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The LAST question
his apostles
asked the Lord Jesus Christ,
is given in

ACTS 1:6.

"LORD, WILT THOU AT THIS TIME RESTORE
AGAIN THE KINGDOM TO ISRAEL?"

** It's importance should not therefore be underestimated. **

This is the question that the apostles asked the Lord Jesus Christ after his resurrection, and his telling them of "the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" over FORTY days.

The question is many faceted, and needs to be examined in detail to appreciate its importance. Indeed so important are the facts revealed in the question, that rejection or ignorance of them, will demonstrate blindness of "the things concerning the kingdom of God" leading to a false hope and no true association with Christ now, or at any time.

Their question concerns (1) THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, (2) TIME, (3) RESTORATION, (4) KINGDOM and ISRAEL. These I will deal with after considering the reply which Jesus gave, and how it has lead to 'Modern Christianity' ignoring the consistent message of salvation throughout scriptures.

Jesus replied, "It is not for you to know (or teach) the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power". If we turn to Matthew 24:36 and Mark 13:32 we shall find that just prior to his crucifixion, Jesus made the same point. "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only".

The apostles, having met their risen LORD, would be thinking of his promise to them in Matthew 19:28 and Luke 22:30; the last, just before Jesus was betrayed. "That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel". Their minds would have been full of this coming kingdom with its endless joys and its realisation of the promises. The most natural response to such thoughts would be to ask if now was to be the moment when he would establish His rulership in The Kingdom.

Unfortunately, 'Modern Christianity' has rejected all idea of the Lord Jesus Christ visibly reigning from Jerusalem, and ridiculed the details incorporated in the question. Unwittingly, they have ignored the fact that for FORTY DAYS the apostles were INSTRUCTED in the things connected with the Kingdom of God. They imply by their rejection, that the apostles had learnt NOTHING; and were unable to learn from Jesus, and foolish in asking such a question. YET these same people later wrote the gospels, where facts related to this question abound; showing their continued belief in the restoration of the kingdom of Israel. Eg. Luke 1:32,33 **"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end"**. Their belief in the fact that the promises related to NATURAL Israel, is evidenced in verse 72, **"To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant"**.

It is important, therefore, to consider carefully the position of the apostles. If they had asked a foolish question in which all the facts were wrong, then the Lord Jesus Christ did not correct their misunderstanding. For, **"When he had spoken these things, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight"**. They thus would have written their gospels, based on wrong understanding and beliefs, which Christ ignored!! If, however, their only mistake was to hope the kingdom would be established straight away, then this being corrected, no problem arises.

As this latter position accords with all scripture, as we will see, then it is sensible to examine all the aspects of their question. Those who reject this position, must ask themselves, If the apostles understanding concerning His future kingdom was wrong, why did Jesus not correct them properly? Would he really be prepared to allow their 'distorted' understanding, to be the only record of his life and preaching? Perhaps the fundamental question that SHOULD be asked, is, "What sort of Saviour do such critics really seek to worship?"

(1) THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Jesus, who was unjustly put to death by wicked people; was raised from the grave by God, because of his perfect obedience. He was to become the Redeemer of the faithful throughout the ages. They, being those who trusted in, and tried to respond to, God's word; would be brought back from death, (the penalty of sin, in Ezekiel 18:4). Being resurrected, they would - as Christ's brethren - be given **"power over the nations"** Revelation 2:26 and be **"kings and priests"** reigning **"on the earth"**. Revelation 5:10.

The concordance gives the meaning of Lord (Kumos) as "supreme in authority - controller". This accords with **Matthew 28:18**, **"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth"**.

As one who is 'Supreme in Authority' there can be no challenger, and thus, as Paul confirms in Acts 4:12, **"there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"**.

The PROPHETS reveal some interesting facts concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Remembering the angel's words in Acts 1:11 "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven". We find in Zechariah 14 what will then happen. Verse 1 opens with "Behold the day of the Lord cometh", then in verse 4, "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives". Verse 7. "But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD" (which demonstrates the correct reply Jesus gave, in Acts 1:7). Finally, in verse 9, "And the LORD shall be king over all the earth".

Remember what Jesus said to Herod, in John 18:37? "Thou sayest that I am King. To this end was I born".

