



When Jesus Prayed, “Thy Kingdom Come,” What Did He Mean?

Isaiah 11:9: (NASB) *They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*



The Lord’s prayer in Matthew chapter 6 is perhaps the most commonly-quoted teaching of Jesus. This prayer is simple and pointed in its focus. *Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.* This beginning teaches us not only to acknowledge God as Father but to hallow, to reverence, His very name. The next phrase is also simple, perhaps too simple. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.* Many take this as a two-part statement, first hoping for God’s kingdom and then hoping for God’s will to be done on earth. But is it actually two parts? Is this a petition of hope for two different things, or is it a petition for one

glorious and often forgotten part of God’s plan - His kingdom on earth? The entire Bible shouts out a resounding answer to this question!

Before we get started, today, June 12, 2023, is Christian Question’s 25th anniversary! When we were sitting in the manager’s office at the WSUB radio station over 25 years ago, we were talking to him about the idea for Christian Questions. We told him we wanted to let everybody know the Bible has hope for every man, woman and child - and that everybody deserves hope. His response was, “Great, let’s see what you got!”



Christian Questions
Think about the Bible like you never have before



Now 25 years later, here we are, still preaching the exact same hope!

Today’s episode is built on what that initial idea was all about, *Thy kingdom come...*

Understanding the kingdom of God can be confusing.

Jesus taught the kingdom was among them when he walked the earth. Here is what he said when John the Baptist was imprisoned:

Matthew 4:17: (NASB) *From that time Jesus began to preach and say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*

As we open up details regarding God’s kingdom, we understand there are two main phases to its unfolding. The fact that Jesus talked about it being *at hand*, gave the idea of, “Here it is!” The first phase is happening right now in what we call the Gospel Age - the time when the gospel message has been going forth. Jesus proclaimed the kingdom was at hand and spoke many parables explaining a “present phase” of that kingdom.



In the words of Jesus, the phrases *kingdom of God* and *kingdom of heaven* are interchangeable.

Jesus used interchangeably → **GOD**
THE KINGDOM OF → **HEAVEN**

How do we know? Both are used in the same parable found in two different gospels:

Matthew 13:31: (NASB) *He presented another parable to them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven** is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field.*

Luke 13:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸So he was saying, What is **the kingdom of God** like, and to what shall I compare it? ¹⁹It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden...

 **The kingdom of *heaven* *God* is like a mustard seed...**

It is important to look at the same parable in the different gospels to understand more fully. We see this wonderful connection between the *kingdom of heaven* and the *kingdom of God*. This really shows the big picture of God's kingdom. We want to focus on the big picture rather than the pieces.

The parables in which Jesus spoke of the *kingdom of heaven* and the *kingdom of God* were all lessons about the context in which the true church (those who are part of the first phase of the kingdom) would be developed here and now.



Jesus also taught that the kingdom held stations of honor for his faithful followers:

Matthew 18:2-4: (NASB) ²And he called a child to himself and set him before them, ³and said, Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

We have to *become like children* with qualities such as being teachable, resilient, forgiving, full of energy and being in awe of everything around us. In addition, we are to be like children in the willingness to be taught and guided, to see that which is good and to trust in Jesus who guides us. It is important for true followers of Christ to have this childlike enthusiasm.



How does this verse show stations of honor?



Jesus says, *Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.* This tells us there are apparently levels of greatness. The more humble we are and the more willing to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the higher the station. There is a lot of work to be done in the kingdom by the true followers of Christ. Different stations or levels tell us there is more to this than we might have first realized. More on this soon!



Jesus also taught the kingdom was still coming:

Luke 22:17-18: (NASB) ¹⁷And when he had taken a cup and given thanks, he said, Take this and share it among yourselves; ¹⁸for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.



This is the night before Jesus was crucified. He was sharing the memorial of his death with his truest followers. In other words, "I will share this solemnity with you again once the kingdom comes."

We can tell he referred to different parts of the kingdom when he said the *kingdom of heaven is at hand and then until the kingdom of God comes*.

It is this future phase of the kingdom Jesus told us to pray for:

Matthew 6:9-10: (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.*

We are to dwell on reverence for God and His future kingdom on earth. Those are the first two important pieces in this prayer.

- 1 ➤ Revere the name of God: *Hallowed by Your name*.
- 2 ➤ Pray for His future kingdom: *Thy kingdom come*.

The first phase of the kingdom is about the development of those who will be in heaven with Christ and the destruction of the present social systems, like governments and religious organizations.

Jesus introduces the second phase of the kingdom - the kingdom on earth - by telling us to always think about it and pray for it. This second phase includes the resurrection of all and the rebuilding of a righteous, permanent society; the true church in heaven reconciles the earth and its inhabitants back to God).

It is something to look forward to - *Thy kingdom come* is an important aspect of how this works.



