

and the Policies of his Worldwide Kingdom

DO YOU KNOW

that when Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, two angels promised the disciples that he would one day return to the earth!

DO YOU REALISE

that many of the prophecies of the Bible relate, to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth, to take control over the governments of this world and to reign as the worldwide king.

Recent events occurring in our world and particularly with Israel indicate the nearness of this amazing event.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED

to learn what the future will reveal; if you care about your personal destiny and how to change the course of your own life, providing you with hope for the future, read this booklet carefully and thoughtfully. It has a message for you.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

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Edited by G.E.Mansfield,

Logos Publications, Box 220, Findon, Sth Australia 5023
info@bibletruth.org.au | www.bibletruth.org.au

The Real Facts Concerning the Second Coming of Jesus Christ,

and the Policies of his Worldwide Kingdom

There is no need to despair because of the deteriorating social and religious conditions on earth today. Though it might seem that the world faces a bleak future and that no leader has any solution to the crises that disturb so many, there is an amazing hope offered to thoughtful men and women prepared to look beyond the present.

The Bible is the source of such confidence. It has a message of hope and real security to those who are looking for it. A consistent message of God's purpose continues from the beginning to the end of the Bible – despite that over forty different writers were responsible for the writing of the various books that make up the Bible, and over 1,600 years were encompassed in its compilation. It is the authentic Word of God, and its prophecies and declarations are therefore recorded under divine inspiration. That is the reason why it is so consistent in its message, so unerring in its prophecies, and so reliable in its precepts and teachings. We can go to its pages with complete confidence and assurance.

The Bible presents God's purpose with mankind, set in process from the beginning of time. God declared that His intention was to save mankind from utter destruction of its own hand, a condition which is becoming increasingly obvious today (see Revelation 11v18).

The Bible declares that God has allowed society to face its own folly, to demonstrate that man has no hope of redeeming himself. It states "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10v23). If we are content to put our confidence and future into the hands of the politicians and leaders of today's world, we will be bitterly disappointed. The evidence of 6,000 years of misrule, demonstrates that mankind is not capable of governing for society's benefit.

God's purpose requires that those who desire something better in life for themselves and their families, should read and respond to God's Word. They need to make a personal stand for Truth and Righteousness by rejecting the concepts and philosophies of man, by seeking a better way of life. The apostle Peter declared that God "is calling out from the Gentiles (nations) a people for His name" (Acts 15v14). This means that His followers will separate from the religious and social environment of humanity, and support those who are sincerely endeavouring to apply God's ways in life.

Jesus Christ Will Return Personally, Visibly, Literally

When the Lord Jesus Christ was on earth, he constantly reaffirmed that, after a period of time in heaven, he would return. He said to his disciples, "Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19v28). In this statement, he was obviously referring to a future time, when the disciples will be resurrected from death and given the place of honour over a restored nation of Israel. It certainly does not speak of immortal bliss in heaven, for they could hardly "judge the twelve tribes of Israel" there!

Later, as the Lord was being received into heaven to act as a "great high priest" on behalf of his disciples (Hebrews 4v14), a message of wonderful hope was given to the apostles gathered on the Mount of Olives. Two angels declared, that "This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1v11). There was no doubt about the literal nature of his ascention into heaven, and similarly he will return bodily and physically at the appointed time. 1John 3v2 declares, "When he shall appear... we shall see him as he is." His presence on earth will be obvious to all.

In fact, a prophecy to the Jews shows that the tribes of Israel would ultimately acknowledge the One whom they crucified, "they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn" (Zechariah 12v10).

If Jesus Christ is to come "in like manner" as the apostles saw him go into heaven, and if the Jewish people will "look on him whom they have pierced," observing the wounds in his hands as the evidence of their former wickedness in putting him to death, then Jesus Christ must return personally, visibly and literally to the earth.

Jesus Christ Taught That He Would Return From Heaven

In fact, this is what he constantly taught when upon earth. He claimed that his ascent to heaven was for the purpose of receiving a kingdom from his Father, that he might return with authority to rule throughout the earth.

