

## Explaining The Kingdom Of God And The Final Destruction Of Our Earth

'Jesus entered Galilee preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God saying, "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand! Repent and believe the Gospel" (Mark 1:14 & 15). "I (Apostle John) saw a Great White Throne and God Who sat on it, from whose Face the earth and the heavens fled away. No place was found for them" (Revelation 20:11).

In this unique Bible study we will reveal how the Kingdom of God and the final destruction of our planet and the entire universe (also called heavens) are inextricably linked. Sometime in the future there will be no place for this earth and our universe. The Heavens where God dwells is the Highest Heaven. To differentiate between our universe called the heavens and the Highest Heaven where God dwells, we will use capitals. When Jesus began His ministry He began by proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Sometimes Jesus said, "The Kingdom is here," or, "The Kingdom is near." Other times Jesus said, "The Kingdom is coming." Is the Kingdom of God already here or is it coming here? Both. The Kingdom of God came to earth when Jesus came the first time and when Jesus comes the second time He will rule and reign supremely as our holy King and establish the Kingdom of God from His throne in Jerusalem, so God's Kingdom will rule the entire earth. However, there will always be the everlasting Kingdom of God in the Highest Heaven from where God the Father rules the earth and the universe from His Great White Throne. Over two hundred times in the Bible, the Kingdom of God, Kingdom of Heaven, My Kingdom, Your Kingdom, A Kingdom, The Kingdom or Paradise were all mentioned and all meant the Kingdom or realm from where God rules. We cannot see the Highest Heaven through telescopes.

Prior to the ministry of Jesus, the Kingdom of God was way up in Heaven, inaccessible to humanity. Even Adam in his purest form before he sinned was not in the Kingdom of Heaven, he was on earth. Flesh and blood bodies cannot enter the Heavenly Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 15:50). The Kingdom of God is still physically in Heaven and always will be but we can spiritually enter the Kingdom of God on earth when we accept Jesus as our Saviour. All humans are made up of our physical flesh and blood bodies and we also have the invisible, immortal Spirit of life within us, sent from God to our unformed embryo at conception (Psalm 139:13 to 16; Ecclesiastes 12:7). At death, the mortal flesh and blood body dies but the spirit that gives us life, lives forever. There is eternal life in its spiritual form after we leave the earth but it is a life not as we know it. In ancient times when people died, they went into a form of 'sleep' and 'slept' with their ancestors (Acts 13:36). After Jesus was baptised the windows of Heaven opened (Matthew 3:16). Jesus inferred Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are in Heaven now. "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead but of the living" (Matthew 22:32). 'He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all people are alive to Him' (Luke 20:38).

Although the flesh and blood body dies, the Spirit of life (also called the breath of life) sent from God remains alive but without a body. When Jesus died He went to sheol for three days to preach the Gospel to all of the spirits of life, of every person who had died prior to His baptism. Jesus said, "Just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the whale, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matthew 12:40). 'Jesus went and preached to the spirits in prison (sheol) ... The Gospel was preached even to the dead so they might be judged as men in the flesh, but live as to God in the spirit' (1 Peter 3:19 & 4:6). Jesus could not have preached to people in their sleeping state so they would have been awake. It would have been pointless preaching to them if they were sleeping. Obviously then, the spirits of the people who had died and were in sheol were awake, aware and given the choice to accept or reject Jesus as their Saviour. It is only after the resurrection of the righteous, we will receive a new Heavenly, immortal body that can never die (1 Corinthians 15:53 & 54).

The Kingdom of God as an entirety seems to be set up in three distinct stages or as Jesus said, 'Ages'. Daniel, the beloved Jewish prophet foretold the setting up of the Kingdom of God that will never end, it will be Jewish and its sovereignty will never be left to any other people, nation or language. 'In those days ... the God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom which will never be destroyed, nor will its sovereignty be left to another people but it will break in pieces and consume all (non-Jewish) kingdoms and it will stand forever' (Daniel 2:44). God began to set up the Kingdom of God through the first coming of Jesus, but it is not yet complete. The Kingdom of God has not yet come into its fullest sense. There are other monarchies in the world but when Jesus returns to earth, every monarchy will have to yield to Jesus' rule and His Kingdom on earth. The initial 'Age' was the age of lost humanity that lasted about four thousand years from the day Adam sinned until Jesus began His ministry. That lost age of humanity was followed by the first stage of the setting up of the Kingdom of God and the 'Age' of grace, and we are currently still within the 'Age' of grace. Our Jewish Messiah Jesus began His ministry saying, "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe." People who

