

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD

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Preface

We steam through our days hoping tomorrow will be better than today without acknowledging the fact that change is the only constant in life. Tomorrow will be different. We can perform a task at our maximum potential only for someone more knowledgeable to point out our errors. Trusting in our own understanding, can be compared to a bridge waiting to fall. When we make our ears obedient, finding the answers to these questions could put us on a smooth path through life. What is the purpose of life? Are we alive just to eat, sleep, work, enjoy the pleasures of life, build families, go through the ups and downs of life and in the process destroy one another?

Have you ever considered these questions or similar? Or are the trials and tribulations of this life, including social interactions and the joys of entertainment overtaking and keeping you from pondering on these questions? Could there be a greater purpose for our lives? Some will say no-one knows the answer to this question, but you will be startled when you realise that many have already come to the knowledge of our existence.

We are always confronted with only two options in everything we do and there is always a fraction of a second (the awesome speed at which our minds work), for us to think before we act. It is the same with our lives. We have been given the opportunity to choose one from two options. But what could these two options be? Many have yet to come to this revelation.

Assuredly, we all have an appointment to keep with death, but there are some who will not taste death in our generation. There is a simple answer to the question, what is the purpose of life? It is to qualify for everlasting life since life in this age is tarnished by death. You will be amazed by the simplicity of this concept, but it is also the most profound and difficult to grasp if your mind has not been opened to it.

If you are puzzled and are itching to find out more, surely, by the end of this study, your mind will be enlightened to truth.

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Chapter One

INTRODUCTION

We live in an amazing galaxy of planets which did not spring out of evolution as many have been led to believe. There is sufficient order on this planet for anyone of a sound mind to affirm, it is not a product of evolution. We all know nothing can spring out of nothing and if that is the case, then the Creator of the earth must have a purpose for the earth, not just as a playing field for violence, selfishness, perversity, vile acts, greed, disobedience, murder, and more. Contrary to common knowledge, we all belong to God, regardless of our beliefs.

Ezekiel 18:1-4 New King James Version

¹The word of the LORD came to me again, saying, ²“What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying: ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³“As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel. ⁴“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

The last sentence from the above passage of Scripture is the key to life. If we all belong to the almighty God, who created everything that is on earth and in the seas, and we can see the diligence and wisdom that has gone into His creation, would you not be led to believe that God has a greater purpose for our lives and for the earth? Can we find out what God’s will is for His creation? Surely, there is no creation without a manual. Life comes with a manual and all the questions we might have, has already been answered in the manual for life, the word of God, the Holy Scriptures.

From the Holy Scriptures we will conclude that our existence is geared towards choosing to be part of the Kingdom of God. We must be certain of this one thing; God will perform His will at the appointed time regardless of our choices. We are a privileged generation of people, but many of us are ignorant of what has happened in the past and what God has said He will do in the future (prophecy). We are being led astray by teachers, who themselves were not diligent in their studies. Due diligence will keep us from the error of following wrong doctrines.

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There is only one truth we should all trust, the word of God. God the Father sent the Lord Jesus Christ full of grace (the Spirit of God), and truth to explain the meaning of life and God's will, but many have disdained His words. The Lord Jesus Christ started His ministry with a call to repentance, saying the Kingdom of God is at hand, which means it is of paramount importance to us. But who has ears to hear? The Lord made a statement which has been overlooked by many of us:

Matthew 6:30-33 New King James Version

³⁰ Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹ "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

In this passage of Scripture, we are being admonished to seek first the kingdom of God, but most importantly God's righteousness. We must be certain it is God's righteousness, not our own righteousness. The command to seek first the Kingdom of God is the qualifier to life and there is a promise attached to it. Everything we need will be added to us. The Lord is aware of all our needs even before we can acknowledge them.

As mentioned earlier, the Lord Jesus Christ came on earth to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God. We know the word gospel means a thing that is absolutely truth. The Lord also commissioned the apostles to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God:

Acts 1:1-3 New King James Version

1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ² until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³ 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.

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Even after the Lord's resurrection, He still taught the apostle about the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, which means the gospel, the truth about the Kingdom of God is of paramount importance. Paul, who was dramatically called by the Lord on His way to Damascus was given awesome revelations of the truth by the Lord, to preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God:

Acts 28:30-31 New King James Version

³⁰ 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.

This is proof that not only the disciples, but also the apostle Paul preached the same gospel of the Kingdom of God. They could not have preached any other gospel because they were taught by the Lord and empowered by the Spirit of God. Today, the churches of this world preach many contrasting gospels contrary to what the Lord had commissioned His disciples, and many are blindly following these lies. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Galatians 1:6-9 New King James Version

⁶ I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, ⁷ which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸ 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.

Take heed with what you hear. Prosperity, grace, and about the person of Jesus Christ are all facets of the gospel of the Kingdom of God; if preached according to the Holy Scripture but does not make them the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Any other gospel apart from the gospel of the Kingdom of God is preaching in vain because there is no truth in it and those who preach these gospels are under a curse.

Before we can fully appreciate the truth about the kingdom of God, we must first fully understand these questions:

- What is God's will?

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- Is the Kingdom of God within us?
- Is the Kingdom of God here on earth now?
- Is it our responsibility to implement the Kingdom of God here on earth?

As our understanding of the Kingdom of God is being enlightened, the answers to the above questions will become clear. We must first acknowledge the meaning of the word kingdom.

A kingdom comprises of four facets:

- A king who rules over subjects
- The people of that kingdom
- The land in which the people dwell
- The laws that govern the subjects

The Kingdom of God is no different. It comprises of a King, his people, His land, and the laws that govern His people. If this is the case, how can so many be led to believe that the Kingdom of God is within the hearts of professing believers? Deception is not like a wall we cannot see through to the other side. Deception is very subtle.

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Chapter Two

WHAT IS GOD'S WILL?

The entirety of the Holy Scriptures from the book of Genesis chapter one to chapter twenty-two of the book of Revelation is a detailed account of God's will for His creation. The word of God is unique in its design. There are keys in the Holy Scriptures which act as aids to help us comprehend the awesome will of God. We must understand that the Bible explains itself. If you come across a passage of Scripture which is unclear in one book, be certain of the fact that there is an expounding of that passage of Scripture in another book of the Bible.

Furthermore, no topic, doctrine or prophecy can stand alone and has been given to us in its entirety in one passage of Scripture. Every truth has been dismantled into little chunks and scattered throughout the Bible, in fulfilment of the phrase, "here a little there a little". If we could reiterate, God's will is simply God's plan, commands, and expectations for his creation. From the first day when God created man, that is both male and female on earth, He also gave them His will. These were the instructions which was to govern life here on earth. Those who were created were not children but men and women with pure spirits and minds, who also fully understood what they were instructed to do:

Genesis 1:26-28 New King James Version

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

From day one, God told them to be fruitful and multiply. Every man had a wife, (God created them in pairs, male and female), and they knew the importance of what God had instructed them. This was when the Lord our God also established the institution of marriage. They were also given a commission to subdue the earth, that is to work.