This was implied in the parable of a nobleman who "went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return" (Luke 19v12) at which time he rewarded his servants for faithfully occupying in the interim. Jesus Christ's parables were always given to teach important lessons concerning his own work of salvation. He also plainly instructed his disciples with the same principles when he said, "The Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father and with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works" (Matthew 16v27). This clearly asserts that the Lord Jesus Christ will return from heaven, at which time his followers will be acknowledged before him. He reaffirmed this to his disciples just before his crucifixion, "They [the peoples of the world] shall see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory" (Luke 21v27). The return of Jesus Christ will be accompanied with tremendous physical and social changes globally, so that ultimately, all nations will be forced to recognize his presence. The "cloud" spoken of, relates to the company of immortalised believers who will be associated with him in that day (the "cloud of witnesses" of Hebrews 12v1).

The final prophecy of the Bible reiterated that teaching when the Lord stated, "Behold I come quickly [ie. suddenly]; and my reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22v12).

Believers Receive Rewards At Jesus Christ's Coming

In every quotation mentioned above, it is taught that the disciples of Jesus Christ are rewarded at his coming, and not before! The current church teaching of the immortality of the soul, and of saints winging their way to heaven at death, there to abide in eternal bliss, is not taught in the Bible and rather opposes Bible teaching. Nowhere does the Bible suggest such a thing, and, in fact, vigorously denies it as is clearly evident in Acts 2v34. The apostle Peter stated to the Jews in Jerusalem concerning one of the greatest men who have ever lived, that "David [the man after God's own heart" Acts 13v22] is not ascended into the heavens," but was "dead and buried" with the evidence of his burial place before the people that day.

Clearly David, one of the great men of the Bible has not ascended into heaven! For the fact is that the reward of the faithful will be upon the earth - not in heaven!

There is no truth in the church teaching that immortal souls reside in heaven at death — for if it were true, there would be no reason for Jesus Christ to return to earth "with his reward with him."

The apostle Paul anticipated receiving immortality at the coming of the Lord. As he saw the circumstances developing that would bring about his death, he confidently declared: "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" (2Timothy 4v8). The wonderful prize of immortality was for a future time: it was "laid up." The day of its bestowal was promised for a later time.

In fact, the current world scene indicates that the time of the resurrection for the apostle Paul and all the faithful is imminent. For at the return of Jesus Christ, the faithful believers will be resurrected from death (an event spoken of throughtout the Bible, as can be seen in 1Corinthians 15v12) and they will meet Jesus Christ in person.

The Apostles Believed That Jesus Christ Would Return

After the ascension of the Lord into heaven 2000 years ago, the apostles went throughout the then known world with the dynamic message of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead and his future return to the earth.

The apostle Paul declared, "He [God] shall send Jesus Christ, who before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets" (Acts 3v20). He claimed that both the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus Christ were consistent: they all spoke of the establishment of God's kingdom on earth at a future time. It would not be until then, that the sin-stricken and strife-torn world that has only known violence and bloodshed by its inhabitants, could find relief.

The apostle Paul wrote, "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven, with his mighty angels... when he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe" (2Thessalonians 1v7,10). The apostle Paul looked forward to a change in society, when the followers of Jesus Christ would be elevated to positions of honour and glory (as the

apostle John declared in Revelation 5v9-10), and when their wisdom and spiritual abilities will be used for the benefit of mankind. That time will arrive when Jesus Christ appears personally on earth.

There are over 300 allusions to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ found within the pages of the Bible. It is the fundamental teaching of the Scriptures. and the basis for a better future. Speaking of these "times of restoration" associated with Jesus Christ's visible and personal return, the apostle Peter declared, "All the prophets from Samuel and those that follow, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days" (Acts 3v24). If the promise of the Bible that Jesus Christ's return is not true, then humanity is left with the hopeless future of increasing violence, immorality and destruction by its own hands. For the apostle Paul argued, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1Corinthians 15v19-22). He shows that because of the transgression of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis ch. 3), mankind is under the curse of mortality, and therefore all will find that life concludes in the grave. The only hope apart from that, is in a "resurrection from the dead." Since the apostle Paul speaks of the resurrection of the physical body, he anticipated a time when dead believers would be brought from the grave, refashioned from the dust by God's miraculous power, and restored to life again.

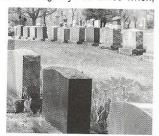
He wrote about a certain order of events, "Every man in his own order; Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1Corinthians 15v23-26). The resurrection program of God commenced in His Son Jesus Christ, over 2000 years ago. The next stage will occur at his second coming, when all who have understood the Gospel will be resurrected for judgment and reward. There will be a further period of 1,000 years, during which Jesus Christ will establish on earth a divine political Kingdom (Revelation 20v5), which will conclude with a further and final resurrection. After that event, sin and death will be completely overcome and destroyed (Revelation 21v4), and the whole world will become the wonderful habitation of immortal beings, enjoying unity and fellowship with God.

