



maurice barratt

Poverty of spirit

Mourning

Meekness

Hunger and thirst
for righteousness

Mercy

Purity of heart

Peacemaking

Persecution for
righteous' sake

Persecution for
my name's sake

The Unjust Steward

The Talents

The Sower

The 10 Virgins

Sheep & Goats

The Mustard Seed

Wheat & Tares

Israel, *the* Church & *the*

KINGDOM OF GOD

The history and future of God's people

Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God

Volume 2



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Israel, the Church & the Kingdom of God
Volume 2

by **Maurice Barratt**

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Israel, the Church
& the
Kingdom of G**Od**

Volume 2

by

MAURICE BARRATT



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The bible is not a history book nor is it a book of morals. It is a book of God's dealings with his chosen people and his plan for them in the future.

This means that God will be pleased and satisfied with what is happening and what will happen. He will be satisfied that in the end his plan was perfect and has accomplished all that he intended it accomplish. God will look at his new creation and will consider it very good and it will bring him great and eternal pleasure.

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Jesus told many stories to illustrate principles or to prophesy things that would happen in the future, but he seemed to tell parables when he wanted to teach his disciples about the hidden spiritual kingdom that would be in them after he had risen from the dead. He wanted them to know that if they had it within them, they would be a part of the Kingdom that Jesus would bring back with him when he returned to planet earth the second time.

Foreward

In his second book on the Kingdom Maurice clearly explains Gods plan for the ages, which of course includes you the reader.

This book will be invaluable as you see your responsibility in this plan. To gain maximum personal benefit I would encourage you to read it slowly and carefully. You may not agree with everything, but be willing to have your time held understanding challenged and be willing to change, for we have nothing to fear from the truth. It is Gods way of setting us free. This book is full of revelation and clear biblical exposition which will both enlighten and enable you to live for Jesus and his Kingdom. The day is fast approaching for His return and the message I am hearing all the time is “GET READY”. This book will greatly help you to do that.

Read on and be blessed.

Rev. Geoff Bates



God handed the physical kingdom of Israel over to Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and they were instructed to serve that pagan king. Although a remnant of Israel went back to their land and rebuilt the city of Jerusalem, God stopped speaking to them through the prophets for 400 years before Jesus came to establish a new and spiritual kingdom

Introduction

The End of a Kingdom?

The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it.

Luke 16:16

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, will you at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said to them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power.

Acts 1:7-8

In the first volume of this study I showed that Israel were God's people – those called out to be a peculiar nation and a holy people. I showed that the Nation of Israel are the only true church that God has – that is,

those called out of Babylon. In volume 2 in this series I am continuing with the history of Israel and I will now look at the results of the union between God and his wife; a son. This son, and second Adam, heralded the birth of a new kingdom that is purely spiritual and will remain so until the physical kingdom of Israel is restored again in the future. I am saying in the future because although we are now in the year 2008, and the Zionists have had control of parts of Israel since 1948, and many Jews have returned, the kingdom still has no king at this time.

Israel at present are a backslidden and secular nation who have taken the land in the flesh – by political means, and before Jesus returns **with his kingdom** to restore it to Israel. In other words Israel have not acknowledged Jesus and therefore are destined to welcome antichrist first, before Jesus comes. I will show all this to be true later in these studies.

Now in Babylon

The physical kingdom of Israel was handed over to Babylon in the days of Nebuchadnezzar, and they were instructed to serve him. Although a remnant went back and rebuilt the city of Jerusalem, God stopped speaking to them through the prophets for 400 before Jesus came to establish a new spiritual kingdom.

It is not by chance that this first kingdom lasted for 42 generations (6x7) and is listed as starting from Abraham – the father of God's church (see volume 1). Matthew describes it as 3 sets of 14 generations. From Abraham to the captivity in Babylon was 28 generations; so when Jesus was manifest in the flesh, on earth, the kingdom

had been put under the rule of Babylon for another 14 generations by God (Rome is only part of Babylon; see Daniel 2).

So all the generations from Abraham to David are **14** generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are **14** generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are **14** generations.

Matthew 1:17

It is not part of our study to look at the significance of all this except to note that it spans from Abraham, the father of the church, to Jesus. This is the first stage of the kingdom of God, the physical kingdom that is now ruled by the king of Babylon, (see volume 1 chapter 10). Until Babylon is destroyed, which is still in the future, the physical kingdom will be in Babylon. It is a counterfeit kingdom that has ruled God's people from the days of Nebuchadnezzar and it will continue until Jesus comes the second time to restore the physical Kingdom to Israel. In this volume I will look more closely at the 'Kingdom of God' that Jesus talked about in his 3 years of ministry.

Jesus did not Restore the Kingdom

It is obvious from history that Jesus did not restore the physical kingdom to Israel during his 3 years on earth, but did he hand it over to the Church after his resurrection? Is the Church now the kingdom of God? I am sure that many Christians believe this to be true, and the whole vocabulary of much of Christendom reflects

this. When someone makes a commitment to Christ they say; 'Another soul in the kingdom' – but is this correct? I propose to show in this book that it is not, and that the very opposite actually happens. **Another soul has the kingdom within them.** We are not supposed to get people into this kingdom of the Church, but we are supposed to put the kingdom into people – this is a fundamental difference.

The Church does not Replace Israel

I must point out that I am not talking about 'Replacement Theology' for if Jesus has still not restored the physical kingdom to Israel then it must happen in the future, otherwise the writings of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and all the prophets, who talk of a physical kingdom being restored, cannot be fulfilled.

There are Christians who believe that all the events in the Book of Revelation have already happened and they have a catalogue of historical events to prove it. I agree that history has indeed fulfilled many things in the book of Revelation, but prophecy is living and repeats itself until 'heaven and earth pass away', so there is still a literal, and final fulfillment to all the prophecies in the word of God, and it is not 'of any private interpretation'.

We will see later in these studies, from Paul's teaching, that he believed in the restoration of the physical nation of Israel. It is also evident from history that the lion has never eaten straw like an ox, nor has the ground been freed from the curse of weeds and thorns. It must therefore, happen in the future if God's word is to come to pass. This is not something that can be spiritualised or explained away.

1948 was not the beginning of this restoration of Israel for it will not be a slow event over many years. It will happen immediately when Jesus comes and reveals himself to Israel as I will show later in these studies. 1948 was actually the beginning of a false antichrist restoration. The Zionists took Israel by political means and Israel is still a secular nation who have not repented. Nothing will be restored until Israel look on him who they peirced and acknowledge their sins. They will fulfil the prophecy of Joseph and his brothers when they were in Egypt because of a famine. Joseph was able to save their lives after many years had passed and they had forgotten all about him

And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

Genesis 45:7

Antichrist Comes First

The first one to sit on the throne in the new temple in Jerusalem and be worshipped as God will be antichrist – the false Messiah. In God's order the flesh always comes first and the spiritual, and permanent, comes later. (For example; Ishmael and then Isaac, Saul and then David, Antichrist and then the true Christ who will reign forever). It will not be difficult to know the coming of the true Messiah for it will not be until after the false one. When it appears that Jesus returns to earth, sits in Jerusalem, and is worshipped as God he will be the false Jesus – antichrist. Paul makes this very clear in his letter to the church in Thessalonika.

Now we beseech you, brethren, **by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and *by* our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come**, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

1 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Prepare the Way of of the Lord

When Jesus was born, Israel had been ruled by Babylon for 14 generations. It was part of God's plan to set up the counterfeit, but now there was to be a new kingdom set up and the last, and greatest, solely human prophet of all time would herald it in. His name was John the Baptist, the very cousin of Jesus. He was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb – a very unusual man who lived in the wilderness and ate locusts and wild honey. He was to herald a new prophet called Jesus the prophet of Nazareth. He was not to come as a king, but as a servant to all and to give his life a ransom for many. He did not come to serve, but to serve others and to tell them about the spiritual kingdom within and the physical kingdom that would be in the future when he came the second time to earth as conquering king of Israel.

The End of a Kingdom?

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mt 20:28

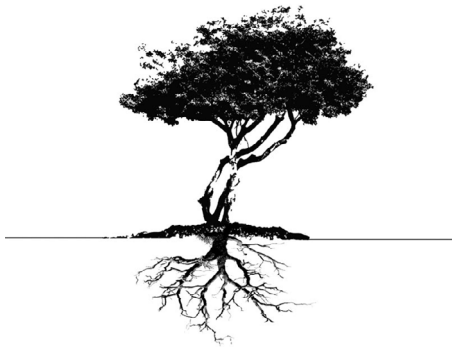
Prophet, Priest and King

Jesus came the first time as a prophet, he rose again from the dead as a priest, and he will return the second time to earth as a king.

In part 1 of this volume I will look at this hidden kingdom that Jesus the prophet taught about wherever he went.

Special note. For those readers who have not read volume 1, I am continuing to differentiate the Church system, with all its denominations, from the true body of Christ by using Church (capital C) for the counterfeit Church System, and church (small c) for the true body and future bride of Christ.

Part 1



The New Kingdom

Chapter 1

The Kingdom is at Hand

As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Luke 3:4

From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Matthew 4:17

In the fulness of time Jesus was born. God now had a family. Not only did he have Israel as his wife (sadly put away for her adulterous affairs), but he also had a begotten son named Jesus. The first Adam was a created son, but the second Adam was born of the seed of David and was begotten of the flesh. God's only begotten son.

This was at a time in Israel's history when they were under Roman rule. Babylon had progressed through the Persian, Median and Greek empires and now the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had seen in his dream was being fulfilled in the iron legs of Rome (see Daniel 2).

The Village Carpenter

Jesus lived a normal life until the age of 30, and was a carpenter in the village of Nazareth. People did not come to him to be healed or to hear him teach, they took their tables and chairs to be mended by him and Joseph, his supposed father. Before he manifested himself as the son of God, John the Baptist who was a close relation, prepared the way for Jesus and introduced the message that Jesus would bring – it was all about the kingdom of heaven.

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, saying, Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Matthew 3:1-2

Isaiah prophesied about John the Baptist, that he would be a voice in the wilderness.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight
in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

The prophet Malachi also foretold of this prophet who would come and turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and prepare the way for Jesus to come. However

these verses, although speaking of John the Baptist, were also speaking of the second coming of Jesus; not to die as saviour but to rule as judge.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom you delight in: behold, he shall come, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

The very last words in the Old Testament – the last words spoken by God to Israel before Jesus came – was about his second coming.

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Malachi 4:5-6

John Prepares the Way

Just as the prophecies foretelling of Jesus, often in the same verse, tell of the two comings of Jesus, so it is with John. He came to prepare the first coming, about the spiritual kingdom, and he will come again to prepare the way for Christ's second coming. He will come in the same spirit as the prophet Elijah who restored Israel back to God. Elijah lived in the days of wicked king Ahab

and his wife, the notorious seductress, Jezabel. I feel it is worth looking at this man Elijah for it will help us to understand some principles. Most Christians immediately think of fire from heaven when Elijah is mentioned, but let me point out some facts.

1. Israel were far away from God in Elijah's day.
2. God's judgement on Israel was to pronounce a famine and Elijah was the one who prophesied it.
3. The last thing you want in a famine is fire.

Fire before Water

Water is needed in a famine, so the restoration is about the rain, not about the fire. However, the fire is a necessary prerequisite for the rain to come. God's fire is never to bless God's people, it is for purging or judgement – to burn up the dross and purify his people.

The fire in Elijah's day was so that Israel would destroy the false prophets. Until the 850 false prophets were slain, no rain fell upon Israel. Notice the prayer of Elijah;

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that you are the LORD God, and that you have **turned their heart back again**. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said,

The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

1 Kings 18:37-39

The Spirit of Elijah

This **is** the spirit of Elijah – to turn the hearts of the people back to God. The hearts of the fathers back to the children and the hearts of the children back to their parents. Luke quoted the prophecy of Isaiah to show this.

And he(John) shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17

The signs and the wonders amongst God's people are to do this and not to bless them. A sinful and adulterous generation always seek signs, but do not want to repent and turn again to God – nothing has changed, it is still the same today.

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, **but the sign of the prophet Jonah**

Matthew 12:39

Jonah is a type of Christ. The first time Jonah was sent to Nineveh – a type of backslidden Israel – they never

saw him because he spent 3 days and 3 nights in the belly of a whale. The second time he went to Nineveh the whole city repented and met the requirements written in 1 Chronicles 7-14 for God to restore the land. They humbled themselves, prayed, sought God's face, and turned from their wicked ways.

Restoring the Kingdom

When Jesus comes the second time, Israel will recognise him and he will restore the kingdom to Israel when they meet the same requirements.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall **humble themselves**, and **pray**, and **seek my face**, and **turn from their wicked ways**; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

This scripture is used in intercession, and is legitimate as a principle, but it is actually all about the restoration of Israel. I believe that this will all happen in the not too distant future.

