

CHRIST

The King



His Mission, Mercy and Majesty

THIS booklet introduces a thrilling subject, providing a message of hope in this increasingly wicked and violent world. We ask the reader to carefully compare its statements with the references cited from the Bible. It will be seen that Christ is able to provide all that mankind needs. His coming rule will introduce a time of wonder and grandeur greater than the world has ever known. He will bring peace and security, removing all violent and oppressive elements of civilisation. He will construct a temple on the hill of Zion to unite the worship of mankind in one common understanding; introduce laws and education for the betterment of society, and establish this earth as the place of glory that God intended from the very beginning. The divine plan concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is outlined in this booklet, which we place into the hands of the reader, hoping that it will prove to be a true friend in an age of general hopelessness. Please read it carefully, and send for the free booklet advertised on the inside back cover.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

A Christadelphian Publication

DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD; AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.

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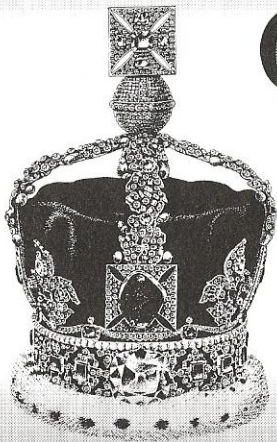
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Christ *the King*

A king is what the world desperately needs. But not a king governed by his own interests; not a monarch insensitive to the needs and welfare of his people; nor a man even able to make proper and wise decisions but without the ability to put them into effect. Where is such a king to be found? The Bible has the answer, for it speaks of such a man, trained from his birth for the destiny before him. And that man will shortly take up the reins of government on behalf of Almighty God. That man is His beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

AT the birth of the Lord Jesus certain wise men came from afar to Jerusalem enquiring: *“Where is he that is born king of the Jews?”* At the end of his ministry thirty-three years later, when Christ was arraigned before Pilate, the Roman governor, he was asked: *“Art thou a king?”* He replied: *“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world”* (John 18:37). When Christ died there was placed on his cross the superscription: **JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS** (John 19:19).

To be king of the Jews is the divine destiny of the Lord Jesus Christ. He died, but rose again after three days, and later ascended to the right hand of his Father in heaven, to remain there until the appointed time when he will return to fulfil his mission. As the Lord ascended into heaven his apostles were told by angels present: *“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”* (Acts 1:11).

The theme of Christ's second coming became one of the main features of apostolic preaching: *“He [God] shall send Jesus Christ... whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution [restoration] of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:21).

The Jewish people then (as now) deny that the Lord rose from the dead, and that he is divinely appointed to govern their nation. They accused his followers of sedition, claiming that they did things “contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus” (Acts 17:7).

But God's inspired Word declares that Christ is to return to reign from Jerusalem as king. Moreover, dramatic events now occurring in alignment with the requirements of Bible prophecy, testify that his return to earth for that purpose is imminent. In our times, the world has seen Israel revived as a nation, the previously arid lands of the Bible spring again into life, and the Middle East becomes the centre of international concern. The nations have consistently worked to bring peace to this region; but without lasting success. All these events, and many others, fulfil the predictions of Bible prophecy. They are prophetic miracles proclaiming in clarion tones, to those

willing to listen, that Christ is coming to reign on earth.

The Second Coming: Essential to Salvation

Christ was born to be the Lamb of God to take away the sin of the world; he is coming again as the Lion of the tribe of Judah to fulfil his mission as king of all nations. He will set up the long-predicted kingdom of God, and establish a worldwide empire: a family of nations, of which the Jewish people and nation (then disciplined and converted) will be chief.

The prophet Daniel summed up the purpose of God as: *“The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all (other) kingdoms and it shall stand for ever”* (Daniel 2:44).

The mission, mercy and majesty of Christ, earth’s future king, are seen in the reason and purpose of his second coming. These things must be properly comprehended in order to understand the saving truths of God’s purpose in His Son. Without a proper understanding and acceptance of those principles, there can be no personal salvation, no eternal life.

