

Preach the Gospel! What Does That Mean?

Luke 13:23: (NASB) *And someone said to him, Lord, are there just a few who are being saved?*



We live in a time and place where we are blessed with freedom of speech, and that means we have freedom to preach. Preach what? The gospel of Christ of course! Depending on your perspective, the "good news" of the gospel can mean a wide variety of things. When we present Jesus to someone, are we showing them the true gospel? Is physical abundance and blessing, or escaping from a burning place of torment the point? Is having your sicknesses healed or experiencing powerful emotions of peace and safety the point? Jesus and his

apostles showed us what the gospel was and is, and to be honest, it looks a lot different than many have portrayed it. Let's take a critical look at the essence of the gospel as we have this time of unparalleled freedom to share it with others.

We would like to take a moment to be thankful for the freedom we have in our country, especially the freedom of speech. We thank God for the opportunities to preach the gospel.



Our tagline is, "Think about the Bible like you never have before." Most Christians know the hymn, "Tell Me the Old, Old Story." Does our tagline conflict with or change this "old, old story"? There is a lot to that story, so as we "look at the Bible like we never have before," let's figure it out.

Why does the core meaning of the gospel have many different interpretations?

The gospel is great news for all:

Luke 2:10-11: (NASB) *¹⁰But the angel said to them, Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

Or is it?

Luke 13:24: (NASB) *Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.*

God loves and provides for all:

2 Peter 3:9: (NASB) *The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.*

Or does He?

Matthew 22:14: (NASB) *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

Jesus' sacrifice satisfies ALL sins:

1 John 2:2: (NASB) *And he himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*

Or does it?

Matthew 7:13-14: (NASB) *¹³Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*



The earth is a big part of the good news of the gospel:

Habakkuk 2:14: (NASB) *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Or is it?

2 Peter 3:10: (NASB) *But 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.*

Obviously, Scriptures are read with different perspectives, but how do we harmonize the Bible?



The true gospel is a broad message of salvation for all based upon several moving parts that can easily be misunderstood as contradictory. We need to see the whole picture.

In order to figure out the gospel, we need to be able to step back far enough so we can see the big picture.

Matthew 13:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰*And the disciples came and said to him, Why do you speak to them in parables? ¹¹Jesus answered them, To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.*

Jesus tells us everyone is not going to understand. The gospel message is clear and concise, and it is good news which is what the word gospel means.

It seems like more questions than answers. At this point it is hard to even determine what is "good news."

With all of the conflicting conclusions about whom the gospel helps, why not start at the beginning?

Starting where the first human evidences of the gospel appear is the most sensible thing to do. By laying that foundation, what we will begin to see is how God's plan for the gospel was always in place, right from the start. This thoroughly confirms why the gospel is the centerpiece of God's plan.



Benjamin Franklin: *God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid? We have been assured in the Sacred Writings that except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. I firmly believe this. I also believe that, without His concurring aid, we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel. [Constitutional Convention, 1787 original speech manuscript.]*

Freedom of religion in the United States is often misunderstood and misrepresented.

 Introduction, *The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion in the US, History.com*

- *Freedom of religion: The First Amendment of the Constitution contains some of the most fundamental freedoms of our country, including freedom of speech, press, protest, assembly, and last but not least, religion. Religious liberty is a fundamental component of our society, and the separation between church and state is what made the founding of America so revolutionary. Many, if not most colonists, came to the New World seeking religious tolerance and the freedom to worship as they chose. By the time of the American Revolution there were many denominations in churches in the colonies competing with one another. The founders believed the only way to prevent the new nation from being torn apart by religious factions was to sever ties between the state and churches.*



Severing ties between the state and churches is an important concept we have going for us here in the United States. Politics and religion are completely separate, and history shows how bad it can be when church and state are joined.

Is each person in this confused world really responsible for hearing and accepting the gospel?



**ALL OF THE SOLID FOUNDATIONS
OF THE GOSPEL ARE
LAID OUT IN GENESIS.**

There is so much in the book of Genesis that shows us God's plan.

Why did Jesus come? Here are **three keys to his work**, all found in the sentencing of the first sin:



1. Jesus would come to destroy the usurper (Satan) and rescue the world:
Genesis 3:15: (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

God told Satan, "You are going to die." This veiled prophecy was given to Satan at the very beginning, showing us the work of Jesus. Jesus was sent to save the world from Satan's influence.

John 3:17: (NASB) *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. (While NOT judging the world, He did judge Israel.)*



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Facebook comment: The gospel in a nutshell - Jesus lived, Jesus died, Jesus lives.

This comment captures the essence of the true meaning of the gospel.



