

A Brighter Tomorrow

“World peace and prosperity for all can only come through world government.”

That has been the conclusion and the goal of many leaders in the past and the consensus of many leaders in government, science and education today.

Yet the same people generally admit that such a utopia is merely wishful thinking.

The world’s nations could never agree on who would rule or how, what ideology would prevail.

What about it?

Is world government and universal peace possible?

Believe it or not the answer is yes!

On what do I base this positive believe that such a utopian world is not only possible, but will be a future reality?

My belief is based on what we are told in the Christian Bible, our Handbook For Life.

More than 2,000 years ago, the Creator God of this world and the universe sent a special messenger to earth with an important message for all humanity.

A message that brings hope to every person and nation who face a hopeless future.

Who was that messenger and what was his message?

Mark 1:14-15 [NIV] *“After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news of God.** “The time has come,” he said. **“The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”**”*

These first words of Jesus Christ give us the core of His teaching.

That the long-awaited Messiah [Saviour] had come to break the power of sin that enslaved every human being and begin God’s personal reign on earth.

Most people who first heard this message were oppressed, poor, and without hope, just like so many people in the world today.

Jesus’ words were good news then and are still good news today, offering freedom, justice and hope.

Matthew 9:35-36 [NIV] *“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and **healing every disease and sickness.** When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.**”*

The good news of the future kingdom of God, was illustrated by Jesus healing the people who were under the oppression of disease and sickness, and without trustworthy leadership.

Jesus Christ’s message was good news in advance of it coming to fruition.

How will this future kingdom start on earth?

Mark 4:30-32 [NIV] *“Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”*

The kingdom will start small.

What does a kingdom comprise of?

People and a king who rules over them.

Really any kingdom is a family that has grown large and are still subject to the leadership and guidance of a father figure.

This is the image of this kingdom that Jesus Christ was revealing.

Matthew 13:33 [NIV] *“He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”*

The kingdom that Jesus Christ was introducing would eventually have an impact on the whole world.

Although yeast is a minor ingredient in a loaf of bread, it permeates and influences eventually, after a period of time, the whole loaf.

Mark 4:10-12 [NIV] *“When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!””*

Not everyone will understand what is being discussed in this article.

Why?

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

Most people are blinded in their minds to understanding the message of the good news that Jesus Christ brought about the Kingdom of God.

Who is this “God of this age” [or world] who is at present in control of this world?

1 John 5:18-19 [NIV] *“We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him. We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”*

The “evil one” is always in scripture referring to Satan.

Revelation 12:9 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

Satan is still in control on this earth leading everyone astray.

Matthew 4:8-9 [NIV] *“Again, **the devil** took him to a very high mountain and **showed him all the kingdoms of the world** and their splendour. **“All this I will give you,”** he said, **“if you will bow down and worship me.”**”*

Jesus, who was being tested by Satan did **not** tell Satan that the kingdoms of this world were **not** Satan’s to offer to him.

Satan will continue to be the ruler [king] of the whole world until after the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 20:1-3 [NIV] *“**And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.**”*

This event is directly after the return of Jesus Christ as “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” as described in the previous chapter.

This was also foretold by Jesus Christ this returning king.

Matthew 24:27-30 [NIV] *“**For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.” “At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”**”*

The fulfilment of this is described in **Revelation 19:11-16**.

John 18:36-37 [NIV] *“**Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.**”*

Jesus Christ testified to Pilate just before He was crucified, that He was the King of a Kingdom that was **not** of this world. Jesus Christ in His preaching had called this kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven.

John 20:17 [NIV] *“**Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”**”*

After being murdered and then resurrected back to life, Jesus Christ ascended to His Father’s throne in heaven from which they rule the universe.

Acts 1:9-11 [NIV] *“**After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”**”*

Jesus Christ will return to the earth in the same way in which He ascended.

Acts 1:6-7 [NIV] *“**So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”**”*

The timing of this return is **not** ours to know.

During His stay in heaven Jesus Christ is preparing for His return to the earth.

John 14:1-3 [NIV] *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. **In my Father’s house are many rooms**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.**”*

The Greek word translated “house” is “*ōikia*” primarily referring to a permanent place of rest.

There is nothing in the word talking about separate compartments in heaven.

What is being expressed is more like a permanent position in the created family of God.

Jesus Christ will receive these people having prepared a place for them to occupy on His return.

The Greek word translated “place” is “*tōpōs*” which can be translated condition or opportunity.

Put all this together and we have Jesus Christ telling believers, Christians, that what He is now doing in heaven is preparing people to be given opportunities to be in the created family of God and to work with Him on His return to the earth.

Revelation 1:4-6 [NIV] *“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from **Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**”*

The “us” is referring to Christians who will be rulers [kings] under Jesus Christ and teachers [priests] with Jesus Christ.

Revelation 5:10 [NIV] *“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, **and they will reign on the earth.**”*

This will take place on earth.

This concept may be very new to many who are reading this article.

But if you make this the basis for understanding the plan God has for human beings, you will find that other scriptures will suddenly “*fall into place*” in your understanding of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, our Handbook For Life.

Just how bad will conditions be on earth before Jesus Christ returns to set this pattern of rulership, worldwide government, into operation?

In other words, how long before permanent peace and prosperity will exist on earth?

Matthew 24:3 [NIV] *“As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. **“Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”**”*

A question that every thinking human being is asking today.

The end of this age of oppression, poverty, war, and all the other evil things that are in society today.

Matthew 24:4-8 [NIV] *“Jesus answered: “Watch out that no-one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains.”*

These are the beginning signs of Jesus Christ’s return.

Matthew 24:9-13 [NIV] *“Then you [Christians] will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

Christians will be persecuted, and murdered. False, lying, leaders will deceive many people.

Wickedness will increase.

The good news of Jesus Christ and His future return to rule as King of kings, will be preached to all the world.

Matthew 24:21-22 [NIV] *“For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.”*

Humanity will be at the point of total self-destruction.

But so that the “elect”, those whom Jesus Christ is now training to rule with Him, will have some humans to rule and teach, some humans will live through those days of horror.

That is how bad life on earth will become.

Only then will most human beings realise that they need their Creator God to teach them and direct their lives.

Let us all pray “Thy kingdom come on earth.”