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Genesis 2:24 New King James Version

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

As you can see, this was the first command the Lord our God gave man at the beginning. This commandment was followed closely by another. First, we must remember this is God's will for His creation and secondly, it was given to all of mankind, not to a particular tribe or nation:

Genesis 2:1-3 New King James Version

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

The Sabbath day was made Holy, sanctified for every soul from that day and forever, when God finished His work on the sixth day. It is God's will that we all rest on the Sabbath day. The Sabbath day is from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday, which has been set apart for all, not just for a particular nation or tribe. From these Scriptures, we begin to realise that God's will is not in one book but distributed through the entirety of the Holy Scriptures. As we study through the Holy Scriptures, we encounter detailed accounts of God's plan for His creation including our days. In the book of the prophet Isaiah, we understand that the animals will also be changed:

Isaiah 11:5-9 New King James Version

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. ⁶ "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. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. ⁹ 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.

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If you were wondering what it will be like in the future, in only a few years, the above passage of Scripture paints a perfect picture of what to expect amongst the animals. This is what God had intended it to be, but we had to go through this age first. In the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul was inspired to expound on God's will for His people:

Ephesians 1:3-12 New King James Version

³*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ⁵having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.*

⁷*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace ⁸which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, ⁹having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. ¹¹In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, ¹²that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory.*

This passage of Scripture gives us a greater understanding of God's plan for salvation, but this is just one part of it. Without being converted into the household of God, which is the commonwealth of Israel, we risk not being able to see and then enter the Kingdom of God:

Ephesians 2:11-22 New King James Version

¹¹*Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹²that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

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¹⁴For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

When we fully understand the content of the above passage of Scripture, it gives knowledge of the importance of obeying God's commandments and will. We cannot fabricate our own will and impose it on God. We must remember that God sets the precedence. We all have the same starting point because we have all fallen short of God's glory and standards. Some would say, they are the descendants of Abraham or they were born in the church of God, but the question remains, who has not sinned?

The prophet Isaiah was given this prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ before He came into the world as the Messiah, which also outlines what will happen on earth at the end of this age:

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version

⁶For 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, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of 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.

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The Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth and establish an everlasting government that will rule the world forever according to God's plan. To summarise, there is a passage of Scripture in the book of the prophet Isaiah chapter two, that gives us a clarity of God's will for the earth. To emphasise the point, the Lord our God inspired the prophet Micah to record the same prophecy in the book of Micah, chapter four:

Isaiah 2:2-4 New King James Version

² Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. ³ Many people 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 shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; 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.

The mountain of the Lord's house is the government, the authority, the Kingdom of God being established here on earth. Every nation on earth will come under God's authority. God has already set His King who will rule over the entire earth. The Lord Jesus Christ is the One God has ordained king, but He had to come into the world first as a child and die for our sins, making it possible for mankind to be included in God's Kingdom:

Psalms 2:4-9 New King James Version

⁴ He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵ Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶ "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion." ⁷ "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

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Every prophecy the Lord our God has given us through His prophets from the beginning until the days of John the Baptist has been geared towards the establishment of the Kingdom of God here on earth and beyond. It is also part of the model prayer the Lord gave in the book of Matthew chapter six. But what is the gospel, the truth about the Kingdom of God?

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Chapter Three

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The moral and social standards of the nations is accelerating into decadence at an unprecedented rate, but some thrive on these abominable acts being perpetrated throughout the world. Is there any good news coming out of any nation of the world today? For some, all they can see is hardship, lack of food, nowhere to sleep, wars and violence. Even those who are in a relatively safe environment, their own families and friends treat them with contempt. It is incredibly sad to hear the stories of the lives of many around the world today. There are those who are living in prosperity, who would say the world is in great shape, but is it? Some say they are good. Are they? According to who's standard? Were we created to be self-isolating, to walk around with a face covering, social distancing, to refrain from embracing, not showing any affection? Covid-19 has completely changed life on earth, but not in a good way. Why may we ask?

There is good news which many have chosen to ignore so they can follow their heart's imagination and the traditions of this world. This news has always been with us since the beginning but who can hear it? Today, if you should mention the Kingdom of God in some quarters, you will be scorned at. Many have been deceived to believe that there is no God. There are also those who believe in a god but not in the only ever living true God. Look around the world and it will become obvious. To some, their children, houses, careers, wood and stone in all shapes and sizes are their gods.

Why is the world in such a pitiful state? Why is there unprecedented wickedness and suffering amongst the nations? Why is there so much violence and hatred even amongst families? We can find the answers to these questions in the book of Genesis. When God almighty decided to create man, He created man in His image and likeness. For that to be possible, He had to give mankind a free will to be able to choose between two options. God gave the first ruler of the world His laws and commandments and an alternative to His laws and commandments. This is what we see around the world today:

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Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version

¹⁵ Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

When God formed the garden of Eden, He also placed in the midst of it, two trees. One represented His way of life. This is the tree of life, and an alternative to His way of life, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

Genesis 2:8-9 New King James Version

⁸ The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Both trees are empowered by immensely powerful Beings. The Lord Jesus Christ who is the Creator, the giver of life, is the power behind the tree of life, while Satan the Devil, the created, the author of death, is empowering the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Since God gave Adam the first ruler of the world, the free will to make his own choices, God also allowed him to be tested so he could exercise his free will, hence, the temptations of Satan the Devil (the serpent). We must notice the fact that Adam had already been tempted by Satan but did not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam exercised his free will and chose to eat of the fruit when he saw Eve was still alive after eating the fruit which was against what God had commanded him:

Genesis 3:1-7 New King James Version

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

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⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

When Adam chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, death entered the world and he died spiritually in an instant. But his physical death was slow, it lasted his lifetime. However, another process kicked in at the same time. Adam's Kingdom was then given to Satan the Devil by God who owns everything. As a result, Satan could perform His will on the earth within certain constraints. He quickly imposed his character on the earth, what we see all around us today. Every human being who has ever existed, except One has had Satan's character ingrained in their hearts, the law of sin. This is not to be taken lightly. This is the reason why we are all prone to sin more than to do righteousness. This is proof that Satan is the ruler of this age:

Luke 4:5-7 New King James Version

⁵Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

The Lord did not challenge Satan when he made this statement because it is true. Satan must have known that if he could tempt the Lord to disobey God's commandments, he will remain the ruler of the earth forever. We cannot even begin to fathom what went on during the Lord's temptation over those forty days and forty nights.

The nature of Satan, which we also commonly known as human nature, causes us to continually act in disobedience to the laws and commandments of God. Only One man, the Lord Jesus Christ has been able to withstand the temptations of Satan throughout His entire life. This is the reason why the world is in such a confused state. All our leaders, from the smallest to the greatest are all ministers of Satan. The proof is in the decisions they make.

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We are not exempted because we also make some very foolish decisions. But there is good in some of the things we do. What then is the gospel, the truth about the Kingdom of God?

