

Glad Tidings

Of The Kingdom Of God



Featured **Articles**

The Kingdom of God and the Water of Life (p. 3)

Will There Ever Be Worldwide Peace? (p. 6)

Hear the Good News and Act (p. 13)

A monthly magazine written and published by the Christadelphians (brothers and sisters in Christ) and available throughout the world.

Its objectives are to encourage the study of the Bible as God's inspired message to humankind; to call attention to the divine offer of forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ; and to warn people that soon Christ will return to earth as judge and ruler of God's worldwide Kingdom.

Table Of Contents

The Kingdom of God and the Water of Life



3

Will There Ever Be Worldwide Peace?



6

No More Sickness



9

Hear the Good News and Act



13

Hope for the Future—Resurrection



16

Bible Reader's Wordsearch



19

Glad Tidings Distributors for orders and payments

United Kingdom

Becky Collard, 7 Lindridge Close, Redditch, Worcs. B98 0QJ, UK
Tel: +44 (0)7521 079 190 (24 hrs)
orders-uk@gladtidingsmagazine.org

Australia

Ruth Morgan, 41 Dimboola Road, Warracknabeal, VIC 3393, Australia
gladtidingsaustralia@gmail.com

Canada

Vivian Thorp, 5377 Birdcage Walk, Burlington, ON L7L 3K5, Canada
vivianthorp@bell.net

New Zealand

Jenny Luxmoore, 47 Woodfern Crescent, Titirangi, Auckland 0604, New Zealand
delux@xtra.co.nz

U.S.A.

Pat Hemingray, 1244 Pennsylvania Avenue, Oakmont, PA 15139, USA
orders-usa@gladtidingsmagazine.org

Other Countries

Andrew Johnson, 22 Hazel Drive, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5RJ, UK
orders-int@gladtidingsmagazine.org

Editor

Chris Parkin, 7 Thorntree Lane, Newhall, Swadlincote, Derbyshire DE11 0LP, UK
editor@gladtidingsmagazine.org

Publisher

The Glad Tidings Publishing Association
A registered charity—Number 248352

The Kingdom of God and the Water of Life

THE COVER PICTURE shows the Turbine Water Fountain in the centre of the English city of Coventry. It is a tribute to the city's heritage: Sir Frank Whittle, the inventor of the jet engine, was born in Coventry in 1907. He first put forward his ideas for a jet engine in 1928 whilst a student. The fountain features the shape of the turbine blades of a jet engine.

We are now familiar with the idea of travelling long distances in a relatively short period of time by jet powered aircraft. This invention has shrunk our world, giving rise to the phrase "the global village."



News travels very fast across the world now, aided by satellites and the internet. Sadly today, much of the news we hear is bad news, often involving death and destruction.

Good News

In contrast, in the First Century AD, people began to hear some really good news. The prophet John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus Christ, began to tell people to repent

(confess their sins and turn their lives towards God) and to expect the arrival of the Messiah (the Lord Jesus Christ).

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

*"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,
the voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"*

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 1:1-4).

John's teaching upset the religious authorities of the day and they had him arrested, but soon afterwards Jesus and his disciples began to share in the work of spreading the good news. (That is the Gospel—"Gospel" means "good news".) This good news concerned God's plan of salvation. Jesus taught the good news of the Kingdom of God. In fact, the Kingdom of God is mentioned over 60 times in the New Testament.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15).

So, what was this Kingdom that Jesus taught everywhere he went? In fact, Jesus gave people a 'taster' of what the Kingdom of God would be like. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and even raised people from the dead. Most importantly he forgave people their sins. This Kingdom would be an everlasting kingdom. The faithful man Abram, who lived just under 1800 years before Jesus, was promised a place in this everlasting Kingdom. In order to take his place in the Kingdom he must be raised from the dead and given everlasting life.

The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northwards and southwards and eastwards and westwards, for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring for ever" (Genesis 13:14-15).

