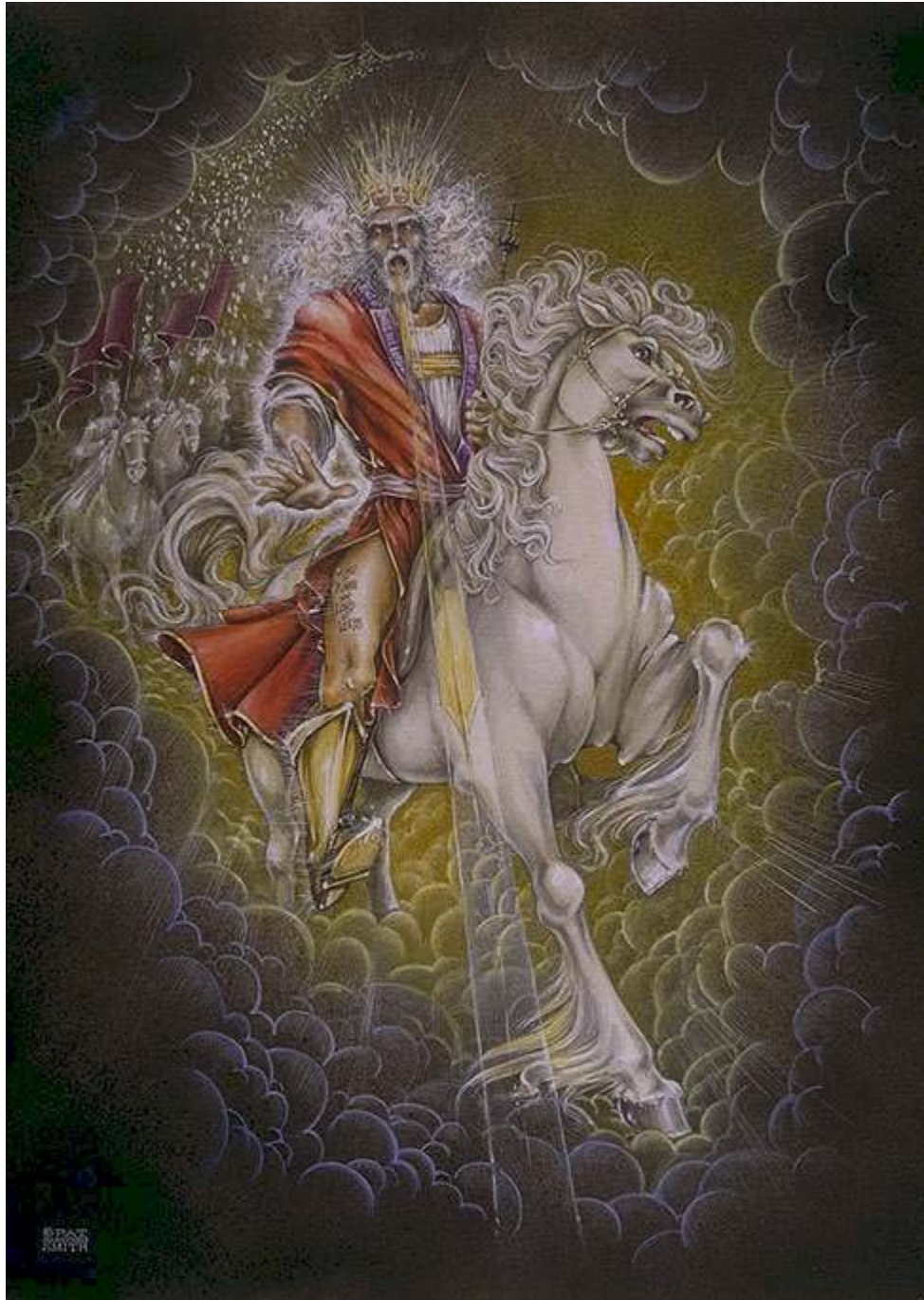


What is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God?

by Peter Salemi



You Have Heard of the Kingdom of Great Britain. The Kingdom of Norway. Over and Over again, the Bible speaks of something called the Kingdom of God! What is it? Where is it? Is it Here, now? Where will it be established? In Heaven, or on this earth? What did Jesus say about it? Let's see what the Bible really says about God's coming Kingdom.

