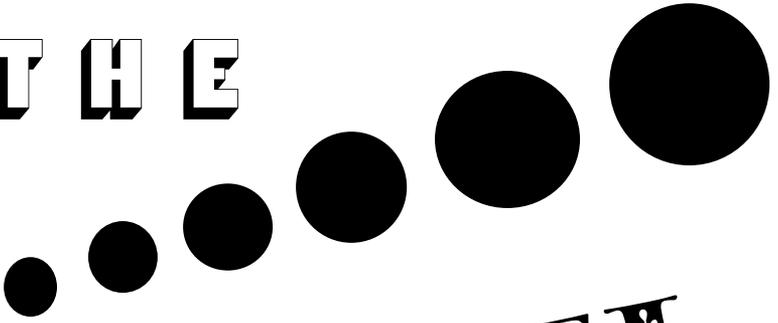


THE



GOSPEL

OF THE

REIGNDOM

*farnsworth*

## Introduction...

### Dedication:

To My Father, Barry Farnsworth, who taught me to love the Word of God, my mother, Patricia, who had her Bible opened at the dining room table every morning, my siblings who have loved me and contributed to my life in so many ways, to my wife, Christine, who is my constant companion and heir of the grace of life together with me, my children, Constance, Alegiance, Veracity, Adrielle, and Christine E. who are a tremendous source of encouragement in the faith, and our church family at Victory Baptist Church in Kingfisher who have graciously supported me while serving them as Christ's under-shepherd. And to Bo Lockhart, the man who was used of our Lord to provoke me to study these things in a way that I might be able to teach and preach them to build up the most holy faith of those who are in hope of Jesus Christ.

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## Introduction...

### Introduction...

Dear Reader,

I had just recently finished recreating a digital version of my father's book, *The Faith That Justifies* (I mimicked the design for his book cover to make this one. Thanks, Dad!) when I had the idea of writing this book. He pastored at Victory Baptist Church in Kingfisher, OK for 32 years. That feat of faithfulness is still a marvel to me and a testimony to the faithfulness of Christ who provides for His people.

The digital copy we put together was to get his original work reprinted as we prepared to commemorate the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Victory Baptist Church being organized. As I put together the files needed to recreate the book, I was left with a deep sense of appreciation for what he had committed himself to do in that work. He had laid out very plainly the scriptural Faith that he preached for many years, so that genuine, Biblical faith could be seen in its' proper light by the Word of God. I appreciate the care he put into that work and know that it continues to bless me each time I read it.

Like my dad, the content of this book was originally presented as a series of messages at Victory Baptist Church. As I now set my hand to do a similar work, my hope is that my children will also be led to see the glory of the Word of God as they study His precepts. My aim is not to provide an exhaustive work on every scriptural mention of the kingdom of God, but to share some thoughts about this topic in a way that will provoke you to study and grow in these things for yourself. Ultimately, the Word of

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God always has the final and only true answer for every matter of life, faith, and doctrine. Any work of man, such as this one, will always fall short.

**1 Corinthians 4:6 - "...that ye might learn in us NOT TO THINK OF MEN ABOVE THAT WHICH IS WRITTEN, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another."**

**Romans 3:4 - "...yea, LET GOD BE TRUE, but EVERY MAN A LIAR; as it is written,..."**

Well, there you have it... I will, however, attempt to show from scripture things that cannot be anything but helpful to you in your study of this important topic. What I hope to set my hand to do with this effort is to record for myself and anyone else who may be interested (mostly perhaps my five daughters) the joys and richness of these truths.

**Matthew 13:44 - Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.**

The certainty of these things and our confidence in Christ our Savior to bring to pass what He has spoken is the sustaining hope of the faith we profess. I pray that each of my daughters, and anyone else who seeks to know the Truth of God in Christ, may be as fully persuaded of them as I have become, and walk in the faith and light of them according to His Word while we look for His glorious appearing!

Upon reflection, it seems strange that the message of the kingdom of God, which was the gospel message first preached by Christ and throughout the New Testament by

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His apostles, has become so purely theological in our day. The fact is that the kingdom of God was certainly front and center in the doctrine of Jesus Christ in His day, and to the apostles as well. Not just theology reserved for the seminaries, colleges, doctors, and professors of the time.

**Luke 8:1 – “And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout EVERY CITY AND VILLAGE, preaching and shewing THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD:”**

These glad tidings, this news, this preaching of the Kingdom of God, so central to everything Christ and His apostles declared, has seemingly gone underground in these last days as it relates to preaching. I believe we will see from scripture that the preaching of the Kingdom of God is not only a clearly scriptural truth & gospel to declare but is also **necessary** to our faith. Likely, it is a message that we do not preach or herald as often as we should. This absence of the Gospel of the Kingdom being preached in our time is not without an impact on our churches and their members' lives. Our young people need to understand it. Our old people need to be living it and teaching it. Our preachers need to be putting us in remembrance of it. Our evangelists need to plainly declare it. Our missionaries need to be heralding these tidings to men.

It seems that much of the material that excites folks these days is centered on life application in the here and now. Finances, relationships, giving, charity, marriage, purpose, having peace, living a victorious life, walking in God's blessing, and many other fine topics are not in short supply on the list of modern Christian material. And those are, after all, fine topics, I suppose, and they need to be preached fervently and frequently. These cannot,

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however, be **CENTRAL** to our faith. They must be built **UPON** it. They are adornments of the faith we profess. Many Christians today often hear sermons of coming out of Egypt, being separate, laying aside sin, seeking God, facing giants, finding your calling, experiencing His presence, and so on. All good titles and topics, all will agree, but is there an underlying body of doctrine that puts these in context so that people can know **WHY** they are relevant? Is it just to improve our own life experience? Is it so we can be “blessed” by obligating God to act on our behalf? Is it so I can go to heaven when I die (you know, years and years from now I hope...)? Is God mostly interested in my work done in His name or is there another work He requires?

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*It seems in churches today, with the lack of doctrine concerning the kingdom of God being taught in a practical way, many are falling away from the faith, simply viewing their Christian life as a moral lifestyle choice of “doing what the Bible teaches”*

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With the lack of doctrine concerning the kingdom of God being taught in a practical, faith-building way, there are real dangers in our understanding of the Word of God and of the gospel itself. Many are falling away from the faith, simply viewing their Christian life as a moral lifestyle choice of “doing what the Bible teaches”. Others are attempting feats of “unity” or “love” in His name without a comprehension of the Truth of God’s Word. Further of concern, biblical faith is being replaced with superstitions under the guise of faith, and mystical practices of eastern

## Introduction...

religions are becoming commonplace in assemblies that profess the “Christian” name. Yes, there are many reasons today that faith has been made shipwreck.

**John 5:39 – “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”**

It is important to remember that when Christ came the first time, there wasn’t a shortage of people zealous about “doing what the Bible says”. The problem was, they were children in whom is no FAITH. We need to understand what that means from a scriptural point of view.

The advice from some may be, “stick to application. Application, application, application.” Makes good sense. We should apply the knowledge, information, belief, and confidence in the things we have learned from Scripture. But there is great danger in viewing the Bible as ONLY an instruction book for how to live this natural life. The Pharisees had that down pat. Indeed, there wasn’t a single area of their life where they didn’t have absolute confidence in what the Bible “said to do”, but they lacked an understanding that FAITH gives to be led of the Spirit in the way of the Lord. Their knowledge of what the scriptures “said to do”, resulted in a self-confidence that led them to despise others, and built up in them a heart of pride that is to be feared among the Saints. In the ditch on the other side of the road is the extreme that claims the only thing that matters is the fact that God loves us, so what we do is immaterial. Eat, drink, and be merry, as it were. Each of these ditches pose real threats and dangers to our souls. No, there must first be faith, for without faith it is impossible to please Him.

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**Hebrews 11:6 - “But WITHOUT FAITH it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”**

But faith in what? What exactly does that mean? That is precisely what we hope to set forth clearly in the coming pages of this book. I’ve heard people say “nothing we can do pleases God. Only faith pleases Him.” Close... and not really. Nothing we do pleases Him IF it is not done IN FAITH would be more accurate. There is a great cloud of witnesses that have the testimony that they pleased God with what they DID, because their action was rooted in FAITH in what He had spoken to them. That being the case, the question for us today is, “WHAT IS IT THAT GOD HAS SPOKEN TO US, AND WHAT ARE WE DOING IN FAITH REGARDING WHAT HE HAS SPOKEN?” Let us, by God’s grace, be counted among those witnesses who live such lives. Counted as those who understand God’s Word, have faith in Him to fulfill it, and live lives adorned by the faith we profess.

As you read the coming chapters, I pray that there will be helpful and clarifying thoughts shared that will provoke you to study and grow in the knowledge of God. I pray that each of you will enjoy the fellowship of Christ by His Spirit in these things with me as we wait for His glorious appearing. May we be strengthened in hope, patient in our calling, fervent in spirit, preserved by the power of God through faith in these things.

Isaac W. Farnsworth

## Opening Remarks

### Opening Remarks

There are a number of ways this topic could be developed and studied, so I wanted to set forth a couple of quick thoughts at the outset to give the reader an understanding of where I am coming from. Some of these opening remarks may not completely satisfy until you have completed the rest of the book, and some of them may yet fall short.

*1 - What is the preaching of the kingdom sent to accomplish?* This is clear to us all through the pages of Holy Scripture. Preaching is intended to bring men to faith. Faith is rooted in a firm conviction regarding the promises of God concerning things to come but have yet to be fulfilled (e.g., Abraham and Rahab as the most prominent examples of faith in the New Testament Scriptures). We preach so that men will believe. We teach so that believers will grow. Understanding the purpose of preaching in bringing men to faith then requires us to understand that our gospel and the message of the kingdom heralded by Christ and the apostles necessarily must speak to the future.

*2 - Is the Kingdom that is being preached a present kingdom or a future one?* This oft debated topic is unlikely to be put to rest within the pages of this book, but we will seek to develop our understanding from a Biblical point of view. The answer, of course, is “yes” on both counts. There is undoubtedly a resounding theme throughout the Scriptures which is echoed in the New Testament in thunderingly clear terms. That theme is that the kingdom which is being preached unto men will one day come to the earth and appear in its’ full glory. In these many

## Opening Remarks

places we can understand that the kingdom is to appear in the future, which is why the preaching of it in the gospel is sufficient to the task of bringing men to faith. That being said, apart from the future reign of the Son of Man on the throne of His father David, there is also an obvious reality to the kingdom of God that is “**from everlasting to everlasting**” which is in scripture as well. We will explore this more thoroughly in the chapters ahead, but we must see from scripture both realities. Firstly, we see the eternal reign of God that is always present, and secondly, the future reign of God on earth in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. The first declaration of God’s eternal kingdom is not a mystery in the Biblical sense. It is stated as an outright fact from the outset of creation. The second declaration, concerning the Son of God, Jesus Christ, and His reign, is a mystery that has been being progressively revealed throughout human history. The Scriptures have preserved this revelation for us and given us a record of these things concerning Jesus Christ that were kept secret from the foundations of the world, but were revealed in the fulness of time. This is the mystery we will focus the majority of our time on in this study, as this is the mystery that was the focus of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, and His holy apostles.

*3 - When does a man enter the kingdom* - We will not here attempt to put too fine a point on this question, but scripture illuminates our understanding to the fact that there is a future “entering in” that is promised to those who believe. I might suggest to the reader here that there are two dimensions to this one answer. Firstly, the clearest understanding of entrance is in the resurrection, in our glorified state with the Lord when His kingdom is established on earth. Additionally, we can see that those who are born again are dead to the flesh and alive with Christ

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from the moment of regeneration. This new birth produces a new creature that is in fact “seated with Christ in heavenly places”. In this way, we are translated from this world and the power of darkness and are placed with Christ in His heavenly kingdom. If we think of it in terms of birth, it would be similar in fashion to a baby whose life is present in the womb, but not yet brought forth into the world. We are alive in Christ, but it **“doth not yet appear what we shall be”**. We have yet to see and experience the fullness of that eternal life that is promised to the saints. Being born again by the will of God through His Spirit, we are heirs of the promise and **“waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body”** according to the hope HE has given us.

*4 - Are the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven distinct or synonymous?*<sup>9</sup> It is the firm belief of mine that they are in fact interchangeable in their meaning and use as synonymous language. The only uses of “Kingdom of Heaven” occur in the gospel of Matthew, and there are many instances in which the term “Kingdom of God” is used in parallel accounts in the other gospels. Since God established His throne in the heavens, it stands to reason that His Kingdom can be spoken of as the “Kingdom of Heaven” without ambiguity. The Kingdom of heaven directs our minds to think of the reign of Christ as it compares with the kingdoms of the earth and of men. The kingdoms of men are administrated quite differently from the kingdom of heaven, which is reigned by one who is perfectly righteous and just.

With these thoughts present in our minds, let’s move ahead in our study!

Chapter 1 – Until John

**Matthew 11:13 - “The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN: SINCE THAT TIME THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS PREACHED, and every man presseth into it.”**

**Luke 8:1 - “And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, PREACHING AND SHEWING THE GLAD TIDINGS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD: and the twelve were with him,”**

Before we launch out into the proverbial “deep” where all good theology lies, I would like to first set forth some important precepts that will serve as guidelines in our study. These principles may be helpful to examine before we turn right to Matthew 13 and pull out our favorite commentaries.

There is an interesting work done by God and revealed to us in the scriptures of truth, which occurred at the time of John the Baptist’s ministry. This is made evident in the verse above from Matthew 11. When Christ speaks in Luke concerning John, He states:

**Luke 7:28 - “For I say unto you, Among those that are BORN OF WOMEN there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”**

## Chapter 1 – Until John

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*He then went on to contrast “he that is least in the kingdom of God” with John, which must mean that those in the kingdom of God must enter by another birth than women can give*

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Jesus Christ taught that there was not a greater prophet than John the Baptist. He said among all that are born of women, there is not a greater prophet than John. He then went on to contrast “he that is least in the kingdom of God” with John, which must mean that those in the kingdom of

God enter by another birth than that which women can give. What was it about John that made him the greatest prophet?

A prophet was sent to declare the Word of the Lord. We find many men who were greatly used by God to accomplish this work in scripture. Many of them have their names affixed to the book of their writings in the Old Testament - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, and many other men whom the Lord used greatly.

The Lord had instructed his people to validate anyone claiming to be a prophet when he taught the congregation in the wilderness.

**Deuteronomy 18:21 - 22 - “And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, IF THE THING FOLLOW NOT, NOR COME TO PASS, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”**

## Chapter 1 – Until John

What was the message that John prophesied that must to come to pass for him to be a true prophet? Looking at the message that John was given to proclaim, we can quickly discern why he was called by Christ the greatest among the prophets, even though he never did a single miracle!

**John 10:41 - “And many resorted unto him, and said, John [the Baptist] DID NO MIRACLE: but ALL THINGS THAT JOHN SPAKE OF THIS MAN WERE TRUE.”**

The people had put John to the scriptural test of a prophet. John never healed bitter waters. Never called fire down from heaven. Never raised anyone from the dead. No floating axe heads or healing of poison stews. Didn't multiply oil for widows or heal men of leprosy. Didn't even make the waters part in the Jordan river. He just preached the Word of the Lord he was given to preach and baptized as he was commanded to do.

**John 1:33 - “...HE THAT SENT ME to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”**

However, everything John said of the one who would come after him, Jesus Christ, was true, and the people took note of that fact. Here's the thing. Moses prophesied of the coming Messiah. Isaiah prophesied the Lord is coming. Jeremiah prophesied that the Lord is coming. Ezekiel spoke of the coming of the Lord. Daniel foretold with detail the exact timing of the coming of Him who would be King. Each of these prophets carried great messages to the people of the Word of the Lord.

## Chapter 1 – Until John

However, there is a striking difference between the message each of these men was given to carry and that of John the Baptist. Each of these men declared “He is coming, the Lord is coming!”, while John declared He has come, the Lord has come! “Behold, the Lamb of God!”.

The great announcement of the arrival of the one “whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”, the “Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”! He had finally come as promised after nearly 4,000 years of prophecy regarding His arrival! The one who made all things had come unto His own.

**John 1:10 - He was in the world, and THE WORLD WAS MADE BY HIM, and the world knew him not.**

A prophet’s greatness lies not in himself but in the message that he is given to carry, and we see that John’s message was GREAT!

Also, notice that with this great message that heralded the arrival of Christ, there was A CHANGE IN PREACHING that occurred as well. John was commissioned with a ministry from God, and with that ministry was a new message.

**Luke 16:16 - “The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN: SINCE THAT TIME the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.”**

There is a specific reason why the preaching of the Word of the Lord began to be “the kingdom of God” as opposed to “the law and the prophets” as they had been taught for so many years. When John came with his holy message from God, something very significant was

## Chapter 1 – Until John

happening. A true reformation was taking place. Not the one commonly taught and discussed by men that occurred in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but the one true reformation spoken of by the apostle Paul.

**Hebrews 9:10 - Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them UNTIL THE TIME OF REFORMATION.**

This reformation was brought about by the fulfillment of God's Word of promise. What can we discern from the statement "The law and the prophets were until John, and since then the Kingdom of Heaven is preached."? Ever since John the Baptist, the preaching of the Word has been the message of the gospel of the kingdom. That is the message the Lord has spoken to men in this age.

That means if you were to open your Bible and find the place where Matthew begins "**The book of the generation of Jesus Christ**" and place everything to the Revelation of Jesus Christ's final "**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**" between your hands, what you would have (the portion of scripture we call the New Testament) is scripture that deals particularly with the kingdom of God. The point being, the ENTIRE New Testament must be understood as kingdom doctrine and preaching. Any page and passage of the scriptures given there are best understood as a part of the preaching that started with John, was continued by Christ, and was carried on by the apostles and men who wrote the New Testament by the inspiration of the Spirit.

**Matthew 4:23 - "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING THE**

**GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”**

This being the case, whenever you read in the New Testament, no matter where you turn and where you read, the entire context of the body of this preaching of the Word concerns the Kingdom of God. It is important to understand the demarcation Christ makes with these words.

**Matthew 11:13 - “The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN....”**

We also know that this Word of the kingdom is not meant to imply that the text of Old Testament scripture was made obsolete. As we know, those texts can be, and were, used to expound the gospel of the kingdom and the things concerning Jesus Christ very well. What is being declared is that the MESSAGE being preached was changed along with a change in priesthood, law, ordinances, and doctrine.

**Hebrews 7:12 - For the PRIESTHOOD BEING CHANGED, there is made of necessity A CHANGE ALSO OF THE LAW.**

The kingdom preaching that began first with John and was preached by Jesus Christ, is the same gospel preaching that was continued throughout the New Testament by the apostles. The book of Acts makes this very clear. It provides the history of the acts of the apostles as the preaching of the gospel spread throughout the world, and churches were organized by the command of Jesus Christ. Let’s quickly follow the progression through scripture:

## Chapter 1 – Until John

John the Baptist preaching:

**Matthew 3:1 - 2 - In those days came JOHN THE BAPTIST, PREACHING in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.**

Jesus Christ preaching:

**Matthew 4:17 - From that time JESUS BEGAN TO PREACH, and to say, Repent: for THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.**

The twelve apostles preaching:

**Matthew 10:5 - 7 - THESE TWELVE JESUS SENT forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, PREACH, saying, THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.**

The seventy other appointed to preach:

**Luke 10:1 & 9 - After these things THE LORD APPOINTED OTHER SEVENTY also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come..... And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, THE KINGDOM OF GOD is come nigh unto you.**

And then carried on by the apostles preaching in the book of Acts:

**Acts 8:12 - “But when they believed Philip PREACHING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, they were baptized, both men and women.”**

## Chapter 1 – Until John

**Acts 19:8** - “And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and **PERSUADING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**”

**Acts 20:25** - “And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone **PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, shall see my face no more.”

**Acts 28:30 - 31** - “And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, **PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD**, and teaching **THOSE THINGS WHICH CONCERN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.”

We also see from Christ, that this gospel of the kingdom is the gospel that will be preached throughout the age to the end of the world.

**Matthew 24:14** - “And this **GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM** shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and **THEN SHALL THE END COME.**”

Our thoughts and study center around one question. If they were preaching the kingdom of God, what were they saying about it? To understand their preaching, we need to also understand what faith is. Once we understand faith, we can understand why God sent men to preach. The point here is that **PREACHING HAS ALWAYS BEEN ORDAINED BY GOD TO BRING MEN TO FAITH**, which is a necessarily important point to understand.

**Hebrews 11:1** - “Now faith is the substance of **THINGS HOPED FOR**, the evidence of things not seen.”

## Chapter 1 – Until John

And of course, Paul goes on to say:

**Hebrews 11:6 - But without faith it is impossible to please him....**

From the time of John, the message ordained of God to be preached among men was a new message. A message concerning His Son Jesus Christ. A reformation was taking place. The preaching ordained from the time of John forward was the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. What is this gospel, these glad tidings, that they were preaching and declaring to the world? Is it still our message today? What role does it play in bringing men to scriptural faith in Jesus Christ?

**Matthew 9:35 - “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”**

### Chapter 2 – Approaching the Study of the Kingdom

The next thing I want to share with you is immensely important. More important than finding out what our favorite commentators wrote about the kingdom. There is another group of men that taught the things of the kingdom of God with great clarity and certainty! They taught with more certainty and accuracy than any commentator, expositor, preacher, or evangelist who has lived ever since. These men, uniquely equipped by Christ, confirmed believers in the doctrine of the kingdom of God after His ascension. These were the holy apostles and men of God that were used by the Holy Spirit to give us our New Testament scripture.

The reason this is so meaningful is that we may otherwise try to learn about the kingdom by starting our study with the teachings of Christ in the gospel accounts. I believe this is a difficult starting point for men to use, and I'll explain why. This approach leads to many varied understandings of scripture. That isn't very surprising because even the apostles themselves did not understand all of the teaching and preaching they were hearing from Jesus. Their understanding was opened to many of these truths AFTER the arrival of the comforter and the teaching of the Holy Spirit.

For this reason, I propose that we start our study, not in the gospel accounts where many parables and truths lie concerning the mysteries of the kingdom, but by observing how the apostles taught the things of the kingdom of God in the other books of the New Testament as they instructed the saints.

## Chapter 2 – Approaching the Study of the Kingdom

How did they view this kingdom they were proclaiming and heralding to men? Did they see it as having already come? Did they see it in the earth in their time? How did they teach and preach it to others? If you are willing to accept this methodology, you will find their Word far more illuminating and faith-building than many commentaries on the subject. Speaking of His apostle, the Lord prayed:

**John 17:20 - “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which SHALL BELIEVE on me THROUGH THEIR WORD;”**

Christ had told the apostles of the teaching that the Holy Spirit would provide to them after His departure. The understanding they had when these epistles were written is far beyond what they grasped from Christ during His earthly ministry.

**John 16:12 - 13 - “I have yet many things to say unto you, BUT YE CANNOT BEAR THEM NOW. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and HE WILL SHEW YOU THINGS TO COME.”**

Notice that Christ Himself taught the disciples that there were things he was going to teach them that they were not yet able to bear. He then said He would teach them these things further when the Holy Spirit was come to dwell in them. Consequently, when we read epistles and letters that were written by these holy men, we are receiving the benefit of the more complete understanding that was given by the Spirit of God regarding the teachings of the kingdom. Interestingly, we will find a common teaching of the

## Chapter 2 – Approaching the Study of the Kingdom

kingdom among all of these apostles in a way that agrees. Pretty good for a bunch of preachers, right?!

This approach will be helpful to us in our study but is often overlooked. Many times, scripture records for us that the disciples failed to understand things correctly while Christ was with them bodily.

**Luke 9:45** - “But they UNDERSTOOD NOT this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.”

**John 10:6** - “This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they UNDERSTOOD NOT what things they were which he spake unto them.”

**John 12:16** - “These things UNDERSTOOD NOT his disciples at the first: but when Jesus was glorified, then remembered they that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.”

Let’s look at an example of this study principle found in the book of Acts to see what kind of help it may be to us. One of the things that becomes immediately obvious to us, is that the primary reference to the kingdom in the apostles’ preaching and doctrine speaks of a FUTURE “entering in” to Christ’s kingdom.