When Jesus said that he would be 3 days and 3 nights in the bowels of the earth, he was not talking about the time he would spend in the earth before the resurrection, for all the references to his resurrection say he was raised on the third day, not after the third day. Jesus was talking prophetically about the period between his first and second coming.

John at his first coming was to prepare the way for this new kingdom – a spiritual one, and he will return to

prepare the way for the second coming when Jesus will restore the physical kingdom to Israel. John's message will be the same as it was for Jesus' first coming. 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and bring forth fruits fitting for repentance'. Then, Jesus will appear in great power and glory in the clouds, as judge and political ruler to restore the physical kingdom, and reign over Israel. I will look at this second coming of Jesus when we come to the restoration of Israel and the millennial reign of Christ, but we will have to pass through another 2,000 years of history before we arrive at that part of God's plan.

Greater than John?

Jesus said that John was the greatest prophet born of a woman (Jesus was the greatest prophet but he was begotten of God), but then he said a strange thing. He said that the least in the kingdom of heaven was greater than John.

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.

Luke 7:28

What did he mean? Well, it is simple if we understand the difference between the physical and spiritual kingdoms. John was the greatest prophet of the **Kingdom of Israel – which is physical**, but anyone who accepts Jesus as saviour has the **kingdom of God** within them – **which is a spiritual kingdom**,

and this is the kingdom that will manifest at the coming of Jesus into the new spiritual man. This will be the manifestation of the sons of God that Paul talks about in Romans chapter 8, which explains about the redemption of the body – the blessed hope. This will be when Jesus restores the physical kingdom back to Israel.

THE Blessed Hope

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. For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope, because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole of creation groans and travails in pain together until now. 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. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man sees why does he yet hope?

Romans 8:18-24

I will now look at the kingdom that the spirit of Elijah, through John, declared was very close at hand – a

new spiritual kingdom that had never existed before. This is the kingdom that Jesus preached about throughout his ministry.



If the kingdom is within a man it will manifest in his lifestyle. I am not talking about some mystical, metaphysical kingdom that makes a man of no earthly use. On the contrary, it will make a man a friend of sinners and a more practical person than any religious Christian, for he will have no outward trappings to distract him from this relationship in the spirit. He will be a thorn in the flesh to all Christian orthodoxy and tradition just as Jesus was. To have the kingdom within is to be, and act, like Jesus, and is not an excuse to escape reality in the real world.

Chapter 2

A Spiritual Kingdom

*Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the **kingdom of God is within you.***

Luke 17:21

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 14:17

*And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God doesn't come with observation:***

Luke 17:20

Israel knew that they were the children of God, and that he had promised and given them a land and a king. Sadly, because of their constant rebellion, they had lost their land, kingdom, and their king. Now, God's people were under the iron fist of the Roman Empire.

How would they understand that the kingdom was at hand? Could it mean that the old kingdom was to be restored again to Israel, and that Rome would be defeated and forced to hand the kingdom back to its rightful owners? The prophecies in the Old Testament all foretold the restoration of Israel to greatness again in the future, so was this the time?

God's people knew the word of God and all that the prophets had foretold about the restoration, but did not have any revelation about it. They had no idea that there would be two comings of the Messiah, separated by 2000 years. They combined the prophecies of the first and second coming as the same event. They could never, in their wildest imaginations, believe that the Messiah would first come and set up a new spiritual kingdom and then be crucified. What new kingdom was this that John the Baptist and Jesus were asking his people to repent and prepare for?

Jesus' First Sermon

What was the first message that Jesus preached after he was baptised and had been proved in the wilderness? It may surprise many readers, but his opening message was the same message that John preached, and it was all about this new spiritual kingdom. It will also be a surprise to many readers to know that the early church also taught about this new spiritual kingdom and I will look at this in the next volume.

Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; ...**From that time** Jesus began to preach, and to say,

Repent: for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

from Matthew 4:12-17

We Want the kingdom

The crowds who followed Jesus, once they accepted that Jesus was the promised Messiah, believed that he would restore the **physical** kingdom to Israel. This meant deposing Rome, and a return to Israel's monarchy. Jesus then, was to be the king of Israel and sit on the throne of his father David in Jerusalem.

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, **Hosanna to the Son of David:** Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Matthew 21:9

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

John 6:14-15

Don't be too hard on the people who were alive in Jesus time, for they were only expecting Jesus to fulfil the prophesies that were written about him. Even Jesus' disciples, after he had trained them for 3 years, still held

the belief that Jesus had come to restore the physical Kingdom to Israel. They asked who would be the greatest in the kingdom, and who would sit on the right and the left hand to rule with him. They were not thinking of eternal life, or the spiritual kingdom that I will show was the one Jesus and John were preparing Israel for. Their understanding was of an immediate physical kingdom on earth.

And he said unto her, What do you want? She said unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on your right hand, and the other on the left, in your kingdom.

Matthew 20:21

Even after the resurrection when Jesus had appeared to his disciples it was the first thing they asked him, showing that this was the predominant thing on their minds and in their hearts.

When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, will you **at this time** restore again the kingdom to Israel?

Acts 1:6

People don't Change

God's people have always been blind, easily deceived, and rebellious, and today it is no different. I believe that just as the majority of God's people missed his first coming because they were looking for the wrong Messiah and kingdom, so God's people in this present age – the 'Church' – will miss his second coming, for they

are also looking for the wrong Messiah and the wrong kingdom. In fact, they will accept antichrist because he will fulfil all the expectations of the physical kingdom they are looking for – riches, status, and power. This is the '**kingdom the power and the glory**' that belongs to Jesus when he returns.

God with us and In Us

This kingdom, that John and Jesus talked about, could not be instigated until after Christ had risen from the dead, for it was a kingdom that was not observable in the physical realm. It would actually dwell inside of us. God would no longer be **with his people**, he would dwell **in his people**, and this is a paradigm shift from the physical to the spiritual.

The Holy Ghost had also **worked with** the disciples as he had with the prophets of old, for they had cast out devils, healed the sick, and raised the dead. But, after Jesus had risen, the holy Ghost would now be **in them**. This is the kingdom that Jesus said was very close to them – the kingdom within.

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it doesn't see, neither does it know him: but you know him; for he dwells **with you**, and shall be **in you**.

John 14:17

This kingdom that John and Jesus talked about was, and still is, a hidden kingdom within a man. However, it is still the kingdom of Israel, for God only has one kingdom and I will show later in the next volume that

the apostles taught that gentiles are now, through Christ, part of God's spiritual kingdom of Israel.

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:

Colossians 1:27

Only after Jesus had risen from the dead, with a new spiritual body, and had taught them for 40 days, did they slowly begin to understand about this new kingdom. We must not be too hard on these disciples, for Christendom has done exactly the same and has misunderstood which kingdom Jesus and John the Baptist were talking about.

The Kingdom is Not the Church

John indeed was heralding the birth of a Kingdom, but it was not the restoration of the physical kingdom – the 'promised land'. John was talking about an entirely different kingdom. This kingdom was not a kingdom that covered a physical area or that controlled finance, people, or government. Neither was it the institution of the Church, for as I showed in volume 1, the church had already started with Abraham. Luke, writing in the Acts of the Apostles, says that Israel were the church in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt.

This is he, (Moses) that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel which spoke to him in the mount Sinai, and with

our fathers: who received the lively oracles
to give unto us

Acts 7:38

This kingdom, that Jesus talked about, was a kingdom that could not be seen with physical eyes and had no boundaries, status, or wealth. This was **the kingdom within a man** - it does not come with observation.

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for,
behold, **the kingdom of God is within you**

Luke 17:21

I need to state here that if the kingdom is within a man it will manifest in his lifestyle. I am not talking about some mystical, metaphysical kingdom that makes a man of no earthly use. On the contrary, it will make a man a friend of sinners, and more practical than any religious Christian, for he will have no outward trappings to distract him from this relationship in the spirit. He will be a thorn in the flesh to all Christian orthodoxy and tradition – just as Jesus was. To have the kingdom within is to be, and act, like Jesus. This is not an excuse to escape reality in the real world. My books on this kingdom lifestyle will put this beyond doubt, ^{Footnote 1} but I need to state it here in case any reader would accuse me teaching or advocating escapism from the real world.

Not For Everyone

Jesus used parables to describe this hidden kingdom so that those who were backslidden in heart, would not understand about it, for it was only to be revealed to his disciples and those who had ears to hear.

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.**

Matthew 13:11

‘Them’ in this context is not the Gentiles, but Israel, God’s own people.

Your Kingdom Come

It is the same today with those who hear and read, but do not perceive or understand. The present hidden kingdom is misunderstood by most of the Church, for they are looking for a physical, visible kingdom with buildings, status, land and wealth. Only disciples will understand that the kingdom is within and that we have to wait for the second coming of Jesus to establish a physical kingdom again. Christ will sit on the throne of his father David in Jerusalem and restore the kingdom to Israel. True disciples understand the Lord’s prayer ‘Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.’ They are waiting for the restoration of all things – the blessed hope of God’s people.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:13

I will now look at the teachings of Jesus and we will see clearly that all this is true, for Jesus talked extensively about this hidden spiritual kingdom and the physical kingdom to come at his return. Most of his parables

were about it, as also was his ‘Sermon on the Mount’.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for **theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Matthew 5:3

Footnte 1

The 6 books in the Radical Christianity series can be ordered on the web site or address on the cover of this book.



When you have the presence of God you do not need any physical satisfaction. Only when Cain left the presence of God did he start to build cities. Culture, status, possessions and earthly treasures have now become the aspirations of mankind for the simple reason that we have left the presence of our creator.

Chapter 3

The Kingdom & Eternal Life

Then comes 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.

1 Corinthians 15:24

Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

I showed in the last chapter that the present kingdom of God is not the visible Church, but the secret kingdom within a person.

Many Christians, whom I have met over the last 40 years, when asked about the kingdom of heaven, would think it meant eternal life. ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven’ would mean

to them; 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for you have eternal life'. They would be entirely wrong for there is a fundamental difference between the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. Without this understanding a person cannot understand the teachings of Jesus, the millennial reign of Christ, or the eternal life that happens after this present heaven and earth have passed away. I will explain the difference.

Nothing in Common

Eternal life has nothing in common with the kingdom of heaven. Those who are 'saved', will dwell with God and Christ throughout eternity, but not in heaven. Those who are saved will dwell on the new earth and God is going to dwell with them, and not they with him. That is the reason he is going to create a new earth! Why create a new earth 'wherein dwelleth righteousness', if we are all going to dwell with God in his heaven?

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming **down from God out of heaven**, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them**, and they shall be his people, and **God himself shall be with them**, and be their God.

Revelation 21:1-3

The above passage says God will dwell with us and not we will dwell with him. His glorious plan is for him to dwell with his family on the newly created earth. God has never wanted to be separated from his beloved creation and those whom he loves on earth. Remember that this series of books is about God's plan to manifest his romance, love, and family life. It is not about doctrine, or about working for God, it is about relationship with God and being part of his divine plan. If we lose site of this we will end up in theology, man inspired Church doctrine, and confusion.

The Kingdom of Heaven

The kingdom of heaven, or the kingdom of God as some of the Gospels call it, is a spiritual kingdom in this age, but the kingdom that Jesus will come down from heaven with, and establish on this present earth for 1,000 years, will be a physical one. Jesus and his bride will restore the physical kingdom to Israel and rule the earth with a rod of iron – not as a dictatorship but as a monarch. He will be King of Israel, but he will rule the whole earth.

The seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying; The kingdoms **of this world** are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 11:15

Everyone who accepts Christ as their saviour – that is, they accept his imputed righteousness by faith – are

saved. This means that their names are written in the book of life. When they face God at the Great White Throne, and the books are opened, they will live forever on the new earth. The only condition for their salvation is faith, for it is not by works.

However, how we live – our works – as a ‘saved’ Christian, will determine whether or not we reign with Christ in the coming millennial kingdom. There will be rewards and punishments when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ. This will not be to determine our salvation, but it will be to account for our stewardship in this life. All of Jesus’ parables about the kingdom agree with this. Otherwise, how we handle our talents in this life will determine our salvation in the next and that would make our salvation by works, and not of faith.

Every Idle Word

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shalt be condemned.

Matthew 12:36-37

The above scripture cannot possibly apply to the Great White Throne judgement where our eternal fate is decided. If our eternal fate is decided on whether or not we speak idle words, then not one person on the planet since Adam will have eternal life. This can only be judgment at the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ for punishments or rewards.

I will look at some of the parables of Jesus in later chapters but let me first use the story of the rich young ruler to illustrate the difference between 'the kingdom' and eternal life. The story is in Luke's Gospel, chapter eighteen.

You will find that the rich young ruler asked not one, but two questions if you look at the story carefully. His first question was to ask how he could obtain **eternal life** – he wanted to be saved.

Luke 18:18

By Faith Alone

Jesus told this rich young man if he wanted to enter into life – eternity, he must keep the commandments. Jesus had not died and shed his blood for the forgiveness of sins at this time, and so the only righteousness a man could have was by keeping the law **by faith**. The just live by faith, either under the law, or under grace. Faith is the only way to righteousness in the Old or New Testaments. The book of Hebrews tells us that many old testament heroes acted in faith and that this faith was imputed to them as righteousness – Abraham is the prime example.