In the beginning of Mark's Gospel, Jesus came saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Jesus came preaching the "Gospel" of the "Kingdom of God." (v.14). The word "Gospel" has been tossed around in religious circles with many different meanings. As a result of this, the true meaning of the Gospel has been lost! Many think it is a story about Jesus birth. Others think it's a title of the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Some even used the expression, "The Gospel Truth," meaning that what the person is saying, is absolutely true. Is this the real meaning of the word "Gospel?"

What is the Real Gospel?

So what is the Biblical definition of the word "Gospel?" The definition of it is totally different from what men believe the Gosepl is, and its true meaning has been lost in mainstream Christian circles, yet retained with the true Church of God who has been preaching the message since the beginning!

Two Fold Message

There are two sides to the message of the Gospel. First however, what does the word "Gospel" mean? The Easton Bible Dictionary writes, "A word of Anglo-Saxon origin, and meaning 'God's spell', i.e., word of God, or rather, according to others, 'good spell', i.e., good news. It is the rendering of the Greek *evangelion*, i.e., "good message." The Gospel is a message proclaiming "good news." The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia says, "In the New Testament the gospel *never means simply a book, but rather the message which Christ and His apostles announced...*" (emphasis added).

The First part of the Good News Procliamed by the Apostles

As mentioned above, the Bible shows that there is a two fold message to the "good news" or the "Gospel."

The first is the "Gospel" *about* Jesus. Why he came, what he did, why he died. His teaching for us on how to live in this world. Basically it is the message of Christ, and his salvation for you and me!

"That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, *the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,*" (Ephesians 1:12-13). The Gospel of Salvation was preached to them, and they believed. That message was the message of Christ, when he came to this earth, and what he did, what he taught, and why he died.

In the book of Acts we see the message being conveyed, and in the end people "believed" as in the church in Ephesus. Peter on Pentecost preaches here the Gospel message, "But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and *hearken to my words:*

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

“And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

“And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

“The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

“And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

“Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

“For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:

“Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:

“Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

“Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.

“Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

“Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

“He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

“This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

“Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

“For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

“Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

“And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

“And all that *believed were together, and had all things common;*

“And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.

“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” (Acts 2:14, 16-47). Peter’s message was about Christ and his mission as the Messiah for Israel. It was about his death, burial and resurrection. His lineage to David. Prophecies were spoken about the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, and what to do so they can be saved! This is the Gospel, the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul preached this Gospel, “So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: *for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;* to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” (Rom 1:15-16). Again people believe through the power of the Gospel. The good news about Jesus and what he did for us so we can obtain salvation.

This message of the Gospel, was the main message preached to the gentiles, to convert the gentiles to the faith. Peter said at the Jerusalem conference, “Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the *Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.*

“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

“And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith” (Acts 15:7-9). Here again the Gospel was preached and the gentiles “believed.” This was done by the “mouth” of Peter. Of course this took place at the conversion of Cornelius of the “Italian band.” This is the same centurion whose servant was sick and was healed, see Luke 7:1-10, and the same who proclaimed Jesus was the “Son of God” (Mark 15:39).

Notice Peter’s message to Cornelius in Acts the tenth chapter, “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

“But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

“The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)

“That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;

“*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*

“And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; *whom they slew and hanged on a tree:*

“*Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;*

“Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

“And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

“To him give all the prophets witness, *that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*

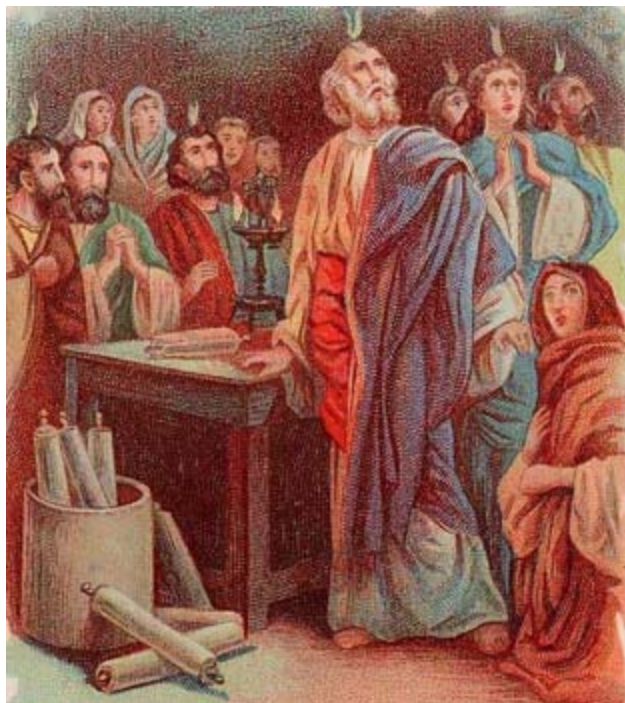
“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

