

The Gospel The Power of God Unto Salvation?

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By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

There are many verses in the Bible about the Gospel and just how it is important for the salvation of mankind. But, what is the Gospel and how is it related to salvation. What is the Gospel? Does the Bible clearly tell us? If it does, why are there so many different explanations of what it is Jesus meant when He spoke about the Gospel. Let's see if we can come to some definite Bible answer to these questions.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In the Bible there are many verses where the Gospel is mentioned and in this study we will review many of them as we attempt to come to a clear, easy-to-understand and biblically-sound explanation of what is the Gospel.

It is undeniable that there are many different explanations of what is the Gospel among the different Christian religions of this world in which I include the many offshoot churches of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) after it ended following the death of its founder, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Let's start examining some of the many Bible verses where the word "Gospel" is used and see if doing so will provide us with information that will help us to formulate a clear answer to the question of what is the Gospel.

Verses Containing the Word "Gospel"

Mat 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the **gospel of the kingdom**, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

Jesus preached the Gospel in Israel at the time of His First Coming. Gospel is a word that means "good news."

Mar 1:14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching **the gospel of the kingdom of God**,

In this verse we are given a bit more information about the “good news” of the kingdom, it is not news about any of the kingdoms of men, it is the good news about the kingdom of God.

Mar 1:15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Those hearing Jesus’ message about the kingdom of God are to repent and believe the Gospel.

What is they have to repent of?

They have to start obeying God as required in the Bible and not according to their personal beliefs of how He is to be worshiped. And, they have to believe the good news brought to them by Jesus from God the Father that God has a kingdom.

Mar 13:10 **And the gospel must first be published among all nations.**

Mar 13:7 **And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.**

In these verses, Jesus clearly says that the gospel must first be made known to **all** nations before the “end” comes.

What “end” was Christ talking about? The Worldwide Church of God taught that the “end” was the end of the governments of men that they thought would happen at the time of His 2nd Coming when it was believed He would take over the governments of this world and rule over the earth with His resurrected saints? For a detailed explanation of what is the “end” please see the following study: [The End of the World What is it and When will it Happen?](#)

Act 15:7 **And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.**

Paul, went to the Gentiles to preach to them the good news of the

kingdom of God. He did so because the Jews (the combined tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) rejected him to such an extent that he could not do a work among them.

Of course, Paul was never able to go into all the nations of the Gentiles nor to individually reach each and every Gentile with his message as it was impossible for any man to then do so. This is because of the slow and rudimentary means of travel that then existed and the very limited ability to transmit written information as the printing press had not yet been invented. The few books that existed had to be copied by hand and were only accessible to the wealthy. Paul never reached but a very small number of Gentiles during his ministry.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

The gospel message has many parts to it. Of course it is a message about a kingdom but the gospel also includes how men can become part of this kingdom and this is by the grace of God. Without it no man could ever become part of God's Kingdom.

Rom 2:16 In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to **my gospel**.

The expression "my gospel" here doesn't mean that Paul was teaching his own version of the gospel; rather, "his" gospel was the one he had from Christ. Paul didn't have a personal and different version of the gospel of the kingdom of God than the one He had received.

Rom 10:15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the **gospel of peace**, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Preachers of God's truth have to be sent by God as Paul and the apostles were. In New Testament times, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman is the means used by the holy spirit God the Father to preach/teach truly converted Christians (Heb 1:1-2; John 14:26; Jer 3:15; Ez 34:10).

Here a new element is added to the good news message of the kingdom of God; it is a time when there will be peace.

Rom 10:16 But **they have not all obeyed the gospel**. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

This is Paul referring to Isaiah's words (Isa 53:1) which were prophetic about the extent to which men hearing the gospel would believe it. Rom 10:16 is speaking about the time when God will begin calling men (after the day of Pentecost) and that those called will not all obey the Gospel. As part of its message, the gospel includes the requirement to repent and to believe (Mark 1:15). Not all that heard and will hear the Gospel will obey because as Christ plainly says, many are called, few are chosen, and few of the chosen, remain faithful (Matt 22:14; Matt 7: 13-14).

