

## Problem of Sin Solved



What could God give, that would be so precious and of such high value that all of sinful mankind could potentially be redeemed? The answer was his most dearly loved firstborn Son.

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

Jesus not only provided the needed sacrifice, but also demonstrated that his obedience to his God and Father, the principles he believed in, and his love for his disciples, were more important than his own life. Jesus set the supreme example of ultimate sacrifice. And yet he did not remain dead! On the third day, he was resurrected back to life.

*But God raised him [Jesus] up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.* (Acts 2:24)

He lives even today! God has promised that those who believe in, love, and obey His Son will also have everlasting life.

*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* (Romans 10:9)

*For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.* (1 Corinthians 15:21-23)

## What We Need to Do

Peter said to them, *"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 2:38)



We need to confess our sins to God, be baptized, and commit to following Jesus by reading and obeying His teachings in the Bible—and God promises to help us by His Spirit. We should find other Christians to fellowship with, and tell others about the wonderful good news of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God so they may come to know God as we have.

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.* (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Following these steps will bring great joy to our lives now. And we can look forward, with great anticipation, to the consummation of the Kingdom at the return of our Lord and Savior.

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort.* (2 Corinthians 1:3)

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## "The Kingdom of God is Near"

Those words were spoken by Jesus Christ.  
He said:



*The time has come...  
The Kingdom of God is near.  
Repent and believe the good news!*

Mark 1:15

**Jesus taught his disciples to pray  
for God's Kingdom.**

See Matt. 6:9-10

**Jesus also said:**

*The knowledge of the secrets of the Kingdom of God  
has been given to you, but to others I speak in  
parables, so that, 'though seeing, they may not see;  
though hearing, they may not understand'.*

Luke 8:10

The Kingdom of God was the central message of Jesus Christ, and yet it is the least understood of his teachings:

- What is the Kingdom of God?
- How or why is it good news?
- How can we enter into it?

You may find the answers to these questions both intriguing and comforting.

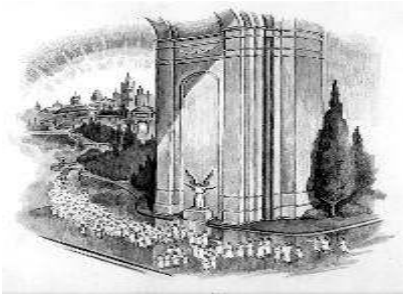
## What is the Kingdom of God?

The apostle Paul describes the Kingdom as follows:

*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:12-14)*

*For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)*

The Kingdom of God is something to be experienced now by those who have expressed faith in Jesus Christ and faithfully follow him. True believers (in that spiritual kingdom) are led by God's Spirit to do his will, so they have great joy as they commune with God, through Christ. But there is a greater fulfillment, yet future, for which we patiently wait and pray.



The book of Daniel prophetically describes the future Kingdom as a real government that replaces the governments of this world. This occurs at the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

*In the time of those kings [the kingdoms of this world that are in opposition to God's rule], the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (Daniel 2:44)*

## What will the future Kingdom rule be like?

The Bible describes a time when Jesus Christ will rule over the entire earth.

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 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." (Revelation 21:3-4)*



*They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (Isaiah 65:21)*

*The wolf will dwell with the lamb (Isaiah 11:6)*

*The threshing floors will be full of grain, and the vats will overflow with the new wine and oil. (Joel 2:24)*

*The earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh [the name of God the Father] as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)*

*There shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous [believers] and the unrighteous [unbelievers]. (Acts 24:15)*

The future Kingdom of God will be a time of peace, true worship, and superb government. The dead will be resurrected. The sick and lame will be healed. It will be a time of renewal and reconciliation never before experienced.

## The Problem of Sin



The blessings of the Kingdom would not be possible without first addressing the problem of sin. But what is sin and where did it originate?

The Bible teaches that Adam and Eve, the first humans, disobeyed God and were put out of Eden, a beautiful garden paradise which had been their home. Disobeying God is known as sin in the Bible. Our first parents violated their relationship with their loving Creator.

God had commanded them not to eat the fruit of a particular tree in His garden in order to test their obedience and their love for Him. The Bible teaches that a rebellious angel convinced Eve to disobey God, and then she convinced her husband Adam to do the same.

*When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. (Genesis 3:1-6)*

The disobedience of Adam and Eve was far-reaching—affecting all mankind.

*Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)*