The gospel of the Kingdom of God incorporates four distinct sections which are all coherently linked. No section can be overlooked because it will lead to serious error. To summarise, the gospel or the truth about the Kingdom of God is the fact that at the appointed time to fulfil God's will, God will send His King, the Lord Jesus Christ to return to earth and establish God's government. Moreover, we have been given an opportunity to be part of God's Kingdom through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, the truth about the Kingdom of God is the fact that, at the appointed time everything, including the earth will come under God's authority. The Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth and establish God's laws and commandments which we and our leaders have systematically eroded from the face of the earth. It is for this reason, why the Lord taught us to pray for God's kingdom to come:

Matthew 6:7-10 New King James Version

⁷And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸“Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

We must first acknowledge the fact that God's will has already been done in heaven. Those who understand are waiting for the Lord to come and establish His will here on earth as it is in heaven. That is why we have been instructed to pray for God's Kingdom to be established here on earth. Ironically, many pray for God's kingdom to come but in the next breath they proclaim that they will be going off to heaven to be with the Lord forever, while the Lord will be here on earth. To grasp the whole concept of the Kingdom of God or of heaven, which is the same Kingdom, we must understand the meaning of this parable:

Matthew 13:24-30 New King James Version

²⁴Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; ²⁵but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. ²⁶But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then

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the tares also appeared. ²⁷ So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' ²⁸ He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' ²⁹ But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." ' ' "

When the Lord was pressed by His disciples for the meaning of this parable, He duly gave the interpretation. We must understand the fact that most of the parables in the Holy Scriptures hold vital information about the Kingdom of God, and they are only open to those who worship God the Father in spirit and truth.

Matthew 13:36-43 New King James Version

³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field." ³⁷ He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. ³⁸ The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹ The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

We all speak of the end of age or the end times. This in a few words is God's will for the end of age. Where is the good news in all of this? Here is the good news. Everything, which also means all that offend and those who practice lawlessness will be removed from the earth and cast into the lake of fire. Only the righteous, those who are obedient to God's laws and commandments will be left on the earth. As you can clearly see, all four elements that constitutes a kingdom are present in this parable. The Lord is the Great King, the world is the territory, the righteous are His people, governed by the laws and commandments of God. In the book of Revelation, we read:

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Revelation 19:11-16 New King James Version

¹¹ 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.

This is in fulfilment of the Scripture in the book of the prophet Habakkuk:

Habakkuk 2:2-4 New King James Version

² Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision And make it plain on tablets, That he may run who reads it. ³ For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. ⁴ "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.

These passages of the Holy Scriptures were written hundreds of years ago, but the Lord is saying although it has been a long while; it will come to pass as it was prophesied. In fact, before the Lord returns to rule over the earth, the events the Lord has proposed to come and overtake the earth are dreadful and we should be petrified. Not many have acknowledged the content of these passages of Scripture.

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Chapter Four

GOD HAS ALREADY APPOINTED HIS KING TO RULE OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH

We serve a God whose wisdom, understanding and knowledge is infinite. Our God is diligent. God took into consideration every microscopic details, set them in order before He created the heavens and the earth. If what we call the simple cell is a complex organism that can perform multi-functions many of us cannot begin to fathom, then the Creator of the simple cell, our God should be exalted above all, but many have chosen to worship wood and stones, the works of their hands. We must all understand that our God is not confined by space or time and can never be like us. God, whose awesome mind is without restriction created these boundaries for reasons we cannot imagine because of our limited minds.

Even before God created man on the earth, He knew man will fall if given a free will to make righteous judgements, nevertheless in combination with an adversary whose sole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. The word of truth stipulates that before God created the heavens and the earth, He had already appointed His King who will rule over the earth on His holy hill of Zion:

Psalm 2:4-8 New King James Version

⁴He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The Lord shall hold them in derision. ⁵Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: ⁶“Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” ⁷“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are my Son, Today I have begotten You. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

God’s appointed King was also tempted to exercise His free will in the same manner as Adam, God’s first King. Adam lost his kingdom when he willingly chose to eat of the fruit God had commanded him not to eat. When Adam fell, God gave the earth to Satan who had enticed Adam to disobey God’s commandment. When we look at life from man’s perspective, we sometimes ponder on this question; what if God had placed only the tree of life in the garden of Eden? If it were so, Adam would never have had the chance to exercise his free will. We all go through the same trial today in the same manner as Adam, Eve and the Lord Jesus Christ. On the day Adam fell, God’s plan for the restoration of all things

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started when He placed enmity between the seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman:

Genesis 3:14-15 New King James Version

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵ And 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."

God sent Adam and Eve out of the garden of Eden to prevent them from eating off the tree of life and live forever in a carnal state. You can see the practicality in how God works. He placed the difference between life and death in a fruit:

Genesis 3:22-24 New King James Version

²² Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

God placed the cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden including a flaming sword not to stop man from returning into the garden of Eden, but to protect the path to the tree of life from the Serpent, Satan the Devil. This is the path God used to start the restoration of all things and to bring into the world His appointed King.

God's restoration plan began with the calling of Abram who later became Abraham. Abraham was blessed when He obeyed God's voice. This was a unique blessing. God promised Abraham that through his seed, the whole world will be blessed. One part of the blessing is that God's appointed King, will come from the descendants of Abraham to restore all things:

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Genesis 22:15-18 New King James Version

¹⁵ Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, ¹⁶ and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— ¹⁷ blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Because Abraham obeyed God's laws, commandments, statutes, voice and kept the Lord's charge, he is called the father of faith. Why would anyone today be led to believe that the laws and commandments of God have been made void by the same God who issued them? During the days of the prophet Isaiah, the Lord God gave us this prophecy so that today, we can retrospectively see how God's plan was to be implemented here on earth:

Isaiah 9:6-7 New King James Version

⁶ 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, Counsellor, 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.

This prophecy is about God's appointed King coming into the world to perfect His will. God's King had to come into the world as a human being to fulfil His promise to His friend Abraham. The fulfilment of this prophecy came on the day the three wise men came into Jerusalem looking for the King of the Jews:

Matthew 2:1-8 New King James Version

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

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⁵ So they said to him, *“In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”*

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, *“Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”*

The Lord our God also sent angels to witness to some shepherds about the arrival of His King into the world at the time He had appointed:

Luke 2:8-18 New King James Version

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, *“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths lying in a manger.”* ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ *“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”* ¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, *“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”* ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marvelled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

The Lord our God did not perform His will quietly. Everyone in Jerusalem and these shepherds knew that God’s appointed King had entered the world to begin the process of restoring the Kingdom of God here on earth, but He too had to first qualify just like any one of us today. It is critical that we understand God’s mind on this point. It is a matter of choice

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for everyone who is born of a woman. The Lord Jesus Christ had to choose to obey God's laws and commandments, exercising His free will. It is the same choice we must make today.

The Lord's ultimate test to qualify as the ruler over the entire earth came when He had to face the present ruler of the earth, Satan the Devil. This came after the Lord had just been baptised by John the Baptist and was led by the Spirit of God into the wilderness:

Luke 4:1-13 New King James Version

¹ Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. ⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours."