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*One of the things that becomes immediately obvious to us, is that the primary reference to the kingdom in the apostles’ preaching speaks here of a FUTURE “entering in” to Christ’s kingdom.*

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## Chapter 2 – Approaching the Study of the Kingdom

**Acts 14:21 - 22 - “And when they had preached THE GOSPEL to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, and that WE MUST THROUGH MUCH TRIBULATION ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”**

These disciples had believed the truth in faith and were being exhorted to continue believing even though the fulfillment of the tidings they had heard seemed to linger. As faith is the substance of things HOPED FOR (expected), the exhortation here to the saints is to continue in THE FAITH. That means to continue in expectation until they entered the kingdom that was promised to them. In this passage, we see that the kingdom of God was being preached as something future to these folk’s time, that they had not yet entered, but that they were left a promise of being able to “enter”. This hope was key to their continuing in the faith. Further, the trials and tribulations of this present life were to be borne and endured with a view to this entrance being obtained.

If the teaching of the New Testament apostles presents the kingdom as something yet future to them, it is helpful to us to know that. Luke, who wrote the book of Acts, had spent a lot of time with Paul hearing the doctrine of the kingdom of God. Look at this account in the gospel record given to us by Luke:

**Luke 19:11 - “And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because THEY THOUGHT THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD SHOULD IMMEDIATELY APPEAR.”**

## Chapter 2 – Approaching the Study of the Kingdom

Luke shares with us the thoughts of some at the time who were gathered around Zacchaeus' table. They had heard Christ's preaching and believed the kingdom would appear immediately. Luke, as he is writing this, knows full well the time for the kingdom had not yet come. Later, in his account of the Olivet Discourse of chapter 21, the arrival of the kingdom is spoken of as being synchronous with the arrival of its' King, at the end of the great tribulation.

**Luke 21:31 - "So likewise ye, WHEN ye see these things come to pass, know ye that THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NIGH AT HAND."**

Our understanding is aided by this approach in study. Christ taught many things of the kingdom in parables. We often think of parables as the easiest literary form to understand in scripture because they are stories. However, Christ said the purpose of parables was to conceal the things of the kingdom not to make them known.

**Mathew 13:10 - 11 - And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Teaching in parables is not necessarily making things "simple" for people to understand. Parables conceal the truth from those who don't believe and deepen the understanding of those who do believe. Using the approach of starting with the teaching of the Apostles in their writings makes for a better understanding of the teachings of Christ, especially in His parables where these mysteries are concealed.

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

A third principle deals with the prophetic nature of God's revelation to man by His Word. This helps immensely in understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ and the idea of FAITH found in scripture. Let's fully consider what the testimony of scripture is on this point - the faith the Bible speaks of is more than assent to what is already done in the past, it REQUIRES belief in a future not yet seen. I believe that understanding this will further help us to see why the kingdom began to be preached since the time of John.

**Revelation 19:10 - "...for THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY."**

Let's look at some examples that will help us realize how the Lord works with man by His Word. Consider this: Adam and Eve had a prophetic Word given to them.

**Genesis 2:17 - "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof THOU SHALT surely die."**

It wasn't long before man discovered the truth of this prophecy. After they sinned and experienced the reality of the prophetic Word being fulfilled, the Word of the Lord came to them again. This time He came to them with a promise, and they were required to accept this Word by FAITH.

**Genesis 3:15 - "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; IT SHALL bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."**

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

The fulfilled Word previously given and established forever no longer was sufficient for man if he was to have FAITH. Faith is the substance of things HOPED for. God, in His infinite wisdom, had already before the foundation of the world, provided a means to justify fallen man - by grace through faith. Because it is impossible to please God without faith or to be justified apart from it, continuing to preach only what was already fulfilled was not enough if man was to be justified by FAITH. It was necessary that the fulfilled Word remain a part of the testimony because the work of God continues to be built upon what he has already fulfilled and done. Without the knowledge of the past Word fulfilled, man couldn't understand the context of the Word spoken to him throughout his generations.

Knowing that the Word of the Lord has been fulfilled in the past is imperative to understand and build our confidence in His testimony but does not rise to the scriptural definition for producing the faith that God requires to be justified in His sight.

We know that Abel accepted this new Word by faith, but Cain did not. We know that to be so because Scripture bears witness to his faith. The Holy Spirit bears Abel witness in that he observed the ordinances delivered to them for their time in light of the hope they had received. Noah then also received a prophetic Word concerning things to come, and he had faith in the Word spoken.

**Genesis 6:13 - "And God said unto Noah, THE END OF ALL FLESH IS COME before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I WILL DESTROY THEM WITH THE EARTH."**

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

The book of Hebrews, when examining the faith that Noah had, makes it clear he received a prophetic testimony regarding things not yet seen.

**Hebrews 11:7 - "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things NOT SEEN AS YET, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became HEIR of the righteousness which is BY FAITH."**

Abraham similarly received a Word of things yet future and inconceivable to the natural mind when the gospel was preached to him:

**Genesis 26:4 - "And I WILL MAKE thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;"**

**Galatians 3:8 - "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee SHALL all nations be blessed."**

The very faith that Abraham had towards God and by which he became the "father of us all", was counted to him for righteousness as a result of his faith in the FUTURE God had promised him as we see in Genesis 15:

**Genesis 15:5 - 6 - "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, SO SHALL THY SEED BE. And he BELIEVED in the LORD; and he COUNTED IT TO HIM FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS."**

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

Abraham heard the testimony of God concerning **THINGS TO COME**, and believed His Word concerning those things - simple faith.

Rahab also had heard what the Lord had done already, which built her confidence in His testimony concerning things He was yet to do. By this means, she had **FAITH** towards God and is listed by James as an example of someone whose faith was exemplary. Her story of faith is found in Joshua chapter 2.

**Joshua 2:9 - "And she said unto the men, I KNOW THAT THE LORD HATH GIVEN YOU THE LAND, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.**

Rahab had heard what the Lord **HAD DONE** (past), and her confidence in the Word of the Lord concerning **THINGS TO COME** (future) became certain - knowing that the Lord would give the nation of Israel the land. The king of Jericho and all the other inhabitants resisted the revelation of this Word, even though they had heard it too, and their **HOPE** was that God's Word concerning those things wouldn't come true. That was a bad bet to make, as history now shows.

In fact, all the inhabitants of the land certainly believed the testimony of what the Lord had done in the past, as we see from the verse above. It was a well-published, irrefutable record of history to the people of the time. Does this knowledge make them believers? It was common knowledge at the time what the God of Israel had done to Egypt.

**Joshua 2:9 - 10 - "And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that**

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

**your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For WE HAVE HEARD how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.**

Did this common knowledge of those past events make all the people of that land BELIEVERS? No, scripture is thunderingly clear on this point. They perished as UNBELIEVERS as the book of Hebrews tells us. Believing a past record of God's work and accomplishments is not saving faith. The other inhabitants of the land did not submit themselves to the revelation concerning THE FUTURE.

Rahab's FAITH wasn't in KNOWING things that were ALREADY DONE. Faith was KNOWING things that hadn't even happened yet and acting upon them - which is her testimony. The knowledge of the fulfilled Word is not saving faith - it is knowledge. Wisdom is the desired result of gaining true knowledge and speaks to our FAITH.

**Ecclesiastes 7:12 - "the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."**

Knowledge of what God has done in the past is necessary, but without a confidence in things not yet seen, it is not saving faith. The purpose of knowledge is to build faith. Let's look at some more examples. The Word of God to the people of Nineveh was a prophetic Word as well:

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**Jonah 3:4 - "And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, YET FORTY DAYS, and Nineveh SHALL BE overthrown."**

The men of Nineveh had faith like Abraham:

**Jonah 3:5 - "So the people of Nineveh BELIEVED GOD..."**

Of course, the righteousness which is by faith is imputed to those who believe God. Their believing of the future God pronounced upon their city was manifested in the fact that they ACTED upon the news they heard. This work of God in justifying men is by the "Law of Faith", as Paul teaches, which is why the men of Nineveh are mentioned by the Lord in the resurrection among those justified by faith.

**Matthew 12:41 - "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here."**

The Word of the Lord to man has ALWAYS been prophetic, spoken concerning things to come. He declares the things that have not yet happened before they come to pass, so that when they do come to pass, we may believe the promises He has given that are yet unfulfilled.

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

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*The ability to declare the future before it comes to pass has been and is the hallmark of God's reputation among men from the beginning of time.*

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**John 13:19 -**  
**“Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.”**

Christ shared many things with his disciples that they would see fulfilled in the short term. This

was done so that they would believe His testimony concerning everything that was yet to be fulfilled. This prophecy above in John 13 had to do with Judas's betrayal of Him to His death. When the apostles later saw this come to pass, it served to build their faith concerning everything else Christ had spoken that was yet to come. It is this prophetic quality of the Word of the Lord that God uses to set apart His Word from all other would-be gods, religions, and “holy” books in the world. Jesus spoke many things that have already happened and others that have yet to come. Jesus Christ is the only prophet of God ever to do this that never said “Thus saith the Lord” or “Hear ye the Word of the Lord”. He IS the Lord. HE spoke the Word by saying, “Verily, **I SAY** unto you...”!

The ability to declare the future before it comes to pass has been, and is, the hallmark of God's reputation among men. The Lord Himself challenges anyone else to compete in this arena of the future with Him.

**Isaiah 41:21 - 23 - “Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that**

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we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or **DECLARE US THINGS FOR TO COME**. Shew the things **THAT ARE TO COME HEREAFTER**, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.”

**Isaiah 46:10 - “DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, and from ancient times the THINGS THAT ARE NOT YET DONE, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”**

This challenge issued by God continues to separate faith in the Lord Jesus Christ from all other religions in the earth - even from false Christianity. All other hopes (expectations of the future) that are outside of those spoken by God in His Word, will be disappointed by the counsel of God.

**Proverbs 10:28 - “The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.”**

Because of this, we can have a strong faith rooted deeply in God rather than the superstitious faith that has become so rampant in these last days. Our faith is not like any other so-called “faith” in the world today. It is the faith settled upon the True and Faithful Witness, the Word of God, the very testimony of the Father given by His Son Jesus Christ.

I know there are some that see prophecy as a kind of “sub-part” of scripture, and they avoid getting “tangled up in all that stuff”. Let’s be clear. It is impossible to preach the gospel, or believe it with scriptural faith, without the prophetic Word of the Lord. The entire gospel message for man today requires us to believe in a version of the future we have never seen for ourselves.

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Why should people believe it? What cause can we give that would solicit a serious consideration? Fulfilled prophecy is the hallmark of God's Word and authenticates His message. **IF WE DON'T HAVE A PROPHETIC WORD FROM THE LORD TO PREACH, WE DON'T HAVE THE GOSPEL.**

**Romans 4:17 - "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and CALLETH THOSE THINGS WHICH BE NOT AS THOUGH THEY WERE."**

I intend to be careful here, as it is my desire to help and not hinder. Let me try to show how this important aspect of God's Word applies to the gospel in our age. Just as Adam and Eve's knowledge of the fulfilled Word of God led to their FAITH in the PROMISE of God, so too our faith in the GOSPEL must hinge on our knowledge of the fulfilled Word of God concerning the Redeemer that came. However, that knowledge itself is not a substitute for FAITH.

"But", you say, "the gospel is the 'death, burial, and resurrection of Christ according to the scriptures' and all that is past." Yes, Jesus Christ was crucified and is resurrected now to live forever, Amen! This is the Word of the Lord that has now been completed and fulfilled for all eternity. It was all foreshadowed and prophesied by the Law, given as part of the Old Covenant at Sinai. It's glory and wonder will stand throughout the ages as perfect testimony to the love of God, the abundance and richness of His grace, and the enduring quality of His mercy. The power of the blood of Christ given by the sacrifice of Himself on Calvary provided an eternal wellspring of life-giving,

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sin-atoning, man-redeeming blood to the praise of His matchless grace! However, the gospel Christ sent His apostles to preach after His resurrection did not start and finish with only what was already done and past.

**Romans 15:8 - Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES made unto the fathers:**

The things that are done are necessary to be known and understood in order to have FAITH in what is promised! Regardless, FAITH is a requirement to become a partaker, and must be exercised in promises concerning things to come.

**1 Corinthians 15:14 - “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and YOUR FAITH is also vain.”**

That is why the faith spoken of throughout the New Testament speaks of His PROMISE and our HOPE, not only what is already done and past. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus bears witness to the veracity of all the other promises He spoke. In this same way, the knowledge of what the Lord HAD DONE for the children of Israel at the Red Sea produced faith in Rahab concerning what the Lord said HE WAS GOING TO DO! The promise of the sending of the Holy Spirit was the most immediate promise to be fulfilled after His ascension. Now, we can KNOW because of His resurrection, which He also promised, that ALL the other promises He made can be expected. To believe these promises requires FAITH, just like the faith of Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, the Ninevites, and every other saint who is justified by faith that is in Christ (The Word), the true and faithful witness.

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Acts 2:39 - "For the **PROMISE** is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

Ephesians 3:6 - "That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his **PROMISE** in Christ by the gospel."

Hebrews 9:15 - "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive **THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE.**"

Adam and Eve weren't told, "OK, so now you know I was truthful about the death that would come if you ate of the tree, so keep teaching your children that this is why things are as bad as they are". That gives no hope, promise, and most importantly no opportunity for faith. They were given **ANOTHER WORD** that was to be proclaimed and would give opportunity for **FAITH**. A Word that spoke of things that could be **HOPED** for. A Word concerning things **NOT YET SEEN**. A Word concerning **THINGS TO COME**.

We see from the definition of faith in Hebrews 11 that this knowledge, belief, and confidence in the **FUTURE** is a **REQUIREMENT** of true faith:

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*Faith is rooted in a holy expectation we have from God based on what HE SAID he would do, not what we WANT Him to do*

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Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things **HOPED FOR**, the evidence of things not seen."

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

As Paul shares in Romans 8 concerning these promises and this hope:

**Romans 8:24 - 25 - “For WE ARE SAVED BY HOPE: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But IF WE HOPE FOR THAT WE SEE NOT, then do we with patience wait for it.”**

The gospel message conveys no meaning to man unless taught as a means of hope with a look to the future. People cannot repent and believe, or even know HOW to have Biblical FAITH for that matter if the sum total of the gospel we preach falls short of prophecy. The place most commonly used to provide the definition of the gospel comes from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

**1 Corinthians 15:1 - 4 - “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you THE GOSPEL which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”**

Jesus Christ fulfilled all those scriptures! That is the purpose of God's Word. To give men opportunity for faith. The fulfillment of so much scripture by Christ BEARS WITNESS to the truth of ALL SCRIPTURE yet to be fulfilled.

**John 18:37 - Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and FOR THIS CAUSE**

**CAME I into the world, THAT I SHOULD BEAR WITNESS UNTO THE TRUTH. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.**

As spoken by Jesus Christ in the passage above, Jesus Christ came to bear witness to the Truth, which is the Word of God.

**John 17:17 - Sanctify them through thy truth: THY WORD IS TRUTH.**

Paul uses the gospel fulfillment of scripture by Jesus Christ to plainly declare the hope we have concerning God's promises that are yet unfulfilled. All scripture will be fulfilled in due time, and Christ's perfect fulfillment of everything written concerning the work He would accomplish during the days of His flesh verifies the divine authorship of those scriptures.

You may already realize that the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians is one of the most extensive texts given in scripture on the **RESURRECTION**. The resurrection is one of the great hopes that we have in Christ because of His promises.

Paul said he delivered unto them "first of all", and proceeds to list the things that are **DONE** in Christ. This is appropriate as it provides the knowledge necessary to understand how we got to this point in time and why we can now expect the rest of His promises to be fulfilled. All of the **WORK** necessary to make a resurrection of the "just" possible, to provide the atonement necessary for sins and to make us "fit" for the inheritance that has been promised was done on Calvary's cross! It was the **VERY REASON** he came! He emphatically cried with a loud voice "It is finished"! Praise God that He paid it all in full that we might

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be made free! Paul then goes on through the chapter to discuss all the things in the future that they had believed while he was present with them teaching them the gospel. This speaks to their FAITH - hope concerning things to come. He even goes so far as to say if there is nothing for us in the gospel that speaks to the future, it is of little comfort or use.

**1 Corinthians 15:19 - "If in THIS LIFE ONLY we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."**

There must be a future for God's people and that future is declared by the gospel Paul preached. He then says, later in the same chapter, in light of all these things which are true about Christ that are now fulfilled:

**1 Corinthians 15:49 - 50 - "And AS WE HAVE borne the image of the earthy, WE SHALL ALSO bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood CANNOT INHERIT the KINGDOM OF GOD; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."**

Paul here makes the hope of the saints evident by tying in the doctrine of the things pertaining to Jesus Christ and the resurrection to the kingdom and the inheritance of the saints. When you read the chapter and realize how he concludes with this idea of the inheritance and the kingdom of God, you realize that this understanding of the kingdom is the underlying theme of the whole passage, and indeed of every epistle. This would have been evident to the reader of the time since they had been taught of the gospel of the kingdom by Paul personally prior to the writing of this letter.

God requires faith in those who would be reconciled to Him. Faith is more than consenting to history. It

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

is believing in God in holy expectation for things spoken concerning the future but not yet seen! As such, our gospel must speak both to the truth of the past as well as the promise of the future. The Law that had been preached “until John” was the prophetic message and doctrine for that age and time, looking forward to the coming Messiah, who would redeem His people and save them from their sins by the sacrifice of Himself. That prophetic Word has now been fulfilled by Jesus Christ. The message and doctrine of God's Word being preached for this age is the gospel of the kingdom of God rather than the law of Moses.

Steven pleaded with the leaders of the Jewish religion in His day regarding this very work of God - the FULFILLMENT of His Word. He told them:

**Acts 7:51 - “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.”**

They had refused the testimony of the Holy Spirit concerning the fulfillment of God's promise by His Son Jesus Christ - just like their fathers resisted the fulfillment of His promise to visit them in Egypt and deliver them by Moses. This is Steven's point. They were insisting on clinging to the old message and refusing the testimony of the Spirit concerning the fulfillment of that Word, which destroys their opportunity for faith, seeing that the old Word is completed and fulfilled. After Moses had come and gone, Israelites who refused him could not just continue in Egypt waiting for their promised deliverer and expect that hope to be fulfilled. God had already fulfilled that promise in sending Moses. Once God fulfills the Word, there is no faith to be had in clinging to the old Word. Once the fulfillment has come, it must be acknowledged,

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and a new Word received by faith. Accordingly, God has ALWAYS given another Word of promise to give men hope and OPPORTUNITY for faith. This is why when Christ came to FULFILL the law, the message God decreed to be preached from the time of John forward is the message of His Kingdom – so that men might believe His testimony and have faith towards Him concerning things to come. The Law, now fulfilled, could no longer function as a means of faith towards God. The Lamb of God that was promised to come had been sent to fulfill that promise. A change in preaching was necessary.

This helps us understand why the Law of Moses ceased to function among the household of faith after the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Law prophetically pictured

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*The Law, now fulfilled, could no longer function as a means of faith towards God – a change in preaching was necessary.*

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Christ's work on Calvary – a faith building message for that time. People then looked for the Lamb of God who was to come. With the sacrifice now complete, continuing to declare ONLY those things that picture what Christ did on Calvary, is not sufficient for men to have FAITH. That is why the ordinances of the law are not for the household of faith today. The law still functions to bring us to Christ by showing us our sin and need of a Savior – i.e., it gives KNOWLEDGE. But it is not of FAITH.

We can see the error and disobedience of those who continued clinging to the old message.

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**Acts 7:51 - "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, YE DO ALWAYS RESIST THE HOLY GHOST: as your fathers did, so do ye."**

**1 Thessalonians 2:16 - "Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for THE WRATH IS COME UPON THEM TO THE UTTERMOST."**

The understanding of this principle is paramount to our faith today. Paul was teaching Timothy of these principles in 2 Timothy. His admonishment was to study the Word to shew himself approved.

**2 Timothy 2:15 - "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth."**

We all know the verse. But the apostle's caution to the young preacher is to RIGHTLY DIVIDE the Word of truth. Rightly dividing between fulfilled testimony and future promises certainly must have been part of the discernment Paul was teaching Timothy to practice, because we see this exact caution in the text!

**2 Timothy 2:16 - 17 - "But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED, saying that the RESURRECTION IS PAST ALREADY; and OVERTHROW THE FAITH of some."**

When the promises of God that are yet unfulfilled are taught as having already happened, there will be an abundance of ungodliness and the overthrowing of faith. Can we imagine that today? Think about the universal

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church doctrine (which attempts to bring the future assembly of saints in heaven to the earth in the present) and kingdom now doctrine (that teaches the kingdom is already here) or even salvation being thought of as in our past when in fact it is promised to the saints. These being taught as already come and present has certainly destroyed faith and increased ungodliness.

These doctrines were given by God to preserve our hope and holy expectation of the appearing of His Son Jesus Christ - by FAITH. Many doctrines today that were given to men as promises have been taught as having already come, which as we can now witness for ourselves, leads to more ungodliness as people fall away from the faith, hope, and expectation of their fulfillment in Jesus Christ when He appears. The list of promises given as prophetic and future is not a short one.

- **Resurrection** - “And have HOPE toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a RESURRECTION of the dead, both of the just and unjust.” - Acts 24:15
- **General Assembly of Saints in Heaven** - “But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.” - Hebrews 12:24; “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues,

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stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" - Revelation 7:9

- **Eternal Life** - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE." - Titus 3:7
- **Salvation** - "...and for an helmet, the HOPE OF SALVATION." - 1 Thessalonians 5:8; "For we are saved by HOPE: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?" - Romans 8:24
- **The righteousness by faith** - "For we through the Spirit WAIT FOR the HOPE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS by faith." - Galatians 5:5
- **Grace** - "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and HOPE to the end for the GRACE that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;" - 1 Peter 1:13
- **Inheritance** - "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the PROMISE of eternal INHERITANCE." - Hebrews 9:15
- **New Heaven & Earth** - "Nevertheless we, according to his PROMISE, look for NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, wherein dwelleth righteousness." - 2 Peter 3:13
- **The Kingdom of God** - "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD." - Acts 14:22; "I charge thee therefore

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before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead **AT HIS APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM;**" - 2 Timothy 4:1

- **Redemption of the body** - "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **WAITING FOR** the adoption, to wit, the **REDEMPTION** of our body." - Romans 8:23
- **Rest** - "Let us therefore fear, lest, a **PROMISE** being left us of entering into his **REST**, any of you should seem to come short of it." - Hebrews 4:1

Refusing the Holy Spirit testimony of fulfilled scripture is not rightly dividing the Word. Also, testifying of things that haven't come yet as if they were already past, puts us in the same category of teacher as Hymenaeus, whom Paul said needed to learn not to blaspheme... ouch.

**1 Timothy 1:20 - "Of whom is HYMENAEUS and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may LEARN NOT TO BLASPHEME."**

Rightly dividing the Word involves believing His Word that has been fulfilled in the past and having faith in His testimony concerning things not yet seen. Christ said a man shall live by **EVERY** word of God. We need the entire testimony.

**Matthew 4:4 - "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

## Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

Consider the position of some today who say things such as “believing the Biblical account of creation is not a salvation issue”. We might wonder in response, how can we have FAITH towards God concerning things he has said He WILL DO by Christ in times to come, such as create a new heaven and earth, while at the same time denying that He did it the first time according to His own account? Our

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*Our preaching is to declare the HOPE of salvation by the PROMISE of God in Christ for those who believe the testimony of Christ.*

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knowledge and belief in what He did the first time, builds our confidence and gives faith concerning what He has promised to come. The fulfilled testimony and promises always work that way. Promise of resurrection? Christ is already risen as the first fruits. Promise to destroy this present world? He's done it before. Promise of redemption of our body? He made our bodies the first time. In these and many other instances, we are called to accept the Word of God concerning things to come as a promise. When we do, we have come to faith.

### Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

Acts 2:39	For the <b>PROMISE</b> is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.
Acts 13:23	Of this man's seed hath God according to his <b>PROMISE</b> raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:
Acts 26:6 - 7	And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the <b>PROMISE</b> made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which <b>HOPE'S</b> sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
Romans 4:13	For the <b>PROMISE</b> , that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.
Romans 4:14	For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the <b>PROMISE</b> made of none effect:
Romans 4:16	Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the <b>PROMISE</b> might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

### Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

Romans 4:20	He staggered not at the <b>PROMISE</b> of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;
Romans 9:8	That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the <b>PROMISE</b> are counted for the seed.
Galatians 3:14	That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the <b>PROMISE</b> of the Spirit through faith.
Galatians 3:17	And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the <b>PROMISE</b> of none effect.
Galatians 3:18	For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of <b>PROMISE</b> : but God gave it to Abraham by <b>PROMISE</b> .
Galatians 3:19	Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the <b>PROMISE</b> was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

### Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

Galatians 3:22	But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the <b>PROMISE</b> by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.
Galatians 3:29	And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the <b>PROMISE</b> .
Galatians 4:28	Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of <b>PROMISE</b> .
Ephesians 2:12	That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of <b>PROMISE</b> , having no hope, and without God in the world:
Ephesians 3:6	That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his <b>PROMISE</b> in Christ by the gospel:
1 Timothy 4:8	For bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having <b>PROMISE</b> of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.
2 Timothy 1:1	Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the <b>PROMISE</b> of life which is in Christ Jesus,
Hebrews 4:1	Let us therefore fear, lest, a <b>PROMISE</b> being left us of entering

### Chapter 3 - God's Word to Man

	into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.
Hebrews 6:17	Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of <b>PROMISE</b> the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:
Hebrews 9:15	And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the <b>PROMISE</b> of eternal inheritance.
Hebrews 10:36	For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the <b>PROMISE</b> .
2 Peter 3:9	The Lord is not slack concerning his <b>PROMISE</b> , as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
2 Peter 3:13	Nevertheless we, according to his <b>PROMISE</b> , look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
1 John 2:25	And this is the <b>PROMISE</b> that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

**Mark 1:14 - “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,”**

The last principle for our study concerning the kingdom of God deals with what the author of Hebrews calls the “time of reformation”. Think about what that meant for the worshippers of God who lived through that reformation. A time when the glorious law of God, given by the grace of God through the mediator Moses, was to be done away.

**2 Corinthians 3:11 - “For if that which is DONE AWAY was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious.”**

Why was it to be done away? Was the Word of God being altered? Was the law to be deposed? God forbid! What was it that occurred?

**Hebrews 9:9 - 10 - “The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was NOT YET made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was A FIGURE for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them UNTIL THE TIME OF REFORMATION.”**

There is much discussion and difficulty regarding this reformation to this very day. Each New Testament author, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, waged war on

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

the fronts of error with these same things in their day. They continue with us still.

Our concern is the exercise of our faith in this age of the gospel, as it is contrasted to the exercise of those who had the same faith in previous ages. In those times the things of the kingdom were still mysteries and the preaching of them not fully known as they have now been manifested by God in His Son Jesus Christ. The visible exercise of faith, and the body of doctrine that accompanied it, had long resembled the very same thing for true worshippers of God, and then was reformed in the fulness of time. There were some very important aspects to faith and worship that had marked God's servants for millennia!

Since Calvary and the cross, we no longer erect altars, prepare sacrifices, participate in ceremonial cleansings, and many other such ordinances that were given in times past. While this seems normal to us, it was radical for those believers living at the time this change took place. We can see this in the book of Hebrews, which was written to help clarify the meaning of the work of Christ at Calvary for believing Jews. All through the Old Testament there were altars involved in the worship of the true and living God. In the New Testament, the altar

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## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

spoken of is in Heaven. This **MUST** be understood. Not purely for theological reasons, but for practical and doctrinal reasons as well.

**Hebrews 10:1 - “For the law having A SHADOW OF GOOD THINGS TO COME, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”**

If you would have asked anyone alive in those times, “where is the altar?”, or “where is the temple?”, or “what is necessary to become a member of the congregation”, or “what sacrifice is required to atone for sin?”, what kind of answers would you expect? This is what we need to know about the Old Covenant. **ALL** of it was accomplished **IN THE FLESH** during that time, by the hands of men, dwelling in bodies of clay, and encompassed with the infirmity of their sins. In fact, the Old Covenant was even ratified by means of fleshly things, not eternal things. It was performed by a man, Moses, using blood of animals to sprinkle the man-made tabernacle and man-made vessels of ministry. None of these fleshly things held any power, righteousness, or eternal value on their own.

**Hebrews 9:19 - 23 - “For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the **PATTERNS OF****

**THINGS IN THE HEAVENS should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”**

These things were not of eternal value, but neither were they unimportant. They had been ordained by God for a purpose. This body of doctrine they held was given by God, and they were to be exercised in it. In time, most eventually came to see this body of doctrine simply as a means to establish their own righteousness rather than as an opportunity for faith.

**Romans 10:3 - “For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”**

The truth is, there was no righteousness in it for them by THE DOING of those things - which is good for us to remember. Neither were they considered faithful or blameless if they neglected those things as unimportant. Christ continually warns the Old Testament congregation for allowing his ordinances to fall into neglect and for casting His commandments behind their back. The testimony of scripture concerning Zacharias and Elizabeth, who were the parents of John the Baptist, makes it clear that God expected these things to be faithfully observed.

**Luke 1:6 - “And they were both RIGHTEOUS BEFORE GOD, walking in ALL THE COMMANDMENTS AND ORDINANCES OF THE LORD BLAMELESS.”**

The old covenant had ordinances, just like the new covenant does.

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

**Hebrews 9:1 - Then verily the first covenant HAD ALSO ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.**

These fleshly things could not justify, but neither could they be neglected. They were to be observed by faith in hope of the promise. There is a reason for this we must understand in our time. The members of the congregation of that time were instructed in the doctrine of Christ before He came, to serve as a **SHADOW** and **EXAMPLE** of what **HE** would fulfill upon His **ARRIVAL** – as the Lamb of God. And once He fulfilled His Word, it stood as an eternal memorial to His own faithfulness to bring to pass what He had promised.

This body of doctrine kept them exercised in the practice of looking forward to the coming of the Just One, who would by His own power **FULFILL** all the types that had been committed to them in the covenant God made with them. They were to continue to observe them, faithfully executing their duty to their God, to keep the doctrine and the **HOPE** of the **PROMISE** alive throughout their generations. The priests who served on Earth, were simply shadows of the true heavenly things yet to come.

**Hebrews 8:4 - 5 - “For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: Who serve unto the **EXAMPLE** and **SHADOW** of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things **ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN** shewed to thee in the mount.”**

These earthly things were given as patterns of things that were true and eternal. When we read of Christ

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

saying that the law and prophets were UNTIL JOHN, we understand that John was sent to announce the arrival of the Anointed One who would FULFILL all the types that had been being observed for centuries and millennia! That is why they were no longer to be PREACHED in the same way after He had come. Fulfillment had come. The Lamb had come. Reformation had come. It was time to LOOK AHEAD!

**Matthew 5:17 - 18 - “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but TO FULFIL. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”**

It is the work of God that has power, not the work of men. Now that Christ had come to fulfil the shadows contained in the Old Covenant, the Word spoken and confirmed by the hands of an earthly mediator was to be fulfilled and done away, having been rendered inoperable by the One who gave it and fulfilled it. The New Covenant, made not after the things of the flesh such as the blood of bulls and goats and men serving as priests, was to be ushered in to the glory of God our Savior!

**Hebrews 8:13 - “In that he saith, A NEW covenant, HE hath MADE THE FIRST OLD. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is READY TO VANISH AWAY.”**

To put a finer point on it, once the fulfillment of the Word of God that was given by way of the Old Covenant came, another Word began to be spoken. This Word of the Lord was preached by John and Jesus Christ, which was the Word of the kingdom of God.

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

Those who lived on the earth during the times of the former things, lived lives that characterized a faith in the God who commanded them to keep His testimony. That great cloud of witnesses now speaks to us from the pages of scripture. These men and women who believed what God had revealed to them concerning their coming deliverer serve as witnesses and examples for us. Although we live in a different age and preach a gospel that was still mysterious to them, their example of faith remains, and they, being dead, still speak to us today.

**Hebrews 11:4 - “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he BEING DEAD YET SPEAKETH.”**

We no longer need to erect an altar, because that good thing has come that fulfilled it. The good thing foreshadowed to come, has come, and fulfilled the type. We no longer observe Passover because that good thing prepared for us, the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world, **“now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” - Hebrews 9:26.**

No more of those shadows. No more patterns of things pertaining to the sacrifice of the Lamb. Everything that was given as a shadow in the Old Covenant has now been done away in Christ, and we, upon whom the ends of the world are come, have received NEW things!

**Colossians 2:16 - 17 - Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: Which are A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME; but the body is of Christ.**

## Chapter 4 - A Shadow of Things to Come

As it relates to the doctrine we hold today and the preaching of the Kingdom of God, we can learn from the things that were written before for our admonition. If the things observed in the flesh before the time of reformation served as shadows, what of the things now observed in the flesh by those awaiting the fulfillment of His Word and Promise concerning the “times of refreshing” and the “restitution of all things”?

**Acts 3:19 - 21 - “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive UNTIL the TIMES OF RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”**

We gather together unto Christ for services as a matter of ordinance and commandment of Jesus Christ. Is that a shadow of things to come? Certainly, if we are commanded under this New Covenant to observe such things in the flesh, they must be a shadow of good things to come!

**Hebrews 10:23 - 27 - “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: NOT FORSAKING THE ASSEMBLING OF OURSELVES TOGETHER, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.”**

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**2 Thessalonian 2:1 - “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by OUR GATHERING TOGETHER UNTO HIM,”**

We gather unto Him as a shadow of the good thing we know will come - by faith. This ordinance of New Testament doctrine given to the saints is intended to prophesy unto men on earth of the hope we have in the promises of Jesus Christ.

If we consider the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's supper, we can see how they foreshadow future events that we expect by faith.

**1 Corinthians 11:26 - “For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye DO SHEW the Lord's death TILL he come.”**

**1 Corinthians 15:29 - “Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?”**

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*If Christ commanded us to observe the ordinance, it **MUST** have a heavenly counterpart in Him to be fulfilled.*

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i.e., why do we do these things in the flesh (baptize) if there is not a heavenly counterpart that it foreshadows? That would make the exercise of no doctrinal value. Baptism holds no meaning or purpose as an ordinance unless it conveys a corresponding truth of the FAITH we profess. That is the apostle's point in that verse. If Christ commanded us to observe the ordinance, it **MUST** have a heavenly counterpart in Him to be fulfilled in the future. These things are given to preserve the doctrine, the faith, the hope, and the promises

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through our adherence to living out the shadows of what we claim and expect to happen in the future by faith - just like saints of old.

The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper are the chief examples of this truth, but not the only ones. These are the shadows that people can see as a prophetic witness of what we hold to be true in faith and expect to see fulfilled in the future. There is coming a time when these shadows will be done away, and the true things known face to face.

**1 Corinthians 13:9 - 12 - "For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But WHEN THAT which is PERFECT IS COME, then THAT which is IN PART shall be DONE AWAY. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."**

Baptism will have its fulfilled counterpart when we are resurrected and placed into the heavenly congregation. The Lord's supper will have its fulfillment as we partake of the Lord's table in His kingdom. In the meantime, we live in observance of His ordinances and expectation of these promises.

### Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

We don't often hear the phrase "the gospel of the kingdom" these days. Seeing that it is so prevalent in the New Testament, we might want to ask ourselves the question, "Why?"

This gospel was the preaching of Jesus Christ Himself. His doctrine is useful in meaningful and practical ways that increase our FAITH - not our doubt. If He was preaching it, it was faith-building doctrine. If the apostles were preaching it, it was faith-building doctrine. Is it our preaching and doctrine?

The aim of study and preaching today should be to teach and preach this message in a way that helps to build our faith. As this hope and expectation grows, there will be more fruit produced in our lives to the glory of God. This proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom was **THE MESSAGE** being preached throughout the entire New Testament.

It is important to explain that I am not suggesting that there are different gospels in scripture. Rather, there are different titles given to the gospel that focus on certain aspects of its character and truth. It is similar with many things in scripture, such as the Holy Spirit. You may find the Holy Spirit spoken of as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Wisdom, or the Spirit of Grace. We know all of these speak of the one and selfsame Spirit, but the names used throughout scripture emphasize different aspects of His deity, work, and power.

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It is the same with the gospel. We may find in the scripture the gospel of the kingdom of God, the gospel of Jesus Christ, the gospel of the grace of God, the gospel of Christ, the gospel of God, the gospel of your salvation, or the gospel of peace. These all speak of the same and one true gospel. In every case, the gospel is the gospel is the gospel.

When we speak of the gospel of the kingdom of God, we are speaking, perhaps, in the way that most broadly depicts the gospel of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. It carries us all the way through to the new creation and the eternal inheritance of the saints. Specifically in view is the world to come, when that new creature born of God will be brought forth and the sons of God will be made manifest as Christ reigns on the throne of His glory with His saints.

Often today, the gospel is thought of in terms of what was accomplished by Christ at His first coming to earth. According to the apostles, the gospel announcement doesn't stop there.

**Romans 2:16 -  
In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.**

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*While teaching of the work Christ accomplished at His first coming is undoubtedly the aim of the gospel in teaching HOW God accomplished the redemption of His people, it stops short of the PURPOSE of God in doing so.*

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## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

While teaching of the work Christ accomplished at His first coming is undoubtedly the aim of the gospel in teaching HOW God accomplished the redemption of His people, it stops short of the PURPOSE of God in doing so.

**Ephesians 2:7 - That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

This seems to leave a great gap and difficulty in the understanding of many when they fail to see the relevance of what happened almost 2,000 years ago. Typically, to compensate for this we try to put people in mind of their own death. “Do you know if you will go to heaven when you die?” we may ask. A fair question to be sure. Nonetheless, it is still quite a departure from the gospel that was preached by the apostles which warns men of Christ’s coming return and the judgment to follow.

**Colossians 1:27 - 28 - “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: WHOM WE PREACH, WARNING EVERY MAN, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:”**

**1 Peter 4:4 - “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him [Jesus Christ] that is READY TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD.”**

Peter tells us in His second epistle that the gospel the apostles preached communicated two main things as it relates to faith in Christ. Understand that faith is defined

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for us in scripture as “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”.

**2 Peter 1:16 -**  
For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when **WE MADE KNOWN UNTO YOU THE POWER AND COMING** of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

The aim of gospel preaching, as Peter shares it here, is focused on these two

primary points that had been declared through the apostles’ ministry. Those main declarations were the power and coming of Christ. These truths lie in the testimony of Jesus Christ Himself and are a necessary part of the gospel announcement. Notice Peter’s statement of what Christ commanded them to preach and testify unto the people:

**Acts 10:42 - 43 -“ And HE COMMANDED US TO PREACH** unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was **ORDAINED OF GOD TO BE THE JUDGE OF QUICK AND DEAD.** To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

Further, a departure from this truth in preaching leads us to complicate the gospel. For instance, you may

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*None of the apostles preached a gospel that asked men to invite Jesus into their hearts. He has, however, promised to send His Spirit to dwell in the hearts of those who BELIEVE. Believe what? That He will come and dwell in my heart if I ask Him to? The short answer is - No. The long answer is - N-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o... We must believe His GOSPEL.*

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## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

be familiar with certain phrases often used such as “ask Jesus into your heart”, or “make Him the Lord of your life” or “pray the sinner’s prayer” or many other phrases we have created in our attempt to communicate the gospel.

There are many problems here. We see from scripture, for example, that Christ didn’t promise to come into our hearts when we invite Him in. None of the apostles preached a gospel that asked men to invite Jesus into their hearts. He has, however, promised to send His Spirit to dwell in the hearts of those who BELIEVE. Believe what? That He will come and dwell in my heart if I ask Him to? The short answer is - No. The long answer is - N-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o... We must believe His GOSPEL. We must receive His testimony - by faith. IF we BELIEVE His gospel, then He will keep His promise to send His Spirit into our heart.

**Ephesians 1:13 - “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the GOSPEL of your salvation: in whom also AFTER THAT YE BELIEVED, YE WERE SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise,”**

There are real problems with these types of approaches to evangelism. They typically end up leading people to “make a decision” to be born again when it comes to the gospel. But is the new birth really a decision we make?

**John 1:12 - 13 - “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: WHICH WERE BORN, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but OF GOD.”**

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**James 1:18 - “OF HIS OWN WILL BEGAT HE US with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”**

It is important that the people who are baptized and placed into our congregations **KNOW THE GOSPEL**. Until someone **UNDERSTANDS** the gospel, they will not be able to **BELIEVE THE GOSPEL** and put their **FAITH** in Christ in the way scripture teaches us to do in **HOPE** of His **PROMISES**.

**1 John 5:20 - And we know that the Son of God is come, and HATH GIVEN US AN UNDERSTANDING, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.**

People who are not taught an understanding of the gospel often can spend the rest of their days in one of two camps:

1. Constantly battling the feeling “they didn’t do it right” and are unstable in their “faith” rather than increasing in it.
2. Continuing to cling to an event in their past when they “got saved” and remain apathetic or unfruitful in their life as it pertains to the gospel.

The problem with each of these approaches to evangelism is that they sound close enough to the truth that they largely go unnoticed. None of those responses, however, were **EVER** the aim of the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Peter never said, “Men and brethren, Make Jesus the Lord of your life!” .... He never would have said that because men have no power to do any such thing. Peter **DID** declare that **GOD**, who has the

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

authority to do so, **HAD MADE JESUS LORD**. If God has done it, then it is done. Peter preached the announcement of the news of what God had done to men who were then responsible for acting upon that information in faith.

**Acts 2:36** - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that **GOD HATH MADE** that same **JESUS**, whom ye have crucified, both **LORD AND CHRIST**.”

Similarly, Paul never preached, “Ye men of Athens, ask Jesus into your heart!”. He did preach unto them Jesus and the resurrection, and he warned them of the coming judgment of all men by Jesus Christ.

**Acts 17:18** - “Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.”

**Acts 17:31** - “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

As these tidings were brought to the ears of the people of Athens, there were many reactions and responses. Among them, some believed these things.

**Acts 17:34** - “Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and **BELIEVED**: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.”

This group of people believed the Word of the Lord, which is the mark of God’s work in their hearts.

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

**John 6:29 - “Jesus answered and said unto them, THIS IS THE WORK OF GOD, THAT YE BELIEVE on him whom he hath sent.”**

**1 John 5:10 - “He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself.....”**

Those that believed this testimony were then instructed in the way of the Lord. They were given His commandments, ordinances, and doctrine to keep them in the way and to provide for their growth in the knowledge of God. All of these other approaches to evangelism and the gospel have crept into churches to the detriment of the body of Christ.

Paul spent an entire DAY talking to people who ALREADY KNEW SCRIPTURE as he expounded the gospel to them. Why would He do this? So that they could BELIEVE the word of God concerning His Son Jesus Christ. By believing the message of the kingdom of God that Christ had taught, they put their faith in Christ, who is the author of these tidings.

**Hebrews 2:3 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;**

Upon this understanding, they could have faith in the promises of Jesus Christ.

**Acts 28:23 - “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom HE EXPOUNDED AND TESTIFIED THE KINGDOM OF GOD, persuading them CONCERNING JESUS, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, FROM MORNING TO EVENING.”**

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Paul testified the Kingdom of God with the prophetic Spirit of Christ through his preaching. This prophetic testimony of things unseen and yet to come is what provides the opportunity for faith to men. When the gospel of the kingdom of God is declared, it carries a message that leaves you with two groups of listeners. Look at the very next verse from Acts 28 when Paul spent this whole day expounding the things concerning Jesus and preaching the Kingdom of God to them:

**Acts 28:24 - “And SOME BELIEVED the things which were spoken, and SOME BELIEVED NOT.”**

There were those who believed and those who did not, and that has always been the difference between those called to be Saints and those who die in unbelief. When the Word of the kingdom was preached, they either believed the things told to them, or they did not. Those who believe His Word and testimony, the Bible says, are justified in His sight and will have the righteousness of God imputed to them by faith.

**Romans 4:24 - “But for us also, to whom it [righteousness] shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;”**

We believe on Him by receiving His testimony. While it is clear from scripture that the kingdom of God is an eternal kingdom, we also notice that the phrase “Kingdom of God” is particularly associated with the events surrounding Christ’s return at the end of the age. To understand this, we need to understand the present condition of this world. Adam was given dominion of this world in the beginning, but then fell in sin. Consequently, the adversary of God set Himself up as a ruler by virtue of this deception. He was able to bring man under his dominion and

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

consequently the entire world. Whether Lucifer was originally in a position of authority over this present world is unclear. What is clear is that Satan is currently the ruler of this present world. This is taught to us by the Lord Himself, as well as the apostles.

**John 14:30 - “Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD cometh, and hath nothing in me.”**

The present world is under the power of darkness, as it has pleased God to allow it to be so for the time being.

**2 Corinthians 4:4 - “In whom THE GOD OF THIS WORLD hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

**Ephesians 2:2 - “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”**

Satan has been given the position of ruler for this present time, just as God has ordained every ruler all through history.

**Daniel 4:25 - “till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and GIVETH IT TO WHOMSOEVER HE WILL.”**

**Romans 13:1 - “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD: the powers that be are ordained of God.”**

**John 19:11 - “Jesus answered, THOU COULDEST HAVE NO POWER AT ALL against me, EXCEPT IT**

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**WERE GIVEN THEE FROM ABOVE: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.”**

These powers of darkness are to have an end and be swept away from the earth. This coming judgment against the ruler of this present world is already done and certain, the victory being guaranteed by Jesus Christ who conquered His enemies by His own death and resurrection.

**Colossians 2:14 - 15 - “Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having SPOILED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”**

It is by faith that we look for the time on earth when we see the subjugation of Christ’s enemies and the reign of the Son of Man on earth.

**Hebrews 2:8 - “Thou hast 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 SEE NOT YET ALL THINGS PUT UNDER HIM.”**

The teaching of the kingdom by Christ and the apostles speaks often of the world to come, in which we will receive the promise of redemption, the promise of eternal life, and the promise of eternal inheritance.

**Hebrews 2:5 - “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection THE WORLD TO COME, WHEREOF WE SPEAK.”**

We who have believed have been delivered, the Bible says, from the power of darkness.

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**Colossians 1:13 - “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”**

This speaks of the truth Paul goes on to teach the Colossians that we are in fact dead to this world now so that we might live and reign with Christ in the world to come.

**Colossians 3:1 - 4 - “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. FOR YE ARE DEAD, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APEAR WITH HIM IN GLORY.”**

While we do not yet see these things, God has promised to shew forth the glory of His Son in His own time. The gap, between the announcement of these things to men and the fulfillment of them, is the opportunity for faith.

**1 Timothy 6:14 - 15 - “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which IN HIS TIMES HE SHALL SHEW, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”**

Let’s consider this aspect of our faith using an example to see how this should be viewed. Remember, faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. We have an expectation of entrance into the kingdom we have been promised and we also have not yet seen the enemies of Christ subdued under His feet. Let’s examine another scriptural truth to see a correlation of how this aspect of faith is viewed in scripture, and then see if it

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helps us understand the promises of God a little better. As an example, let's consider eternal life. Do we have eternal life now, or will we receive it later? The Bible teaches both.

**Mark 10:30 - "But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and IN THE WORLD TO COME ETERNAL LIFE."**

**Titus 3:7 - "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to THE HOPE [expectation] OF ETERNAL LIFE."**

**1 John 2:25 - "And this is THE PROMISE that he hath promised us, even ETERNAL LIFE."**

**1 John 5:13 - "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that YE MAY KNOW THAT YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."**

Christ spoke of us receiving eternal life in the world to come. Paul speaks of the hope, or expectation, we have of it being brought to us. John says that it is both promised to us, and we have it. Is it promised to us, or do we have it now? Scripture clearly teaches both, but why? Faith is the answer.

**Romans 4:17 - "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."**

Those who have believed the promise by faith and have received the Holy Spirit as down payment do indeed have eternal life. However, we only possess this promise now by faith, and are living with the down payment in

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

expectation of His other promises being fulfilled. This is why Paul says we are living in hope of eternal life.

**Titus 1:2 - IN HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**

God has purposefully left a gap between the spoken word and its' fulfillment so that men will have opportunity for faith.

**John 6:63 - "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK unto you, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE."**

We haven't yet experienced the life that is promised to us, but we have received an earnest payment of the promise that has been made. Eternal life will be given to those who believe, and it will be experienced after the resurrection in our glorified bodies which we will be given when he appears. That is why Christ said we will receive it in the world to come.

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*We haven't yet experienced the life that is promised to us, but we have received an earnest payment of the promise that has been made.*

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This principle also applies to salvation itself, which is received now as a promise by faith but is to be re-

ceived in actual fulfillment when Christ appears. That is why we live in the hope of salvation as Paul says.

**1 Thessalonians 5:8 - "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the HOPE OF SALVATION."**

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Sometimes the phrases “born again” and “saved” are used interchangeably in our vernacular, as if they spoke of the very same thing in scripture. In actuality, they differ in the way they describe God’s work in us. Being “born again” speaks of the regenerative work of God’s Spirit in our hearts at the moment of conversion. “Salvation” speaks more broadly to the work of redemption, but specifically has an eye to a future redemption for those who are born again.

