THE MAGNIFICENT KINGDOM

After Solomon was established as the new king of Israel, the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Ask what I shall give thee.” 1 Kings 3:5. The young king could have requested money, fame, or long life, but he didn’t. Instead, he asked for wisdom to justly govern God’s people. In answer to that humble and heartfelt prayer, the Lord gave Solomon tremendous wisdom and perception—surpassing every other human. On top of that, God also blessed him with fame, riches, and long life.

During Solomon’s reign, Israel enjoyed unparalleled peace and prosperity. Precious metals were so abundant in Jerusalem during his time that silver was considered as common as stones (1 Kings 10:27). In addition to the magnificent temple of marble and gold that Solomon built for God, he also constructed a lavish palace and courtyard plus entire cities to house his chariots and horsemen. Splendid flowering gardens with rare trees graced every town. Monarchs, nobles, and royalty came from around the world to visit and bring gifts. They longed to hear the profound wisdom that God had put in Solomon’s heart (1 Kings 10:24).

Among the many regal visitors was a rich and beautiful queen from the far-away land of Sheba. She wanted to see firsthand if the reports about Israel’s king were true. The Queen of Sheba tested Solomon with many hard questions and was stunned by his brilliant answers. Everywhere she looked, her senses were dazzled. But even Israel at its zenith was as nothing compared to the glorious kingdom God has prepared for you.

The Study

Fill in the blanks after reading each Bible text.

1. What did Jesus promise His people?
   John 14:2 In my Father’s house are many _______________: … I go to prepare a _______________ for you.

2. What do we know about this place Jesus is preparing?
   Isaiah 65:17 For, behold, I create ______________ heavens and a new earth.
   Hebrews 11:16 For he hath prepared for them a _______________.
   Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the _______________.
   Isaiah 65:21 And they shall build ______________, and inhabit them.
   NOTE: Talk about amazing! God has prepared for His people new heavens, a new earth, and a new holy city. The righteous will inherit a glorious mansion in the city built by Jesus (John 14:2), plus a fabulous country home on the new earth that they will build themselves (Isaiah 65:21).

3. What more do we know about the holy city?
   Revelation 21:16 And the city lieth _______________, … and he measured the city with the reed, _______________  _______________ furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.
   Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of ________________.
   Revelation 21:10, 12 The holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, … had a wall great and high, and had ___________ gates.
   Revelation 21:18 And the building of the _______________ of it was of _______________.
   Revelation 21:21 The street of the city was pure _______________.
   NOTE: The holy city is square, and the distance around it is 12,000 furlongs, or 1,500 miles (a furlong is one-eighth of a mile). It comes down from heaven to the new earth and will land where the Mount of Olives now stands (Zechariah 14:4). Each of its 12 gates are made of a single pearl (Revelation 21:21), and the city’s jasper walls are 144 cubits (Revelation 21:17) or 216 feet wide (a cubit is 18 inches).

4. What does the Bible say about the city’s water and food supply?
   Revelation 22:1 He shewed me a pure ______________ of water of life.
   Revelation 22:2 On either side of the river, was there the tree of _______________, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
   NOTE: An inexhaustible, pure river of water flows out of the throne of God, and the tree of life yields a different fruit crop each month. This fabulous fruit and its leaves provide the antidote of death and perpetuate eternal life. In addition, God’s saints will raise their
own food at their country homes (Isaiah 65:21). The diet of God's people will be what it was before sin entered the world—fruits, grains, and nuts (Genesis 1:29, 31). The taste will be indescribably delicious, and the nutritional value will be perfect.

5. How will living in heaven be different from living here on earth?
A. Isaiah 35:5 The eyes of the __________________ shall be opened.
B. Isaiah 35:5 The ears of the __________________ shall be unstopped.
C. Isaiah 35:6 Then shall the lame man __________________ as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb ________________.
D. Isaiah 65:25 They [the beasts] shall not __________________ nor destroy.
E. Isaiah 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, … and a __________________ shall lead them.
F. Isaiah 35:1 The desert shall … __________________ as the rose.
G. Isaiah 33:24 The inhabitant shall not say, I am ___________________.
H. Revelation 21:4 There shall be no more __________________, neither sorrow, nor crying.

6. What kind of bodies will the saints have?
Philippians 3:20, 21 The Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his ______________ body.

7. Is Jesus’ body real, or is He a spirit?
Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see: for a ___________ ___________ ___________ flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

NOTE: Jesus' body after His resurrection was real, with flesh and bones that you could touch and feel. The disciples at first thought He was a spirit when He appeared suddenly to them, but after they felt Him and watched Him eat (Luke 24:40-43), they knew that He was real. Forty days later, Jesus led them out to Bethany and ascended to heaven (Luke 24:50, 51). The angels who appeared to the disciples said to them, "This same Jesus [of flesh and bones] … shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11. Since His incarnation, Jesus is forever linked with the human race, as well as being divine.

8. What other encouraging promise is found?
Acts 3:20, 21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, … Whom the heaven must receive until the times of ______________ of all things.

NOTE: Praise God, every glorious good thing that was lost by the entrance of sin will be restored in God's new kingdom. All people will genuinely love, trust, and support each other. As a result, there will be no more violence (Isaiah 60:18), and no more betrayal, abuse, disloyalty, dishonesty, backbiting, insecurity, depression, danger, disappointment, or heartache. It will be joyful, happy, contented, abundant living for eternity.
Revelation 21:7 He that _______________ shall inherit all things.

NOTE: Sin defiles and cannot be allowed into heaven, else rebellion might start all over again. (See Supplement entitled “The Kingdom of God.”)

15. What can I do about sin?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to _______________ _____________ from all unrighteousness.

NOTE: If I ask Jesus to forgive my sins, He forgives me and cleanses me from sin and makes me His child.

16. What did Jesus say is the formula for success in this life and the next?

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the _________________ of ___________, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

NOTE: This is exactly what King Solomon did when God asked, “What do you want?” His first thought was for God’s kingdom and His righteousness. In return, the blessings of a glorious kingdom followed. This will happen for us too when we seek first God’s kingdom.

Your Response

Recognizing that God is in full control of earthly events, are you willing to let Him have full control of your life?

ANSWER: _______________