2. Death would reign over all humanity until Jesus opened the door to life:

Genesis 3:17,19: (NASB) ¹⁷Then to Adam He said... Cursed is the ground because of you... ¹⁹By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

God's harsh but just promise to Adam was death. Adam's sentence was therefore the sentence for the rest of the world.

John 3:16: (NASB) For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Jesus came to take the perishing away. What about the condition of *whoever believes in him shall not perish*? We will address this soon.



3. Adam's sin destroyed or ruined man's harmony with God. Jesus rescued that ruined relationship:

Genesis 3:21-23: (NASB) ²¹The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (God's protection was an act of mercy.) ²²Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever— ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden... (Losing the privilege of living in the garden was an act of justice.)

Zacchaeus:

Luke 19:9-10: (NASB) ⁹And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and **to save** that which was lost.

Jesus was not just referring to Zacchaeus, but all that humanity lost through sin.

Save: Greek English Lexicon - to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction

God protected the Garden of Eden. Jesus opened the door so man could go back to it.

Further in Genesis, the gospel's foundation would be reinforced through a life of faithfulness:

Genesis 22:15-18: (NASB) ¹⁵Then the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, By Myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.

What a beautiful picture - Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son, just as God was willing to sacrifice His son. God pours out His care for Abraham and blesses him - *in your seed (lineage) all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.* God PROMISES again that through Abraham ALL of humanity will be blessed. That is the gospel!





The true gospel did NOT start with Jesus; rather its construction began with God's plan and it was built by the faithful actions of God-honoring men before Jesus came.

The gospel had its inception long before Jesus came to earth.

It is awe-inspiring to see the gospel through the eyes of God's plan unfolding 4,000 years before Jesus.

**The gospel is seeded in ancient history.
What role do true followers of Jesus play in its message?**

Here is where we fast forward to Jesus' earthly ministry. What did that ministry produce? His apostles thought the kingdom would be soon established, and they were wrong. The purpose of his ministry was to call out the ones who would be called upon to preach, teach and live his message.

At the very beginning of the gospel as we know it, the apostles did not have the right understanding because they did not have the holy Spirit.

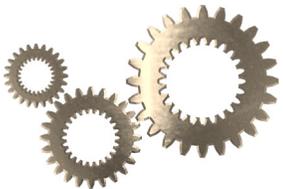


Alexander Hamilton: *For my own part, I sincerely esteem it (the Constitution) a system which without the finger of God, never could have been suggested and agreed upon by such a diversity of interests. [1787 after the Constitutional Convention.]*

 **First Amendment 1791, *The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion in the US, History.com***

- *The First Amendment was ratified in 1791. Freedom of religion as outlined in the First Amendment is split into two parts. The establishment clause - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. And the free exercise clause - or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. Basically, this language guaranteed that the government would have no official religion nor would it prevent anyone from practicing their own beliefs.*

Is the gospel only for those who want it? Is it by invitation only?



The Gospel's Process: For the gospel to be eternal "good news" it must be systematically built.

Jesus is THE centerpiece of this whole building process:

Galatians 3:16: (NASB) *Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, and to seeds, as referring to many, but rather to one, and to your seed, that is, Christ.*

In the last segment we talked about *the seed* promised to Abraham. *The seed* is referring to Jesus who would bless all the families of the earth.



A key gospel factor behind Jesus is discipleship. This (perhaps surprisingly) IS by invitation only. The *discipleship* is not for everyone, but the *gospel* is:
John 6:44: (NASB) *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.*

This was exclusive. Jesus says, *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. It is by invitation only.*



Several texts tell us there are only a few accepted. Why?

Galatians 3:26-29: (NASB) ²⁶*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.* ²⁷*For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.* ²⁸*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* ²⁹*And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.*

What was the promise?

To be an heir of the promise is to inherit what the seed of Abraham inherited - the privilege to bless all the families of the earth.

The gospel that is AT WORK today is the calling out of those who will be implementing the gospel tomorrow:

1 Peter 2:9-10: (NASB) ⁹*But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;* ¹⁰*for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

The calling out of a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession is giving responsibilities and privileges to those called out to bless - Jews and Gentiles alike (all called to walk as Jesus did) to prepare them for their great future work.

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Facebook comment: The gospel is good news to be preached with a happy heart cheerfully, not as a duty fearfully.

It is good news for everybody. Gently and mercifully give the good news where it is appropriate. If people do not want to hear it, it is okay.

The task of walking as Jesus did is one of the greatest privileges any human being can have:

Matthew 5:14,16: (NASB) ¹⁴*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden;* ¹⁶*Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

We are to let our light shine. With great privilege comes great responsibility and great trials.