“And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 10:34-45). Do you see the core message that converted the gentiles. Jesus Crucified, and rose from the dead. The remission of sins through him. This was the gospel preached by the mouth of Peter.

But there is also the command that Peter mentioned by Christ to “preach unto the people, and testify”(v.42). The gospel is also about the teachings of Christ. How we are to live, our relationship with God and Man.

The sermon on the mount was the greatest teaching our Lord gave us our relationship with God and with our fellow man. Like the King to his cabinet, Jesus taught his disciples to seek the “Kingdom of God and all its righteousness” and showed them how to accomplish by the keeping of the Kingdom of laws of God. Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, *and shall teach men so*, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: *but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven*”(Matthew 5:19). The disciples were to “do” and “teach” the Kingdom laws of God to their fellow converts. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:* and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” (Matthew 28:19-20). This aspect of the Gospel is clear, they were to teach converts to Christ what they have learned from the Master himself, and they were to follow the way of the disciples, for the way of the disciples is the way of Jesus Christ. Paul said, “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corith 11:1).



Gospel at Pentecost

The Apostles message was about Christ and his mission as the Messiah for Israel. It was about his death, burial and resurrection. His lineage to David. Prophecies were spoken about the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, and what to do so they can be saved! This is the Gospel, the good news of Salvation through Jesus Christ.

“The Gospel of the Kingdom”

As mentioned earlier in the booklet there are many aspects of the Gospel message. But the one aspect that ***groups it all together into one message is the good news, the “gospel of the Kingdom of God.”***

This is the message Jesus proclaimed in the beginning of his ministry, “Jesus came into Galilee, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,*

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom...And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matt 4:23; 9:35).

This was the central theme of Christ, the good news of the coming Kingdom of God. This sums up the whole message of Jesus, Paul and the rest of the Apostles. Question is, what is the Kingdom? Why is it “Good News”?

What is the Kingdom of God?

Jesus brought a message, that message was the message of the kingdom of God. This is the message he received from his Father, that he told Jesus to give to the peoples of this earth. Jesus constantly told his audience that God sent him with a message, “I have many things to say and to judge of you: *but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him....* When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; *but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.*

“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.” (John 8:26, 28-29). Jesus always said that the Father gave him a message to give to the world, “For I have not spoken of myself; but the *Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.*

“And I know that *his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.*” (John 12:49-50). Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God, this message from the Father which involved eternal life. Eternal life and the Kingdom are basically one and the same message as we will see later in the booklet. This was the purpose of Jesus whole ministry, “I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: *for therefore am I sent.*” (Luke 4:43)

So the message Jesus BROUGHT from the Father was a message of the Kingdom. But what is the Kingdom?

The word “Kingdom” in the New Testament is “*basileia*” this means, “sovereignty, royal power [and] dominion” (Vines). A careful examination shows that Almighty God is going to set up a literal kingdom on this earth. You heard of the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Great Britain. These were monarchies and dominions with laws, territories and rulers over that dominion. Why is it so strange that when the Bible speaks of the Kingdom of God, these things do not apply as many Christian authorities try to interpret.? In many Bible dictionaries, they define the Kingdom as, “not to be confused *with an actual kingdom but rather the right or authority to rule over a kingdom*” (Thayer’s, emphasis mine). The Holman’s Dictionary writes, “He meant, quite simply, the rule of God. The kingdom of God is the reign of God.

“This is best understood if it is distinguished from what Jesus did not mean. *He was not speaking of a geographical area such as the Holy Land or the Temple.* He was not speaking of a political entity such as the nation of Israel or the Sanhedrin. He was not speaking of a group of people such as His disciples or the church.

