

# The Provision of Jesus

The Kingdom of God is not a 'show'; it doesn't come or respond to formulae. The Kingdom of God is Christ in you. Luke 17:20,21 *Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, 21 nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."*

Only born-again people can enter the Kingdom of God. It doesn't matter how good, educated, wealthy etc. we are. We only get in by confessing Christ as Lord and living a life in obedience to His teaching. John 3:3,5 *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.*

The things around us hinder entry to the Kingdom of God. Matthew 19:24 *Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

Whenever we speak the good news of Jesus – either in preaching or in everyday conversation – we are promoting the Kingdom of God. Luke 8:1,2 *After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out;*

A consequence of proclaiming the Kingdom of God is that healing will be seen. Luke 9:11 *but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.*

When the forces of darkness are under attack from the church, then this is a clear demonstration that the Kingdom of God is evident. Matthew 12:28 *But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Let's look at the effect of the Kingdom of God on this Earth. Through establishing it on the Earth, Jesus brings many things to His people and just a few of this are discussed below.

## **Jesus gave:**

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## 1. Restored Relationship with Father

**Christ undid Adam's failure;** He destroyed that which Adam allowed to enter himself and his descendants - Sin.

- 1 Cor 15:45 *So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit.*

This Sin became, and remains, the great separator of Man from God (Rom 3:23), Sin that results in the spiritual death of all mankind (Rom 6:23).

- Rom 3:23 *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- Rom 6:23a *For the wages of sin is death ...*

Nevertheless, Christ came to enable us to receive forgiveness of sins and to be restored to fellowship with our heavenly Father.

- Rom 6:23b *... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Luke 24:46,47 *He [Jesus] told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*

This restoration of fellowship with God is the greatest single provision of Jesus, i.e. His gift of salvation. As Redeemer, He provided the open door through which we can pass into the Kingdom of God. In Joel's great prophecy, the Word says, "*And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved ...*" (Joel 2:32)

Forgiveness of sin is now down to us, individually, calling on Christ to be Lord of lives. His response to a genuine call from our heart is that "*everyone*" will be saved. This salvation changes us; we can no longer be the same. As Paul writes, "*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has [already] gone, the new has [already] come!*" (2 Cor 5:17).

## 2. Example of Servanthood

When we follow Jesus, we soon find that we're all part of a topsy-turvy world. This new life is difficult, because everything we were and did has to change. Our entire mental processes have to be brought under new control.

- Mark 9:35 *Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all."*
- John 13:14,15 *Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

But, thanks be to God He gave us the Holy Spirit to help us (John 14:16,17 *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*)

## 3. Peace

Peace is not just the absence of conflict. It is having the attitude of Jesus. How He acts is the example for us of how we must behave. This is irrespective of our current situation. We must lift our eyes off the problems and onto the one and only source of the answer.

- John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*

## 4. Freedom

### a. The Commission

One of the principle purposes of the Great Commission is to bring freedom. It is one of the prophetic descriptions of the Messiah that is repeated in Luke's gospel, when Jesus went to Nazareth. It was here that he'd been raised and, on the Saturday, he went into the synagogue. As he stood up to read, the scroll of Isaiah was handed to him, which He unrolled and went to the place where it is written:

- Luke 4:18,19 *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."*

Look at the Lord's response in the following verse:

- Luke 4:18 *Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, <sup>21</sup> and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*

### b. The Believer

This scripture is not just limited to the Lord's commission to bring freedom to the lost. Freedom is a characteristic of the Believer – it must be our hallmark!

- 2 Cor 3:17,18 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
- Gal 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Part of our freedom is that we have complete access to the Father.