The fact that God views His Word and the fulfillment of it in time as **synonymous**, is a good lesson for us. It is also helpful to our understanding of the kingdom of God since it is a promise that works the same way. In the mind of God, it is already done. The announcement of its arrival in advance to men is His promise. We will see exactly how it is the same with the kingdom as we continue, but let’s quickly look at an example:

**Mark 10:15 - “Verily I say unto you, Whosoever SHALL NOT RECEIVE the kingdom of God as a little child, he SHALL NOT ENTER therein.”**

We can view this passage with much clarity when we see how God views a promise in His Word as synonymous with its fulfillment. After all, He made and upholds the worlds with the power of His Word. Here we see, concerning the kingdom, that we must receive it to enter it. Could be confusing, but it is like eternal life, salvation, and many other promises in His Word.

**Matthew 13:19 - When any one HEARETH THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.**

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

We must first receive the promise of it by faith, the word of the kingdom, and then we will be given entrance when the fulfillment comes. The “kingdom” received is the Word preached and accepted by faith, and the “kingdom” entered is the kingdom brought to pass in the fulness of time, when the word is to have its fulfillment.

In this way, we are both “in the kingdom” by faith and “waiting for it”, just as with eternal life which we “have” by faith but have yet to “receive”.

**Acts 14:22 - “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to CONTINUE IN THE FAITH, and that we must through much tribulation ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”**

The understanding of these promises is an exercise in faith. That is how God works. He requires faith. Remember the father of faith?

**Genesis 15:5 - 6 - “And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, SO SHALL THY SEED BE. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.”**

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*God has sent men to preach a message that carries prophetic news. His prophetic testimony is given before the fulfillment in order to give men the opportunity for faith. The kingdom message is preached to accomplish exactly that. It is the prophetic component of the Word of the Lord to the people of this age.*

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## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

The gospel of the kingdom is the testimony of Christ concerning things to come. Those who hear and receive this Word, can have confidence toward God that they will be accounted righteous just like our father Abraham (Abraham never invited the Lord into his heart either...), who believed the Lord concerning things to come.

God has sent men to preach a message that carries prophetic news. His prophetic testimony is given before the fulfillment to give men the opportunity for faith. The kingdom message is preached to accomplish exactly that. It is the prophetic component of the Word of the Lord to the people of this age.

Those who believe the Word of the Lord, receive an inheritance among the Saints of Light. They are made fit for such a place by the grace of God according to the mighty working of His power in us by His Spirit.

**Ephesians 1:17 - 21 - “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the HOPE of his calling, and what the RICHES OF THE GLORY OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in THIS WORLD, but also in THAT WHICH IS TO COME:”**

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**Ephesians 2:7** - “That in the ages to come he might shew **THE EXCEEDING RICHES OF HIS GRACE** in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

**Colossians 1:27** - “To whom God would make known what is **THE RICHES OF THE GLORY** of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:”

The gospel of the kingdom concerns the Lord Jesus Christ and communicates to man the reality of the King God has ordained as ruler of all things. It also declares who will enter that kingdom and who will not, and further declares that every man will find himself bound

by the Word God has spoken. We can't choose to not participate... He created us and we are involved.

**Luke 16:16** - “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and **EVERY MAN PRESSETH INTO IT.**”

Every man born into the world has a destiny in the world to come that is foretold by the Word of God. This is true regardless of whether that man believes the testimony of Christ or not. God's Word will take hold of every man, regardless of that man's personal persuasion in the matter.

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*Every man born into the world has a destiny in the world to come that is foretold by the Word of God. This is true regardless of whether that man believes the testimony of Christ or not.*

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## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

**Acts 13:40 - “Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets;”**

The message of this gospel declares plainly who Jesus Christ is as the Son of God and promised Seed of Abraham. He came to shed His blood and save His people from their sins. He is raised by the power of God and is both Lord and Christ. He is now at the right hand of the Father making intercession for the saints. He is certain to return and to reign on his throne of Glory as the Seed of David. Those who receive the truth of this testimony are promised to reign with Christ in His government in His eternal kingdom. This promise is the same one that Abraham received - the promise of eternal inheritance. This inheritance and its correlation to the kingdom is another important aspect of the faith we hold, and share with Abraham, which was fulfilled in Christ. The very promise made to Abraham is now available to “whosoever will” through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Hebrews 6:17 - “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto THE HEIRS OF PROMISE the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:**

**Hebrews 9:15 - “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE.”**

**Hebrews 10:36 - “For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might RECEIVE THE PROMISE.”**

Once we begin to see the gospel promise of inheritance given to Abraham, the preaching of the kingdom

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

found throughout the New Testament books can be studied and understood through the faith we have in that promise. Again, the entire New Testament is kingdom doctrine. The inheritance is a central theme of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Since Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were all heirs of this same promise, Christ teaches of their fellowship in His kingdom:

**Matthew 8:11 - “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.”**

The mystery of God’s kingdom is declared by Jesus Christ, who is God in the flesh, the express image of His person, and the fulness of the Godhead bodily. This is a great mystery, as Paul tells us. The mystery by which God was manifest in the flesh and tabernacled among men. Jesus Christ must reign over all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers. They were created by Him (God) and for Him (Jesus Christ).

If the truth of this Kingdom is not received now by faith, that man will not enter. If a man is not born again, he will not enter. If a man’s righteousness doesn’t exceed the scribes and pharisees, he will not enter. Not everyone that says “Lord, Lord” will enter, but only those who do the will of the Father - which is to hear the Son and believe Him. If a man is trusting riches, He will not be able to enter. If a man is trusting his own righteousness, he cannot enter. If a man is looking for a messiah other than the one the Father sent (Jesus Christ) he will not enter. Many will seek to enter but shall not be able. It is easier for a camel

## Chapter 5 - The Gospel of the Kingdom

to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter. Consider the testimony given in scripture concerning these things:

**1 Corinthians 6:9 - 10 - "...Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, SHALL INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

**Galatians 5:19 - 21 - "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD."**

**Ephesians 5:5 - "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, HATH ANY INHERITANCE IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD."**

**1 Corinthians 15:50 - "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption."**

**Colossians 3:23 - 25 - "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that OF THE LORD YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."**

## Chapter 6 – The World to Come

**Luke 18:29 - 30 - “And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in THE WORLD TO COME life everlasting.”**

There is an important phrase from scripture that speaks of the work God has promised to do by His Son Jesus Christ - to make all things new! This phrase is “the world to come” and is an important aspect of the promises of God in scripture. It was spoken of by Christ, the apostles, and prophets and especially spoken of as a part of the preaching of the kingdom of God in the New Testament. To understand the gospel and the warnings to us of “the world”, we need to understand this doctrine.

It is this future world of which Abraham was promised to be heir as spoken of in Romans chapter 4. It is also the world we look for as joint heirs with Christ. It is in this world that we will finally have a world wherein dwelleth righteousness - and no wonder, as the Lord Himself will dwell there.

There is a world spoken of which has an end, and a world spoken of which has no end. This present world in which we live is not to be destroyed in the sense of annihilation but destroyed as the world of Noah's time was destroyed. We still inhabit the same planet that pre-existed the flood, but the world that then was, has been destroyed and made over. In the same way, the earth, or foundations of the earth, will remain but the present world that we know today will pass away.

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**Psalm 104:5 - Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.**

The difference between Noah's day and the coming destruction is that the next destruction will be by fire and not water. After that destruction, God has promised to refresh all things and to make them new.

In this world to come, all of God's promises concerning that which is to be forever, will be fulfilled.

**Genesis 13:15 - "For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed FOR EVER."**

**2 Samuel 7:13 - "He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom FOR EVER."**

**Daniel 7:18 - "But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom FOR EVER, even for ever and ever."**

**Ezekiel 37:28 - "And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them FOR EVERMORE."**

**Ezekiel 43:7 - "And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in**

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*In these and other places, we see the promises of God that are forever. However, we see that on earth now, they are not yet realized or fulfilled. That is because this age and world will have an end, after which an age and world are to be ushered in that will last FOR-EVER and be without end.*

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## Chapter 6 – The World to Come

**the midst of the children of Israel FOR EVER, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places.”**

In these and other places, we see the promises of God that are forever. However, we see that on earth now, they are not yet realized or fulfilled. That is because this age and world will have an end, after which an age and world are to be ushered in that will last FOREVER and be without end.

The children of Israel have not been planted in their land to inhabit it forever – yet.

The Son of David is not set down on the throne of His father David forever – yet.

The saints of God have not taken possession of the kingdom forever – yet.

The sanctuary of God has not been established in the midst of His people forever – yet.

The eternal throne in the midst of the people of Israel hasn't been placed forever – yet.

We even know the promise that was confirmed to Mary by Gabriel when He announced the Word of the Lord to her concerning the birth of Jesus, included an affirmation of His future eternal reign.

**Luke 1:31 - 33 - “And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God SHALL GIVE unto him the throne of his father David: And HE SHALL REIGN**

**over the house of Jacob FOR EVER; and of his kingdom there shall be NO END.”**

Speaking of Jesus, Mary was told that at some point in the future (He shall reign...) these things would be fulfilled. Yet, for all these promises spoken, Mary never saw the fulfillment of this Word during her lifetime. These things are not a contradiction at all. We see from the scripture that the promises are all future things God has said he WILL do, and that WHEN God does them, they will be forever. From our previous text in Luke 1, we know that WHEN Jesus receives the throne of His father David, He will reign on it FOR EVER from that point forward.

**Matthew 25:31 - WHEN THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, THEN SHALL HE SIT upon the throne of his glory:**

He has spoken these things by His Word as a promise of what He will do, and said that when He does them, it will be forever.

**Ecclesiastes 3:14 - “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be FOR EVER: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.”**

In some scriptures we see the contrast between now and forever very clearly:

**2 Peter 3:18 - “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both NOW and FOR EVER. Amen.”**

The promise of this coming world has been long foretold by the Word of the Lord, as we have already seen

## Chapter 6 – The World to Come

by the promise God made to Abraham. This is especially made clear by the prophet Isaiah.

**Isaiah 65:17 - “For, behold, I create NEW HEAVENS and a NEW EARTH: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”**

**Isaiah 66:22 - “For as the NEW HEAVENS and the NEW EARTH, which I will make, SHALL REMAIN before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.”**

This was revealed by the Holy Spirit through other prophets as well.

**Haggai 2:6 - “For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

Even more clarity in the New Testament as additional LIGHT, regarding the truth and time of the things that are to be brought to pass, is shed with even more detail. The author of Hebrews speaks of this prophecy from Haggai regarding the removing of the things of this present world.

**Hebrews 12:26 - 27 - “Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth THE REMOVING of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.”**

## Chapter 6 – The World to Come

The removing of the things of this present world is then spoken of in contrast with the kingdom promised to the saints, by inheritance in Christ through the promise to Abraham, in the very next verse...

**Hebrews 12:28 - 29 - “Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”**

All the works of man and this present age are to be removed, but the kingdom we are receiving cannot be moved because it is the work of God and not man. Peter also correlates the arrival of this long-expected world with the hope of the promise we have received from the Word of truth, and with the removal of this present world, by elaborating on the teaching from Isaiah.

**2 Peter 3:9 - “The Lord is not slack concerning his PROMISE, as some men count slackness; but is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which THE HEAVENS SHALL PASS AWAY with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, THE EARTH also and the works that are therein SHALL BE BURNED UP. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his PROMISE, look for NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH, wherein dwelleth RIGHTEOUSNESS.”**

## Chapter 6 – The World to Come

There are promises made regarding the end of this PRESENT world that must first be fulfilled before the promise of the world to come is received. The destruction by fire of this present evil world is necessary to the fulfillment of the scriptures concerning the arrival of the kingdom of God. Christ taught His disciples of all these things as He revealed the mysteries of the kingdom to them.

**Luke 21:31 - “So likewise ye, WHEN YE SEE these things come to pass, KNOW ye that THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NIGH at hand.”**

Notice another prophetic Word by the Spirit from Isaiah:

**Isaiah 45:17 - 18 - “But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an EVERLASTING salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded WORLD WITHOUT END. For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, HE CREATED IT NOT IN VAIN, HE FORMED IT TO BE INHABITED: I am the LORD; and there is none else.”**

The Lord formed the earth to be inhabited and inhabited it shall be - so He tells us. This is what Peter teaches in the passage we just read, and is seen in Hebrews, Haggai, Isaiah, Psalms, and in each account of the Olivet Discourse:

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*What day and hour is Christ discussing? The hour in which the heavens and earth shall pass, which is being discussed in the immediately preceding verse.*

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**Matthew 24:35 - 36 - “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”**

What day and hour is Christ discussing? The hour in which the heavens and earth shall pass, which is being discussed in the immediately preceding verse. He then likens the event He is referencing to the flood of Noah’s time. You might remember that story. The one where God destroys the entire earth. This event at the end of the great tribulation is to be accomplished prior to the ushering in of the kingdom that has been promised – before the millennium. The other Olivet accounts in Mark and Luke read the same:

**Mark 13:31 - 32 - “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”**

**Luke 21:33 - 36 - “Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be**

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**accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”**

Heaven and earth are to pass away as the prophets foretold. Not the removing of the planet God made, but a destruction of the earth as in Noah’s day. A removal of the corruption and wickedness wrought by man and a removal of those works influenced by Satan is in view. None of the works accomplished by man or Satan, or even a shadow of them, will survive the age - no legacy, no monument, no landmark.

**Isaiah 65:17 - “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and THE FORMER THINGS SHALL NOT BE REMEMBERED, NOR COME INTO MIND.”**

Only the work of God in Christ will stand as a memorial of His power and grace. Once these things are removed, we will see a times of refreshing and restitution of all things sent from the Father by the hand of Jesus Christ

**Acts 3:19 - 21 - “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the TIMES OF REFRESHING shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”**

These are the promises of God. These are true and faithful words which He has spoken unto us by His Son, who will make all things new.

**Revelation 21:5 - “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. And**

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he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

With at least that much under our belts, let’s look at a few other passages in the scriptures that speak of the world to come to see the prominence of this hope in scripture:

**Matthew 12:32** - “And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the **WORLD TO COME.**”

**Mark 10:30** - “But he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the **WORLD TO COME** eternal life.”

**Luke 18:10** - “Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the **WORLD TO COME** life everlasting.”

**Luke 20:34** -“ And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain **THAT WORLD**, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:”

**Ephesians 1:21** - “Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in **THAT WHICH IS TO COME.**”

**Hebrews 6:5** -“ And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the **WORLD TO COME,**”

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**Hebrews 2:5 - “For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the WORLD TO COME, whereof we speak.”**

Paul here writes an interesting and important statement when he says “WHEREOF - WE - SPEAK” - i.e. our teaching and preaching of the faith deals with the things of the world to come. This preaching of the world to come is central to the preaching of the kingdom and the faith we profess in the Word of God spoken in our time. Given the preaching about the world to come, we can also better understand the other passages in the New TESTAMENT about this present world. These two worlds are being shown in CONTRAST to each other. We also can see how they are at odds with one another ALL THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT! One will be a place where righteousness dwells and one is a place of wickedness and sin. One is the Kingdom of Christ, the true light, and one is the kingdom of darkness. One is of the power of the Holy Spirit, and one is of the spirit of disobedience. One is of the dominion that was given to the first Adam and the other to the Last Adam. Time would fail us here to capture the breadth of this topic, but let’s look at some examples.

Consider the parable of the Sower and the seed that fell among thorns. The good seed is the Word of God concerning the world to come and the thorns represent the allure of the present world that keeps men blinded to the truth. The allure of the present world keeps men blinded to the truth. Let’s look:

**Matthew 13:22 - “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth THE WORD [the word of the kingdom from verse 19]; and the care of THIS**

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**WORLD, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”**

Consequently, we see these worlds at odds with each other. You cannot serve God and mammon. You cannot love this world and its riches while also living by faith in the Word of God which He has spoken concerning the world to come. Laying up treasure on earth is, after all, contrary to kingdom doctrine. Not just because it preaches well, but because confidence in the things of this world is contrary to the working of faith in God’s promises. You may remember Christ’s teaching of the difficulty of entering the kingdom for those who trust riches:

**Mark 10:24 - “And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that TRUST IN RICHES to enter into the kingdom of God!”**

How do you know if you have trust in riches? Because you struggle to let go of them, as the young man in this passage of scripture that had great wealth.

**Matthew 19:21 - “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, HE WENT AWAY sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”**

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The young man heard the word, but it was choked out by the love of this world and its riches. They provide a false sense of security – a security that opposes true faith in Christ. How do you know if you trust in riches? How generous are you able to be with the things over which you have been made steward? Could you lose everything and still have peace, joy, contentment, and faith? You could if you believed in the gospel of the kingdom.

We could look at countless examples of this promise and its contrast to this present world, but let's simply conclude by saying this: There is a world to come that is promised. In it, all who have been justified by faith are to receive eternal life in the resurrection of the just.

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*Could you lose everything and still have peace, joy, contentment, and faith? You could if you believed in the gospel of the kingdom.*

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These scriptures depict the CONTRAST between the world that is promised to come and this present one. They are more than a general statement of an invisible system we can't see, although the god of this present world controls that as well. It has as much to do with an ungodly perspective that refuses to believe what God has spoken. That is why we see teaching all through the New Testament that speaks of "the world", because, as we are told in Hebrews, it is the world to come, whereof we speak as Saints, being contrasted to this present world of which the world speaks. This present world carries the idea of "the here and now", whereas the world to come speaks of the promises of God to be received in the future. The question is, which world are you living for, hoping in, and speaking of?

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For many, it is exclusively the here and now. As Paul told the Philippians, our citizenship is in heaven and we are not of this world.

**2 Peter 2:19** - “...for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

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Psalm 17:14	From men which are thy hand, O <b>LORD</b> , from men of the world, which have their portion <b>IN THIS LIFE</b> , and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.
John 8:23	And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of <b>THIS WORLD</b> ; I am not of this world.
John 12:25	He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in <b>THIS WORLD</b> shall keep it unto life eternal.
John 14:30	Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of <b>THIS WORLD</b> cometh, and hath nothing in me.
John 15:19	If ye were of the <b>WORLD</b> , the <b>WORLD</b> would love his own: but because ye are not of the <b>WORLD</b> , but I have chosen you out of the <b>WORLD</b> , therefore the world hateth you.
John 16:11	Of judgment, because the prince of <b>THIS WORLD</b> is judged.
John 17:6	I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me

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	<b>OUT OF THE WORLD:</b> thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.
John 17:14	I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because <b>THEY ARE NOT OF THE WORLD</b> , even as I am not of the world.
John 18:36	Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of <b>THIS WORLD</b> : if my kingdom were of <b>THIS WORLD</b> , then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.
Romans 12:2	And be not conformed to <b>THIS WORLD</b> : but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
1 Corinthians 2:6	Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of <b>THIS WORLD</b> , nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:
1 Corinthians 2:8	Which none of the princes of <b>THIS WORLD</b> knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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1 Corinthians 2:12	Now we have received, not the spirit of <b>THE WORLD</b> , but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
1 Corinthians 3:19	For the wisdom of <b>THIS WORLD</b> is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.
1 Corinthians 7:31	And they that use <b>THIS WORLD</b> , as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.
1 Corinthians 7:33	But he that is married careth for the things that are of <b>THE WORLD</b> , how he may please his wife.
1 Corinthians 10:11	Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the <b>ENDS OF THE WORLD</b> are come.
1 Corinthians 11:32	But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with <b>THE WORLD</b> .
2 Corinthians 4:4	In whom the god of <b>THIS WORLD</b> hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious

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	gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
Galatians 1:4	Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from <b>THIS PRESENT EVIL WORLD</b> , according to the will of God and our Father
Galatians 4:3	Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the <b>WORLD</b> :
Galatians 6:14	But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the <b>WORLD</b> is crucified unto me, and I unto the <b>WORLD</b> .
Ephesians 1:21	Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in <b>THIS WORLD</b> , but also in that which is to come:
Ephesians 2:2	Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of <b>THIS WORLD</b> , according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.
Ephesians 6:12	For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the

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	rulers of the darkness of <b>THIS WORLD</b> , against spiritual wickedness in high places
1 Timothy 6:7	For we brought nothing into <b>THIS WORLD</b> , and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
Titus 2:12 - 13	Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in <b>THIS PRESENT WORLD</b> ; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
James 2:5	Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of <b>THIS WORLD</b> rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?
1 John 4:17	Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in <b>THIS WORLD</b> .
1 John 5:4	For whatsoever is born of God overcometh <b>THE WORLD</b> : and this is the victory that overcometh <b>THE WORLD</b> , even our faith.

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Revelation 11:15	And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of <b>THIS WORLD</b> are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.
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## Chapter 7 - Called to be Saints

### Chapter 7 - Called to be Saints

The term “saints” in scripture simply means “holy ones”. For our purposes, we are looking specifically at how the Word of God speaks of the group of saints who will receive the inheritance that is promised to them by God through Jesus Christ.

When we begin to see the inheritance that is promised to the saints as a central piece of the gospel that was preached, some of the other kingdom preaching comes into clearer view, at least for me:

**Ephesians 4:1 - “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk WORTHY OF THE VOCATION wherewith ye are called,”**

This verse follows 3 chapters of the apostle setting forth the gospel of the kingdom which he had preached, and which had been believed in the city of Ephesus. In the first few chapters, the apostle is laying out the doctrine of the kingdom. He then switches to application of this doctrine to the present life we now live by faith. He then goes on in chapter 4 with the admonition to “walk worthy” of the vocation wherewith we are called, because we are called to be “saints”, which is a special designation for those who will reign with Christ. We see this phrase time and again in the New Testament.

**Romans 1:7 - “To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, CALLED TO BE SAINTS:”**

**1 Corinthians 1:2 - “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, CALLED TO BE SAINTS, with all that in every**

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**place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”**

A few of the previous verses in the book of Ephesians regard aspects of the doctrine of the kingdom which we discuss in this book. For context I have included them below:

**Ephesians 1:11 - “In whom also we have obtained an INHERITANCE, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”**

**Ephesians 1:14 - “Which is the EARNEST [down payment] of our INHERITANCE until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”**

Here we also see that the kingdom, promised by inheritance, is not going to be received UNTIL some other things happen. This also helps us understand the down payment of that inheritance and the timing God has in view for the kingdom.

**Ephesians 1:18 - “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may KNOW what is the HOPE of his CALLING, and what the riches of the glory of his INHERITANCE in the saints,”**

**Ephesians 2:2 - “Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of THIS WORLD, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:”**

You will here again notice Paul contrasting “this present world” with the “world to come” as we see in many other passages.

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Ephesians 2:6 - 7 - “And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places **IN CHRIST JESUS**: That **IN THE AGES TO COME** he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:12 - “That at that time ye 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:”

Ephesians 2:16 - “And that he might reconcile both unto God **IN ONE BODY** by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”

Ephesians 3:6 - “That the Gentiles should be **FELLOWHEIRS**, and of the same body, and **PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE** in Christ by the gospel:”

The Word of God teaches that New Testament believers are to be joined to Christ by being made partakers of the promise that was made to Abraham - that he would be heir of the world, which is why we as gentiles are here in Ephesians called **FELLOW HEIRS**. Paul then goes on to explain that this mystery was revealed to him so that it could be declared in the world, preached unto men v.8, and that through the faith of those who believe, it might be made known by the church.

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This calling to be saints, speaks of the good will of the Father, shown to us in Christ. Thus, we are called to “fear not”. Things may be difficult and troublesome during these days of our flesh in this present world, but the Father has great things in store for the saints. The glory of those things cannot be compared with anything we could think, ask, or imagine.

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**Romans 8:18 - “For I reckon that the sufferings of THIS PRESENT TIME are not worthy to be compared with the GLORY which SHALL BE revealed in us.”**

Paul is speaking of the glory to be revealed in us by the power of Christ when the sons of God are manifest, when we are to be brought forth, and we shall be like Him!

**Romans 8:19 - “For the earnest expectation of the creature WAITETH for the MANIFESTATION of the sons of God.”**

**1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not YET APPEAR what we shall be: but we know that, WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

The destiny of the saints of God is to be joined together in Him, be like Him, and to REIGN with him -

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all to the glory of His GRACE! Remember, the testimony of all saints is that they do not deserve such a place. Their presence there is the sole act of His kindness towards them. Not one saint will be there because they think they have earned it or deserve it!