Unfortunately, mankind fails to properly comprehend this mission of the Lord, so clearly outlined in the Bible. Most people (including so-called Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and so forth) reject the truth that the nation of Israel is the channel of the divine purpose for all nations, and so refute the concept of the conversion and elevation of the Jewish people under Christ their king.

Many claim that Christ reigns only over spiritual “Israel” and they use the term to denote Gentiles who believe in Christ.

But the declaration made both at the birth and death of the Lord was that he will be *King of the Jews*, a title that does not relate to “spiritual” Israel. Therefore, when the Jews become enlightened with the Truth at Christ’s return, they will accept him as king and willingly submit to his rulership.

Christ’s Firm Rule: Society’s Need

Christ is coming to reign, for it is not the purpose of the Creator that the earth should forever remain the arena of bloodshed and blasphemy. He has purposed, promised and partly performed His will to provide an alternative. Christ’s earthly kingdom will witness God’s principles performed “in

earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). God purposed this from the beginning, for He declared: ***"As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord"*** (Numbers 14:21). He promised it in the teaching of the prophets who predicted the setting up of the kingdom of God at Christ's return. And He has already partially performed it in the birth, ministry, and elevation to glory of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

After his resurrection, the Lord triumphantly told his followers: ***"All power is given me in heaven and in earth"*** (Matthew 28:18). He exercises that power now, and will do so more openly in the future. In preaching the gospel Paul taught that Christ waits in heaven for the time appointed when he will return to ***"judge the world in righteousness"*** (Acts 17:31), and to rule as a just and loving Prince of peace.

History abundantly testifies that society needs such a king, possessing the wisdom, ability and power to rule effectively. Failure has marked man's attempts to govern righteously, or to establish permanent peace. Instead, the antagonism of nations has erupted to bathe the earth's soil with the blood of the slain, whilst at other times the groans of suffering humanity have arisen from those who suffer the tragedy of broken homes, forlorn hopes and crushed hearts increasingly evident everywhere.

The King: As Saviour and Sacrifice

Why has man's rule failed? Because of sin and its effects. Adam, the first man, forfeited the right to eternal life by disobeying God's law, and so caused the human race to become subject to sin, disease and death (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 5:12).

However, this did not frustrate or change God's purpose; it only delayed it. In His mercy and grace, God provided a way of escape for humanity. His first promise of redemption recorded in Genesis 3:15, revealed that God would provide a member of the human race who would become "the seed of the woman." This man would be also the Son of God, who, through strength derived from the Father, and by a sacrificial death unto resurrection to life, would conquer sin and death, and provide the means whereby those who identify with him may do likewise.

God further declared: "the seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head." In doing so, God described His purpose to provide a sovereign who would also be a saviour. Accordingly, Paul wrote: "***When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption [i.e. status] of sons***" (Galatians 4:4-5).

Christ appeared among men as "the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). His conquest of the flesh revealed his ability to reign over mankind, so that in the book of Revelation, the world's future sovereign is depicted as "the Lamb of God that had been slain" (Revelation 5:6) possessing the keys of "the grave and of death" (ch. 1:18). The redeemed are represented as praising him in the words: "***Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, tongue, people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth***" (ch. 5:9-10).

Thus, in the day of Christ's triumph his friends will share his glory. Of them it is said, "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (ch. 20:4).

Christ is figuratively represented as the Lamb of God who was "slain from the foundation of the world" (ch. 13:8). This means that those who desire to "live and reign with him" must seek the covering that he can provide as the antitype of that granted Adam and Eve at the beginning. He is such a "covering" and is "put on" in baptism, by which means sins are forgiven, being "covered over" (Psalm 32:1-2). Paul says: "***Ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise***" (Galatians 3:26-29).