accept Jesus and walk with Him all their lives are in the first stage of the Kingdom. This Age of grace is when God patiently waits for people to accept Him, believe and repent, and He gives everyone the opportunity to accept the blood sacrifice of Jesus. Not every person will accept Jesus. This Age is the fulfilment of the prophecy spoken by Daniel. "God of Heaven will set up a Kingdom which will never be destroyed nor will its sovereignty be left to another people." This means it will always be a Jewish Kingdom.

The second stage of the Kingdom of God will occur when Jesus comes to earth and establishes His Kingdom in Jerusalem from where He will rule for one thousand years. That will be the end of the Age of grace, which would have lasted approximately two thousand years. Jesus will rule the earth with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27; 19:15). There will be no more wars. Peace will come to every nation and people will live for many years but there will still be sinful people during this time who are cursed because of their wickedness (Isaiah 65:20). Although the sovereignty will always be Jewish, Gentiles who believe and have repented from ancient times to today, who were and are wholly walking with the Lord and have been found worthy, will rule and reign with Jesus for one thousand years (Revelation 20:6). The second stage of the Kingdom will usher in the third stage. Jesus said, "People of this 'Age' (from creation up until the end of the thousand year reign of Jesus, about seven thousand years) marry and are given in marriage. Those people who are considered worthy to attain to that 'Age' (the eternal and permanent Kingdom of God in Heaven) and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage. They cannot die again for they are (immortal) like the holy angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:34 to 36). Jesus ushered in the Kingdom of God but in the following verse He revealed the Kingdom of God located way up in Heaven where He would be in the future. Jesus said, "Most certainly I tell you, I will not drink fruit of the vine again until that day when I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God" (Mark 14:25).

The third stage of the Kingdom of God will occur after the thousand years is completed. It will usher in a time of glory for holy, righteous, worthy people when humanity is given permission to enter into the holy Kingdom of God in Heaven for the first time ever. Only righteous people will be invited to live on the newly created heaven and earth with the New Jerusalem as the capital (Revelation 21:1 to 3). When the Lord says the sovereignty will never be given to another people, He means it will forever be in the hands of His chosen race, the Jewish people. They will always be the sovereign rulers. The Kingdom of God is made up of Jewish people and Jewish prophets. The names of the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel and the twelve apostles adorn the walls and gates of the newly created Jerusalem on the newly created earth. 'He (the holy angel) carried me (Apostle John) away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone as if it was a jasper stone, clear as crystal having a great and high wall with twelve gates. At the gates were twelve holy angels. The names written on the gates are the names of the twelve tribes of the Children of Israel, on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates and on the west three gates. The wall of the city had twelve foundations and on them were the twelve names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb' (Revelation 21:10 to 14). After all righteous people are in Heaven, the long awaited Marriage Supper of the Lamb will occur but only righteous, worthy people will be invited. "Blessed are those who are invited to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb" (Revelation 19:9).

The benchmark or standard used in the Bible is 'The Gospel of the Kingdom'. It is unscriptural to preach and leave out the Kingdom and throughout the whole Bible there is a continual emphasis on the Kingdom of God. It is more than solely salvation. The 'keys' into the Kingdom are belief, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit, faith and service. God expects more than intellectual knowledge, He expects us to follow Him with our whole hearts. We must live as 'living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) and deny ourselves. These are 'keys' into the Kingdom but that is not God's ultimate purpose – there is more to the Gospel message. In the Bible, a monarch's kingdom is the normal form of government. The full Gospel message is this; God is going to take over all the governments and kingdoms on the earth. All of mankind's problems began with Adam. The only solution to human problems that will work is for mankind to come back under the authority of God through Jesus. That is the full Gospel message. It is the holy Kingdom of the Messiah. 'The kingdom of the world has become the Kingdom of our Lord God and of His Messiah. He will reign forever and ever' (Revelation 11:15). God is willing to take mankind back under His authority, on condition individuals willingly agree to allow God to govern their lives through Jesus. Some people have such an attitude of rebellion (including some Christians) they do not like the thought of God being King over their lives. Some people feel, "I do not want God telling me what to do." However, no one can receive the full Gospel of the Kingdom unless we are prepared to accept and submit to the righteous government of God in our lives. The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9 to 13) says 'Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. The purpose of the Gospel is not only to get us saved and into Heaven, the main priority is to bring the Kingdom to earth for a time. When Jesus is ruling the earth from Jerusalem, God's will, will be done on earth to the

