

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

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## God's Kingdom of Righteousness

God does not make predictions. However, he does at times tell us what the future will be. A great example of this is the prophecy of the Messiah the Prince given to Daniel by the angel Gabriel. Over five-hundred years before Jesus Christ appeared at the Jordan River to be baptized and begin his earthly ministry, God told what Christ's mission would be and what would be accomplished when he came. The six things God said would happen are (1) *“...finish the transgression,* (2) *make an end of sins,* (3) *make reconciliation for iniquity,* (4) *bring in everlasting righteousness,* (5) *seal up the vision and prophecy,* and (6) *anoint the most Holy.”* Daniel 9:24. Let's consider (4) **“to bring in everlasting righteousness.”**

God made a promise through the prophets of a time when Zion would overflow with righteousness. He said, *“For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name.”* Isaiah 62:1-2. What is

sometimes missed in this prophecy of God establishing righteousness in Zion is that he said, “*...thou shalt be called by a new name...*” This was a declaration that this prophecy of Zion and Jerusalem filled with righteousness was not speaking of just the Jewish nation or a physical city. It is a prophecy of another kingdom which was yet to come. This kingdom began to be referred to as “*the Kingdom of God.*”

Jesus spoke often of this kingdom of righteousness. As he began his earthly ministry, he said, “*The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*” Mark 1:15. His words, “*The time is fulfilled,*” refers to the time given in Gabriel’s prophecy of when Messiah would appear. All the promises of this glorious kingdom of righteousness were about to be fulfilled.

As we look at the prophecies of this kingdom of righteousness, we can see how the Apostles incorporated this message in the gospel they preached. God described the inhabitants of this kingdom, saying, “*And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD...*” Isaiah 62:12. It is interesting to note that the Apostles referred to the believers as “*saints*” which means “*sacred*” or “*holy ones.*” Those who are washed from their sins through the blood of Jesus Christ truly are “*holy ones.*”

God gives another insight into the inhabitants of this kingdom, saying, “*Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that*

*I may be glorified.*" Isaiah 60:21. The Apostle Paul must have been looking back to this prophecy when he wrote, "*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived...*" 1 Corinthians 6:9. Although unrighteous people may fill many churches, there are no unrighteous people in the kingdom of God. In this same passage God called these righteous people "*the branch of my planting.*" Jesus reminds us of this, saying, "*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.*" Matthew 15:13.

God said his kingdom would be called "***The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.***" Isaiah 60:14. The Apostle Paul relates to this, telling the believers, "*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven...*" Hebrews 12:22-23. Paul was confirming that this "*city of the Lord*" is in fact the church of Jesus Christ.

The glory of this kingdom is such that God promised "*No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:*" Isaiah 35:9. It is shocking, but evident, that there is no devil in the kingdom of God. The "*roaring lion*" may seek whom he may devour in this world, but he cannot devour those who abide in Christ. Neither sin nor Satan have any existence in the kingdom of God. Both have been destroyed for the believer through the blood of Christ. 1 John 3:5, Hebrews 2:14.

The Pharisees also knew the prophecies of the kingdom of God, and they demanded Jesus tell them when this glorious kingdom would appear. Jesus answered them saying, *"The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, **the kingdom of God is within you.**"* Luke 17:20-21. This is an astounding statement. The Greek word translated "within" means "inside." The kingdom of God is inside of you!

God's glorious kingdom of righteousness is in his children. Christ is this kingdom of God. We live in him, and he abides in us! Our kingdom is not known by borders, lands, governments, or religious affiliations. As the Apostle Paul told us, *"...the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."* Romans 14:17. Jesus Christ truly has brought in *"everlasting righteousness!"*