**Revelation 1:5 - 6 - “And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And HATH MADE US KINGS and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”**

At the time of His return, He will send forth His angels to gather out of His kingdom everything that offends and everyone that does iniquity.

**Matthew 13:41 - “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”**

If the saints are to reign with Christ, over whom will they reign? Well, not each other. We are one body in Christ. Jesus Christ will be reigning over all of creation with His saints, which is the glory He has spoken of that He will give to the saints.

**Revelation 2:26 -27 - “And HE THAT OVER-COMETH AND KEEPETH MY WORKS UNTO THE END, to him will I give power over the nations: And HE SHALL RULE them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”**

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**Revelation 21:7 - “HE THAT OVERCOMETH SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**

We know the overcomer is Christ Himself, and that all those who are in Him by faith overcome with Him by His power. The promise in these verses is made to the saints who overcome the world by faith in the Word of His Testimony. He has called us to be saints. Called us to be like Him. The saints are called to reign with Christ over all of creation - thus, the remarkable statement from Paul:

**1 Corinthians 6:2 - 3 - “Do ye not know that THE SAINTS SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that WE SHALL JUDGE ANGELS? how much more things that pertain to this life?”**

We are also told of these things in Hebrews.

**“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds;”**

They are also taught in Romans.

**Romans 8:17: - “And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and JOINT\_HEIRS WITH CHRIST; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may BE ALSO GLORIFIED TOGETHER.”**

We see that Christ, the seed of Abraham, is appointed heir of all things, and that those who are in Christ will be joint heirs seeing that we are His body. This means

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that all those who are in Christ and partakers of this promise of Abraham to be heir of the world, will be those that comprise the government of the new world that is yet to come. To this agree the words of the apostles and prophets:

**Isaiah 9:6 - 7 - “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the GOVERNMENT shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his GOVERNMENT and peace there shall be NO END, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even FOR EVER. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”**

**Psalms 8:4 - 6 - “WHAT IS MAN, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put ALL THINGS under his feet:”**

**2 Timothy 2:12 - “If we suffer, we shall also REIGN WITH HIM: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”**

This wonder of God concerning His work and inheritance in the saints confounds the natural mind. Why would God choose such a weak and lowly creature to reign over all of creation - even over beings as perfect and mighty as angels?! I can hear the angels as they curiously ask concerning these things... “Those little guys are to inherit the kingdom and reign with Christ over all creation?” It is no wonder they are curious about what God is doing!

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**1 Peter 1:12 - “Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things **THE ANGELS DESIRE TO LOOK INTO.**”**

As we behold the wisdom of God in this mystery, it's not hard to imagine the angels being curious about this work! Regardless, they minister unto us of His things and rejoice to see God continue to teach them new things about Himself - like His mercy and grace. Since He intended to show unto principalities and powers the wonders of His grace, then the inheritance of the saints, the mystery of the eternal reign of men over all creation through Christ Jesus, certainly checks that box!

We have teaching from the Lord Jesus Christ in some of the kingdom parables concerning His promise to those who follow Him by faith in the word of God concerning this future kingdom as well.

**Luke 19:15 - 19 - “And it came to pass, that **WHEN HE WAS RETURNED, HAVING RECEIVED THE KINGDOM,** then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, **HAVE THOU AUTHORITY OVER TEN CITIES.** And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, **BE THOU ALSO OVER FIVE CITIES.**”**

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The same kingdom that James says is promised to the heirs of God – those joint-heirs with Christ.

**James 2:5 - Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM WHICH HE HATH PROMISED to them that love him?**

We notice also that the reign spoken of in scripture is not limited to 1,000 years but is to have no end. This reign is that of which Christ had taught his disciples throughout his earthly ministry. We have several conversations recorded in scripture of Him speaking to them of these PROMISES, which they were to accept by faith. Perhaps the carnal mind of Judas expected that these promises pertained to this natural life and this age. Perhaps that was his undoing and left him open for Satan's using and work. The carnal mind sees blessings from God as things to be consumed upon itself now because of lust. The Spiritual man sees the blessing is in the service itself – knowing Christ more intimately and working for His glory and praise rather than our own.

**John 5:44 - “How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?”**

We know Judas was covetous.

**John 12:4 - 6 - “Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because HE WAS A THIEF, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”**

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Covetousness is a direct disqualifier for God's kingdom.

**1 Corinthians 6:9 - 10 - "Know ye not that the unrighteous SHALL NOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, NOR COVETEOUS, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, SHALL INHERIT the kingdom of God."**

In Paul's teaching on the kingdom of God in 1 Corinthians, Ephesians, and in Galatians, he clearly warns the churches that the COVETEOUS have no part in God's kingdom. It seems it might very well have been this covetousness that shows us the carnal

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*If someone claims to follow Christ but fails to be delivered from the lusts of this present evil world, they are at serious risk of deceiving themselves. Judas clearly was such a man.*

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mind of the man who was to betray Christ into the hands of His enemies - walking in the flesh, as a thief, and betraying the Savior for money. Christ said He was a devil, but that He had chosen Him to fulfill the Word of God

**John 6:70 - "Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"**

These warnings against the desires of the flesh for this world were also taught by Christ so that men who profess faith in the gospel, might examine themselves to see if they are really in the FAITH. If someone claims to follow

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Christ (i.e. believes His testimony concerning this present world and believes His gospel of a world to come in the resurrection of which those who follow Him by faith have a part) but fails to be delivered from the lusts of this present evil world, they are at serious risk of deceiving themselves. All of us are called to make sincere examinations such as this. Judas clearly was a deceived man. He had heard the many teachings of Christ of the things that awaited the twelve apostles:

**Matthew 19:28 - “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, YE SHALL SIT upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”**

**Matthew 16:19 - “And I WILL GIVE UNTO THEE the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”**

**Matthew 17:20 - “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, YE SHALL SAY unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and NOTHING SHALL BE impossible unto you.”**

But being a natural man, Judas perhaps couldn't understand that Christ was speaking of the world to come, and that we must **FIRST** suffer. This is, of course, speculation on my part as to Judas, but these warnings in scripture are there for all to see.

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**Hebrews 4:1 - “Let us therefore fear, lest, a PROMISE being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.”**

All these passages above speak of future reigning, future glory, and future power that the disciples would receive in the kingdom as part of their inheritance. There are many deeply theological and difficult interpretations of these passages that seek a fulfillment during the earthly lives of the apostles. These interpretations vary greatly, as you can imagine, because if there was a fulfillment of them during their earthly lives, it ISN'T clear exactly how that fulfillment took place. This explains why interpretations of these passages are so difficult and vary greatly. If we accept that the New Testament teaches that these are PROMISES given by the Word of the Lord, things become clearer.

There isn't a reason to press the fulfillment of these scriptures into the present rather than the future tense in which they are given. The text clearly communicates a future fulfillment to the apostles in light of the promises Christ had made to them of the kingdom. No wonder they were so eager for it to come! This would be a good place to talk of scriptural patience and waiting on the Lord, as the faithful apostles had to learn.

**Luke 8:15 - “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit WITH PATIENCE.”**

**Luke 21:19 - “IN YOUR PATIENCE possess ye your souls.”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:3 - “Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and**

**PATIENCE OF HOPE in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;”**

You could go on for a long time looking at this scriptural patience of waiting upon the Lord that is rooted in faith! However, let’s get back to the topic at hand...

These things promised to the apostles by Jesus Christ would wait until the time appointed by the Father.

**1 Timothy 6:14 - 15 - “...until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: Which IN HIS TIMES HE SHALL SHEW, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;”**

In the resurrection, the apostles are to be brought forth and manifest as the sons of God. They are to be made like Christ, and they will, in their perfected and glorified state of complete unity with the Lord Jesus Christ, exercise this power on His behalf. Just as the thrones were future promises, so too these wonders of reigning with Christ in the world to come when nothing was to be impossible to them. The text is speaking of the future.

The Father has committed the timing of these things to His own power, and they will not come to pass until the time He has APPOINTED, when this age and world are over. The reason four apostles, Peter, Andrew, James, and John, approached Christ privately on the Mount of Olives, asking Him of His return and THE END OF THE WORLD, makes much more sense when you realize that Christ had taught them, as those who were revealed the mysteries of the kingdom, that His kingdom would not come until this present world had come to an end.

## Chapter 7 - Called to be Saints

**Matthew 24:3** - “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of **THE END OF THE WORLD?**”

He had often taught them of the end of the world, which is why they were asking Him for more clarification and signs as to how they would know it was close. They were looking for His return because the end of the world, His return, and the kingdom they looked for were all known to them by His teaching, to be contingent upon each other. What they lacked was an understanding of the timing, which is why on the **VERY DAY** of His ascension they were still asking if it was kingdom time or not!

**Acts 1:6** - “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

Fifteen years later, they had been taught by the Holy Spirit concerning the work of Christ and the purposes of God concerning the kingdom. They had accepted that there were yet some purposes in scripture, that God was bringing to pass, before he concluded this age and set up the kingdom that had been promised. James, speaking to the witness of the Holy Spirit concerning these things testified:

**Acts 15:15 - 16** - “And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, **AFTER THIS I WILL RETURN**, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:”

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By this point in time, the apostles had been taught more of the kingdom and the Father's will by the Word of God as the Holy Spirit did indeed show them **THINGS TO COME**, as Christ had said. James was teaching here, that before Christ was to build again the tabernacle of David, He would first gather a people out from among the Gentiles. Those people were to be fellow-heirs and of the same body - a previously unknown mystery that God had now revealed to them by **HIS SPIRIT**. This is the same aspect of this current age that Paul taught the Romans, lest they should be puffed up in their mind - which actually has already happened, as you likely know, in replacement theology (the idea, of man, that the New Testament church has replaced Israel).

**Romans 11:25 - "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."**

The apostles had to learn - patience. Patience is required by those who wait upon the Lord to fulfill His promises, because His time frame is in a different context than ours.

**2 Peter 3:8 - "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."**

The apostles had learned that the kingdom would not be brought to pass until the fulness of Gentiles was brought in, and then the Lord would turn His attention back to the house of David to establish his kingdom - forever. In the meantime, they were to walk worthy of the calling, to occupy until He comes, to be as stewards over their Lord's goods, and to faithfully watch for His appearing.

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Psalm 37:28	For the <b>LORD</b> loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his <b>SAINTS</b> ; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.
Psalm 89:5	And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O <b>LORD</b> : thy faithfulness also in the <b>CONGREGATION OF THE SAINTS</b> .
Psalm 89:7	God is greatly to be feared in the <b>ASSEMBLY OF THE SAINTS</b> , and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.
Psalm 149:1	Praise ye the <b>LORD</b> . Sing unto the <b>LORD</b> a new song, and his praise in the <b>CONGREGATION OF SAINTS</b> .
Daniel 7:18	But the <b>SAINTS</b> of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.
Daniel 7:22	Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the <b>SAINTS</b> of the most High; and the time came that the <b>SAINTS</b> possessed the kingdom.
Daniel 7:27	And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the <b>SAINTS</b>

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	of the most <b>High</b> , whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.
Romans 1:7	To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be <b>SAINTS</b> : Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 1:2	Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be <b>SAINTS</b> , with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
1 Corinthians 6:2	Do ye not know that the <b>SAINTS</b> shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?
Ephesians 1:1	Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the <b>SAINTS</b> which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:
Ephesians 1:18	The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the <b>SAINTS</b> ,
Ephesians 2:19	Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but

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	fellowcitizens with the <b>SAINTS</b> , and of the household of God;
Ephesians 5:3	But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh <b>SAINTS</b> ;
Philippians 1:1	Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the <b>SAINTS</b> in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
Colossians 1:2	To the <b>SAINTS</b> and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:12	Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the <b>SAINTS</b> in light:
Revelation 11:18	And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the <b>SAINTS</b> , and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.
Revelation 14:12	Here is the patience of the <b>SAINTS</b> : here are they that keep the

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	commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.
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### Chapter 8 – The Hope of the Saints

An important question we need to answer with respect to the gospel of Jesus Christ and of His kingdom, is the question of our HOPE. You can't study the New Testament without seeing this word spoken of time and again. It is essential that we spend at least a few minutes looking at a scriptural view of what this means as it relates to our preaching and faith.

What is HOPE anyway? Simply speaking, hope is the reason we do everything we do. By definition, it means "expectation". At the most fundamental level, all human behavior is rooted in HOPE. It is why we work, plan, and play the way we do. Hope can be defined as our expectation of a future or an outcome. When Christ speaks of our hope, he is speaking to this deeply rooted expectation that produces fruit in our lives via the "works" that we can see. The very reason we do anything is because of the expectation we have, our hope, that gives it purpose and value. The importance of this is essential to our understanding for several reasons.

One of these reasons is that "works" can be seemingly similar from person to person but can be rooted in very different hopes. God looks upon the heart and is a judge of those "works" that we can't see with the eyes. For example, one person might give mightily to the work of God with his finances - in hope of earning God's favor. Another may give mightily as well - to attempt to obligate God to bless Him. Another may give for the glory of having his own name attached to significance or recognition. Yet another man may of a good heart and conscience towards God give just as mightily as our first

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three examples in His desire to demonstrate FAITH towards God in His eternal promises because of the HOPE that man has which are rooted in God's Word. If a man has been delivered from the lusts of the heart by the power of God through FAITH in His gospel, then his actions of giving are "good works" being made so by the blood of Christ that has purged the man's conscience from sins. Think, Zacchaeus... We must first be justified in His sight, made righteous by God through faith in His Word, and granted His Spirit before we are able to offer Him a gift of a pure heart.

**Acts 15:8 - 9 - "And God, which KNOWETH THE HEARTS, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, PURIFYING THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH."**

**Hebrews 10:22 - "Let us draw near with a TRUE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH, having our HEARTS SPRINKLED from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."**

God desires faith in the WORD HE HAS GIVEN. The result is works that are rooted in faith towards God. The outside may look the same to man, but God knows our hearts. If we are giving to Him for what we expect to get back in this life, or to obligate Him in some way to do things for us, He is not ignorant of that fact. However, if we are giving in faith of the things He has spoken concerning the world to come, then we may do so to His pleasing. While the external practice of these may APPEAR the same, only those things done in FAITH will please God.

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Knowing that, we who are of the household of faith need to ask the question, “what is our HOPE?”. Throughout the scriptures, hope is a primary theme of God’s people. It is a necessary by-product of our faith. It is defined from the Greek word as an “earnest expectation”. It is not the kind we use today when we answer someone with “I hope so”. That use implies a possibility. The scriptural use is one of which a person is persuaded is a fact. The origin and authorship of the hope, or expectation, is what is important. True Hope comes from knowledge, belief, and confidence in the testimony of Christ, the true and faithful witness of the Father.

**Revelation 3:14 - “And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS, the beginning of the creation of God;”**

Satan, the one who has sown corrupt seed of false testimony and witness, is the source of all other hopes.

**John 8:44 - “Ye are of your father THE DEVIL, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for HE IS A LIAR, AND THE FATHER OF IT.”**

A lie is a word given that produces a false hope because the expectation is never brought to fruition. Lies always produce disappointment. Only the hope that will stand the test of the storm is founded on the true foundation, Jesus Christ,. These hopes are compared by the wisest man who ever lived besides Jesus Christ in his book of Proverbs:

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**Proverbs 10:28 - “The HOPE of the righteous shall be gladness: but the EXPECTATION of the wicked shall perish.”**

Where we get our information makes all the difference when it comes to our expectations being fulfilled. If you have believed the true witness, then all your hope will be realized in due time. The impossibility of God to lie is a key concept to understanding the gospel and faith. The hope that the psalmist had is the hope of our gospel as well.

**Psalm 119:114 - “Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I HOPE IN THY WORD.”**

**Psalm 130:5 - “I WAIT FOR THE LORD, my soul doth wait, and IN HIS WORD DO I HOPE.”**

This principle is, and always has been, important to those of the household of faith. Our hope is in Him, in His testimony, in His Word, and in His Son.

All of these speak of our one hope. The hope itself is of divine origin, having been authored by God Himself when He spoke the Word to us that was believed by faith! Because we are confident of the Lord’s truth and character, we know His Word and His promises cannot be broken.

As far as the gospel of the kingdom is concerned, we have been given HOPE according to the promises of Christ. All the promises of God are true in Christ, which explains why Paul says that He IS our hope:

**2 Corinthians 1:20 - “For ALL THE PROMISES of God IN HIM ARE YEA, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”**

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**1 Timothy 1:1 - “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, WHICH IS OUR HOPE;”**

Hope of Resurrection? Christ is the resurrection. Hope of eternal life? He is the life and eternal life is in Him. Hope of an inheritance? He is the heir and we are joint heirs with Him. Hope of a reward? He is our great reward. Since He IS our hope, that means we are earnestly expecting.....that’s right. HIM!

**Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that BLESSED HOPE, and the GLORIOUS APPEARING OF THE GREAT GOD AND OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST;”**

The hope of the gospel is Jesus Christ Himself and specifically, the fulfillment of the PROMISES made to those who believe. Throughout the New Testament, the fulfillment of these things hangs on one event. All of creation currently is waiting for this event. The redeemed saints who “sleep” in Christ are waiting in His presence for this event. The saints on earth who are yet in the days of their flesh are waiting for this event. Christ Himself is at the right hand of the father “expecting” and waiting for His Father’s command to return for His own. His appearing, mentioned in about 1 out of every 25 verses or so in the New Testament, is the blessed hope of all who are of the household of faith - in heaven and in earth.

This is the hope that was preached by the apostles after the ascension of Jesus Christ. Don’t dismiss this without full consideration of the things to be learned here. Even when the apostle Paul famously teaches the believers at Thessalonica to “sorrow not, even as others which have no hope” regarding those who had died among the

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saints, the reason is not because we believe we will die and be with them again! NO!! he would have NEVER taught that because He wanted them to be steadfast in the hope of the gospel! Rather, he said, **“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will GOD BRING WITH HIM.”** What a difference! He told them not to sorrow, because Christ would bring those departed saints with Him when Christ came for them!

Now, we could look at the words of Christ to the churches in revelation where He pleads with them to repent regarding their faithfulness to watch. We could look at the fact that He taught that only those with a watchful and expectant faith of His return would walk in white with Him as worthy saints. It is evident, and abundantly so, that our Lord requires the good works of watchfulness from His saints. It is a holy admonishment given from our Savior to the apostles nearly 2,000 years ago:

**Luke 21:36 – “WATCH ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”**

**Mark 13:37 – “And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH.”**

**Revelation 3:3 – “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not WATCH, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”**

This commandment was passed on by the apostles to the saints in the churches as they were taught to be

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patient and watchful. They even taught that it would take strength, prayer, sobriety and being grounded and settled:

**1 Corinthians 16:13 – “WATCH ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”**

**Colossians 4:2 – “Continue in prayer, and WATCH in the same with thanksgiving;”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:6 – “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us WATCH and be sober.”**

**1 Peter 4:7 – “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and WATCH unto prayer.**

This watchfulness is the result of being grounded and settled in the faith in scripture. This speaks of the diligence and patience required of the saints of God to hold fast firm unto the end:

**Hebrews 3:6 – “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we HOLD FAST the confidence and the rejoicing of the HOPE FIRM UNTO THE END.”**

**Hebrews 6:11 – “And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of HOPE UNTO THE END:”**

**1 Peter 1:13 – “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and HOPE TO THE END for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;”**

What was “the end” to the apostles? Clearly, it was the appearing of Jesus Christ. Until that time, we are to be steadfast in this hope of the gospel.

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**2 Corinthians 1:13 – “For we write none other things unto you, than what ye read or acknowledge; and I trust ye shall acknowledge EVEN TO THE END;”**

**1 Corinthians 1:8 – “Who shall also confirm you UNTO THE END, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

**Hebrews 3:14 – “For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast UNTO THE END;”**

All the apostles put the saints in remembrance of this blessed hope, and often so. They, like their Lord, were admonishing the saints to be watching for the appearing of our lord and Savior Jesus

Christ. This “work” is necessary for those who would be witnesses to the truth - those who would be salt and light to the world. They were to keep a witness in the world to the truth of His coming, and to keep themselves unspotted from the world. Jesus teaches us that our faith, our hope, His promise, and His return are all inextricably connected. Those who have professed faith in Christ but are not living in hope and expectation of His appearing, have either not yet known the truth of gospel preaching or need to repent and watch.

When we are preaching a “when you die” gospel, we have abandoned the thrust of the faith - the faith that has an expectation of His return. We have taught men of

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*When we are preaching a “when you die” gospel, we have abandoned the thrust of the faith – the faith that has an expectation of His return.*

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a gospel that is removed from the very hope it was intended to give and uphold. We have thus given men an **EXPECTATION** of living out their natural lives in the flesh, to be received into His presence when they leave the earth. This is dangerous ground indeed if you accept the witness of Christ concerning His things. Christ taught His disciples that those professing faith in Him, who are faithful to be watching for His return, would be the ones who receive the promise of the inheritance:

**Luke 12:43 – “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing [watching] .”**

Paul teaches that He will appear unto salvation for those who are watching for Him:

**Hebrews 9:28 – “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”**

Christ warns those in the churches to repent and remain watchful, lest He come on them unawares:

**Revelation 3:3 – “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and REPENT. If therefore thou shalt not WATCH, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”**

The faith and hope of the gospel hinges upon the return of Christ. That must be sounded in our gospel preaching as well as be a lively hope in our hearts.

**Colossians 3:4 – “When Christ, who is our life, shall APPEAR, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”**

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1 Timothy 6:14 - “That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the APPEARING of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

2 Timothy 4:1 - “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his APPEARING and his kingdom;”

2 Timothy 4:8 - “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his APPEARING.”

Titus 2:13 - “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious APPEARING of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”

Hebrews 9:28 - “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he APPEAR the second time without sin unto salvation.”

1 Peter 1:7 - “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the APPEARING of Jesus Christ:”

1 Peter 5:4 - “And when the chief Shepherd shall APPEAR, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.”

1 John 2:28 - “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall APPEAR, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.”

1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we

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**know that, when he shall APPEAR, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

This appearing of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ is the hope of the gospel. All the promises of God are yea and amen in Him. Resurrection, redemption, eternal life, salvation, grace, righteousness, glory and inheritance all lie within our hearts by promise according to His Word. All those expectations we have from His promise will be brought with Him when He appears for us! Now that is an anchor of the soul for the heirs of promise:

**Hebrews 6:17 - 19 - “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the HEIRS OF PROMISE the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: WHICH HOPE WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”**

We have a lively hope of the one who has begotten us again:

**1 Peter 1:3 - 5 - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a LIVELY HOPE by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To INHERITANCE incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God THROUGH FAITH UNTO SALVATION ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

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This is the hope people need to see in us so that they might ask of us the reason we have it!

**1 Peter 3:15 - “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that ASKETH YOU A REASON OF THE HOPE that is in you with meekness and fear:”**

The preaching of the gospel ought to put men in expectation of Christ’s appearing and coming for us, rather than our death and going to Him. We can see this very clearly in the preaching of John the Baptist and the apostles as well. John had been sent to prepare the way of the Lord through his preaching.

**Luke 3:15 - “And as the people were in EXPECTATION, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;”**

Why were the people in expectation? John’s preaching and message had prepared the people by putting them in EXPECTATION of the arrival of Christ. Those who received this testimony of John’s concerning the arrival of Christ, had hearts that were hopeful or expectant of Christ’s arrival. Because of that, they were concerned about their preparedness for the events he was declaring. The verses immediately prior to verse 15 speak of the concern of these expectant folks as to this very thing:

**Luke 3:10 - “And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then?”**

**Luke 3:12 - “Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do?”**

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**Luke 3:14 - “And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do?...”**

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*In all his preaching, John the Baptist was prophetically declaring things to come that would put the people in holy faith and expectation. Our preaching ought to do the same.*

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This hope and expectation was in their hearts by faith and got there through the preaching of John. He was declaring the truth of Christ’s judgement by warning of the wrath to come. He was declaring the coming of the Christ who would take away the sins of

the world. The one who is preferred before John and who was before John. He was preaching of the harvest at the end of the age - the gathering of the wheat into the barn and the burning of the chaff with unquenchable fire. The scripture says he also preached many other things in his exhortation to the people. In all his preaching, John the Baptist was prophetically declaring things to come that would put the people in holy faith and expectation. Our preaching ought to do the same.

Many in John’s day, Christ’s day, and the apostles’ day “went away”, “walked no more with Him”, or “went out from them”. These became offended along the way as they lost faith in the promises He had spoken.