same extent as it is done in Heaven. All our personal desires have to take second place to the coming of the Kingdom to earth. 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you' (Matthew 6:33). Some people do not realise, a relationship with God is for eternity, not just for earth. Every person on earth will eventually die. If that person has submitted to God and walks with Him constantly, their eternal life with Him is assured. If a person refuses to submit to God and come under His governance, that person will go out to a terrible eternity without God, without any righteousness, kindness, goodness, any hope and they will live forever in the Lake of Fire with other wicked people, wicked fallen angels, the ultra wicked devil, deceptive false prophet and the wicked beast (Revelation 14:10 & 11; 20:10) where they will be tormented forever and ever. Rejecting God is not wise. Outside of the Kingdom of God there is no hope for humanity. Everyone who is not under the Kingship of Jesus are unrighteous and are in the kingdom of darkness. They will go to a lost eternity unless they repent and turn to God. The Bible cannot possibly be any clearer than that. Repent and be saved or reject God and be lost forever. That is the choice open to everyone.

Jesus came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom. Jesus said, "I must preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to the other cities. For this reason I have been sent" (Luke 4:43). 'Jesus went about through cities and villages preaching and bringing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. With Him were the twelve apostles' (Luke 8:1). Jesus sent His apostles out to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God (Luke 9:2). At the moment we live by the grace of God and only if we accept Jesus, we are spiritually translated into the Kingdom as we surrender to His rule as our King. There are conditions to entering the Kingdom of God. We cannot just walk through into the Heavenly realm. We must first believe and be born-again, be baptised by full immersion wherever possible and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born-again they cannot see the Kingdom of God ... Most certainly I tell you, unless one is born of water (baptism) and (filled with) the Holy Spirit, they cannot enter into the Kingdom of God! What is born of the flesh is flesh (natural birth). What is born of the Holy Spirit is spirit (spiritual birth). Do not marvel (do not be surprised or astonished) I said to you, 'You must be born-again'" (John 3:3 to 7).

We need to repent of all sin. 'Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:38). We need to walk continually with God for the rest of our lives. Turning away from God is considered treading Jesus under our feet, a spiritual crime worthy of terrible consequences. 'How much worse punishment do you think the backslider will be judged worthy of, who has trodden under foot the Son of God, and has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified as an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?' (Hebrews 10:29). Jesus commanded us to be born-again if we want to enter into eternal life, which is entering the Kingdom of God. He made the absolute distinction between the birth of a baby in the natural (the flesh) and supernatural spiritual birth. What is the difference between seeing the Kingdom of God, and entering into the Kingdom of God? To answer that question, is to liken the difference between standing outside Buckingham Palace in cold, rainy, wintry, British weather, being able to see the vast building, see the people who work there in all their finery, and watching tourists come and go. Compare that to being invited to enter inside to enjoy the magnificent, warm décor, taste the beautiful food, appreciate the spectacular artworks, stroll down the long hallways, being waited on and actually meeting the Monarch face to face. Understanding the difference in those terms, sheds a whole new light to seeing and entering into the Kingdom of God. The two are opposite ends of the eternal spectrum. Many will see the Kingdom of God, but few will actually enter. Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads away to destruction (sheol), and many are those who are entering through it. But the gate is narrow and the way is straitened that leads away to (eternal) life, and few are those who find it" (Matthew 7:13 & 14). Many are called (by Jesus) but few are chosen (to enter the Kingdom) (Matthew 20:16). Jesus came so God could create a Kingdom that included all people who are willing to submit to God, serve Him as priests to give Him the glory, so they can live in peace within His Kingdom. 'From Jesus the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead and the Ruler of the Kings of the earth. To Jesus who loves us and washed us from our sins by His blood and He made us to be a Kingdom, priests to His God and Father. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen' (Revelation 1:5 & 6).

