**Christmas Culmination**

**Isaiah 54-66**

 Though we often think of the Christmas story as an account of one historical event, the meaning of Christmas really comprises four key historical events.

 The birth of Jesus announces that God is with us in human form. God clothes Himself with humanity so the Jesus can represent sinful man to the Father.

 The death of Jesus announces that God makes full atonement for us so that the punishment of sin is now fully paid by our Substitute.

 The resurrection of Jesus announces that God is fully satisfied with the atoning sacrifice of His Son and that salvation is now assured for all who believe in Him.

 The second coming of Jesus announces that God’s Son will be glorified in all the world and that His reign will fulfill the promise of peace on earth and good will to mankind.

 Each one of these four events point to the others. The birth of Jesus points to the death of Jesus and the death of Jesus points to the resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of Jesus points to the second coming of Jesus.

 **Each of these four events finds their meaning and significance in the others.** Had God not clothed Himself with humanity, He could not have died for sins. Had not Jesus died for sins, He could not rise bodily from the grave declaring victory over sin and death. Had not Jesus risen from the grave, He could not bodily ascend to heaven and promise His glorious return.

 All Christianity hangs on these historic events. Without each one of them, they individually fall like dominoes. **Yet place these four events together, they stand as a testament to the glory of God’s grace. They preach a message of hope and life and peace.**

 Today, we open our Bibles to Isaiah 54 where we look upon the culminating event of the Christmas story. The Christmas story begins with a King’s miraculous birth, finds its purpose in a King’s atoning death, radiates with assurance in a King’s bodily resurrection, and finally reaches its climax in the return of a King to earth.

 **In my opinion, the modern church does not emphasize enough the fourth major event in God’s kingdom plan . . . the second coming of Jesus to reign as King over Israel and over all the earth.** If the LORD would give me a re-do on my preaching at Bethany, I would want to give more time to this major doctrine. **The doctrine of Jesus’ second Advent is not only a doctrine whose truth helps us to understand the whole story of God’s grace and redemption, but is a doctrine so striking and soul-stirring in its descriptions that it inspires awe within us.** The Christian cannot help but smile in wonder and hope when we reflect upon the King’s return.

 I know that there are many practical applications to draw from a study of future things , but more than that . . . **there is beauty to behold and to enjoy and to marvel over.**  I hope that at the end of our time together today, we all have practical applications to make from the closing scene in God’s great story. But more than that . . . I pray we leave here rejoicing over the picture that God paints of His King’s future and of our future when we bind our lives to Him by faith. **I pray we leave thinking, “God’s story is beautiful.”**

**Main Idea: Jesus is a real King who rules over a real people in the real world on a real throne. While His kingdom is spiritual, it is also physical. While spiritually His kingdom is right now, the ultimate expression of His rule over the physical world and nations is yet future.**

Illustration: Kimberly’s conversation with Ikey. “Ikey, you know the scriptures. You know that Jesus fulfilled so many of the prophecies that you believe. Why do you not believe that Jesus is the Messiah?” Ikey responded, “That’s easy! Because when the Messiah comes there will be peace in Israel and in the world. Do you see peace?” Ikey is right in His understanding of the Bible and he is wrong in his understanding of the Bible. He is right to conclude that the Messiah will bring a REAL WORLD peace among the nations. He is wrong to conclude that the Messiah would fulfill all prophecies in one appearance.

**God’s plan for His King to rule over His people**

 Centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God told us through the prophets that He was sending His Son to be King over His people. God sovereignly planned for a King to rule over His people from the beginning of time.

In Genesis 49 God announces His future king,

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.” (Genesis 49:10 [ESV](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Gen._49:10))

To David, the LORD expands upon His prophetic revelation of a King who is to come,

“And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, . . . And I will give you rest from all your enemies. . . . **When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2 Samuel 7:10-13** [**ESV**](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#2Sam._7:10)**)**

Then through the prophets, God expands even more upon the coming of His King to the earth.

*“Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._9:6)*)*

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (Zechariah 9:9 [ESV](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Zech._9:9))

*“And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.” (Zechariah 14:9* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Zech._14:9)*)*

*“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, . . . ,* ***from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days*** *. . . And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they (Israel) shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.*

*And he shall be their peace.” (Micah 5:2-5* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Mic._5:2)*)*

**How long the Israelites waited for the consolation of Israel to come!** Decade after decade. Generation after generation. When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His eternal Son, born of a virgin. (Cf Galatians 4:4). Light suddenly shone in the darkness. The King has now come!

