

Royalty – The Future of Rulership

There is undeniable evidence from an ever-reliable source that governments of the future will be benevolent monarchies. Christians are already receiving character training for a royal future.

Has the day of ‘privileged’ ruling families passed? Considering some of the excesses and eccentricities of various royal lines, it is not surprising that republican forms of government have become popular in Western nations. Modern constitutional monarchies are shadows of what can be accomplished through a royal family par excellence.

Today’s existing monarchs, along with their families, and their homes and possessions attract international tourists and locals alike. To be invited to a ceremony or function at which royalty is present is considered an honour by most people. Members of royal families lead various charitable organisations and many have genuine concern for their subjects.

Becoming an effective king or queen, however, involves years of preparation and training in protocol, cultural heritage and values.

‘The Queen’ reveals royal humanity

This year, 61-year-old British actress Helen Mirren received her first Oscar, being named best actress for her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth II in the docu-drama ‘The Queen’.

Originally designed for television, the film takes viewers into the private lives of members of the British royal family in the days surrounding the sudden death of Princess Diana in 1997. The Queen is shown as being ‘challenged and misunderstood by an emotional public grieving for the popular and glamorous Diana’ (Reuters, February 26, 2007).

Whether or not these insights are entirely accurate, those who watch the film will appreciate some of the pressures of custom, of public opinion, of the influence of the press and of the decorum and humanity of the British Royals.

In Dame Helen’s acceptance speech she reflected, ‘For 50 years and more, Elizabeth Windsor has maintained her dignity, her sense of duty and her hairstyle. She’s had her feet

planted firmly on the ground, her hat on her head, her handbag on her arm and she has weathered many, many storms.’

In the eye of the public

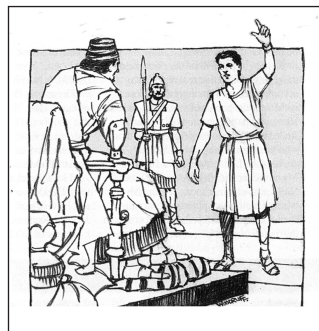
Actors and members of royal families around the globe are forever being examined and critiqued. Their likes and dislikes are published. The clothes they wear are evaluated for being either trend-setting or passé. Words uttered before microphones that turn out to be unexpectedly ‘live’ become hallmarks of

their character. Their marriages are watched for incidents that could lead to a headline story. This fish-bowl life is not easy to live.

Yet in many ways followers of Jesus Christ receive even more scrutiny. Not in a negative way or for malicious reasons but to encourage their success and probe areas where they need more development and maturity.

As one Hebrew seer told King Asa of Judah, ‘For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth

to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him’ (2 Chronicles 16:9, New International Version). The



Daniel appears before Nebuchadnezzar

Nebuchadnezzar was called king of kings (Daniel 2:37) but only Jesus Christ will hold that title for ever (2:44).

apostle Peter echoes this truth: 'For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers' (1 Peter 3:12).

Invited to become royalty

The apostle Paul explained to the Christians in Corinth that not many of high birth are being called to join God's family in this present age. Why? So that 'no flesh should glory in His presence' (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

God is calling people from very ordinary backgrounds for extraordinary future duties that He has in mind for them. Truly humble and obedient Christians are already receiving character training for a royal future.

At the return of Jesus Christ he becomes ruler of the kingdoms of this world (Revelation 11:15) as the 'King of kings and Lord of lords' (Revelation 19:16). At that time resurrected Christians will also become 'kings and priests' to work with Him in both ruling and serving the entire world (Revelation 5:10; 20:4).

It is at this time of the year that Christians are reminded of events that take place when Christ returns. They keep the biblical Holy Days set aside by God to remind us of what we are preparing for. The significance of the Feast of Trumpets, the day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles are all explained in our publication *God's Holy Day Plan – The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*. (Read it online at www.ucg.org/booklets/HD, or request your personal copy by post.)

An exemplary life of service

Consider the commitment and impact of some monarchs who genuinely care for their subjects. They make a significant difference to the people to whom they mean so much, often becoming important figures of their nation's heritage.

On the occasion of her twenty-first birthday, young Elizabeth dedicated her life to the service of her future subjects. This task she has faithfully carried out

with unusual dedication during her long reign of more than 50 years.

Truly repentant and committed Christians also dedicate themselves to a life of service 'as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God . . .' (Romans 12:1, NIV). The apostle Peter speaks of them as 'a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that [they] may proclaim the praises of Him who called [them] out of darkness into His marvelous light' (1 Peter 5:9).