The spirit of a child who dies goes straight to Heaven because they are too young to know what sin is, therefore they cannot repent of something they cannot understand. 'Parents were bringing their little children to Jesus so He should touch them and bless them but the disciples rebuked those who were bringing the children. When Jesus saw it He was moved with indignation and said to them, "Allow the little children to come to Me! Do not forbid them for the Kingdom of God belongs to children like these. I tell you, whoever will not receive the Kingdom of God like a little child will in no way enter into it." Jesus took them in His arms and

blessed them, laying His hands on them' (Mark 10:13 to 16). King David knew his baby son was in Heaven when he said, "I will go to him but he cannot return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23).

After repenting, believing and baptism, another condition to entering the Kingdom of God is obedience to service. We must serve God by developing and using the talents and abilities He gave us or we will be called wicked, lazy and sent to sheol, where there will be terrible weeping and grinding of teeth. Notice in the parable, the lazy man knew Jesus as his Lord and was a servant. He was not an unsaved man, just a lazy man. Two righteous servants were given talents or skills, each according to his own ability. They both doubled their talents and were rewarded with the comment, "Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things so I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord." The lazy servant who received only one talent went away and buried it for which Jesus said, "You wicked and lazy servant ... Take away the single talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. To everyone who has, more will be given and he will have abundance, but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. Throw out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:14 to 30). As we can see, not everyone will get into Heaven. Only those people who have been obedient to God will get into Heaven.

Some of the 'keys' to entering the Kingdom of God are obedience, service, righteousness, faithfulness and spreading the Gospel. Peter was given the 'keys' to the Kingdom (Matthew 16:19) and on the day the Holy Spirit was poured out, Peter used his 'keys' to preach the Gospel to many thousands of people (Acts 2:1 to 41) and three thousand people gave their lives to Jesus on that one day. As part of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth, Jesus cast out evil spirits. "If by the Spirit of God I cast out demons then the Kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matthew 12:28). The evil spirits were unclean so Jesus was cleansing His people by ridding them of the invisible filthy enemy, something nobody on earth had ever seen before. 'They were all amazed so they questioned among themselves saying, "What is this? A new teaching? For with authority Jesus commands even the unclean spirits and they obey Him!" (Mark 1:27). Full Gospel churches need to pray about casting out evil spirits, something rarely done with any wisdom today. The result of not cleansing Christians is the sad fact, thousands of Christians are suffering from terrible illnesses, mental health issues, miscarriage, broken marriages, family violence, poverty and many other sufferings that are unnecessary, because they are under the control of evil spirits. As Christians, we have been given authority over evil spirits and over all of the power the enemy has, and casting them out is part of the full Gospel Kingdom message (Luke 10:19). When pastors refuse or fail to cast out evil forces they are failing the people under their leadership. Do not think because you attend church you cannot have an evil spirit plaguing you. Read the New Testament to see how many times believers had evil spirits cast out. Study the scriptures to see how Jesus cast out the evil entities. This calls for wisdom because not all bad behaviour is an evil spirit. Some people behave badly because they are carnal so it takes prayer and wisdom to know the difference. When we submit to God and resist the temptations of the devil he has to flee (James 4:7).

It seems easier for the poor, meek and humble people to be saved and enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God" (Luke 6:20). There are some people who are wealthy and prosperous but when they accept Jesus, He makes them give up everything to put Him first. When we accept Jesus as our Saviour, we must not look back to our old lives, even if they were happier and more prosperous than before we surrendered our lives to God. 'Jesus said, "No one, having put his hand to the plough and looking back is fit for the Kingdom of God"' (Luke 9:62). "Woe to you who are rich or wealthy! For you have received your consolation or rewards already" (Luke 6:24). Jesus said to the man, "You still lack one thing. Sell all you have and distribute it to the poor. You will have treasure in Heaven. Come, follow Me." But he became very sad for he was very rich. Jesus saw he became very sad and said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God" (Luke 18:22 to 25).

Wicked sinners will never be able to enter the holy Kingdom of God but will be sent to the inextinguishable Lake of Fire, also called the second death. The first death is when the mortal body dies. The second death is when all hope is lost because an individual refuses to repent and is sent to eternal judgement. 'The cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the eternal lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death' (Revelation 21:8). Only people who are spiritually clean can enter Heaven (Revelation 20:6). To begin the cleansing process, we must be born-again. 'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. The immoral, idolaters, adulterers, prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, the covetous, drunkards, slanderers and extortioners, none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. Such were some of you, but you were

washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and in the Holy Spirit of our God' (1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11).