And the scripture was fulfilled which said,
Abraham believed God, and it was imputed
unto him for righteousness: and he was called
the Friend of God.

James 2:23

This young man had kept the commandments and therefore believed he qualified for eternal life. He

believed this to be true for he asked another question 'What do I lack?'

The young man said unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: **what do I lack?**

Luke 18:20

Millions of Christians have accepted salvation by faith, and have an assurance of eternal life, but they never ask what they lack – what a tragedy.

Jesus said to this man; 'If you want to be perfect'. This has nothing to do with salvation or eternal life. You do not have to be perfect to have eternal life. Jesus was talking about Christian perfection (maturity) and so Jesus said 'Sell what you have, give to the poor, and follow me'. **No, he did not.** He said; 'Sell what you have, give to the poor, follow me, **AND, you will have treasures in heaven**'. Jesus was saying that when the kingdom of heaven comes he will have his reward. For example: 'Be over ten cities', 'Enter the joy of the Lord', 'Reign with me in the kingdom'. When we put treasures in heaven they will come down again when Jesus brings his kingdom to earth. He will bring his rewards with him. These treasures in heaven are not for eternal life.

No Treasures on the New Earth

What will we need treasures for on the new earth? God did not say to Adam and Eve in the first creation; 'Here are some diamonds and a few pounds to spend on some indulgence'. When you have the presence of God you do not need any physical satisfaction. Only when Cain left the presence of God did he start to build cities.

Culture, status, possessions and earthly treasures have now become the aspirations of mankind for the simple reason that we have left the presence of our creator. In eternity the presence of God will be all we need. He will be our treasure (See Genesis 4 for the seed of Cain and the beginning of culture, city building and commerce).

Treasures in Heaven are Material Wealth

When Jesus comes again and reigns on this earth he will bring this treasure stored in heaven with him, because his reign will be on this present earth and the rewards will be material blessing. 'The wealth of the wicked is laid up for the righteous' is a well known scripture these days, but it has been twisted to mean that we can have it now before we face Jesus for our rewards.

Those who want their kingdom now can have it, but they will miss the real kingdom when Jesus comes, and they have taken second best. They will have fallen for the third temptation that Jesus resisted. Jesus was offered the kingdoms, the glory, and the riches of this world without the cross (see chapter 4 of Matthew's Gospel). Jesus was willing to wait until the kingdom comes and he is still waiting, at the right hand of his father in heaven, to come and claim this inheritance. It is so sad that the followers of Jesus will not wait with him, and are determined to claim their kingdom now.

Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

Revelation 22:12

After this encounter with the rich young ruler, Jesus said a strange thing to his disciples.

It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:25

Saviour, But not Lord!

This verse has been misunderstood by many people. Notice it does not say that it is hard for a rich person to be saved. There are countless numbers of rich Christians who have accepted Jesus as their saviour, and they have eternal life. The problem with the majority of them is that they have not made Jesus **Lord**. They have not taken up their cross and denied themselves, they have not put their hand to the plough, and they have not forsaken all. Therefore, they are not fit for the kingdom of heaven, for they are covetous like the rich young ruler.

The eye of a needle is a narrow and difficult gate to enter, and few find it. Treasures in heaven are laid up as treasures on earth are **laid down**. The rich young ruler could not pay the price for the kingdom – and so it is with the majority of Christians in today's rich and covetous societies of this world.

Another difference between eternal life and the kingdom of heaven is this; eternal life is permanent whereas the physical kingdom on earth is a temporary one. This kingdom will only last for 1000 years, and then the king – Jesus – will hand the kingdom back to God.

Then comes 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.

I Corinthians 15:24



If we seek the hidden kingdom within and live the kingdom lifestyle now of sacrifice and persecution, then we will qualify for the manifest kingdom and its material rewards when Jesus returns.

Chapter 4

Manifesto of the Kingdom

*But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness;
and all these things shall be added unto you*

Matthew 6:33

*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.*

Matthew 5:3

I have shown in the last two chapters that the kingdom of God at this present time is a hidden spiritual kingdom. It is within us and the physical kingdom will not be manifest until Jesus comes again. I will now look at the teachings of Jesus and we will see clearly that this is true for Jesus talked extensively about this kingdom within, and the kingdom to come. Most of his parables were about the kingdom within and the promise of the

coming kingdom. The whole of his 'Sermon on the Mount' was also about this very subject. Jesus taught us how to live the kingdom life now, where motive and attitude is king, and he promises us the future kingdom with its treasures that have been stored for us in heaven.

I have written 6 books on the subject of the 'Sermon on the Mount', which I believe is the lifestyle of a disciple of Jesus. To live any other lifestyle than Jesus taught is falsehood and vanity. Let me share a few of the truths from this profound sermon, to confirm what I am saying.

The first thing to note is that the sermon is not for the **followers** of Jesus, for he left them, went up a mountain, and talked to his **disciples** – those who have left all, put their hand to the plough and have not looked back.

And seeing the multitudes, Jesus went up into a mountain: and **when he was set, his disciples came unto him:**

Matthew 5:1

The Hidden Kingdom

This teaching is the manifesto for the secret life of a disciple and is all about the life within – the hidden kingdom and the promise of the physical kingdom that Jesus will set up on his return to earth. This hidden kingdom is more about attitude than action, although if you have the right attitude you will manifest the correct action, but it does not work the other way around. The right action without the right attitude breeds hypocrisy.

All the beatitudes are ways of thinking, and not qualities we possess. For example. 'Blessed are the

humble' has nothing to do with our actions, for we can act in a humble manner and be proud of it. Humble deeds are more likely to make us proud than humble. Humility is how we think, and not how we act. Of course if we are humble in our heart then we will act in humility, but a humble act proves nothing. So, the inward attitude is what Jesus is talking about – the kingdom lifestyle within. What is the promise for this attitude? It is the kingdom of heaven without, that is, to be part of Jesus' reign in his millennial kingdom on earth.

Blessed are the Meek

Another beatitude is about the meek. Remember, it is an attitude not an action. Jesus said that these meek people will inherit **the earth**. Jesus doesn't say 'You have eternal life', for Jesus is talking to disciples who have already accepted Jesus and will live for eternity. He is promising them the coming kingdom.

What else does Jesus say in this sermon about the kingdom? Here are a few quotes for you to meditate on.

After this manner therefore pray: Our Father
which art in heaven, Hallowed be your name.
your kingdom come.

Matthew 6:10

I believe the Lords prayer is the intercessory prayer of the church for the kingdom of God to come on earth. If the Church, in this age, **is** the kingdom of God on earth then why did Jesus ask us to pray for it to come and why is Jesus not the physical king sitting in

Jerusalem on the throne of his father David and ruling the nations? Footnote 1

Don't lay up treasures for yourself upon earth, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But do lay up for yourselves **treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:19-21

We will not need treasures (clearly from the context Jesus is talking about material possessions) in eternity. They are the rewards of the kingdom when Jesus returns. Footnote 2

But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 6:33

If we seek the hidden kingdom within and live the kingdom lifestyle now, of sacrifice and persecution, then we will qualify for the manifest kingdom and its material rewards when Jesus returns.

Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, **shall enter into the kingdom of heaven**; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in your name have cast out devils? and in

your name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:21-23

This is a frightening passage, but quite clear. Many are doing the works of God and using his power and gifts, but they are not showing the inward life that is manifested in the fruit of the spirit (see Galatians 5:22-23), and so they are not doing the will of the father in heaven. We are to judge a man, not by his gifts, but by his fruit – the character of Christ that is within him. If the kingdom is within it will manifest outwardly in the fruit of the spirit. A proud man who casts out devils is, according to Jesus, a false prophet.

Footnote 3

No Complaints about Rome

I cannot find anything in this sermon that is about the new heaven and earth or about grace and salvation. It is about the kingdom now that is within – the character, attitude and mindset of Christ. It is also about the kingdom that is in the future on this physical earth and not the promise of eternal life. It is how we manifest this inward lifestyle outwardly by being different from this world.

It is surprising to note that throughout all the gospels that Jesus did not make any complaints about the injustice or cruelty of Rome. He did not make any legal statements and would not arbitrate between two brothers who had a dispute. He was constantly stating that his kingdom was not of this world.

And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

Luke 12:14

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

John 18:36

Let us not forget that Jesus started his ministry by declaring; ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand’, so it is obvious that he will teach about this new kingdom that was close at hand. It would not start until after he arose from the dead. He would send the Holy Ghost, the comforter, not to be with his disciples, but to be in them, so that this kingdom lifestyle could be manifest through them. True Christianity is not what we believe, it is how we live, and our outward life has to be an extension of this kingdom life within. A belief without this life is a sham, and hypocrisy of the worse kind.

Morals – or the Kingdom Within

Most Christians I know, including those in the ministry, are not living from this kingdom within, they are living by the moral code of their denomination and are not truly free. They are concentrating on outward morals instead of inward attitudes and they have not been renewed with the mind of Christ.

It is interesting that when Jesus sent out the disciples in Matthew 10, he asked them to preach, not about

salvation, grace, or eternal life, but about this very kingdom that Jesus came to bring within a man.

And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 10:7

Footnote 1.

It is prophesied that Jesus will restore the kingdom to Israel, not the Church, and he will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem, the capitol of Israel. It is antichrist who will restore the false kingdom to Babylon and will also sit in the seat of David in Jerusalem as I will show in later volumes of this series. The following scriptures which are not taken out of context show this to be true

Isaiah 9:7 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.

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?**

Thessalonians 2:3-4 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called

Manifesto of the Kingdom

God, or that is worshipped; **so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.**

Footnote 2

The parable of the talants and many other of Jesus' parables of the kingdom speak of material rewards. There is no such thing as a 'spritual reward' mentioned in the bible. Rewards are always material benefits.

Footnote 4

Jesus said that we judge a false prophet by his fruit – character and not by his gifts.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them. Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

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.**

Matthew 7:15-20

Manifesto of the Kingdom

To do God's **work** without Christ's **character** is, to God, an evil work.



If there are rewards for some when Jesus comes to judge his people for kingdom status, then it is only reasonable that there will also be punishment for others. This is consistent throughout the teachings of Jesus, but because Christians do not know the difference between the kingdom and eternal life. They do not know how to fit these scriptures into their theology and ignore the plain scriptures about punishment for God's saved children

Chapter 5

Parables of the Kingdom

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God doesn't come with observation:

Luke 17:20

Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 18:23

In his ministry, Jesus told many stories to illustrate his teaching and principles that he wanted to show the multitudes. However, he seemed to tell parables when he wanted to teach his disciples about the hidden kingdom that would be in them after he had risen from the dead. He wanted them to know that if they had it within they would be a part of the physical kingdom that Jesus would

bring back with him when he returned to planet earth the second time.

Jesus, in Matthew chapter 13, tells 7 parables and most of them start with the words 'The kingdom of heaven is like...' I want to recommend a book written by Alex Robertson. He worked with me for 20 years, and this book was a result of the many discussions and studies that we had about the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle and the kingdom of God. It is based on those 7 parables in Matthew 13 that Jesus gave about the kingdom. It is called 'The kingdom of God on Earth' and is subtitled Manifesto for a Revolution ^{Footnote 1.} It is a wonderful journey through this kingdom of heaven from its conception to its completion. I can recommend it as an addition to this study. It will give a comprehensive understanding of these parables.

I will not repeat any of these parables here, but Jesus spoke many other parables about the kingdom of God and I will look briefly at a few of them to show that they are consistent with what I have already stated.

The Unforgiving Steward

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is likened to a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 18:23

This is a well known parable about a man who was forgiven a debt of 10,000 talents and would not forgive a small debt of a few pence. **He was severely punished** at the end of the parable for his unforgiveness. The implications of this are obvious as an illustration of

unforgiveness and the absurdity of it. We have all been forgiven our '10,000 talents' worth of sin, and we should therefore find it very easy to forgive the 'few pence' worth of sins against us, but then Jesus makes it personal when he says...

So likewise shall my heavenly Father do to you also, (severely punish you), if you from your hearts will not forgive every one of his brothers their trespasses.

Matthew 18:35

The question is; when will those Christians who have not forgiven their brother in this life be punished? They have been forgiven all their sins so we must say that they are saved and have eternal life. Their unforgiveness will not disqualify them from salvation or it would be salvation by works – the things they do – so they will not be punished in the lake of fire. If they are to be punished then when and where will it take place. If there is no punishment for disobedient Christians then we will have to disregard many of the parables for they are clearly not to the unsaved, and cannot be about eternal life where it is not by works, but by faith alone.