A Worldwide Kingdom

Something else we know about the Kingdom of God is that when Jesus returns to the earth the political domain of the kingdom of men will be utterly destroyed. This is described for us by the prophet Daniel, who lived approximately 500 years before Jesus Christ was born. Daniel lived in the time of the Babylonians. The reigning monarch, King Nebuchadnezzar, had a dream which God enabled Daniel to interpret. It was a dream of the image of a man. Different parts of his body, made from different metals, represented the Babylonian empire and

those which would follow. At the end of the dream, the 'man' is utterly destroyed by a rock cut out of the mountain without hands. This rock represents Jesus and the Kingdom of God which will replace the kingdom of men. We can be sure of this interpretation because it is recorded for us in the book of Daniel.

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure (Daniel 2:44-45).

Elsewhere this good news is described as being vital for life. In just the same way that a person cannot survive very long without water, so they cannot survive spiritually without the word of God—the Bible. In our cover photograph we see a fountain of water. This fountain can fail if there are problems with the water supply. The life-giving water that God provides for those who choose to follow His Son will never run out for any reason because God is in control. If we drink natural water we are refreshed. In hot countries a reliable water supply is of great value. God's word is likened to the water of life, and is available to those who



read the Bible and listen to its message. The effect of this word will be eternal if we are prepared to read in faith and to act upon its instructions. Jesus spoke these words to a woman he met who was about to draw water from Jacob's well in Sychar in Samaria:

Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water" (John 4:13–15).



The Water of Life

In the First Century AD there were no jet engines or satellites and no internet. Communicating news required messengers making long journeys, often on foot. This is how the good news of the Kingdom of God was first spread. The messengers who carried the Gospel would probably have taken water for their long journey, but they were also carrying the water of life—God's word.

For many centuries people have received the good news, repented and been baptised. They would then take of the water of life daily, by reading God's word as they travelled in a new direction towards God's coming Kingdom. This great hope for the future has sustained many faithful followers of Jesus Christ as they live their lives waiting for the day when Jesus will return to the earth to set up the Kingdom of God.

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope (Romans 15:4).

So the good news for you today is that God's word continues to draw people out from the world in order to prepare them for eternal life in His Kingdom.

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

David & Sue Honey

Questions? Comments?

We'd love to hear from you!

e-mail editor@gladtidingsmagazine.org

or connect with us via our web site

gladtidingsmagazine.org

or write to the Editor—address inside front cover

Will There Ever Be Worldwide Peace?

ONE OF LUDWIG VAN Beethoven's most famous compositions is called *Moonlight Sonata*—a moving and melancholic piece. What a sad and bitter irony that the German air force in 1940 used this codename for the devastating bombing raid on the city of Coventry at the time of a full moon.

The targeted attack on the 14th November resulted in 554 recorded deaths (there were certainly more), many injured and the city centre badly damaged, including its medieval cathedral of St Michael's.

It turned out to be the single most concentrated bombing raid on a British city in the Second World War.

When hostilities mercifully came to an end some five years later there was a concerted drive for reconciliation between the people of Coventry and those of German cities which suffered similar bombing by the

British air force. By 1947 Coventry adopted Kiel as its first German twin city, followed by Dresden in 1956. The ruin of the old cathedral today stands as a focal point for international peace and reconciliation. Thankfully a good measure of peace has

been achieved between the bitter enemies of the Second World War, but sadly brutal conflicts continue to rage around the globe. Solving these conflicts is a never-ending and hopeless task: in most cases no

satisfactory solution can be found despite the efforts of the world's political leaders.

The misery of war not only affects those involved in the military forces, but also innocent civilians—the mothers, the children, the sick, the elderly and the impoverished. So will there ever be worldwide peace, and how can it be achieved and sustained?



Ruins of Coventry Cathedral

God Gives a Promise

In the Bible we learn that God has promised that there will be world peace. Yes, we will live in harmony! There are several places where we can read about God's plan for the world. The prophet Micah for example describes this wonderful time:

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more; but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken (Micah 4:1-4).

The message is emphatic that the weapons of war will be turned into much needed implements of agriculture to provide food.

They will no longer exist to kill and maim. At long last peace under the righteous rule of the Lord Jesus will be a glorious reality.

