

Orlando Bible Students Newsletter

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God's Universal Health Care

Within our country, there is a raging debate about how to improve health care for all Americans. President Obama has set forth his goals and the Democrat and Republican politicians are locked in a great struggle over cost, access, and affordability. As much as they would like to, the politicians will not be able to banish disease, raise the dead, or grant everlasting life. Man does not have the power and resources to improve health care in such a substantial way.

God, however, plans to solve man's health care problems in just such a manner. During his first advent, Jesus healed all manner of diseases (Matt. 4:23). He healed the blind, the deaf, and those unable to speak (Matt. 12:22; 15:30). He cured those with leprosy, heart conditions, bleeding disorders, and even those who were possessed by fallen angels (Luke 17:12-14; 14:2-4; 8:43,44; Matt. 9:32,33). Jesus even raised several individuals from the dead showing that the grave could not stand up to the power of God (Mark 5:22,23,35-43; John 11:39-44). These incidents identified Jesus as Israel's Messiah (Luke 7:20-22). They also demonstrated that in Jesus' earthly kingdom, he will have the power and capability to heal all manner of diseases.

The individuals that Jesus healed at his First Advent eventually got sick again and died. However, God has promised that his plan of salvation will not only heal all mankind, but release all who are in the grave, bringing them back to life (John 5:28,29; Rev. 20:13). This release is possible because the man Christ Jesus died as a ransom for Father Adam (Matt. 20:28; 1 Tim 2:4-6). That sacrifice allows God to release the entire human family from the condemnation of Adam's sin (Rom. 3:23-26). Releasing mankind from the penalty of sin and death not only brings the dead

back to life but also heals all of man's diseases. Mankind will be healed because they will be forgiven from their iniquity (Job. 33:24,25; Isa. 33:24). The Apostle John tells us in Rev. 21:4 (RSV): "He [God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

Healing mankind and bringing them back from the grave is done so they can be taught righteousness in Christ's kingdom. This teaching is necessary to lead the human family back to the perfection of heart, mind, and character required by God before he will grant them everlasting life.

When God's judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants will learn righteousness (Isa. 26:9). In Christ's kingdom, the knowledge of the LORD will cover the earth as the water's cover the sea (Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:34). Man's physical healing will soften his heart enabling God to write his laws in man's heart and thereby correct his character.—Jer. 31:33

"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. ... and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God"—Ezek. 36:26-28.

This will bring mankind back into harmony with God and to the perfection of character required for men to regain the everlasting life Adam lost because of disobedience. ■

For more information, see our offer for the free booklet "Divine Healing."

Submission to God

The Oxford English dictionary defines “submitting” as accepting or yielding to a superior force or stronger person. There is no question that God is superior and stronger. We are to submit to God (James 4:7). Nothing that we can give the Lord, even after our acceptance in Christ, has any value in his sight until first of all we have given him ourselves—our hearts and our will. But how can we know the proper way to submit ourselves to God? We know by a study of his Word. 2 Timothy 2:15 says, “study” to know what God would approve. Study the revelation he has made. Study the doctrine. Study our course of conduct. Study the Word. Study our hearts to see that we are striving daily to cast out all the old leaven of sin. We are exhorted to preach the word. Be instant—Always ready to declare the truth—in season—when it is convenient for us, and out of season—when it is inconvenient for us.

Even our Lord Jesus submitted himself to God (Rom. 15:3). We, too, must want to serve God only. The Apostle Paul was totally submissive to God. “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling” (Phil. 3:14). Jesus told us the Christian walk is a ‘narrow way,’ a difficult way, and few have ever found it (Matt. 7:14). We need to walk this path, pressing toward the mark of perfect love, where our Lord always stood. It takes time to develop this love. Hence, the need to keep our eye on the mark.

The narrow way is a special way leading to a special prize. It is not the prize that we run toward, but the mark. The prize is entirely beyond our grasp. Brethren, let us run with a view of reaching the mark of perfect love. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”—Phil. 4:13 ■

New Jerusalem

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

What is the New Jerusalem and where will it be set up? Who will be its administrators? When are we to expect it? How will it affect the world?