Purgatory

Because protestants are afraid of the doctrine of purgatory – the place after death for chastisement – they ignore the scriptures about punishment and chastisement for God's people. They fail to realise that there is a reign of Jesus for 1000 years where he will reward or punish his own children at his judgment seat when he begins his

reign. This is what the Bible calls the judgment seat of Christ and it is where Christians will have to account for deeds done in their body.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done **in his body**, according to that he hath done, **whether it be good or bad.**

2 Corinthians 5:10

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; **every man's work shall be made manifest:** for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he has built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. **If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.**

2 Corinthians 3:11-15

Father Forgive Us

The 'Lord's prayer' asks that God forgives us in the same way as we forgive those who trespass against us. The only part of this prayer that Jesus qualifies is this part about forgiveness and is the very next verse after the prayer has finished. Jesus says that if we do not forgive our brother his trespasses, then neither will our Father in heaven forgive us our trespasses.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors ..For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if you don't forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:12-15

He does not say that we will be damned and lose our salvation; for again it would be salvation by how we lived and acted. I believe that a Christian who will not forgive will be punished in the millennial reign of Christ because they are God's children and he does not want them to be condemned with the world.

If we judge ourselves now in this life we do not need to be judged, but if we do not judge ourselves in this life, then God will chastise us so that we remain his children and will not be condemned with the world at the 'Great White Throne Judgment'.

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

Reward ot Punishment

If there are rewards for some Christians when Jesus comes to judge his people for kingdom status, then it is reasonable to expect that there will also be punishment for others. This is consistent throughout the teachings of Jesus. It is a sad fact that most Christians do not know the difference between the kingdom of God and

eternal life and therefore they do not know how to fit these scriptures into their theology and ignore the plain scriptures about punishment for God's saved children.

Paul also talks about chastisement for God's children. Note that the following scripture is about servants of the same master. They are not serving different masters. We cannot interpret the scriptures to suit our doctrines, we must accept what they plainly say, and it is imperative that we alter what we believe to align with Jesus' teaching and not that of our traditions. The Pharisees would not budge from their man made traditions and Jesus had to consistently challenge the 'traditions of the elders' - for they contradicted the law of Moses (see Matthew 15:9 and Mark 7:7).

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, **shall be beaten with many stripes.** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Luke 12:47-48

Disobedient Christians

The above scripture is about a servant who knew his lord's will. This cannot be a person who does not know Christ for those people who do not know Christ obviously do not know his will for them. **This is about disobedient Christians.** Why don't we believe the plain words from Jesus and change our doctrines accordingly?

The Holy Spirit is supposed to be our guide and not the traditions of our denominations.

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:26

Jesus said that if we put our hand to the plough and look back we are not fit for the **kingdom of heaven**. This cannot possibly apply to a non-believer, and to fail at discipleship – which in context is what Jesus is talking about – will not lose us our eternal destiny. Here again, it would mean salvation by works and not the free gift of grace by faith alone.

Rewards for the workers

For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Matthew 20:1

The above parable from Matthew's gospel is about rewards for work done, and is nothing to do with grace. This is not about salvation, but about how we work, and how we are rewarded. Whatever the implications are about equality, or inequality, the basic fact is that these men were rewarded for their work. God always rewards those who work for him. He also hates slothfulness,

and will punish those who are lazy. God's character is consistent throughout the bible and Jesus will act accordingly when he judges his Church prior to his reign on earth. This parable ends with the words; 'Many are called but few chosen'. Again this is not about salvation, for few are not called – all the world are called to accept Jesus – this is about the kingdom. Many are called to leave all, follow and reign in the kingdom, but few are chosen. Many, after putting their hand to the plough will look back and as Jesus said are not fit **for the kingdom**. They were called and they accepted salvation, but they would not take up their cross, and they failed to be chosen.

Parables of the Kingdom

There are many more parables and scriptures about the kingdom of heaven or, as other gospels than Matthew call it. the 'kingdom of God', but I have looked at enough parables to show they are all consistent. Many more references are made to the kingdom throughout the gospels and they all confirm what I have shown. I have listed them all at the end of part 1 of this volume. I have been amazed how many there are.

How we live the kingdom lifestyle now – which is a manifestation of the kingdom within us, will determine whether or not we inherit the kingdom when Jesus comes.

Footnote 1

The kingdom of God on earth by Alex Robertson

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Parables of the Kingdom



When Jesus returns to set up his kingdom and reign with his bride, there will be millions of Christians who are destined to eternal life after heaven and earth have passed away. Their names are written in the book of life and they qualify, by their faith in the atoning blood of their saviour, Jesus. Millions of Christians have a relationship with Christ but only those who are of the bride will reign with him.

Chapter 6

The End of the World

Then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then he shall send his angels, and gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven. Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near: In like manner, when you shall see these things come to pass, know that it is near, even at the doors. Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

Matthew 24:26:30

In Matthew chapter 24, the disciples asked Jesus a question about the end of the world and the sign of his second coming.

Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the world?

Matthew 24:3

Coming in Great Power and Glory

The answer that Jesus gives to his disciples takes up the rest of the chapter where he describes in detail, and chronologically, the events that will lead up to his return to earth. He ends this list of events by saying that he will come in the clouds with great power and glory.

And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, **and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

from Matthew 23:29-30

This is obviously his return to earth with the armies of heaven to claim his kingdom, as foretold in the book of Revelation.

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 judges and makes war ... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:

from Revelation 19:11-15

Jesus warns his disciples to be ready and then says in Chapter 25:1, '**Then**, the kingdom of heaven will be like', and gives two parables – the 'Ten Virgins' and the 'Talents'. He is describing the kingdom of heaven **at the point in history when he returns** to earth to judge all things, prior to his reign.

Jesus then talks about the nations as sheep and goats. but does not prefix this third category with the words 'The kingdom of heaven **is like**'. The 'Sheep and Goats' is not a parable or an illustration, it is a literal event that will happen when Jesus comes again. He tells us that he will sit upon his throne and judge the nations which will be a literal event.

Three different judgments

In giving two parables, and a literal event that will take place at his coming, it is obvious that they have different applications, for the consequences are different for each of the categories that he is judging. The first one is about '10 Virgins' and the 5 virgins not worthy are shut out of the wedding, but not punished. The second category, with the talents, endure utter remorse – wailings and gnashing of teeth, and the third category are cast into the lake of fire for eternity. We must decide who these 3 categories of people are for they suffer different fates, or have differing rewards. To understand the parables that Jesus shared with his disciples we must keep them in their context. This will give us the key to the two parables, and the 'Sheep and Goats'

The bride of Christ will be with him when he returns to earth so she will not be judged. She will already have the new immortal body and 'over her the second death

will have no power'. She will not stand at the great white throne to see if her name is in the book of life, for she already has resurrected life. She is already immortal. This is the first resurrection of the dead. Those in the first resurrection are not just on earth in the millennial reign, but they are the ones **who will reign**. They are the overcomers mentioned in the letters to the 7 Churches in the book of Revelation.

Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, **and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

Revelation 20:6

In Esther's day, many women were called, purified, and had a relationship with the king, but only one of them reigned as queen – Esther. So it will be when Jesus returns to set up his kingdom and reign with his bride. There will be millions of Christians who are destined for eternal life after heaven and earth have passed away. Their names are written in the book of life and they qualify for eternity by their faith in the atoning blood of their saviour, Jesus. Millions of Christians, through the ages since Jesus died, have had a relationship with Christ but only those who are of the bride will reign with him.

Israel, the Church & the Heathen

There will be three categories of people on earth when Jesus comes to judge, and they are:

1. Those who are the 'circumcision in the flesh', that is, those of physical Israel.

2. Those of the Church who are saved, but are not the bride – if all the Church were the bride there would be no one to judge for rewards or punishments. It is those servants who are left who will be assessed for rewards or punishments as we shall see in the parable of the talents.

3. The rest of the world – the nations – who have not heard about, nor accepted Christ.

The two parables of 'the virgins', 'the talents', and the literal event of the 'sheep and goats', fit all this perfectly and in this order, so let me go through them.



The virgins were the **friends of the bridegroom**. The virgins all go to meet the groom. These virgins can not represent the bride, for in reality the bridegroom comes **to collect the bride**, which is the complete opposite of what happens in this parable.

Chapter 7

The 10 Virgins

Parable 1

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be like ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. At midnight there was a cry made; Behold, the bridegroom comes; go out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there is not enough for us and you: but go to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. While they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

Matthew 25:1-10

This parable is like so many that Jesus told. It is another parable of the kingdom. I am well aware that most bible teachers and scholars say that the virgins represent the Church, and to them the Church is synonymous with the bride. They teach this parable of the ten virgins as a warning to Christians – that they must have oil in their lamps ready for when Jesus returns. I understand and accept how they use it as **an illustration**, but they are very wrong if they think that it is the **interpretation**.

Guests are Not the Bride

I can be firm in my assessment for the simple reason that the virgins were the **friends of the bridegroom**. The virgins go to meet the groom and intend to go in with him to the wedding. These virgins cannot represent the bride for in reality the bridegroom comes **to collect the bride**, which is the very opposite of what happens in this parable. They are half right because the virgins are indeed God's people and not the world. However, not all God's redeemed people are the bride – many are called, but few chosen. When Jesus returns to earth, which is the time these parables are about, then the first people Jesus must judge are his own people, Israel, for they were first chosen by God – the virgins are this category.

Israel was made up of 12 tribes, but were later divided into 10 tribes which kept the title of Israel, and 2 tribes which were called Judah or the Jews. The 2 tribes represent the remnant who returned to the land of Israel, after their punishment in Babylon. The other 10 tribes of Israel were taken to Assyria and were scattered throughout the earth and their identity has been lost to themselves, and to those peoples where they

subsequently migrated to and settled. This was to fulfil all the prophesies in the Old Testament.

And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Leviticus 26:33

I said, I would scatter them into corners, I would make the remembrance of them to cease from among men:

Deuteronomy 32:26

A remnant of Israel from the time of Jesus' death to this present age have accepted Jesus as their Messiah and so they are no longer the wife of God, they have become the bride of Christ. Those who are still blind to this fact remain the wife of God and are this category of the 10 virgins – physical Israel.

There are 12 Apostles

The number '10' never represents the Church or the bride in the Bible. The number 12 would be a more appropriate number as there are 12 apostles – as there were 12 tribes of Israel – but the Church has never been divided into '10 and 2'

This group of people are catagorised as 'virgins', and this word has many meanings in the bible. It literally means a maiden who has not yet married, or had sexual intercourse, but is also used symbolically to imply being pure or uncontaminated. God also referred to Babylon and Egypt as virgin, and to Israel after she

had played the whore. In these cases God could have used the term as a mockery, or as suggesting they had once been in this pure state. Here are a few scriptures to meditate on.

Come down, and sit in the dust, **O virgin daughter of Babylon**, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for you shall no more be called tender and delicate.

Isaiah 47:1

Go up into Gilead, and take balm, **O virgin, the daughter of Egypt**: in vain shall you use many medicines; for you shalt not be cured.

Jeremiah 46:11

Again I will build you, and you shall be built, **O virgin of Israel**: you shall again be adorned with your tabrets, and shall go forth in the dances of those that make merry.

Jer 31:4

The virgin of Israel is fallen; she shall no more rise: she is forsaken upon her land; there is none to raise her up.

Amos 5:2

I believe that Jesus used this term of 'virgin' for Israel because when God originally found her she was in a pure virginal state. He will restore her in the future as his virgin wife, and all her whoredoms will be a thing of the past. This is consistent with the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Jesus said that 5 of the virgins were wise, and 5 were foolish. It is important to understand what this means. In the bible a wise person is one who has knowledge and applies it. A fool however, is never a person of low mentality; or, as we might say, stupid. The bible calls these people 'simple ones' or similar phrases. A fool in God's eyes is a person with knowledge, but who refuses to apply it.

Read the last illustration from the Sermon on the Mount as an example. In this story both the wise and the foolish man heard the words of the sermon, but the fool, who built his house on the sand, was the one who did not apply what he heard.

Lamps and Oil

These 10 virgins all had lamps and they all had oil in them. Lamps in the scriptures represents the word of God.

Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light
unto my path.

Psalms 119:105

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law
is light;

Proverbs 6:23

All Israel, even today, have the word of God and accept their biblical history, the deliverance from Egypt and the Torah – the law of Moses. The oil therefore, must represent not the anointing, for this oil was not for anointing, it was for the lamp to be lit. It was to give

light. In this parable the oil must represent revelation of the word (oil in the lamp).

Those of Israel who keep the law by faith in this present age are righteous before God. I believe these are the wise virgins who when the cry comes will be ready, just as Hannah and Simeon in the temple were waiting for the first coming of Jesus and they both recognised him as the Messiah.

There was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel.

Luke 2:25

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, ...And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:36-38

According to Paul, the circumcision who keep the law **by faith** are righteous before God, and we, the uncircumcision, who do not keep or even know the law are righteous **through faith**. We come different ways but both are by faith.

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision **by faith**, and uncircumcision **through faith**.