This redemptive work of Christ was made possible only through the help of God. David, the most notable king of Israel, and ancestor of Jesus Christ, was promised by God that He would provide such a king from David's own family. In a wonderful prophetic promise epitomizing the purpose of God through Christ, David was told that:

1. Israel will ultimately be restored to the Promised Land never again to be removed therefrom (2Samuel 7:10).

2. A king would arise in the line of David after his death, and whose kingdom God would exalt (v. 12).
3. He would be unique, for God would be his Father (v. 14).
4. He would conquer sin and death (v. 15).
5. David would be resurrected to share his glory and immortality (v. 16).

This covenant of promise made to David, is the basis of the thrilling message of hope proclaimed by all the prophets. Isaiah triumphantly predicted: ***“Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God [or warrior of God], the everlasting Father, [or Father of eternity], The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this”*** (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Jeremiah took up the theme: ***“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a king shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely, and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness”*** (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was told, ***“Thou shalt... bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 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”*** (Luke 1:32-33).

These words clearly declare the divine mission of the Lord Jesus. It is linked with the promise made to David, and the vision of the prophets. That purpose is summed up with the declaration of Revelation 11:15, ***“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”***

A person believing the gospel and being baptized “puts on Christ” as Adam and Eve “put on” the covering provided by God through sacrifice (Genesis 3:21). A true believer then becomes relate¹ to Christ, and through him, to God Himself, and will ultimately receive eternal life.

Hence God required that the king He promised would be first a *saviour*, then a *sacrifice*, and ultimately a *sovereign*. This purpose was initiated 1900 years ago; it will be consummated at Christ's second coming. Therefore, in his mission, mercy and majesty the Lord Jesus Christ has partially fulfilled the purpose of God in him: a guarantee that ultimately he will complete it by reigning on earth as king.

A King Qualified to Rule

The fundamental requirement of God's kingdom will be the universal reverential respect that will be paid to God. Hence we read, according to the Hebrew Bible: ***"There shall be a Ruler over mankind, a Just One, ruling in the fear of God"*** (2Samuel 23:3).

The "fear of God" signifies a reverential respect for His holiness and majesty. God must be revered, His majesty and holiness held in the highest esteem, if men would be saved, or the world redeemed from the wickedness and evils of today. This will form the basis of Christ's rule.

A remarkable prophecy by the prophet Isaiah of Christ's birth describes how God's spirit rested upon him from birth and guided him in understanding. It includes these words: ***God "shall make him of quick understanding in the fear (reverential respect) of the Lord; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears; but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth"*** (Isaiah 11:3-4).

A king possessing such qualifications is not only fit to rule, but has the ability to do so effectively. He will establish such a state upon earth as is expressed in the words of the angels at the birth of the Lord: ***"Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace and goodwill towards men."*** Similarly the petition in the prayer Christ taught his disciples to utter, states: ***"Thy kingdom come that Thy will may be done in earth as it is in heaven."***

Christ's "quick understanding in the fear of the Lord" created a strong motivation in him to perform His Father's will.

At the age of twelve he told his mother: ***"I must be about my Father's business"*** (Luke 2:49). At his baptism he declared to John: ***"It becometh us to fulfil all righteousness"*** (Matthew

3:15). In rebuking the tempter in the wilderness he exhorted the need to ***“worship the Lord God, and Him only to serve”*** (ch. 4:10). He sternly warned the rebellious leaders of his day: ***“Ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition”*** (ch. 15:6). He reproved Peter, a beloved disciple, because he ***“savoured not the things that be of God but those of men”*** (ch. 16:23). When one addressed him as “good master” he declared: ***“There is none good but One, that is God”*** (ch. 19:17). He publicly denounced the religious leaders of his day because they failed to honor God (ch. 23:13-33). Sorrowfully, he predicted that the beloved city of Jerusalem would be destroyed and left desolate until he returned as king ***“in the name of the Lord”*** (v. 39).

Reverential fear of God provides the key to salvation now, and the hope to participate in a world freed from fear and the escalation of wickedness. Christ will establish this, for he will reign with unerring judgment and justice.

