

Gods Plan for the World

Ask yourself a question, what is wrong with our world?

If you don't agree that we have problems, you have been living on another planet!

"The reality is that there is little self-discipline. Self-indulgence leads to little or no respect for law and values." Do you think that this is a fair summary?

Corruption, immorality, violence, drug and alcohol abuse, hijacking, kidnapping, theft, child abuse, rape and murder flourish in an undisciplined society which ignores God. Moral decline has also led to discontent, escapism, selfishness, mental illness like never before and an increase in suicides.

Societies and economies are falling apart, especially since the advent of Covid19. At the same time, the world population is growing by over fifty million people a year. It's a terrible fact that **every day** more than 15,000 children under the age of five die from starvation and disease.

Climate change is making us rethink about feeding the world and where we can live.

Civil unrest is an everyday occurrence, even in countries where it is not legally tolerated. Acts of terrorism can happen anywhere at any time. War has never been far from the reality of the lives of so many people.

Humankind has a terrible track record and, left to itself, has a bleak future. It is a sombre picture.

Why is the world in such a mess? Lack of faith in God and disobedience to His laws have brought about these great evils.

From the beginning man chose his own way instead of God's way. Adam and Eve disobeyed God and created a gulf between God and humanity. God called this disobedience 'sin' and we, the whole human race, have been sinning ever since.

Jesus Christ, God's Son, describes it like this in Matthew 15:19:

'For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander'.

That is a terrible but accurate list. The apostle James adds: *'What causes quarrels, and what causes fights among you? Is it not this that your passions are at war within you?'* (James 4:1)

Let's face it: without God, man is in a hopeless, desperate condition. Human nature needs changing. But don't despair! When God sends Jesus Christ back to the earth, things are going to get better, much better.

So does God have a plan for the world? He certainly does! And His words in the Bible tell us all about it. Ask yourself: "What does the world need?"

Compare your ideas with these:

world ruler, peace, no starvation, good health, no corrupt leaders, freedom from fear and oppression, a common language, no arms race, just laws, help for the poor and homeless, and no pollution.

And, most importantly, the world needs God's laws to be known, to be understood and to be obeyed.

God has promised to achieve all of these ideals, through Jesus Christ and his faithful, immortal helpers. The Bible has a phrase for such a time of blessing:

"THE KINGDOM OF GOD".

The Bible tells us that God will not permit the sad state of this present world to go on forever, but will replace man's rule and mismanagement with His Divine arrangements.

There will come a time so bad that nothing men do will put things right. Matthew 24:21 says *'For then, there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equalled again'.* At this point, God will send Jesus back to the earth,

Matthew goes on to say so in verses 30 and 31. The description is: *'Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.'*

Jesus will come to fulfil the promise made to his mother Mary before his birth:

'He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his Father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom, there will be no end.' (Luke 1:32,33)

Yes, Jesus is coming to be the King of the Jews. But not of the Jews only; he is to be King of the whole world.

God promised Jesus that it would be so, and God never breaks His promises:

I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession (Psalm 2:8)

All kings fall down before him, all nations serve him! (Psalm 72:11)

There is no getting away from this future reality: Revelation 19:16 says just what Jesus will be: *'King of kings, and Lord of lords.'*

Matthew 25:31-34 describes his purpose as judge of the world and those in it: *'When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. The people of every nation will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. "Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, my Father has blessed you! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world"'*

It will be a time of great blessing for the people who survive God's judgement of the world and live in the Kingdom age. They will enjoy good health, peaceful life and will learn of God's ways. Just read Isaiah chapter 35 for yourself!

Jeremiah 3:17 describes it like this:

'At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.'

There are two other beautiful facts about God's choice of His Son, Jesus, as King:

Firstly he is the perfect man for the job. Think of his character: as well as being sinless, he was loving, gracious, compassionate, and sensitive to the needs of the weak.

He was also brave, mentally strong, just and not affected by corrupt practices around him. He had the power and authority of God at his command.

As King of the world, he will need all of those qualities to rule the nations.

Secondly, because he lived a perfect, sinless life on earth – always doing his Father's will. After his death, God raised him from the dead and made him immortal. When Jesus comes back to the earth things will change, when men and women realise that life under God's laws is far better than under man's rule. Acts 2:24 is clear:

'God raised him up, loosing the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.'

So the world will never need another ruler... but there's more to it than that!

1 Corinthians 15:25,26 tells us that Jesus will rule until all God's enemies are destroyed and, finally, the curse of death itself will be destroyed.

'Death itself will be destroyed'. What does that mean? It means that sin will be done away with and therefore there is no need for death since sin and death are linked to each other from the sin of Adam and Eve in the very beginning.

No doubt you have a plan for this life. Perhaps it includes getting married, having a family, having a home, providing for your family, preparing for old age.

For many people these are desirable goals. However, they do not compare with the plan that God has for those who faithfully believe, trust and obey Him now.

Let's just look at some of God's promises:

When Jesus comes to raise the dead and judge the world, he will give everlasting life to those who have loved and obeyed God. As Paul says in Philippians 3:21:

'Jesus will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.'

Those who are blessed with everlasting life will reign with Jesus over God's Kingdom and help him establish God's laws throughout the earth for a thousand years as it tells us in Revelation 20:4:

'For they (God's faithful ones) came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.'

During this thousand year period, there will still be a mortal population on the earth – just like now. But they will be living justly under God's laws, ruled by Jesus and his redeemed followers.

That time is called 'the millennium' and will last a thousand years.

After the thousand years, there will be a second judgement with the resurrection of those of the mortal population who turn to Jesus during that time, and they too will be made immortal.

Paul tells us about it in 1 Corinthians 15:28:

'When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.'

So think about it for a minute, how does God's plan for His servants compare with your own plans?

Is it bigger and grander? Of course it is. Your plan is at best for a lifetime. God's plan is for eternity and there are only three conditions:

Believe. Be immersed into that belief. Try to change your life to be more like Jesus.

The unpleasant fact that we all have to face is that we are mortal. But God has a plan for us.

Do you want to live forever in God's new world? You can! But you need to do something about it.

And that starts by obeying Him now.

Jesus says in John 14:15 *'Follow me' and 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments'.*

It's almost too good to be true but, in Mark 16:16, God promised:

'Whoever believes and is immersed will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned'

In Matthew 16:27 Jesus says *'the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done'*

And finally, the time when the world has been restored to the way it was when God created it, is described for us by Jesus in Revelation 21:3-4:

'And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'

God does not want you to miss that great day! So think about it and believe it, because these things are going to happen – and sooner than you might think.

And if you do believe it, then you need to be immersed into the saving name of Jesus and to try to be the person who Jesus will be happy to welcome into his kingdom when it comes.