In Luke 24:21 the two apostles on the road to Emmaus revealed that it was Jesus who they believed should have "redeemed Israel".

Why was it that Israel needed to be redeemed, and why should the apostles think Jesus was the one who would bring about their redemption?

Because of their constant turning aside to the religions of their neighbours, and the wickedness that ensued, God said they would be taken into captivity and/or subjected to foreign powers; and that the Kingship of Israel would end "UNTIL HE COME WHOSE RIGHT IT IS". Ezekiel 21:27.

The wise men who came to look for the one born "King of the Jews", knew that this was the one 'WHOSE RIGHT IT IS' and came to worship him. They referred to Micah 5:2, and caused Herod such concern, that he had all children under 2 years old living in Bethlehem and surrounds, murdered.

The angel, which appeared to the shepherds, informs them in Luke 2:11, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord". The fact that Jesus would save Israel, is reinforced in the prophetic words of Zacharias in Luke 1:71, "That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us". How could this happen when we consider God's word to King David, in 1 Chronicles 22:8? David was told that he would not be permitted to build a house or temple to God, because he was a man of war. The one who would ultimately build his Father's spiritual House and actual Temple, would be a 'man of peace'.

Isaiah 53 foretells the first coming of this 'man of peace' in verse 7. "He was oppressed, and was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth". Verse 9, "because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth". Philip, in Acts 8:32, explains that this verse refers to Christ.

Having come peaceably, preaching the way of salvation, he was despised and rejected. Even the warning he gave in the 'parable of the Vineyard' Matthew 21:33, though noted, was ignored. This event is still in the future!

Before Christ's Kingdom is established in all its glory, wickedness and opposition to God's word, will be removed. As Psalms 9:17 and 11:6 reveals, the wicked will not go unpunished. God will, in due time, bring about their destruction.

The destruction of the wicked or 'The Apocalypse of Christ' is one predominant prophecy throughout the whole Bible, as can be seen from the following extracts; being only a SAMPLE of those it contains.

Psalm 2:9. "Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron, thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel". Compare with Revelation 2:26,27 and 19:15,16,

Psalm 11:6. "Upon the wicked he shall reign snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest; this shall be the portion of their cup".

Psalm 149:7. "To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people" verse 9, "To execute upon them the judgments written: this honour have all his saints".

Isaiah 24:21. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth".

Isaiah 26:21. "For behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity".

Isaiah 61:2. "To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD" (It was at this point, halfway through the verse, that Jesus stopped in Luke 4:19). It continues, "and the day of vengeance of our God".

Daniel 2:44. "and in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom which shall never be destroyed... it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms".

Zephaniah 3:8 "Therefore wait upon me, saith the LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger".

Haggai 2:22. "And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen:"

Zechariah 14:2. "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" verse 12, "Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet".

Malachi 4:1. "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble".

Jesus made it quite clear in his teachings, that what the prophets had written, was correct. He says in Luke 13:28 that "All the prophets shall be in the Kingdom of God". (Matthew, in chapter 8:11 confirms that this is the same as the "Kingdom of Heaven").

The final conflict preceding the establishment of Christ's Kingdom, is also clearly revealed in Revelation 17:14. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them; for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are WITH HIM (ie, the faithful, who are blessed with immortality at the Judgment, as per Psalm 149), are called, and chosen, and faithful".

(2) TIME

The apostle Peter, having seen the Lord Jesus Christ ascend into heaven, appreciated that the establishment of 'The Kingdom' would be delayed. He says in Acts 3:20,21 "And God shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive UNTIL the restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began". He therefore endorses Luke's account of what Jesus said after his resurrection, in Luke 24:44 "that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the Psalms concerning me".

We have already given some of these prophetic references, but others are more specific. For example, Salvation had to be opened up to ALL who would respond.

Isaiah 11:10. "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek:"

Luke 2:32. "A light to lighten the Gentiles, AND the glory of thy people Israel".

Luke 21:24. "and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, UNTIL the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled".

Certain specific conditions, illustrating how bad things will be before Christ returns to remove the evil in the world, are also given:-

Luke 17:26. "As it was in the days of Noah" where people believed in what THEY thought should be right, and ignored the impending signs of destruction.