Earth's Future Monarch: As Judge

Before the nations will submit to Christ, and render the fear and adoration due to God, they must be humbled and disciplined. Isaiah declared: ***“Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness, in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord”*** (Isaiah 26:10).

The amazing prophecies relating to Christ's future reign on earth make it perfectly clear that he is to return to reign on David's throne in Jerusalem. Together with those of like faith and disposition, David will be resurrected to participate in Christ's glorious kingdom which will be everlasting in duration, and universal in extent. Its metropolis will be David's restored throne in Jerusalem (Isaiah 9:6-7), where Christ will “appear in his glory” (Psalm 102:16). He will at first rule in the midst of his enemies (Psalm 110:1-2), but will command all such to submit to his control: “the nation and kingdom that will not serve him shall perish” (Isaiah 60:12). Ultimately all existing nations will bow before him (Zechariah 14:16-18), and because of the righteousness of his reign “all nations shall call him blessed” (Genesis 22:18; Psalm 72:17). At that time, the prophecy of the apostle Paul will have wonderful fulfilment: ***“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue***

confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:11).

Never has "every knee bowed and every tongue confessed that Jesus is Lord," but the time is coming when all mankind shall do so, and acknowledge the royal dignity of the Lord Jesus, to the glory of his Father.

To that end, he will intervene in world events in the international crisis now developing.

Having first resurrected the dead and rewarded with eternal life those who have lived in accordance with his precepts in this life (1Peter 4:17), Christ will use infallible power and wisdom to bring mankind into subjection to the laws he will establish in the earth for their benefit and guidance.

Signs of Changes to Come

It is obvious to every thinking person that the nations are moving towards a **"time of trouble such as never was"** as predicted in the Bible (Daniel 12:1). Bible prophecy requires that **"all nations shall be drawn to Jerusalem to battle"** (Zechariah 14:1).

The future of the Middle East has become a bone of contention between the major powers, and the outcome of this crisis will decide the fate of the world. The prophet Ezekiel predicts that Russia will lead a confederacy of nations against the Holy Land (Ezekiel 38), to be opposed by the Western powers. This will erupt into Armageddon, the battle of the nations spoken of in Revelation 16:16. Victory, however, will be neither with Russia nor the West, but with the Lord Jesus Christ, who, assisted by his immortalized elect, will intervene to save the world from its own folly. He will **"destroy those who would destroy the earth"** (Revelation 11:18), and establish his kingdom in righteousness: **"In righteousness he doth judge and make war"** (ch. 19:11).

With divine authority Christ will command the submission and allegiance of all nations. Those who accept him will be required to submit to the new laws and social standards he will establish; those who refuse will be disciplined. As Judge of all nations Christ will command respect.

Christ: the Shepherd King

Christ is returning to the earth primarily to judge

mankind; but he will also educate, convert and redeem.

At his first advent, he announced himself as ***“the good shepherd”*** who ***“gives his life for the sheep”*** (John 10:11). He is to return to rule as Shepherd-King over those who escape the holocaust of Armageddon. Previously he shepherded individuals; at his second coming he will lead nations and care for them, providing for their needs.

This is the will of God. He has ***“no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that they may turn unto Him and live”*** (Ezekiel 18:32; 1Timothy 2:4). If any today respond to the guidance and leadership of the Lord, their future eternal inheritance and salvation are assured.

God delights in mercy. He extended Himself 3500 years ago to deliver Israel from Egypt, and led them across the Red Sea to safety. In doing so, He manifested Himself as the Shepherd of Israel (Psalm 80:1). That, likewise, will be the title and mission of the Lord Jesus at his return. He will deliver the nation of Israel from the trouble that will encompass it as Bible prophecy predicts (Ezekiel 34:11-13; Jeremiah 30:1-11; Romans 11:26-32). Having accomplished that, he will act as Shepherd to the whole world, gathering the nations unto him, until all mankind is converted to his ways, and follow in his paths.