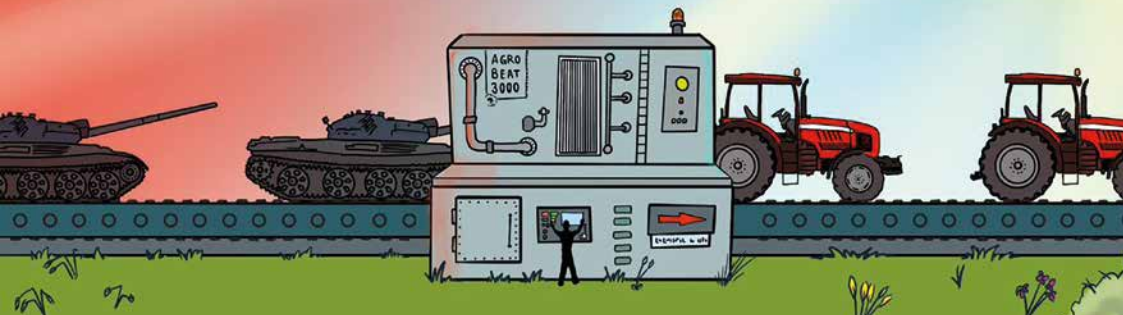
A Righteous King to Rule

Describing the Lord Jesus, the prophet Isaiah says:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this (Isaiah 9:6-7).

As we read through the Gospels we learn of the Lord Jesus' wonderful character. He always does God's will and seeks the best for all his fellow men and women. He upholds truth and righteousness but is also a man of understanding, mercy and compassion. The prophet Isaiah describes his Godly and Kingly attributes this way:

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And



his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins (Isaiah 11:2–5).

The joy and peace of this worldwide kingdom is anticipated a number of times in the Psalms. The songwriters provide uplifting words for us, who live now in such troubling times. Consider for example the following two passages:

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in his faithfulness (Psalm 96:10–13).

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him! (Psalm 67:4–7).

Our Peace With God

The Lord Jesus will come and establish God's Kingdom, and bless this world with his righteousness and truth—of this

we can have no doubt. The Bible speaks abundantly of these things. There will be worldwide peace. Today God is inviting us to prepare to live in this wonderful future age. We can seek peace with God now. Through accepting the Gospel call we can be disciples of the Lord Jesus and have our sins forgiven. We can learn day by day how to live a godly life. Our new path may be narrow and challenging, but through the grace of Christ the rewards will be great both for today and for tomorrow.

Moonlight Sonata is the name, regrettably, not only for a musical masterpiece but also for an act of brutal warfare. During that fearful night in Coventry the light of the moon brought carnage, but we can have light and life through our dark times by following the Lord Jesus. He said 'I am the light of the world' (John 8:12). With him there is enlightenment and life, even eternal life. In due course he shall bathe the whole world with the light of his truth. He will be the light of the world, and he will give lasting peace.

Jeff & Helen Sewell



No More Sickness

WOULDN'T WE ALL love to live in a world free, at last, from the curse of famine, sickness and disease? No more reports of an overwhelmed health service. No more need for continual pleas for research funding to combat cancer, heart disease, dementia, Alzheimer's and countless other disabilities and diseases.



Well, the good news is that one day that will be the situation. It sounds impossible I know. But according to God's promises in the Bible's Old Testament, and the Gospel preached by Jesus Christ in the New Testament, a new government will be established on this Earth. A worldwide government, which the Bible calls the "Kingdom of God" or the "Kingdom of Heaven"—Jesus Christ himself being the immortal King.

Preaching With Power

Jesus preached the '*gospel of the kingdom*'. He not only preached the Kingdom, he demonstrated it in action. His Father had

given him the authority and power to heal and cure all manner of sickness and disease, and even the power to raise the dead.

Take for example, the inspired account in the Gospel record of Matthew:

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan (Matthew 4:23–25).

It was indeed his power to perform miracles, including feeding the hungry and healing both physical and mental illnesses, that proved him to be the Son of the Creator, the Christ, the Messiah and the anointed King of the Kingdom to come.

On one occasion John the Baptist, who had baptised Jesus in the river Jordan and had since been imprisoned by Herod, sent some of his followers to Jesus to ask a question:

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the

one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me" (Matthew 11:2-6).

The miraculous power to heal the sick was a sign, a confirmation, that the message he brought to the poor and to those who would listen was true and reliable and was indeed the word of God Himself.

A Taste of The Kingdom

After Christ's resurrection from death and ascension to heaven, his authority was confirmed by the apostles. They were eyewitnesses of the power that was displayed by Christ during his ministry, and of his resurrection from the dead. This is what Peter said:

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know... (Acts 2:22).