- Eph 3:12,13 *In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. 13 I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.*

## 5. Healing

One of God's names is 'Jehovah Ropheca' – God our Healer (lit. 'Lord the Physician'). Jesus, at His trial, confessed that He was the Messiah, so, it was to be fully expected that His ministry would be filled with healings that demonstrated who He was. However, the range of these healings was simply awe-inspiring. Here are only four examples:

- Mark 14:61,62 *But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"*62 *"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*
- Luke 8:43,44 *And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. 44 She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.*
- Luke 7:22,23 *So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. 23 Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."*
- John 11:43,44 *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"*44 *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."*

## 6. Deliverance

There are two great crimes in the area of deliverance. The first is to dismiss the existence of demons; the second is to see them in everything. Jesus firmly believed in their existence and dealt with them whenever they interfered with mankind. However, the great caveat is never to attempt to deliver the 'flesh'; this can only be repented of. What then constitutes 'the flesh'? The best answer is in Gal 5, where you find the flesh that needs to be repented of (vv 19-21).

- Mat 8:16 *When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.*

Now, Jesus performed many deliverances. Why, then, did this one draw the amazed statement in v 34?

- Mat 9:32,33 *While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. 33 And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."*

It was a Messianic miracle!

## 7. Holy Spirit

The Jewish people were used to water baptism, as that was one of the means by which converts came to Judaism. However, here, John the Baptist foretold a different kind of baptism, the one prophesied by Joel 2:28-32. This was to be a Holy Spirit baptism that involved God's power and His cleansing fire.

- Mat 3:11,12 *‘I [John B.] baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.’*

In this Scripture, the Disciples - just like His Church today - received the Great Commission. However, Jesus commands them to hold back. Why? He knows that they need the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. He would soon return to heaven, so they would need a continuing supply of God’s power. In these two Scriptures, Jesus cautions them to prepare for their task, but not to go without the power of God in their lives. We too must seek the presence of the power of God as we move out into our ministries.

- Luke 24:49 *I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’*
- Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you [then] will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.’*

Remember, there are different roles by which we are to serve God. We do not decide which they are, He does. In addition, as we bow to His decision, we experience that wonderful power of the Holy Spirit.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 *There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. 5 There are different ways to serve the same Lord, 6 and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. (CEV)*

## 8. Open Heaven

Heaven is the dwelling place of God - that is probably something we all know. However, since the Cross it’s now the home for all Christ’s people who have gone on before us. The nearest the Jews of His day could ever get to God was a place called ‘Sheol’ (Ps 16:10), which was the place for the dead souls - not heaven (Sheol is also called ‘Paradise’ or Abraham’s Bosom). No one had ever gone to heaven from this world.

- John 3:13 *No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man.*

Now, at Jesus’ baptism not only do the people experience a connection from heaven, but they also experience - momentarily - the Trinity.

- Mat 3:17 *And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’*

Heaven is a place where Christ is preparing our accommodation; it’s also a real place where we can start storing up real treasure, by serving God. It’s better than any bank. Luke 12:34 is also the real test of our true self - perhaps more than anything else is?

- John 14:2 *In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.*
- Luke 12:33,34 *Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

Heaven is a place where we'll be fully conscious, while we worship the Lord and await the new heaven and earth, which we'll do with great anticipation.

- Rev 6:10 *They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"*
- Rev 21:1,2 *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*

## 9. Judgement

This is something we'd rather not know about. It seems to be an area we'd like to hide under the carpet. It is going to happen as the book of Revelation makes very clear. But, one thing is for certain; **we're** not the right people to offer clear, impartial judgement that is required.

- Mat 7:1,2 *'Do not judge, or you too will be judged. 2 For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

Father has entrusted all judgement to His Son - and to His Son alone. But why? Who else knows our every excuse? Jesus has experienced everything that man could try to hold up against Him. Jesus has known every joy, every hurt, and every pain - including that vicious death on the Cross. No, He knows what and how we suffer.

- John 5:22,23 *Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgement to the Son, 23 that all may honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father, who sent him.*

The Judge is preparing to judge ... all mankind. None of us will miss this. Those who don't believe in God will still stand before the 'bema' or judgement seat of Christ.

- Acts 17:30,31 *In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."*
- Rev 20:12,13 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.*