The whole world is now suffering from problems that humans alone are not able to make right. 'The earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the

bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God' (Romans 8:19-21).

Why not read more about the Kingdom that Jesus Christ has been appointed to establish when He returns. Also read of the duties that, as Christ's governing assistants, faithful Christians will inherit as the children of God. See how His resurrected sons and daughters, as members of God's family, will receive the recognition of all mankind and the power to realistically and effectively become helpers and servants of all of humanity.

Then discover how you can have a very realistic, personal part in the future work of that royal family. Just request or download our two free booklets *The Gospel of the Kingdom* and *What Is Your Destiny?*

Peter Hawkins

A Prophetic Vision of Our Future

The Kingdom of God will be majestically wonderful because of the leadership of Jesus Christ assisted by the children of God, then changed to immortal spirit beings. Jesus will reign as 'the first-born among many brethren' (Romans 8:29). He will share management of the Kingdom on this earth with the resurrected, immortal children of God.

The prophet Daniel received a vision of the establishment of that Kingdom. 'I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man [Jesus Christ], coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [God the Father]. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away' (Daniel 7:13-14).

Notice again who will share the Kingdom with Jesus Christ. 'The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness

of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him' (verse 27, emphasis added). But the saints' rulership will be vastly different from the rulership this world has usually experienced. They will serve rather than exploit humanity. Jesus Christ described the kind of giving, serving, loving leadership that will characterise those who rule with Him: 'Among the Gentiles, kings lord it over their subjects and those in authority are given the title Benefactor. Not so with you: on the contrary, the greatest among you must bear himself like the youngest, the one who rules like one who serves' (Luke 22:25-26, REB).

God is creating not just a family of kings, but servants who will pass on blessings to those they serve. Proverbs 29:2 tells us: 'When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.'

The Bible Versus Secular Humanism

Man seems determined to live apart from God. Yet our Creator is the only source of a truly meaningful life.

The European Union (EU) is seen by many as one of humanity's greatest achievements and one of the best hopes for achieving peace and prosperity. Preserving peace between the major powers in Europe is unquestionably important, given Europe's bloody history.

In our troubled world, international institutions such as the EU and United Nations (UN) seem to be humanity's best hope – apart from God. And currently the EU is quite apart from God. Its driving philosophy is secular and humanistic.

The committee that drafted the proposed constitution for the EU was challenged about the lack of reference to God in its documents. A French member of the committee explained, 'We don't like God' (quoted by Jeremy Rifkin, *The European Dream*, 2004, p. 211).

Another member of the drafting convention argued, 'The only banner that we have is secularism' (ibid). As more nations seek to join today's secular and prosperous EU, modernists feel that God is a quaint concept of the past. Beyond the EU, this wave of humanistic thinking seems to be sweeping the Western world.

Humanism basically says that man on his own can discover the truth he needs to survive and prosper.

Can a humanist make it rain?

But is it really possible for nations to continue to flourish without God's help? Mortal man must be sustained by the fruit of the land and, regardless of one's politics, without food man won't be

around to argue for very long. Can man bring the rains so necessary for our crops?

The Bible tells us the true source of rain and the food we depend on: 'Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, since You have made all these' (Jeremiah 14:22).

The Bible makes many claims that more and more people discount or even ridicule. Is there any evidence to suggest that there is a great plan being worked out here on earth? Yes, there is clear evidence, as we continually show in our publications. Still, one of the greatest

Mankind now and in the past has never known the way to peace (Romans 3:17).

challenges for young and old people today is to think vertically – that is, to think in terms of what God reveals about man and his future.

The alternative is to think horizontally, butting heads with just about anybody who disagrees with your ideas. Sadly, this is the way many people operate. It has been said that if you get five modern scholars together, you will get six opinions on just about everything.

In the book of Isaiah, God challenges mankind by stating, 'I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me' (Isaiah 45:5). The passage continues, 'For thus says the

LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other"' (verse 18).

Humanism: It's not working

If the new age of postmodern humanism is the wave of the future, what are the fruits of this direction? When you watch the nightly news, do you really see a world that lives in peace, where cooperation and respect is growing among nations and races? Is the United Nations, the European Union, Britain, the United States or any other nation or group of nations really discovering the way of peace?

Jim Nelson Black's book *When Nations Die: America on the Brink: Ten Warning Signs of a Culture in Crisis* (1994) lists areas that historically have led nations to diminish. They apply to Britain and Europe as well.