Each miracle, each act of healing was a sign, a representation, a taste of the powers which will be available in the Kingdom to come. Here was Jesus the King, with the power and authority of the Creator, in the land his Father has selected to be at the

centre of His government in the age to come. In these things there was a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. So much so that Jesus during his ministry said, 'the kingdom of God is in the midst of you' (Luke 17:21). In his miracles and teaching was a preview of the future Kingdom, a Kingdom which he taught his followers to pray for (Matthew 6:10) and to seek above all else (v. 33).



The Sickness of Sin

More important was that each act of healing was actually a sign and a demonstration of God's power to heal and deliver us from a much greater sickness and a fatal disease. A disease which affects us all—a spiritual plague, a pandemic, which is at the root of our individual mortality and is the source of all the world's problems.

This inherent disease is embedded in our very nature from the moment we are born. God calls this disease 'the law of sin' (Romans 7:23). Not a popular idea in our times, but it is evident in nearly every aspect of our personal life and beyond. As God says: 'All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23).

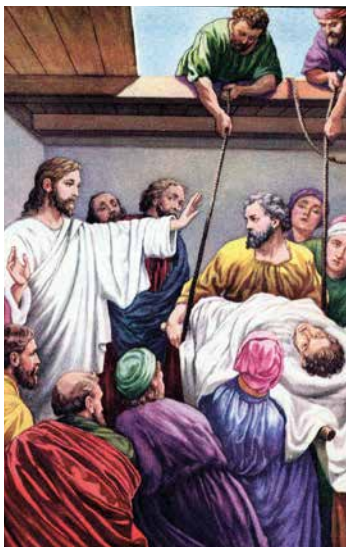
Mercifully, there is a limit to the time we have to endure the consequences of our own sin and the pain and impact of the common selfishness, greed, disloyalty, dishonesty, cruelty, violence and wars that we see in the world all around us. At the moment we are sinners and therefore mortal. But the good news is that Jesus

Christ will return soon. And just as he was able to heal physical and mental sicknesses and disease in his first ministry, so he has the power and authority to forgive our sins now, and to raise us from death and give us the gift of eternal life in his Kingdom yet to come. *'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord'* (Romans 6:23).

The Power to Heal

Let's consider one notable occasion, on which Jesus demonstrated that he had the authority to heal a paralysed man. A man incapable of delivering himself from the dreadful disease and disability which had ruined his life; a man who had to be brought to Jesus by his friends. Those friends believed that Jesus could, and would, heal him. Jesus showed that his power was not limited to healing his physical disease but, more importantly, he had been given the authority to forgive sins. The power to heal the man's paralysis was evidence of Jesus' authority to forgive.

And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralysed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying,



"Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you', or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralysed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today" (Luke 5:18–26).

The scribes and Pharisees were the religious leaders at that time. They did not believe that Jesus had the authority to forgive sins, but the miracle of healing proved them wrong. Moreover, the scribes and Pharisees generally believed they were good and righteous already, and they didn't need the forgiveness Jesus offered. He told them something very important:

Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance" (vs. 31–32).

Jesus was saying something that may seem obvious: those who think they are healthy don't need or seek a doctor. We only go to the doctor when we recognize that we have

an illness or that there is something wrong with us. Only then can the sickness be dealt with. Unfortunately, there are many who don't realise when they are seriously ill, until it's too late. Likewise, it's only those who recognize that they are sinners who will come to Jesus for healing. This is true for us all. Only when we acknowledge that we are smitten with the disease of sin will we come to Jesus for forgiveness. Only then can he heal us.



The Apostle John puts it very clearly: *'If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us'* (1 John 1:8–10).

God requires that we hear what He says, believe His word, have faith in His promises, and listen to His Son. If we acknowledge our sins by being baptised and seek to change the direction of our lives we can have hope of being raised from the dead and being citizens of the future

Kingdom of God. We'll consider this further in the next article.