The Kingdom of God is invisible, internal and spiritual. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God does not come with visible display (invisible) ... the Kingdom of God is within you (internal)" (Luke 17:20 & 21). 'The Kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (spiritual)' (Romans 14:17). It will one day be visible but for now we are 'hidden' in Jesus (Colossians 3:3). If we make the Lord our King and have surrendered our will to Him, we will do whatever He tells us to do even if we do not like it. That is taking up our cross and denying ourselves. Jesus said, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Look at how Jesus surrendered His will to God the Father, even though He did not want to go to the cross (Luke 22:42). Jesus was the ultimate living sacrifice and He went to the cross so we could enter the Kingdom. The Lord Jesus will not return to earth until the Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached throughout the entire world. Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in the whole world for a testimony to all the nations and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:14).

Before Jesus comes again to rule the world and bring peace, terrible things will happen on earth. The entire earth will endure a deep shaking. The Lord said during this time, whatever can be shaken, will be shaken. "I will shake the heavens (our universe), the earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations" (Haggai 2:6 & 7). God is at work in the entire world, shaking everyone and everything everywhere. What can be shaken? Empires, governments, monarchies, banks, businesses, churches, families, individuals and anything else that is not eternal. The only way we can cope with God's shaking is to commit ourselves to Him. He is the only security mankind has (Psalm 91). We are told very firmly not to love the world or the things in it because this world is going to be destroyed but people who do the Lord's will, will live forever (1 John 2:15 to 17). If our hearts are set on the world and the things the world can offer, we will not stand up under the pressure of the powerful shaking.

Many people will repent after a time of shaking but many more will harden their hearts against the Lord. There are terrible events the Lord God said would happen before Jesus comes. 'There will be violent earthquakes, famines and pestilences (plagues, epidemics, pandemics), there will be sights of terror (terrorism) and great signs from heaven (our universe) ... in the sun and moon and stars (sun flares, cosmic disturbances, blood coloured moons etc), and on the earth there will be distress of nations, bewilderment, perplexity, not knowing which way to turn at the roaring of the sea (tsunami's). Men will faint and die with fear and apprehension with expectation of the things that are coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken' (Luke 21:11, 25 & 26). The Lord will make the earth empty, a wasteland. He will turn it upside down and scatter its inhabitants. This will affect all people on earth. The earth will be utterly emptied and utterly laid waste. The earth will mourn and fade away. The world will languish and fade away. The proud people of the earth will languish. The earth is polluted under its inhabitants because they have transgressed God's laws, violated His statutes and broken the everlasting covenant (made with Noah, Genesis 9:9 & 11). The curse (of death) has devoured the earth and those who dwell there are found guilty. The inhabitants of the earth are burned and few people are left. All the merry-hearted will groan. The joy of music will cease. The sound of those who rejoice will end. Strong drink will be bitter to those who drink it. The confused city dwellers will be broken down. Every house will be shut up so no one may come in. There will be crying in the streets because of drunkenness. All joy is darkened. The laughter of the land is gone. The cities are left in desolation and with destruction. It will be so in the midst of the earth among the peoples. Fear the pit (the Lake of Fire). The snare (of sin) are on you who inhabitant the earth. Those who flee from the noise of the fear will fall into the pit. Those who come up out of the midst of the pit will be taken in the snare. The earth will be utterly broken. The earth will be torn apart. The earth will be shaken violently. The earth will stagger like a drunken man and will sway back and forth like a hammock. Its disobedience will be heavy on it and it will fall and not rise again. The Lord God of Heavenly Armies will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem. Some people will lift up their voice and will shout for the majesty of God. They will cry aloud from the sea and glorify God in the (Middle) East and will glorify the name of the Lord the God of Israel! From the uttermost parts of the earth (the far northern and far southern areas of the globe) we have heard songs, saying glory to the Righteous (Isaiah 24:1 to 23).