Concerning Israel, God has declared: ***“I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David*** [the name means: “Beloved,” a title of Christ, the beloved of God: Matthew 3:17]; ***he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the Lord will be their God, and My servant the Beloved, a prince*** [i.e., a king] ***among them; I the Lord have spoken it”*** (Ezekiel 37:23-24).

This implies delegated authority from God. Christ will perform this work on His behalf, and will elevate Israel to a national glory exceeding that of its previous history (Amos 9:11; Zechariah 14:11).

Having restored his people Israel, he will gather all other nations into his fold, to comprise one world empire.

Vast changes will be introduced. Social evils will not be tolerated, crime will be suppressed, peace will be established (Acts 3:19). As a result, glory will redound to God, whilst peace and wellbeing will come to humanity.

In a lovely pastoral scene that figuratively describes the peace and tranquility of life on earth when Christ rules and tends the ills of humanity, Isaiah proclaimed: ***“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd; he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom; and shall gently lead those that are with young”*** (Isaiah 40:11).

Outlining the practical manner in which this will be accomplished, Isaiah predicted the conditions that shall exist on earth when Christ reigns from Jerusalem, ***“the city of the great King”*** as the Lord described it (Matthew 5:35).

“It shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house [a temple for universal worship in the future Age] shall be established in the top of the mountains [i.e., in Jerusalem]... and all nations shall flow unto it. 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 peoples, 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 2:2-4).

What a glorious portrayal of peace and tranquility! How greatly it is to be desired rather than the violent and evil conditions of the present! A world united in one common worship; responsive to the instruction and law of righteousness that shall emanate from Jerusalem when Christ reigns as king; munitions of war destroyed, conscription and warfare outlawed, and mankind delivered from bloodshed and fear, and reaping the bounty of the soil which they will tend with pleasure.

This millennium of peace will be ushered in with the commencement of Christ’s reign. He declared to Pilate the Roman governor of his divine right to ultimately become king: ***“To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world.”*** Christ manifested royal dignity in his ministry over 1900 years ago; today he sits at the right hand of God in heaven as royal mediator between God and man; and he will soon return to the earth, to rule from Jerusalem, the site of his

royal throne (Psalm 110).

Then there shall be one king (Zechariah 14:9); one religion (ch. 14:16); one empire (Daniel 2:44). The evils that disgrace present society will be removed by his wise legislation and irresistible administration.

The work of Christ during the millennium is summed up in the teaching of the Bible: "He must reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (1Corinthians 15:25-26).

A King Of Truth

When Christ reigns on earth, the prophecy will be fulfilled that states: "***Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven***" (Psalm 85:10-11). When this occurs, Truth will be elevated in the earth (Isaiah 42:3), for Christ told Pilate: "***For this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth***" (John 18:37).

"*The Truth*" is a Bible term. It is exclusive. There are not a series of conflicting truths, or various ways of worshipping God. There is but one, limited by the definite article "*The*" (see Ephesians 4:4-6). Christ declared: "***I am The truth***" (John 14:6). He was, and is the personification of all that it teaches. He also declared "***The truth will make you free***" (John 8:32), for it is the means designed of God to free mankind from the bondage of sin and death.

The Bible alone is the repository of that Truth, and it must be understood and acknowledged before a person can worship God aright. Christ declared: "***This is life eternal to know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent***" (John 17:3), and he further pleaded in prayer on behalf of his disciples: "***Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy word is truth***" (John 17:17). Therefore, the Lord stipulated that acceptable worship must be in accordance with the Truth he expounded. "***True worshippers worship the Father in spirit and in truth***" (John 4:24).

How important it is to seek out that truth, avoiding false teaching even though proclaimed in his name. Indeed, the Bible pronounces a curse upon those who dare set forth any deviation from the true gospel (Galatians 1:8). On the other

hand, God invites mankind to partake of that truth freely, without price (Isaiah 55:1), for in it are found the seeds of eternal life. To those who make the effort to seek out truth, He promises *“the sure mercies of David”* to be fulfilled in eternal life at the coming of His son.