The Time of Healing

The good news is that God has promised that He will send His son to earth again. Jesus the King will rule the world with authority, power, righteousness and a justice which will at last bring healing and peace. Then the famines, illnesses, diseases and other disasters which curse the earth now will be eradicated for ever. Ultimately even sin and death will be things of the past. Jesus demonstrated at his first coming that he has the power to feed the hungry, heal the sick, and bring soundness to those who have troubled and tormented minds. When he returns, those who have acknowledged their personal need to be cured from the curse of sin and death will receive that cure. It will involve a change of nature and being made like the resurrected Lord Jesus, the Son of God, their King.

Hear the good news, summarised by God, in the promise we can read in the last pages of the Old Testament: *'For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall'* (Malachi 4:2).

Again, in the final chapters of the New Testament the promise is repeated: *'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away'* (Revelation 21:4).

Good news indeed!

Steven Robinson

Hear the Good News and Act

'HE WHO HAS EARS to hear, let him hear.' That is what Jesus said to the crowds in Matthew 11:15. He was looking for people who had ears. I assume the majority of the people in those crowds had two ears, and I also assume that most people who are reading this have two ears.

It seems a bit of an obvious thing to say, doesn't it? If they didn't have ears, they wouldn't be able to hear. But Jesus is looking for active listeners—not just people who will hear his words, but people who will act on those words, use them to create a change in their lives.



Jesus preached to thousands of people in his three and a half-year ministry. Lots of them, maybe thousands of them would have heard his words and not acted on them. In Matthew chapter 13 he told a parable about a man who scattered seed on different types of ground. The different types of ground represent different types of hearers. *'And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them'* (v. 4). This seed was never given a chance. These are the people who heard what Jesus said, but they did not take it on board, they didn't use it as a catalyst for change.

But there is other ground in the parable: *'Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty'* (v. 8). Here we see seed that falls in a place that is conducive to growing: it's the right soil, and gets the right amount

of sunlight and irrigation; here the seed thrives and grows into a flourishing plant. Jesus identifies the people who are represented by this kind of ground: *'This is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty'* (v. 23).

The Greek word that is translated 'understand' means to consider and to be wise. These people considered what Jesus said and let it affect their lives.

People Who Responded

Let's look at some people who responded to the good news that Jesus was bringing. What actions made them different from the ones who didn't understand? We'll go through the Gospel of Matthew to find the actions of these people.

Chapters 5–7 contain what is sometimes referred to as the 'Sermon on the Mount', in which Jesus taught the crowds many

extraordinary and profound things. Let's look at the response of the people: *'When Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes'* (7:28–29). The crowd were 'astonished', this Greek word has the idea 'to be smitten', they had never heard anything like this. Is that enough of a reaction? Will that save them? Would that save us?

In chapter 9 we see Jesus healing a paralysed man. *'When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men'* (v. 8). Again, the Greek can help us out here because the word 'afraid' is translated differently in other parts of the New Testament: it is also translated as 'admire' or 'marvel', similar to the astonishment in chapter 7, but here we have an added extra. They glorified God. When we fully recognise where the 'good news' comes from, it is only reasonable that we will glorify God and humble ourselves before Him.

To see what else is required of us in our reaction to this good news, let's go back to the start of Matthew and consider the words of Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist. In

chapter 3 we see John baptising believers in the river Jordan. What is required of them first? *'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand'* (Matthew 3:2). 'Repent' is the idea of change, of recognising that we are sinful, that our actions are wrong and that we need to turn around and do our best to go in the other direction. So the people who were baptised confessed their sins (v. 6). Jesus' own preaching followed this pattern: *'From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"'* (4:17).

When we are confronted with the Gospel we are 'smitten', we will glorify God, and we'll be moved to repent. And then we will naturally want to follow the commandments God has laid out in the Bible.

Baptism

There is one more response that is required of us. Everything we've seen so far is essential for salvation, and so is this—it is baptism.

John was baptising in the river. Many people came to Jesus to be baptised. One thing you will notice if you consider all the accounts of baptism in the Bible, is that they always involve adults—adults who



can hear, understand and react to the good news that Jesus preached.

This is clearly stated by Jesus himself: *'Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned'* (Mark 16:16). To be 'smitten' with the Gospel message so that we glorify God and repent before him, is a process of developing belief. It culminates in the response of baptism.

Finally let's go to an example in the Acts of the Apostles, where we have another follower of Jesus, Philip, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to an Ethiopian eunuch:

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him (Acts 8:36–38).

