

Can the World Be Restored?

Acts 3:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰And that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.



Our world is a mess. Our people are a mess. Our governments have no answers. We live in a time of the greatest enlightenment, the greatest knowledge and the greatest progress history has ever recorded; yet at the same time are experiencing the utter collapse of morality, respect and integrity. Was this all part of God's plan or are we beyond His scope? Can this world be restored or is it a hopeless loss?

Today's journey through prophecy will be based upon the approach of man's view of what matters through history, observations and music. All of what we see, fear and hope for as a race can be determined through these venues.

Music of the ages tells you what people were thinking about.

Introduction, History Channel Special (2011)

• <u>December 21, 2012</u>: Welcome to the last day on earth. Disaster has descended from the sky and the earth is shaken to its core. The oceans consume our shores and beyond. All modern technology fails. The world has shut down.



<u>Daniel 12:1</u>: (NASB) Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time...

<u>Zephaniah 3:8</u>: (NRSV) ⁸Therefore wait for me, says the LORD, for the day when I arise as a witness. For my decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out upon them my indignation, all the heat of my anger; for in the fire of my passion all the earth shall be consumed.

It can all sound so ominous and permanent - as though all of our effort is for nothing!



"Dust in the Wind," Kansas

Don't hang on, nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky
It slips away, all your money won't another minute buy
Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
Dust in the wind
Everything is dust in the wind



In the 1960's and 1970's in America, (especially in the context of the Vietnam War) there was a real sense of wanting to reclaim peace for the world. The music of the era reflected this.



<u>2 Peter 3:10-12</u>: (NASB) ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up...¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

Even Jesus, with all the hope and forgiveness he brought, spoke of earth shaking trouble!

<u>Matthew 24:29-31</u>: (NASB) ²⁹But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

(2011) Introduction, History Channel Special

• For thousands of years, prophets around the world have predicted the end of days. More than one suggests the Apocalypse is fast approaching. We call this theoretical convergence between Doom's Day prophecies and today's events - the Nostradamus Effect. It is a date that has become synonymous with the end: December 21, 2012. Why do so many people believe that on that day the world will experience an unprecedented cataclysm? Modern researchers point to unusual correlations across diverse cultures, all of which seem to predict that 2012 may be the year when we meet our demise.

Is all of this what we have to look forward to - the doom and destruction of the world?

<u>1 Corinthians 3:19-20</u>: (NASB) ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness before God. For it is written, He is the one who catches the wise in their craftiness; ²⁰ and again, The LORD knows the reasonings of the wise, that they are useless.

What does God's plan have for us to look forward to?

"Blowin' in the Wind," Peter, Paul and Mary

How many years must a mountain exist before it is washed to the sea?
How many years can some people exist before they're allowed to be free?
How many times can a man turn his head and pretend that he just doesn't see
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind The answer is blowing in the wind

Where is the answer?

Acts 2:1-4: (KJV) ¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



The answer is there, but there is a waiting and a faith requirement first:

<u>Psalms 46:1-3</u>: (NASB) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; ³Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

Romans 8:19-22: (NASB) ¹⁹For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

So, the world does long for an answer; they just do not understand it in the context of God's timing.

(1)) I Have a Dream, Martin Luther King, Every Valley Exalted

• I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made low; the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together. (Describing Isaiah 40:3-5) This is our hope; this is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

<u>Isaiah 40:3-5</u>: (NASB) ³A voice is calling, Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Let every valley be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; ⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

This is all part of the leveling process! Mountains in Scripture symbolically picture governments. The earthly governments will be reduced to rubble in order to make room for God's kingdom wherein the glory of the Lord will be revealed. ALL flesh will see it!









(Editor's Note: Does anyone else think that "1970's Jonathan" bears quite a resemblance to TV personality Kelly Ripa?)

))Asteroid DA14, Brian Williams, NBC (2012)



You'll be hearing a lot about this next item over the next eleven months, but astronomers have identified a new asteroid about 150 feet across which is headed our way and may come so close to earth that it will pass between us and the satellites orbiting in space above us. There is some debate in the scientific community about whether a direct hit is even possible. This is called "2012 DA14." They say this will be the closest pass of an asteroid in the history of tracking such things and again while this pass is supposed to miss us, the experts all say there is nothing wrong with making sure your affairs are in order.