These include the crisis of lawlessness, the loss of economic discipline, the rise of bureaucracy, the decline in education, the weakening of cultural foundations, the loss of respect for tradition, the increase in materialism, the rise of immorality, the decay of religious belief and the devaluing of human life.

If you analyse these major signs of decline, you will realise that mankind now and in the past has never known the way to peace. 'The way of peace they have not known, and there is no justice in their ways; they have made themselves crooked paths; whoever takes that way [the way apart from

God's truth] shall not know peace' (Isaiah 59:8).

Is the Bible true?

Those who argue that God is dead and that man is more than able to take care of himself will challenge your beliefs that there is a God. What will your counter-arguments be?

In a recent baptismal counselling, I asked several young people if they had ever proved that God exists. We read in the Scriptures, 'But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him' (Hebrews 11:6).

My challenge to these young people was to write a paper demonstrating, at least to themselves, that God exists. For many new Christians, this is something that is often taken for granted. Yet God is eager for you to know for certain that He is there as part of your building a genuine relationship with Him.

The joke is told of a professor who once challenged his students in class about the existence of God. He taunted them: 'Have any of you ever seen God? Have any of you ever touched, tasted or heard God directly? If you answer "no", then you must agree that God doesn't exist.'

One of the students stood up and quickly asked, 'Professor, since I haven't seen, touched or tasted your brain, does that mean it doesn't exist?'

Humanism versus revelation

The arguments will no doubt rage on until mortal man reaches the end of his short tenure on earth. The Bible describes the major obstacle all mankind faces: 'The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For "who has known

the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:14-16).

The solution is revelation from an eternal, creating God who inhabits eternity. 'As it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except [by] the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except [by] the Spirit of God' (1 Corinthians 2:9-11).

How do you plan to spend your life? Will you, like an increasing number of moderns, live according to your own thinking? Or will you subscribe to the revelations of the all-wise Eternal God who made all things?

You could be stubborn and hold your breath to demonstrate your independence. Or if you already know that doesn't work, you may wish to consider the following: 'Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it . . .' (Isaiah 42:5).

So take a deep breath and thank God for it. And, for some vertical thoughts on these subjects, request or download our well-researched free booklets *Life's Ultimate Question: Does God Exist?*, *Creation or Evolution: Does It Really Matter What You Believe?*, *Is the Bible True?* and *Who Is God?*

May God grant you the vision and desire to prove His existence and then to live His way of life.

Larry Greider

About the Author: Larry Greider is the director of the United Youth Camps and Challenger II programs in the United States. He also pastors the United Church of God congregation in Los Angeles, California.

Man's Natural Hostility

Why does man reject the idea of God and the divine laws that define His standards – often embracing secular humanism? Man rejects God principally because His laws embody a morality that is outwardly focused and shows concern for others rather than oneself. By contrast we humans are primarily motivated by selfish concerns often expressed by what we can get.

But why do we have such a selfish nature? Genesis 3 explains that the devil, in the guise of the serpent, first planted suspicion and rebellion toward God in the minds of the first man and woman. He told them God was not acting in their best interest.

Notice also the apostle Paul's description of mankind's basic motivation: 'Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh' (Romans 8:5, NRSV). Their fleshly desires prejudice their

minds against God and the morality of His laws.

It's little wonder that most people reject anything that doesn't reflect their own point of view. Historically no nations have wanted to be governed by all of the Ten Commandments, because they go against the grain of human nature.

In rejecting God's revealed way of life (often by embracing secular humanism), people unknowingly cut themselves off from His blessings and sentence themselves to much suffering (Deuteronomy 30:15-16). Yet God wants to bless His people abundantly by offering them His Spirit after real repentance (see John 10:10; Acts 2:37-39).

There is much more to learn about this vital subject. Request your free copies of the booklets *The Ten Commandments* and *The Road to Eternal Life*.

Do You Have the Mind of God?

We were created to imitate our Creator – to think as He does – to view life from His divine perspective. But why aren't we more like God, and how can we begin to express His nature?

William Shakespeare was one of the greatest writers in the history of mankind. Yet as British author and historian Roy Strong stated: 'Shakespeare is one of those enigmatic figures who cross the pages of history and give away nothing . . . The inner voyage of his mind remains opaque' (*The Story of Britain: A People's History*, p. 218, emphasis added throughout). Despite a massive academic industry devoted to Shakespearean studies, even after the passing of several centuries we still don't know his mind. It remains largely opaque and obscure.