The Bible tells us God's kingdom has a present, developmental phase focused on establishing the true church - *the body of Christ*. Make no mistake, when we talk about the true church we are not talking about some building or denomination - we are talking about *the body of Christ*, the individual followers of Christ.

These are developed to not only be with Jesus (every Christian looks forward to being with Jesus), but to WORK with him for the purpose of worldwide reconciliation.

Jesus is THE WAY that all of this is possible, and the true church is privileged to work beside him:

Colossians 1:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸*He is also head of the body, the church; and he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*



Notice the connection to the body members. When Jesus is elevated, so is his "body." We cannot separate the two. The faithful church members are called to help reconcile all things to God by helping to bless the world in the future.

It is like these verses are shouting!

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him, and through him to reconcile ALL THINGS to Himself - it is not to reconcile just the few who are called. Having made peace through the blood of his cross - the peace gives the opportunity for mankind's reconciliation with God by satisfying justice.



The church - the true church - the body of Christ is right there with him. Going to heaven is not sitting on some cloud, playing a harp. It is working with Jesus in this reconciliation.

In addition to working with Jesus, those individual followers who make up his true church will be able to reign with him as well:

Revelation 5:9-10: (NASB) ⁹And they sang a new song, saying, Worthy are you to take the book and to break its seals; for you were slain, and purchased for God with your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. ¹⁰You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.

We are told his faithful followers will reign with Jesus from heaven as *kings and priests* - spiritual guides.

Those followers are being developed for this all-important work right now.

Revelation 1:6: (NKJV) *and has made us kings and priests to his God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

Revelation 3:21-22: (NASB) ²¹He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne. ²²He who has an ear, let him hear what the spirit says to the churches.

Notice the immense promise here in these verses. While Revelation is highly symbolic, the idea of being *kings and priests* is verified through Revelation 5:10 as well.

We have this very significant privilege that shows us the true church is put in place to do a work for others. This is why we are talking about the kingdom in two phases. The first phase (the development of the true church and the destruction of the present systems) is preparing those who are going to help with the second phase (the resurrection of all and the rebuilding of a righteous, permanent society; the true church in heaven reconciles the earth and its inhabitants back to God).

These two phases overlap in time but help us differentiate between *the kingdom is among you* and *pray for the kingdom to come*.

Connecting Key Kingdom Pieces:



God's kingdom is an absolute centerpiece of His plan for His creation. So far, we can see that its clear development began when Jesus came, for he was and is the central reason for the kingdom being a reality. The first phase of this kingdom is developmental. It began with Jesus and develops through the spiritual faithfulness of his truest followers.



As with so many things in the plan of God, there is first a developmental phase. Everything must start somewhere, and with God's plan, while sometimes things are big and dramatic, it usually unfolds in little pieces not originally recognized. The development of God's kingdom follows this pattern.

Seeing the amazing promises given to the true church in this age are just a mere glimpse of what God's kingdom is bringing us.

**The kingdom of God comes through the true church.
Who does it come to and how does that happen?**

As with many biblical truths, God's kingdom does not look like it is following a straight and clearly defined pathway. The developmental first phase of preparing the body of Christ for their future role has already taken about 2,000 years and is not yet over. Our next step is to understand how this phase ends and what happens to trigger the next phase into reality.

When we look at how God's plan has worked through the ages, there is a “working through something” part, and a slow ending with a new beginning that usually overlaps in time.

 **How does the first phase of the kingdom end and the second phase start?**
 What is presently in place must first be removed.

This has been prophesied in the Bible for thousands of years:

Daniel 12:1-4: (NASB) *¹Now 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 (“trouble” in the King James Version) such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.*

The name *Michael* means “who as God.” It is fitting for God's son, Jesus, to be the one who represents God. This great time of trouble will be a transition period to bring in the second phase of the kingdom.

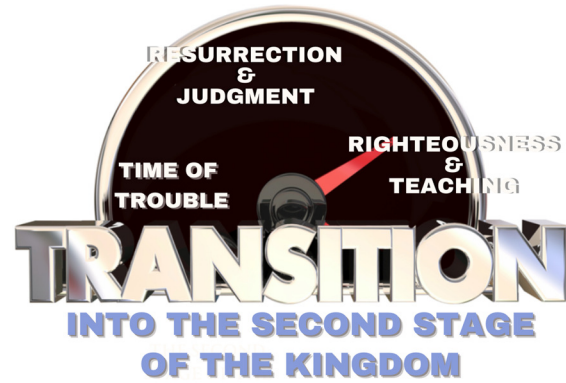
²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. ³Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴But as for you, Daniel, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.



There are so many prophetic details in the book of Daniel!

First, there is comprehensive trouble that has never been seen before that precedes resurrection and judgment. The trouble brings righteousness and teaching. There are many pieces that are subtly hidden in this prophecy.

Daniel writes, *as for you, Daniel, because this is what he is being told, conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time.*



We live in the “end times” when the understanding of these words can become clear. When we put these texts into their appropriate context, Daniel helps us to understand the times and seasons of God's plan.