How well does anyone remember that event? See how we build up and hype anticipation?

Rather than hype the sensational, why not focus on the rational promises of God?

Acts 17:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising him from the dead.



Justice is a centerpiece - through it all men will be able to choose the door of true freedom!

Romans 2:5-9: (NASB) ⁵But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶Who will render to each person according to his deeds: ⁷to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; (these are the true followers of Christ) ⁸but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. (Everybody else) ⁹There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek,

If God has such a great plan, with whom and where does it start? Are you in it? How about your neighbor?



"Sounds of Silence," Simon and Garfunkel

And the people bowed and prayed to the neon god they made
And the sign flashed out its warning in the words that it was forming
And the sign said, the words of the prophets are written on the subway walls and tenement halls
And whispered in the sounds of silence

What are the words of the true prophets?

Zechariah 8:20-23: (NASB) ²⁰Thus says the LORD of hosts; it will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. ²¹The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go. ²²So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. ²³Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.

Isaiah 62:1-2: (NASB) ¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not keep quiet, until her righteousness goes forth like brightness, and her salvation like a torch that is burning. ²The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; and you will be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will designate.

For the kingdom on earth, Israel is the starting point for the glory of God for ALL men. The "Peace Train" leaves from Jerusalem!







"Peace Train," Cat Stevens

Now I've been crying lately
Thinking about the world as it is
Why must we go on hating
Why can't we live in bliss
Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train
Oh, peace train take this country
Come take me home again
Oh, peace train sounding louder
Glide on the peace train

Man's future is built upon the foundation of the sacrifice of Jesus:

<u>Isaiah 42:1-4</u>: (NASB) ¹Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. ³A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick he will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.

Has the "peace train" yet arrived? Not yet, but we can have comfort knowing so many prophecies promise that it will.

Peace *does* come through turmoil! Let's finish the verse we started at the beginning of this program:

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. ⁹For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

Later in the same chapter:

<u>Zephaniah 3:20</u>: (NASB) At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Restoring something implies going back to its original form. So much needs restoring!



"New World Coming," Mama Cass Elliot

There's a brand new morning
Rising clear and sweet and free
There's a new day dawning
That belongs to you and me
Yes, a new world's coming
The one we've had visions of
Coming in peace, coming in joy
Coming in love

Mama Cass Elliot was right...there IS a new world coming!



This kingdom - this new world - truly does belong to everyone!

Isaiah 45:22-24: (NASB) ²²Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other. ²³I have sworn by Myself, the word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness and will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance. ²⁴They will say of Me, only in the LORD are righteousness and strength. Men will come to Him, and all who were angry at Him will be put to shame.

Wouldn't God have failed if He created this earth just to have it burn with most of His creation? Good thing the Scriptures tell us differently. A faint promise began all the way back in the Garden of Eden with Genesis 3:15 and the promise that the seed (Jesus) of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). Even though things went badly off course for humanity, there was a sense something great was already planned. Revelation 13:8 tells us that the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world. God had it all in hand before it happened, but He allowed the experience of sin, evil, degradation and death to exist as an education. Mankind will never want to repeat those mistakes.

))Introduction, Future Earth Addicted to Power, MSNBC Documentary

A ship carrying gas explodes in Boston harbor. A Chinese dam collapses
unleashing a fifty foot tidal wave. The East Coast is plunged into days of
darkness by a blackout, and in London the train carrying nuclear waste crashes
enveloping the city in a radioactive cloud. These nightmare scenarios could
happen because we have become addicted to energy, and like any addict we
don't care how we get our fix but now the consequences could lead to global
disasters.

Zephaniah 1:18: (NASB) Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to deliver them on the day of the LORD'S wrath; And all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, for He will make a complete end, indeed a terrifying one, of all the inhabitants of the earth.

"End of the World as We Know It," REM

It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it
It's the end of the world as we know it,
(It's time I had some time alone)
and I feel fine
I feel fine

We also ought to "feel fine" because we have the sure word of God's prophecies that help us to understand it is not the end of all things; it is the end of an age. God has a greater plan in store.