Luke 17:28. "As it was in the days of Lot" when the Sodomites had perverted the way of God. We read in 2 Peter 2:7 that Just Lot "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked" was saved.

Luke 21:26. "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of (political and religious) heaven shall be shaken".

These facts obviously deny the commonly held belief by many 'Modern Christians' that the world will grow into the kingdom!

Jesus himself uses the parables of 'The Sower' (Matthew 13:24-51), 'The Vineyard' (Matthew 21:33-46), 'The Ten Virgins' (Matthew 25:1-13), 'The Sheep and Goats' (Matthew 25:31-46), to demonstrate that this idea is a false one.

THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE, this IDEA is REJECTED.

Even though Jesus was crowned "King of the Jews" the nation of Israel has not yet been redeemed.

Not accepting yet, the Lord Jesus Christ, they still look forward to the coming of their Saviour, called "The Hope of Israel". Psalm 130:7,8 "Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities". The fact that THE HOPE OF ISRAEL has never ceased, is shown in Acts 28:20, when the apostle Paul said "because for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain". The prophecy in Isaiah 54:5, "thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel: The God of the whole earth shall he be called" likewise illustrates the fact that this event is still future.

(3) RESTORATION OF ISRAEL.

Isaiah informs us in **43:10**, that the Jews are God's witnesses. In **verse 21**, God reveals **"This people have I formed for myself; they shall show forth my praise"**. This reiterated what David had previously acknowledged in **2 Samuel 7:24**, **"Thou hast confirmed to thyself thy people Israel to be a people unto thee for ever"**.

Why were the Jews to be God's witnesses?

The Nation of Israel was chosen by God, as can be verified in **Exodus 4:22**. **"Thus saith the LORD, Israel** (referring to the nation) **is my son, even my firstborn"**. THEY were to demonstrate that God is in control of all events; being the only one capable of revealing future events that come to pass. Mankind would, through them, recognise His Power, Authority, and Purpose. All could rely on His Word and have faith in His promises. This is the challenge God issued in **Isaiah 45**. As He goes on to say in **chapter 46:9,10**. **"I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure"**.

God promised the nation of Israel a reward, if they obeyed His voice, in **Exodus 19:5,6**. They responded, committing their future into His hands, in **verse 8**.

In **Exodus 34:10**, God makes a covenant with them and warns that they will be His witnesses. **"and all the people among which thou art, shall see the work of the LORD"**.

In **Leviticus 26** we have the history of Israel foretold. Its accuracy can be verified from history. The FINAL part of the chapter points out that even though they would be disobedient and dispersed, that **verse 44** **"And yet for all that, when they be in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, neither will I abhor them, to destroy them utterly, and to break my covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God"**.

THEY WILL BE RESTORED.

The time when they shall **"shew forth my praise"**, is revealed in the book of **Ezekiel**.

Ezekiel 37:28. **"And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore"**.

Ezekiel 39:23-29. **"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity...and I have gathered them out of their enemies lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations... Neither will I hide my face any more from them"**.

When Israel is redeemed, then **Jerusalem**, the city of **David** (which is also called **Zion** - see **1 Kings 8:1**), shall become the throne of the LORD. **Jeremiah 3:17** **"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk anymore after the imagination of their evil heart"**.

The nation of Israel is the ONLY nation to have its future guaranteed!

Jeremiah 30:11. "Though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished".

The modern usurpers of God's Word, the J.W's, claim God has cast off the nation of Israel. God provides an answer to prove THEY are False Witnesses, in Jeremiah 33:24-26. **"Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them. .. If my covenant be not with day and night.. Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, .. for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them".**

The apostle Paul likewise denies the Jews have been rejected by God, in Romans 11:1. **"I say then, Hath God cast away his people?"** verse 2 **"God hath NOT cast away his people which he foreknew,"** Paul then reveals the goodness and severity of God. verse 25. **"Blindness in part is happened to Israel, UNTIL the fulness of the Gentiles be come in".** Verse 26. **"There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob".** This accords with the prophetic words in Zechariah 12:10. **"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced,"** Zechariah 2:12 **"And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem AGAIN".**

The word 'AGAIN' is the one used by Christ's apostles in the question we are examining, **"Lord, wilt thou at this time restore AGAIN the Kingdom to Israel?"**

Thus we must have evidence that "the kingdom" has already existed in Israel, if the references are to have a real foundation.