Rom 11:28 As concerning **the gospel**, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

Here Paul is talking about Israel who were the first to have the Gospel preached to them but almost all of them rejected it. God ceased working with them and Paul turned to the Gentiles. Israel through its unbelief became the enemy of God and this was to the benefit of the Gentiles who then had the gospel preached to them. However, Paul says that there are some in Israel that will accept the gospel and become elects (the election) when the time comes for God to begin calling Israel. Its time of conversion will begin with the coming of the 2nd Elijah Christ had promised He would send to "them." (Mat 17: 10-11) This topic is covered in detail in the following study: [The Second Elijah and the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord](#) 1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: **not with wisdom of words**, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

Christ sent Paul to preach the gospel but not with the "wisdom of words." In other words, the ability to understand Paul's preaching of the Gospel does not depend on his ability to explain it in clear and easily understood words. The gospel is God-level spiritual truth which can only be known by revelation from God (1Co 3:6). Christ's death as the perfect sacrifice for sin made it possible for God to call men as their sins could be covered by the grace or forgiveness of sin made possible by Christ. He was resurrected to His former glory with God the Father and then assumed His role as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones (John 14:26) including the gospel.

1Co 9:18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, **I may make the gospel of Christ without charge**, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

Paul worked to sustain himself so that none could accuse him of preaching the gospel as a means of making a living for himself. He wanted to be sure everybody knew he wasn't doing it for money as the many other false prophets who had gone out into the world were doing. They were preaching a false gospel to gain a following which they could financially exploit.

2Co 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

2Co 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

They are lost because they are blinded by the god of this world, Satan the devil but they are not forever lost as their blindness will be removed at the time of their calling. In Paul's days and until the coming of the Millennium, not everyone is called. These people are lost for now but will be given their one and only chance at redemption when God the Father will call them during the Last Great Day. Those of Israel and of the nations of the world who were never called will be resurrected to flesh-and-blood existence at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

Did other men come along preaching false gospels?

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Gal 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Gal 1:9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Even in the days just after Christ's ascension, there were false gospels being taught and some in God's Church had already started believing them.

Gal 3:8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

All the nations will be blessed through faith i.e., by choosing to believe God as Abraham believed God when God calls them and makes known to them the Gospel as they study their Bible. All are saved by God's

grace forgiving their sins because they believe that He can and will do what He says He will do. Salvation means becoming a member of God's Kingdom (the gospel message) when it is established after the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day.

Php 1:3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Php 1:4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

Php 1:5 For **your fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now;

Here Paul is saying that every time he remembers or thinks of the Philippian converts he gives thanks to God in his prayers for their having continued believing the gospel from the day it was preached to them.

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **[at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment]**

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that **obey not the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ:

God will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel because after it has been revealed to them they abandoned it, returned into the world and again became spiritually blind. A blindness that will not be taken away a second time.

2Th 1:9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; **[the death of the wicked in the Lake of Fire which is the second death is permanent or everlasting.]**

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought **life and immortality to light through the gospel**:

Christ through His death on the stake has made it possible for flesh-and-blood human beings to one day become glorified spirit beings with immortal life. This has been made known or brought to light through the gospel or the good news to mankind that those called, chosen and faithful will become part of God's Kingdom.

2Ti 2:8 Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to [my gospel](#):

As part of the gospel message is the knowledge that Christ was raised from the dead and this is what makes it possible for men to become incorruptible spirit beings in which dwell immortality. God's faithful servants will be raised up from the dead to eternal life as Christ was raised from the dead by God the Father.

Paul calls the gospel he received from Christ "my gospel" as opposed to other false gospels that were then being preached by the many false prophets in the world and sometimes, within the congregations of God's Church.

Heb 4:2 For unto us was [the gospel](#) preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

This is being said about those to whom Christ preached the gospel at His First Coming and who rejected it. Paul said it profited those who believed Christ (them and others called and chosen) while it did not profit those who were also called but didn't. These are the Pharisees and Sadducees who opposed Christ and lost their salvation for having committed the unpardonable sin of fighting against what they knew to be the truth.

1Pe 1:9 Receiving the end ([the result](#)) of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. [\[Believing God and the gospel leads to salvation.\]](#)

1Pe 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

The prophets spoke about salvation but did not themselves understand how it would occur as made clear in the following verse.

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1Pe 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, [\[the preaching of the prophets regarding salvation was for New Testament converts to know and understand\]](#) which are now

reported unto you [these things are taught to NT converts] by them [Paul and the ministers he appointed] that have preached the gospel unto you [members of God's Church; not to the world] with the Holy Ghost [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to God's faithful and who makes possible the comprehension of God's spiritual truth] sent down from heaven [by the holy spirit God the Father]; which things the angels desire to look into.