**When the King is born, God sends out the announcements**! His Son is not born in secret. First, God sends a message to Mary to announce the birth of His King. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and says, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”” (Luke 1:30-33** [**ESV**](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Luke_1:30)**)**

Second, God announces the birth of the King through an angel who appears to some shepherds,

*And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in* ***the city of David a Savior*** *(read “royal city”, who is* ***Christ the Lord****.” (Luke 2:10-11* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Luke_2:10)*). (Christ is the Greek translation of the Jewish word, “Messiah”. And Messiah is the biblical title for the divine King.)*

And if those announcements did not receive adequate attention, God sends another birth announcement for His King. Gentile wise men from the east ask Herod the question, *““Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”” (Matthew 2:2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._2:2)*).*

 All of these scriptures point us to the fact that Jesus’ coming to earth to be King over Israel is **not an afterthought in God’s plan for Israel** and for His created world. **From the beginning,** God created the nation of Israel to be a people who are His own special possession. **God sovereignly purposed for the nation of Israel** to be the means by which all the peoples of the earth would be blessed. **And God pre-determined for a King to rule over Israel who would bring people to Israel and to the whole world.**

**Protest: But I thought that God intended for Israel to not have a human king.** I thought that Israel created trouble for herself in 1 Samuel 8, when they demanded for an aging Samuel to anoint a king over Israel. I thought Samuel warned them against ever having a king. The problem in 1 Samuel 8 is not that the people wanted a king. The problem in 1 Samuel 8 is that the people wanted to choose their own king and to focus on their own qualifications for their king.

Turn in your Bibles to Deuteronomy 17 where we learn that before the nation became a nation, **God designed for a king to rule this nation.** As Moses prepared the nation of Israel to enter the Promised Land, he explained that God would eventually appoint a king over them.

*“When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, . . . then say, ‘I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,’ you may indeed set a king over you* ***whom the LORD your God will choose.”*** *(Deuteronomy 17:14-15* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Deut._17:14)*)*

What KIND of King will the Lord choose for His people? Moses lists four qualifications that God requires to sit on the throne over His people:

*He must be from among your own brothers...The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them ...He must not take many wives ...He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold...[H]e is to write ...a copy of this law ...and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the Lord his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees (Deuteronomy 17:16-19).*

**First, the King had to be chosen by God.** The people were not given a vote. Only God could delegate His own authority that He held over His people.

**Second, the King had to be an Israelite.** This was to fulfill the covenant the LORD made with Abraham in Genesis 17.

**Third, the King had to depend upon the LORD alone and not human resources for securing peace and bringing prosperity.**

**Finally, the King was to be a man of God’s Book.** He was to write a copy of God’s law, to read it and meditate upon it every day and to carefully obey everything written in it.

The Christmas story announces that Jesus is the King whom the LORD Himself has chosen to rule over Israel and over the whole world. He completely fulfills the requirements that Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 17.

**He is chosen by God.** “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!”

**He is an Israelite**. He is born a Jew from the tribe of David. His physical lineage is from Adam to Abraham to David to Joseph. **Once incarnate, God’s Son will never lose His humanity, nor His Jewish identity.**

**He depended entirely upon God through His earthly ministry.**  *“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.” (John 5:19* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#John_5:19)*)*

**He is a man of God’s Book.** *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:17-18* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Matt._5:17)*)*

Question: What will God’s king do when He comes again?

**God’s purpose for His King to bring joy to His people**

*“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold,* ***I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*** *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:10-11* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Luke_2:10)*)*

**How will the King bring joy to His people?** So much to be said!! The Bible is FULL of detailed descriptions that answer this question. Let me confine our thoughts to five ways that Jesus will bring joy to His people when He comes a second time.

**The King brings joy to the world . . .**

**Way #1: Through the pouring out of God’s love upon national Israel.**

 In rejecting God’s king, the nation of Israel has been under the disciplining hand of the LORD. When the King returns, He will release the nation from discipline and place them under His everlasting tender care and compassion.

*“For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you****. In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you,*** *but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD, your Redeemer.” (Isaiah 54:7-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._54:7)*)*

Whatever we believe about God’s emotions, we are right to root our thoughts in scripture.

**How long will this favor last upon Israel?** Once the King comes, Israel will never again pass under the LORD’s hand of disfavor.