“Rather, the kingdom of God is God's ruling. It is the sovereign reign of God. *This rule is independent of all geographical areas or political entities. It is true that the rule of God implies a people to be ruled, and Jesus called upon people to enter the kingdom.* The kingdom itself should be distinguished from the people who enter it” (article, “The Kingdom of God). I agree to a certain extent that God must rule over our lives, and that that is a TYPE of the coming Kingdom. But these sources are missing, or are just plain ignorant of the vast number of prophecies that show that God is going to set up his kingdom. That God will establish his rule on the earth. Jesus will sit as King on the throne of David, in Jerusalem. And that the Kingdom will be on this earth, and there will be no end to that kingdom.

Let's start with the King, Jesus Christ. The prophecy in the New Testament shows that Jesus will rule on his throne, and inherit the throne of David, and to rule over the people of Israel, “Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

“And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: *and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:*

“And he shall reign *over the house of Jacob for ever*; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” (Luke 1:30-33). Jesus was to inherit and existing throne that God said would always be on this earth. God said through Ezekiel, “I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him” (21:27). God overturned the throne 3 times, and when Jesus comes it will be transported back, and giving to the rightful heir of the son of David, Jesus Christ, (*Read our booklet The Throne of David for details*).

Where will that throne be? Jesus called Jerusalem, “the city of the great King” (Matthew 5:35).

At Jesus second coming as “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” we see him and the 144,000 of Israel, “stood on the mount Sion,” (Rev 14:1). Ready to rule over the earth. Zechariah makes this clear in his prophecies, that the King will reign over all the earth and establish his throne in Jerusalem, “And the LORD shall be *king over all the earth*: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against *Jerusalem* shall even go up from *year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts*, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

“And it shall be, that whoso ***will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts***, even upon them shall be no rain” (14:9, 16-17). Not only will Jesus rule over all the earth, but his throne will be in Jerusalem, and all people will go up and worship him during the feast of Tabernacles!

His territory? As we have seen above the Kingdom will be on, and RULE this earth. Jesus said in his prophetic parables, “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, *inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*” (Matthew 25:34).

Jesus said that the “meek for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

Jesus also said in the sermon on the mount when he gave us his sample prayer to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). The kingdom was to come, the will of God to be done on “earth” as it is in Heaven. God's kingdom is in heaven, and God is going to bring that reign to the earth, so he can reign on the earth, over his people forever. This shows that God is not ruling this earth right now. No, God instead is calling out people and bring them into his church to be a witness to all

nations, and then shall the end come, see Matthew 24:14. God is not ruling this world right now. Satan the devil is the one who rules this evil wicked world, as the Bible says he is the “god of this world” (2 Corith 4:4). Not the creator of planet earth, or its designer, no, he is the RULER over this sin sick world. If God ruled do you think this world would be the way it is with all its sickness, disease, wars and hatred? But soon enough at the coming of Christ, the Judgement is already set by Christ that “...the prince of this world be cast out” (John 12:31). The word “prince” here is “*archo-n; ar'-khone*; Present participle of G757; a *first* (in rank or power): - chief (ruler), magistrate, prince, ruler.” (Strongs# 758). Jesus calls Satan the ruler of this world in others places as well, see John 14:30; 16:11. Jesus plainly said that his kingdom is not of this world, (John 18:36). So God needs to bring that Kingdom into existence on this earth, the territory into which it will govern and rule.

Other prophecies in the Old Testament show that the Kingdom will be set up on this earth. Isaiah 11 clearly shows that Jesus will rule and Judge. It speaks of the “mountain” which is a symbol of a Kingdom, in this case God’s Kingdom, see Daniel 2:35-45, and Isaiah says, “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.” (v.9). This prophecy speaks of lions and wolves dwelling with lambs and children. Are there lions and wolves up in heaven? No, God is speaking of this earth.

What about laws? What laws will God administer in the Kingdom?

There must be laws in order to administer the kingdom, or else there would be no kingdom at all. The Bible describes in the Kingdom what laws God is going to use, and these are the only perfect laws to use in order for many to get in harmony with God, nature, his neighbour and himself. The laws that God will put in place so that man can have peace, prosperity, love, good relationships, and health, the laws of almighty God that he gave to Moses to administer to Israel. Israel was a type of, and WAS A KINGDOM OF GOD, but it was not THE KINGDOM OF GOD!

