

Living in God's Kingdom- The Former things have passed away especially our former enemy death

I spoke last time on the subject of Theodicy – Why does God allow pain or tragedy – and in the Thank you card, was the above title – a great message to help us get ready for the Feast (in a few weeks!)

To start (by way of contrast) ... I wanted to describe a tragedy in my life to see how it would not happen in the Kingdom of God (The Journey to Church Camp Vendee ...)

- Death can be sudden ... Shocking ... traumatic ...
- We are always a whisker away from death ... Driving in a car ... the frailty of the human body
- We fear death ... and yet are fascinated by it also ... (Books & Hollywood movies eg “Flatliners”)

Scripture is clear about the timing of some Key events:

- Jesus will return (and His saints will rise to meet Him)
- He will rule for 1000 years
- After the 1000 years, “the rest of the dead” will rise to physical life and get a chance to know God’s ways
- Some will chose eternal life and some will reject God and be killed by the “second death”
- After this ... the tool of death will be gone

Today God needs the tool of death

- To show us we are dust, temporary – everybody dies – (Disney & Elton John express this as the “Circle of life”)
- To shock us toward repentance
- To allow those who are wicked to **not** live forever (and cause lawless havoc in God’s Kingdom)

But every autumn, because of God’s Plan and the gift of the Holy Days, we can think about, and dream about God’s Kingdom and what He has in store for us! We understand what it is like to be hurt and sad at the death of a loved one – and even the death of a stranger – a “fellow human being” -- What will it be like to be in a world without death and suffering?

1) (See Attached) How about getting a morning newspaper like “**The New World News**”?

2) (See Attached) Lloyd Cary tries his hand at giving us a scriptural tour of God’s Kingdom in the booklet SCB-**Second Coming And Beyond**

3) (See Attached) Vance Stinson points out 5 key facts about the Kingdom in the reprint article: **What is the Kingdom of God**

4) “No worries, Mate!” Jesus will be **with us** & preparing for us (each of us)

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

Joh 14:1 "Let not your heart be **troubled**; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

Joh 14:2 **In My Father's house are many mansions**; if *it were* not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare **a place for you**.

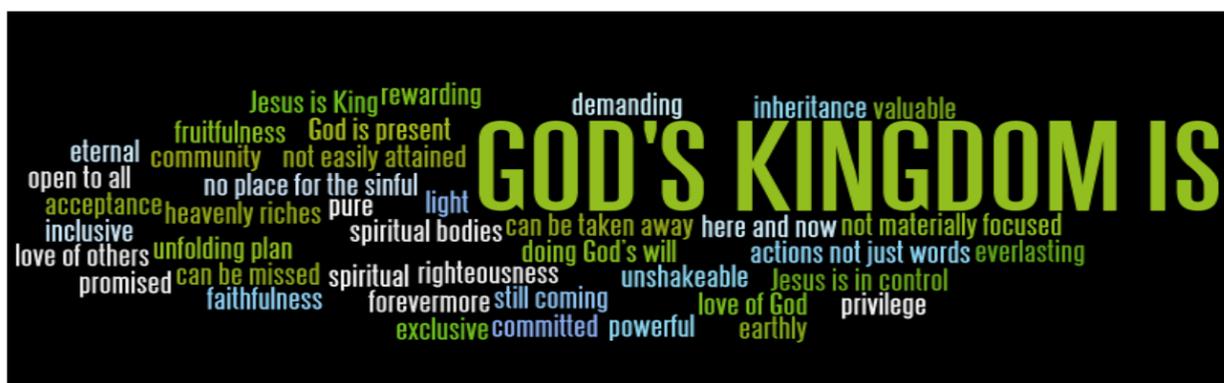
Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

5) (See Attached) HWA’s view of the Kingdom of God (from his book “**Wonderful World Tomorrow What It Will Be Like**”)

6) (See Attached) So What is the Kingdom of God? InfoGraphic

7) A New Heaven and a New Earth

Rev 21:1-5 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."



Following, in briefest form, is an outline of forthcoming world events. This is your future. It is the best news you have ever heard! (Perhaps you might like to mark, color code, or chain reference these in your Bible for future quick reference.)