A caller from Connecticut suggests: <u>Isaiah 26:9</u>: With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.



Some things are promised to never change:

Jeremiah 31:35-37,40: (NASB) ³⁵Thus says the LORD, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; The LORD of hosts is His name: ³⁶If this fixed order departs from before Me, declares the LORD, Then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever. ³⁷Thus says the LORD, If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done, declares the LORD... ⁴⁰And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD; it will not be plucked up or overthrown anymore forever.

God set the basic functions of the earth in order. These will be restored because God said so.

"From a Distance," (Verse 1) Bette Midler

From a distance
We all have enough
And no one is in need
And there are no guns, no bombs and no disease
No hungry mouths to feed
From a distance
We are instruments
Marching in a common band
Playing songs of hope
Playing songs of peace
They are the songs of every man
God is watching us
God is watching us
God is watching us
From a distance

From a distance, God is not only watching us, he is assuring us through prophecy that all is in hand - what God promises, God does:

Isaiah 55:8-11: (NASB) *For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. *10For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; *11So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

God's word is as sure as the cycles of nature that we can plainly see.

So, from a distance comes this prophecy that war will forever cease!

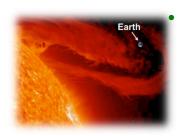
<u>Isaiah 2:2-4</u>: (NASB) ²Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.





What does this kingdom feel like?

Something is going on, News story on solar flares (2012)



This is a serious story because the latest round of solar flares captured in this incredible video - take a look at this - is from NASA overnight. The burst that you're seeing there - charged particles erupting off the surface of the sun and we saw an even bigger solar flare Tuesday night. Right now all those particles are racing towards the earth about four million miles per hour and it's growing as it gets closer to us. On top of that, the problems will arise when the flares reach the earth's magnetic field. Apparently that is when we could see mass power outages...

The earth and the systems of the universe are meant to perpetuate life, not destroy it!

Ecclesiastes 1:4-7: (NASB) ⁴A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. ⁵Also, the sun rises and the sun sets; And hastening to its place it rises there again. ⁶Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns. ⁷All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.

God has a plan, not only for the earth, but for all of mankind through the ransom of Jesus.

From a Distance " (Verse 2) Potto Midle

"From a Distance," (Verse 2) Bette Midler

From a distance
You look like my friend
Even though we are at war
From a distance
I just cannot comprehend
What all this fighting is for
From a distance
There is harmony
And it echoes through the land
And it's the hope of hopes
It's the love of loves
It's the heart of every man



It's the hope of hopes It's the love of loves This is the song of every man

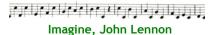
From a distance we have the promises. Now we need to get ourselves in harmony with them - the stronger our harmony the stronger our belief!

Jesus taught us to pray for God's kingdom here on earth:

<u>Matthew 6:9-10</u>: (NASB) ⁹Pray, then, in this way: Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, **on earth** as it is in heaven.

Daniel 7:13-14: (NKJV) ¹³I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought him near before Him. ¹⁴Then to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.

It feels safe and secure!



Imagine there's no countries
It isn't hard to do
Nothing to kill or die for
And no religion too
Imagine all the people
Living life in peace...
You may say I'm a dreamer
But I'm not the only one

We really don't have to imagine, when it is all written down for us!

Isaiah 65:21-25: (NRSV) ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent - its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all My holy mountain, says the LORD.

It feels complete!



New World Colling, Mailla Cass Ethoc

Yes a new world's coming
The one we've had visions of
Coming in peace, coming in joy, coming in love

Because the price has been paid, the delivery of this kingdom is guaranteed!

<u>Isaiah 9:6-7</u>: (NRSV) ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and **there shall be endless peace** for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

It feels overwhelmingly right!



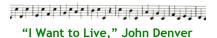
Is all of this too good to be true?

Blowin' in the Wind," Peter, Paul and Mary

How many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
How many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
How many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?
The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind
The answer is blowing in the wind.

No! It is too true to be ignored!

Psalms 145:9-13: (NRSV) ⁹The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that He has made. ¹⁰All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless You. ¹¹They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom, and tell of Your power, ¹²to make known to all people Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. ¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all His words, and gracious in all His deeds.





