hand, near to them, standing in their midst.

Where Do Wars Come From?

Where do the wars that rage between nations get their start?
In James 4:1-2 we learn:

James 4:1-2: Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? 2 You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. NKJV

This scripture makes it clear that the flaws of human nature lead to war, and that greed and lust lie at the bottom of men's wars. In the Kingdom of God all men will have access to God's spirit, and with the help of that spirit, attitudes will change. Rather than competition and strife, man will have a new nature as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-24:

Galatians 5:22-24: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. NKJV

With this new nature, men will turn from war to the way that brings peace. It will bring cooperation, not competition. Lust and greed will no longer dominate in men's affairs. Adultery and fornication will stop. Pain and suffering will disappear from the world, and an unprecedented time of prosperity and peace will cover this earth. The earth will truly be "free at last" from the evil conditions that dominate it today (See Isaiah 11:9).



THE KINGDOM IS NOT HERE YET

In Matthew 6:9-10 Christ told his disciples: *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. KJV*

Many believe that the Kingdom of God is here today, either in their heart or in the religious organization they belong to. But would Christ have instructed his disciples to pray that the kingdom come if it were on the earth already?

One of the most well-known prophecies in the Bible begins with a question:

Matthew 24:3: And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? KJV

Christ's disciples had come to accept that he was not going to set up the kingdom at that time, and their question was to find out when he would return to the earth to take over the rulership of the world. Christ answered the disciples, telling them of the events that would occur down through the ages that would lead to the time of his return. His answer made it clear the kingdom would arrive at a specific time that lay far down into the future: a time that would bring world upheaval when the wrenching of this world's government from Satan and man would not happen easily. Rather, it would bring a time of great tribulation on the earth. This answer was followed by an injunction given to his disciples to "Watch" for he could not tell them the exact time of his return:

Matthew 24:42-44: Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. 44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. KJV

The Law And The Kingdom

Besides giving all mankind access to God's spirit, the Kingdom of God will be governed by a rule of law that will be enforced. This is not referring to man's laws! Rather, the laws God's kingdom will administer will be based upon the Ten Commandments, along with the principles contained in the statutes and ordinances given to the people of Israel as mentioned in *Exodus 20 thru 23*. This time, however, the law will not be written on tablets of stone, but upon the hearts of all men who submit to God and receive His holy spirit:

Hebrews 10:16: This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," NKJV

When God's Kingdom is ruling over this earth, his statutes and ordinances will show men the way to live their lives. God will provide humanity with a perfect code of law that is based upon the principle of love; and when it is administered, it will bring peace to the entire earth:

Romans 13:8-10 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not bear false witness," "You shall not covet," and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. NKJV

Does all this seem idealistic? Yes, it does; and it is. Yet the plain, straight-forward message of the gospel says it's going to happen. And it's going to happen for all people, all nations, whether they want It to or not.

It is not hard to imagine that some will not want to give up their positions of rulership when the Kingdom of God arrives. As we learned earlier, wars come about through man's lust and greed. Men love power, and Christ is going to have to deal with those who wish to continue to rule in a way that goes against the principles of the Kingdom. Here is what the Bible tells us about those who do not want to submit to the government of God:

Zechariah 14:17: And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. NKJV

God intends to force all nations to conform to the way that brings peace; and for those who resist, problems will lie in their path until they repent and turn to the way of God. Christ is bringing the way of peace, and his purpose is clear.

He is preparing the way for his Father to dwell with mankind:

1 Cor 15:24: Then the end will come, when he (Christ) hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. (NIV)

Revelation 21:3-4: 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. 4 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." NKJV

How Do You Enter The Kingdom?

The question now arises, How do you enter into the Kingdom of God? The simple answer from your Bible is that you must repent – that is change – from living a life that is contrary to God's way and then you must be baptized, for the receiving of God's holy spirit. One obvious way to repent is to begin practicing the principles laid out in the Ten Commandments, but in this world at this time, that is not as easy as it may initially sound. However, that is what God requires of all those who worship him:

Revelation 22:14: Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the (Holy) city (The New Jerusalem). NKJV

By learning to live according to the principles of God's laws now, you prepare yourself for living in His kingdom;

and as we see from the scripture above, living by God's law is required of those who wish to receive eternal life in the kingdom.