**John 6:61 - 62 - “When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you? What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”**

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Many had misunderstood the things they heard and thought all these blessings and promises were to come to them now in this natural life. When they didn't come, they went away. In John 6, Christ asks concerning their offense **“What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?”** i.e. will you continue to believe in the promise of the kingdom even if you see me go away? Will you be steadfast and faithful to the Word I have spoken even if I go away, and you haven't seen the fulfillment of those things? Will that mean that the promises are not true? The blessing is to those who endure in faith and hope of the promise.

**Luke 7:23 – “And BLESSED IS HE, whosoever shall NOT BE OFFENDED IN ME.”**

“Offended” is a way of speaking of anything that causes someone to stumble and begin to distrust or desert the one whom we ought to trust and obey. Christ warns that those who are offended in Him by what they see in this world, or experience in this life, will be turned back from following Him.

The hallmark of God's work in a person's heart is a confidence in Him that cannot be shaken. It is a hope that endures until the end. It is a faith that is steadfast in His promise and gives victory over this world.

**2 Peter 2:19 – “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”**

May we be overcome by the work of God's Word in our hearts and His promised reward, rather than by the cares of this world and its' present rewards.

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Job 8:13 - 15	So are the paths of all that forget God; and the hypocrite's <b>HOPE</b> shall perish: Whose <b>HOPE</b> shall be cut off, and whose trust shall be a spider's web. He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure.
Job 27:8	For what is the <b>HOPE</b> of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?
Psalm 71:5	For thou art my <b>HOPE</b> , O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth.
Psalm 119:81	My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but <b>I HOPE</b> in thy word.
Psalm 130:5	I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do <b>I HOPE</b> .
Jeremiah 17:7	Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose <b>HOPE</b> the LORD is.
Lamentations 3:26	It is good that a man should both <b>HOPE</b> and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.
Acts 2:26	Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in <b>HOPE</b> :
Acts 23:6	But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee,

## Chapter 8 – The Hope of the Saints

	the son of a Pharisee: of the <b>HOPE</b> and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.
Acts 24:15	And have <b>HOPE</b> toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.
Acts 26:6 - 7	And now I stand and am judged for the <b>HOPE</b> of the promise made of God unto our fathers: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, <b>HOPE</b> to come. For which <b>HOPE'S</b> sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews.
Acts 28:20	For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the <b>HOPE</b> of Israel I am bound with this chain.
Romans 4:18	Who against <b>HOPE</b> believed in <b>HOPE</b> , that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.
Romans 5:4 - 5	And patience, experience; and experience, <b>HOPE</b> : And <b>HOPE</b> maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
Romans 8:20	For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but

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	by reason of him who hath subjected the same in <b>HOPE</b> ,
Romans 8:24 - 25	For we are saved by <b>HOPE</b> : but <b>HOPE</b> that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet <b>HOPE</b> for? But if we <b>HOPE</b> for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.
Romans 15:4	For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have <b>HOPE</b> .
Galatians 5:5	For we through the Spirit wait for the <b>HOPE</b> of righteousness by faith.
1 Corinthians 9:10	Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in <b>HOPE</b> ; and that he that thresheth in <b>HOPE</b> should be partaker of his <b>HOPE</b> .
1 Corinthians 15:19	If in this life only we have <b>HOPE</b> in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.
2 Corinthians 3:12	Seeing then that we have such <b>HOPE</b> , we use great plainness of speech:
Ephesians 1:18	The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the <b>HOPE</b> of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

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Ephesians 2:12	That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no <b>HOPE</b> , and without God in the world;
Ephesians 4:4	There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one <b>HOPE</b> of your calling;
Colossians 1:5	For the <b>HOPE</b> which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;
Colossians 1:23	If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the <b>HOPE</b> of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
Colossians 1:27	To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the <b>HOPE</b> of glory:
1 Thessalonians 1:3	Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of <b>HOPE</b> in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;
1 Thessalonians 4:13	But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no <b>HOPE</b> .

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1 Thessalonians 5:8	But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breast-plate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the <b>HOPE</b> of salvation.
2 Thessalonians 2:16	Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good <b>HOPE</b> through grace,
1 Timothy 1:1	Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our <b>HOPE</b> ;
Titus 1:2	In <b>HOPE</b> of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
Titus 2:13	Looking for that blessed <b>HOPE</b> , and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;
Titus 3:7	That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the <b>HOPE</b> of eternal life.
Hebrews 3:6	But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the <b>HOPE</b> firm unto the end.
Hebrews 6:11	And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of <b>HOPE</b> unto the end:
Hebrews 6:18	That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for

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	God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the <b>HOPE</b> set before us:
Hebrews 6:19	Which <b>HOPE</b> we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;
Hebrews 7:19	For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better <b>HOPE</b> did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.
1 Peter 1:3	Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively <b>HOPE</b> by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
1 Peter 1:13	Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and <b>HOPE</b> to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
1 Peter 1:21	Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and <b>HOPE</b> might be in God.
1 Peter 3:15	But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the <b>HOPE</b> that is in you with meekness and fear:

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1 John 3:3	And every man that hath this <b>HOPE</b> in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.
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## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

This wonderful doctrine of the faith is taught with the gospel from Abraham all the way to the end of the age. The apostle to the Gentiles, Paul of Tarsus, taught the churches concerning this inheritance as a part of his gospel. It also holds a few other pleasant surprises of clarity for us as we see how we, today, become partakers with Abraham. It undoubtedly was an imperative for Paul as he instructed the predominantly Gentile churches in their new-found faith.

The first mention of any inheritance was in a conversation that God had with Abram. God was making a promise and a covenant with him concerning this very thing, and it is where it all begins for us in this study as well. It is Abraham's promise of which we are made partakers. Let's pick up on this conversation as it is recorded for us in scripture:

**Genesis 15:7 - 8 - "And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land TO INHERIT IT. And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I SHALL INHERIT IT?"**

God here promises Abraham that he will inherit the

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*The important thing to realize here is that Abraham and God BOTH KNEW that they were not only discussing what Abraham would get in this world, but rather in the world to come – after the resurrection.*

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## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

land. Abraham asks how will he know that he will inherit it? God gives him a token pledge of the covenant by confirming the oath Himself, while Abraham is in a deep sleep.

The important thing to realize here is that Abraham and God BOTH KNEW that they were not only discussing what Abraham would get in this world, but rather in the world to come - after the resurrection. They were speaking of Abraham's inheritance. Abraham didn't come away from this conversation believing life would be easy and God would give him all this land in his natural life in this present world - he expected to INHERIT it in the resurrection. He expected to inherit it in the world to come. Paul brings this out clearly in Hebrews as well when referencing Abraham.

**Hebrews 11:8 - By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which HE SHOULD AFTER RECEIVE FOR AN INHERITANCE, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.**

He would receive it after. After what? After the resurrection, which Abraham believed according to God's word. The scriptural proof of this is found in several places in scripture, but the most clarifying comes in the book of Romans from the apostle Paul who knew a lot about these kinds of things.

**Romans 4:13 "For THE PROMISE, that he should be the HEIR OF THE WORLD, was not TO ABRAHAM, or to his seed, through the law, but THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH."**

Say what again? That's right. Abraham was promised to be the heir of the world. And that was the

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conversation he was having in Genesis 15 with the “Word of the Lord”:

**Genesis 15:1 - “After these things THE WORD OF THE LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying”**

The Word of the Lord came. Who was that? Well, it was the Lord. It was the same “Word was made flesh” Lord who came to earth and fulfilled what was necessary to justify Abraham so that he could give him the promise he made to him in that covenant! You see, Abraham, like us, was not fit to inherit because of sin.

**1 Corinthians 15:50 - “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood CANNOT INHERIT the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”**

However, God is not a liar and had promised him he would INHERIT. In order that God might fulfill His promise, he then did what was necessary to fulfill the promise by sending His Son to shed His blood to justify Abraham. In Romans, Paul is teaching that the promise made to Abraham was that he was to be heir of the world, and that this promise to Abraham and his Seed (Christ), was confirmed by the coming of the Redeemer to offer His life a ransom for Abraham.

In short, to recap, Abraham was promised inheritance, but Abraham was not fit to inherit because of sin. God sent His own Son to redeem Abraham and pay for his sin. Abraham was justified by faith, through the blood of Christ, and he is now able to receive the inheritance. This is confirmed by scripture in another passage from the epistle to the Romans.

**Romans 15:8 - “Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, TO**

**CONFIRM THE PROMISES MADE UNTO THE FATHERS:”**

Paul taught the Gentiles about Abraham because it was necessary for their understanding and knowledge of the gospel (He didn't ask them to invite Jesus into their heart...). This was the gospel he preached and the Word of the Lord which was believed by “as many as were ordained to eternal life”.

**Acts 13:48 - “And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life BELIEVED.”**

The importance of this doctrine of inheritance is a dominant theme of the gospel as we will attempt to show. As you begin to take notice, you will find it all over the place in your Bible. Look at this portion of Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 2:1:

**“He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and TO MAKE THEM INHERIT THE THRONE OF GLORY;...”**

God has prepared some things for those that love Him, and He has taught us of them by His Spirit that we might be delivered from the corruption that is in this present world through lust. This inheritance promised to Abraham, to be heir of the world, is fulfilled in Christ. This promise is still available today and is received the same way it was when Abraham received it - by faith. It is Abraham's promise. We are made partakers of it through Christ. The promise is now a “whosoever will” gospel as opposed to the “Now the LORD had said unto Abram” gospel that was preached to him.

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Abraham didn't receive the inheritance by inviting Jesus into his heart, or making Him Lord of his life, or by praying the sinner's prayer, or by keeping works of the law. It was by faith!

**Romans 4:13 - 14 - "For THE PROMISE, that he should be the HEIR OF THE WORLD, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but THROUGH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:"**

**Romans 4:16 - "Therefore it [the inheritance] IS OF FAITH, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;..."**

**Galatians 3:18 - "For if THE INHERITANCE be of the law, it is no more of promise: but GOD GAVE IT TO ABRAHAM BY PROMISE."**

**Galatians 3:13 - 14 - "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the BLESSING OF ABRAHAM might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."**

What is the blessing of Abraham? I'm glad you asked! That means you're following along pretty well. The blessing of Abraham is not the inheritance. The inheritance is the inheritance. The blessing is what was necessary for God to fulfill His good pleasure toward Abraham in giving him the inheritance. Remember, he wasn't fit. But having received the blessing, he is fit! As we have just read in this passage in Galatians, the blessing is the promise of the Spirit. We see Isaac speak of this to Jacob in Genesis

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as these promises of the inheritance were passed down through the family.

**Genesis 28:4 - “And GIVE THEE THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM, to thee, and to thy seed with thee; THAT THOU MAYEST INHERIT the land wherein thou art a stranger, which God gave unto Abraham.”**

The blessing of the Spirit and the gift of the righteousness which is by faith is that which is necessary for inheritance to be a possibility. Isaac had been taught of these things by his father, Abraham, and was now passing them on to his son Jacob. It is in this family context of receiving the promises of God by faith that we see the vile and profane person of Esau as he despised the promise, the covenant, and the blessing, in favor of what he could have in this world and this life right now.

**Genesis 25:32 - “And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?”**

We see an attitude contrary to that of faith. An attitude of clinging to this life as precious. This is perhaps not uncommon in Christianity today but is considered profane by the author of scripture.

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*It is in this family context of receiving the promises of God by faith that we see the vile and profane person of Esau as he despised the promise, the covenant, and the blessing in favor of what he could have in this world and this life right now.*

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**Hebrews 12:16 - “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.”**

This was Esau’s testimony among a family that knew the promises. Interestingly, Esau honestly still expected to inherit, but his “hope” was disappointed:

**Hebrews 12:17 - “For ye know how that afterward, when HE WOULD HAVE INHERITED the blessing, HE WAS REJECTED: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”**

The words “would have” mean that he expected to. It was his hope to inherit, but he was refused the blessing. He had always looked for those things that would profit him in **THIS LIFE**, and so, being ignorant of the truth and unbelieving in his heart towards God, he was rejected. There is a ring of truth in this warning from Hebrews for those under the teaching of the New Covenant. If you are not delivered from the love of the world, don’t expect to inherit. The testimony of God’s Saints throughout the ages has been that they “loved not their lives unto the death”, because they believe and know that God has prepared for them a more enduring substance.

**Revelation 12:11 - “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES unto the death.”**

**Hebrews 10:34 - “For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and TOOK JOYFULLY THE SPOILING OF YOUR GOODS, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.”**

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**1 John 2:15 - “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. IF ANY MAN LOVE THE WORLD, THE LOVE OF THE FATHER IS NOT IN HIM.”**

The contrast between this present evil world and the world to come couldn't be clearer. They are two different kingdoms. The earthly kingdom is our home by natural birth and is under the dominion of man and control of Satan (with, of course, the limitations which God's sovereignty imposes, such as we see in the life of Job), but those who have placed their faith in Christ according to the gospel of the kingdom are dead to this world and hid in Christ until His appearing and kingdom.

**2 Timothy 4:1 - “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead AT HIS APPEARING AND HIS KINGDOM;”**

**Colossians 3:2 - 4 - “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For YE ARE DEAD, and YOUR LIFE IS HID WITH CHRIST IN GOD. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”**

We now live in the days of our flesh as pilgrim's and strangers here. Being dead to the flesh by God's grace through faith in Christ, it no longer has power over us to drive us about with its' appetite, lust, and desire for the things of this present world. We are now hidden in Christ and waiting to appear with Him when he appears. He has promised a world to come of which we have only tasted the powers.

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**Hebrews 6:5 - “And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of THE WORLD TO COME,”**

We can only enter that world by the new birth, the spiritual birth, the birth from above. Being born again in Christ as a new creature, we are a sort of first fruits of His creatures. Jesus Christ is the last Adam for that reason. As those who are new creatures, born of the Spirit by the Word of God through faith in Jesus Christ, we will be given a place in the world to come – an eternal place. No one possessing only the natural birth will be granted “entrance”, but only those born again by the incorruptible Word of God. Those who are “born again” are made so by the conception of the seed of the Word of God into their hearts by faith, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and will be “brought forth” as the sons of God in due time.

**1 Peter 1:23 - “Being BORN AGAIN, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, BY THE WORD OF GOD, which liveth and abideth for ever.”**

**1 John 3:2 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and IT DOTHTH NOT YET APPEAR what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”**

**Romans 8:19 - “For the earnest expectation of the creature WAITETH FOR THE MANIFESTATION OF the sons of God.”**

**James 1:18 - “Of his own will BEGAT HE US WITH THE WORD OF TRUTH, that we should be a kind of FIRSTFRUITS OF HIS CREATURES.”**

The inheritance is the very foundation of the promise made to Abraham and to us. Those who will believe His promise are told to forsake living for this life and

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this present world in favor of a world they have never seen, but only heard about by the Word of the Lord. They are told that God will grant them the blessing of Abraham and make them fit as well to receive the inheritance promised to Abraham - being heir of the world.

**Colossians 1:12 - 13 - "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath MADE US MEET TO BE PATAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"**

This is the testimony of Paul himself concerning the work the Lord would do through him as a chosen vessel to the Gentiles:

**Acts 26:15 - 18 - "And I said, Who art thou, LORD? And he said, I AM JESUS whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, AND INHERITANCE AMONG THEM WHICH ARE SANCTIFIED BY FAITH THAT IS IN ME."**

Of course, being "sanctified by faith that is in me" is the same faith Abraham had when the Word of the Lord came to him and he believed it, and the same faith Paul had when the Word of the Lord came to him and he believed it, and every other Saint who has been made a partaker in the inheritance. Have you similarly believed the Word of the Lord in this time? He still declares the good

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things he has prepared for those that love him - now is the acceptable time!

**2 Corinthians 6:2 - “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”**

What is needed is faith.

The dangers of a “believe in Jesus and ask Him into your heart so you can go to heaven when you die”, kind of gospel are evident. The substance and certainty of the things taught in the scriptures give clear hope and faith of better things than these.

### **1 Corinthians**

**6:2 - “Do ye not know that THE SAINTS SHALL JUDGE THE WORLD? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”**

Paul continues in verses 3 and 4 with comparisons of “this life” versus the world to come that he just referred to...

### **1 Corinthians**

**6:3 - 4 - “Know ye not that we shall JUDGE ANGELS? how much more things that pertain to THIS LIFE? If then ye have**

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*The inheritance is central throughout the New Testament scriptures, even more so than in the Old Testament when the promise was first spoken! That is because the inheritance of the saints is directly related to the kingdom of God that has been being preached since the time of John.*

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## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

**judgments of things pertaining to THIS LIFE, set them to judge who are least esteemed in the church.”**

The reason Paul can teach of these things to the church at Corinth is because he had taught them the gospel of the kingdom. The promise of the inheritance to Abraham that was confirmed in Christ was now made available through faith to all who would believe.

This inheritance is central throughout the New Testament scriptures, even more so than in the Old Testament when the promise was first spoken! That is because the inheritance of the saints is directly related to the kingdom of God that has been preached since the time of John. That was why Paul could speak to the Saints which were at Corinth about the inheritance and the saints judging the world, and is why James, among the other New Testament authors who taught the things of the kingdom of God, spoke of this kingdom inheritance to the saints:

**James 2:5 - “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world RICH IN FAITH, and HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM which he hath promised to them that love him?”**

This inheritance of the saints further clarifies for us how exactly the kingdom of God was taught by the apostles in the New Testament, seeing that the inheritance, like as with Abraham, is to be received in the world to come and NOT in this present evil world. There are a few more scriptures about the inheritance of Abraham as heir of the world, the inheritance of the saints, and the inheritance of the kingdom of God.

**Ephesians 1:10 - 11 - “Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure**

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which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: **IN WHOM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE**, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:"

Let's look at a couple of things here. What is the good pleasure of the Father concerning this inheritance He has promised?

**Luke 12:32 - "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's GOOD PLEASURE TO GIVE YOU THE KINGDOM."**

It is His good pleasure to give the kingdom to the saints. This will be done through Christ who is heir of all things:

**Hebrews 1:2 - "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom HE HATH APPOINTED HEIR OF ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds;"**

This mystery of His will is to give an inheritance to the saints who have placed their faith in Him, forsaken this present evil world, forfeited their own lives, and followed Him by FAITH. We who have believed God, like Abraham, have obtained an inheritance through the grace of God, which is in Jesus Christ, because it is the good pleasure of the Father to do so. Since Christ is heir of all things, and we are in Christ, then we also are heirs with Him who is appointed to receive all things.

**Romans 8:16 - 17 - "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And**

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if children, then **HEIRS**; heirs of God, and **JOINT-HEIRS WITH CHRIST**; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”

We here see the same pattern that our Savior left us, that we should first suffer, and then be glorified with Him.

**2 Timothy 3:12** - “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus **SHALL SUFFER** persecution.”

**Philippians 1:29** - “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to **SUFFER** for his sake;”

**2 Timothy 2:12** - “**IF WE SUFFER, WE SHALL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM**: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”

This inheritance of the kingdom becomes a central tenet of the faith that Paul preaches in his epistles to the churches and should also be in ours as well! It teaches that, the inheritance is reserved for those who believe the promises of God. It also teaches, as Christ did, that many will **EXPECT** to inherit, but will be rejected because their faith was in vain.

**Matthew 7:22** - “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and **IN THY NAME DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS?** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

“Kingdom now” doctrines place people at great risk of being in this group as work is accomplished to improve this present world. Being busy only in ways that

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improve man's natural state and working only to improve and protect that which God has condemned to destruction should not be the marks of a believer.

**John 6:27 - "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed."**

This, seemingly right, social gospel, sounds very wholesome to the natural mind, but will be shown to be the doctrine of men in the end. To embrace it is to savor the things of men and not of God. All these wonderful works are not nearly so wonderful in the sight of God our Savior as the work of believing His Word and the one whom He sent.

**John 6:29 - "Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent."**

**Hebrews 11:6 - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."**

Those pictured in Matthew 7 may have believed something in His name and done many things in His name but were never delivered from the power of Darkness unto the power of light. They continued loving this present world and did no work in seeking the kingdom of God (or as Christ commanded, seek it first), or doing the good works done in faith, laying up in store a good foundation against the time to come.

The parable of the sower brings all this teaching home as it pertains to the gospel of the kingdom.

**Matthew**

13:18 - 19 - “Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth **THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM**, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.”

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*None of these first three cases of seed sown overcome or endure, which are qualities unique to His workmanship and His children.*

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This parable is helpful in our study in other ways, but here we notice that the word sown is the “word of the kingdom”. We then go on to see all the adversaries that are against the fruitfulness of the Word in people’s lives. The adversary without, Satan, catching away the seed. The adversary within, our own nature and stony ground of the heart. And the adversaries among, the world and its pleasures and cares that keep us blinded to the truth of God’s Word and thus in bondage to this present life. None of these first three cases of seed sown overcome or endure, which are qualities unique to the workmanship of God in His children through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 5:4 - “For **WHATSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMETH THE WORLD**: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

However, the remaining three categories of seed sown into the good ground of people’s hearts brings forth fruit unto God.

**Matthew 13:23** - “But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word [of the kingdom v.19],

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

We now know that the inheritance of the saints consists of several things that were all promised to Abraham and his seed:

- The promise of resurrection - Acts 26:6 - 8 & 18-  
“And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the **PROMISE MADE** of God **UNTO OUR FATHERS**: Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, **THAT GOD SHOULD RAISE THE DEAD?**..... To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, **THAT THEY MAY RECEIVE** forgiveness of sins, and **INHERITANCE** among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.”
- The promise of eternal life - Titus 3:7 - “That being justified by his grace, we should be made **HEIRS** according to the **HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE.**”
- The promise of being heir of the world - Romans 4:13 - “For **THE PROMISE**, that he should be the **HEIR OF THE WORLD** was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”
- The promise of the kingdom - James 2:5 - “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and **HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM** which he hath **PROMISED** to them that love him?”

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

The kingdom is the inheritance of the saints as joint-heirs with Christ, which is given by the Word of promise from God. It is granted to those who believe the promise of God in Christ, who gave Himself a ransom for His people so that they could be forgiven all trespasses and inherit according to His Word. This was the work the author of Hebrews was doing by the Holy Spirit to open the eyes of Hebrew believers to the reality of the kingdom prepared by God for those who believe, as opposed to their old view of the kingdom.

**Hebrews 9:15 - “And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE.”**

**James 2:5 - “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and HEIRS OF THE KINGDOM which he hath promised to them that love him?”**

**Revelation 21:7 - “He that overcometh SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**

The preaching of the gospel of the kingdom carries a promise for the immediate present as well, which we are told is the earnest of what we are promised to receive in the world to come. How sweet is the presence and fellowship of the Holy Spirit in our lives! That’s just an advance on the remainder of the things promised to those who follow Christ by faith!

**Colossians 1:22 - “Who hath also sealed us, and given the EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT in our hearts.”**

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

**2 Corinthians 5:5 - “Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the EARNEST OF THE SPIRIT.”**

**Ephesians 1:13 - 14 - “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”**

**Ephesians 4:30 - “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed UNTO THE DAY OF REDEMPTION.”**

The kingdom is promised by inheritance to the saints, and until then, we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit of God as the earnest of the inheritance.

It is worth mentioning that the inheritance also teaches us of the things of the law, as Paul teaches the Galatians. The Old Covenant of works is represented allegorically by Hagar. Ishmael was a name given by God to the son of Abraham who was born of the flesh. This son, whose name means “God will hear”, is a fascinating study on its own. For our purposes, it is worth noting as it pertains to the inheritance. Those of the works of the law, though the natural seed of Abraham, were rejected by God as heirs because flesh and blood cannot inherit. A new birth is required to be made fit for the inheritance, and that requires faith, and not the works of men. As Ishmael was rejected from being heir, so too are all those who exercised themselves in the law of God for righteousness and sought not the mercies of God to receive His righteousness by faith.

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**Galatians 4:30 - “Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman SHALL NOT BE HEIR with the son of the freewoman.”**

Those who are the children of that covenant will not inherit the kingdom. They will be rejected and cast out as unfit, being of the natural works of men. What is needed is righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the pharisees or any righteousness we can attain through the law. The blessing of Abraham is needed to inherit, which was given to the son of Promise. This is the son born by the power of God and not according to human ability, wisdom or power - to the praise of His glory!