Jesus warned all of humanity about the terrible events that will happen before He returns and many of these events are happening now (study Matthew chapters 24 & 25). There will be false messiahs and false prophets. There will be continual warfare. Crime and lawlessness will increase. Normal, natural love will grow cold. A new watered down Gospel will be spread. Inflation, famine, epidemics, terrorism, droughts and false religions will become widespread. Homosexuality will increase. Violence will increase. Many Christians will

become complacent. These events are just the beginning. There is worse to come. There will be an increase of earthquakes and volcanic activity (Revelation 6:12 to 14). Unusual storms will happen. Hail and fire mixed with blood will be thrown to the earth. One third of the earth will burn up, one third of the trees will burn up and all green grass will burn up. Something like a great burning mountain will fall into the sea. One third of the sea will become like blood and one third of the living creatures in the sea will die. One third of the ships will be destroyed. A great star (possibly a meteor) will fall from the sky burning like a torch. It will fall on one third of the rivers and on the springs of the waters. One third of the waters will become poisonous. Many people will die from drinking the water because they were poisoned. One third of the sun was struck, one third of the moon and one third of the stars so one third of them were darkened and the day would not shine for one third of it, and the night in the same way (Revelation 8:7 to 12). There will be a shocking war, possibly a nuclear war that will happen in parts of the world (Revelation 9:1 to 21) involving any nation that wars against Israel. This terrible war was foretold by the prophet Zechariah. 'This will be the plague with which the Lord God will strike all the peoples who have warred against Jerusalem. Their flesh will consume away while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will consume away in their sockets. Their tongue will consume away in their mouth' (Zechariah 14:12). It is not wise to come against Israel. And as we all know, the dreaded mark of the beast will force many people to sin by taking the mark. This 'mark' has not happened and has not yet been identified. There are many theories around the world but as yet we really do not know exactly what this 'mark' is. After this time of terrible shaking known as the Great Tribulation, the Lord Jesus will return to earth. Notice in these warnings, there is no mention of anyone escaping the terrible shaking via a 'rapture'. Quite the opposite. Every person on earth will endure this shaking and Jesus said, only those people who endure to the end will be saved (Matthew 10:22; 24:13). At the end of all this shaking Jesus will come. "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory ... When you see these things happening, know the Kingdom of God is near. Heaven (our universe) and earth will pass away but My words will never pass away. So be careful or your hearts will be loaded down with cares of this life and that Day will come on you suddenly. It will come like a snare on all those who dwell on the surface of all the earth. Therefore be watchful all the time, praying you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will happen and to stand before the Son of Man" (Luke 21:27, 31, 33 to 36).

As Jesus said, the end of the earth is not yet (Mark 13:7). Just before Jesus comes to rule the earth for one thousand years the devil will be removed for that time (Revelation 20:1 to 3) then after one thousand years, the devil is allowed back to earth (Revelation 20:7). There will be about one thousand years of peace on earth from the day Jesus comes back to the day the devil is released. The one thousand years of peace is to give all people time to repent and also to show people what the earth is like without the influence of the devil who will be locked up but on his release, he wreaks havoc on earth and instigates the Gog and Magog war (Revelation 20:7 to 9) that was prophesied by Ezekiel in chapters 38 and 39. A terrible war will occur culminating in the total destruction of this earth, so our earth will definitely be utterly destroyed one thousand or so years from when Jesus comes to rule the world. When we study the Bible we can see how this world and everything on it will all end in the ...

### **Final Destruction Of Our Earth**

God established a permanent covenant with Noah but mankind broke that covenant. God spoke to Noah and his sons with him saying, "Behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants after you ... never again will all flesh be cut off by waters of the flood. Never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth. This is the token of the covenant I make between Me and you ... for perpetual generations. I have set My rainbow in the clouds and it will be for a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth. When I bring a cloud over the earth, the rainbow will be seen in the cloud and I will remember My covenant between Myself and you. Waters will never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow will be in the clouds ... This rainbow is the token of the covenant I have established between Me and all flesh on the earth" (Genesis 9:8 to 17). This covenant was an everlasting covenant which was later broken by all mankind bringing destruction to all humanity. 'The earth is polluted under its inhabitants because they have (collectively) transgressed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant' (Isaiah 24:5).