Romans 3:30

If we are to be consistent with scripture, then the bridegroom in this parable must be Christ himself. Jesus referred to himself as the bridegroom when he was questioned and challenged about his disciples not keeping the discipline of fasting.

Can the children of the bridechamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast.

Matthew 9:15

John the baptist also referred to Jesus as the bridegroom when he was questioned by the Scribes and Pharisees.

He that has the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

John 3:29

Those who Slumber!

The virgins all slumbered and slept while the bridegroom was away – and for a long time. God has put a spirit of slumber on his people Israel at this time because of their unbelief and rebellion. Paul talks extensively about the fall and restoration of Israel in chapter 11, of the letter to the Romans, and I recommend readers to meditate on his teaching, for much of it has been lost in our modern doctrines.

The Ten Virgins

God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear unto this day.

Romans 11:8

The marriage that this parable talks about is obviously the marriage between Christ and his bride, but I will place the scriptures here for those readers who may not know their Bible so well.

Wherefore, my brethren, you also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that you should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Romans 7:4

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

2 Corinthians:11:

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Revelation 19:7-8

Those who are called to the marriage supper are obviously the guests. The bride does not receive an invitation to the wedding. If this is the case then, in this

parable, when the cry goes forth that the bridegroom comes and the virgins are to meet the bridegroom and go with him to the marriage feast, **the virgins are guests and not the bride.**

And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom comes; go out to meet him.

Matthew 25:6

Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he said unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Revelation 19:9

The bride was obviously chosen before the betrothal by the father, and revealed at the betrothal feast to those guests. Arranged marriages are God's way, for **he** sets in the church not Jesus (see 1 Corinthians 12).

No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day

John 6:44

Therefore these 10 virgins are not being judged to see if they are the bride, but are being judged as to whether they will be a guest at the marriage feast. It is about who will witness the marriage and who will not.

No Flesh and Blood in the Kingdom

When Jesus returns again he will come with his bride to reign. The bride must have a spiritual body at this

time – the same that Jesus had when he rose from the dead – for the consummation will not be between flesh and blood on the one hand and a spiritual body on the other, for that is an abomination to God. Kind must mate with kind. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. Only those with a spiritual body can be part of the consummation and Kingdom!

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither can corruption inherit incorruption.

1 Corinthians 15:50

When the cry goes forth that the bridegroom is coming, those righteous of Israel will realise who he is and go in to the feast because they have enough revelation. Those who have the law, but have lost or have no revelation will not enter in to the marriage. While they seek for the oil – revelation – the door will be shut and they will not be allowed to witness the wedding or be a guest at the marriage supper. However, they will not be punished, for there was no punishment for these other 5 foolish virgins – they just missed the marriage. The door was shut to them.

Friends and Relatives

When a man is to be married he invites two categories of people to celebrate this event with him – his close friends and his relations. Jesus' brethren in the flesh – Israel – will be invited to the marriage and these are represented by the virgins in this parable. It is a form of judgement, for it decides who will go in and who will

miss the marriage and be shut out.

This parable then is not about eternal life and who will be saved and who will not, but it is about those of Israel who will see the marriage of Christ and his bride, and those who will miss it.

Israel will be the first category that Jesus will judge when he comes the second time to planet earth.



Our God is a fruitful god and he is angry when we do not bear fruit. He wants more than duty. If we only do what we are told to do – our duty – then we are to assess ourselves as unprofitable to God, and should expect that he will be angry with us.

Chapter 8

The Talents

Parable 2

*The kingdom of heaven is like a man travelling into a far country, **who called his own servants**, and delivered to them his goods. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey ...For unto every one that has shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has; and cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Matthew 25:14-30

This is the second parable that Jesus gives, to show what the kingdom will be like when he returns again in power and glory. It is about the servants of Jesus, those who follow him – the servants who must gain interest

for their master while he is away for a long time. They will all have to give an account of their stewardship at his return. The master who leaves his servants to trade and gain profit to produce at his return is Jesus. He has indeed been away for a long time, it is now over 2000 years since he left his disciples and he is expecting them to trade and bring profit from the capital that he left with them. This parable then, is about stewardship for rewards **or punishment**.

All these servants worked for the same master. They were all **his servants**, so we cannot say that one category was those who are saved and another was those that were not. It says that the master gave them according to their different abilities, so his assessment would be perfect. This means that no one had an excuse if they did not reach their potential, for Christ, their master, had assessed them all. Although the servants were all given different amounts to trade with, they could all reach their potential – 100% of what they were given.

What are Our Talents?

What has been given to us as Christians and servants of Jesus Christ? What are we supposed to trade with. The answer is simple – everything – for the simple reason that we came into this world with nothing. Therefore, everything we have, including our minds and bodies, were given to us at birth and we are only stewards of all we own and all we are. Money, time, talents, and intellect are not our own, they were a gift from God, and we will have to give an account of how we have used them at the judgment seat of Christ.

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God **in your body, and in your spirit,** which are God's.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We are Ordained to Bear Fruit

However, I believe that the most important thing that we have been given, that separates us from those who do not accept Jesus, is **his life in us**. I believe this is the area where most Christians fail – to mature in that new nature and life that was bestowed on them at the time they were born again. We are ordained and chosen to bear fruit – the character of Christ (Read John 15). This is what the parable of the talents is all about, and we neglect its implications at our peril.

It is very simple to see that it was a judgment of what they had produced from what was invested in them by their master. Our God is a fruitful god and he is angry when we do not bear fruit. He wants more than just our duty. If we only do what we are told to do – our duty – then we are to assess ourselves as unprofitable to God, and should expect that he will be angry with us.

So likewise, when you shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Luke 17:10

This master was very angry with the servant who hid his talent and returned only what he was given; the servant was punished. The point I want to bring out from this parable is that this judgment will not be to decide whether we were saved for eternal life. All servants of Jesus have eternal life, and our works and how we handle our talents have no bearing on it. We see that the servants were not judged on grace through faith, they were judged on their works. Profit alone – returns on investments – was the deciding factor on whether they received praise or punishment.

All this will happen at the judgment seat of Christ and it will be for rewards to enjoy in the kingdom on earth – enter the joy of the Lord as another parable says – or ...for punishment in the millennial reign.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done **in his body**, according to that he has done, **whether it is good or bad.**

2 Corinthians 5:10

Wailing and Gnashing of Teeth

Those who hide their talents; in other words, do not bring profit from what was invested in them, will be punished. The punishment meted out to them is outer darkness where there is wailings and gnashing of teeth.

I do not believe that this is a description of the lake of fire. Outer darkness is where darkness holds sway, can be felt, and complete ignorance reigns. Wailings

and gnashing of teeth is utter remorse, and regret that the millennial kingdom will be lost forever to those who have wasted their talents. The lake of fire is eternal torment planned for the devil and his angels and I do not think there will be regret in that place. I believe that those who are there will accept it as a just fate for their rebellion.

The Great Reversal of Treasures

When the kingdom comes and Jesus judges his servants for their rewards or punishments, there will be a great reversal of circumstances for many many believers. In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount', Matthew's gospel says 'Blessed are the poor', but Luke's gospel says 'Cursed are the rich'. Matthew says 'Blessed are those that mourn now for they will be comforted' when the kingdom comes. Luke says 'Cursed are those that laugh now', for they will howl and weep when the kingdom comes and they will miss the kingdom reign of Christ (See Matthew 5:1-12 and Luke 6:24-26).

The parable of the rich man, and Lazarus the beggar, will only fit into the millemium reign. It cannot fit into eternity for the rich man asked for someone to go and speak to his 5 brothers so they could be saved, and we know that there is no possibility of salvation after heaven and earth have passed away and the judgment at the Great White Throne has finished (read this parable in Luke 16:20-31).

Nothing else will fit these parables without twisting what was actually said. 'The Talents' is one of many parables showing us, not about eternal life or the kingdom of the Church, but the kingdom that Jesus will

set up when he comes the second time to this earth to reign.

A Serious Parable

"The 'Talents' is a very serious parable, and Jesus tells it to his disciples only after a stern warning about being ready and not being caught out. We would do well to heed the warning of Jesus for we are living in the very days that he talks about in Matthew chapter 24.

Watch therefore: for you do not know what hour your Lord will 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. Therefore you also be ready: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of man will come. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But, and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delays his coming, and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he does not expect him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, He shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion

with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:43-51

This coming again of Jesus in Matthew chapters 24 and 25 is not about the rapture of the bride, it is all about when he comes with his bride to judge and take possession of this earth. However many Christians mix and match these two events. In Matthew 24, which we have seen is in answer to a question about the end of this present world and the kingdom that is coming, Jesus tells us that it will be like the days of Noah.

This gives us clear parallels, for the flood is history so we do not have to speculate. The flood was God's judgment on this earth, and so likewise the second coming of Jesus will be to judge this world.

Taken Away to Destruction

Everything went on as usual in Noah's day – marrying, eating and drinking. It does not say orgies and gluttony, or great wickedness. This is ordinary life, and no one will suspect that disaster is on its way. Jesus said that no one in Noah's day were aware of the impending doom until the flood **took them** away.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, **and took them all away**; so shall also the coming of the Son of

man be. Then shall two be in the field; the one **shall be taken**, and the other left. Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the **one shall be taken**, and the other left.

Matthew 24:37-41

I have made the words 'took them' bold, for Jesus says that **one shall be taken** and one left when he comes again and if we are to be consistent then the taking away is for judgment not glory. Those taken away in Noah's day met a watery grave, and so it must be that those that are taken away when Jesus comes will also be judged in like manner and not raptured.

Modern Catholic Doctrine

I have no doubt that there will be a first resurrection of the bride, for the bible clearly teaches this, but the teaching of Jesus in this context is clearly not about 'the rapture'. We must be careful not to fit scriptures to suit and prove our Church doctrines. The secret rapture of **all the Church** is a very recent doctrine in Church history. This doctrine had its roots in Rome, but was spread in the 1800's by a man named J. N. Darby who introduced it to the Church and it spread like wildfire throughout America and Europe. It is now standard doctrine for millions of believers, but it is not scriptural without taking verses out of context and much speculation.



Who are Christ's brethren? There can only be two classes of people who fulfil this criteria and they are Israel, who are his brothers in the flesh, and his bride – his brothers in the spirit.

Chapter 9

Sheep & Goats

A literal event

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he shall 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 divides his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Matthew 25:30-33

*When the Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which show the work of the law written in their hearts, ... In the day when **God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ** according to my gospel.*

Romans 2:14-16

The last statement that Jesus made in answer to the question asked by the disciples about the end of the world and his coming was about sheep and goats. Jesus has covered his judgment of Israel with the parable of the 10 virgins, and the Church with the parable of the talents. Now, he address the remainder of the people who will be on the planet when he returns – those who have not received his free Salvation.

Judging the Gentiles

This is about judging the nations of the world. These are in biblical terms the Gentiles – all those who accept Jesus in this life are grafted on to the commonwealth of Israel and are no longer Gentiles. This will be covered in detail in later volumes as we examine what the apostles taught about all this.

Jesus will divide those of every nation who have looked after 'his brethren' and those who have not. Of course, those individuals from any of the world's nations who have accepted Christ as their saviour and lord will not be included in this category, for they will already have the resurrection body and will be the remnant who will reign with Christ. There will also be those who have accepted Jesus as their saviour but have lived careless lives, hidden their talents and will be punished, not by damnation, but by coming under chastisement in the millennial kingdom. This is not purgatory in some after life, it is on this present earth. This is where the following scripture fits in (the context is when Jesus returns to earth).

And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to

his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask more of them.

Luke 12:48

This scripture cannot refer to the lake of fire for the Lord's servants will not end up in this place. The lake of fire is not a place of chastisement for correction. We are chastised so we will not be condemned with the world. We are God's children and will be treated like sons.

For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as sons; for what son is he who the father doesn't chasten?

Hebrews 12:6-7

For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

The deciding factor for reward or punishment in this category of sheep or goats are those who looked after Christ's brethren.

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as you have done

it unto one of the least of **these my brethren**,
you have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40

Who are Christ's brethren? There can only be two classes of people who fulfil this criteria, they are Israel – his brothers in the flesh, and his church – his brothers in the spirit. Those whom he is not ashamed to call his brethren.

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren

Heb 2:11

The Lake of Fire

Jesus is judging the nations. Those of the nations who looked after, and protected Israel in the flesh, and his true church, and those who did not. Those of the nations who did not look after Israel and the church will be banished and will not be in his kingdom. He will not rule over these people, in fact their punishment is the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels. There is no debate about their fate, it is eternal damnation. It is what John, in the book of Revelation, calls 'the second death'

Those who are in the first resurrection when Christ comes to earth will not be judged in this judgment for they are the ones who will judge and reign with Christ.

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand,
Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire,
prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matthew 25:41

This could even mean that some nations will no longer be in existence in the millennial reign of Christ! Doesn't it say in Revelation, when addressing the church, that he will smite the nations? Well, this is when it will happen, right at the beginning of the reign of Jesus after he returns to earth.

And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron..