1. Christ's Kingdom Is Received From God:

- The Lord God shall give to Him the throne. Luke 1:32–33
- There was given to Him dominion and a kingdom. Daniel 7:13–14
- I will give thee the heathen. Psalm 2:8
- The kingdom is the Lord's; and He is the governor. Psalms 22:28

2. It Is to Be Established When Jesus Christ Returns to Earth:

- In the regeneration, Christ shall sit in the throne. Matthew 19:28
- When the Son of man shall come in His glory. Matthew 25:31
- A parable: Christ to receive the kingdom & return. Luke 19:12–27
- Christ shall judge at His appearing and kingdom. 2 Timothy 4:1
- He is coming on a white horse as King of kings. Rev. 19:11, 16

3. It Will Be Established in Power and Might:

- He will smite nations & rule with a rod of iron. Ps 2:8; Rev 19:15
- He will smite the earth with the rod of His mouth. Is 11:4; Job 4:9
- The Stone [Christ] will smite and replace the image. Daniel 2:34–35; Daniel 2:44–45
- He shall fight against those nations. Zech. 14:3–5
- In flaming fire He will take vengeance on the disobedient. 2Th 1:7
- Christ will destroy the wicked with His brightness. 2 Thess. 2:8
- The Lamb shall overcome those who make war. Rev. 17:13–14

4. Israel Will Be Regathered, Converted, Exalted:

- Bring again people of Israel. Amos 9:14–15
- Put a new spirit within you. Ezek. 11:17–20
- Exalted above the Gentiles. Isaiah 61:4–6
- Jerusalem will be the throne of the Lord. Jeremiah 3:17

5. Christ's Kingdom Will Supercede and Replace All Earthly Kingdoms:

- The kingdoms of this world will become Christ's. Rev. 11:15
- Christ will be King of kings and Lord of lords. Rev. 17:14; 19:1
- Christ's kingdom shall never be destroyed. Daniel 2:44
- The kingdom given to saints of the Most High. Dan. 7:18, 22, 27

6. The Worldwide Extent of Christ's Kingdom:

- Satan and his influences shall be put away. Rev. 20:1–3
- Jesus Christ to be King over all the earth. Zechariah 14:9
- All nations will keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Zechariah 14:16
- Gentiles shall seek Him. Isaiah 11:10
- Uttermost parts of the earth. Psalm 2:7–9
- All nations shall serve Him. Psalm 72:8–9
- The Stone Who will fill the whole earth. Daniel 2:35–44
- All people, nations, languages shall serve Him. Daniel 7:14
- All dominions to serve and obey Him. Daniel 7:27
- Christ's kingdom exalted above nations. Micah 4:1–3
- Earth shall be full of glory. Isaiah 11:9

7. The Eternal Duration of Christ's Kingdom:

- Throne of His kingdom to be established forever. 2Sam. 7:13, 16
- There shall be no end to His peace and government. Isaiah 9:7
- God's kingdom shall stand forever. Daniel 2:44
- His dominion is everlasting. Daniel 7:14
- The saints to possess the kingdom forever and ever. Daniel 7:18
- Of His kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1:33
- Christ's kingdom to last forever. 2 Peter 1:11
- Kingdoms of this world to be Christ's forever & ever. Rev 11:15

8. The Structure of Christ's Kingdom—

- Christ, King of Kings, Will Reign From Jerusalem:
- Christ's kingdom to be exalted above the nations. Micah 4:1–4
- Israel's returned and praised among all people. Zephaniah 3:20
- The Son of man shall sit on the throne of His glory. Matthew 25:31
- Christ to sit upon the throne of David, forever. Luke 1:32–33

9. The Church Will Be Glorified With Him:

- We shall be joint-heirs with Christ. Romans 8:17
- We shall also appear with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4
- We will have power & sit with Him on His throne. Rev. 2:26; 3:21
- As kings and priests, we shall reign on earth. Rev. 1:6; 5:10
- We shall reign with Him a thousand years. Rev. 20:6

10. All Nations Left Will Serve the King of Kings:

- All nations and kings shall serve Him. Psalm 72:8–11
- Nations to go to Jerusalem to be taught of His ways. Isaiah 2:2–4
- Those left of all nations will worship the King. Zech. 14:9, 16

11. The Temple Will Be Rebuilt:

- The temple described in detail. Ezekiel 40—48
- Animal sacrifices temporarily reinstated. Eze 40:42–43; Eze 44:11
- Burnt, sin, meat, trespass, & peace offerings. Eze 43:19–27; 45:17