4 KINGDOM and ISRAEL.

We have already seen in Jeremiah 3:17, that Jerusalem shall be called **"The throne of the LORD"**, when the kingdom is finally established in all its glory. But let us start with God's promises to David. 2 Samuel 7:12-16. **"I will set up thy seed after thee.. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. .. thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever".**

In 1 Chronicles 17:12-16, we read that **"The seed"** of David would have **"his throne established for evermore"**. The angel informed Mary in Luke 1:32, **"and the Lord God shall give unto him (Jesus) the throne of his father David"**. Thus we have confirmation that the throne of David is also the throne of Christ.

In 1 Chronicles 28:5 David calls his throne "the throne of the kingdom of the LORD". Again, in chapter 29:23, we read "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the LORD as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him". Even the Queen of Sheba, with spiritual insight, recognised that God had set Solomon on "his throne" in 2 Chronicles 9:8.

The kingdom under Solomon was a foreshadowing of that to be ruled over by a "greater than Solomon". The A.V. notes introducing Psalm 72 says, "David, praying for Solomon, shews the glory of his kingdom in type, and of Christ's in truth".

Details of Solomon's kingdom are revealed in 1 Kings 4. Their greater fulfillment under Christ is elsewhere revealed in prophecy, as can be shown.

1 Kings 4:21 "And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt". This area is designated 'the land' and is of VITAL importance, as we shall appreciate later.

Verse 24. "and he (Solomon) had peace on all sides". Compare with Psalm 29:11 "The LORD will give strength unto his people: the LORD will bless his people with peace" and Isaiah 9:6 where Jesus is prophetically called "The Prince of Peace".

Verse 25. "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree," Compare Micah 4:4, "And they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and none shall make them afraid".

Verse 34. "And there came of all people to hear of the wisdom of Solomon, from all the kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom". Compare Psalm 72:11, "Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him". Psalm 138:4 "All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O LORD, when they hear the words of thy mouth". Matthew 12:42. ".for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here".

We must now consider WHERE the kingdom will be. Obviously, if the kingdom is to be restored, as we have seen, then there should be clear indications that the same area is known as the promised kingdom.

Jesus demonstrates that HE KNEW where HIS Kingdom would be.

Luke 13:28. "Ye shall see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the kingdom of God, and YOU YOURSELVES thrust out".

Matthew 8:11,12. "many shall come from the east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children OF THE KINGDOM shall be cast out".

Matthew 21:43. "The kingdom of God shall be TAKEN FROM YOU and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof".

Jesus was speaking to the Jews on each of these occasions. THEY were to be thrust out. Only a fool could think that if they were disobedient, they would first enter 'the kingdom of heaven in the skies' and then later be thrown out!

Jesus clearly demonstrates that 'the land' is what he is referring to, when he said in Matthew 11:12. "And from the

days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force". This can be shown from the events in Matthew.

John is introduced into his gospel in chapter 3. We then find in 6:10 Jesus teaching his disciples to pray, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth AS IT IS IN HEAVEN". Jesus was not silly. He would not tell them to pray for violence to come on the earth!

What then was the meaning?

Reading the gospel accounts, it is apparent that the Jewish hierarchy was violently opposed to the teachings of Jesus. In Luke 7:30 we find the Pharisees rejecting John's teaching. We also find John being imprisoned and beheaded. Their antagonism towards Jesus, is recorded in Matthew 8:34, Mark 3:6, Luke 4:29 and 6:7. Because of their opposition, the apostle John records in John 7:13 "Howbeit no man spoke openly of him (Jesus) for fear of the Jews". Thus Jesus accurately reveals that 'the violent had control of the land', and eventually succeeded in having him put to death! It is the only explanation that makes sense.

But we have confirmation elsewhere. In Galatians 3:29. Paul says, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise". Again, in verse 14. "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;" and again, in verse 9. "They which be of (the) faith are blessed with faithful Abraham".

What is the blessing AND the promise to which Paul refers?

This is clearly spelled out in Romans 4:13. "that the promise, that he should be heir of the world was not to Abraham or to his seed through the law, but through the righteousness of faith". (The 'world' or 'Kosmos' in original, means 'orderly arrangement'. The 'orderly arrangement' of the land when the kingdom is established, is given in Ezekiel 47:13 to 48:29).