Prophecies in the Old Testament especially Isaiah 2 and Micah 4 show that all nations will go up to Jerusalem, and to learn of his ways and his paths. Jesus the great teacher will teach man the commandments of God!

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain [Kingdom] of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and *all nations shall flow unto it.*

“And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall *go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

“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” (Isaiah 2:2-4). The law of God shall go forth from Jerusalem the city of the great King, on his throne ruling on this earth teaching the people of the world God’s law of love.



The Ten Commandments

The laws that God will put in place in the Kingdom, so that man can have peace, prosperity, love, good relationships, and health, the laws of almighty God that he gave to Moses.

Zechariah 14, shows that if people will not go up to Jerusalem to worship the king, and “keep the feast of tabernacles” (14:16), that plagues will come upon those nations. This is how God will rebuke and Judge strong nations and many peoples as Isaiah mentions. This is how God rebuked Egypt in the days of Moses, and God will again do it to them if they do not come and worship the king at the feast.

In Revelation Jesus is said to “judge and make war”(19:11). And “out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should *smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:* and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God” (v.15). Jesus is to rule the nations with a rod of Iron. Is there any question where the kingdom of God is going to be?

A Literal Kingdom

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar, the prophet Daniel interpreted the king’s dreams for him and gave him the interpretation of them. He spoke of a head of Gold, arms of silver, a torso of brass, and legs of Iron. Daniel told him that you are a “king of kings” and that “you are this head of Gold” (Dan 2:37-38). Then he said after you shall “arise another kingdom” (v.39), and then “another third kingdom.” Then the fourth “kingdom shall be strong as iron” (v.40). These were literal kingdoms of Babylon, Persia Greece, and Rome. All had territories, all had laws, and all had rulers.

This fourth Kingdom will continue til the second coming of Jesus Christ. At that time, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven *set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people,* but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

“Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (vv.44-45). The Kingdom of God will consume all these other kingdoms on this earth and shall be here forever. This is a literal kingdom. The context of the verses in Daniel 2 leave no room for alternatives. Daniel 7:27 speaks of that same literal kingdom, “And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom ***under the whole heaven,*** shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and *all dominions shall serve and obey him*” All nations under heaven will serve the great God under his reign on the earth. Jesus will be King, and the saints as co-rulers with him, “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth” (Rev 5:10).

The disciples were told that they would inherit “Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel... That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30).

David is given the job as King over Israel, and will be under the subjection of the King over all the earth Jesus Christ, “And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them” (Ezekiel 37:24).

God will set up a literal kingdom where he will rule over the Earth, and “They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat.” (Rev 7:16). They will learn peace and not “war anymore.” In total contrast to the world that Satan the devil has set up right now. Which ruler do you want over the earth. The one now, or the one that is to come?

Salvation and the Kingdom

Jesus Christ made a statement that has baffled people for millenia. He said that you must be “born again” to see the kingdom of God. “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). To be “born again” we must become “spirit.” This occurs at the second coming of Jesus Christ when he establishes the kingdom of God on this earth. Paul wrote, “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption” (1 Corith 15:50). Flesh and blood, our present condition cannot inherit the kingdom. A change must take place. “...but we shall all be changed,” (v.51). Paul is referring to of course the resurrection. The saints will be change from flesh to spirit, from mortal to immortal, and become the very children of God.

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

“It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

“It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual” (vv.42-46). Only in the new resurrected spirit body can we inherit the kingdom of God.

Notice the parallels Paul uses when it comes to the Kingdom and salvation.

The Corrupt and the incorrupt are our bodies to be resurrected (v.42).

Flesh and blood (corrupt) cannot “inherit” the Kingdom of God (incorruptable), (v.50)

Corruption is mortality, incorruption is immortality, (v.53).