The Importance Of Jerusalem

At the time of writing this booklet, the local newspaper's headlines shout out the dreadful news: MIDDLE EAST INFLAMED! This is not an unusual headline. For years, the world's attention has continually been drawn to Jerusalem and the interplay among the nations of the Middle East. Jerusalem is not a large city. By most measurements, it is not an important city. But in the future, the Bible tells us it will be the focus of the entire world:

Luke 21:20-22: "But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her. 22 For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. NKJV

Why is Jerusalem so important? Because it is to be the capitol city of the Kingdom of God. In some respects, the return of Jesus Christ and the recapture of the city of Jerusalem for the Kingdom follow the pattern of most wars. The conqueror has always had the burden of taking or capturing the would-be capitol of his empire. When Christ returns, it will be no different. The Bible tells us his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives upon his return:

Zechariah 14:3-4: Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. 4) And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. NKJV

The above verses describe a war that must be fought! For peace to reign on this earth, all resisting governments must be crushed. Mankind has had thousands of years to prove they cannot bring peace to this earth. This battle will be fought to end that terrible history; though, as mentioned earlier, it will not happen easily. Men will still resist.

Why It Is So Important For You To Understand

By now you should understand why it is so important for you to know what the true gospel is. Many on this earth know about Jesus Christ, but without understanding what his purpose is, they cannot prepare for the Kingdom that is to come. Instead, most Christians are being taught they only have to believe on the name of Jesus Christ to be saved. That, of course, is a lie, as the many scriptures quoted in this booklet have shown. It is very important that you reject that false notion, and begin to set your life in order, to prepare for the prophesied return of the Messiah. Here are the verses quoted earlier from Revelation 19. Read them carefully and meditate on them:

Revelation 19:11-16: Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. NKJV

The imagery presented in this passage is powerful, and it is intended to be, because Christ will not be coming in peace, but in war. He will tear this world out of the hands of those who have ruled over it in unrighteousness. This time he is not coming to lay his life down, but to take it up as the King of Kings. How awesome! And that is what your Bible clearly proclaims is going to happen.

BELIEVING ON THE NAME OF CHRIST



Many Christians today are taught they only have to believe on the name of Christ to be saved. It is true that there is no other name under heaven that has been given to men by which they may be saved (*Acts 4:12*); but believing in Christ's name means to live by every word of God, especially the commandments of God (*Matthew 4:4*). When the rich young ruler asked Christ what he was to do to obtain eternal life in the Kingdom of God, Christ responded: "*Keep the Commandments.*" What does this have to do with the good news of the Kingdom of God? Everything! Christ's very words warn that merely believing in his name will not give you entrance to the kingdom:

Matthew 7:21-23: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. KJV

Old Testament Details About Christ's Reign

The Old Testament offers more details of what the reign of Jesus Christ will bring to the earth. In Isaiah we are told that out from Jerusalem will flow a government of justice, mercy, and peace:

Isaiah 9:6-7: 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. 7 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. NKJV

The “good news” Jesus brought when he first came to this earth is a message that was contained in the pages of the Old Testament, but it was not proclaimed publicly to the world until Christ came as the messenger of the New Covenant. For that message to be proclaimed, the King had to first qualify for the position of rulership in that Kingdom. Once Christ defeated Satan, the message could go out to the world. That message of peace, prosperity and a new world order is

the greatest announcement mankind can ever receive and believe:

Micah 4:1-3: But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. 2 And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. KJV

The good news that Jesus Christ brought to the world from his Father is that the Kingdom of God will be established upon the earth. That will bring a permanent end to all the suffering man has endured throughout his long history. Under the rulership of the King of Kings, this world will find peace at last and eternal life in the kingdom will be made available to all who have lived on the earth. That is the gospel Christ preached, and it is the one he committed to his church to preach, starting from Galilee when he began his public ministry and ending with his return to set up that Kingdom.

The gospel revealed to you in this booklet is the gospel according to Christ. It is the only real good news available today. It's time you began to take this message to heart and prepare yourself for the return of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As the Bible tells us throughout, he is coming soon. Begin now to prepare for your part in the Kingdom of God.