1Pe 4:5 Who [the ones that have head and obeyed the gospel] shall give account to him [God the Word] that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. [in the Great White Throne Judgment]

1Pe 4:6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

The gospel was preached to those who are dead to the ways of the world as their desire is to try to live as best they can according to God's spiritual law. As a result, they are judged by men living according to the flesh as having become strange and they speak evil of them as made evident by the following verse:

1Pe 4:4 Wherein they [the unconverted with whom they formerly associated] think it strange that ye [the converted] run not with them [the unconverted] to the same excess of riot [as they, the now converted, were doing before their conversion], speaking evil of you:

True converts are ridiculed and mocked by their former unconverted friends because they're no longer following along with them doing such things as drinking excessively, having sex with whomever they please, overeating, etc.

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Everyone who has ever dwelt on the earth will have had the gospel preached to them by the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day. It will have been done by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is responsible for teaching all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Clearly, it is not something that could ever be done by men who have no power to reach all men that have ever lived: those dead who never heard the gospel, those yet to be born and those that will rise up in the 2nd resurrection of the Last Great Day.

And now, we come to one last verse which contains some very interesting information which we had not realized before.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Paul says that the gospel of Christ, or the message Christ brought from God the Father for mankind, is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes.

What does that mean?

The Gospel — The Power of God unto Salvation

How is the gospel the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes?

What is it about the gospel that one has to believe and why does believing the gospel make salvation possible?

First, we have to define what is the gospel. According to the Scriptures we have been reviewing, the gospel preached by Christ and then the apostles, is the good news of the kingdom of God. But, what is the kingdom of God is something which is variously defined by different Christian groups.

For the Catholics, it is going to heaven at the time of death, in the days of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), the good news was that Christ at His 2nd Coming would take over the kingdom of this world and establish the Kingdom of God on the earth. This is a belief that has been maintained by the many and different churches of God that came into existence after the collapse of the WCG. Leading ministers from the WCG, started their version of God's Church and many of those who attended the services of the WCG, joined one of them. Christ's disciples thought that when Christ spoke about the kingdom of God, He was talking about freeing Israel from Roman domination.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

It was also what the ruling religious elite of the day, the Pharisees and the Sadducees thought. This is why that when Pilate found Jesus innocent, they said that Jesus was a rebel who wanted to overthrow Roman rule over Israel.

Lastly, Jesus told His disciples that He would come back but when time continued without Him coming back, people started to think that maybe when Christ spoke about the kingdom of God, He meant the Millennium. To this day, there continues to be different interpretations of what is the kingdom of God without anyone being able to authoritative-ly and plainly define what it is using the Bible as their criterion of truth.

So let's try doing it.

What is a Kingdom?

Usually, for a kingdom to exist, there first of all needs to be a king. Then, there needs to be subjects or people over which the king exercises his authority. There also needs to be laws that are applied to all of those who are part of the king's kingdom. The authority of the king is extended over the people by the laws of the kingdom which come from him. And, there needs to be a territory or land which is under the authority of the king and in which his people live.

Another important aspect to consider is that a kingdom is also a collection of things which have in common physical and chemical properties that define it and sets it apart from other types of kingdom.

For example, we have the mineral kingdom which is made up of inanimate or dead matter such as rocks containing different types of metal such as gold, iron, silver, nickel, etc.

Then, we have the plant kingdom which is made up of living organisms such as trees, grass, flowers, etc. which reproduce after their own kind and fill different parts of the earth.

There is also the animal kingdom which includes all types of cold-blooded animals such as alligators, snakes, lizards, turtles, bees, frogs, toads, sharks, etc. and warm-blooded animals such as bears, deers, dogs, cats, cows, birds, horses, elephants, etc.

This kingdom also includes human beings but human beings are different from all animals created by God in 2 very important ways: human beings have mind power and free moral agency.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, [with mind power and freedom to choose] after our likeness [physical appearance]: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them

How do we know man has mind power? In other words, how is it that man can acquire and use vast amounts of physical/material knowledge? It is because of the spirit of man which is in him and which gives his animal brain the ability to acquire and use physical/material knowledge.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

And, for man to be able to acquire knowledge of the things of God, he needs to have another spirit added to him, the spirit of God which is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. This spirit enables man to understand God-level spiritual knowledge which cannot be known any other way.

How do we know that men look like God in their physical appearance?

Joh14:9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?**

Man was created after the image and likeness of the holy spirit God the Father and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. In other words, plants and the animals were created after their own kind but man was created after the God kind.