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.' "

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' ¹¹ and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' "

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' " ¹³ Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

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This is the greatest battle that has ever been fought anywhere in God's creation with or without weapons. It was thy battle of faith that changed the cause of our existence. The price for the winner was a small matter of eternal life in the Kingdom of God, or eternal torment in the lake of fire. If Satan had succeeded as he did over Adam, we would have been doomed forever because the Lord our God had no other redeemer waiting in line to perform His will. We must be grateful and be very thankful to the Lord Jesus Christ for overcoming Satan. Thereafter, God's plan for the restoration of all things started earnestly. According to the passage of Scripture in the book of Genesis, Satan did bruise the Lord's heel, but the Lord will crush Satan's head and because the Lord lives, we will live too:

John 14:19 New King James Version

¹⁹ "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."

Is there a particular reason why the Lord had to endure the cross? If the Lord had defeated Satan to qualify as ruler over the entire earth, why thereafter did He have to be crucified? The simple reason is for all those who choose to repent, forgive others who have trespassed against them and are converted into the Kingdom of God to be free from the curse of death. Without being washed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, no one can be justified in God's sight.

By overcoming the world, the Lord will be inaugurated as God's King over the entire earth at the appointed time:

Revelation 5:1-10 New King James Version

¹ And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

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⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. ⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“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, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

But first the Lord had to endure the shameful death on the cross. Just imagine the created beating up their Creator and hanging Him on the cross to die:

Mark 15:25-39 New King James Version

²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His accusation was written above:

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²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “And He was numbered with the transgressors.” ²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!”

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.” Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him. ³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

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³⁵Some of those who stood by, when they heard that, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."

³⁷And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last. ³⁸Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

The understanding of this parable, should enlighten our minds of the truth about the Kingdom of God:

Luke 19:11-27 New King James Version

¹¹Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

¹²Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. ¹³So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'¹⁴ But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

¹⁵"And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. ¹⁶Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'¹⁹ Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

²⁰"Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief. ²¹For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'²² And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I

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did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow. ²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?’

²⁴ “And he said to those who stood by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.’ ²⁵ (But they said to him, ‘Master, he has ten minas.’) ²⁶ ‘For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ²⁷ But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.’ ”

This parable explains what the Lord has proposed to happen here on earth. Many are adamant they will be going to heaven, being ignorant about what God has already said. The Lord has determined a series of events to happen here on earth at the end of age when all things will be restored accorded to God’s will.

According to God’s will, the just will be separated from the unrighteous, those who chosen to practise lawlessness. These include all those who have not acknowledge the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ and do not obey God’s laws and commandments. It is not about religion nor is it about a particular church. It is about God’s will which is the only truth. If we have no knowledge of these events and cannot be told otherwise, how are we going to overcome these events without the Lord’s protection?

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Chapter Five

THE PRICE THE LORD HAD TO PAY FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It is imperative we recognise the fact that even for God the Father (the Creator of all things), to establish His Kingdom here on earth came at a cost. The cost was the life of His only begotten Son, who through Him the heavens and the earth were created. In the Holy Scriptures, we understand that before the heavens and the earth were created, God the Father had already established His King to rule the earth from His holy hill of Zion. We also must acknowledge the fact that only God's King, the Lord Jesus Christ can redeem mankind and the world from the authority of Satan the Devil. God the Father Has given the Lord Jesus Christ certain duties He must perform before He could be inauguration as King over the entire earth.

The prophet Daniel was given a comprehensive account of the duties the Lord Jesus Christ must perform in His first and second coming before He can return to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth:

Daniel 9:24 New King James Version

²⁴ "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy And to anoint the Most Holy.

From the above passage of Scripture, it is unmistakeable to notice that only one of the above duties has been completely fulfilled so far. The Lord has made reconciliation for our sins. In the gospel of Luke, we read about the fulfilment of a prophecy from the book of the prophet Isaiah, detailing the tasks the Lord had to perform in His first coming. We must be attentive to the fact that the Lord stopped in the middle of the prophecy from the book of Isaiah chapter sixty-one, verses one to three:

Luke 4:17-21 New King James Version

¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives

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And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Lord went through the land of Judea preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God for three and a half years which is a shadow of the length of time the gospel will be preached to the whole House of Israel after the Lord has brought back the captivity of His people. The above passage of Scripture is the fulfilment of this prophecy:

Isaiah 53: 1-12 New King James Version

¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD ^[a] has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the

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strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

For us to be able to enter the Kingdom of God, the Lord had to fulfil the above prophecy. For this reason, several events on the day of crucifixion are covered in the above passage of Scripture. It is the Lord who gives life, that is the Spirit that is in every human being:

John 1:9 New King James Version

⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He descended from heaven into His creation to pay the price for the sins of everyone that has ever lived. This passage of Scripture expresses the fact that because God loves the world, He has paid the price for our transgression with the life of His own Son:

John 3:11-17 New King James Version

¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness. ¹² If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. ¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

As Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness, and those who were bitten by the snakes which had infiltrated their camps looked up to it and were healed:

Numbers 21:5-9 New King James Version

⁵ And the people spoke against God and against Moses: "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and our soul loathes this worthless bread." ⁶ So the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of the people of Israel died. ⁷ Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD that He take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

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⁸ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.”⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent, and put it on a pole; and so it was, if a serpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

So, have we all been grievously bitten by the serpent who has caused all of us to transgress God’s laws and commandments as he did from the beginning with Eve and then the children of Israel in the wilderness. Satan has even given all of us his nature. We are all too quick to disobey the laws and commandments of God and to do evil. To do good is far from us, but most professing believers know that the wages of sin is death:

Romans 6:23 New King James Version

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God’s gift to the world is the life of His Son. There is no better gift than the gift of life. That is the price the Lord Jesus Christ had to pay for the Kingdom of God, but we have a choice to make. If we believe in the Son of God and do His commandments, we are certainly going to pass from death into life, everlasting life:

John 5:24-29 New King James Version

²⁴ “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The Lord has fully paid the price for our habitation, which is the earth (man was designed to only live on the earth), and for our wellbeing here on earth in this age and in the next, eternal life. Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Matthew 19:27-30 New King James Version

²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" ²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ²⁹ And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. ³⁰ But many who are first will be last, and the last first.

The Lord is clear about His promises and His word is truth. if you are not convinced about the above passage of Scripture ponder on these few words:

John 10:7-10 New King James Version

⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Abundant life comes when we are converted into the Kingdom of God, the Body of Christ. This is when we become doers of the laws and commandments of God. Just hearing and being knowledgeable is not good enough.

The ultimate price the Lord has paid for us is our reconciliation to God the Father whose laws and commandments we have transgressed which came at the cost of His life.

