

---

WHAT of the future? This is a question that we often ask one another. We generally are thinking of the immediate—that which has to do with the coming days of our lives.

God has given in His Word the plans for a magnificent future. To many, I presume, it seems like a dream. If so, this is one dream that will become reality. This is the time when that for which we hope will become evidence before our eyes. The future, of which God has told us, is now prophecy. Smith's Bible Dictionary states, "Predictive prophecy is at once a part and an evidence of revelation; at the time that it is delivered and until its fulfillment, a part; after it has been fulfilled, an evidence."

To believe in God and His Word is necessary. In other words, we are to have faith. It is faith that we have in the future that God has promised. We are hoping for a better day. "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1). This day is somewhat vague to us because of our frailties and inability to see things as God sees them; but this does not

change the glorious picture of the future. It is written, "eye has not seen and ear has not heard, And *which* have not entered the heart of man, All that God has prepared for those who love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9). Some of the things that will become a reality; the hope that will become evidence are: 1) Jesus will come and people will see Him; 2) He will gather to Himself those who are faithful and they will hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful slave"; 3) other people will hear Jesus' voice "and live"; 4) sin will be destroyed and so will death; 5) goodness and righteousness will be the order of the day; and many other promises that could be mentioned.

Most of us are familiar with the saying, "Every cloud has a silver lining." As we view many of the things that must come to pass before our hope can be fulfilled, we see clouds of darkness. But looking through those clouds, we see the silver lining—the future that God has planned.

Our hope could not become a reality without the establishment of the Kingdom of God. This is the government of God to be administered

through His Son, Jesus Christ. It will "grow" until it fills the whole earth. Nations will no longer be ruled internally by their own leaders, but will receive their instructions from Jerusalem; "For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." (Isaiah 2:3).

In this time of the Kingdom of God, Jesus is to sit on His throne, "On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this." (Isaiah 9:7). This, too, is the time when Israel, the dead and the living (see Ezekiel 37:12-14, Daniel 12:1-2), will be gathered and brought to the land of promise. They will be exalted above all nations, so much so that "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined." (Isaiah 60:12).

This is the time when, John said, "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea." (Revelation 21:1). In the new earth, "And the Arabah

---

(desert) will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus" (Isaiah 35:1). "Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, And instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, And it will be a memorial to the Lord, For an everlasting sign which will not be cut off." (Isaiah 55:13).

That for which we hope, that will some day become evidence before our eyes, is "*the* period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time." (Acts 3:21). Will you be ready for this great and wonderful day? Are you preparing to meet the Lord when He comes for the saints? This is a matter that must be settled by you in this present time. For today is the "day of salvation."

Who will be in the Kingdom of God? We know that some will not be! In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*." (Matthew 7:21). Have we met the requirements of God? Do we believe the Word of Truth? God is preparing His Kingdom for those who seek Him in truth and

---

righteousness. May each of us desire it, seek it and be received in it.

Our Faith Determines Our Future



ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE  
CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE

---

2020 Avalon Parkway Suite 400  
MCDONOUGH, GA 30253  
atlantabiblecollege.com  
678-833-1839

---

# HOPE FULFILLED

By Francis Burnett