This task is also one of the greatest life-testing experiences any human being can have:

Romans 8:28: (NASB) *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

The gospel for today is by invitation only, but that does not mean everyone else is left out. It is just not their turn yet.



With testing comes protection:

Romans 8:33-34: (NASB) ³³Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; ³⁴who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is he who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

If we are acting in a righteous, moral and scripturally sound way, our protection from God is there. We can have trials and make mistakes, but Jesus intercedes for us.



The true gospel is squarely built upon the shoulders of Jesus. Secondly, it is built upon the faithfulness of his footstep followers. What a responsibility and privilege!

Even though the gospel was revealed prophetically in Genesis, it was built upon Jesus and all the work he did thousands of years later. He called out his followers to help him bless humanity.

With this kind of responsibility before us it really sinks in how important our everyday faithfulness really is.

Jesus' followers are in. Do all the unbelievers of the world REALLY benefit from the gospel as well?

This is perhaps the most vital question to explore as we uncover the expansiveness of the gospel message. Agreement in principle on the destiny of those who clearly follow Jesus is easy. What is challenging is grasping the biblical teachings that also give all *unbelievers* opportunity for life as well.



George Washington: No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men more than the people of the United States. Every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency. [The day of his swearing in as America's First President: April 30, 1789 to March 3, 1797; www.eadshome.com]

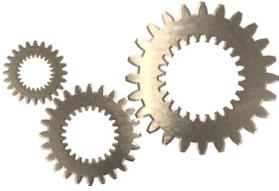
There were principles of godliness that drove them and helped them to create something and gave equity a chance.

 **Separation of church and state, *The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion in the US, History.com***

- The phrase "separation of church and state" wasn't actually included in the Bill of Rights or the Constitution. Thomas Jefferson used the phrase in an 1802 letter to the Danbury Baptist Association. In 1971, the Supreme Court in *Lemon v. Kurtzman* created a three-pronged criteria to ensure government policies or acts do not violate religious freedoms. First, a policy cannot have a religious purpose. Second, it cannot end up promoting or favoring any set of religious beliefs; and third, it cannot overly involve the government with religion.*

Religion is about spirituality and godliness and does not mix with politics.

Do people who are oblivious to God and His ways even deserve the good news of the gospel?



The Gospel's Process: The historical foundation of sin and its treatment is in place (in Genesis). Jesus paid the full price that makes the gospel a guaranteed reality (in Jesus' sacrifice). His followers are identified as faithful instruments of gospel reconciliation. Now comes the opportunity of the gospel for the whole world.

It is not a different gospel. It is the development of the gospel in steps.



John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of **judgment <2920>**.

One mistranslated word can change the focus. The King James Version uses the word *damnation* instead of *judgment* which can make God look like a monster and contradict His loving and merciful character.

Judgment: Strongs 2920 1) a separating, sundering, separation; 1a) a trial, contest; 2) selection; 3) judgment

Judgment is a process. A resurrection of judgment is not a resurrection of final destination but *a resurrection of first opportunity*. This IS the good news of the gospel.

The gospel has different working parts. We will look at two essential parts working together.

- The role of the called-out faithful Christians - the true church.
- The benefit the world gets from it.

This is THE good news of the gospel:

2 Corinthians 5:18-19: (NASB) **Role of the true church:** ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, **The world's benefit:** ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them (this is possible because the ransom of Jesus paid the price), and **Role of the true church:** He has committed to us the word of reconciliation (the gospel).

Presenting the clarity of the gospel and its application to every human life is part of what the true church is supposed to be living now and implementing later.

The world's benefit: Jesus' sacrifice touched ALL who were touched by Adam's sin:

Romans 5:15: (NASB) *But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many (no one was exempt from death, so 'the many' means 'all').*

The role of the true church: Here is a limited promise to the called-out ones:

Romans 5:17: (NASB) ¹⁷For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ.

The true church will reign over the world.

The world's benefit: Here is the universal application to all human race:

Romans 5:18: (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.

Every person who receives condemnation receives justification. This is the gospel! Throughout the Bible we have this perfect message of salvation shown to us.

The role of the true church:

Romans 8:18-22: (NASB) ¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 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...

The world's benefit:

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.

The Scriptures are clear - the gospel works for us AND them. They will be set free from slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. They all suffer up to the moment of freedom. This is the way it was designed from the start. In Genesis we see the promise to Satan. The seed of the woman (Jesus) will bruise the serpent's head. Satan, who brought sin into humanity, is terminated. That is the gospel! There is a role the called-out ones today play for the time of resurrection for those who benefit from them tomorrow. *In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.*



**The true gospel
is broad enough in reach
to hold the entire human race.**

Jesus will cancel sin and death for Adam and the entire human race. It does not mean they have a free pass, but they will have an opportunity. Seeing the results of the open door to life the gospel brings to all helps us to be focused and driven.