By reading the above verses, we can see God promised to never again destroy the earth with water or a global flood. However, God did not say He would never again destroy the earth. He said He will destroy this earth but next time it will be with fire. Exactly what will cause the destructive explosions and fire is not made clear in the Bible but because of the capability of men to make devastating weapons, it is likely mankind itself will destroy the earth during the Gog and Magog war. What is clear, the fire will begin with a massive explosion that will utterly destroy the earth and everything on it plus the sun, moon, planets, the stars, all comets, our entire universe and all the other elements that make up the universe. This is what the Lord has

said through His prophets. 'Behold, I (God) will create new heavens (universe) and a new earth. The former things (things that happened on earth) will not be remembered nor come to mind' (Isaiah 65:17). 'As the new heavens and the new earth which I (God) will make will remain before Me so your descendents (Jewish people) and your name (Israel) will remain' (Isaiah 66:22). "I (Apostle John) saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth have passed away (been destroyed) and the sea is no more" (Revelation 21:1). 'Remember the Words spoken in the past by the holy prophets and the commandments of us the apostles, of the Lord and Saviour. Understand this first, in the last days (in our day) mockers will come walking after their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? From the day the forefathers died, all things have continued as they were from the beginning of creation." They wilfully forget, there were heavens from of old (prehistoric ancient times) and our earth formed out of water and amid water by the spoken Word of God. The world was overflowed with water and perished. The heavens (our universe) that exist now and the earth, by the same Word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. Do not forget this one thing Beloved, one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. (That means in God's timing, it has only been two days since Jesus came and died.) The Lord is not slow concerning His promise (of Jesus' second coming) as some count slowness but is patient with us, not wishing any should perish (go to the lake of fire) but all should come to repentance. The day of the Lord will come as suddenly as a thief in the night in which the heavens (universe) will burn up with a great noise and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat. The earth and the works in it will be burned up. Since all these things will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be in holy living and Godliness looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, which will cause the burning heavens (universe) to be dissolved and the elements will melt with fervent heat? According to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells ... There are some things (in the Bible) that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unsettled twist as they also do to the other Scriptures (The Old Testament) to their own destruction. Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Messiah. To Him be the glory both now and forever, Amen' (2 Peter 3:2 to 18).

These verses are self-explanatory. Ungodly people mock God regarding His promised second coming. They choose to ignore the fact God created this earth in the first place, destroyed it with water and will destroy the earth again with fire. After the last of the prophecies written in the Bible have been fulfilled, righteous people will be taken to the newly created earth to live there with God forever while the wicked people will be sent to the lake of fire forever. The first earth and heaven will have been utterly destroyed. Apostle John saw this happening in a vision. 'I (Apostle John) saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and the first earth have been destroyed and the sea is no more. I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready like a bride adorned for her husband. I heard a loud voice out of heaven saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with people, He will dwell with them and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away from them every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain any more. The first things (first earth and heaven) have been destroyed." He who sits on the Throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things (everything) new. Write this down for these words of God are faithful and true'" (Revelation 21:1 to 5). Before God destroys this earth, He will have already created the brand new, perfect, sin free earth and universe. Only people who have repented and continue to walk with God will be permitted to inhabit the newly created earth. God will burn this corrupted earth with fire then will come the Great Judgement Day of the Lord. 'The Great Day of Yahweh is near. It is near and hurries greatly. Hear the voice of the Day of the Lord. The mighty man will cry bitterly (because he is going to a lost eternity). That Day is a Day of wrath, a Day of distress and anguish, a Day of trouble and ruin, a Day of darkness and gloom, a Day of clouds and blackness. I (God) will bring distress on mankind so they will walk like blind men because they have sinned against God. Their blood will be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. Their silver and their gold will not be able to deliver them in the day of God's wrath, but the whole world will be devoured by the fire of His rage, for He will make an end, yes, a terrible end of all those who dwell on the earth' (Zephaniah 1:14 to 18).