We can find the promises to Abraham in Genesis.

Genesis 13:17. "Arise walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it thee".

Genesis 15:18. "In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abraham" saying, "Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates".

Isaac promised the same land,	in Genesis	26 : 3
Jacob promised the same land,	in Genesis	28 : 13
All Israel faithful		
promised the same land,	in Deuteronomy	11 : 22-24
Joshua promised the same land,	in Joshua	1 : 3,4
Christ promised the same land,	in Psalm	72 : 8

We see from scriptures, that although the above people were counted as faithful, NONE inherited the land as promised. Now God does not lie. What he has promised, he WILL fulfill.

The relevance of Hebrews 11:8-16, "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and

confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth". is clearly and simply shown in Leviticus 25:23. "the land shall not be sold for ever; for the land is mine; for ye are STRANGERS and SOJOURNERS with ME".

Likewise, the importance of 'the land' is unambiguously demonstrated in the following references:-

Deuteronomy 11:12. "A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year".

Isaiah 8:8. "and he (the king of Assyria) shall pass through Judah; he shall overflow and go over, he shall reach even to the neck; and the stretching out of his wings shall fill the breadth of THY LAND, O Immanuel".

Psalms 132:13. "For the LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell".

Psalms 69:35,36. "For God will save Zion, and will build the cities of Judah; THAT they may dwell there and have it IN possession. The seed also of HIS SERVANTS shall INHERIT it; and they that love his name SHALL DWELL therein".

Isaiah 60:21 "Thy people shall be all righteous: they shall INHERIT THE LAND for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified".

How marvellously Paul brings the prophecy in Isaiah 60:14. "The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee, and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall CALL THEE, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel". when he says in Hebrews 11:16 "But now they desire a better country, that is an heavenly: Wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city", to mind.

(A 'heavenly' country is one where God's will IS done. This is EXACTLY what Jesus indicated, when he taught his disciples to pray "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven").

There is another point that 'Modern Christianity' overlooks, when it preaches a 'heaven in the sky' reward. It unwittingly preaches that Christ was UNABLE to fully defeat the punishment of sin!!

As we read in Genesis 2:14, Adam and Eve were in the garden of Eden, which was bordered by the river Euphrates, when they sinned. (The relevance of this and Revelation 2:7, should be noted). Their punishment, recorded in Genesis 3:17-19, was twofold. (A) Death, and (B) "cursed is the ground for thy sake... in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground".

Christ does not have to leave earth and establish his kingdom elsewhere. At the APPOINTED time, he will remove the curse on the ground, as is shown in:-

Isaiah 51:3. "and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD".

Psalms 67:6. "Then shall the earth yield her increase".

Amos 9:13. "the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed".

The Bible has given evidence that Jesus Christ will return to reign over the earth, with Jerusalem as his city. The land promised to the faithful, from the Nile to the Euphrates, will be ,as Micah 4:8 records, "the first dominion" of the world wide Kingdom. "Unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion". This should not be difficult to understand, for Britain was the first dominion of Queen Victoria's world wide empire.

The prophet Zechariah reveals events that will happen in Israel when Christ returns. Zechariah 12:10. The Jews "will look upon me whom they pierced". 13:6, "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then shall he answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends". Jesus refers to this prophecy in Revelation 1:7, "and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindred of the earth ('LAND'or 'region' more appropriate - see concordance) shall wail because of him".

The Jews, like 'Modern Christians', continue to ignore the Truth Christ reveals. They will, therefore, be humbled. Because they are God's Witnesses, they will be punished first. Romans 2:9. "Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile". Their tribulation is revealed in Zechariah 13, 14. 13:8. "And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die". 14:2. "and half of the city (of Jerusalem) shall go forth into captivity".

Thus, they will NOT CEASE from being GOD'S WITNESSES, until all things are fulfilled.

'Modern Christianity' has not only rejected the teachings of scripture, summarised as we have seen in Acts 1:6, but it has also established a counterfeit city and religion in Rome. Their 'Eternal City' will lead all nations against "The city of the LORD" to fulfil the prophecy in Zechariah 14. "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle".