**We have seen the moving parts of the gospel in action.
What does its actual fulfillment look like?**

One of the most powerful points of this whole conversation is how the gospel - the good news - has always been with humanity, even if it began as subtle actions and prophecy. What we are witnessing is the ever-growing power that God's plan through the gospel is preparing to soon unleash upon all.



George Washington: Of all the dispositions and habits which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable supports... And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion... Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail to the exclusion of religious principle. [George Washington's farewell address in 1796.]

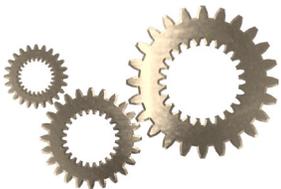
Now we are trying to have "morality" without "religious principles." George Washington advised against this.

Practical application of the separation of church and state, *The First Amendment: Freedom of Religion in the US, History.com*

- *How does that translate into the world? It's probably best exemplified in our public schools where neither teachers or students are allowed to lead a class in prayer because that would mean the school is promoting a particular religion above others. Educators can teach about religion in the context of history and can't preach its tenets or beliefs. Religious extracurricular activities can take place, but they must be organized and run by students and be held during non-school hours. The founding fathers, based on the experience of their ancestors and their own beliefs, managed to forge a government whose freedoms are as important today as they were then. And freedom of religion continues to be one of the most important liberties that makes America, America.*

Freedom of religion is not freedom from religion. Freedom of religion means giving people the opportunity to worship in a way they see fit - with respect.

What is the absolute bottom-line message of the gospel?



The Gospel's Process: The world HAS been ransomed from the curse of Adam, and therefore according to God's justice, will have an opportunity for life. This present world must first dissolve.

What is being dissolved? The systems.

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. (This is symbolic language.)

Once the time of trouble and Armageddon are over, the landscape changes dramatically as the removal of the broken systems of imperfect human government open the door to true godly learning:

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.



The core of the gospel message is all humanity has the opportunity for godliness.

This learning begins with the resurrection:

Acts 24:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*But this I admit to you, that according to the way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets; ¹⁵having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

The righteous are those who followed Christ, and *the wicked* are those who died in their sins. Remember, the vast majority of humanity was not called to follow Christ. *There shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked* - this is the point at which the world's reconciliation begins.

Now the gospel begins to shine with the dramatic process of removing sin and infusing perfection:

Isaiah 35:5-7: (NASB) ⁵*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped (physical and spiritual blindness and deafness). ⁶Then the lame (physical and those not able to walk in righteousness) will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes.*

Along with the correction of all physical maladies comes the correction of sinful thoughts and actions pictured in the progress made by moving towards a destination.

Details of reconciliation:

Isaiah 35:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness (this replaces the broad road to destruction). The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it (they will be educated as they go). ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there (Satan and his influence). But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and the ransomed of the LORD (those who died in their sins) will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.*

The ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting - they will be raised. The world of mankind who died in their sins goes up the broad highway of holiness. The called-out church walk a narrow way - a difficult way. This IS the gospel which started in Genesis.



Simply stated - the true gospel message is good news for all.

Its foundations, processes, applications and results of godly harmony are what we should be preaching.

God showed us from the beginning how He pre-planned and has it all under control. Through Jesus and his sacrifice, all the doors are opened. Thank you, God, for the incredible hope we have.

**So, preach the gospel! What does that mean?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**



**Join us next week for our podcast on July 8, 2019:
Ep. #1081: Does God Really Love Humanity? Part II**

Bonus Material!

Simplicity does not precede complexity, but follows it. — Alan Perlis

Remember, the whole point of the gospel is for the footstep followers of Jesus to participate in the reconciliation of the world of mankind to God:

1 John 2:1-2: (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.

The righteous judgment of those who are blessed:

Daniel 7:13-14: (NRSV) ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Jeremiah 31:29-34: (NRSV) ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, Know the LORD, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The peaceful world of those who are blessed:

Zephaniah 3:9: (KJV) For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) ¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of



his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. ⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

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.

This is all, according to Scripture, unmistakably on earth:

Habakkuk 2:14: (KJV) *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Psalms 22:27: (KJV) *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.*

Psalms 86:9: (KJV) *All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.*

Isaiah 11:9: (KJV) *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

Zechariah 14:9: (KJV) *And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.*

Revelation 11:15: (KJV) *And 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.*