Revelation 19:15

Those who have looked after Israel – physical and spiritual will hear the words;

Come, you who are blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 25:34

Both the sheep and the goats protested that they were unaware that they either fed, clothed, or visited Jesus, or that they neglected to clothe, feed and visit him in prison. This seems surprising and yet Jesus states very plainly that it is so.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry, and fed you? or thirsty, and gave you drink? When did we see you a stranger, and took you in? or naked, and clothed you? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come unto you?

Matthew 25:37-38

Then shall they also answer him, (the goats) saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto you?

Matthew 25:44

Notice that this kingdom was prepared from the foundation of the world and is all part of the glorious plan that we are studying. Every detail was carefully planned by God and will be executed exactly as he imagined it would be. This kingdom inheritance was planned for Christ and his bride as part of the romantic plan that God will use to show his love and desire for family life. And the nations that he will reign over with his bride are now being divided and judged in this analogy of sheep and goats

This parable is not about judgment at the Great White Throne of God, for this is only set up after heaven and earth have passed away. This judgment is at the throne of Christ as he sets up his kingdom for 1000 years. Those of the nations who are alive at this time are judged by Jesus and either live through the millinium and are guaranteed eternal life, or are immediately sent to the lake of fire for eternity at the beginning of his reign.

A Special Catagory

This may seem a strange interpretation to many readers, but it is clear that those who are alive on earth when Jesus comes are in a special catagory and they will come under the judgment of Jesus, for God has given him the kingdom, the power, and the glory. When Jesus has ended his reign and has handed the kingdom back

to God (see 1 Corinthians 15:24), then all the dead from Adam, until that time will be judged by God, and this is the final resurrection of death, hell, and all the dead from Adam (obviously this excludes those in the first resurrection and those that Jesus judged at the beginning of his reign).

I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: ...And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them:

Revelation 20:12

Later volumes of this series will look at this more closely when we come to the end of God's plan, but I will state here that the nations that are saved will be on the new earth and they will still have their kings. They will have access to the holy city – which is 'New Jerusalem' – the bride of Christ.

The tree of life has leaves for **the healing of the nations**. This is after heaven and earth have passed away and we are in eternity! (Read all of Revelation chapters 21 and 22)

And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it.

Revelation 21:24-26

I believe these are the sheep nations.



Those whose names are in the book of life, automatically live forever. Those who are not in the book will be judged according to **their works**. If they do not accept the free gift of salvation the only other way to have eternal life is by their own righteousness. This will not be enough, their righteousness will be as filthy rags to God, but it will surprise many readers to see that it is by their works that they will be judged either for eternal life or the lake of fire.

Chapter 10

.Heaven & The Kingdom

... he that has not shall be taken away even that which he has, and cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

To conclude this part of the book on the kingdom, I will summarise what I have said.

1. The physical kingdom of Israel has still to be restored.

When Jesus returns to restore the kingdom to Israel and take over the world he will first judge his own people after the flesh. This is only what any king would do when he succeeds to the throne, judge his subjects – he is the

king of Israel. Then, he will judge the Church – those who have been grafted on to the olive tree – Israel – and finally he will judge the nations of the world. Jesus will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem and this judgment will most definitely be decided by works and not faith. This is not judgment by God for eternal life, it is to judge who will be reigned over by Christ for 1,000 years. The bride of Christ, who are in the first resurrection, will not be judged for they have judged themselves in this present age. This is not the great white throne and there are no books that will be opened.

2. Eternal life is not the kingdom of God

Eternal life, after heaven and earth pass away and a new creation is manifest, will not be a kingdom as we know it – it will be a family, the family of God. He will wipe all tears from our eyes and will be our father. We will not dwell with him in heaven, but **he will dwell with** us on the new earth, not for a 1,000 years but for all eternity.

3. The kingdom of God is not the kingdom of the Church

The false Church have made it so and called it Christendom – the kingdom of Christ, but it is a counterfeit kingdom, a counterfeit of the one that Jesus will set up in the future. At present the kingdom is hidden and is within a people. It is a spiritual kingdom waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God, and the Church cannot bring it about. We have to wait for the king to come before we can have the kingdom. As

long as Jesus is at the right hand of God waiting until his enemies become his footstool we also have to wait in this present age.

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.

Acts 3:20-21

The Same Old Mistake

Israel in this present age – or should I say the Zionists – have made the same mistake as the Church and are trying to establish a physical kingdom before the time. Israel have tried to establish a physical kingdom in Palestine before their Messiah comes, and they are unwittingly preparing for antichrist. The Church are all excited about this and are sending money to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem not realising that it will be for antichrist. The Zionists, the enemy of true Israel, have deceived the Church into helping them prepare for antichrist. Meanwhile, right from the days of the early Church, when they asked if Jesus would set up the kingdom as soon as he had risen from the dead, to the Christendom of the Popes and the 'Kingdom Now' teaching of the 21st century, nothing has changed. The remnant of Israel and the church are patiently waiting the return of the king and his kingdom. I will look at this in more detail with facts and figures later in these studies.

In Jesus' day the Jews said 'We have no king but Caesar' and so it is with God's people today, Caesar was

antichrist of his day, for he was the head of Babylon in that empire of Rome. Napoleon and Hitler were also antichrist in the revived Roman empire and we are now awaiting for another antichrist to come from this new 21st century revival of the Roman Empire. The Church will also welcome the man of sin. I will also show this to be true as we come to the end of God's plan in later volumes of this study.

4. The kingdom of God/heaven is the physical material reign of Christ on this earth for 1000 years

After this period of Christ's reign on earth the heavens and the earth will be destroyed by fire. Then, God will open the books to ascertain who has eternal life and who will be eternally damned. This judgement is by God and not by Jesus, and it will be decided by whether a person's name is in the book of life.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, **which is the book of life:** and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.**

Revelation 20:12

Maybe it would be a good place to make the point here that those whose names are in the book of life automatically live forever. Those who are not in the book of life will be judged according to **their works**, from the books – the records of the deeds done in their body. If they do not accept the free gift of

Salvation the only other way to have eternal life is by their own righteousness. This will not be enough. Their righteousness will be as filthy rags to God. However, it will surprise many readers to see that it is by their works they will be judged for eternal life or eternal damnation, even though it is stated clearly in the above scripture.

To end this part of the book on the kingdom I will list all the direct references in the gospels which mention the kingdom so that anyone interested can see that everything is consistent with what I have said.

Matthew

Matthew 3:2 Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:17 Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom,

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:19 Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20 Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 6:10 your kingdom come. Your will be done in

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earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:13 For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:33 Seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that says unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 8:11-12 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. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth..

Matthew 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom.

Matthew 10:7 And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Matthew 11:11-12 Among them that are born of women there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

Matthew 12:28 ...But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Matthew 13:11 ...it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Matthew 13:19 When any one hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart.

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Matthew 13:24 The kingdom of heaven is like a man which sowed good seed in his field.

Matthew 13:31 The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field.

Matthew 13:33 The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.

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

Matthew 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field.

Matthew 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls.

Matthew 13:47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.

Matthew 13:52 Every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.

Matthew 16:19 And I will give unto you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

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.

Matthew 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of

heaven?

Matthew 18:3 Except you are converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:4 Whoever shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:23 Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

Matthew 19:12 ...and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.

Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:23 Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:24 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Matthew 20:1 For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:21 She said unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on your right hand, and the other on the left, in your kingdom

Matthew 21:31 The publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Matthew 21:43 The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Matthew 22:2 The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king, which made a marriage for his son,

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you shut up the kingdom of heaven against

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men: for you neither go in yourselves, neither do you allow them that are entering to go in.

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.

Matthew 25:1 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

Matthew 25:14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

M a r k

Mark 1:14 After John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God.

Mark 1:15 The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.

Mark 4:11 Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables.

Mark 4:26 So is the kingdom of God, is as if a man should cast seed into the ground.

Mark 4:30 Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

Mark 9:1 There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Mark 9:47 If your eye offend you, pluck it out: it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

Mark 10:14 Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

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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.

Mark 10:23 How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:24 Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!

Mark 10:25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Mark 12:34 You art not far from the kingdom of God

Mark 14:25 I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Mark 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God. came, and craved the body of Jesus.

L u k e

Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Luke 6:20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said, Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God.

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.

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.

Luke 8:10 Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing

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they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Luke 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:11 He spoke unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

Luke 9:27 There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:62 No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 10:9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 10:11 Be sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 11:20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you, but go and preach the kingdom of God.

Luke 12:31 But rather seek the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 13:18 Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it?

Luke 13:20 Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God?

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Luke 13:29 They shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Luke 14:15 Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:16 Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

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Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it.

Luke 17:20 Jesus said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation.

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Luke 18:17 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.

Luke 18:24 How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!

Luke 18:25 For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 18:29-30 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that has 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.

Luke 19:11 He spoke a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

Luke 21:31 So likewise, when you see these things come to pass, know that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.

Luke 22:16 For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:18 For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Luke 23:51 He was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.

John

John 3:3 Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

There are also hundreds of illustrations and situations in the teaching of Jesus that could only fit into the millennial reign of Jesus and his bride, or the secret spiritual kingdom in this present age. However, the above direct scriptures should let the reader know that it is a major teaching of Jesus in the gospels.

Part 2



Back to Romance

Chapter 11

Faint Heart Never Won Fair Maiden

*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.*

Hebrews 12:2

*But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's
sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, you
may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

1 Peter 4:13

What was it that drove Jesus to the cross? The immediate answer to most Christians would be, "Love for the world", but I cannot find any scriptures to support this motive. The well known gospel scripture

of John 3:16 says that **God so loved the world**, that he gave his son.

It was God's plan before creation to show his love and his plan included the sacrifice of his own son. Adam the first man prophesied this plan when he knowingly partook of his wife's sin to keep her for himself (see book 1, chapter 2). So Christ, the second Adam, partook of the sins of the world not because he was deceived, but by that same motive that the first Adam acted from – a choice of love for his bride. Abraham, and his sacrifice of Isaac prophesied this nearly 2000 years before, and the millions of gallons of blood shed from innocent animals cried out in prophecy of this pivotal event in the plan of Almighty God.

Jesus Was the Sacrifice

Jesus did not make the sacrifice – **he was the sacrifice**. Of course he was a willing sacrifice, but I am suggesting that it was Jesus' love for his father that made him obedient to the cross. Jesus said that he came to do the father's will, and not his own, so his own motives had no bearing on the cross for we know it was God's will to sacrifice his son, just as it was at Abraham's instigation that he and Isaac climbed that lonely hill.

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

John 6:38

It was not easy for Jesus to do his father's will and his battle in the garden of Gethsemane attests to the fact that he ended up doing his father's will **although it was not his own**.

Father, all things are possible unto you; **take away this cup from me:** nevertheless not what I want, but what you want.

Mark 14:36

The Love of Jesus

This study is about the romance of God and his plan, but it is also about the romance and aspirations of his son Jesus. The scriptures tell us that Jesus set his face like a flint for another personal reason – the joy that was set before him.

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.

Hebrews 12:2

What was this joy? It was the joy of purchasing his bride and receiving his inheritance to share with her. He was to be given the whole earth to reign over with his bride. This was his reward/inheritance for his obedience. It was also the love for his future bride that made him endure the cross.

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have **I set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah 50:6-7

Jesus has paid the price but, as yet, he has not obtained his inheritance or married his betrothed, so what is Jesus doing set at God's right hand at this present time in world history? It is easy to ascertain for the bible is quite clear. He is waiting until his father tells him to return to earth, marry his betrothed, and with a bloody military coup, depose antichrist, and set up a new world order. This is his inheritance and this is what motivated him to suffer the cross.

... The LORD has said unto me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten you. Ask of me, and I shall give you the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psalm 2:7-9

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, **until I make your enemies your footstool?**

Hebrews 1:13

The Treasure in the Field

Another parable that Jesus gave about the kingdom is relevant to what I am showing. It is about the man who bought the whole field to obtain the treasure that he found in it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hid in a field; the which when a man has found,

he hides and **for joy goes and sells all that he has**, and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44

Jesus tells us the keys to the parables in Matthew chapter 13, so it is not difficult to establish what Jesus was saying by this parable. The field is the world, so Jesus took the sin of the whole world away, but not because he loved the world as the father did. He was after the treasure in the field – his bride. He was willing to die for the whole world so that he could have his beloved.

Jesus Reveals his Heart

The last prayer of Jesus just before he went to the cross confirms this. He was in the upper room when he said these words and only the 11 disciples were present – Judas had already slipped out from the upper room to arrange his betrayal. Jesus was praying for his betrothed, that he had just covenanted to in the communion meal. He had also revealed his heart to them (I will share more about this in following chapters).

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which you have given me; for they are yours.

John 17:9

Jesus is waiting for the word from his father, but he is not passive. Paul, writing to his beloved Israel, says that Jesus is ever interceding.