Ephesians 2:11-22 New King James Version

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of

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commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Because the Lord has paid the price for our sins, we now have access to God the Father through His Spirit that dwells in the believer. This is just a small proportion of the price God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ has paid for the Kingdom of God and for us. Moreover, consider this promise:

Psalm 103:10-14 New King James Version

*¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him;
¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. ¹⁴ For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.*

Our God and Father is a merciful God and at the appointed time, He will perform His good pleasure towards us and carry out His promises. God has already paid the costly price, but we must choose to be part of His Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

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Chapter Six

WHAT IS MAN'S PURPOSE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

Is there a purpose for our lives? At the beginning of this study, we mentioned this question, but the answer was not made clear. In this chapter, the answer to the reasons for our lives in this age will be made abundantly clear. The Lord Jesus Christ has already paid the price for us to live eternally. When we come to the knowledge of the truth, we must choose to be in the Kingdom of God; not according to our laws, commandments, traditions, statutes, and judgements but according to the path God has prescribed, through all His servants, the prophets. We have the tendency to start projects, but we never diligently follow it through to completion, especially when it is important for our lives.

If we call the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords and the King of kings, it means there are other lords and kings who are to reign with Him here on earth. There is a passage of Scripture which gives us a clear understanding of what God has in store for us:

John 1:12-13 New King James Version

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Lord was called the Son of God. God is in the process of expanding His family and He is seeking those who must worship Him in spirit and truth. It is not about just believing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The devils also believe and tremble because they know who the Lord is. Most of us profess to know Him but the reality is, we do not; because it requires action from us in changing our mind-sets and putting into practice in our daily lifestyles what the Lord has recommended that we do. The Lord has promised to give those who sincerely believe in His name and do His commandments the power to become sons, or children of God but we must follow the prescribed path:

Romans 8:12-15 New King James Version

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are

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sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

When we sincerely repent (turning away from a life of disobedience to God's laws and commandments), and the Lord gives us His Spirit, we must first be converted into the Kingdom of God through the process of sanctification (being set apart by the truth), the word of God is truth. Understanding the truth gives us knowledge to grow in the Spirit of God. We must then be led by the Spirit of God, only then could we become the sons of God at the appointed time. The Lord has promised to establish His Kingdom here on earth:

Romans 8:18-21 New King James Version

¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

The whole of creation is eagerly waiting for the day the Lord will establish the Kingdom of God on earth. It will be at this stage that God the Father will put everything in the heavens and on earth under the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has promised to call all those who have qualified from the earth His brethren:

Hebrews 2:5-12 New King James Version

⁵ For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. ⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?" ⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honour, And set him over the works of Your hands. ⁸ You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. ⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

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¹⁰ For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, ¹² saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."

The Lord had to come into the world as a human being to enable mankind to enter the Kingdom of God. The Lord was baptised by John the Baptist to fulfil the requirement of the law of God, but we must remember the Lord did not sin. When the Lord died and was resurrected after three days because death had no power over Him, He was able to see and to enter the Kingdom of God because He was born of the Spirit of God. While the Lord was on earth, He prayed to God the Father that His disciples and all those who will believe in the Him through their word to also behold the glory that He had before He became a man:

John 17:20-26 New King James Version

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

That glory will be to perform certain duties here on earth. Consider this passage of Scripture:

1 Corinthians 6:1-7 New King James Version

¹ Dare any of you, having a matter against another, go to law before the unrighteous, and not before the saints? ² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the

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world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life?⁴ If then you have judgments concerning things pertaining to this life, do you appoint those who are least esteemed by the church to judge?

⁵I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you, not even one, who will be able to judge between his brethren?⁶ But brother goes to law against brother, and that before unbelievers!⁷ Now therefore, it is already an utter failure for you that you go to law against one another. Why do you not rather accept wrong? Why do you not rather let yourselves be cheated?

The apostle Paul was inspired to inform those who will qualify to be part of the Kingdom of God that they will also be judges on the earth at the appointed time, including judging the angels.

The Lord had given us an account of what will happen at the end of this age through the prophet Daniel, expounding on the Lord's prayer. These details give us a clear indication of the events surrounding the period when the Lord will fulfil the purpose He has for our lives:

Daniel 12:1-4 New King James Version

¹ "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever. ⁴ "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

At the end of this age, the wise will be resurrected into everlasting life while the rest to shame and everlasting contempt. The apostle Paul was inspired to give more details on how the events surrounding the resurrection will unfold:

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1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 New King James Version

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

This passage of Scripture explains that, those who have died believing in the Lord and those who are still alive at the time of the resurrection will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord. There is no indication of the timing. However, we are given the timing of this event in this passage of Scripture:

1 Corinthians 15:50-54 New King James Version

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. ⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

At the last trumpet, which is the seventh trumpet in the book of Revelation, man’s purpose for life in this age will be fulfilled. It will be at this hour when man will be changed in an instant to join the family of God in the likeness of the glorified Lord Jesus Christ. This is the purpose of life in this age, which is to qualify for everlasting life in the Kingdom of God. This is what the Lord meant by being born again in the gospel of John, chapter three, when He was speaking to the Pharisee called Nicodemus. To be born again, you must be born of the

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Spirit of God to become a Spirit being like the Lord Jesus Christ in this description from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 8:1-2 New King James Version

¹ And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I sat in my house with the elders of Judah sitting before me, that the hand of the Lord God fell upon me there. ² Then I looked, and there was a likeness, like the appearance of fire—from the appearance of His waist and downward, fire; and from His waist and upward, like the appearance of brightness, like the colour of amber.

We are given an even clearer indication of what those who will qualify will look like:

Revelation 1:12-15 New King James Version

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

The reason for everything we have read so far in this chapter is for this purpose:

Revelation 19:11-15 New King James Version

¹¹ 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.

The purpose for our lives in this age is to choose to be in God's family and to return on earth with the Lord Jesus Christ and rule over the entire earth as lords, and kings forever.

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Chapter Seven

HOW DO WE ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

The process the Lord has ordained for every soul is uncomplicated but since everything spiritual, the difference between life and death is subtle, it has and still is eluding most of those who have ever lived, especially our generation of people. To be part of the Kingdom of God comes down to a matter of choice. The choices we make in this life is the difference between life and death. When we understand that the reward of sin is death and acknowledge the fact that sin is the transgression of God's laws and commandments, it should impress on us the importance of obedience to the laws and commandments of God in this life which will either qualify or disqualify us from the Kingdom of God.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20 New King James Version

¹¹ *"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*

¹⁵ *"See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, ¹⁶ in that I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the LORD your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong your days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; ²⁰ that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them."*

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Many will say keeping God's laws and commandments, does not apply to us today for many reasons. We must acknowledge one simple fact; these are the words of the almighty God and not the words of Moses. The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever and He has not changed His words. The choice everyone has been advised to make is to choose life which is conditional. These conditions are clearly stated in the entirety of the word of truth. The Lord Jesus Christ said in the book of Proverbs chapter one that He will pour out His Spirit on all those who turn at His reproof or correction:

Proverbs 1:20-27 New King James Version

²⁰ Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. ²¹ She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: ²² "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. ²³ Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴ Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, ²⁵ Because you despised all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, ²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, ²⁷ When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

This is wisdom. Blessed are those who keep the ways of the Lord, who hear His words and remember to do His instructions, laws, and commandments.

Proverbs 8:32-36 New King James Version

³² "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. ³⁴ Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵ For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favour from the LORD; ³⁶ But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

The message to God's people throughout the entirety of the Old Testament when the Lord established His laws, commandments, judgements, and statutes for His people is the same for us today. There is no variance neither is there any ambiguity. The message is the

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instruction to repent from their evil ways and to start living in obedience to the laws and commandments of God.