Jesus repeated this prophecy within the context of revealing some details of his return:

Matthew 24:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.* ²²*Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.*

Jesus picks up on Daniel's prophecy and tells us this happens at the time of his return.

As we read before:

Daniel 12:1: (NASB) ¹*Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise.*

Michael, the great prince - representing Jesus.

Jesus warns us that this time of *great tribulation* will be a difficult time.

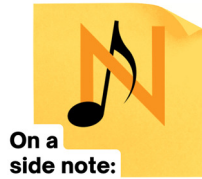
Why are we bringing this up when we are talking about the beauty of God's kingdom? Because God and Jesus have to remove “that which was” so they can put in place “that which will be.”

The purpose of the *great tribulation*, this time of trouble, is to end the present mess that humanity has created under Satan, the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4), and replace it with God's everlasting rule.

We know this from a different text in Daniel:

Daniel 2:44: (NASB) *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

A demolition work must first take place so the new rebuild will last for eternity. Sometimes we don't like the demolition part because what is being demolished is comfortable, common and familiar. An eternal structure can't be built on a sinful foundation.



As Christians, we should never promote violence, even while this destruction process is taking place. It isn't our job to go out and provoke the end of sinful aspects of society. Rather, we are to be Christlike and speak the words of the gospel with the same attitude Jesus had when he spoke the words of the gospel.

While we know this transition time period will be difficult, we also know it is the introduction to the second phase of the kingdom.

The removal of sinful aspects in the world - this demolition - will by no means be a happy event:

Zephaniah 3:8: (NASB) *Therefore 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.*

Because we know God's kingdom comes on earth, we know the *devoured by fire* in this verse MUST be symbolic. It is so easy to read a verse like this and think the world literally gets burned up. But that would not make sense. *Thy kingdom come on earth...* if the earth was just burned up, how can we possibly have the kingdom come on earth?

Zephaniah continues building the same prophetic picture that Daniel built:

Zephaniah 3:9: (NASB) *For 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.*

Hope for all is promised. Nobody is missing! Everybody is included!

This is such an important little detail that *all of them may call on the name of the Lord* - all of the ones He assembled upon whom He poured out His indignation! Many Christians don't think about this, but it is in prophecy and must be put in the context of God's plan for His kingdom.

We see the first phase of God's kingdom ending with the destruction of the present systems while the second phase brings new life (the resurrection of all). One is ending while one is beginning in an overlapping process.

The second phase can't be more obvious than what Jesus himself described:

John 5:25-27: (NASB) ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the son also to have life in himself...

Life in himself was rewarded to Jesus because of his faithful sacrifice. Glory, honor and immortality was a wonderful gift from God to Jesus. Immortality was something he did not have, and God gave it to him after his resurrection. The power that comes with this reward would be necessary to bring resurrection for mankind.



²⁷and He gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

This is important because judgment is a big deal - we all make judgments. Sometimes our judgments are righteous, sometimes they aren't. Most of the time with imperfect humanity, judgments are not very righteous at all.

God gave Jesus, in this glorified state, the power to pass judgment - a glorious, godly, righteous, perfect and wise judgment.

Jesus is showing us that his eternal faithfulness to God and His will resulted in not only life-giving power, but also the authority to execute this kind of perfect judgment.

Jesus next shows us the results of this in action:

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice,* ²⁹*and 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.*

Raising up all humanity to life on earth will be a miracle of undisputed power, glory and drama. What could be more dramatic than hearing the voice of Jesus as they come forth from the grave! What a miracle! What inspiration that will be to everyone.

Jesus gave us a small sample when he called Lazarus from the grave, *Lazarus, come forth*. We aren't told the details of how it will all work, but how dramatic it will be when Jesus calls those who are dead, and they are made alive. Praise God through Christ!

Jesus was not the only voice regarding these awe-inspiring events. Here is another example from the Apostle Paul:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28: (NASB) ²⁰*But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.* ²¹*For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.* ²²*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.* ²³*But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, (this shows us the first phase of the kingdom)...*

One man (Adam) brings death, and one man (Jesus) brings the resurrection from the dead. This is what Jesus was saying in John 5:28-29. We see this as the beginning of the kingdom.



Christ and the first fruits (his faithful followers) are in place for the next part of this:

...after that those who are Christ's at his coming, ²⁴then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when he has abolished all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

Here we see the kingdom's second phase - the resurrection of all and the effects of the ransom of Jesus who is now in full authority.



We see the result of *by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead* because the ransom price was paid. Please see the Bonus Material for more on the ransom price. Phase 1: Jesus paid the price; he calls his faithful followers first, and they are resurrected when they die.

In Phase 2, all of mankind is resurrected. Jesus reigns and puts aside all other authority. Nothing stands before him because he is acting as the absolute representative of God Almighty.

Jesus reigns until the very last enemy - DEATH - is destroyed. We are promised that death is done forever!