12. The Character and Blessings of Christ's Kingdom—

- Christ will rule with righteousness and justice:
- With righteousness. Psalm 72:8–10
- With righteousness shall judge. Isaiah 11:3–5
- Walk in His paths. Micah 4:2
- In righteousness He doth judge. Rev. 19:11

13. God's Laws, Sabbath, & Holydays to Be Strictly Enforced:

- God's law kept forever and ever. Psalm 119:44, 160
- The Law shall go forth from Zion. Micah 4:2
- All nations to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Zech. 14:16–19
- All shall worship God from one Sabbath to another. Isaiah 66:23

14. There Will Be Worldwide Peace Among Nations:

- There will be an abundance of peace forever. Psalm 72:3, 7
- Israel will no longer be a prey to the heathen. Ezekiel 34:28
- Men shall beat their swords into plowshares. Isaiah 2:4
- No end to the increase of His government. Isaiah 9:7
- The work of righteousness shall be peace forever. Isaiah 32:17
- Men shall learn war no more. Micah 4:3
- He shall cut off war & speak peace unto the heathen. Zech 9:10

15. No More Sickness:

- Inhabitants shall not say, "I am sick." Isaiah 33:24
- The blind, deaf, lame, dumb, healed. Isaiah 35:5–6
- The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard. Isaiah 65:17–19
- God shall wipe away all tears and pain. Rev. 7:17; 21:4

16. The Nature of Animals Changed:

- A little child shall lead formerly fierce animals. Isaiah 11:6–9
- The wolf and the lamb shall feed together. Isaiah 65:25
- God will make a covenant with the wild beasts. Hosea 2:18
- Christ will establish a covenant of peace with all. Ezekiel 34:25

17. The Fertility of Earth Will Be Restored:

- The desert shall blossom as the rose. Isaiah 35:1–2, Isaiah 35:6–7
- The wilderness shall be as a pool of water. Isaiah 41:18–19
- Peace, singing, abound; no more thorns or thistles. Isaiah 55:12–13
- Desolate lands rebuilt; earth as a Garden of Eden. Eze 36:33–35
- The plowman will overtake the reaper. Amos 9:13–14
- There will be a restitution of all things. Acts 3:20–21
- The creature shall be delivered from bondage. Romans 8:19–22

18. The Environment Will Be Made Friendly:

- Protective covering cloud & flaming fire upon Zion. Isaiah 4:5–6
- There shall be showers of blessing. Ezekiel 34:26
- There shall be bountiful harvests. Ezekiel 34:27
- The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad. Isaiah 35:1

19. Who Will Not Inherit the Kingdom:

- Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:50
- The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom. 1 Cor. 6:9–11
- Immoral persons shall not inherit the kingdom. Gal. 5:19–21
- Unrepentant won't inherit the kingdom. Rev. 21:8, 27; Rev. 22:15

20. The Whole Earth to Be Filled With the Glory of the Lord:

- The whole earth shall be filled with His glory. Psalm 72:19
- Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Isaiah 11:9
- The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Habakkuk 2:14

--- SCB-Second Coming And Beyond, by Lloyd Cary ---

Amen! What a future! What a world! Now read this list over again! Let it really “soak in.”

What a wonderful, glorious future lies ahead for mankind! When the seventh trumpet sounds, will you be ready?

5 Facts about the Kingdom of God

(What is the Kingdom of God – VS)