We are standing all together, face to face and arm in arm
We are standing on the threshold of a dream
No more hunger, no more killing, no more wasting life away
It is simply an idea and I know its time has come
I want to live, I want to grow, I want to see, I want to know,
I want to share what I can give, I want to be,
I want to live, I want to grow, I want to see, I want to know,
I want to share what I can give, I want to be, I want to live

We are at the threshold - of a reality, not a dream!

Revelation 21:3-4: (NASB) ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

)) Free at last, Martin Luther King,

• Let freedom ring! And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that

day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"



Free at last!

1 Corinthians 15:22: (NASB) For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.



Isaiah 35:5-10: (KJV) ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

<u>Daniel 2:44</u>: (NKJV) And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

The kingdom of God comes in the context of the kingdoms of this world. Those old kingdoms need to be broken down to make way for the new, everlasting kingdom of God. All the prophecies about the governments falling apart have a great ending.

Revelation 11:15: (NRSV) Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign forever and ever.

And so it is, this world in its present state will pass away, but the earth and the human creation will, by the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus, be granted eternity. Once God's kingdom is established, every knee will bow. There will be a unity in humankind unsurpassed in all of human history.

"Every Knee Shall Bow," Twila Paris

Come the dawn of the Prince of Peace
Like the morning after rain
There shall be no more hatred
Neither sorrow, neither pain
And every knee shall bow
Every knee shall bow
We kneel before You now
And every knee shall bow
We kneel before You now
And every knee shall bow

So, can the world be restored?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!





Here are a few Scriptures that show how the New Testament defines the two parts to salvation and the comprehensiveness of salvation:

SO, WHO is benefitted by the free gift? Romans 5 clearly shows all benefit - but especially a few...

Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, ("The many" MUST mean all humanity according to the previous context. This is discussed further down) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This MUST mean the same "the many" - all humanity) ¹⁶The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. ¹⁷For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (Again, who did death reign over? Everyone! The many!) much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called out ones! This shows a reign for them - an authority that they are given.)

<u>1 Timothy 4:10</u>: (KJV) For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, <u>specially</u> of those that believe.

Two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom!

The advocate concept:

<u>1 John 2:1-2</u>: (NASB) ¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

So, this "advocate" relationship is describing those whom Jesus stands for versus those whom he mediates for - two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom!

Back to Romans:

Romans 5:18-21: (NASB) ¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. (Okay - no qualifier - all humanity is clearly included - referred to as "all.") ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. (Again, this is about ALL humanity - here referred to as "the many." All humankind both ways - makes the point clearer!) ²⁰The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, (the more clearly sin was defined, the more powerfully grace would apply.) ²¹so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Grace replaces sin on a wholesale scale!)

1 Timothy 2:3-4: (KJV) ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge <1922> of the truth.

Knowledge: Strongs #1922. epignwsiv epignosis ep-ig'-no-sis; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement: —(ac-)knowledge(-ing, -ment).

This is BACKWARDS from what we understand as the Christian approach: Romans 10:13: (NASB) for Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.



Now, seeing that there are two paths to salvation, this next verse, the previous context of Romans 5 above makes more sense:

Romans 5:9-10: (NASB) ⁹Much more then, having now been justified by his blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through him. ¹⁰For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

- We shall be saved from the wrath of God through him The path of the unbeliever must pass through wrath the great day of judgment.
- Having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. The path of the true Christian must pass through belief, faith and sacrifice.

This defines the comprehensiveness of the plan:

Ephesians 1:7-14: (NRSV) ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Evidences of being chosen:

- Redemption through his blood
- Forgiveness of our trespasses
- He has made known to us the mystery of his will
- A plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Him; things in heaven and things on earth
- We have also obtained an inheritance
- Marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit (the pledge of our inheritance)

One last text on the earthly look of the kingdom:

Micah 4:1-5: (NASB) ¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. (Where - heaven or earth?) ²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. (Who seeks God - Christians?) For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. (Who reaps the benefit of righteous judgment?) Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. ⁵Though all the peoples walk each in the name of his god, as for us, we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. All of this is what Jesus paid for on earth!