We Must Make Sure of our Beliefs

Many systems of religion exist throughout the world, all offering consolation and hope; but alas, most of them fail to conform to the requirements of God's Word. Outside of His Truth there is no true satisfaction; but within its teaching there is *“promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come”* (1Timothy 4:8). Unfortunately men dispute the Truth today, and refute what the Bible teaches. The time is coming, however, when they will no longer do so, but will be compelled to acknowledge the Truth they previously rejected. The prophet, speaking of that time, declared: *“O Lord, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit... Therefore, behold, I will this*

The Truth Christ Proclaimed

God must be revered	Matthew 4:10
Christ is to return	John 14:3
God one Being, not three	Mark 12:29, 32.
God is greater than Christ	John 14:28
The Holy Spirit is God's power, not a person	Mat. 10:20; 12:18, 28
Christ's sacrifice representative, not substitutionary	Jn 1:29; 3:14-15; 10:18
God's love, not wrath, was shown in Christ's death	John 3:16-17
Christ's example to be followed	Matthew 10:38-39
Sin is from within, not a superhuman being	Mark 7:20-23
Belief and baptism are essential to salvation	Mark 16:15-16
Forgiveness of sins is found in Christ alone	Luke 24:47
God's kingdom to be set up on earth	Matthew 5:5; 6:10
The "church" does not comprise that kingdom	Lk 19:15; Mat. 25:31-34
Eternal life to be given at Christ's coming	Mk. 10:30; Mat. 25:46
— at the resurrection and judgment	Matthew 25:31-46
Death is a state of unconsciousness in the grave, not in heaven or hell	John 11:11-14
Israel to be saved at Christ's return	Mat. 23:39; Jn. 10:16
Man is the creation of God, not of evolution	Matthew 19:4

once cause them to know, I will cause them to know Mine hand and My might; and they shall know that My name is the Lord [Hebrew: Yahweh]" (Jeremiah 16:19-21).

Isaiah depicts the wonderful changes that will follow the revelation of Christ in the earth again: *"He will destroy in this mountain [i.e., Jerusalem] the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth"* (Isaiah 25:7-8).

The current misunderstanding of Christ's teaching will be removed when he rules in Jerusalem. The false concept of an immortal soul will be dispelled when the reality of death is made manifest, and hope is shown to be only in a resurrection to life eternal. Christ will reveal the "truth as it is in him" in the teaching to which he witnessed as he proclaimed the gospel over 1900 years ago (see list on page 13).

It is upon the basis of these truths that Apostolic Christianity was proclaimed, and is today continued in the Christadelphian community. But the apostles sadly predicted that the time would come when believers would be diverted from Truth to error, and an Apostate system arise claiming the name "Christian," but denying the doctrines of Christ (see Acts 20:29-30; 2Timothy 4:1-4; 2Peter 3:3-5 etc.). These prophecies have been fulfilled in the development of a Christendom that is astray from the real teachings of Christ.

This is to be dramatically changed. When Christ rules from Jerusalem it will be constituted a "city of truth" (Zechariah 8:3), the centre from whence God's Word will be proclaimed to all the world (Micah 4:1-4). Worshippers will journey to Jerusalem to be educated in precious, life-giving doctrines (Zechariah 8:20-23), and by the means of that knowledge the nations will be united, with a common viewpoint, hope, and aspirations.

The King As Physician

Christ will not only care for men's minds but also for their bodies. He will heal mankind of sin, sickness and, ultimately, death: *"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"* (Revelation 21:4).

Meanwhile, with all his technology, man cannot cure these ills. Indeed his refusal to conform to the ways of God compounds the problems of this age.

Christ's unerring wisdom, his ability to control even the forces of nature, and the more relaxed and healthful occupations that will engage the lives of men in the Age to come, will be reflected in the mental and physical conditions of society.