Why?

God has purposed to reproduce Himself, His kind, by man.

How can this be done?

God became a father when Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb and the Word became the Son of God.

Col 1:15 Who [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [Christ was the first man to be born again to glorified spirit existence following His death on the stake. (See Col 1:18 below)]

Col 1:16 For by him [God the Word, Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Nothing existed except God and the Word before the Word created all things which includes spirit beings. This means there was no such being or thing as the "holy spirit" who had existed eternally with God and the word (John 1:1-2).

Col 1:18 And he [Christ; God the Word] is the head of the body, the church: who [Christ] is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; [Christ was fully God and fully man]

Joh 3:34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

Jesus was God the Word made flesh who for a while dwelt among men.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus is the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Christ was the firstborn from the dead to glorified spirit life and He is the first among many others that are to be born as He was i.e., to immortal spirit life.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath **begotten us again** unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

We were once begotten (conceived) and born as human beings but truly converted Christians are **begotten again** by God the Father as spiritual embryos when called and chosen.

And, Christ's resurrection to His former glory by God the Father shows us the power of God to resurrect a dead flesh-and-bone human body to eternal spirit life. The called, chosen and faithful are in this life begotten (conceived but yet-to-be born) spiritual embryos who are to be born as immortal spirit beings by a resurrection from the dead.

1Pe 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

1Pe 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, **[begotten but not yet born]** not of corruptible seed, **[human seed]** but of incorruptible, **[begotten by God]** by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1Pe 1:24 For all flesh **[animals and human beings]** is as **[like]** grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: **[they all die]**

1Pe 1:25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

The promise of the resurrection from the dead to glorified spirit being (being born again) is sure (the word of the Lord endureth forever) for all those who die in the faith.

Who are Jesus' brethren?

Mar 3:33 And he answered them, saying, **Who is my mother, or my brethren?**

Mar 3:34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!**

Mar 3:35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

The spiritual brothers of Christ are all those who shall do the will of God the Father as Christ does. The only ones God considers to be doing so are those who commit to obey Him to the best of their abilities after their calling. All mankind will eventually be called and given a chance to choose to obey God.

What is to be the reward for making and maintaining our commitment to obey God to the best of our abilities in all things?

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

These are those who have been called, chosen and faithful who had to endure the pain of separating themselves from unconverted members of their families who persecuted them for their faith or who had to leave their lands to avoid persecution. The reward of Christ's mothers, brothers and sisters spiritually speaking is to inherit from God the Father as members of God's family, everlasting life by a resurrection from the dead.

When is that reward to be obtained?

Are the dead in Christ now up in heaven looking down upon us?

Joh 3:13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Since Adam and Eve to this time and until the time of Christ's 2nd Coming, no man will have ascended to heaven.

Where are those who have died since the creation of Adam and Eve?

Ecc 3:18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they

might see **that they themselves are beasts.**

Ecc 3:19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: **as the one dieth, so dieth the other**; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

Ecc 3:20 All go unto one place; **all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.**

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of **the dust of the ground**, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man **[made of the dust of the ground]** became a living soul.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall **the dust** return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Psa 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that **we are dust.**

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: **for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**

What is the state of those who have died? Are they alive somewhere in another dimension. According to your Bible the dead sleep in utter unconsciousness.

Joh 11:5 Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.

Joh 11:11 These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, **Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.**

Joh 11:14 Then said Jesus unto them plainly, **Lazarus is dead.**

When a person dies their mind ceases to function; they are no longer conscious.

Psa 146:4 His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day **his thoughts perish.**

When do God's saints receive their reward?

Rev 22:12 And, behold, I **[Christ]** come quickly; and **my reward is with me,** to give every man according as his work shall be.

Dan 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth [who have died] shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt

This is the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day.

What is the reward of the saints?

Heb 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: [heaven and earth]

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

The reward of God's faithful is to rule over the new heaven and the new earth God will create at the completion of the Great White Throne Judgment.

When do the saints receive their reward?

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is the time of the Great White Throne Judgment (GWTJ) which is further described in the following verses:

Mat 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Mat 25:32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

Mat 25:33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Mat 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, **inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

The book of Malachi adds to our knowledge of what will happen during the GWTJ.