The church creed, and Muslims, acknowledge that Jesus Christ 'will return to judge the quick and the dead', yet the animosity they show towards the Jews, demonstrate that they will not accept Christ when he returns.

Can one REALLY believe the Papacy (which proclaims to be Christ's mouthpiece!), which teaches that a false Messiah will arise in Jerusalem, accepting Christ's return? Will they confess their apostacy and acknowledge that they have lead millions astray from the hope and reward he offered?

Can one likewise believe, all the Arab nations readily accepting the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to Jerusalem?

As they proclaim that God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 21:12, "In Isaac, shall thy seed be called" has been annulled, they believe that they are now the chosen race.

The early Christian believers accepted the thousand year reign of the Messiah, The Lord Jesus Christ. They also looked forward to the establishment of Christ's Kingdom.

The historian Gibbon, in 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire' writes, "The ancient and popular doctrine of the Millenium, was intimately connected with the second coming of Christ. The assurance of such a millenium was carefully inculcated by a succession of fathers, from Justen Martyr and Irenaeus, (who conversed with the immediate disciples of the apostles), down to Lactantius, who was preceptor to the son of Constantine".

The departure away from the Truth is evidence of the veracity of the words of Jesus in **Luke 18:8**. **"Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find (the) faith on the earth?"** Paul likewise, says in **2 Thessalonians 2:3**. **"Let no man deceive you by any means, for that day (the coming of Christ) shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition"**.

Those who find difficulty in accepting that beliefs have changed, can read the extract in the appendix, which refers to the teachings of the Baptists in the 17th Century. It shows how they have departed from Bible based beliefs to those of the 'Mother Church' of **Revelation 17:5**.

The title 'Protestant' has almost lost its meaning!

The signs of the times indicate that the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, is not far distant.

As Peter reveals in **2 Peter 3:3,4**. **"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation"**.

Many look to the future with trepidation. **"with their hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth"**, - society disintegrating and lawlessness abounding!

Those who believe in the promises, are told in **Luke 21:28**. **"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh"**.

To some, maybe even yourself, the events may appear interesting. But, they would prefer to wait and see how things develop, before making a move. There is, however, not much future in this. Jesus warns in **Luke 17:20**. **"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation"**. When Christ is revealed to the Jews, and the world at large; the faithful will be with him, having been judged already. As **Psalm 149** and many other passages already quoted show. **"To execute upon them the judgments written: this honour have all his saints"**.

Why is this so? Paul tells us in **Hebrews 11:6**.

"Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him".

Romans 10:17. **"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"**.

Acts 8:37 is the ONLY valid and correct way forward.

Enclosed is a Bible reading plan, which if used daily, will enable you to appreciate the truth of what is written in Amos 3:7. "Surely the LORD God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants, the prophets". Have FAITH in what God has promised, he WILL bring it to pass. Whether you obtain a reward, or not, depends on your own response to His Word.

Whilst one has to live "in the world" (Romans 13), the command in 2 Corinthians 6:17 and Revelation 18:4 is, to reject their way of life!

Please feel free to write, if you want any points answered, or more information.

Believing in 'The Hope of Israel',

I am,
Yours sincerely,

Ivor Thomas.

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Other leaflets freely available.

1. A Christian, "Born Again", a condemnation.
2. Holy Spirit Possession.
3. John 3:5. 'Modern' belief, refuted.
4. "Faith without works, is dead".
5. J.W's condemn themselves.
6. 'Once saved - saved for always', a fallacy.
7. 'The Thief on the Cross' - His True Hope!
8. A 'substitutionary' sacrifice cannot bring 'Eternal Redemption'. (The Nature of Christ).

THE BAPTISTS IN 1660

The following confession of faith, signed by John Bunyan and forty other elders, deacons, and brethren, and approved by more than 20,000 others, was presented to King Charles II., in London, 1660. They declared: "We are not only resolved to suffer persecution to the loss of our goods, but also life itself, rather than decline from the same." Where are the Baptists of 1660?