²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the son himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.



God rules supremely over His human family on earth and His spiritual family in heaven - just as He planned it to be!

We appreciate how Christ is submissive to his Father. Once all things are reconciled and perfect, Jesus presents his finished work to his Father. God is the Grand Designer; Jesus is the workman.

When we have a home or building completed, the contractor does all of the work and cleans up. He (or she!) demolishes the old structure and builds the new. They hand over the keys once it is exactly according to the specifications. Similarly, Jesus "turns over" mankind to the rule of God the Father for all of eternity.

Connecting Key Kingdom Pieces:



God's plan is comprehensive. His allowance of sin was with the foresight of knowing that redemptive work of Jesus was waiting in the wings. Jesus boldly proclaimed his well-deserved power to bring God's plan to fruition but not without warning of the many steps needed. Resurrection will bring judgment!

This is an important factor - none of this happens quickly or arbitrarily. It all happens in the context of the mind of God and the plan of God working exactly the way He desires it to go.

God's kingdom brings faithfulness now for the few and life opportunity later for the vast numbers of humanity who have ever lived!

The worldwide result of God's kingdom is a new lease on life for all. How will that work?

What will be required of them? To hear about worldwide salvation without hearing the answer to the question easily brings people to conclude something like, "Great! He's going to raise everybody; this means I can do whatever I want and not worry about it!" As we shall see, nothing is further from the truth. The world will be raised to a Day of Judgment. That needs to be clearly defined because too many of our Christian friends make the day of judgment as a harsh, angry time. The Day of Judgment is not that at all.

Once the present systems are removed, then the world will see the evidence of resurrection:

John 5:28-29: (NASB) ²⁸*Do 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 raised in heaven), those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of **judgment** <2920> (those raised on earth).*

Damnation/Judgment: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2920 *krisis*; decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law)

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon includes: a separating, separation; a trial, contest

Judgment time is not an instant stamp of approval or disapproval. It is a period of time. It is a trial, a decision-making process. It is not a final decision; it is the process of decision.

This resurrection of judgment for the masses of humanity will be in the context of full disclosure - all will understand what is expected:

1 Timothy 2:3-4: (NASB) ³*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the **knowledge** <1922> of the truth.*

The King James Version is more accurate: *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

Knowledge: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1922 *epignosis*; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement

Two important points:

1. God desires all to be saved (or more accurately, *will have all men to be saved*).
2. He wants all to fully understand the truth. Remember, Satan blinded the minds of everyone.

Can people be held responsible if they have been blinded? Here it says God *will have all men to be saved and come to a full discernment of the truth*. Every human being will have the ability and capacity to fully understand God's truth. How else could judgment be fair?



Jesus died for all mankind:

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.



How can a person be rehabilitated if they are not given knowledge to make improvements?



This is why this says they need knowledge, because rehabilitation is not fair without full discernment and disclosure. It is also not fair unless those executing the rehabilitation are doing so in a just, loving and wise manner.

In our present day, we are bad at rehabilitation. Our prison systems are supposed to rehabilitate, not just punish. Someone who needs to be removed from society should be reeducated on how to successfully return by changing their former habits. Otherwise, they end up being incarcerated again. But we are imperfect so our systems are imperfect.

After resurrection, people will be rehabilitated through full, just, loving knowledge. With full knowledge, everyone will have the opportunity and the ability to live up to righteousness. It will ultimately be a time of reconciliation with God.

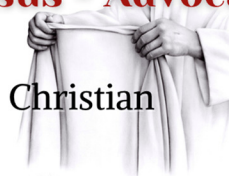
Jesus' sacrifice truly does cover everyone's sins:

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.

We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous - faithful Christians who have been called and given God's spirit have Jesus to sit by their side. To the rest of the world, Jesus is their mediator.

God  Jesus = Advocate

An advocate is someone who sits with you on your side and pleads your cause before a judge.



²and he himself is the propitiation (satisfaction) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

Jesus' sacrifice was for two groups:

"OUR SINS"

FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS

and

"FOR THOSE OF THE WHOLE WORLD"

THE "EVERYBODY ELSE"

The kingdom is not exclusive; it is inclusive. It is a process that takes people from ignorance to understanding and gives each one an opportunity to choose righteousness after having full knowledge. Humans will still have free will.



Not only does it give us opportunity, but because of the resurrection, it raises humanity with the capacity of mind to be able to make the right choices. No one will be mentally or physically handicapped in the kingdom. They will have the capacity to stand on their own two feet. Jesus is the *propitiation*, the satisfaction for the sins of the whole world.

Judgment Day will be inclusive, fair, powerful and life-changing, applying to all who ever lived:

Matthew 11:20-24: (NASB) ²⁰*Then he began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. ²²Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.*

Jesus references cities he preached in. They have heard his words. He compares those cities with Tyre and Sidon, cities that had been destroyed because of their wickedness, as prophesied by Old Testament prophets.