William Shakespeare

Yet the Creator in His Word tells us that we can not only begin to know the divine mind, but also gradually become like God – even partaking of His very nature.

Knowing the mind of God

The celebrated Cambridge scientist Stephen Hawking indicated that if we understood 'why it is that we and the universe exist . . . then we would know the mind of God' (*A Brief History of Time*, 1988, p 193). But it was decades ago when Albert Einstein, famous for the theory of relativity ($E=MC^2$), first indicated that solving the mysteries of science would lead us to know the mind of God. There is an element of truth in what these two famous scientists have posited simply because of what the Bible says about the things that the creation itself reveals about God.

Notice the inspiring words of King David in Psalm 19: 'The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard*' (verses 1-3). The awesome language of creation can be universally understood!

A thousand years later the apostle Paul expressed the revelatory thoughts of David, albeit in a somewhat different way. Notice His choice of words: 'For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made' (Romans 1:20).

Yet the natural world is not the only vehicle by which God discloses Himself to humankind. He also reveals His mind, His divine thought patterns, in the Holy Scriptures. You can get some idea of the general picture of God through the wonders of the creation, but in order to know God's mind much

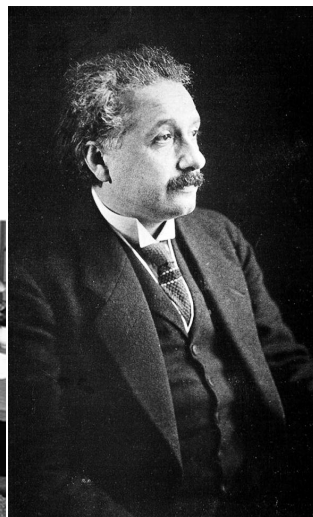


Scientists Albert Einstein and Stephen Hawking have sought to understand the mind of God.

more fully – you have to comprehend and understand His revealed Word.

The natural man versus the mind of God

But not everyone is privileged to really know their Creator during this present age of man. Atheistic secularism is well on the rise, especially in the Europe of Century 21. Many who espouse the secular view of life are neither tolerant nor kind to those who believe in God. So widespread is their intolerance that one French scholar wondered, 'Can an atheist or agnostic commentator discuss any aspect of religion for more than 30 seconds without referring to religious people as imbeciles, extremists, mental



deficients, fascists, enemies of the common good?' (*USA Today*, 21 August, 2007).

Why is this? The apostle Paul explains it in his New Testament

letters. The bottom line is summed up in 1 Corinthians 2:14: 'The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, *because they are spiritually discerned*. It is only those who have received the Holy Spirit and

are converted to their Creator's way of life who really know and understand God.

Paul explains further: 'The carnal [natural] mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His' (Romans 8:7-10). Here is the definition of a real Christian – one who has God's Holy Spirit.

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah succinctly articulated the sad plight of the natural man in relation to the Creator. 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts' (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Yet the overall plan of God, expressed through the annual Holy Days and festivals, shows us that His divine purpose is to eventually reveal Himself to every human being. The autumn festivals picture a future time when all mankind will come to know

God and begin to partake of His mind. (See our free booklet about *God's Holy Day Plan*.)

Partaking of the divine nature

Today it is those whom God is calling in advance to salvation that are now 'partakers of the divine nature' (2 Peter 1:4). Salvation is a divine process. We progress spiritually one step at a time. The first step is heartfelt, genuine repentance – remorse over our past sins (transgressions of God's spiritual law, 1 John 3:4), fully accepting the sacrifice

'The man who says, "I know Him," but does not do what He commands is a liar and the truth is not in him' (1 John 2:4, NIV).

of Christ, resulting in God's absolute forgiveness.

The next step is water baptism, followed by the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (see Acts 2:37-39). This constitutes a formal beginning for the Christian life of gradually imbibing the mind and character of God into our lives (2 Peter 3:18). (For further knowledge about these essential spiritual steps, please request

in print or download online our free booklets *Transforming Your Life: the Process of Conversion* and *The Road to Eternal Life*.)

Everlasting abundant life in the Kingdom and Family of God is the ultimate destiny of true Christians. 'As we have borne the image of the man of dust [Adam], we shall also bear the image of the heavenly man [by means of the resurrection]' (1 Corinthians 15:49).

That is why Christ makes the abundant, truly meaningful life possible while we are still human (John 10:10).

