

## God's Promise of a Kingdom

*“And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”* (Luke 1:33)

**Jesus came to fulfill God's promise of a kingdom that would never end.**

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised His people, the nation of Israel, an eternal, everlasting kingdom that would endure for all ages. This kingdom, with its King, would reign over the house of Judah, but would enfold all the families of the earth – all people and tongues and tribes and nations. When the angel came to Mary, he made plain to her that Jesus' birth, that Jesus would be the fulfillment of this magnificent promise.

Jesus was born to fulfill God's promises: the promise of a savior, the promise of a king, and the promise of a kingdom. The beauty of the Gospel, so clearly described and proclaimed in the New Testament, is that because Jesus was faithful to obey the Father, He receives all the promises of God. The Lord Jesus provides the benefit of those promises to everyone who receives Him (John 1:12). Those who have received Him are connected to the Savior by faith. He takes them to Himself so intimately that being “in Him” is the only adequate description. Those who are “in Christ” receive blessings as well. God will keep His promises to Israel, and He will uniquely bless those He saved during the two comings of Christ.

When the apostle Paul was despairing of life itself, he found comfort in God through Christ, and the Rock he embraced amid his life's storms was the promises of God. In 2 Corinthians 1:20, Paul wrote, *“For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.”* Paul lived above depression because he found comfort in the fact that all of God's promises belonged to him. They are His possessions and can't be jeopardized because God will fulfill His promises. The promises belong to Jesus Christ. Jesus is the answer, the fulfillment, to all of God's promises.

Christ has already fulfilled God's promise of salvation to anyone who will believe in Him, but we do not yet experience salvation as we one day will in its fullness, after the resurrection. Christ is already the King, but we do not yet experience His reign in its fullness as we surely once will. Christ has already received His

kingdom, but He has not yet received it in its fullness, in its functioning. We are awaiting a future consummation, when, once and for all, Satan will be defeated, and when we will reign with Jesus forever. As he promised.

While God's promises are ours, we must realize that we are somewhat like our fellow saints from the Old Testament. We are awaiting the promise of Christ's (second) coming, the fullness of salvation, and the fulfillment of the promise of glorified bodies, like unto His own. As we await, sin pursues us, Satan buffets us and the world grows in its vehemence of us.

It is in those moments when we are tempted to give in or give up, we need to remember the point of Christmas. Wait for Jesus, long for Jesus, call for Jesus to come back. Until He does, stand firm on the promises of our Lord. God's promises are His possession. He isn't delegating their fulfillment to others. They are His alone, to fulfill. Jesus was born to fulfill the promises of God.