(Source: Matthew Poole's Commentary on the Holy Bible) Tyre and Sidon were habitations of heathens, their country joined to Galilee. They were places of great traffic, inhabited with Canaanitish idolaters, and exceedingly wicked; threatened by the prophet Isaiah, Isaiah 23:1-18, and by the prophet Ezekiel, Ezekiel 26:1-28:26, and by Amos, Amos 1:9,10; a people odious to the Jews upon many accounts.

In the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel and Amos, Tyre and Sidon are talked about for their wickedness. Jesus is using these ancient examples of Paganism saying they will have a better chance in the Day of Judgment than Israel because they did not personally hear and ignore his words.

But Jesus doesn't stop there:

²³*And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.*

Better for Sodom and Gomorrah? Even they can be rehabilitated? These were very sinful cities! God sent down fire and brimstone to destroy them, and yet even they will be raised. How do we know? Because Jesus said they will have an easier time - *it will be more tolerable* - because they will have learned a tremendous lesson from the consequences of evil.

This shows us the equality of justice in the Day of Judgment for everyone who has ever lived - no matter what age, social system or country they came from, no matter what religion or lack of religion - all are included here.

A person's life now will have an effect on their future kingdom rehabilitation and what will be needed to make amends to those they hurt in this life, but their future life will be primarily based fully upon their own thoughts and actions going forward.



What they do, with what they have done, is what is important:

Jeremiah 31:27-30: (NASB) ²⁷*Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. ²⁸As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster (past actions), so I will watch over them to build and to plant, (present Day of Judgment actions) declares the LORD.*

Past negative actions are compared to positive actions in the Day of Judgement.

The next verses help us understand how it works:

²⁹*In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge.*

No longer can one say, "I did wrong because that's all I knew." That may have been true, but not anymore. What are they going to do now with the information they have learned? It is their choice. There are no more excuses. They will have been given everything needed to make the right choices.

It is a powerful principle that mankind will no longer be able to blame someone or something else for what they did, or who they are, as they will now be personally responsible.

This reminds us of Alcoholics Anonymous, a wonderful organization that helps people to reconcile their present with their past. They must reconcile the fact that they are powerless with their addiction. It shows them how to understand their powerlessness and find a new way to look at life. This is a wonderful, very small microcosm about the opportunity to grow above and beyond the sinfulness of this world.

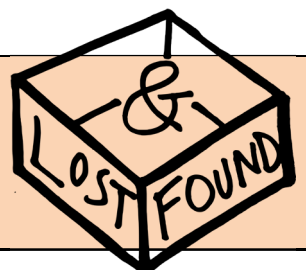
Judgment Day has its consequences though. What if somebody doesn't want to choose purity? What if they don't want to comply with a righteous way of life?

Acts 3:19-21: (NASB) ¹⁹*Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; 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.*

God created the earth to be inhabited. Adam and Eve were to be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it. All that was lost will be restored.

What was lost?

- God's original design and environment for humanity
- Harmony and Adam's relationship with God
- The right to life and the tree of life
- Equality of genders
- The direct heavenly sovereignty over earth



What happens when someone does not follow through on the righteousness they are given?



Judgment Day ultimately brings death to those who refuse love, righteousness and mercy:

Acts 3:22-23: (NASB) ²²Moses said, The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren; to him you shall give heed to everything he says to you. ²³And it will be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be **utterly destroyed <1842>** from among the people.

Utterly destroyed: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1842 *exolothreuo*; to extirpate Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon 1) to destroy out of its place, destroy utterly, to extirpate

Extirpate means to destroy completely, wipe out; to pull up by the root, to cut out by surgery

This is not some warning of a burning hell; this is actually the cessation of life. This is what would happen if someone who is resurrected by Jesus refuses the results of the education offered and righteous living required. Such destruction is fair, as it will be a choice the individual makes voluntarily and with full knowledge and understanding, knowing the consequences of all their decisions. There is great justice and wisdom in all of this.

This prophecy adds details to how the second phase of God's kingdom works:

Daniel 7:27: (NASB) Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

From heaven, Christ AND his church will reign and judge over the earth. God's society through Christ and those faithful disciples will be permanent and glorious. The Judgment Day process will be in place for mankind to fully understand what will be expected of them into eternity.

Connecting Key Kingdom Pieces:



God's plan is fair. True justice is built upon a system that has clearly stated laws and guidelines and treats each and every person with the same standards of pure and righteous judgment. This standard will be possible because of Jesus' own eternal loyalty to God's ways, as well as the learned and perfected loyalty of his then-to-be-glorified true disciples.

It always comes down to loyalty to God and God alone - always, without exception. The world needs true, righteous and godly justice. There is no better way for it to function than in the hands of Jesus!



With justice having been fulfilled, what does the Bible next tell us of the conditions of the newly resurrected world?