The First Stage In The Redemption Of Mankind

The Bible also reveals certain details of the work that Jesus Christ will undertake at his second coming. He will first raise the dead and judge those who have known his message, and have thereby become responsible. Of those who truly believe him, Jesus Christ said "I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6v39, 40, 44). He spoke of two groups of people coming forth from the grave: those who have faithfully responded to his instructions, and those who have rejected them, "They that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5v29). There will be a separation of the righteous from the wicked; those who have tried to fulfil his commandments to the best of their ability, will be separated from those who have willingly ignored his precepts. The prophet Daniel also testified that, "many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12v2). Only those who have considered the message of the Bible and have developed understanding, faith and works of righteousness, will be rewarded with immortality, but sadly, others will be returned to the doomed world they loved and which they really never left.

In order to provide for this important, and necessary, separation so that appropriate rewards and decisions might be made, Jesus Christ will establish his **Judgment Seat**. There, all responsible persons will be gathered, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things in body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad," wrote the apostle Paul (2Corinthians 5v10). This will take some time, but the attention of the world will be elsewhere involved in terrible trouble and strife. Jesus Christ described the coming days as times when,

"men's hearts [are] failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of [the political and social] heaven shall be shaken" (Luke 21v26). The world will continue to deteriorate into a time of shocking violence and evil, similar to that which occurred in the former days of Noah (read the description in Genesis 6v1-13,



and that in Luke 17v26). During that time the Lord Jesus Christ will conduct his Judgment Seat, unbeknown to the world at large.

The Bible teaches that "the Lord Jesus Christ shall judge the quick (those believers who are alive) and the dead (his resurrected faithful) at his appearing and his kingdom" (2Timothy 4v1). His appearing to his followers will commence a sequence of events which will ultimate in the establishment of his kingdom. Having rewarded his true disciples, and rejected those who falsely claimed association with him or who willingly rejected his message, Jesus Christ will proceed to reveal his power and authority to the world at large.

The Nations Must Be Disciplined

The world will be embroiled in war when the Lord Jesus Christ publicly proclaims his presence on earth. Daniel the prophet speaks of a "time of trouble such as never was" (Daniel 12v1), whilst the prophet Joel claims that the nations will "prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near" (Joel 3v9), and the armies of the world will be gathered together to Jerusalem (Zechariah 14v2). It will be at that time that Jesus Christ, together with his immortalised and glorified followers, will go forth to initiate the second stage of the world's redevelopment.

The battle of Armageddon will be fought on the mountains of Israel (Revelation 16v16; Joel 3v2), but the forces of the nations will be no match for the power of Jesus Christ's invincible armies. He will establish God's purpose on earth by demanding that all give allegiance to him, "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be instructed, ye judges [rulers] of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Prostrate yourselves before the Son lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way when his wrath is kindled" (Psalm 2v9-12).

It is for the benefit of humanity that the nations submit to his control. To continue in the present deteriorating condition of things, is to perpetuate the same ungodly wickedness that has continued for six thousand years. Because man is inherently evil, it is needful for the Lord Jesus Christ to exercise absolute control, and to demand the obedience of his subjects for, "...the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2Thessalonians 1v7-8).

Under his control the manufacture of war machinery will revert to the construction of agricultural implements, for "He shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2v4). What a wonderfully refreshing time will come about by the return to the earth of Jesus Christ! What a change in the outlook of society, and in the policies of the nations! No longer vast armies preparing to kill their neighbours, nor the political opportunist endeavouring to achieve power by stealth and intrigue.

Jesus Christ Will Set Up God's Kingdom On Earth

Having eradicated all rule, authority, and power, Jesus Christ will then provide for a peaceful and harmonious future. He will set up his throne in Jerusalem, the ancient city of his father David (see 2Samuel 7v12-16), and will establish his divine plan for the redemption of mankind. He will then be recognised as "king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14v9), for "out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2v3). His instructions and commandments will be received worldwide, so that mankind everywhere will be benefited by his wisdom, for "...of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end; upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom" (Isaiah 9v7).

This will fulfil the prophecy of the past, when Mary the mother of Jesus Christ was told, "Thou shalt call his name Jesus... and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1v32-33).