Even in our understanding of the Old Covenant law and its place in God’s plan for mankind and our use of it in the preaching of the gospel today, the doctrine of the inheritance is an instrumental piece of the faith and doctrine we preach to safeguard against error. Isn’t man’s attempt at law-keeping what got us in this mess to begin with? Surely, it’s not the answer to getting out. What is needed is faith. Those who believe are children of a better covenant that has better promises. They are the children of Sara (Covenant of Promise) as those born of promise, and not of Hagar (Covenant of Law) as those born of works.

**Galatians 4:31 - “So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.”**

They are children of a covenant that doesn’t make a remembrance of sins every year as the Old Law was intended to do:

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

**Hebrews 10:3 - “But in those sacrifices there is a REMEMBRANCE AGAIN made of sins EVERY YEAR.”**

This covenant of promise completely removes sins from remembrance:

**Hebrews 10:17 - “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I REMEMBER NO MORE.”**

That is why the Bible states clearly that we are COMPLETE in Christ.

**Colossians 2:10 - “And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:”**

We can add nothing to His work to perfect it or make it better in God’s sight. Actually, it is an insult to Him and a sin of pride when we think we can. Baptism can’t perfect or add to His work. Taking communion. Community service. Donations to charities and hospitals. Perfect church attendance. Nothing performed by the flesh can be for righteousness. There is no work we can do to be made righteous because in our flesh dwells no good thing.

**John 6:63 - “It is the spirit that quickeneth; THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”**

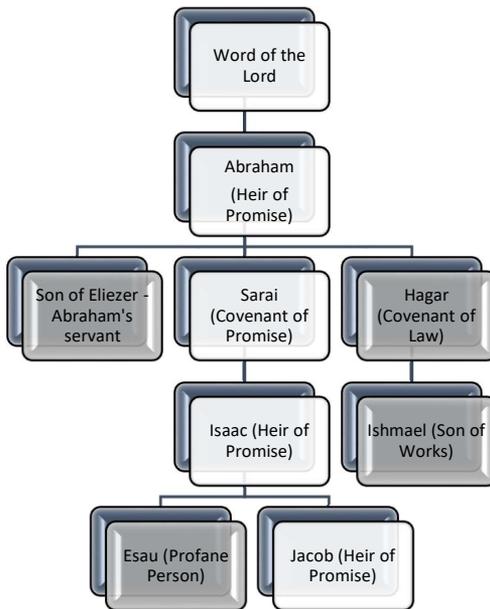
**Romans 7:18 - “For I know that in me (that is, IN MY FLESH,) DWELLETH NO GOOD THING: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.”**

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in His holy sight:

**Isaiah 64:6 – “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as FILTHY RAGS; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”**

By looking at Abraham and following the promise of inheritance, we learn some important lessons that are brought out in New Testament scripture.



If we follow the promise of inheritance from the Word of the Lord to Abraham and on to Isaac (lightly colored boxes), who was born of Sarah, and then down to Jacob, we also find scriptures that teach why these other men were rejected. This is also instructional from a gospel

## Chapter 9 - The Inheritance of the Saints

perspective. It is Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that we are told will be in the kingdom of Heaven.

**Matthew 8:11 - “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.”**

That is why Paul uses these men as examples for us. They warn us of the pitfalls that lie in the way of those who trust in the things of the flesh to inherit, or who “know” enough to expect to inherit but need to “believe” in the one who made the promise in order to receive it.

**Galatians 4:22 - 23 & 30 - “For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But who was OF THE BONDWOMAN was born after the FLESH; but he of the freewoman was by PROMISE..... Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman SHALL NOT BE HEIR with the son of the freewoman.”**

**Hebrews 12:16 - 17 - “Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, AS ESAU, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he WOULD HAVE INHERITED the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”**

What is needed is not the works of the flesh, the confidence of our works, or a profane attempt to appropriate God’s blessings to ourselves in this natural life. What is needed is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who has given testimony from the Father concerning His promises of things to come.

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**2 Timothy 1:12 - "... for I know WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."**

Trusting in ourselves, our heritage, or any other confidence, will be disappointing.

If we expect to inherit, we must have a promise from Him that can be received into our heart by faith. We know the inheritance is of promise:

**Romans 4:14 - "For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect."**

Just for good measure, I wanted to include this chart of verses regarding the inheritance of the saints as well. This helps us to see what a strong tenet of the faith this inheritance is in scripture, and was to the apostles and saints of days gone by. I hope these scriptures are an encouragement and blessing to you, and that they help you to see the consistency of the preaching of the kingdom concerning this promise throughout the New Testament.

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Acts 20:32	And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an <b>INHERITANCE</b> among all them which are sanctified.
Acts 26:18	To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and <b>INHERITANCE</b> among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
Romans 4:13	For the promise, that he should be the <b>HEIR</b> of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.
Romans 4:14	For if they which are of the law be <b>HEIRS</b> , faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:
Romans 8:17	And if children, then <b>HEIRS; HEIRS</b> of God, and <b>JOINT-HEIRS</b> with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.
1 Corinthians 6:9	<b>Know</b> ye not that the unrighteous shall not <b>INHERIT</b> the kingdom of God? <b>Be</b> not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
1 Corinthians 6:10	Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall <b>INHERIT</b> the kingdom of God.

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1 Corinthians 15:50	Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot <b>INHERIT</b> the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
Galatians 3:18	For if the <b>INHERITANCE</b> be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.
Galatians 3:29	And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and <b>HEIRS</b> according to the promise.
Galatians 4:1	Now I say, That the <b>HEIR</b> , as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;
Galatians 4:7	Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an <b>HEIR</b> of God through Christ.
Galatians 4:30	Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be <b>HEIR</b> with the son of the freewoman.
Galatians 5:21	Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not <b>INHERIT</b> the kingdom of God.
Ephesians 1:11	In whom also we have obtained an <b>INHERITANCE</b> , being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
Ephesians 1:14	Which is the earnest of our <b>INHERITANCE</b> until the

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	redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 1:18	The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his <b>INHERITANCE</b> in the saints,
Ephesians 3:6	That the Gentiles should <b>FELLOW-HEIRS</b> , and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:
Ephesians 5:5	For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any <b>INHERITANCE</b> in the kingdom of Christ and of God.
Colossians 1:12	Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the <b>INHERITANCE</b> of the saints in light:
Colossians 3:24	Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the <b>INHERITANCE</b> : for ye serve the Lord Christ.
Titus 3:7	That being justified by his grace, we should be made <b>HEIRS</b> according to the hope of eternal life.
Hebrews 1:2	Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed <b>HEIR</b> of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;
Hebrews 1:4	Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by <b>INHERITANCE</b> obtained a more excellent name than they.

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Hebrews 1:14	Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be <b>HEIRS</b> of salvation?
Hebrews 6:12	That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience <b>INHERIT</b> the promises.
Hebrews 6:17	Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the <b>HEIRS</b> of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:
Hebrews 9:15	And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal <b>INHERITANCE</b> .
Hebrews 11:8	By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an <b>INHERITANCE</b> , obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.
Hebrews 11:9	By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the <b>HEIRS</b> with him of the same promise:
Hebrews 11:17	By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became <b>HEIR</b> of the righteousness which is by faith.

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James 2:5	Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and <b>HEIRS</b> of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?
1 Peter 1:4	To an <b>INHERITANCE</b> incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
1 Peter 3:7	Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being <b>HEIRS</b> together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.
1 Peter 3:9	Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should <b>INHERIT</b> a blessing.
Revelation 21:7	He that overcometh shall <b>INHERIT</b> all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Chapter 10 – Kingdom Come or Kingdom Came?

**Luke 11:2 - “And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.”**

As the Lord teaches His disciples to pray, He shares this with us by the same Spirit. They were to pray “thy kingdom come”, which was then followed by that prayer that is still in our hearts as we await the arrival of that kingdom: “Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth”. These are not unrelated thoughts in this prayer. The Lord was teaching His apostles about prayer and HE set them first in the church. This clearly shows that the Lord intended for His Word of promise, concerning the kingdom which was to come, to be a sustaining hope for His people throughout their lives and generations until His appearing.

Here in this passage, the Lord teaches them to be certain, in prayer, to keep this request in their hearts and minds. This “looking unto Jesus”, which is spoken of by Paul in the book of Hebrews, lays out in front of us the hope we profess through faith in the promises of God -

**Hebrews 12:1 - 2 - “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus THE AUTHOR and finisher OF OUR FAITH; who for THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

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Led by the Holy Spirit, the author then goes through the chapter to discuss the chastening of the Lord, taking heed against covetousness for the things of this present world, and the inheritance. He then concludes the chapter with the destruction of this present world, that God has promised, and of the kingdom we are promised that is to come! Reading the entire chapter of Hebrews 12, along with most of the New Testament, might be like reading brand new for the first time when read with the kingdom of God in view.

The promise of these things is declared in many places in scripture, such as by Zacharias, when filled with the Holy Spirit, on the day the Lord Jesus was brought to the temple to be circumcised:

**Luke 1:74 - 75 - “That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.”**

This hope in His promise being brought to pass will be undoubtedly a time of refreshing for all those who “wait upon the Lord”, those who “hunger and thirst for righteousness”, and those who “according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”.

**Isaiah 40:31 - “But they that WAIT UPON THE LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”**

Is there any doubt that this verse in Isaiah is not prophesying of the saints, when they are made like unto

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Jesus Christ in the resurrection and have received the inheritance of the kingdom long promised?

**Matthew 5:5 - 6 - “Blessed are the meek: for THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:”**

**2 Peter 3:13 - “Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”**

God’s people have always exercised themselves in prayer, for Him to fulfill what He has spoken and

promised to them. It is the most natural prayer in the world for one who is in the faith. This fulfillment of the kingdom is exactly what He will accomplish by that man whom He hath ordained, the Lord Jesus Christ, when He comes to reign on the throne of His glory.

**Zepheniah 3:8 - “Therefore WAIT YE UPON ME, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy.”**

One place in scripture the Kingdom is taught that can lead us to think that it must have already arrived is found in Luke 9:27. Christ there says that some who were

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*God’s people have always exercised themselves in prayer for Him to fulfill what He has spoken and promised to them. It is the most natural prayer in the world for one who is in the faith.*

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alive in His day would see it. But what exactly does that signify? Can this one of few instances, that seems to teach counter to what we see through the rest of the New Testament, pave the way for a different understanding of the kingdom? As we will see with a little study, there is no reason to use this one text from Christ to lead us to believe it somehow came already. Actually, this has overthrown the faith of some. Let's look at the passage:

**Luke 9:27 – “But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.”**

Before we decide that this was fulfilled on the mount of transfiguration, we should first look at other gospel accounts as well to see how this same conversation is preserved by the Holy Spirit there. Remember, the accounts of the gospels are complimentary not contradictory. They give a more full and complete picture when taken as a whole. We will find this very same exchange in which this conversation took place also in Matthew 16:28:

**Matthew 16:28 – “Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man COMING in his kingdom.”**

What is interesting, and entirely consistent with all the other teaching of the kingdom we see from the apostles later on, is that to compare these two passages we would have to understand that the “Kingdom of God” in Luke 9 is the very same thing as “the Son of Man coming in his kingdom” in Matthew 16.

Kingdom of God = Son of Man Coming.

When the Holy Spirit instructed Luke to write “the kingdom of God” it is synonymous with the account

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that Matthew wrote describing the same thing as “the Son of Man coming in his kingdom”. Some read the one account in Luke, and think “well, then it must have already come?”. However, by comparing scripture with scripture, we can avoid those pitfalls.

We can read that passage and know that Jesus was teaching that there would be those who saw “the son of man COMING in His kingdom” before they tasted of death. Is this what happened on the mount of transfiguration? Firstly, it doesn’t make much sense for Christ to share that some of them would live to see Him coming in His kingdom if the fulfillment of that testimony happened 6 days later... Secondly, they didn’t see the Son of Man COMING in His kingdom on the mount of transfiguration. They did behold His glory & majesty.

**Luke 21:27 - “And THEN shall they SEE THE SON OF MAN COMING in a cloud with power and great glory.”**

How could any of the apostles have seen His coming, and yet all of them continue to teach that we are living in hope of it all the way through the New Testament?

Firstly, we could rightfully understand here that He is speaking to them in the same sense that He speaks in John 8:52. Jesus there uses the exact same language about tasting of death:

**John 8:52 - “... If a man keep my saying, HE SHALL NEVER TASTE OF DEATH.”**

In this case, any man who was standing there that kept His sayings (i.e. His Word and Testimony) would see the son of man coming in His kingdom and not taste of death. In that sense, our exegesis of the text is very much

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correct and true by the account of Christ. Any man that has received the testimony of Christ by faith has been spared the tasting of death and has passed from death unto life.

**John 5:24 - “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that HEARETH MY WORD, and BELIEVETH on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and SHALL NOT COME into condemnation; but is PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE.”**

He will thus see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom, having never tasted of death. This is a factual and truthful account of the words spoken by Christ and corresponds to all the other kingdom doctrine and gospel teachings of the things of Christ in scripture. That much being said, there are a couple of other thoughts about this that we might share as well.

Secondly, we could also say that everyone who is born again has “seen” these things - by faith. Jesus Christ taught that all who are born again see the kingdom.

**John 3:3 - “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”**

How should we understand this? We are taught in the book of Hebrews that it is “faith” that allows us to “see” the things God has promised.

**Hebrews 11:13 - “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but HAVING SEEN THEM afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”**

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In this sense, our faith is our sight, and Jesus could perhaps have been speaking in this spiritual sense as He did at other times in His preaching.

Thirdly, let's consider John the apostle. He was given a revelation by the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a view of the future given by the revelation of Jesus Christ to him on the aisle of Patmos. You might be surprised to see what it includes.... In opening his book, he tells us:

**Revelation 1:1 - 2 - “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that HE SAW.”**

All through the book he is using the phrase “I saw” - over 40 times as I count them. In closing his book, he tells us:

**Revelation 22:8 - “And I John SAW these things...”**

The many wonders that he was shown, which he saw, were in the portion of the book described by Christ as “the things which shall be hereafter”. In this view of the things to be done hereafter (probably given in 90 - 92 AD), is a view of the Son of Man coming in His kingdom, just as Christ had taught and all the other apostles had taught:

**Revelation 19:11 - 16 - “And I SAW heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and HIS NAME IS CALLED THE**

**WORD OF GOD.** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**”

John did in fact, before his death, see the Son of Man COMING in His kingdom in the glory of His Father to sit upon the throne of His glory. The same coming He often taught to His disciples, which is why they asked Him of the sign of His coming when they approached Him on the mount of Olives.

**Matthew 24:3** - “And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be **THE SIGN OF THY COMING**, and of the end of the world?”

If we go back to Luke 9:27, we will notice that the verse began with “But I tell you...”. What was being discussed immediately prior to this that led to the statement?

**Luke 9:26** - “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels.”

Christ is discussing the Son of man coming in the glory of His Father. This teaching is in the same conversation with the famous teaching of “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”. This is kingdom preaching. This is the gospel. This is FAITH in God to fulfill His Word. To live in

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clamor for the riches of this time, is to DEMONSTRATE unbelief in what He has SPOKEN.

Notice:

**Matthew 16:24 - 26 - “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”**

Jesus was teaching the denying of natural desires for the things of this life, dying to the natural man who was brought forth by natural birth in the image of the earthy, and following Christ through this world as a pilgrim and stranger. Those who have FAITH in His Word, are not afraid to do so because of the confidence in what He has promised by means of the inheritance to those who do. This world is condemned because of sin, and the dominion of the first Adam is to be destroyed along with all of the works of men. However, through this age Jesus Christ is, by the sowing of gospel seed and according to His mercy and grace, creating new creatures for a new world. Those created by his Spirit and power through faith in the Word of God by His Son Jesus Christ, are to be made in the image of the second Adam, and brought forth in the new world that he has promised - wherein dwelleth righteousness (which is why we need to be made fit). This news is foolishness to the Greeks, and a stumbling block to the Jews.

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**“But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”  
- 1 Corinthians 1:24**

Christ taught his disciples that He would not be coming in His kingdom until the things foretold in the Olivet discourse were fulfilled - placing the event at the end of the great tribulation. The announcement of the arrival of the fulfillment of this spoken Word is clear to John in the book of Revelation.

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*When we speak of Kingdom come or kingdom came, scripture gives testimony by the apostles, who were called to be witnesses of these things, that they all looked for a kingdom to come – according to His promise.*

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**Revelation 12:10 – “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, NOW IS COME salvation, and strength, and THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”**

Remember when Peter said he made known the power and coming of Jesus Christ?

**2 Peter 1:16 - For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you THE POWER and COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.**

John gives us a view of that very future event that was foretold by Peter according to His gospel! Revelation 12:10 speaks of His power and His coming, and we notice

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the announcement of the arrival of His kingdom right in view as well.

When we speak of “Kingdom come” or “kingdom came”, scripture gives testimony by the apostles that they all looked for a kingdom to come – by His promise. Any understanding of the kingdom on earth in this present age, is spoken of in scripture as the Word of promise. It is received by faith. We can see clear witness to these facts in the New Testament.

**Acts 14:22** - “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

If we must yet enter, then it has not appeared yet.

**1 Corinthians 6:9** - “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?”

The inheritance is clearly not received until the return of the Son of Man whose reward is with Him. What we have right now is the Holy Spirit indwelling as a down payment on the inheritance promised.

**Galatians 5:21** - “Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

Again, we are to inherit, like Abraham. This speaks of the world to come in the resurrection.

**Ephesians 5:5** - “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an

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**idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”**

Again, the inheritance is a promise we share with Abraham, to be given in the world to come.

**Colossians 1:13 – “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”**

Again, this is in the context of the inheritance. The following verse **“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:”** speaks of the same faith.

**Ephesians 1:14 “ - Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”**

Redemption is spoken of by faith as well, just like eternal life, of which we live in hope of the promise, according to the apostle. Which is why in Romans 8:23 we are shown that we are waiting for redemption

**Romans 8:23 - “And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”**

Waiting for the adoption. The redemption. Waiting by faith.

**Colossians 4:11 - “And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my**

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**fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.”**

Workers Unto the kingdom. Again, we are waiting for it by faith.

**1 Thessalonians 2:12 - “That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.”**

He has called us unto it. We’re waiting by faith.

**2 Thessalonians 1:5 - “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:”**

We suffer for it. We’re waiting by faith.

**2 Timothy 4:1 - “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who SHALL judge the quick and the dead AT HIS APPEARING AND KINGDOM;”**

He will judge when He sits on the throne of His glory, just as Christ taught.

**Matthew 25:31 - 34 - “WHEN THE SON OF MAN SHALL COME in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, THEN SHALL HE SIT UPON THE THRONE of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:”**

So, we’re waiting by faith.

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**2 Timothy 4:18 - “And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will PRESERVE ME UNTO his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”**

He will preserve me, by the power of God through FAITH in His promise until his kingdom comes. So, we’re waiting by faith.

**Hebrews 12:28 - “: Wherefore we RECEIVING a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”**

We’re receiving it, spoken in His Word of promise by faith (which is the only way it can be received), and since it cannot be moved, it is not of this age or present world. It is laid up as an inheritance for the saints. So, we’re waiting by faith.

**James 2:5 - “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and HEIRS of the kingdom which he hath PROMISED to them that love him?”**

Again, its spoken in the context of PROMISE and INHERITANCE, so we’re waiting by faith.

**2 Peter 1:11 - “For so an entrance SHALL BE ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”**

An entrance will be ministered because it hasn’t come yet. We’re trusting that an “entrance” will be granted because we’re waiting by faith.

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Interestingly, in Revelation 11, right before we are shown the great signs in the heavens of the woman, her seed, and the dragon in chapter 12, we are told this:

**Revelation 11:18** - “thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst **GIVE REWARD UNTO** thy servants the prophets, and to **THE SAINTS**”

And then, in Revelation 12, the soon arrival of the kingdom is announced in view of the defeat of the dragon, beast, false prophet, and the kings of the earth.

**Revelation 12:10** - “And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **NOW IS COME** salvation, and strength, and **THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD**, and the power of his Christ...”

What reward is promised to the saints that would be announced right before the announcement of the coming of the kingdom of God?

**Colossians 3:24** - “**Knowing that OF THE LORD YE SHALL RECEIVE THE REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE**: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”

It’s the inheritance that we’re waiting for by faith.

**Isaiah 30:18** - “And therefore will the **LORD** wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the **LORD** is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that **WAIT** for him.”

We have further discussion to make on this point, and I’ll make every attempt to be brief. During the Olivet Discourse, one of the most detailed accounts of end times

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prophecy in scripture, Christ sets forth a framework for the end of this world for His apostles. He speaks of the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD specifically in Luke's account, and follows all the way through the times of the Gentiles to the abomination of desolation, great tribulation, final signs of His return, and the arrival of the Son of Man. In Luke's account, we have this statement made:

**Luke 21:31 - "So likewise ye, WHEN YE SEE these things come to pass, KNOW ye that THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NIGH at hand."**

He then makes the statement, "**Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.**" This is in perfect harmony with the Hebrews 12 scenario as well as every other account of the kingdom taught by the apostles in the New Testament. The kingdom of God will come, upon the arrival of the Son of Man, after the fulfillment of everything foretold concerning the appointed time of the end of this world.

Some have said that because Christ taught that it was "at hand" during His earthly ministry, they were convinced it was already here. Let's look at what Peter says in His epistle concerning these things:

**1 Peter 4:7 - "But THE END of all things IS AT HAND: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer."**

Peter taught us in his first epistle, some years after the ascension of Christ, that THE END, the same words Christ had so often used in His kingdom teachings, was AT HAND. The words "AT hand" do not convey "imminent" in the sense we might be tempted to think of them. "At Hand" means drawing near or approaching... kind of speaks for itself.

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Acts 1:3	To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> :
Acts 8:12	But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> , and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
Acts 14:22	Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> .
Acts 19:8	And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> .
Acts 20:25	And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> , shall see my face no more.
Acts 28:23	And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> ,

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	persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.
Acts 28:31	Preaching <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> , and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.
1 Corinthians 6:9	Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> ? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
1 Corinthians 6:10	Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> .
1 Corinthians 15:50	Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> ; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.
Galatians 5:21	Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b>
Ephesians 5:5	For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in

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	<b>THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST AND OF GOD</b>
Colossians 1:13	Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into <b>THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON:</b>
Colossians 4:11	And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellow-workers unto <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> , which have been a comfort unto me.
1 Thessalonians 2:12	That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto <b>HIS KINGDOM</b> and glory.
2 Thessalonians 1:5	Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of <b>THE KINGDOM OF GOD</b> , for which ye also suffer:
2 Timothy 4:1	I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and <b>HIS KINGDOM;</b>
2 Timothy 4:18	And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his <b>HEAVENLY KINGDOM:</b> to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Hebrews 12:28	Wherefore we receiving a <b>KINGDOM</b> which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God

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	acceptably with reverence and godly fear:
James 2:5	Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of <b>THE KINGDOM</b> which he hath promised to them that love him?
2 Peter 1:11	For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the <b>EVERLASTING KINGDOM OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST.</b>
Revelation 12:10	And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and <b>THE KINGDOM OF OUR GOD</b> , and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

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**Acts 2:44** - “And all **THAT BELIEVED** were together, and had all things common;”

**Acts 4:32** - “And the multitude of them **THAT BELIEVED** were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”

What did these saints believe that had this effect in their lives? When we begin to view the gospel in the full context of the kingdom of God that was preached, the impact of the **FAITH** of these early believers in that gospel immediately begins to make perfect sense. We have already seen the example of Zacchaeus and the works that were produced in his life by faith in the gospel of the kingdom. It was more than a sermon on love for their fellow man or a compelling religious experience that empowered these believers to act in this way. It was a faith that, through Christ, there was an eternal inheritance to be had in His kingdom, and that there was a reality to this promise for these believers. They didn't just know about it - they **BELIEVED** it! They believed by faith that Christ was returning to establish His kingdom, and that when He appeared all who believed and were obedient to His gospel would share in the glory of it. It was belief in the warning that Christ would judge those who professed it, but never lived it. Faith that He would be their judge. Faith that He would thoroughly purge His threshing floor as He discerns wheat from chaff.

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This is the kingdom that Christ preached of while He was yet on the earth during His ministry. He taught of all the things required to be one of his disciples - to “follow me”.

**Luke 14:26 - 27; 33 - “If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.....So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”**

The idea of “forsaking all” is more than just hyperbolic preacher speak. It is a requirement of the man who would enter the kingdom to “see” beyond this life by faith and to have a hope that means more than anything else this world has to offer.

**John 3:3 - “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE the kingdom of God.”**

It declares the truth of Christ coming to this earth to fulfill His Father’s will and gives us an example that He Himself lived this way as He was looking forward to a promise before Him.