God created this earth to be inhabited by people and animals (Isaiah 45:18) and there is no life on any other planet. There is no escape except by accepting Jesus as Lord. Those verses in Zephaniah give us a terrible picture of what is to come. After the thousand years of peace have ended things on earth get worse as the Lord has revealed in His Word. The question is, why would God destroy the earth and heaven He so carefully created with purpose? Just two words give us the answer ... Righteous Judgement! Because of the unrepented sin of the majority of mankind. sin and death have corrupted and defiled this earth to the point where it is unsustainable. Certainly, many millions of people have repented of sin during the past six thousand years since Adam was created but the vast majority of humanity have lived in a state of sin and unbelief. Sin and death have corrupted and defiled this earth so it has to be obliterated. The decaying bodies

of all dead animals and humans remain buried in the earth or in the sea causing global corruption (Genesis 6:12). At the time of creation, Adam and Eve were created out of a pure earth with immortal bodies, intended to live forever. When Adam sinned and brought spiritual death to the earth, the Lord had to stop him from eating of the Tree of Life so he could not then live forever in his fallen state (Genesis 3:22 to 24).

We know mankind has sinned but why will God destroy heaven too? Evil beings and wicked fallen angels have corrupted the original holy heavenly realm. 'Our wrestling (trouble) is not against flesh and blood but against (evil) principalities, against (evil) powers, against world's (wicked) rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places' (Ephesians 6:12). Just before the earth is destroyed, the Lord will send holy angels to gather all righteous people from all over the earth and heaven, then the holy angels will remove out of the Kingdom of Heaven all unclean angels and wicked entities that cause offence. 'Jesus will send out His holy angels with a great sound of a trumpet (shofar or ram's horn) and they will gather together His chosen ones from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other' (Matthew 24:31; Mark 13:27). 'The Son of Man will send out His holy angels and they will gather out of His Kingdom all things that cause stumbling and those who do iniquity' (Matthew 13:41). 'The righteous will shine forth like the sun in the Kingdom of their Father' (Matthew 13:43). After all righteous people have been removed from all corners of the earth, the entire earth and universe will be burned with fire with a massive roar and this earth will cease to exist.

God wants all people to repent to escape His wrath. Christians who have repented of their sins and continue to walk with God need not fear this judgement. It is not for them but for people who are rebellious against God, who refuse to obey Him, who refuse to turn to Him, who refuse to allow Him to be their God and Father and for those who have rejected Jesus the holy Son of God. If people reject Jesus while on earth then God will reject them on Judgement Day. He calls those people wicked. That is the true reality of the eternal Kingdom of God. Evil and wicked rebellious people will be sent to the Lake of Fire for all eternity as righteous judgement for their rejection of God's holy covenant and their rejection of Jesus, their only Way of salvation. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah were a warning to all sinners of what lies ahead for them. 'The wicked are sentenced to suffer just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the adjacent towns suffered – which gave themselves over to impurity and indulged in unnatural vice and sensual perversity – are laid out in plain sight as an exhibit of eternal punishment to warn of everlasting fire' (Jude 1:7). 'As for the cowardly, wicked, contemptible, the unbelievers, the depraved, those defiled with abominations, murderers, adulterers, magicians, idolaters, all of these will have their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone (sulphur). This is the second death' (Revelation 21:8). The final destruction of planet earth will surely happen because God has spoken and He has revealed His will on the matter and that can never be changed. That will be the time when the devil, sheol, death and everything evil will be tossed into the Lake of Fire forever (Revelation 20:10, 14 & 15), thus cleansing the area in space where the earth and universe once were but they will be gone forever.

The Gospel of the Kingdom is the sermon Jesus preached. He rebuked, He admonished, He taught the truth, He encouraged, He blessed the children, He taught the people how to cast out demons and He taught delivered people how to maintain their deliverance from demons, He healed the sick, He fed the hungry and He taught people how to live their lives before God. He also frequently preached about the Judgements of God and Judgement Day. Jesus did not tell parents to sent their children off to 'children's church' He told parents to teach their own children about God (Deuteronomy 11:19). When we teach the Gospel of the Kingdom we need to start with our own children at home like Abraham did (Genesis 18:19). The Gospel of the Kingdom is a powerful, holy, spiritual message of hope, given to us by the Son of God Himself. It is a message of holiness and submission, submitting to the Kingship of our Messiah, King Jesus. No one should diminish the Word of God in any way. Let us all stand for righteousness and teach the full Gospel of the Kingdom of Heaven, the Kingdom of God, the Gospel of the Son of God's love. 'Give thanks to the Father Who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints (God's people) in light, Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love' (Colossians 1:12 & 13).

Amen and God bless you.

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