Since then, those words, which are proclaimed every year in the presentation of Händel's *Messiah* oratorio by many choirs throughout the world, really challenge the theory of immortal soulism, of disembodied souls flitting off to heaven at death, and of the kingdom of God reigning in the hearts of believers. The prophecy given to Mary, demands,

the physical return of Jesus Christ, the re-establishment of the ancient Israelitish throne of David "as in the days of old" (Amos 9v11), and the political control of the nations wisely ruled over by him.

Although much of mankind is oblivious to the requirements of God's Word the Bible today, they will not be permitted to ignore His Son in the days to come. God's kingdom will be universal and will require the submission of all to His wise directions. No opposition, religious or secular, will be permitted. The prophet Daniel foresaw that, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2v44). He also stated that, "the kingdom, and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Daniel 7v27).

What a wonderful plan and purpose for establishing international peace. It will occur after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, and not before! Only then will mankind realise the great benefits that will result from obedience to God's will, and people will "long enjoy the work of their hands" (Isaiah 65v22).

This kingdom will continue for one thousand years, until finally, after a second judgment at the end of this period, the earth will be filled only with immortal men and women who willingly and lovingly respond to and reflect the wonder and wisdom of God. It will be a world of joy, peace, and security; of complete and undisturbed happiness. Never again will there be crime, evil, violence or bloodshed that is in complete opposition to the will of our Creator. The apostle Paul describes this great moment in history as, "Then cometh the end, when he [Jesus Christ] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death... and when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto Him [God] that put all things under him [Christ], that God may be all in all" (1Corinthians 15v24-28).

The whole design of God from the beginning of creation will then be completed, and the purpose for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be clearly seen.

When Will Jesus Christ Come?

There are clear signs evident in world events that herald the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Though there may be scoffers who ridicule the Bible and suggest that it is merely a book of ancient fables, they will have cause to regret their words. There were many who scoffed at Noah's message of an impending flood (see Genesis ch. 6), but their proud boasts were finally engulfed in the waters that poured down from heaven and put an end to their ignorance and foolishness (Genesis 7v22). There were scoffers in the days of the apostles, just prior to the judgments against Jerusalem in AD70. Of those the apostle Peter declared, "knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days [ie. of the Jewish nation] scoffers, walking after their own lusts. and saying. Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers [such as the apostles of the Lord] fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation [of the Jewish State]" (2Peter 3v3-4). But their foolishness was soon evident when the Roman armies poured down the plains of Judea, to destroy the capital of Jerusalem, just as Jesus Christ and his apostles had prophesied would happen.

Scoffers still exist today. There are scoffers in religious circles, as well as those of the atheistic persuasion. The former say that it does not matter what we believe as long as we "try to do what is right;" the latter ridicule the Bible and prophecy as being of no consequence. But what is their solution to the present crisis facing our world? Nothing but vain dreams, and illusory visions.

But, God has placed into our hands the means of salvation, and no amount of scoffing will turn the tide of impending judgment. The Lord Jesus Christ told his followers to "watch" the signs of his coming, so that they will be prepared for that important event, and not be caught "asleep" (Revelation 16v15; Luke 21v28).

Here are some of the outstanding signs that Bible prophecy has recorded:

[1] Social and Moral Upheavals and Evils

The apostle Paul prophesied, "This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, fierce, despisers of those that are good, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2Timothy 3v1-4).

The breakdown in society, the disruption of family life, the widespread incidence of suicide, deviant life-styles and marriage breakups, are all signs of this sad condition of the present age. It results from man's own folly, but proves Bible facts that the coming of Jesus Christ is imminent, for he alone has the cure for mankind's problems.

[2] The Establishment of the State of Israel.

No greater sign could be presented. After more than 2000 years of dispersion, persecution and opposition, the Jewish people have at long last achieved their own homeland. They did it in spite of the incredible economic and political challenges that have faced the new nation since 1948, and the military opposition by overwhelming numbers of their neighbours intent on Israel's destruction, an antagonism that continues to this day.

When Israel was proclaimed a nation in 1948, a hundred Bible prophecies sprang into life. Notice, for example, the words of the prophet Ezekiel in ch. 37v21-22, "I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen [nations], whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: and I will make them one nation in the land, upon the mountains of Israel..." This has been accurately fulfilled in the last one hundred years as Jews have returned from all parts of the world to their homeland, called "Israel" for the first time in 2,500 years. The next verse of the prophet Ezekiel's prophecy, continues with the following important statement, "...and one king shall be king to them all." Israel has a State and Nation, but no King. And they will not have a king until the One appears whom God has promised (compare Ezekiel 21v27). Since the Bible statement follows immediately the one concerning the formation of the State of Israel, that event in 1948 is the precursor to the second advent of Jesus Christ to the earth.