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 7:25

Interceding for the Bride

What is Jesus interceding for at the right hand of God? I am sure many would say that he is interceding for lost souls, but again this is not an intelligent answer, for all that can be done for the lost has already been done. The blood has been shed and nothing more needs to be done by Jesus. It is up to us to accept what has already been accomplished. The work of redemption is already complete and for Jesus to intercede for the souls of men would insult the cross – it is finished.

Jesus is now interceding for his bride, for she has not yet made herself ready. She has to be washed with the water of the word to be presented to Christ as a spotless bride. This is what his intercession is all about, and therefore this is what our intercession should be all about.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Christ's bride is the pearl that was purchased in another parable from Matthew chapter 13.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Matthew 13:45-46

This merchant sold all that he had to obtain the pearl of great price – the bride again. The 'pearl of greatest price' is not, as the famous hymn says, Jesus. We do not sell all we have to purchase Jesus. In fact the very opposite is true, it is Jesus who gave all to purchase us. He bought us with a price – his own blood. This is why he was willing to endure the cross and the shame for **the joy was his bride – she is the pearl of great price.**

The End is Worth the Means

That is why a king would abdicate the throne of England for a divorced woman, or a knight would fight a dragon to rescue a fair maiden. It is why men throughout the ages have looked for adventure and risked their lives in extreme situations. It is all about the rewards and the joy that it brings. I trained 5 nights a week, sweat gallons of my own perspiration and risked injury and pain, for the joy of wearing an England cap for gymnastics. Was I a fool to suffer all this? On the contrary, for the joy of representing my county and the praise of the spectators it was worth it all.

Jesus will rejoice with us for 1000 years and we will all think that the trials and pain, misunderstandings and heartaches, were worth everything to gain Christ and his kingdom.

I count all things but loss for the excellency of
the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for
whom I have suffered the loss of all things, **and
do count them but dung, that I may win
Christ,**

Philippinans 3:8

It will be worth it all
When we see Jesus
Life's trials will seem so small
When we see Christ
One look upon his face
All sorrows will erase
So bravely run the race
'till we see Christ.



The word of God should always confirm our relationship with God. It can never instigate it, for relationship always comes from revelation, and revelation always comes from the Holy Ghost. The word alone kills, the spirit gives it life

Chapter 12

The New Covenant Meal

In that he says, a new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrew 8:13

For the 3 years that Jesus manifested himself as the son of God, his ministry on earth was all about the kingdom of God. He did not talk about the blood that he would spill to redeem mankind or about grace through faith. His whole emphasis was on the kingdom of God. Many of his miracles were demonstrations of the kingdom – from the turning of water into wine at the wedding of Cana in Gallilee, to the resurrection of Lazarus. Often, after he had healed someone, he said phrases like; 'Know one thing, the kingdom of God is very near to you'; in other words, you are seeing a

foretaste of the restoration of all things. His miracles were a prophecy of this coming kingdom. When anyone had a revelation from God he exclaimed that they were not far from the kingdom.

When Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said, You are not far from the kingdom of God.

Mark 12:34

Just before Jesus laid down his life for the whole of mankind he made a covenant, not with the world or even his followers but, with his inner disciples – the 12 apostles. It was in secret, behind closed doors, and there are 5 chapters written in the gospel of John that reveal his actions and dialogue around this secret meeting. His talk and personal prayer to his father is very interesting and informative. It is of vital importance that we understand what is happening at the communion meal if we are to understand the plan of God that we are studying in these volumes.

In John chapter 13 we start this amazing revelation, and in verse 2 John says 'And supper being ended'. This is the Passover supper and it is the last time that Jesus will keep the passover with his disciples. He says that he will not drink of the fruit of the vine until he drinks again with them when the kingdom comes.

For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God

Luke 22:16

They had no idea that it would be 2000 years before the kingdom would come, so I suppose they did not

realise the import of much of what Jesus said. It is only now on hindsight that we can understand the amazing things he is about to share with his chosen 11 disciples in that upper room.

The passover was part of the old covenant that God had made with his wife Israel. I have covered the betrothal covenant and celebration meal that God made with Israel in volume 1 of this series (chapter 5), but now Jesus was to make a new covenant with his own bride. The first covenant was with Israel after they had left Egypt and had been baptised in the Red Sea unto Moses.

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud
and in the sea;

1 Corinthians 10:2

And so it is with the new covenant with Christ's bride, for we have also been redeemed by the blood of the lamb, left Egypt – the world, and been baptised into Jesus. Only after this can we qualify to make this new covenant in blood. It is a personal covenant that is only available to those who are disciples of Jesus.

The New Covenant is also With Israel

This new covenant must also be with Israel otherwise it is not a new covenant, it is just 'a covenant'. Paul shows this in Hebrews

In that he says, A new covenant, he has made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrew 8:13

In the the next volume of this series I will look at the Acts of the Apostles and the letters to the churches to show that all who are saved by faith are grafted on to Israel, the olive tree, and can no longer call themselves Gentiles. Paul says 'you who were **in times past** Gentiles', so the new covenant is with God's people, his church, spiritual Israel.

Wherefore remember, **that ye being in time past Gentiles** in the flesh,

Ephesians 2:11

No Covenants With Babylon

I am also saying that it is not a covenant with the Church – Christendom – for God does not make a covenant with Babylon!

If God is to find a bride for his son it will certainly not be a heathen (Gentile) woman, it will be from the family that he called out of Babylon and blessed. Christ's bride will be from the commonwealth of Israel. All this is prophesied by the very first man who was called to start the nation and church that God would call his own – Abraham. When Abraham wanted a wife for his son Isaac, he told his servant to make sure that he found a wife of his own people and not of the heathen Canaanites. Abraham's servant obeyed and found a relation of Abraham's in Mesopotamia, whose name was Rebekah.

Surely, in type, Abraham represents God, Isaac represents God's son Jesus, and the servant, the Holy Spirit who is at present searching for the bride, and Rebekah the bride of Christ.

The New Covenant Meal

And I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven, and the God of the earth, that you shall not take a wife unto my son of the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell: But you shall go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

Genesis 24:2-4

Until God calls a man into his family, that man can never become the bride that God is preparing for his son, and unless we are grafted onto Israel we will never be in the right family. I will enlarge on this in the next volume.

No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44

The Covenant Meal

Luke's gospel is the most detailed account of this blood covenant and I will refer to it. Read the following verses carefully. This is at the Passover meal.

And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat **this passover** with you before I suffer: For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I

will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Luke 14:14-18

After the Passover

The verses that follow directly after this passage now show that it was after the passover that Jesus shared the bread and wine and not during it. Lamb and wine, and bread and wine, cannot mix, for they are of different covenants. Jesus said they were his body and blood, and that this was the new covenant. It was a completely different meal in the sense that it was the beginning of a completely new covenant, and not an addition or alteration of the old. The old had to go before the new could come. The communion is not the Christian's Passover meal, any more than Easter is the Christian's celebration of the death and resurrection. [Footnote 1](#)

And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup **after supper**, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you.

Luke 22:19-20

I wrote about the betrothal between God and Israel in the first volume of this series so I will not repeat it here but, to summarise, God told Moses to sprinkle Israel with the blood to ratify the covenant that was read out, and agreed, on both sides. Israel agreed to enter into this betrothal.

When the disciples (and therefore us in this present age) drink the cup of wine then we are consenting to the betrothal covenant and to be faithful until the marriage is consummated. We are ratifying the agreement in blood and agreeing to all that Jesus has asked of us in his teachings. We must not take this lightly, or we will suffer the consequences that Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 11. We may end up 'drinking damnation to ourselves not understanding the Lord's body'.

We are now the Temple

It is a perfect type and shadow of what Jesus did at the communion meal. It is the engagement meal between Jesus and his future bride and it had to be ratified in blood. Not now the outward sprinkling as Moses did, to signify the flesh, but drunken and eaten (taken internally) to show the life and resurrection is now inside a person. We are now the temple of God and it needs to be purged of all consciousness of the knowledge of good and evil, for we now have access to the tree of life, and will live forever. That is essential if the marriage is to take place. We must have the resurrection life in us. We should already have it if what Jesus said was true. Read the following carefully.

This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat of, and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: **if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh** ...Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son

of man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **Whoever eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.**

from John 6:51-54

We do not get resurrection life when the last trump sounds, we must have the resurrection life already in us or we will not rise. The caterpillar has the life of the butterfly already in it, and so we must also have the resurrection life in us or we will not be transformed in to a spiritual body, and we will miss the first resurrection

There is No Blood in Bread!

Remember that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. There is no blood in bread – as there is in meat – for the bread speaks of entirely different things. Meat and wine purify the flesh, but bread and wine purify the spirit, the new man.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies and purifies the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, **purge your conscience** from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrew 8:13-14

I don't think that it has occurred to most Christians that to drink blood, even symbolically, is a most pagan practice and it was forbidden to God's people, for it is

the life of the flesh (see Genesis 9:4-6). However, it is necessary that we do drink and eat his flesh for we are now the temple of God and he dwells in our mortal body and we are to purge our conscience and not our flesh as the above writing from Paul explains to us.

A Servant Attitude

Let us now go back to John's gospel and we will see that Jesus washes the disciple's feet, and it is in between the Passover meal and the institution of the new covenant at the communion meal.

And supper being ended, ...He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel.

from John 13:3-5

Jesus was setting them an example of the new kingdom lifestyle of servanthood, where those who would be the greatest become servants of all. Judas was still here at this time and Jesus also washed his feet, even though he knew that he would betray him. Jesus said 'If you know these things you are a happy person **if you do them**'. Most Christians know all about servanthood, but so few seem to practice it.

...for I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. If you know these things, happy are you **if ye do them**.

John 13:15-17

How sad that the Church system throughout the ages, since that time, have 'lorded' it over their subjects and preserved the distinction that Jesus came to break down; of Clergy and Laity, Pastors and Congregations (we have many Pentecostal and Evangelical 'Pope's in our Churches today). Judas is still with the disciples at this time so he must have taken the passover with the disciples. The following verse in John's gospel says that the devil had put it in the heart of Judas to betray him.

...the devil having now put into the heart of Judas
Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him

John 13:2

However it was not until the sop was passed to him, at the new covenant meal, that **Satan actually entered into him.**

Jesus sat back down again and told his disciples that one of them would betray him and when he handed the sop to Judas, Satan himself entered into him.

Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop **Satan entered into him.** Then said Jesus unto him, What you are going to do, do quickly.

John 13:26-27

There is only one other person who is entitled the son of perdition (damnation) in the Bible, and that is antichrist, and Judas is a perfect type. Antichrist will be

Satan personified just as God was in Jesus. The same bread and wine, that to the disciples ratified the betrothal, was the cup of devils to Judas. It is impossible to drink two cups at the same time. Paul warned the church in Corinth against this dangerous practice

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

1 Corinthians 10:21 (read the whole chapter)

The Mystery Revealed

Because of the fear of the Catholic doctrine of 'transubstantiation', it is very easy to let the pendulum swing to the extreme in the opposite direction and be in just as great an error. To say that the bread and wine are only symbolic is a far greater misinterpretation of what Jesus actually said and implied.

The communion meal that modern evangelicals take is a shadow and sham of what it should be. They have relegated it to a mere symbol and are causing the body of Christ to be weak, sickly and spiritually dead. Paul warns about this very strongly and I am amazed that ministers of the gospel of Christ take these words so lightly.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be **guilty of the body and blood of the Lord**. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. For he that eats and drinks unworthily, **eats and drinks**

damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

1 Corinthians 11:27-29

There are no scriptures to support the fact that it is either symbolic or an open meal. Rather that it is a secret meal for the bride of Christ. The early church met in houses, generally, and nowhere do they have communion in any public place or meeting.

Means of Grace

All the means of grace that a Christian practices are similar. To render them only symbolic would be outrageous. To say that the word of God, the Bible as we call it, is just another religious book, just the alphabet on paper and only symbolic, would seem ridiculous to evangelical Christians, and yet that is what they have done with the communion – relegated it to only symbolism. When we read the bible by faith, then the dead letter becomes the living word. Jesus is the word and so the word becomes flesh – our flesh, for we are his body. How can we grow into a spiritual man by symbols? We need literal spiritual life. The communion is just bread and wine, but when we take it **by faith**, then the miracle happens just as it does when we read the word of God by faith. We receive spiritual life, not symbolic gratification. How can a symbol alone, taken in unbelief, give us the life of Christ? Obviously it can't.

In John's gospel Jesus said that we had to eat his flesh and drink his blood. This was a hard saying for it sounded like cannibalism to the disciples and many left him for that saying.

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eats my flesh, and drinks my blood, dwells in me, and I in him. ...Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is a hard saying; who can hear it? From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

from John 6

Jesus would not weaken his statements, in fact he reiterated the same apparently cannibalistic statements. But then he explained the mystery of the bread and wine. He said that the flesh and wine would not profit them if they eat and drank them. He told them that the words he was saying were spirit and life. By faith this bread and wine would become Christ himself. It is a way to grow in Christ. We are what we eat.