Jeremiah 25:3-7 New King James Version

³“From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened. ⁴And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. ⁵They said, ‘Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. ⁶Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.’ ⁷Yet you have not listened to Me,” says the LORD, “that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

The Lord Jesus Christ, Who established His laws and commandments through His servant Moses, started His ministry here on earth with the call to repentance because His laws and commandments had not changed, and they are to be adhered today:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version

¹⁴Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

The Lord followed His call to repentance with establishing the truth about the Kingdom of God, by outlining the underlining importance of the concept of repentance.

Luke 13:1-5 New King James Version

¹There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³I tell you, no; but unless you repent ³you will all likewise perish. ⁴Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they

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were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”

The Lord inspired the apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost to expound on the processes involved in repentance:

Acts 2:38-40 New King James Version

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

Repentance is from the heart, the intent of the heart. God knows the intent of every heart and if we have truly set our hearts to change from the evil ways of the world to start walking in righteousness, that is in accordance with God’s laws and commandments, God will put His Spirit in our hearts as a seal of His promise of eternal life. The Spirit of God will then empower us to keep God’s laws and commandments. Repentance is the fundamental first step that opens the doors to the Kingdom of God. If we do not sincerely repent of our sins, we will never become part of the house of God, the Body of Christ, hence, the Kingdom of God. Next, we must forgive other. This is critical to enter life. If we do not forgive, God the Father will not forgive us:

Matthew 6:12-15 New King James Version

¹² And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. ¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

¹⁴ “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Moreover, there are other processes involved after repentance. The next step is to be converted into the Kingdom of God:

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Acts 3:19-21 New King James Version

¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹ whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

There is a big difference between repentance and conversion. Repentance is preceded by conversion. When we repent, we are moved from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Once in the kingdom of light, we must begin to shine like lights. A convert in the Kingdom of God abides by the laws and commandments of God because they are now under God's authority. Ironically, the Lord Jesus Christ alluded to this truth and the profound importance of the process of conversion:

Matthew 18:1-4 New King James Version

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

If we do not humble ourselves as little children, the Lord has said we will by no means enter the Kingdom of God. It is uncomplicated for all to understand. To be a convert into the Kingdom of God is simple. To come under God's authority is to become obedient to His laws and commandments. If any should say they are under grace and not under the law, it means they are ignorant of the content of the word of truth, and they are effectively calling God a liar because:

1 John 2:3-6 New King James Version

³ Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

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If we profess to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we ought to walk just as He walked, in obedience unto death to the laws and commandments of God according to the above passage of Scripture. We cannot make our own laws and commandments. To repent is to turn away from being disobedient to the laws and commandments of God and conversion is to make obedience to God's laws and commandments our way of life. Justification is by faith. No amount of commandment keeping can render us just in the sight of God, but to repent, which is also by faith. There must be action on our part. The book of Ephesians gives us more clarity on this issue:

Ephesians 2:11-22 New King James Version

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— ¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

When the Spirit of God dwells in us, God has set a time when He will change us in an instant, whether dead or alive so we can both see and enter the Kingdom of God, His place of residence. This is when God's children here on earth will become spirit beings, born again:

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John 3:3 New King James Version

³ Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

No one on earth today is born again. To be born again, we must first be born of water and at the appointed time in the future, be born of the Spirit of God. If we do not have the Spirit of God, we will never be born again. And if we do not repent, God will not give us His Spirit.

John 3:4-8 New King James Version

⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

To be born of water is to die with the Lord Jesus Christ in baptism. When we go under water, we die to self. On coming out of the water it is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God in us that lives.

The key to the Kingdom of God is repentance of our past sins. Thereafter, we must be converted to the Kingdom of God as little children living by faith and obedience to the laws and commandments of God. We must always remember that without faith it is impossible to please God. If we do not repent, we will never be able to see and enter the Kingdom of God.

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Chapter Eight

WHAT PRICE WILL YOU PAY TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

We live in a world that is built on laws and principles. Adhering to these laws and principles adds value to our lives, but if we disdain them, we suffer the consequences. Trying to defy the law of gravity by leaping from great heights without a landing aid, surely, we will not come through unscathed. If we do not sow, we are certainly not going to harvest. A gift has already been paid for by the giver. If there is no exchange, there is no reward. Most of us have not come to the revelation that, we use our time in exchange for everything. Our time is our life. But the question remains: what price are you willing to pay to be part of the Kingdom of God? In other words, what value have we placed on the Kingdom of God? How important is the Kingdom of God to you, personally?

It must be crystal clear in our minds that the Kingdom of God cannot be bought with money. So, if anyone thinks they could buy their way into the Kingdom of God, they are deceiving themselves. Some in high positions will entice you to give with the belief that the reward is entry into the Kingdom of God, that also is deception. The path to the Kingdom of God has already been set by the Lord but it is entirely up to us to follow it. We cannot go about fabricating our own path. Consider this passage of Scripture:

Isaiah 55:1-3 New King James Version

¹ *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. ² Why do you ^[a]spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you—The sure mercies of David.*

All we need to do is to hear what the Lord has said. When the Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth, He gave us a series of parables portraying what importance we should place on the Kingdom of God. Have you ears to hear and eyes to see? Consider this passage of Scripture:

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Matthew 13:44-46 New King James Version

⁴⁴ *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

⁴⁵ *“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, ⁴⁶ who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

These are two examples given by the Lord emphasising the value we should place on the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God should be our top priority. For this reason, the Lord had earlier said:

Matthew 6:30-34 New King James Version

³⁰ *Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?*

³¹ *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

What we require in life will be added to us if we seek first the Kingdom of God and God’s righteousness. The key is seeking God’s righteousness not our own righteousness. Only the Lord our God can keep His promises. The Lord will perform His word, but our lack of faith and understanding is keeping us from claiming His promises. If we put the Kingdom of God first, and seek after God’s righteousness according to the truth, surely, we will find the right path to the Kingdom of God. But at what price?

The price to pay to enter the Kingdom of God is simple yet profound in every way we can imagine. Faith and obedience to the laws and commandments of God is the ultimate price to pay to enter the Kingdom of God. When we understand that sin is the transgression of God’s laws:

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1 John 3:4 New King James Version

⁴ Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

And the fact that:

Romans 14:23 New King James Version

²³ But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.

It opens our understanding to the fact that obedience and faith are critical if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. Therefore, the Lord had said:

Matthew 5:29-30 New King James Version

²⁹ If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

Many will play down the importance of this passage of Scripture that it should not be taken literally. Was the Lord ignorant of his own speech? Some say the Old Testament has been made redundant, only because they do not want to obey God's commandments. Let us consider what the Lord Jesus Christ who is the God of the Old Testament had said:

Ezekiel 18:4 New King James Version

⁴ "Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.