As amazing as God's plan and kingdom have looked thus far, what we have seen is merely an introduction to what follows. God's plan is built upon His justice, wisdom, power and love. All of the newly resurrected and obedient world will fully experience ALL of God's attributes! Notice we aren't saying "His attribute of anger." His anger is a tool - not something that is part of His character like justice, wisdom, power and love. This is what God's plan is built upon.

One important detail: the ancient faithful ones in the Old Testament will be specially acknowledged:

Matthew 11:11: (NASB) *Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

These faithful prophets and servants are clearly not part of the kingdom's first phase, but will be earthly leaders:

Hebrews 11:39-40: (NASB) ³⁹*And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*



Jesus and his church in heaven will resurrect those heroes of faith as leaders on the earth. They are listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews:

Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Esau, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David and Samuel with all the other prophets - and this includes John the Baptist.

There are probably other unnamed prophets we do not even know about who served God faithfully who will have special positions of honor. They proved themselves to be working toward righteousness even though they were imperfect.

Let's look at the second phase of the kingdom in its full establishment.

The kingdom is the result of resurrection and judgment - physical and literal Israel and Jerusalem will be the source of earthly blessings:

Isaiah 2:3: (NASB) *And 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.*

There is a specific, clear plan: Israel has always been God's chosen people. They do not lose that privilege. They become the conduit through which blessings flow to the rest of humanity. What a wonderful blessing! Israel and Jerusalem play a key role in that fully established kingdom.

Righteousness will rule while the earth blossoms and humanity is healed and learns God's ways:

Isaiah 35:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and the ransomed of the LORD 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.*



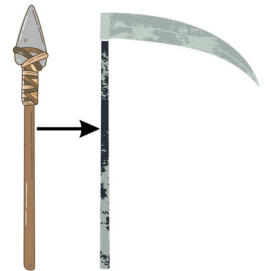
It is hard to imagine no fear of any kind!

Most of humanity lives in fear. We all have fears. Not being afraid is a big part of being able to learn righteousness. People are afraid to stand for something higher because they are afraid of ridicule or consequences. In the kingdom, ridicule will not be allowed. Righteousness will be supported. The path is described as a highway because it is the road everyone is on. It is God's way.

This brings peace and prosperity, the same peace that is in the heavenly realm under the same God in heaven:

Micah 4:3-4: (NASB) ³*And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. 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.*

The Prince of Peace will lead the peaceable kingdom. *Beating swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks* - implements of pain will become implements of cultivation. The earth will be cultivated in a time of permanent peace and prosperity with no more war.



The context of our theme text reveals a strong and righteous rule over a universally peaceful creation:

Isaiah 11:4-10: (NASB) ⁴*But with righteousness he will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And he will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵Also righteousness will be the belt about his loins, and faithfulness the belt about his waist.*

These verses show us the power, strength, fortitude, clarity, focus and mission of Jesus. He is going to decide with absolute fairness for all. He will put darkness, sin, evil and bad judgments all in their place. *Righteousness will be the belt about his loins, and faithfulness the belt about his waist. That is what holds everything together. It is a beautiful picture.*

Next we see a unique look at how the earth and the animal kingdom will be:

⁶*And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. ⁷Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.*



Nature will be in perfect harmony like it was in the beginning at creation. We aren't told exactly how this will work, but we can't wait!



⁹They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious.

What a glorious ending to mankind's past woes. They will not hurt or destroy in all My (God's) holy mountain - the earth will be full of the knowledge of God.

There will be unquestionable access to, and understanding of God's ways:

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.*

This WILL happen because it came from God's mouthpieces, the prophets.

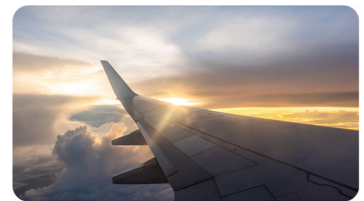
Psalms 22:27-28: (NASB) *²⁷All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. ²⁸For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations.*

Habakkuk said, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. And that is exactly what it said in Isaiah. Are they copying from each other? No, this is God's prophecies being given to different prophets so we get the point. God is showing us in the ancient Old Testament writings what the future will look like. It is a magnificent plan that includes everyone and has every detail in order.

This reminds me of a little experience I had several years ago. I got on an airplane and it was a really stormy, windy, rainy day. It was just not a good day. We were sitting on the tarmac getting ready to take off and I thought, "Oh, this doesn't look good."

We took off and the plane is rising, but it's bumpy and the rain is pelting against the windows. I don't know if you've ever been in an airplane where there has been a lot of turbulence. It's not a fun feeling.

We were getting up higher and higher and the turbulence was still there, and it was a bumpy ride. It still did not look good. We were just rising and rising. And then we got into the clouds, and we couldn't see anything. It was still bumpy. Then all of a sudden, we broke through the clouds and there was glorious, unadulterated sunshine because we were above the storm.



