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# Preface

## THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS BOOK

I have observed over the years that many Christians seem to be pulled in two directions when it comes to their Christianity and how to apply it in a political world. Our hearts tell us to get involved and make a difference, especially when we see ungodly leaders taking our nation down a path of destruction. On the other hand, many of us have been taught that things are supposed to get progressively worse and, as a result, we wonder if there is any need to try. The result is sometimes a double-minded approach which lacks purpose and confidence.

*Preparing for the Government of God* offers an answer to this dilemma with a penetrating scriptural look at the Kingdom of God from a political perspective with a goal of reconciling political action with the Bible. If we think of the term *kingdom* as a form of government in the same way we think of terms like *democracy* or *republic*, new insights begin to leap off the pages of scripture.

As the title implies, the appearing of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom is a goal to be attained through strategic planning and action. This is a foreign concept to many Christians who tend to think in terms of waiting instead of working and relate the appearing of the Kingdom of God

more to clocks and calendars instead of a job being completed. As we Christians grasp the concept of preparation, I believe we will begin to think more strategically about preparing the way for the appearing of God's Kingdom. We will look to the future with joyful expectation and work with a greater sense of purpose.

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***Note:***

*In this book, when the term "Kingdom" is capitalized, it is referring to "The Kingdom of God."*

# Introduction

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

— *John 16:13*

## CAN WE UNDERSTAND THE FUTURE?

This is *not* a book on eschatology. But the appearing of the Kingdom of God is an issue that will certainly raise eschatological questions. In his book, *The Gospel of the Kingdom*, George E. Ladd makes the point that eschatology is not designed to satisfy our curiosity, but to provide a guide for the present program. This is why we seek to understand the future: so we can make plans in the present that help us accomplish the goals God has given us.

The very nature of life is such that we look to the future. Everyone makes plans in the present based on their perception of the future. If you believed an airplane would crash exactly where you are twenty-four hours from now, you would make plans to be somewhere else at this time

tomorrow. Because our understanding of the future plays a major part in our planning, I believe there is a great amount of spiritual warfare in this area. Satan would like to confuse and misdirect our planning as a way of hindering our progress. Misinformation has always been a tactic of war.

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When you stop and think about it, predicting the future is really quite practical. It is a matter of goals, plans, and strategies — and how much control one has over the variables.

For example, I can make plans with my wife to have dinner at our favorite restaurant on Friday evening at six o'clock. I can predict that future event with a large degree of accuracy because I have planned it and I have control over most of the variables.

On the other hand, predicting how and when the Kingdom of God will appear on earth is a bit more difficult. There are millions of variables involved that can cancel out the plans and strategies I might make—and I have no control over most of them. But there is one who is aware of every variable, is very good at controlling them, and has a clear and perfect strategy to see the Kingdom of God appear on earth. That One is Jesus Christ. Therefore, to understand the future, I need to understand His goals, plans, and strategies. Then I can make my plans accordingly, leaving control of the variables up to Him.

### **CONFLICTING VIEWS OF THE FUTURE**

Looking to the future is somewhat speculative and lends itself to the development of conflicting and sometimes controversial views. This is true theologically and politically. From a theological perspective, George Ladd also comments that this topic often “...generates more heat than light.” As a result, many have avoided the topic altogether or have decided the future simply cannot be known. But the fact is, God *does* want us to understand the future! Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would show us things to come (see John 16:13).

This book is written from the Historic Premillennial perspective. If you are unfamiliar with this view or if you are not familiar with some of the differing views in the body of Christ, I suggest skipping to the appendix, *Millennial Views*, and reading it first. It outlines four general eschatological views and will hopefully provide some foundational information.

### **THE FUTURE AND THE NEW AGE**

There is a secular belief system regarding the future called “New Age” that is in conflict with Christian belief. This belief system is certainly multifaceted and is no more standardized among its rank and file than the theological view of the future among Christians.

New Age is a general term and is somewhat ambiguous to most Christians because most of us simply have not studied how these people think. In a nutshell, New Age

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thinking is humanism. It is a godless view of the future in which man is expected to attain to levels of intellect and technology that, if achieved, would be similar to what we now regard as supernatural.

The New Age movement is of Satan's design. But I find it interesting that New Age thinkers seem to be sensing, though in a distorted fashion, what the Kingdom of God will be like when it appears on earth. This should not surprise us. Unlike man, Satan was not made in the image of the Creator and therefore has no creativity. Satan can only look at what God is doing and attempt to copy it, pervert it, and replace it.

As pointed out later in this book, "antichrist" simply means *in place of* or *instead of Christ*. So the New Age movement is simply Satan's attempt to replace people's vision of what the Bible calls "the age to come" with a satanicly inspired man-made version called "New Age."

I have heard it said that when United States Treasury agents are trained to spot counterfeit money, they spend most of their time learning all they can about real currency.



This makes sense because there is an infinite number of variations in counterfeiting and all of them could never be studied. But if the agent knows genuine currency well enough, he will be able to spot any counterfeit. Likewise, the best protection we can devise against New Age deception is to learn all we can about Jesus, His strategy, and the age to come from the Word of God. I trust this book will help in serving that purpose.

### **GET THE VISION**

With the birth of Jesus Christ came the announcement of peace: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). What a wonderful thought: peace on the whole planet and people acting in good will toward one another! However, since the serpent deceived Eve until now, we have not had peace on earth. In fact, when Jesus came He said, "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword" (Matt 10:34).

So what gives? Were the angels misinformed? Maybe they were singing from the wrong hymn book. No, of course not! Jesus certainly came to bring peace on earth; it's just that prophetic announcements are usually designed to cast a vision but seldom explain the details. Peace on earth and good will toward men describes a vision of

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the age to come, but it does not describe the road to get there.

Though the prophetic announcement of Christ's birth didn't describe the process to bring peace on earth, Jesus certainly did! In fact, He went into great detail. But if we fail to recognize that Jesus and His message are political in nature, not just religious, we will miss it.

As we gain understanding of the future and begin to grasp God's plans and strategies, we will recognize and reject the counterfeit strategies and misdirection of the enemy. As we align ourselves with God's plans, maybe we can hasten the coming of that day (see 2 Peter 3:12).