**Hebrews 12:2 - “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

For this reason, He was “about His Father’s business” and was not loving the things of this world. He was a

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pilgrim and a stranger, as one looking for a promise of things that don't pertain to this present world. Satan's offer of the kingdoms of this world was a poor attempt on His part. Christ knows the end of those things is death - He already had a promise from the Father and didn't need the Devils... ahem.... promise (lies)...

All of this is not without reason. The gospel of the kingdom teaches us by faith that the things of this present world are only for our using, not abusing. We, as Abraham and Christ both showed, are walking through this world to receive the inheritance laid up for us in the world to come - the kingdom of God. Jesus Himself is the supreme example of this truth.

**Hebrews 1:2 - "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by HIS SON, whom HE HATH APPOINTED HEIR of ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds;"**

If you had some number of thousands of people who BELIEVED this testimony of Christ and were PERSUADED of the reality of these promises concerning the kingdom inheritance and the appearing of our Lord, then this type of result spoken of in Acts would be the most natural thing in the world for these saints.

**Hebrews 10:34 - "For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and TOOK JOYFULLY THE SPOILING OF YOUR GOODS, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance."**

Especially since these believers EXPECTED the return of Christ to happen anytime, which is the hope of the gospel we preach! These believers were patient, but WATCHFUL!

**Matthew 24:42** - “**WATCH** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.”

**Matthew 25:13** - “**WATCH** therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

**Mark 13:35** - “**WATCH** ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, **WATCH**.”

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*What about our generation today? Have we fallen asleep while waiting for our Lord to return?*

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What about our generation today? Have we fallen asleep while waiting for our Lord to return? It was the same in Noah’s day. It was the same in Lot’s day as well. Until the

master of the house shut the door, then everything changed in a hurry. It seems this is not a new phenomenon but is a charge to the churches to always be deliberate to **STAY** watchful. **IF** we aren’t watchful for **His** coming, we aren’t being obedient to the gospel we profess.

**1 Peter 1:13 - 14** - “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **HOPE TO THE END** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; **AS OBEDIENT CHILDREN**, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:”

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We only looked at a few verses concerning this truth. How can a church stay watchful unless it is by the overseers of the work constantly preaching of the hope we have in His promise to keep us in remembrance? The apostles were sure to commend all the saints in the churches of their day to **WATCH!**

**1 Peter 4:7 - “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and WATCH unto prayer.”**

**1 Thessalonians 5:6 - “Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us WATCH and be sober.”**

**Colossians 4:2 - “Continue in prayer, and WATCH in the same with thanksgiving;”**

**1 Corinthians 16:13 - “WATCH ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.”**

Look at what was happening in the churches already by the nearing of the close of the first century, when Christ Jesus speaks to the church at Sardis by the apostle John:

**Revelation 3:2 - 3 - Be WATCHFUL, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. REMEMBER therefore how thou hast received and HEARD, and hold fast, and REPENT. If therefore thou shalt not WATCH, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”**

What was ready to die that needed to be strengthened? It had everything to do with watchfulness. They had begun to let **THE HOPE** of His **PROMISE** die as they busied themselves with other things. He even warns them to repent and to be watchful, because the things they had

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heard were the things of the gospel of the kingdom and they had begun to forget those things concerning His promise and appearing. He warns them there are severe consequences to those not being watchful. Serious business. Repentance was needed then. What about now?

There is a dire warning needing to be sounded today that those professing faith in Christ by the preaching of His gospel. Be WATCHFUL for His return. It is coming as a snare on all the earth!

**Luke 18:8 - “I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMETH, shall he find FAITH on the earth?”**

Are we ready?! It seems many are busied with many “works” done in His name but may not be living in watchfulness of His return. Many are eating. Many are drinking. There is much making merry. Much enjoyment of the pleasures this life affords through every means imaginable.

The return of Christ according to the gospel of the kingdom was a prevalent teaching and hope among early New Testament believers, of which the scripture gives ample testimony:

**John 21:22 - 23 - “Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry TILL I COME, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?”**

There was a common idea among many that the apostle John would live to see the kingdom of God come.

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That would be pretty imminent, which is likely why Christ said what He did! He wanted them to be watchful.

**James 5:9 - “Grudge not one against another, brethren, lest ye be condemned: behold, the judge standeth before the door.”**

**Hebrews 10:37 - “For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:10 - “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”**

We could choose many such scriptures to show the imminence that was in the teaching of the day concerning the return of Christ. It is the flesh that causes us to doubt and lose sight of the hope. This persuasion is not of God.

**1 John 3:2 - 3 - “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, WHEN HE SHALL APPEAR, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath THIS HOPE in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”**

This isn't recorded so often in scripture because the apostles were so interested in “eschatology” as we call it today. They were preaching it as doctrine. That is because it is the event that concludes this age, brings the kingdoms of this world to an end and ushers in the kingdom long promised to the saints. When Christ comes, He will be coming to reward His saints with the inheritance of the kingdom mentioned throughout the scriptures. It is a doctrine that builds our faith and combats the allure of the world. That is the point John is making in his epistle. Yes,

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we could do with a more expectant faith these days concerning His return.

If we were to have today a sweeping revival of the faith that these early believers had in the gospel as it was delivered to them, we might reasonably expect similar results as those of the early churches. The gospel that is preached today is too often devoid of the kingdom promises of inheritance in Christ and provides no compelling reason for one in faith to live in such a way – other than the preacher says we ought to. The gospel of the kingdom leaves no reason not to! The more fully persuaded a saint becomes of the Word of God concerning these things, the more naturally their faith will work itself out through their lives in Christian charity. This is growing in grace and knowledge as Peter said we are to do:

**2 Peter 3:18 - “But GROW in GRACE, and in the KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”**

It is also having the eyes of our understanding enlightened regarding the hope of our calling and the inheritance we are promised:

**Ephesians 1:18 - “The EYES of your UNDERSTANDING being ENLIGHTENED; that ye may KNOW what is the HOPE of his CALLING, and what the riches of the glory of his INHERITANCE in the SAINTS,”**

And being able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height:

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**Ephesians 3:18 - “May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;”**

This is the testimony of the early saints and is not out of reach for the saints in our time today. His promises are still true. His power is not slacked. His Spirit not in-firmed. Our iniquity and hardness of heart concerning His promise may be in question, but His part is not. He abides faithful. We see an important admonition from Peter in Acts concerning the preaching that was delivered on Pentecost:

**Acts 2:40 - “And with MANY OTHER WORDS did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves FROM THIS untoward GENERATION.”**

The Lord Jesus Christ makes a statement in Luke 16 concerning the children of this world and their counterparts, the children of light. Same two groups of children as in the parable of the tares told by our Lord in His teaching on the kingdom. Let’s read from Luke 16:

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*I often have told our congregation, for those in Christ, this is NOT our generation. It is not our time, as it were. We are dead and our life is hidden with Christ in God, waiting for the appearing of our Lord when we are to appear also!*

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**Luke 16:8**

**“And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for THE CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD are in their generation wiser than THE CHILDREN OF LIGHT.”**

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I often have told our congregation, for those in Christ, this is NOT our generation. It is not our time, as it were. We are dead and our life is hidden with Christ in God, waiting for the appearing of our Lord when we are to appear also! For now, this present generation is given the reward of this present time and world. It has been given over to the power of darkness for a season of time. Our hope and promise of the Savior is that we might be delivered from this present evil world. Our hope is to be saved from this generation as Peter says, that we might be translated OUT of this present evil world and the kingdom of darkness, preserved by the power of God through faith until His appearing, and placed into the kingdom of Christ in the world to come – which is exactly what God has promised to those who are in Christ by faith. Paul speaks of these things in Colossians:

**Colossians 1:12 - 13 - “Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath MADE US MEET to be partakers of the INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”**

**Colossians 3:2 - 4 - “Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For YE ARE DEAD, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, THEN SHALL YE ALSO APPEAR with him in glory.”**

Paul then goes on in chapter three to encourage the hearts of the saints in the work of the Lord:

**Colossians 3:24 - “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that OF THE LORD ye shall receive the REWARD OF THE INHERITANCE: for ye serve the Lord Christ.”**

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The entire idea of the inheritance of the saints is that Christ, the righteous judge, will reward to every man according to the obedience to His gospel in faith when He appears. For this reason, we are encouraged to humble ourselves, die to the flesh, and serve the Lord Christ - not FOR righteousness, but because of our FAITH in His Promise. These actions won't please Him unless they are done from a heart of faith. When He comes to reward the saints with the inheritance, He has promised them He will faithfully render to every saint according to their labor of faith. You will see this encouragement and admonition all throughout the New Testament to those who had believed the gospel:

**Hebrews 6:10 - 12 - “For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of HOPE unto THE END: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through FAITH and patience INHERIT the promises.”**

Look at this passage! We have the righteous reward of God for the labor now in this life to those being faithful to the end as they by faith and patience wait to inherit the promises! It is everything we have been studying. It is the gospel of Jesus Christ - the gospel of the kingdom. It is what the early believers received by faith as the truth and why they gladly forsook their earthly possessions in this world for the sake of Christ and the gospel. Would we do the same? We would if we believed the gospel of the kingdom.

Chapter 14 – Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

I have saved here the primary thrust of the gospel of the Kingdom for last. I suppose it is arguable that this chapter should come first, but I wanted to end with this as it is the most important aspect of the entire kingdom – its King! The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world having a promise of the Father. He was promised to be heir of all things but walked as a son under tutors and governors during the days of His flesh, and then was given the dominion after His resurrection and ascension.

**Galatians 4:1 - “Now I say, That THE HEIR, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, THOUGH HE BE LORD OF ALL;”**

**Luke 20:14 - But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, THIS IS THE HEIR: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.**

**Hebrews 1:2 - “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed HEIR OF ALL THINGS, by whom also he made the worlds;”**

Jesus Christ walked this earth as the appointed heir but did not receive the promise until after the days of His flesh were fulfilled. He has since His resurrection, ascended to the Father and has received all power in heaven and in earth.

**Matthew 28:18 - “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”**

## Chapter 14 – Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

**1 Peter 3:22 - “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”**

This is the aspect of the gospel that teaches us to call upon the name of the Lord - Jesus. Not “calling” in a way that teaches us to pray a special prayer to be saved but calling upon Him in a way that demonstrates an acknowledging of the truth of what God has done in Christ Jesus - made Him Lord of all. Ruler of heaven and earth.

**Acts 2:36 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that GOD HATH MADE THAT SAME JESUS, whom ye have crucified, both LORD and Christ.”**

**Acts 10:36 - “The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (HE IS LORD OF ALL:)”**

It was the knowledge that Satan and his princes had concerning Jesus Christ as heir that led them to attempt to take the inheritance from Him by having Him killed. They did not understand the purpose of the coming of Christ as the Lamb of God and thought they would seize the inheritance for themselves by having Christ crucified. We see their intentions carried out by the children of the devil and their motives made clear by the teaching of Christ.

**Luke 20:14 - “But when the husbandmen saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, This is the heir: come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.”**

## Chapter 14 – Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

Certainly, the husbandmen in view were not only the Pharisees and Sadducees, but rather Satan and his company. The leaders of the Jews did not acknowledge the Son, Jesus, as the Christ or as the appointed Heir, but this parable identifies them as the servants of their master who do his bidding – that is Satan. And all this was done on their part in the name of service to God!!

Remarkably, the priests and scribes did in fact perceive that Christ had spoken this parable against them, but they sought only to kill Him rather than repent. However, the Word of God is certain, and the testimony was to be fulfilled according to the counsel of God. The Lamb of God was to be slain, buried, and resurrected with power!

**Acts 4:26 - 28 - “The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For TO DO WHATSOEVER thy hand and THY COUNSEL DETERMINED before to be done.”**

God the Father had already determined what should be accomplished and used wicked hearts and hands to perform the work. There is good reason to fear the Lord! Through all of this, Jesus Christ obtained the victory!

**Colossians 2:13 - 15 - “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of**

the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, **TRIUMPHING OVER THEM** in it.”

All who have put their faith in this truth concerning the rule of Jesus Christ, and have continued on in the truth of calling upon the Lord Jesus Christ, have acknowledged the truth of the work of God without having yet seen the fulfillment of this fact. It is a prayer of faith, an act of obedience, a heart acknowledgement of things yet unseen to us. Whosoever calleth upon Him, shall not be ashamed we are told.

**Romans 10:11 - “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED.”**

This man, Jesus Christ, is Lord of all;

**1 Peter 3:22 - Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being MADE SUBJECT UNTO HIM.**

Has all power as sovereign ruler of heaven and in earth;

**Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, ALL POWER IS GIVEN UNTO ME IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH.**

And is waiting for the time appointed of the Father to return and destroy His adversaries.

**Hebrews 10:12 - 13 - But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From HENCEFORTH EXPECTING TILL his enemies be made his footstool.**

He will be revealed to all at the end of this age;

## Chapter 14 – Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

**1 Timothy 6:15 - Which IN HIS TIMES HE SHALL SHEW, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;**

When He will take to Him His great power

**Revelation 11:17 - Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because THOU HAST TAKEN TO THEE THY GREAT POWER, and hast reigned.**

And will put down all His enemies.

**1 Corinthians 15:25 - For HE MUST REIGN, TILL HE HATH PUT ALL ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET.**

**Luke 19:27 - But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and SLAY THEM before me.**

For now, the kingdom of heaven is content to suffer violence for a time while men are given opportunity for repentance and faith, but there is coming a day when all the enemies of Christ are to be overcome. We who have believed the Truth are called as ambassadors of Christ to the ministry of reconciliation. We set forth the truth of the gospel so that men might believe the truth and have faith towards God concerning these things before they come to pass. The time that passes until then is the acceptable time of salvation for men to call upon Him, both Jew and Gentile.

**Romans 10:12 - “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.”**

## Chapter 14 – Hear Ye, Hear Ye...

**2 Corinthians 6:2 - “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”**

There is no other hope or name given to men whereby they can be saved.

**Acts 4:12 - “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is NONE OTHER NAME under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”**

Jesus Christ is rich towards all those who call upon Him. Let us worship and acknowledge the Son - the one true King of Kings and Lord of lords. Many today are content to talk about God, but we know from scripture that it is the man Jesus Christ that now is Lord of All and we are to come to Him alone for salvation and deliverance. I can't really put it any better or clearer than the Psalmist was able to so long ago....

**Psalm 2:12 - “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”**

## In Closing...

### In Closing...

As we consider the preaching of the Word of the Lord for this age, it is a prophetic message of a future yet to come. Future return of Christ. Future judgement of men. Future inheritance of the saints. Future redemption of our bodies. Future manifestation of the sons of God. Future salvation to be brought to us at His appearing. Future reign of the saints with Christ. Future destruction of this present world. Future creation of a new heavens and earth. All of this is predicated upon the work done by God through the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ, who is the author of all these hopes and promises. Those who “believe in Jesus” are those who have received His testimony concerning these things and have heeded His holy call to follow Him in faith and to wait for the fulfillment of the Word they have believed. The faith that overcomes to the end is the hallmark of God’s work in His children.

May we wait for our Lord in peace and faith without wavering, being persuaded of the glory and certainty of these promises He has made to us. No longer looking unto this world for pleasure, security, peace, hope, safety, joy, satisfaction, or any other thing it may seem to offer, but let our hearts and minds be steadfastly fixed upon Him who is our Peace, Joy, Hope, Salvation, Deliverer, Redeemer, Savior, and coming King. Let us seek first His kingdom by faith.

**Matthew 6:33 - “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”**

Also seeking His righteousness which is by faith.

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**Galatians 5:5 – “For we through the Spirit WAIT for the HOPE of righteousness by faith.”**

Let us be content with the things He provides along the way in this life as He sees fit and necessary to us.

**1 Timothy 6:8 – “And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.”**

May we use all that He may give us as an opportunity to share the hope we have in Him. Finances, strengths, weaknesses, disease, family, friends, and all the other gifts received in this life are to be used as an opportunity to shine the light of this hope we have. Whether they be glorious or distasteful, learning how to be abased and how to abound, to

be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer loss. As the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live;

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*The world is alluring many back into its clutches, and many are being taken in an evil net looking for God’s blessings only in the natural life with no FAITH in His promised kingdom, promised inheritance, or promised reign of righteousness in the world to come.*

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## In Closing...

as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things. That's good kingdom doctrine. Thanks, Paul!

The world is alluring many back into its clutches, and many are being taken in an evil net looking for God's blessings only in this natural life with no FAITH in His promised kingdom, promised inheritance, or promised reign of righteousness in the world to come. Holding fast in the FAITH isn't fulfilled in us, unless it carries the full expectation and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ's Word of Promise and testimony of prophecy concerning the things to come that He has revealed by His Spirit.

**1 Corinthians 2:9 - 10 - "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which GOD HATH PREPARED FOR THEM THAT LOVE HIM. But God hath REVEALED THEM UNTO US BY HIS SPIRIT: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."**

**Hebrews 3:6 - "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we HOLD FAST THE CONFIDENCE AND THE REJOICING OF THE HOPE firm unto the end."**

**Hebrews 4:14 - "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us HOLD FAST OUR PROFESSION."**

**Hebrews 10:23 - "Let us HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH WITHOUT WAVERING; (for he is faithful that promised;)"**

**Revelation 3:3 - "REMEMBER therefore how thou hast received and HEARD, and HOLD FAST, and**

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**REPENT. If therefore thou shalt not WATCH, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.”**

The call of Christ to the churches and saints of God today is to hold fast the FAITH and EXPECTATION of the fulfillment of everything He has promised by His Word. He calls us to uphold the doctrines, ordinances, promises, and examples of the faith we profess and in which we hope. No man is likely to ask of the HOPE you have, if they can't see a testimony of it in your life. And what is our Hope? Only going to heaven when we die?! Not according to the gospel of Jesus Christ which commands us to be watchful in faith for Him to come to us. Scriptural faith and preaching has everything to do with preparing people to be in expectation of His appearing and kingdom! His PROMISE is not “that when you die, you may come and be with me” it is **“I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”** - which is why he COMMANDS watchfulness. Subtle isn't it? Just a small difference in how we view the gospel. That's how deception creeps in - through subtlety.

Knowing and being persuaded of the truth of these things we have studied as it pertains to the preaching of the kingdom since John - the teaching of the apostles of a promised kingdom inheritance, the shadow of things to come, the prophetic Word of God to man so that He can justify them by faith, the covenants of promise, the inheritance, the calling of the saints, the hope of His appearing and our resurrection, the promised world to come, the judgment of this world and its promised end, the reign of God by His Son Jesus Christ over all things, and the good will of the Father to make Abraham the heir of the world and all those who are his children of promise by faith in

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Christ, and of His good will to give us the kingdom - knowing now all of these things, go read the book of Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews, Romans, and through every New Testament book to see the glory of the riches of Christ as the kingdom is preached and taught in faith. To the household of faith, it is a promise. To the unbelieving, it serves as a warning. For those who have already believed the Word concerning these things, there is instruction for how we ought to now live by the faith of Christ in the days of our flesh while we wait for the hope of His promise. We can now see afar off and know the end from the beginning, which begs the question of faith:

**2 Peter 3:11 - 12 - “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”**

The world loves for God’s people to participate with them to make the world “here and now” a better place as agents of society - as long as they don’t share the witness of Christ concerning the works of the world. They are carnal, earthly, devoid of faith, and will be judged as evil. The world is not hesitant to make use of our time, people, and resources to join them in the work of improving man’s natural state and waging warfare on political causes, social issues, humanitarian crises, and all the rest. The testimony of Christ concerning this world is clear.

**John 7:7 - “THE WORLD cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I TESTIFY OF IT, THAT THE WORKS THEREOF ARE EVIL.”**

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Which world is Christ speaking of here? If we are preaching a gospel that declares the Lord has determined to destroy this world with all of its works of which we are so proud, that will not be popular with the world, just as it was not with the Jewish leaders of Jesus day.

**Luke 6:26 - “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”**

It will, however, give them the truth and leave them an opportunity for repentance and faith. This is the true testimony of Jesus Christ concerning this world. Too many Christians today believe the testimony the world gives that this earth is our “common home”. For those who are in Christ by faith, we are pilgrims and strangers here. Jesus offers promises of salvation, deliverance, forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life in the world to come for those who will receive His testimony. Once we receive His testimony, the world will not welcome our view. The gospel was not sent into the world to reform its’ ways, influence its politics, or improve its’ moral stature. It was sent to warn men of the judgment, wrath, and destruction this world faces under the mighty hand of God that they might believe and be saved from this world and not share in its fate.

**John 15:29 - “If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world,**

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*The gospel was not sent into the world to reform its' ways, influence its politics, increase its moral stature, or any oth-er carnal idea that causes men to trust more & hope more in the things of this life, but to warn men of the judgment, wrath, and destruction this world faces under the mighty hand of God that they might believe and be saved from this world and not share in its fate.*

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but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”

The caution against the allure of riches, pleasures, and cares of this life in our hearts are more than hyperbolic, exaggerated preacher speak that we expect to hear from the pulpit now and then.

1 John 2:15

- “Love not the world, neither the

things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

The gospel isn't arguing over whether you can “lose” “your” salvation, what kind of sin you can commit and still “go to heaven”, how “long” is long hair, how “much” is not much wine, how “immodest” can I be and still be modest, or any of the other theological debates of that sort. The testimony of Christ is clear - those who believe His testimony in faith receive His Spirit. Ask yourself this question, “What law or commandment was Zacchaeus given that taught him to give half his wealth away and repay those whom he had wronged?”. Answer - it wasn't a law. It was the Spirit. He was instructed by the power of God

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through His Spirit after having been persuaded of the truth of Christ's testimony concerning things to come.

The gospel speaks of a promise of entrance, of life, of inheritance, and we are then required to examine ourselves to see if we are "in the FAITH". Remembering that Christ will be our judge (He is not a receptionist that asks you where you belong so He can put you down in the right category. He will TELL you which camp you are in as your JUDGE- and His ruling will be final. Therefore, the sober plea for men to examine themselves), are we prepared to stand before Him and hear His decree concerning us? We are if we have UNDERSTOOD and BELIEVED His WORD of PROMISE. It is called in the scriptures, HOPE.

His commandment is to believe His testimony, to hope to the end, to be steadfast in the faith, and to be watchful as obedient children for His return - because the reward of the inheritance, will be received then.

**Ephesians 3:6 - "That the Gentiles should be FELLOWHEIRS, and of the same body, and PARTAKERS OF HIS PROMISE IN CHRIST BY THE GOSPEL:"**

If you've believed the Word of the kingdom, are you being a doer of it as James asks? Every other saint in scripture ACTED by FAITH upon the Word given to them - like Abraham and Rahab in James' examples. We have been given the Word of the Kingdom of God and its' soon arrival. What fruit is there to give an answer of a good conscience towards God in this matter? Can we assure ourselves before Him? Are we running as those who desire and expect to obtain? Are we striving for the mastery and disciplining ourselves accordingly? Are we walking

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humbly in His sight as we seek His grace? Are we acting in faith and not out of other motives? Are we still striving over the trivial affairs of this life or waiting in patience and contentment for the world to come and the life promised to us there?

**Hebrews 13:5 - “Let your conversation be WITHOUT COVETEOUSNESS; and BE CONTENT with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”**

**1 John 3:1 - “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore THE WORLD KNOWETH US NOT, because it knew him not.”**

He has declared by His Word the good will of the Father to give the kingdom to those who will believe His testimony and heed His call to follow in FAITH. He has already paid the price for redemption with His own life and blood.

**Luke 12:43 - 44 - “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find SO DOING [watching from verse 37 shown below]. Of a truth I say unto you, that HE WILL MAKE HIM RULER OVER ALL THAT HE HATH.”**

**Luke 12:37 - “Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find WATCHING...”**

The work the Lord expects from the servants in that passage from Luke is watchfulness - a work in our heart and not of the flesh. He testifies, the servant who is faithfully “doing” that will be made ruler over all that He has. That sounds like good kingdom doctrine.

## In Closing...

**Revelation 2:26 - “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:”**

Many Old Testament passages also declare the truth of these things that we have only begun to show. May the Lord bless you in your study as you seek Him by faith.

**Joel 2:10 - 12 - “The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp is very great: for HE IS STRONG THAT EXECUTETH HIS WORD: for the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; and who can abide it? Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil. Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?”**

Let's conclude with one last word of admonition from our Lord Jesus Himself which is a dear and precious source of encouragement in these last days:

**Revelation 2:25 - “hold fast till I come.”**