

# What on Earth is going on?

Seminar handout 6b What on earth is going on? – Pulling things together

## What on earth is going on?

It is a question we all want to know the answer to.

When we stop and think, we struggle to make sense of our existence, the physical world we see around us and the experiences common to mankind.

That is why we have looked at Bible prophecy which is just **ONE** aspect of answers from God's perspective to the question, 'what on earth is going on'.

We have considered that though we are constrained by 'time', God is outside of time. Out of love for His creation, the human race, He has always warned what would happen if we chose our own way: God can see into the future, and he sees the consequences of our actions. Through many prophets spanning many years, God has continually warned and foretold events future to the time spoken and written. We have looked at several examples:

- The **prophets** down through Israel's history and the accuracy of how their prophecies unfolded.
- We have looked at a little bit of **archaeology** and how the inscribed 'stones' we can see in museums around the world today, including the British Museum, are remains of the kingdoms and peoples mentioned in the Bible, which confirm the accuracy of the Bible as an historical record.
- The story of **Israel**, chosen by God out of all nations of the world to be His witnesses to His existence: how they have survived against all odds and how God is still at work with His people today.
- **Jesus** - God's own son and a prophet sent for the salvation of the world, who also foretold the things that would happen future to him. We have looked at specific signs he told his hearers/readers to look out for in the days before his return as King.
- The future - the Kingdom of God on earth - we have barely scratched the surface of the promises made in the Bible about that future.

### Conclusion:

We have attempted to share some of the things that have helped US to develop a faith and trust in God and hope and pray something of what you have heard will help you on your own journey of faith. We believe that God is in the business of salvation and there is hope in this fractured world. God has a plan which is unfolding day by day and we can be part of that plan by a reasoned belief, taking a leap of faith, intentionally drawing near to Him and as the Bible assures us, 'He will draw near to us.' (Come close to God, and God will come close to you. James 4:8 NLT) So, though sometimes we wonder what on earth is going on, we can have confidence that God is in the past, present and future so we are in the best possible hands.

As the prophet Jeremiah in 29:11 (NIV) encourages us all:

**'For I know the plans I have for you.'** declares the Lord.

## A few prophecies of the Kingdom of God...

'Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.' Isaiah 35:5-6

'and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.' Isaiah 35:10

'And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.  
Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.  
Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make *them* afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.' Micah 4:3-4

'He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.' Isaiah 2:4

'In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.' Daniel 2:44 (the feet in the image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream)

'Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven,  
Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,  
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.' Daniel 7:27

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.' Isaiah 9:6-7

'So the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end!"' Luke 1:30-33

'Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
That the mountain of the LORD's house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it'. Isaiah 2:2

'Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as *it is* in heaven.' Matthew 6:10

'And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.' Matthew 24:14

## My questions...

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