When we are immortal, death is “swallowed up” (v.54), and we live forever. Is it, that the kingdom of God is tied into our salvation some how? Does the Kingdom just mean, God’s rule on this earth, and governing by his laws? No! Its the Gospel of Salvation (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:13). Everything that Christ did, the sacrifice, the teachings, why he was born, the message he brought, everything was for our salvation, so that we may receive eternal life. That we may be resurrected and become immortal, and enter into the kingdom of God. Again, many aspects of the Gospel, but all under one title, the message of the Kingdom of God.

But the message also goes deeper than this?

We are Saved. We are immortal. We are resurrected! We rule with Jesus. We are in the Kingdom. But do people understand what the deeper meaning of the Kingdom means?

Does a Kingdom just mean territory, Laws, and a monarchy? Yes it does mean these things, but the meaning also goes deeper than this. And its as plain as the nose on your face, but people just dont seem to notice it, though they see it all the time in our world today with modern kingdoms.

What is a Kingdom in biblical terms? A kingdom is *a nation or a family of people* that have grown great into an empire. The three words are used interchangeably in the scriptures, “And when they went from nation to nation, and from one kingdom to another people;” (1 Chronicles 16:20; Psalm 105:13).

“And you shall become a *kingdom of priests for Me, a holy nation*. These *are* the words which you shall speak to the sons of Israel” (Exodus 19:6 Literal Translation of the Bible). The three words “kingdom,”

“nation” and “people” are in the Hebrew “mamlakah,” Kingdom, “goy,” nation, “am,” people. Strong’s numbers 4467, 1471, 5971.

Vines Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, writes, “The basic meaning of mamlakah is the area and **people that constitute a kingdom... mamlakah is a synonym for ‘am’ ‘people,’ and ‘goy’ ‘nation’**...(Psalm 105:13)...” (p.129, emphasis added).

Under “nation” it says, “So ‘goy’ represents a *group of individuals who are considered as a unit with respect to origin, language, language, land, jurisprudence, and government.* This emphasis is in Gen 10:5 (the first occurrence): ‘By these were the isles of the Gentiles divided in their lands; every one after his tongue, after their families, in their nations....’” (ibid., p.159, emphasis added).

Under “people” it says, “‘am (ov, 5971), ‘people; relative....’ First, ‘am represents a *familial relationship.* In Ruth 3:11 the word means ‘male kinsmen...’ In the plural the word refers to *all the individuals who are related to a person through his father:* ‘But he shall not defile himself, being a chief man among his people, to profane himself’ (Lev. 21:4)....

“Third, this word may refer to the whole of a *nation formed and united primarily by their descent from a common ancestor. Such a group have strong blood ties and social interrelationships and interactions...* This the significance of the word in its first biblical appearance: “And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language ..” (Gen. 11:6). *Hence, in this usage am’ refers not simply to male relatives but to men, women, and children.*” (ibid., pp.174-75, emphasis added). Clearly the bible shows that a kingdom is a FAMILY of people that has grown great into a nation. Isn’t interesting that the Bible says that the church of God is called his “nation” (see 1 Peter 2:9). And that we are to become children of God literally! That at the resurrection we are to be BORN INTO GOD’S FAMILY!

“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Those who are born are “born of the spirit” and they are “spirit” (John 3:6). We become spirit at the resurrection of the saints, “It is sown a natural body; *it is raised a spiritual body.* There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

“Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual...Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

“For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1 Corinthians 15:44-46, 50-53). At the time of his coming a new birth is going to happen, the birth of God’s people, his church to be born into his family, nation, or Kingdom. Notice how the book of Hebrews expresses it: “In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy [Christ] and those who are made holy [repentant and converted human beings] are *of the same family*” (Hebrews 2:10-11, NIV). We are in the same family as God the Father, and Jesus, the Son. This family, or nation or Kingdom that we must enter by birth which is done through the resurrection.

Eternal life is the message of gospel, the gospel of the Kingdom, the good news that God is going to resurrect his saints into his family, and then bring that family down to this earth to rule and reign on this earth, then there will be peace, God's family WILL RULE not SATAN THE DEVIL (2 Corith 4:4), this is the good news! "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth" (Revelation 5:10). Do you grasp it? Your purpose on this earth is to be born again into God's family, to be a KING-PRIEST and rule on this earth! *God is reproducing after his own kind*, and you can be a part of that family-Kingdom. Don't waste anymore time, live by the ways of the Kingdom. Love and worship the King, and you will live and reign with him forever, and "*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:7). (*For a full explanation of this topic read our booklet, What is the purpose of human life?*).

