

The Kingdom of God

Despite all the troubles in the world, yet it is still a beautiful place. This isn't anything which has happened by blind chance, for the earth was created by God for a special purpose. *"For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens: God Himself that formed the earth and made it: He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited"* Isaiah 45:18.

God has also said *"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD"* Numbers 14:21. It is not His purpose to fill the earth with all the terror, hatred and rebellion of this present time, but to fill the earth with men and women who will obey Him and who will bring Him glory and praise. This is God's ultimate purpose and it will be achieved when the Kingdom of God is established on the earth by His Son, Jesus Christ, when he returns.

Jesus taught his disciples to pray *"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven"* Matthew 6:9-10. After giving praise to God, the first request is that God's Kingdom should come on earth.

Jesus instructed his disciples that they should make it the first priority in their lives: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness"* Matthew 6:33.

The Kingdom of God will overthrow and replace all existing kingdoms of men. *"In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever"* Daniel 2:44. This Kingdom will be a Kingdom in the true and original sense of the word with a king as supreme ruler. He will be an immortal King, Jesus Christ. *"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever"* Revelation 11:15.

It will be the ancient Kingdom of Israel restored and Jesus will reign in Jerusalem. *"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it"* Jeremiah 3:17. Before Jesus was born, the angel said to Mary, his mother, that *"the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David...and of his kingdom there shall be no end"* Luke 1:32,33.

After Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, his disciples asked him, *"Lord wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"* Acts 1:6. Jesus replied that it was not for them to know the time, but God has set the time when it will be right for him to return from heaven and set up the Kingdom on the earth. He will rule in righteousness, which means he won't make any mistakes.

Christ will be assisted by those found worthy at his return. They will sing *"Thou [Jesus Christ] ... hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth"* Revelation 5:9-10. *"Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment"* Isaiah 32:1.

The Kingdom of God will be a wonderful time of peace and righteousness. All the troubles of this present time will fade away and God's law will be taught throughout the world. *"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more"* Isaiah 2:3-4.

This wonderful time of peace will even extend to the animal kingdom. *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid: and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together: and a little child shall lead them...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"* Isaiah 11:6-9.

Those who hope to share in this Kingdom of God must obey God now and comply with the commandments He has laid down in His Holy Word, the Bible.