[3] The Liberation of Jerusalem.

If the former sign of the establishment of modern Israel, as a nation in their own land, was the major event of our times, this sign is prophetically most specific. The Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed that Jerusalem would be "trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21v24). The past 2000 years have witnessed a continuous "treading down" of Jerusalem by the oppression of Gentile powers. It was only in 1967, when Israeli military forces broke the control of the Holy City then held by the Jordanian authorities, that this prophecy could be partially fulfilled.

But another quotation indicates the amazing accuracy of this prophecy. Joel 3v1 says, "For, behold, in those days and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of **Judah** and **Jerusalem**..." The order of events is significant. First "Judah," the land; then "Jerusalem," the city. The land was freed in 1948; the city in 1967 — **exactly in the order required by prophecy.** How did the prophet 2500 years ago know that would occur, unless he was guided by the inspiration of God?

[4] The Uprise of Russia

The influence of this northern superpower has maintained its momentum since the Russian Revolution in 1917. Notwithstanding the rise and fall of its economy and government, of changes in its administration, or its altered policy from time to time, Russia is destined to lead the forces of antisemitism against the Lord Jesus Christ at his return.

The prophet Ezekiel declares, "Thou [a powerful northern invader] shalt come from thy place out of the north parts... and shalt come up against My people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days" (Ezekiel 38v10). It is significant that Moscow is directly north of Jerusalem; that it is the capital of a huge power that stretches across the northern continent; that it is specifically named in the Hebrew text of Ezekiel 38v2 as, "Gog, the land of Magog, the prince of Ros, Meshech and Tubal." Those three ancient names have been identified with the modern terms of Russia, Moscow and Tobolski: the Russian empire of "the latter days."



The prophet Ezekiel describes Russia's future move into the Middle East

Bible prophecy clearly shows that Russia will head a combined force of nations that will invade the Middle East at the time of the end, and in doing so, will precipitate World War 3, a war of international judgment that will culminate in Armageddon.

For that reason, Christ **must** return, for otherwise, the nations of the world will

be immersed in a bitter struggle for supremacy, sufficient to bring about absolute destruction of this whole globe! But the Great Creator, God, who is in control of this world will not allow that to occur! He will send His Son Jesus Christ, to destroy those who challenge His authority, and he will institute the policies of His eternal kingdom.

[5] Environmental and Social Collapse

This modern age, with all its technological advances and brilliant inventions, has no answer to the threatening collapse of the environment. In spite of constant warnings that the climate of the earth is being irreparably damaged because of the increasing pollutants being poured into the earth, water streams and air, no lasting solutions have been advanced. In the last book of the Bible. Jesus Christ expresses some amazing words that could only apply to this era. Speaking of a time of international unrest he declared that, "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 saints, and them that fear Thy Name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth" (Revelation 11v18). The word "destroy" comes from a Greek word meaning "to corrupt, to rot," and speaks of the polluting of the earth by physical, moral and social means. Thus, the evidence of all sorts of corruption today is an amazing confirmation of this prophecy. The danger to the environment has been accompanied with the assault upon the moral code of life. by the breakdown of family standards, and by encouraging complete indulgence in self, to the exclusion of such important subjects explained in the Bible. As a result, a society without conscience is threatening civilisation!

What Can Be Done?

You may consider that there is nothing mere individuals can do about the international crises, the environmental issues, the decline of morals, or the decline in the knowledge of the Bible. That is certainly true, but individuals do not need to remain indifferent to the fulfilment of Bible prophecy, or the fact that Jesus Christ is coming for that reason. That latter event is, after all, of great importance to the Bible believer. The coming of Jesus Christ will bring God's answers to the perplexing affairs of humanity, and provide the solution to personal concerns. If you identify yourself with Jesus Christ and his teachings today, you stand in hope of the great opportunity that will be revealed when he establishes God's kingdom on earth.

Your future at Jesus Christ's coming depends upon your attitude at the present time. The hope of salvation proclaimed by the Bible is intended for those with an earnest desire and a mind to understand God's ways. Jesus Christ's return will reveal his true disciples, and demonstrate those who have exercised wisdom in their decisions of life.

The following principles are important to those who would "love his appearing" (2Timothy 4v8), and who are "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Corinthians 1v7), and who are "patient... unto the coming of the Lord" (James 5v7).