*“ “This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.*

*For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,* ***but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,”*** *says the LORD, who has compassion on you.” (Isaiah 54:9-10* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._54:9)*)*

If you are in the Messiah and have placed yourself under His rule, what is true of Israel is also true of all who are in Christ**! Of Israel, the LORD says,**

*“4* ***You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married.*** *5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you,* ***and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.” (Isaiah 62:4-5*** [***ESV***](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._62:3)***)***

Illustration: Grandson. Do you want me to call you “Smart buddy”. No, I am Asher. Do you want me to call you “Super fast friend.” No. Do you want me to call you “Funny guy”. **Then “Smiley boy.”** Huge smile. “Yes!!!”

*“12 For thus says the LORD: “****Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river****, and the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; . . .* ***13 As one whom his mother comforts****, so I will comfort you; you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 66:12-13* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._66:12)*)*

Illustration: Three babies in our house this past week. When baby cries there is one person who can comfort like no other person. Mom.

**Question: Will this favor flow to Israel regardless of their spiritual state?** No. First, the only individual Jews who benefit from God’s covenant blessings are those who repent of sin and turn to the LORD in faith.

 Second, at the end of the age national Israel will repent of her sins and will trust in God’s King . . . Israel will receive Jesus as Redeemer, Lord and Sovereign

**Way #2: Through the spiritual revival of Israel.**

*“13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.*

*14 In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you.” (Isaiah 54:13-14* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._54:13)*)*

*“for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

*(Isaiah 11:9* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._11:9)*)*

*“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”” (Jeremiah 31:33-34* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Jer._31:33)*)*

*““And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon* ***you (to those in Jacob who turn from sin****), and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children’s offspring,” says the LORD,* ***“from this time forth and forevermore.””*** *(Isaiah 59:21* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._59:21)*)*

*“1 Arise, shine, for your light has come,* ***and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.***

*2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you****. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.” (Isaiah 60:1-3*** [***ESV***](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._60:1)***)***

*“****21 Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I might be glorified.*** *22 The least one shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation****; I am the LORD; in its time I will hasten it.”*** *(Isaiah 60:21-22* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._60:21)*)*

*“1* ***For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem’s sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.*** *2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.” (Isaiah 62:1-2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._62:1)*)*

*“11 Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.”*

***12 And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken.” (Isaiah 62:11-12*** [***ESV***](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._62:11)***)***

**Truth: To be antisemitic is to be anti-Messiah . . . anti-Christ. To be against the Jewish people and Jewish nation is to be against Jesus. Jesus is for Israel and for the Jewish people. He came to save them as a nation and save them He will!**

 This is not to say that all that the nation of Israel does today is good and right. Today, Israel is still a nation that still rejects God’s appointed king.

Israel is a nation ruled by flawed people.

 **This is not to say that the nation of Israel today will not be defeated in war.** The prophecies of a spiritual revival in Israel are yet future.

 **But it is a statement worthy of full acceptance to assert that Jesus is still the king of the Jews. Jesus will return as He promised to rule from the throne of David in Jerusalem.** The people whom God created from Abraham and Sarah long ago will receive the fulfillment of every promise that the LORD promised to them. They will be a nation. They will possess a land. They will be blessed by the LORD with spiritual, material, national and physical blessings.

A Gentile may ask, “Is Jesus the King only for the Jews? Might Jesus be my King too?” **Gospel answer, “If you believe in Him, YES!!!”**

*“This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” (Ephesians 3:6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Eph._3:6)*)*

Yet our inclusion into God’s eternal covenant does not create an exclusion from the covenant for national Israel.

*“I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.” (Romans 11:1-2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rom._11:1)*)*

*“Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, “The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”; “and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.””*

*(Romans 11:25-27* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rom._11:25)*)*

**The King brings joy to the world . . .**

**Way #1: Through the pouring out of God’s love upon national Israel.**

**Way #2: Through the spiritual revival of Israel.**

**Way #3: Through the destruction of evil.**

When the King comes, he will not allow crime, wars, child trafficking, slavery, injustice of any kind to continue in His realm. He will bring complete wholeness to families, to schools, to communities, to churches, to nations. One of the ways that He brings such peace is by standing against evil and defeating it. No person will be able to practice evil without quick retribution. No person will get away with secret crimes because this King KNOWS everything and He judges every sin with complete justice and truth. This King destroys all that is evil within His realm.