That is why God created us in the human flesh, yet in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). That is why it so important that we comprehend the nature of our Creator. (To understand

much more, ask for our free booklet *Who Is God?*)

The apostle John wrote: 'Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God . . . but we know that when He [Christ] is revealed [at the second coming], we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is' (1 John 3:1-2). What a glorious future for the children of God!

John Ross Schroeder

Five Who Reflected the Mind of God

Throughout biblical history, exemplary men and women have reflected the character of God (see Hebrews 11). The great heroes of the Bible – the patriarchs, prophets, righteous kings and apostles – all came to know God and acquire His mind in varying degrees.

The early patriarch *Enoch* was one of the first. Twice in an early genealogy the account tells us he 'walked with God' (Genesis 5:21-24). You cannot walk with God unless you obey Him and follow His way of life (1 John 2:6; Amos 3:3).

Noah is the next example. The world just prior to the great flood was exceedingly wicked. 'The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually' (Genesis 6:5). But one man found grace in God's eyes and the human race was preserved. 'Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations, Noah walked with God' (verse 9).

We find *Abraham* in the very same category. God

Himself describes His basic character in Genesis 26:5. 'Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments and My laws.' The New Testament calls Him 'the father of the faithful'.

King *David* of Israel also followed in His footsteps. The apostle Paul called to mind God's assessment of David's overall character. 'He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will"' (Acts 13:22). Later in the New Testament period, Paul also had the 'the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:16).

Recall that Jesus said that 'I and My Father are one'. After all He was and is far and away the best example of having the mind of God. As a member of the God family, He was and is the express image of the Father's Person (John 3:1-3; Hebrews 1:3). You may wish to request or download our free booklet *Jesus Christ: The Real Story*.

Questions & Answers

Q What connections are there between Israel and what's happening on the world stage? Are we supposed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and why, or rather how, does this help us as Christians?

P T, Manchester

A Your two questions link together well. At the very end of the age, the ultimate battle between God and rebellious man will take place in the Holy Land, the area of the modern nation of Israel. The prophet Zechariah tells us that God will gather all nations against Jerusalem at Armageddon. This coming world crisis, centred in the Middle East, precedes the second coming of Jesus and His awesome victory over all nations. Christ will then rule as king of kings from Jerusalem, beginning His millennial reign on earth.

Much of our prophetic attention should therefore be on this region of the world, watching for conditions that may precipitate Armageddon. To understand the intriguing details, request our free booklet *The Middle East in Bible Prophecy and Are We Living in the Time of the End?*

King David of Israel instructs us to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem' in Psalm 122:6. As we can readily determine from regular news reports, the whole world is being affected by continuing conflicts in the Holy Land. It is there that the world looks and hopes for the road to a lasting peace, however elu-

sive it may prove to be. Recall that Jesus asked Christians to pray, 'Thy Kingdom come' (Matthew 6:10, KJV).

The Middle East is where the rule of Christ and His Kingdom begins on earth. From that area it will spread over the whole earth. Even now we should pray for peaceful conditions there before the inevitable time when the coming world crisis ensues (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Praying this prayer of David helps Christians keep their focus on the Kingdom of God.

Q Does the Bible give instruction for Holy Days besides the normal weekly Sabbath?

P M, Hull

A The Bible gives ample instructions about when and how to observe the annual Holy Days and festivals of God. The United Church of God has prepared and printed a free booklet (also available on our web sites) that explains the significance of each one and its meaning for us today. Request *God's Holy Day Plan: The Promise of Hope for All Mankind*.

Q What is the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of heaven?

K A G, Longford

A Although most often called the 'Kingdom of God', occasionally other terms are used in

describing the Kingdom. Three of the writers of the Gospels – Mark, Luke and John – use the term 'Kingdom of God' to refer to the Kingdom by name.

The phrase 'Kingdom of heaven' is a term used exclusively by Matthew, with 32 references in his gospel account of Jesus Christ. However, he uses the terms 'kingdom of God' and 'kingdom of heaven' interchangeably. In Matthew 19:23, 24, he employs the terms in consecutive verses, clearly implying that they were synonymous. Often he calls it simply 'the Kingdom'.

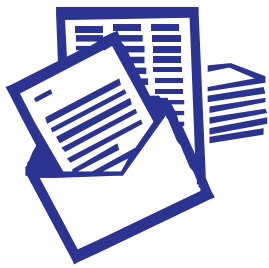
Why did Matthew call it 'the kingdom of heaven'? Because heaven is where God is, as Jesus Christ made plain (Matthew 5:34, 45, 48). Matthew makes it clear that the Kingdom was not, at that time, an earthly monarchy like the kingdoms around them. However, he understood that it was a kingdom to come, for which Christ's followers are to pray (Matthew 6:10).