The message from the Bible is clear. When we hear the good news, we are to react, to be proactive. We are to glorify God, our Creator. We are to repent, believe and be baptised, washing away our sins, and start a new life in Jesus Christ.

Ben Clarke

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

Romans 6:3–8

Visit us online for:

- topical blogs
- magazine subscriptions
- previous editions
- searchable articles
- video content
- links to other material

www.gladtidingsmagazine.org

[Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

click or search

'Glad Tidings Magazine'

Hope for the Future— Resurrection

“IN THIS WORLD nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” This phrase was famously used by the American founding father Benjamin Franklin over 200 years ago, and it still chimes with us today.



Death and taxes are both difficult subjects. We have tax experts who can help individuals and businesses understand their tax liability, and reduce their payments or even avoid them completely. However, death is truly inevitable, and it can be very difficult to discuss. Working as a health professional I have faced this subject a few times. I recall patients telling me they had recently lost close relatives or life-long partners, and understandably getting emotional. It was difficult to find the right words to provide some small comfort or to help ease the suffering they were going through at the time.

As a believer in God and His Son Jesus Christ, there is a peace of mind that can be found when reading His word, the Bible. God provides a hope and promise for those who have faith in Him of a better future, a world in which there will be no more suffering or death.

What Is Death?

To understand the promise that God offers to everyone, we must first understand what the Bible teaches about death, as over the centuries this has been misinterpreted.

First the book of Ecclesiastes (part of the Old Testament wisdom literature) states:

The living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and for ever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun (Ecclesiastes 9:5–6).

The Psalmist says, ‘In death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?’ (Psalm 6:5). (“Sheol” means “covered place”, it is a word the Bible uses for the grave.)

These verses clearly state that after death there is nothing. No memory, no separation of the soul and no heaven-going. That word ‘perished’ in the original Hebrew language

means 'no escape'. This is the reason it can be difficult to provide comfort for those who have no belief or hope in God, and it is why I struggled when faced with this situation at work. Without God, once dead there is no escape; a person's memory may live on for their friends and relatives, but eventually this too will fade. It's a sobering thought for many, but the reality is that after you die you will most likely be totally forgotten about after three generations.



The Promise of Life

However, now let's look at the promise God has for those who believe the message recorded for us in the Bible. God sent His Son Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel so that those who respond may be saved from death.

The Apostle Paul says, *'I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek'* (Romans 1:16).

We read in the previous article how Jesus taught that to be saved from death, we must humble ourselves before God and admit that we fall short of His nature and

expectations. We must then be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ and repent from our sinful nature and follow his example and teachings. Jesus lived a life according to the will of God his Father and did not sin, he was the perfect example. Despite this, Jesus was crucified by people who did not believe he was the one sent from God for salvation. As Jesus did no wrong, he was raised back to life from death by God, so that now anyone who believes in these things can also be saved from sin and death.

Paul explains, *'Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God'* (Romans 5:1-2).

He is telling us that by God's grace, anyone who has faith in Jesus will be justified (made right) in God's sight. There is therefore no more condemnation for those who belong to Christ, despite our sinful nature. So even if we die, there is still a hope of being resurrected to live in God's Kingdom.

Again Paul writes, *'Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ'* (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

The Sleep of Death

Death entered the world through Adam—as the book of Genesis explains, he was the first man who was created by God.

However, through Christ we can be saved from death. We can see here that for those who believe in God and His promise, death is described as 'sleep'. Jesus uses this metaphor of sleep himself when referring to his friend Lazarus who had died:

He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died" (John 11:11–14).

After explaining this, Jesus went on to raise Lazarus from the dead. We read that although Jesus was not the first person to be raised from the dead, he is still described in the letter to the Corinthians as the '*firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep*'. Lazarus and others who were raised were still mortal and would die again, but Jesus was the first to be raised and given immortality—never to die again.

Shortly after being raised to immortality, Jesus ascended to heaven to sit at his Father's side (Acts 1:6–11). He now waits for the moment God will send him back to the world, firstly to raise those believers who have fallen asleep in Christ. Paul reminded the believers in Thessalonica of this:

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that

you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:13–16).