You can see what God thinks of sin. The same God, who became the Lord Jesus Christ had said that if a part of your body causes you to sin, cut it off. Moreover, the Lord had added:

Ezekiel 18:30-32 New King James Version

³⁰ "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord GOD. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

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Here is a plea from the Lord our God for us to turn from our sinful way of life and to start living in obedience to the laws and commandments of God. We can only do this by faith. The Lord has no pleasure in the death of anyone of us. What will it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose our souls because of sin? Only sin can cause us to lose our souls:

Mark 8:36-37 New King James Version

³⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? ³⁷ Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

The only thing we have been asked to do is to come under God's authority by repenting of our sins and to start walking in accordance to God's laws and, commandments, because anything that has not been prescribed by God is sin. We must deny ourselves of the pleasures of this world which are not real pleasures. Would you consider envy and greed pleasurable? Because we have been bought with the precious blood of our Creator, we must die to ourselves daily for the Lord's sake and for the Kingdom of God because it is the Spirit of the Lord in us that lives:

Mark 8:34-35 New King James Version

³⁴ When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ³⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.

To seek the life the Lord has ordained for us, we must put the Lord first and make the Kingdom of God our top priority. If we love mother, father, husbands, wives, children, jobs, or any other idols of our hearts more than the Lord, we will not be worthy of the Lord, hence, the Kingdom of God:

Matthew 10:32-39 New King James Version

³² "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. ³³ But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

⁴ "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother,

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and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law';³⁶ and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'³⁷ He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.³⁸ And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.³⁹ He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.

The Lord who has fully paid the price for our sins knows exactly what will happen to everyone who professes to believe in Him but does not put Him first; these will assuredly go astray. All those who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ are already condemned:

John 3:17-21 New King James Version

¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

The practice of evil, which is the disobedience of God's laws and commandments will keep us from the Kingdom of God. When we believe in a concept, we put its demands into practice. If not, we will never enjoy the benefits of that concept. If we say we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and do not obey His commandments or do as He has commanded, we can never become His disciples:

John 8:30-37 New King James Version

³⁰As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. ³¹Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³²And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." ³³They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

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³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. ³⁷ "I know that you are Abraham's descendants, but you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you.

The relatively small price we must pay to enter the Kingdom of God, is to come under God's authority. This fact is still eluding many professing Christians. Repentance of past sins is the gateway to the house of God, coming under God's authority. Thereafter, we must be obedient to God's laws and commandments and we must live by faith. Anything short of this is not pleasing to God. This is an issue which has always existed, from the beginning with Adam and Eve. We cannot go about setting our own laws and commandments. God's laws and commandments are the beach mark.

Matthew 19:16-20 New King James Version

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" ¹⁷ So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.

But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

¹⁸ He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' ¹⁹ 'Honour your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'" ²⁰ The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?"

This is the path the Lord has set for everyone. Adam willingly chose to disobey God's commandment and death came into the world. The Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and kept all of God's laws and commandments. We now have an opportunity to enter into life through the Lord Jesus Christ by repenting of past sins and thereafter, start keeping God's commandments, following the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Chapter Nine

THE KINGDOM OF GOD WILL BE HERE ON EARTH

Can a kingdom exist within heart of a man or woman? Can you imagine a king, and millions of people living in cities with their rulers existing inside the hearts of a person here on earth? Would you not now consider any person who says the Kingdom of God is within you to be deluded and vain? Consider this passage of Scripture:

Luke 17:20-21 New King James Version

²⁰ Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹ nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

The Pharisees wanted to know when the Kingdom of God will be established on earth in the land of Judea. You will be amazed at how selective we have become with what we choose to hear and believe. The above passage of Scripture has been taken out of context to mean something completely different by many, because they do not understand the whole concept of the gospel of the Kingdom of God. They want to believe the Kingdom of God is here and now, within them. But we all know that is not the case because this passage of Scripture has been wrongly translated.

The Lord was speaking to the Pharisees who were remotely interested in what the Lord was saying. They had their own agenda. They were waiting for a kingdom to be established in Israel by the Messiah for them to rule according to their laws and commandments. As mentioned before, the Lord will rule over the entire earth after he has established the Kingdom of God. Where the Lord is, automatically becomes the Kingdom of God. From the above passage of Scripture, the Lord was certainly surrounded by people; He was explaining to them the fact that the Kingdom of God will not come with observation because a representative of the Kingdom of God, the Lord, was amongst them, in their midst, as most of the other translations of the Holy Scripture have it. We cannot build a doctrine from one scripture. This is the only passage of Scripture that portrays the fact that the Kingdom of God is within anyone and it is certainly not here and now. Do not be deceived. The laws and

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commandments of God has not been written in our hearts, not yet. That will happen after the Kingdom of God has been established here on earth.

Contrary to common knowledge, the Kingdom of God will be established here on earth at the appointed time by the Lord Jesus Christ. All prophecies in the holy Scripture point to the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ will return to rule as King in God's Holy hill of Zion, which is present day Jerusalem.

When we pray, "Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven", which all true believers must do, we are effectively calling on the Lord our God to come and establish His Kingdom here on earth as He has proposed according to His will in heaven. All of God's plan for the earth has already been established in heaven. Consider the entirety of the book of Revelation. Every event has already been played out in heaven in microscopic details. We must acknowledge the fact that none of the Seal in the book of Revelation has been opened. The apostle John saw these events and the appointed time, God will bring them to pass here on earth, regardless of how dreadful they may look in our eyes.

Heaven is under God's authority, but the earth was given to Satan, the devil, for a short period of time for good reasons. God's plan of salvation is the truth about the Kingdom of God which will be completed when the Lord Jesus Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. In other words, gospel of the Kingdom of God is the fact that, at the set time, God the Father will send our Lord Jesus Christ to come and bring the earth under God's authority as it was before the fall of Adam and Eve. This will be the time of the restoration of all things. This is the time of vengeance of our God. Satan will be judged, and his authority and power will be removed including all the wicked from the earth. God the Father will then give the Lord Jesus Christ total power over the earth:

Isaiah 22:15-25 New King James Version

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "Go, proceed to this steward, To Shebna, who is over the house, and say: ¹⁶ 'What have you here, and whom have you here, That you have hewn a sepulcher here, As he who hews himself a sepulcher on high, Who carves a tomb for himself in a rock? ¹⁷ Indeed, the LORD will throw you away violently, O mighty man, And will surely seize you. ¹⁸ He will surely turn violently and toss you like a ball Into a large country; There

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you shall die, and there your glorious chariots Shall be the shame of your master's house.

¹⁹ So I will drive you out of your office, And from your position he will pull you down.

²⁰ 'Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah; ²¹ I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. ²² The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open. ²³ I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house.

²⁴ 'They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the posterity, all vessels of small quantity, from the cups to all the pitchers. ²⁵ In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'the peg that is fastened in the secure place will be removed and be cut down and fall, and the burden that was on it will be cut off; for the LORD has spoken.' "

This passage of Scripture speaks of the consequences facing the current ruler over the earth. At the set time as mentioned in the above passage of Scripture, there is going to be a disposition of the current ruler over the earth, Satan the devil. His office will be given to the Lord Jesus Christ who defeated Satan during the Lord's hour of temptation in the wilderness. The time of this transfer will come at the last trumpet when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our God:

Revelation 11:15-18 New King James Version

¹⁵ 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!" ¹⁶ And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God, ¹⁷ saying:

"We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned. ¹⁸ The nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, And the time of the dead, that they should be judged, And that You should reward Your servants the prophets and the saints, And those who fear Your name, small and great, And should destroy those who destroy the earth."