The point of all of this is that God's plan is that glorious sunshine. We may get caught up in the storm, but the sun is there; it is coming. The clouds will soon dissipate, and God's plan will become obvious and will break through the tumult and through the turbulence of our present day. Mankind will end up in a place that is glorious - God's kingdom on earth!

The reign of sin with all of its chaos and tragedy will end:

Revelation 21:4: (NASB) *and 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.*

This is a plain scriptural statement. The question is, do you believe it?





All of this is for the opportunity of every human who has ever lived to benefit from Jesus' sacrifice:

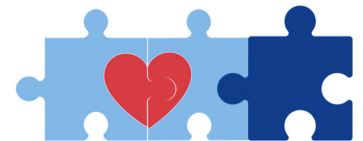
Acts 17:30-31: (NASB) ³⁰Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, ³¹because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising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



Jesus is the reason for everything. No wonder God gave him a name above every name! Only he is worthy to execute God's kingdom and righteousness. The Apostle Paul is clear, *He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a man (Christ Jesus, who is now at the right hand of the power of God) whom He has appointed.*

Isaiah 42:1-4: (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...

What compassion will be shown motivated by love for every person going through this rehabilitation process! God provides this tender mercy through Jesus.



LOVING CARE AND JUSTICE
work exactly and perfectly in harmony.

...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.

We see tender loving care with justice. The two work exactly and perfectly in harmony. Jesus puts both together and gives the world a place and a process to live that honors and glorifies God. When we pray *Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven, this is what it means.*

Connecting Key Kingdom Pieces:



It is now gloriously obvious what Jesus meant when he instructed us to pray **"THY KINGDOM COME. THY WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN."** As we meditate upon these profound truths of humanity's future, we can only look up with praise, honor, reverence and gratitude for our all-knowing heavenly Father and His faithful and loving son Jesus.

This is the primary message of the Bible:

- man sinned
- God saw
- Jesus came
- he lived, he paid the price, he was raised
- that opened the door for this grand kingdom on earth.



From the very beginning, God allowed sin so the kingdom could come. Through sin, the kingdom could be appreciated.

Jesus is in the center of all of this. This is what the gospel is about - *behold good news of great joy...for all people, for unto you is born this day...a Savior. He is not just the Savior for a few, but of ALL people.*

That is what Christian Questions has been about for 25 years.

*So, when Jesus prayed, “Thy kingdom come,” what did he mean?
For Jonathan, Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Bonus Material and Study Questions

Recommended additional study:

Episode 1285: What Will We Be Doing When We Get to Heaven? (Parts I, II, III)

Digging into the deep, broad and scriptural meaning of God’s kingdom

<https://christianquestions.com/category/series/what-will-we-be-doing-when-we-get-to-heaven/>

Episode 1186: Are We Living in the “End Times”?

Discovering factual evidence of our place in biblical prophecy

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1186-end-times/>

Episode 913: Did the Prophet Daniel See the Future?

Physical evidence of Daniel’s Prophecy of Days

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/913-did-the-prophet-daniel-see-the-future/>

Episode 1086: Are Jesus’ Ransom and Our Salvation the Same?

Clarifying the purpose of the ransom and the process of salvation

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1086-salvation/>



Parents and Bible class teachers, continue your studies on this topic with these short, animated videos for kids at ChristianQuestions.com/YouTube:

- What will God's kingdom be like? https://youtu.be/pUqK3p_uHxk
- When will God's kingdom be here? <https://youtu.be/cWTh5Bg4kXE>
- Will sin and death ever end? https://youtu.be/5T_d20-qgcA
- Why did Jesus come to earth? <https://youtu.be/aLsfPwHxjLM>

Here are additional scriptures that paint a clear picture of God's kingdom:

First, a reminder that Jesus is THE WAY, making all of this is possible.

The true church is privileged to work beside him:

Colossians 1:18-20: (NASB) ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross; through him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

The kingdom is lasting and powerful:

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.

The kingdom will be developed out of equity and the restored favor that Israel has been given:

Jeremiah 31:27-34: (NASB) ²⁷Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man and with the seed of beast. ²⁸As I have watched over them to pluck up, to break down, to overthrow, to destroy and to bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, declares the LORD. ²⁹In those days they will not say again, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats the sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge. ³¹Behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, ³²not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them, declares the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, Know the LORD, for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, declares the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.

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.

The context of the text we quoted - a kingdom that will not pass away:

Daniel 7:13-18: (NASB) ¹³I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and he came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. ¹⁴And to him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed. ¹⁵As for me, Daniel, my spirit was distressed within me, and the visions in my mind kept alarming me. ¹⁶I approached one of those who were standing by and began asking him the exact meaning of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ¹⁷These great beasts, which are four in number, are four kings who will arise from the earth. ¹⁸But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.

After the description of the fourth beast:

Daniel 7:27: (NASB) Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.