Other Arguments

1). Is the Church the Kingdom?

Some think the Church is the Kingdom of God. Although there is a connection between the two, they are not identical. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22), which is the body of believers called by God to proclaim the coming Kingdom.

Christ rules His Church, thus it is under His sovereignty and royal power. We might say the Church is the precursor of the coming Kingdom of God. Or, to put it in terms that Jesus Christ used, we can say that the Kingdom of God is similar to the proverbial mustard seed, waiting for its germination and rapid growth at Jesus' return (Matthew 13:31-32). Right now the kingdom or family of God that rules consists of the Father and the Son. But when Jesus returns it will be composed of multiple millions of resurrected saints born into his family. This is the meaning of the parable. But as for the church right now, they are not resurrected, they do not rule the nations with a rod of iron, and Jesus is not literally there with them but only in spirit, through the Holy Spirit he dwells with his people. The church right now is PREPARING to become kings and priests in the future. it is still in the seed, and has not fully germinated yet.

2) Is the Kingdom of God Here-Now?

Shortly before His arrest, trial and crucifixion, Jesus Christ prophesied of worldwide period of upheaval and unrest unparalleled in human history.

This time would be characterized by religious deception, warfare, earthquakes, famines and disease epidemics, along with other great catastrophic events (Luke 21:7-28). In this discourse, Christ made it plain that the Kingdom God was not here yet.

He told His disciples that, after these events, people "will see the Son Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory . . . When you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near" (verses 27,31). Christ clearly said that the Kingdom of God will not be established on earth until *after* His triumphant return in power and great glory.

Christ also made this plain on other occasions. How many of us have recited the Lord's Prayer without recognizing the plain meaning of the words as we said them? These familiar words were given by Jesus

Christ in response to the disciples' request of Him to teach them how to pray. "In manner, therefore, pray," Jesus Christ told them. "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. *Your kingdom come . . .*" (Matthew 6:9-10). The most common prayer in Christendom acknowledges that God's Kingdom is not here yet and that Christians to fervently pray for its arrival!

Near the end of His life, while being questioned by Pilate before His crucifixion, Jesus clearly stated: "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*" (John 18:36). Pilate then demanded to know if Christ were a king. Christ replied: "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world . . ." (verse 37).

Hebrews 11 describes the faith of God's servants through the millennia. Summing up their history and experiences, verses 13-16 tell us: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for *He has prepared a city for them.*" Even Abraham, the father of the faithful, "waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Hebrews 11:10).

Although God's people today experience a foretaste of God's coming Kingdom in their lives (see "How Are We 'Translated Into the Kingdom'?", p. 20), many scriptures make it clear that the Kingdom of God has not arrived, but will be established on earth in the future. (*quotes from UCG booklet the Gospel of the Kingdom*).

3). *The Kingdom is "with in" you?*

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is "within you" (Luke 17:21). With this statement, many people believe that the kingdom only exists in the hearts and minds of men.

Such assumptions are incorrect for several reasons. The Greek word *entos*, translated "within," is better translated "in the midst of" (*Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, 1985, "Within"). Several translations, including the New American Standard Bible, Modern King James Version and Green's Literal Translation, translate Christ's words as "the kingdom of God is in your midst."

Jesus could not have meant that the kingdom was in their hearts. The Pharisees wanted to destroy him, (Matthew 12:14; Mark 3:6).

Instead, in this passage Christ was pointing out the paradox that the Pharisees did not have the spiritual discernment to recognize that the message of the Kingdom of God was at hand or being offered to them (Matthew 23:15-17). To punctuate this point, Jesus, referring to Himself, said "the kingdom of God is among you" (New Revised Standard Version, New Jerusalem Bible, New American Bible, New English Bible). The spiritually blind Pharisees did not recognize Jesus as the divine Representative of that Kingdom.

Rather than telling the Pharisees that the Kingdom of God was something in their hearts, Jesus Christ warned them that they were so spiritually blind they couldn't recognize the very personification of that Kingdom in Him.

There is no basis in this passage for believing the Kingdom of God resides in one's heart. (*quotes from the Gospel of the Kingdom by UCG*).