It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

John 6:63

Faith always turns matter to spirit. The bible, when we read it, becomes the word of life – the letters themselves are dead. This is the key to all the things we do as Christians. They are never just symbolic, they are literal

spiritual by faith, and that changes physical into spiritual and we grow into the image of Christ, the perfect man that Paul talks about in Ephesians chapter 4.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

John 6:64

I have a series of 6 teachings on CD which I intend to make into a book so I will not go any deeper here, but there is much that our evangelical churches have misunderstood about the communion meal and so are eating death and not life as was intended. footnote 1

Drinking and Eating damnation

Paul is addressing Christians in this passage and saying that they can drink damnation to themselves. Surely this means that they are drinking the cup of devils. The disciples took the cup of life. But Judas, from the same cup, took the cup of devils!

The state of being unworthy has nothing to do with sin, for if we had to live a sin free life to be worthy then not one Christian would qualify for the communion. Paul explains in the above verses that 'unworthiness' is to do with **not discerning the Lord's** body. That is;

not understanding what we are participating in – the betrothal between Christ and his bride.

When we take the bread and wine we show and demonstrate that we are his flesh and blood – 'flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone' as Adam said before he became one with Eve. We demonstrate that his death has purchased our eternal destiny as the lambs wife.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Footnote 1

Jesus died at Passover which is a feast that God instituted. Easter is a pagan feast on a completely different date and the Church of Rome Christianised it.

Footnote 2

The 6 teaching CD's on the subject of the communion are available from the web site or address on the back cover of this book.



Like any engaged man who has to leave his betrothed, Jesus wants to reassure his betrothed that he is worthy of her and that he can provide for all her needs in the future. Jesus lets his bride know that he is wealthy beyond measure and that his father's house will provide for her. His reference for his character and honesty is his Father's character and standing.

Chapter 13

I go to Prepare a Place for You

But as it is written, Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

You will show me the path of life: in your presence is fulness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 16:11

The tradition in an arranged marriage is that after a man and woman are engaged, and the betrothal feast is finished, then the bridegroom goes away to prepare a home for his bride. When it is prepared he will come

and collect her and take her to his father's house and the marriage feast will take place and the marriage will be consummated.

Therefore, Jesus will come again to collect his bride and present her to his father, have the marriage supper and consummate the marriage. But first, he must go away to prepare the marital home. As we continue to look at the dialogue in the upper room we see that Jesus begins to tell his disciples that he is going away and that they cannot follow him. They must wait for the promise of the father (I will talk about this in the next chapter), and the return of the bridegroom, to collect them as his bride.

Little children, yet a little while I am with you.
You shall seek me: and as I said unto the Jews,
Where I go, you cannot come...

John 13:33

The Bridegroom's Credentials

Like any engaged man who has to leave his betrothed, Jesus wants to reassure his intended that he is worthy of her and that he can provide for all her needs in the future. Jesus lets his bride know that he is wealthy beyond measure and that his father's house will provide for her. The reference for his character and honesty is his father's own character and standing. Read the following words of Jesus in a new light. Not as dead scriptures, but as the words of a passionate lover desperate to convince his bride that he is worthy, and will return to collect her as he has promised and will take her to his father's house.

I will Prepare a Place for You

Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me... 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. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also ...Jesus said, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you should have known my Father also: and from henceforth you know him, and have seen him.

from John 14:1:7

He ends this passage with the words, 'If you love me keep my commandments'. It is a lover's plea; prove you love me while I am away by doing the things I have asked you to do.

He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me: and he that loves me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.

John 14:21

I am the Vine, You are the Branches

In his upper room discourse we also have the famous passage where Jesus tells us that he is the vine, we are the branches and his father, God, is the gardner. It is worth reading this passage in the context of Christ and his bride. Towards the end of Chapter 15, Jesus begins to share with his future bride how difficult it will be for

her to remain faithful for such a long time and warns her of the dangers she will face when he leaves her to return to his father – misunderstandings, hatred, and persecutions.

If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.

These things have I spoken unto you, that you should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: the time will come, that whoever kills you will think that he is doing God a service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, you may remember that I told you of them. ...These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

from John 15:18-16:33

Paul says that those who will suffer with him in this present age will reign with him in the coming one. Paul also warns us that if we deny him he will also deny us.

I will Prepare a Place for You

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.

2 Timothy 2:12

Jesus is looking for faithfulness in his bride and we have no excuse because he has sent us a chaperone to protect and keep an eye on us while he is away, obtaining the kingdom for us.



What wonderful and sublime words from the mouth of this future bridegroom, what a blessing and assurance to the disciples that Jesus will not leave his brethren without comfort. No wonder that Jesus told the apostles to do nothing until they had received this promise from the father.

Chapter 14

The Holy Chaperone

The Promise of the Father

Chaperone - noun

synonyms – attendant, companion, escort, guard, guide, matron, overseer, protector, safeguard.

I will send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry in the city of Jerusalem, until you are endued with power from on high.

Luke 24:49

Before Jesus left his disciples he also told them about the arrangements that his father had planned for his betrothed, for God wanted her to remain pure and without blemish for his son. Like any vulnerable young lady who is not too wise in the ways of the world and

its seductions, a chaperone is the best way to protect her. A good father will provide this for his sons betrothed. Jesus mentions many times in his covenant dialogue that God has arranged a guide and comforter who will lead her into all truth and encourage her to keep pure. The first mention of this is in chapter 14.

And I will ask the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; **even the Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it doesn't see him, neither does it know him.

John 14:16-17

Do Nothing until you receive the Comforter

What wonderful and sublime words from the mouth of this future bridegroom, what a blessing and assurance to the disciples that Jesus will not leave his betrothed without comfort. It is no wonder that Jesus told the apostles to do nothing until they had received this promise from the father.

And, behold, I send **the promise of my Father** upon you: but tarry in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high

Luke 24:49

The Holy Ghost was given to empower, or enable, the bride. This was the power to live a holy life – to stay pure. The bride was not to be seduced by the serpent as Eve was. Contrary to what most 'Charismatic Christians' believe it was not to receive the gifts of the spirit that

enabled them to do signs and wonders, for the apostles had used these gifts before Jesus had died. They healed the sick and raised the dead and cast out devils in Jesus name and they came back to Jesus rejoicing that they had power over devils.

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matthew 10:1

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Luke 10:17

The prophets of old also had the power of the Holy Ghost working with them to do signs and wonders. Healings and miracles, words of knowledge. This promise was different because now this power would be **in them** and not just **with them**. They knew the Holy Spirit as a power to do signs and wonders but they knew nothing of his comfort, guidance and anointing that they would receive when he dwelt in them.

But you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

John 14:17

This could not happen until after the engagement of Christ and his bride. Only when the covenant had been

The Holy Chaperone

sealed in blood could the Father now send the chaperone to protect and guide this betrothed virgin through this dark, dangerous and seductive world until the groom would return to take her home.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:3

These things have I written unto you concerning **them that seduce you**. But the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you, and you don't need any man to teach you

1 John 2:26-27

The Comforter will Come

Later in Chapter 14, Jesus reassures his disciples that the comforter will look after them.

But the **Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, everything I have said unto you.

John 14:26

Again, in Chapter 15, there is another verse showing that Jesus wants to repeat this assurance. He has just told the disciples about the inevitability of persecution from the world and so he ends his warning with these

comforting words that this Holy Chaperone will keep reminding her of the bridegrooms love for her.

But when the **Comforter** is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he shall testify of me.**

John 15:26

Expect Persecution

In Chapter 16, Jesus again tells his disciples that they are to expect persecution, but this time he shares with them the frightening reality that it will come from God's people. He says that they will cast them **out of their synagogues**, and that they will believe that they are doing God's work when they kill them. History has shown this to be a wise and true warning and we should take note of it if we are to become the bride – religious Rome has killed millions more of God's people than imperial Rome ever did under the Ceasars.

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yes, the time will come, that whosoever kills you will think that he is doing God a service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, or me.

John 16:2-3

Jesus realised that they would begin to be sorrowful as he was telling them these things, but he explained to them that if he did not go away then he could not send the Holy Chaperone to look after them. He told them

he had many things that he wanted to share with them but they were not able to bear it. There was so much he longed to tell them, but until the Holy Ghost was in them they would not understand, and so he encouraged them and told them that they would understand all the truth after he had gone away and the Holy Ghost has come to them. After all, Jesus did call 'The comforter the 'Spirit of Truth'.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is expedient for you that I go away: for if I don't go away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you ...I have still many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, he will guide you into all truth... **He shall glorify me:** for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father has are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

from John 16:7-15

One last Prayer

There is one more thing that Jesus wanted to do before he left them and that was to pray to his father in their presence. Public prayers are not personal, they are for the ears of the listener as well as the ears of God, and Jesus' prayer was no different. He wanted his future bride to know how he felt about his father and her future father-in-law and to know how his father felt about his beloved son. He also let them know, through his prayer,

that they were special and that he was not praying for the world, but those whom his father had called out of the world to be his special bride.

Please read the following words slowly and let me remind you again not to read them as some doctrinal monologue, but as the last painful and emotional words from a man who has to leave his beloved to go and die to purchase her.

Jesus, spoke these words and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify your Son, that your Son also may glorify you: As you have given him power over all flesh, **that he should give eternal life to as many as you have given him.** I have glorified you on the earth: I have finished the work which you gave me to do. And now, O Father, glorify me with your own self with the glory which I had with you before the world was. I have manifested your name unto the men which you gave me out of the world: yours they were, and you gave them to me; and they have kept your word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever you have given me are of you. For I have given unto them the words which you gave me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for those which you have given me; for they are yours. And all mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I am glorified in them.

from John 17:1-10

Jesus had made the covenant, but now he had to fulfil it. Promises are easy, but keeping them is another thing, and Jesus had not yet been forsaken by his father or faced the agony of Gethsemane where he asked his father if there was another acceptable way to redeem mankind.

The Ultimate Romance

Jesus ends his upper room dialogue with this prayer and at the end of it he talks in the most intimate and romantic manner. He talks of his desire to become one with them. He is letting them know that his desire is that they will be kept pure until he returns to take them and fulfil what marriage is all about – 'two becoming one'. The dowry and engagement, the marriage vows and marriage supper, are only a prelude to the one aim of cleaving together to become one flesh. In the spirit realm it isn't any different, for God longs to be one with his people and Christ longed to be one with his betrothed.

He is even now at the right hand of God waiting until the sons of God are manifest in their immortal bodies so that he can be one with them and inherit the kingdom prepared for them. I do not know of a more intimate passage in the whole bible than these verses from John. I am sure the Holy Ghost used John to pen these verses because he was the lover amongst the disciples. The one who leaned on Jesus' breast, the only disciple to write about the wedding feast in Cana of Gallilee.

That they all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that you have

sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **I in them, and you in me, that they may be made perfect in one**; and that the world may know that you have sent me, and have loved them, as you have loved me. Father, It is my will that they also, whom you have given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which you have given me: for you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world has not known you: but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me. And I have declared unto them your name, and will declare it: **that the love wherewith you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.**

from John 17:21-end

Leaving and Cleaving

You cannot cleave to one until you leave the other. We all belong to someone or something whether it is our parents, the world, or our possessions, and this is a fundamental principal; that a person cannot serve, or love two masters.

Right at the beginning of Genesis it says that a man will leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and they become one. Paul talks about this unique relationship and the fact that it is not wrong to leave father and mother if it is to cleave to a woman of your own. In his letter to the Ephesians it seems as though Paul is talking about physical relationships and marriage, but he then says an amazing thing. He says that really he

is only illustrating the fact that Jesus will also leave father and mother and cleave to his wife – the church – and become one.

So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loves his wife loves himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourishes and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: **but I speak concerning Christ and the church.**

Ephesians 5:28-32

Jesus could not be one with his bride unless, and until, he left his father in heaven, and throughout eternity he will cleave to his wife. The father will always be his father and he will love him, but his passion throughout eternity will be for those that he will cleave to in marriage. What an amazing and astounding revelation that we will, if we are faithful, have this lover as our husband throughout the 1,000 years of his reign and on into eternity. Our God is worth serving and any sacrifice we make will pale into insignificance when we are united as one with his son Jesus, our husband, redeemer, and lord.

That I may Know Him

Paul's prayer in Philippians was that he might know him (Jesus) and become one with him and, after the suffering, attain to the first resurrection of the bride.

That is my prayer and I trust it is the cry of every reader of this series. That is the only motive I have for writing these studies; that I may provoke those who have eyes to see and ears to hear to leave Babylon, travel the dangerous road to Israel, and to built the temple – the new Jerusalem which is the bride of Christ that will come down to the new earth as a bride adorned for her husband.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing you be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as you have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction,

The Holy Chaperone

whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

Philippians 3:10-end

In the next volume I will look at how the disciples managed to carry on with the message of the kingdom that John the Baptist and Jesus preached, in the aftermath of the cross. I will also look at the way that Babylon had such a power over Christ's church right from the beginning of this new dispensation.

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