- 1) Jesus was sent for the purpose of preaching the Kingdom of God. When a crowd of Galileans urged Jesus not to leave their city, **“He said to them, ‘I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent’” (Luke 4:43).**
- 2) There is a sense in which the Kingdom of God was **already present** in the time of Jesus and the apostles. Jesus said the Kingdom **“is at hand (Mark 1:15) and “has come near you” (Luke 10:9, 11).** When the Pharisees asked Him when the Kingdom of God would come, He replied, **“The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within (among) you” (Luke 17:19-21).** Where the King is, there is the Kingdom.
- 3) There is a sense in which the Kingdom of God has **not yet come.** Jesus gave His disciples the Parable of the Minas in order to correct their misunderstanding that **“the kingdom of God would appear immediately” (Luke 19:11).** Years later, Paul and Barnabas urged believers to “continue in the faith,” reminding them that **“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).** If believers are already in the Kingdom of God—if they are already experiencing the fullness of the Kingdom—it is pointless to speak of enduring tribulations as a prerequisite to entering the Kingdom. Paul and Barnabas were speaking of the eschatological Kingdom, which will commence with the Second Coming of Christ and come to full maturity in the New Heaven and New Earth period (Revelation 20-22).
- 4) **There is continuity** between the Old Testament kingdom and the future kingdom. Jesus’ disciples expected the risen Lord to “restore the kingdom to Israel.” Rather than tell them His kingdom had nothing to do with Israel, He replied, **“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority” (Acts 1:6).** Jesus declared that many from east and west would **“sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out” (Matthew 8:11-12).** The “children of the kingdom” are those physical descendants of Jacob—Israelites—who reject Jesus as the promised Messiah. Jesus said the Kingdom would be taken from them **“and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it” (Matthew 21:43).** **Jesus’ teaching on the Kingdom of God is rooted firmly in prophecies concerning the restoration of Israel.** Even God’s promise to **“make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jeremiah 31:31)** is in the context of the future restoration of Israel and Judah as a kingdom united under the reign of a Davidic **“Branch of righteousness” (Jeremiah 33:15),** whom we recognize as Jesus Christ. So, dispensationalist claims notwithstanding, the gospel of the Kingdom of God rests solidly on the foundation of the kingdom promises of the Old Testament.
- 5) Those who intend to be **citizens** of the Kingdom of God must place seeking it at the **head of their list of priorities.** Jesus cautioned His disciples about worrying over physical things, urging them rather to **“seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things [food, drink, clothing] will be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).**

God’s Kingdom... as described by Herbert Armstrong in his book... **“Wonderful World Tomorrow What It Will Be Like”**

Now picture the changed conditions! Look now at the solved problems! See, now, a glimpse into a world of no illiteracy, no poverty, no famine and starvation, into a world where crime decreases rapidly, people learn honesty, chastity, human kindness, and happiness -- a world of peace, prosperity, abundant well-being.

The Population Explosion Solved

*God predicts vast reforms everywhere in the wonderful utopian era He says will soon break out on this earth. **Can you imagine it?** A world of great strides in solving the most crucial problems facing mankind. Today-the greatest and most awesome problem of all is the population explosion. Growing populations in all nations are rapidly outstripping the ability of the world to sustain them. And the areas of the greatest rise in population are the underdeveloped parts of the world-the “have-not” nations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and superstition. Remember, not more than 10 percent of the earth’s surface is tillable, or arable, land. And now the latest UN figures indicate the world will double in population in just 34 short years. The daily, ominous pressure of people is one of the truly incomprehensible problems today.*

But God has the solution, and how simple it is. Simply make most of the earth cultivatable. Reduce the bare, snow-swept and craggy mountains, raise up some of the deep, arid desert valleys, change the world weather patterns. Make all the deserts green and fertile. Open up huge slices of the earth, like the Kalahari Desert, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahara in Africa, the Gobi Desert in Asia, and the great American deserts. Make green and verdant the vast wastes of Mongolia, Siberia, Saudi Arabia and many of the Western states in the U.S. Thaw out the deep ice packs and snowdrifts, the permafrost and tundra from the vast, almost limitless expanses of Antarctica, North America, Greenland, Northern Europe and Siberia. Make level the awesome Pamir Knot, the huge giants of the Himalayas, the Atlas, Taurus, Pyrenees, Rockies, Sierras and Hindu Kush-level the immense sweep of the Andes, and all the other forbidding, towering, virtually uninhabitable mountains of earth. Then, provide good, gentle rainfall, in right balance, just at the right season. And what happens?

Now Picture Tomorrow's World! Multiple millions of acres of unbelievably fertile, productive, wonderful farmland suddenly become available-just waiting to be discovered, and pioneered. Impossible? In the hands of man-certainly. But look what God promises.

"Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the [Eternal], and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the [Eternal], and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel. When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the [Eternal] will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains [artesian wells] in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah [acacia] tree, and the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree [cypress] together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the [Eternal] hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it." (Isaiah 41:14-20).

Pure Water - Fertile Deserts

Can you imagine such a fabulous scene? Deserts becoming green, fertile, garden lands of trees, shrubs, bubbling springs and brooks; mountains brought low, and made habitable. Notice how God describes these conditions in many parts of the Bible.

"Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons [jackals], where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes" (Isaiah 35:6-7).