Art. 22: "We believe that the same Lord Jesus who showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs (Acts 1:3), which was taken up into heaven (Luke 24:51), shall so come in like manner as he was seen to go into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). 'And when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, we also shall appear with him in glory' (Col. 3:4). 'For the kingdom is his, and he is the governor among the nations' (Psalms 22:28), and 'king over all the earth' (Zech. 14:9); 'and we shall reign with him on the earth' (Rev. 5:10). 'The kingdoms of this world' (which men so mightily strive after here to enjoy) 'shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.' (Rev. 11:15). 'For all is yours (ye that overcome this world), for ye are Christ's and Christ is God's' (1 Cor. 3:22,23). 'For unto the saints shall be given the kingdom, and the greatness of the kingdom, under the whole heaven' (Dan. 7:27). Though alas! how many men be scarce content that the saints should have so much as a being among them; but when Christ shall appear, then shall be their day; then shall be given unto them power over the nations, to rule them with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:26,27). Then shall they receive a crown of life, which no man shall take from them, nor they by any means turned or overturned from; for the oppressor shall be broken in pieces (Psalms 72:4), and their vain rejoicings be turned into mourning and lamentations, as it is written (Job 20:5,7).

We believe that there will be an order in the resurrection; Christ is the first-fruits; and the next, or after, they that are Christ's at His coming; then, or afterwards, cometh the end. Concerning the kingdom and reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, as we do believe that he is now in heaven, at his Father's right hand, so do we believe that at the time appointed by the Father, he shall come again in power and great glory; and that at, or after his coming the second time, he will not only raise the dead and judge and restore the world, but will also take to himself his kingdom, and will, according to the Scriptures, reign on the throne of his father David, on Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, for ever.

"We believe that the kingdom of our Lord will be a universal kingdom, and in this kingdom the Lord Jesus Christ himself will be alone, visible, supreme king of the whole earth.

"We believe as this kingdom will be universal, so it will be also an everlasting kingdom, that shall have no end, nor cannot be shaken; in which kingdom the saints and faithful in Christ Jesus shall receive the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls; where the Lord is they shall be also.

We believe that the new Jerusalem that shall come down from God out of heaven, when the tabernacle of God shall be with them, and he will dwell among them, will be the metropolitan city of this kingdom, and will be the glorious place of residence of both Christ and his saints for ever; and will be so situate as that the kingly palace will be on Mount Zion, the holy hill of David, where his throne was" (*Crosby's History of Baptism*, vol. 2. App. 58).

THE BIBLE COMPANION

TABLES for the systematic daily reading of the Holy Scriptures :
 A Plan which, from the experience of our Society during the past eighty years, has been found to be the easiest, the most interesting, and by far the most profitable method of reading the Bible. By this plan, which gives the reader a daily bird's eye view of "the whole counsel of God," one starts from three points and travels through the entire Scriptures without a break in the course of twelve months, taking two portions from the Old Testament and one from the New every day—a method of reading by which the Bible largely becomes its own interpreter in that related passages from all parts of the Sacred Volume (which explain each other) are naturally brought together from day to day in the three readings.

It is important to note that the non-resisting commandments and precepts of the Law of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount and elsewhere in the New Testament do not indicate a change of moral principle, but only "a change of the law" (Heb. 7 : 11-12 ; Rom. 12 : 12-21 ; and 2 Thess. 1 : 3-10).

WHY READING THE BIBLE IS ESSENTIAL

"Salvation depends upon the assimilation of the mind to the divine ideas, principles and affections, exhibited in the Scriptures. This process commences with a belief of the gospel but is by no means completed thereby ; it takes a life-time for its scope and untiring diligence for its accomplishment. The mind is naturally alien from God and all His ideas (Rom. 8:7; 1 Cor. 2: 14) and cannot be brought at once to the Divine Likeness. This is a work of slow development, and can only be achieved by the industrious application of the individual to the means which God has given for the purpose, namely, the expression of His mind in the Scriptures of truth. Spiritual-mindedness, or a state of mind in accordance with the mind of the Spirit as displayed in these writings, can only grow within a man by daily intercourse with that mind, there unfolded. Away from this, the mind will revert to its original emptiness. The infallible advice then to every man and woman anxious about their salvation is—Read the Scriptures Daily. It is only in proportion as this is done, that success may be looked for. The man who sows sparingly in this respect will only reap sparingly. Much spiritual fructification is only to be realised in connection with the fructifying influences of the Spirit in the word . . .