The glorious prophecies of Isaiah describe the state that shall then prevail: deserts transformed into fruitful fields of productive pastures and growth (Isaiah 25:1-2); springs of sparkling, living water breaking forth to fructify the soil (vv. 6-7); the dread diseases of today, controlled and eventually eliminated by proper living under the direction of the One who "knows what is in man": the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sin and sickness are closely related. Many illnesses result from defiance of God's natural laws whether by habit, labor or diet. In the future, mankind will live morally in accordance with the laws of God and nature, so that the demoralizing and polluting conditions of modern city life with people herded together will be eliminated. By the dispersion of population into rural areas, great benefits will be experienced. Healthful working conditions, will diminish illness. There will be no more need for scientific research into the cause of deadly diseases, for those in control (Christ and his immortalized followers) will have divine understanding of all things and be able to control that which today results in ill health and terminal disease. Hence the prophet speaking of the future millennium declared: ***"The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick; the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity"*** (Isaiah 33:24).

The adverse conditions that God saw needful to bring upon the earth because of sin, aggravated by man's own folly, will be largely eliminated. The soil will produce abundantly (Amos 9:13), and the span of life will be greatly extended (Isaiah 65:20). War will be outlawed, so that the wealth, effort and resources which are today poured into the arms race, will then be diverted into that which will benefit humanity.

The King In His Majesty

In the days of his mortality, when he appeared on earth

1900 years ago, Christ demonstrated his ability to rule by the manner in which he deported himself among men as he "went about doing good" (Acts 10:38). He manifested the power to cure all forms of mental and physical infirmity (Matthew 4:23-24), increasing the abundance of food when necessary (ch. 14:19-21; 15:36-38); and exercising complete control over the forces of nature (ch. 8:26). He had authority to forgive men their sins (ch. 9:6); and the ability to guide them into ways of true happiness and peace.

But above all this was the glory of his character. He was God manifest in the flesh (1 Timothy 3:16) in that he perfectly exhibited the character of his Father (John 1:14; 14:9; 17:6, 12, 26). This is a combination of "goodness and severity" (Romans 11:22). Christ fearlessly denounced the religious hypocrisy of the times; whilst extending help and encouragement to all who would "come unto him" (Matthew 11:28-30). He "loved righteousness, and hated iniquity" (Hebrews 1:9), extending himself to manifest the former whilst vigorously repudiating anything that would destroy it. He was not passive in his love, nor in his opposition to evil, but active and energetic.

Even in the days of his mortality, Christ was "the Word made flesh" (John 1:14), for he fulfilled all the types and teaching of the Word, pleasing his Father in all aspects of his character. He returns to the earth as "the Word of God" (Revelation 19:13) in perfect, glorious, holy, eternal, divine flesh, to destroy the forces of darkness, and gloriously illuminate society with divine teaching and morality.

The King's Invitation

The king invites you to share his glory in the Age to come: "***Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,***" he said (Matthew 11:28).

He sent his apostles forth with the mission: "***Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned***" (Mark 16:15-16).

Christ's way has "promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come." It enables the believer to live more abundantly now, whilst doing so in confidence and hope at the coming of the Lord. May that day soon appear!

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THE CHRISTADELPHIANS

...or, as the name implies, the Brethren of Christ (Hebrews 2:11), are a body of people associated together by a belief in the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:12); and by immersion into Christ (Galatians 3:27) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and identification with his resurrection (Romans 6:5).

They do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are able to make a person wise unto salvation (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Believing in the divine authorship of the Bible, they think it only reasonable to reject any interpretation which fails to harmonise all the testimonies of the Holy Scriptures; and, finding that the creeds of the various existing religious groups are, in a great variety of ways, opposed to the direct teaching of the Bible, they feel compelled to stand apart, making appeal in all such matters to the statements of Scripture, and testing all teachings thereby.

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