So, the earth is intact and the people are teachable. This second phase is all because of Jesus:

Isaiah 9:6-7: (NASB) ⁶For a child will be born to us... and the government will rest on his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty god, Eternal father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no end to the increase of his government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness...

The concept of the RANSOM is important because it is the entire basis for our Christian faith and the plan of God for the world of mankind.

What does it mean to say "Jesus is the ransom?" **1 Timothy 2:5-6:** (NASB) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a **ransom** <487> for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Ransom: Strong's #487, antilutron, a redemption price

Strong's #487 is only used in this one place in the Bible. It is derived from two Greek words:

anti: Strong's #473, instead of or because of; used to denote substitution or correspondence

Lutron: Strong's 3083, a redemption price, ransom

So, the word ransom in this one text means a "corresponding price."

Adam, a perfect man, chose to disobey God resulting in sin and death for him and all his offspring. The entire human race was doomed to the prison of death in order to satisfy justice - Adam paid the penalty of his disobedience to God. (**Romans 6:23:** (KJV) *The wages of sin is death...*) All of our race are either dead or dying.

Without the intervening sacrifice of Jesus, the cycle of sin and death would continue in misery until eventually the human race died out.

The death of the perfect man Jesus became the *substitute or corresponding price* for Adam. Jesus willingly volunteered to die and thereby paid the ransom by his perfect obedience to God. The man Jesus would take Adam's place in death, thereby satisfying justice.



Having paid the ransom price allows the work of the ransom to begin.

1 Corinthians 15:22: (KJV) *In Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

This legal equivalency of "a perfect life (Adam) for a perfect life (Jesus)" allows for the resurrection of mankind and their opportunity for everlasting life in the kingdom. Mankind will finally have the full opportunity to be obedient without inherited sin. As a reward for his sacrifice, Jesus was resurrected as a highly exalted spirit being to complete the great work of bringing mankind back into a relationship with God.

The ransom does not excuse the sins committed by those in this lifetime - it does not suddenly count sinners as saints and usher them into everlasting bliss. It merely releases the accepting sinner from the first condemnation and its results, and places him again on trial for life, in which his own willful obedience or willful disobedience will decide if he may or may not have life everlasting.

John 1:29: (KJV) *...The Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world...*

Romans 5:18-19: (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. 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.

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Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1285: When Jesus Prayed, “Thy Kingdom Come,” What Did He Mean?

<https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/when-jesus-prayed-thy-kingdom-come-what-did-he-mean/>

See:  CQ Rewind
SHOW NOTES

1. What did Jesus say about God’s kingdom in Matthew 4:17?
When does Jesus say the kingdom of heaven would happen?
What is the difference between the “kingdom of heaven” and the “kingdom of God”? How do we know? (See Matthew 13:31, Luke 13:18-19)
2. We understand the kingdom to unfold in phases rather than occurring all at once. Who is involved initially in what the episode referred to as the first phase? When did it start? How do we know there are different levels of honor in this phase of the kingdom? Why should we strive to be like children? (See Matthew 4:17, 18:2-4)
3. What wording is used that gives us a clue there is a second phase of God’s kingdom? What are the first two things the Lord’s Prayer teach us to pray? What is the purpose of the first phase of the kingdom? (See Luke 22:17-18, Matthew 6:9-10)
4. What is the role of the true church in the kingdom? What is the promise for the true church in Revelation 5:9-10 and 3:21-22? (See Colossians 1:18-20)
5. How does the first phase of the kingdom end and the second phase begin? What are the steps leading to the kingdom in the Daniel 12:1-4 prophecy? What must first happen before the eternal structure of earthly society can be rebuilt? Describe what is happening in Zephaniah 3:8. How do we know the earth will not be literally devoured by fire? In verse 9, who is given hope? (See Daniel 2:44, Zephaniah 3:8,9)
6. After the tribulation of the transition period, what will happen? What is the order of this? What must Jesus accomplish before handing the kingdom to the Father? (See John 5:25-29, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)
7. What will be required of resurrected mankind in the kingdom? How might rehabilitation work? Whom did Jesus ransom? In what way is each person judged? What if someone refuses to live righteously in the kingdom? (See John 5:28-29, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 1 John 2:1-2, Jeremiah 31:27-30, Acts 3:19-23)
8. Who will be the earthly leaders in the kingdom? Where does the source of earthly blessing come from? What will be missing? (See Matthew 11:11, Hebrews 11, Isaiah 2:3)
9. Describe the conditions that will exist on earth because of a righteous rule. How will this happen? What will be the end result? Why do you believe Revelation 21:4? (See Isaiah 35:8-10, 11:4-10, Micah 4:3-40, Habakkuk 2:14, Psalms 22:27-28)
10. Who is at the center of all that will happen? How does he handle the entire rehabilitation process? Why was the allowance of sin necessary? (See Acts 17:30-31, Isaiah 42:1-4, Luke 2:11) What does “Thy kingdom come” mean to you? How does the knowledge of Christ’s present and future kingdom phases change your life?