- 1. We Must Believe True Apostolic Teaching. The Bible clearly requires an honest and faithful understanding of its teachings. The apostle Paul declared that, "...the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth" (Romans 1v16). "If ye continue in the faith, grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1v23). "By which [gospel] ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain" (1Corinthians 15v2). It is not sufficient to just be "sincere," unless that sincerity is based upon Truth, nor is it right to accept church teaching which can be plainly shown to be in error from the Bible. God is not pleased with lighthearted indifference to the Wisdom He has recorded in His Word, for that Word is the basis upon which Jesus Christ will judge his people at his coming (John 12v48).
- 2. There is only One True Hope, not a Variety of Ways to Worship God. We cannot follow man's instructions as to the requirements that God demands. Notwithstanding its claims, church religion is astray from the Bible in its doctrines and practice. That distinction between true and false worship is stated by Jesus Christ for, "...true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him" (John 4v23). The phrase "spirit and truth" encompasses both the emotional and intellectual appreciation of God's way. True followers will change their whole life and thinking in order to conform to God's will. Being "religious" does not necessarily mean being "right."

The apostle Paul stated, "Ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4v4), emphasising the unity of belief that is required. We cannot "agree to differ" on matters that deal with our eternal salvation. The apostles forthrightly condemned some who were insisting upon changes to true teaching, stating "...if any man preach any other gospel, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1v8). In view of the imminent coming of Jesus Christ, we need to ensure that we are faithfully following the One True Gospel.

3. Salvation Requires Belief in Action. Faith is an important element of our future involvment in the kingdom of Jesus Christ. It defines the ability to trust in God's goodness, and to anticipate His great promises, but it comes

only from reading and understanding His Word, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10v17). It is not an emotional, religious "feeling," but a good, honest, down-to-earth conviction from understanding the plain teachings of the Bible. It is extremely important to develop faith, "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11v6). Unless we are fully convinced of the Truth, as revealed in the Bible, we cannot obey God's will, nor show the evidence of true conviction.

Belief without action, however, "is dead" (James 2v17). The action required is in baptism and a faithful continuance in well-doing. Jesus Christ declared, "He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned [condemned]" (Mark 16v16).

A Matter Of Urgency

The Bible reveals that God has "a set time" (Psalm 102v13) for His purpose, and that He has "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" (Acts 17v31). The return of Jesus Christ is certainly imminent, as is evident from the prophetic signs that today abound, and although we do not know the "day nor the hour," we are convinced that we live on the very eve of that great event.

It will come, and at the very day predetermined by God.

We therefore urge you to carefully consider your personal future, and to commit yourself to a pathway of wisdom whilst opportunity remains.

Soon there will be "time no longer" (Revelation 10v6), for the victorious cry will arise, "The Lord hath come." Only those who have taken the time and effort to prepare themselves for that moment of destiny, will receive his gracious mercy.

At that time all the grand events declared in the Bible will occur, Jesus Christ will reign as king ruling over a world at peace (Zechariah 14v9; Revelation 11v15); one law, teaching the people peace (Isaiah 2v3); one worship, teaching the people righteousness (Zechariah 14v16-17). War and injustice will be removed (Psalm 46v8-10; Jeremiah 23v5); the poor and helpless will be cared for (Psalm 72v4); the earth will yield its increase (Psalm 67v6); and grateful hearts everywhere will respond to the divine purpose: "as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Numbers 14v21).

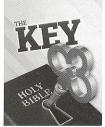
Those who have made a covenant with God today and in the past, will then be blessed with immortality (1Corinthians 15v15-55), and associate with Jesus Christ in glory and authority throughout the earth (Revelation 5v9-10; Matthew 19v27-30). To them the coming of Jesus Christ will mean the end of all concerns, and the tragic problems of today. It means the wonderful experience of an eternal future, with all the blessings that a loving Creator has offered. The Bible invites us to "taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him" (Psalm 34v8).

This is the amazing hope of Jesus Christ's coming! It is the answer to the perplexing and insolvable issues of today. It will bring peace and prosperity to mankind and the earth. To believe in the coming of Jesus Christ is to have an exciting vision that can assist us in understanding what is taking place today and can help us in overcoming all the trials and difficulties of life.

Jesus Christ is coming. Of that there is no doubt. The issue remains as to whether you will be pleased to see him; whether he will be pleased to see you! That matter rests in your hands.



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