By a strict adherence to this plan from year to year, the reader will reap much profit and find himself or herself gradually losing the insipidity of the natural mind and taking on the warm and exalted tone of the Spirit's teaching, which qualifies for the inheritance of the Saints in light"—Robert Roberts.

JANUARY						FEBRUARY							
Day	CHAPTERS TO BE READ					Day	CHAPTERS TO BE READ						
1	Gen.	1, 2	Psa.	1, 2	Matt.	1, 2	1	Exo.	5, 6	Psa.	58, 59	Rom.	10, 11
2		3, 4		3-5		3, 4	2		7, 8		60, 61		12
3		5, 6		6-8		5	3		9		62, 63		13, 14
4		7, 8		9, 10		6	4		10		64, 65		15, 16
5		9, 10		11-13		7	5		11, 12		66, 67	Mark	1
6		11, 12		14-16		8	6		13, 14		68		2
7		13, 14		17		9	7		15		69		3
8		15, 16		18		10	8		16		70, 71		4
9		17, 18		19-21		11	9		17, 18		72		5
10		19		22		12	10		19, 20		73		6
11		20, 21		23-25		13	11		21		74		7
12		22, 23		26-28		14	12		22		75, 76		8
13		24		29-30		15	13		23		77		9
14		25, 26		31		16	14		24, 25		78		10
15		27		32		17	15		26		79, 80		11
16		28, 29		33		18	16		27		81, 82		12
17		30		34		19	17		28		83, 84		13
18		31		35		20	18		29		85, 86		14
19		32, 33		36		21	19		30		87, 88		15, 16
20		34, 35		37		22	20		31, 32		89	1 Cor.	1, 2
21		36		38		23	21		33, 34		90, 91		3
22		37		39, 40		24	22		35		92, 93		4, 5
23		38		41-43		25	23		36		94, 95		6
24		39, 40		44		26	24		37		96-99		7
25		41		45		27	25		38		100, 101		8, 9
26		42, 43		46-48		28	26		39, 40		102		10
27		44, 45		49	Rom.	1, 2	27	Lev.	1, 2		103		11
28		46, 47		50		3, 4	28		3, 4		104		12, 13
29		48-50		51, 52		5, 6							
30	Exo.	1, 2		53-55		7, 8							
31		3, 4		56, 57		9							

MARCH						APRIL							
Day	CHAPTERS TO BE READ					Day	CHAPTERS TO BE READ						
1	Lev.	5, 6	Psa.	105	1 Cor.	14	1	Num.	15	Prov.	11	Luke	24
2		7		106		15	2		16		12	Gal.	1, 2
3		8		107		16	3		17, 18		13		3, 4
4		9, 10		108, 109	2 Cor.	1, 2	4		19		14		5, 6
5		11		110-12		3, 4	5		20, 21		15	Eph.	1, 2
6		12, 13		113-14		5-7	6		22, 23		16		3, 4
7		14		115-16		8	7		24, 25		17		5, 6
8		15		117-18		10, 11	8		26		18	Philip.	1, 2
9		16		119, vs 1-40		12, 13	9		27		19		3, 4
10		17, 18		vs 41-80	Luke	1	10		28		20	John	1
11		19		vs 81-128		2	11		29, 30		21		2, 3
12		20		vs 129-76		3	12		31		22		4
13		21	Psa.	120-4		4	13		32		23		5
14		22		125-7		5	14		33		24		6
15		23		128-30		6	15		34		25		7
16		24		131-4		7	16		35		26		8
17		25		135-6		8	17		36		27		9, 10
18		26		137-9		9	18	Deut.	1		28		11
19		27		140-2		10	19		2		29		12
20	Numbers	2		143-4		11	20		3		30		13, 14
21		3		145-7		12	21		4		31		15, 16
22		4		148-50		13, 14	22		5	Eccles.	1		17, 18
23		5	Prov.	1		15	23		6, 7		2		19
24		6		2		16	24		8, 9		3		20, 21
25		7		3		17	25		10, 11		4	Acta	1
26		8		4		18	26		12		5		2
27		9		5		19	27		13, 14		6		3, 4
28		10		6		20	28		15		7		5, 6
29		11		7		21	29		16		8		7
30		12, 13		8, 9		22	30		17		9		8
31		14		10		23	31		18				