**Can you imagine a world where you can send your children to a public park all on their own without fear that something terrible would happen to them?**

The Jews have had many evil people and nations who have tried to annihilate them from the earth. Many have been successful in bringing severe suffering to them. **The King will not allow that to continue.**

*“15 If anyone stirs up strife, it is not from me; whoever stirs up strife with you shall fall because of you. 16 Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals and produces a weapon for its purpose. I have also created the ravager to destroy;* ***17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.*** *This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”” (Isaiah 54:15-17* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._54:15)*)*

*“17 He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. 18 According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment. 19 So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives.” (Isaiah 59:17-19* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._59:17)*)*

*“3 I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with me; I trod them in my anger and trampled them in my wrath; their lifeblood spattered on my garments, and stained all my apparel. 4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and my year of redemption had come. 5 I looked, but there was no one to help; I was appalled, but there was no one to uphold; so my own arm brought me salvation, and my wrath upheld me. 6 I trampled down the peoples in my anger; I made them drunk in my wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”” (Isaiah 63:3-6* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._63:3)*)*

*15 “For behold, the LORD will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the LORD shall be many.”*

*(Isaiah 66:15-16* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._66:15)*)*

*““And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”” (Isaiah 66:24* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._66:24)*)*

Jesus quotes this passage to warn us about the horrible dangers of hell . . . indicating that God’s judgment not only falls upon the unrepentant in this physical world at the end of the age, but His judgment continues through all eternity in a place of torment.

*“And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’” (Mark 9:47-48* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Mark_9:47)*)*

**The King brings joy to the world . . .**

**Way #1: Through the pouring out of God’s love upon national Israel.**

**Way #2: Through the spiritual revival of Israel.**

**Way #3: Through the destruction of evil.**

**Way #4: Through the salvation of Gentiles**

God’s pre-determined plan is for Israel to be His spiritual light to the nations . . . He shines His light to the nations both through the coming of His King and through the revival of Israel. Today, the nation of Israel is not a spiritual light to all the nations. But they one day will be!

*6 “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—7 these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” 8 The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”” (Isaiah 56:6-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._56:6)*)*

*“for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

*(Isaiah 11:9* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._11:9)*)*

*“18 “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues.* ***And they shall come and shall see my glory****, 19 and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send* ***survivors*** *(Jewish remnant) to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away,* ***that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations.****:20 And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. 21 And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:18-21* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._66:18)*)*

Not one individual need ever to suffer the judgment of God against sin! **The Messiah King suffered for the sins of all who come to Him . . . Jew or Gentile!** His sacrifice provides a covering for every person that removes our sin from us as far as the east is from the west!

**Way #1: Through the pouring out of God’s love upon national Israel.**

**Way #2: Through the spiritual revival of Israel.**

**Way #3: Through the destruction of evil.**

**Way #4: Through the salvation of Gentiles**

**Way #5: Through the harmony and prosperity of the natural world.**

 The LORD describes the King’s influence over the world in such beautiful and joyful ways. The King brings physical prosperity so that no one in His whole world will go hungry. The King restores moral order to the culture of every nation. **Every nation will maintain their distinct flavor, but every nation will submit to the King’s moral law.**  The nation’s economies will not invest in instruments of war because the nations will not endanger one another.

***“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples;*** *and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._2:4)*)*

**Illustration: Etched into a prominent wall across from the UN building in NYC. But missing is the reference to the King who will make this peace happen!**

*“6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.*

*7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.” (Isaiah 11:6-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._11:6)*)*

Illustration: Ferocity to nature. As a 11 year old staying with my cousin. Neighbor’s dog raced across yard grabbed a cat and shook it. Saint Bernard bark and raced toward the other dog. The other dog fled. But the cat lay paralyzed. Felt ugly. Made me sad.

*“19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.” (Isaiah 43:19-21* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._43:19)*)*

*13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”” (Isaiah 55:13* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._55:12)*)*

*“19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.*

*21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

*23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.*

*24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.*

*25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,” says the LORD.”*

*(Isaiah 65:19-25* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._65:19)*)*

**Conclusion:**

*“1 Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? 2 All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word.” (Isaiah 66:1-2* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Is._66:1)*)*

*“5 And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” 6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”” (Revelation 21:5-8* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._21:5)*)*

*“12 “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

*16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”*

*17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. . . .*

*20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!*

*21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”*

*(Revelation 22:12-21* [*ESV*](https://accordance.bible/link/read/ESVS#Rev._22:12)*)*

**“That is beautiful.”**

**Main Idea: Jesus is a real King who rules over a real people in the real world on a real throne. While His kingdom is spiritual, it is also physical. While spiritually His kingdom is right now, the ultimate expression of His rule over the physical world and nations is yet future.**