The apostle Peter, acknowledging the centrality of Christ's role in the Kingdom, refers to it as 'the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' (2 Peter 1:11). Jesus Christ is our Lord and Master now, and He will reign supreme (under the Father) in the coming Kingdom (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). As Saviour of mankind He is the door and the way by which we have access to God the Father and salvation in God's Kingdom (John 10:9; 14:6).

Be sure to request our free booklet *The Gospel of the Kingdom*.

How our literature is funded

The United Church of God – British Isles is registered as a charity in England and Wales (number 1079192). The publication of this Supplement and other literature is funded by the generosity of members of the Church, co-workers and our readers. Following Jesus Christ's instruction (Matthew 10:8), it is supplied free of charge so that His message can be made available to all. We are grateful to those who assist financially in the work done by *The Good News*. Donations may be sent to: The United Church of God, PO Box 705, WATFORD WD19 6FZ, United Kingdom, or donated online at www.charity-choice.co.uk by selecting 'search' and entering 'United Church of God'.



Letters From Our Readers

The Good News

Thank you for keeping me on your mailing list. Your publications are read avidly and are always appreciated in a dangerous and godless age in which we find ourselves with little truth and light to help us find our way. Your work is such a light. God bless you and your entire organization.

P C, St Austell, Cornwall

I find *The Good News* very inspirational and a great help to my faith. I have discovered that the way to change the world is by at least one act of kindness every day.

C D, Romford

I always look forward to reading *The Good News*. It is always full of wonderful, heart-rending, challenging and equally informative articles on a wide range of Christian and ethical issues. In any event the Bible perspective is paramount and Jesus' name is promoted as Lord of all.

P A, Southampton

Thanks very much for my copy of *The Good News*. I am disabled and unable to work. I find the articles in the magazine most interesting and I look forward to the next issue to learn and take comfort from it.

T S, Haverhill

Thank you for your generosity in sending the magazines free of charge. I have gained so much from them – so much knowledge of the grace and peace of God and His Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who will bring peace and love to this troubled earth when He returns. I am enclosing a small cheque as a thank you.

C T, Peterborough

Response to subscriber letter

Thank you for the open letter which you sent to me recently. It is quite refreshing to see that your Church is not following the rest of Christendom, who are becoming antinomian [against law] in their outlook in regards to the Law and the Ten Commandments – especially the fourth commandment. I am looking forward to studying the *Bible Study Course* offered by your Church, the United Church of God. I am also anxiously awaiting the next issue of *The Good News*.

I W, London

Breathing clean air

Although a steward in a mainstream Anglican Church, I find many actually ignore the many gifts from God. Tradition, self-glorification and an unwavering belief in money and comfort are disguised as 'Christian values.' Reading *The Good News* means I can breathe clean air in the smoky religious establishments I work within.

D A, Nantwich

- *You may wish to request our free booklet The Church Jesus Built.*

Not religious, and no longer worshipping Jesus

Please don't send any more magazines. I am not religious and don't want to be. Thanks anyway.

Mrs M B, Hinckley

I would really be pleased if you stopped sending me this magazine. I am no longer worshipping Jesus.

L J, Whitehaven

- *You may be interested in reading our free booklet Jesus Christ: The Real Story.*

The Middle East in Bible Prophecy

The Middle East in Bible Prophecy upheld my belief in the Holy Bible as the book of God. It encouraged me to read the Bible more. I have been to Israel on pilgrimage to places mentioned in the Bible, and seeing gives me understanding and your explanation in the booklet gives me great faith in what God is teaching us about the past, present and future. I thank all of those people who donate to make it possible for people like me to benefit from *The Good News*. I am 80 years old.

Mrs C F, London

Bible Study Course

Thanks so much for sending me 12 Bible Study lessons. They are helping me to understand the Bible as I've never understood it before. You are doing a great job spreading God's Word with these lessons. The test cards really help too.

R A, Stoke-on-Trent

Letters From Our Readers

I always look forward to receiving *The Good News* and reading of the people who benefit from your free gifts and how their lives have been changed. It really does my heart good. Keep up the good work and may God bless you all, as I know He does.

Mrs B B, Nuneaton

- *Although we can only publish a percentage of the comments we receive from our readers, we deeply appreciate their observations, comments and questions. We can learn from you too.*