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In the book of the prophet Daniel, the Lord gave us a comprehensive account of the Kingdoms which were to rule over the entire earth. History tells us that three of these kingdoms have already existed. The fourth is still to come. Some say the Roman empire was the fourth kingdom which is not according to Scripture:

Daniel 2:36-45 New King James Version

³⁶ "This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. ³⁷ You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; ³⁸ and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. ³⁹ But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others. ⁴¹ Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. ⁴³ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴ 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. ⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

The Roman empire was one part of the Greek Empire which was divided into four parts. A part was given to each of the four generals who served Alexandra the Great. These are the four horns in the vision the prophet Daniel was shown about the male goat in the book of Daniel, chapter eight, verses eight and twenty-one. The first three kingdoms shown in the above passage of Scripture have existed but are all dead. Their characteristics are still governing the world today, notably in the western nations of the earth.

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From the above passage of Scripture, we can clearly see that it will be during the days of the Fourth kingdom which has never existed before, that the Lord will return to the earth to destroy every trace of these kingdoms and governments, including the fourth kingdom, before returning to heaven for a little while to reward His Saints.

Thereafter, the Lord will return with His Saints to establish the Kingdom of God and to rule the whole earth according to the dream king Nebuchadnezzar was shown. This is the sequence of the events at the end of age according to the Holy Scriptures. With that in mind, it is clear to see that the Kingdom of God will be here on earth and the Lord will be the King. The disciples asked the Lord an interesting question when His time here on earth was spent:

Acts 1:6-7 New King James Version

⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

The Disciples knew from what the Lord had taught them that, the Lord will restore the Kingdom of God to Israel since they were under the rule of the Romans. Israel is the servant of God who will rule over the entire earth. The Lord said it was not for them to know the times and seasons which God the Father has put under His authority. We are the generation to know and understand the times and seasons:

Acts 3:19-21 New King James Version

¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

Since the beginning of the world, God has said through all His prophets that, He will send the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to restore all things. The Kingdom of God will be here on earth.

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Chapter Ten

CONCLUSION

It is imperative that we place great value on our lives for this simple reason, while we have our breath, we can alter the course of our lives. When we go to the grave, everything comes to a halt until the time of the resurrection of the dead. God has appointed a time when every soul that has ever lived from the beginning of creation will stand before the Creator in judgement. We will all be judged according to what did while alive. Everything we do is recorded. We must be diligent about what we choose to believe and how we choose to live, because at the end, the choices we make will qualify us for either eternal life or eternal damnation in the lake of fire.

This is the only chance we have been given to make the right choice. Some say there is going to be another opportunity to choose between life and death, but the Holy Scriptures speak of a time of judgement. Understanding the meaning of the word judgement should be our motivation to choose life. No one is dragged before a court of law if they are blameless. Only those who have fallen short of the requirements of the law are taken to court and judged. A sentence is passed, depending on the gravity of their crime. When we read this passage of Scripture:

Daniel 12:1-3 New King James Version

¹ "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book. ² And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.

There is a time of trouble coming that has never happened on the earth since the beginning. But who has ears to hear? It will affect everyone alive, including those who believe and do the truth. At the end of the time of trouble, some of the dead will be resurrected. Those resurrected will be the wise who have helped others turn away from a sinful way of life.

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They will shine like the stars forever. After a thousand years of the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ here on earth with His resurrected Saints, this event will take place:

Revelation 20:11-15 New King James Version

¹¹ 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. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

We shall all be judged according to our works during this age. To qualify and be part of the first resurrection starts in earnest now. We have been given the opportunity and the strength to be able to make that choice. This is one of the reasons why the Lord our God has given us the free will to choose what becomes of our lives. This is our chance to come under God's authority now and be part of His coming Kingdom. This is the good news of the Kingdom of God. Everything God has created from the beginning including the things we cannot see; the angels and demons will come under God's authority either to live or to be tormented in the lake of fire forever. How do we come under God's authority? It is simple. We start obeying God's laws and commandments and live by faith. This in effect starts when we repent of our past sins with all our hearts and set our minds to do God's laws and commandments. If we do not, this is what the Lord Jesus Christ has said:

Luke 13:1-5 New King James Version

¹³ There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? ³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent ³ you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

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Unless you repent you will likewise perish. The Lord was not only addressing those present in front of Him on that day but everyone who has ever lived, that includes us today. When we repent, we must then believe in the gospel of the Kingdom of God:

Mark 1:14-15 New King James Version

¹⁴ Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, ¹⁵ and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

Believing the gospel requires action in our part. We must be diligent to ensure that we find the right gospel. We live in a fallen and broken world which is geared to cause us to stumble and to fall. But the good news is, we have also been given the free will to make decisions. It is not about the church we attend or the pastor or preacher we like. It is all about the truth, what the Lord our God has already said.

There are many gospels being preached in the world today but not all of them will lead us to the Kingdom of God except one, the gospel the Lord Jesus Christ, His apostles including the apostle Paul preached. If we do the same as those apostles Paul encountered in Berea:

Acts 17:10-11 New King James Version

¹⁰ Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. ¹¹ These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Surely, we will not fall in error if we follow the above example. When we repent of our sins and set our hearts to be obedient to God's laws and commandments, the Lord has promised to give us His Spirit:

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

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This in effect is the grace of God, the Spirit of God in the believer, empowering them to obey God's laws and commandments. The Spirit of God in the believer is the seal of eternal life. At the appointed time of the first resurrection, it is the Spirit of God that will resurrect all those who believed but are dead and will change them in an instant, including those alive. Moreover, the Lord has said:

John 16:12-15 New King James Version

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

It is the duty of the Spirit of God to bring us into the knowledge of the truth, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. It is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself teaching us the truth through His Spirit. Without the Spirit of Christ dwelling in us, we can never come to the knowledge of the truth in essence, the gospel of the Kingdom of God and we cannot be one of His:

Romans 8:8-17 New King James Version

⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

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The gospel of the Kingdom of God has four distinct facets. The King, the people, the territory, and the laws. The King has already made it possible for His people to be part of His Kingdom by paying in full the penalty for our sins which denies entry into His everlasting Kingdom. We can now prove that the Kingdom of God is going to be here on earth. The laws and commandments of God will govern the people.

The simple but profound price we must pay to be part of the kingdom of God and live forever is to repent and believe the truth God has given us through all His servants, the prophets. If we do not repent, on that day, when we stand in judgement before the Lord Jesus Christ, He will say to us:

Matthew 7:21-23 New King James Version

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

What most of us in this generation have not realised is the fact that we are destined to go through the time of trouble this world has never seen. It will affect but the just and unjust in different ways. Disobeying God's laws and commandments will keep us from the kingdom of God if we do not repent and forgive others who have trespassed against us.