Mal 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and **all that do wickedly, shall be stubble:** and the day that cometh **shall burn them up,** saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. **[will die in the Lake of Fire which is the second death from which no resurrection is possible (no root, no branch).]**

Mal 4:2 But unto you that fear my name **[are obeying me]** shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Mal 4:3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

What happens to God's faithful saints at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming and of the GWTJ?

1Co 15:50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood **cannot inherit the kingdom of God;** neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

1Co 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We **shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

Those that are all to be changed are God's faithful.

1Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**

1Co 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

1Co 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where will those who have been resurrected to immortal spirit life be?

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also.**

Where did Christ go after His ministry to Israel?

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, **Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

Act 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, **which is taken up from you into heaven**, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

God's saints in the resurrection are to be with Christ who is in heaven but until then those who have died sleep in the dust of the ground; they are not in heaven.

Where does God the Father dwell? God the Father is the holy spirit of the Godhead who spiritually begets men. This is why He is the father of all those who remain faithful to their calling.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

Mat 5:48 Be ye therefore perfect, even as **your Father which is in heaven** is perfect.

Mat 6:1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of **your Father which is in heaven**.

So, all those who are resurrected to glorified, immortal spirit life will be in heaven with Christ and God the Father.

What will happen to all those who don't go to heaven and which the Bible refers to as being the "wicked?"

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into **the lake of fire**.
This is the second death.

Rev 20:15 **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

All those whose name was not written in the book of life [**those who rejected their calling and those who were unfaithful**] were cast into the lake of fire which is the second death from which no resurrection is possible. As of that time, there are no longer any flesh-and-blood human beings left alive on the earth.

What then happens?

2Pe 3:10 But the day of the Lord [**the Great White Throne Judgment**] will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

2Pe 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

This present earth and heaven are burnt up and God creates a new heaven and a new earth.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:5 And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new.** And he said unto me, **Write: for these words are true and faithful.**

Then the New Jerusalem comes to the new earth.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with **men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Please note that the creation of the new heaven and of the new earth is after the Great White Throne Judgment and the coming of the Lake of Fire in which all those not saved perished. When the new Jerusalem comes down to the new earth there are no flesh-and-blood human beings left alive; there are only God's faithful saints who have become glorified, immortal spirit beings. These are the men mentioned in Rev 21:3; they are all those who have inherited salvation and are now part of the kingdom of God.

The Gospel the Power of God unto Salvation

We took a long but necessary detour to come back to the main topic of this study and that was to determine how is the gospel the power of God unto salvation.

We have seen that Christ was the first flesh-and-blood human being to

be born again to immortal, spirit existence by the holy spirit God the Father but He is not to be the only one. Christ was the first among many brethren.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that **he might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

How was Christ firstborn?

Col 1:18 And he **[Christ]** is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

We also determined who were the brethren mentioned in Rom 8:29 who like Christ will also be born from the dead.

Mar 3:35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Their reward is to be given rulership over the universe, not the current one, but the new heaven and the new earth God will create after the Great White Throne Judgment.

Heb 2:7 Thou **[God (Gen 1:26)]** madest him **[man]** a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: **[the current creation (Gen 1:26)]**

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

All things are to be put under subjection or the rulership of man (the new heaven and the new earth) but not now. This will only happen after the resurrection of men to immortal, spirit life who after having been called, chose to obey God to the best of their abilities and remained faithful.

God's Kingdom, presently made up of the holy spirit God the Father and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, after the Great White Throne Judgment, will have many more God beings added to it.

What makes this growth possible in the number of beings that will be-

come part of God's Kingdom is God's ability to resurrect and transform flesh-and-blood mortal human beings into immortal spirit beings.

1Co 15:12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

1Co 15:13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

1Co 15:14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

1Co 15:15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

1Co 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1Co 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

1Co 15:18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

1Co 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

1Co 15:20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. [are dead]**

The good news that Christ brought from God the Father is that God the Father has the ability or power to transform dead and living flesh-and-blood mortal human beings made of the dust of the ground into immortal, holy spirit beings fully sharing in His very nature. The good news is that mortal men conditional upon committing to obey God to the best of their abilities when called and remaining faithful, can become God as God is God.

Salvation is ceasing to be a mortal human being and becoming an immortal God being and member of God's kingdom. In this kingdom there are presently only 2 God beings to which will be added many more at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind; this is why God created mankind.

It is why and how the gospel is a message about God having the **power** to change men made of the dust of the ground into God beings like themselves if they follow their calling and remain faithful. To be saved, those called and chosen must believe that God has that power.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the **power** of God unto **salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