The New Jerusalem is the spiritual city of God, made up of Christ and his bride. It is the new millennial government ruling over Christ’s earthly kingdom. Just as Washington represents the United States government, the New Jerusalem represents Christ’s government. Christ’s church will be like him (2 Cor. 3:18), reigning with him over all the kingdoms of the earth with a rod of iron (Isa. 2:2, Rev. 19:15), invisible but guiding mankind up the highway of holiness.—Isa. 35:8

Just as Solomon’s temple was constructed without noise, the stones being quarried away from the building site, so the members of the New Jerusalem are being shaped now by their ex-

periences of life. This work is proceeding unknown to the world. Once transformed into the character-likeness of Jesus Christ, the church will be set up as pillars in the Temple of God to be the guiding influence for the world.—Rev. 3:12

When the bride has made herself ready, the New Jerusalem shall descend to earth. Through her earthly representatives in Jerusalem, the pure word and the ways of righteousness will be dispensed to all mankind (Isa. 2:3). This will mark the fulfillment of that petition in our Lord’s Prayer which says, “Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Then the groaning creation will rejoice in the blessings of that kingdom (Isa. 35:8-10, Heb. 8:10). Mankind will be led back to the fellowship and harmony with God lost by Adam’s disobedience. ■

Jacob's Trouble

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”— Jeremiah 30:7

Jacob, one of the patriarchs of old, was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel. Because of this, his name is used in scripture as symbolic of the nation of Israel. Such is the case with the text above. The trouble referred to concerns Israel, and is in conjunction with the great “time of trouble” spoken of prophetically in Daniel 12:1. Other scriptures show us that this period of severe trouble just precedes the establishment of Christ's righteous kingdom here upon the earth, in which all nations shall be blessed.— Zeph. 3:8,9; 2 Pet. 3:12,13; Gen. 22:18

Earlier in Jeremiah 30, the prophet speaks of Israel returning to their land and possessing it (verse 3). This we have seen within the past century, climaxed by their becoming a nation in 1948. Much trouble has accompanied Israel during this entire time, both before and since nationhood, as the prophet says, “We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace” (Jer. 30:5). These troubles, however, are only preliminary to ‘Jacob's trouble’ and also less severe.

Jeremiah points out several unique conditions concerning Jacob's trouble. First, at that time all Israel's allies will forget her (verse 14). Second, this final trouble will render Israel helpless, if not for the direct intervention of God (verses 12 and 15). Third, God's intervention in Jacob's trouble will result in the destruction of all nations which have oppressed her, while at the same time saving her (verses 11 and 16). As our title scripture says, Israel ‘shall be saved out of’ this trouble. They shall be an example of God's great mercy and saving power as the “ransomed of the Lord” who “shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy on their heads.”—Isa. 35:10 ■

Gospel of the Kingdom

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Called by a New Name

Lift up thine eyes dear child of God,
Lift up thine heart and sing.
Let naught distress thee, for thou art
Espoused unto a King.

In silken threads of shimmering gold
A pattern thou shalt make
Upon thy royal wedding gown
For thy dear bride-groom's sake.

His bride must be in queen's attire,
And so with patient care,
Ne'er let a single day go by
Without some stitches there.

When finally thou art by his side,
The world shalt know thy fame.
When Christ presents thee as his bride
And gives thee a new name!

—Poems of the Way

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Calendar of Events

Florida Bible Students Convention March 6,7,8, 2010

Clarion Inn and Suites Conference Center
230 W. State Road 436
Altamonte Springs, Florida
[Free admission, no collection]

For further information contact:

**Orlando Bible Students
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Or contact us at our website:
www.orlandobible.org

The Orlando Bible Students is a nondenominational group that meets for Bible studies and devotions on Sunday mornings at the Eastbrook branch YMCA, Winter Park, FL and in area homes during the week.
For further information call: (407) 831-2098

Special Offer

We would like to send you a complimentary copy of the booklet, **“Divine Healing”**

This booklet describes how mankind will be healed in Christ’s kingdom.

For your FREE copy, call (407) 831-2098 and request a copy, or fill in your address below and mail this coupon to:

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