After the dead are raised there will be a judgement (2 Timothy 4:1), and then ultimately Jesus will set up his Father's Kingdom on earth. The Bible lays out the hope and joy of the Kingdom throughout its pages. It will be an age in which there is no longer war, no more pain, suffering, jealousy, hatred, and no more death. In fact, it is impossible for us to imagine the peace and joy we shall experience in God's Kingdom. We shall only fully appreciate God's love for us once we are there, with Him and His Son. It is written, '*No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him*' (1 Corinthians 2:9).

In a world of uncertainty and fear, God offers to us a promise and a hope. If we believe this we can have a peace of mind, and we need not worry about the troubles that this life, or even death, can bring.

Josh Poole

Now and Then

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE gives us the prospect of eternal life in God's Kingdom on earth. Today's world is in chaos, but when Jesus comes back as king the world will be transformed.

Below are two sets of words. Half of them are jumbled and describe the world prior to the Kingdom. The other half describe the world in the Kingdom. Solve the 12 anagrams and then find the 24 words.

J X D Y R T S P E A R S T
 D U L L R H W O W T Y K P
 S O S A O G O L E U R O U
 H E E T L I R L N R A O R
 K F R O I F D U R M R H R
 M E R A T C S T P O O G O
 E Y T V H D E I D I P N C
 D C E E J S H O A L M I F
 S I A A R S W N V O E N A
 L O V E R N X O R X T U M
 D K G O P Z A D L G T R I
 R A W Y T N E L P P Q P N
 M R O P P R E S S I O N E

LOTRMUI RWA RRPTUCO
 EPPRSSNIOO WSORSD GTFIH
 SAREPS RFEA OLPLUTONI
 YTMPORAER ENIFMA DLO

ORDER PEACE HOLY JUSTICE
 PLOWSHARES WORSHIP
 PRUNINGHOOKS LOVE GLORY
 ETERNAL PLENTY NEW

Anna Hart

Free Offer

If you would like to receive the Glad Tidings magazine FREE for 6 months—send your name and address to one of the addresses below. Or go to our website at: www.gladtidingsmagazine.org/free-magazines

Name

Address

Postcode

Country



Addresses for the Free Offer:

In the UK write to: FREEPOST GLADTIDINGS
(orders-uk@gladtidingsmagazine.org)

In Africa and Europe write to: Anne Bayley, 17
Chesterton Close, Hunt End, Redditch B97 5XS, UK

In other countries, to: Andrew Johnson, 22 Hazel
Drive, Hollywood, Birmingham B47 5RJ, UK
(orders-int@gladtidingsmagazine.org)

Contact Details:

To find out about your nearest Christadelphian meeting, or to request free Bible literature or a correspondence course, please write to the address nearest you.

United Kingdom

FREEPOST GLADTIDINGS
orders-uk@gladtidingsmagazine.org

Africa & Europe

Christadelphian Bible Mission,
404 Shaftmoor Lane, Birmingham
B28 8SZ, UK
requests@cbm.org.uk

The Americas

CBMA, 567 Astorian Drive, Simi Valley,
CA 93065, USA
cbma.treasurer@gmail.com

Caribbean

CBMC, Box 55541, Unit 119, 15280,
101 Avenue, Surrey, BC, Canada V3R 0J7
philsnobelen@shaw.ca

India

T Galbraith, GPO Box 159, Hyderabad,
500001, India
tim@galbraithmail.com

South and East Asia

ACBM, PO Box 152 Cobbitty NSW,
Australia 2570
galway280@gmail.com

Picture Credits:

- ps. 1, 6: *David Honey*
p. 3: *Anthony92931, CC BY-SA 3.0*
p. 4: *Amelia Howarth*
p. 5: *Aman Sachan, CC BY-SA 4.0*
p. 7: *Laurence Davenport*
p. 9: *Pittigrilli, CC BY-SA 4.0*
p. 10: *Gabriel von Max (public domain)*
p. 11: *thebiblerevival.com*
p. 12: *istockphoto.com/BrianAJackson*
p. 13: *Krzysztof Ziarnek, CC BY-SA 4.0*
ps. 14–15: *John Mathias*
p. 16: *David Martin (public domain)*

www.facebook.com/GladTidingsMagazine/
YouTube: search 'Glad Tidings Magazine'

Unless otherwise indicated all scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Anglicised English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.