

2. Okweyongera kw'Amagezi wamu ne bye ntambula. Emyaka 100 emabeega nga abantu batambuza ndoogoyi n'amagali amanafu. Nga abasinga obungi bafira gye bazaalibwa so nga kizibu okwogera n'abali ewara oba mu gwanga eddala mu dakyika! Kati tunulira ennyonyi, essimu, emotoka... ah, ensi ekyuuse nyo. Kino kye kiseera ky'Obwakabaka bwa Katonda era obw'okufugwa Kristo (Danyeri 2:44).

3. Okuddawo kwe ggwanga lya Bayudaya oba Israel. Katonda yalaga nti mukiseera eky'oluvanyuma, agya kuzaawo e'ggwanga lya Isirayiri (Amosi 9:14-15).

KALE, nammwe bwe mulabanga obubonero buno, mu manye nga Obwakabaka bwa Katonda butuuse! — Luka 21:31. YEE, tulaba obubonero buno era nga tukakasa kye kiseera ky'okunulwa okuva mu ensi eno embi, okudda mu ensi empya omunatuulwa obutuukirivu era enafugwa Kristo n'abagoberezibe! — 2 Petero 3:13, Okubbik. 5:9-10. Essaala yaffe — Obwakabaka bwo bugye, enetera okuddibwamu mu bujuvu, AMINA.

GROWING IN FAITH

Growth in faith is a desired state of Christians for desired fruitage of Christ likeness. But this must be in line with the will of God as expressed in I Thess. 5:21 KJV — "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." In line with this exhortation we advise all who are earnest students of Scriptures and our Newsletter, to prove all our studies with the only standard given by God (Isaiah 34:16) and please communicate to us! It is also, our privilege to share the message of God's love with others; hence we advise those who received the first publications to share them with God's People.

DESIRING GOD'S GREAT BLESSING!

Desiring to obtain God's blessing but indifferent in doing His will results in failure. Serving and improving the life conditions of your fellow men towards God, is one source of God's blessing. Therefore, desiring to spread God's Message of life but thinking you are too busy with work of whatever sort, poor to give financial support as you may not have enough for food, or you are not talented to speak, or feeling bodily imperfection that a person may ask you what you cannot explain; yes in whatever form of constraint: We advise you to consider the many and varied opportunities the LORD of heaven has placed before you to serve your fellow men and women. For example, obtain copies of this monthly Newsletter — look at People interested in God's word around you; at the work place, home, neighbors, at your church, sending a copy to mother, father, friends and relatives in different places of the Country. Those who could promote this work in other right ways, the opportunity stands. Yes, how refreshing and motivating you may contribute to changing Peoples' lives, and Yourself be God's righteous Servant In the belief of Christ and the TRUTH.

Objective:

This is a monthly Christian Newsletter and hereby state the object of its publication: That we are living in the last days the end of the Gospel age; as well as the dawning of the long prayed for Kingdom of Christ in power; are facts not only discernible by the close Student of the word, led by the Spirit; but the outward signs recognizable by the world, bear the same testimony: And we are desirous that the "household of Faith" be fully awake. Not only help awaken but to assist them to "put on the whole Armor of God that they may be able to stand in this evil day". And beside all this, that giving all diligence, they add to their Faith, Virtue, and to virtue, Knowledge, Self-control, Patience, Godliness, brotherly Kindness, and Love; whom trust in the merit of Christ's Sacrifice for the world. Luke 21:36; Matt. 6:10; Eph.6:13; 2 Peter 1:4-11

We encourage the sincere and honest ones, sensing the demands of the hour, to subscribe for this free monthly publication, stating clearly their addresses. Given the Newsletter is free, subscription fee is the exact cost of postage (stamp and envelope) by Uganda post office; and these are the postage fees stated per year: Uganda sh. 10,800, Kenya sh.900, Tanzania sh. 14,200 and Rwanda F.10,800. All payment by cash should be posted to our address. However, a sincere person of God who cannot afford the postage fee, please write to us stating the fact, so by the Lord's providence you may be added to the list of the poor for us to continue sending you this publication.

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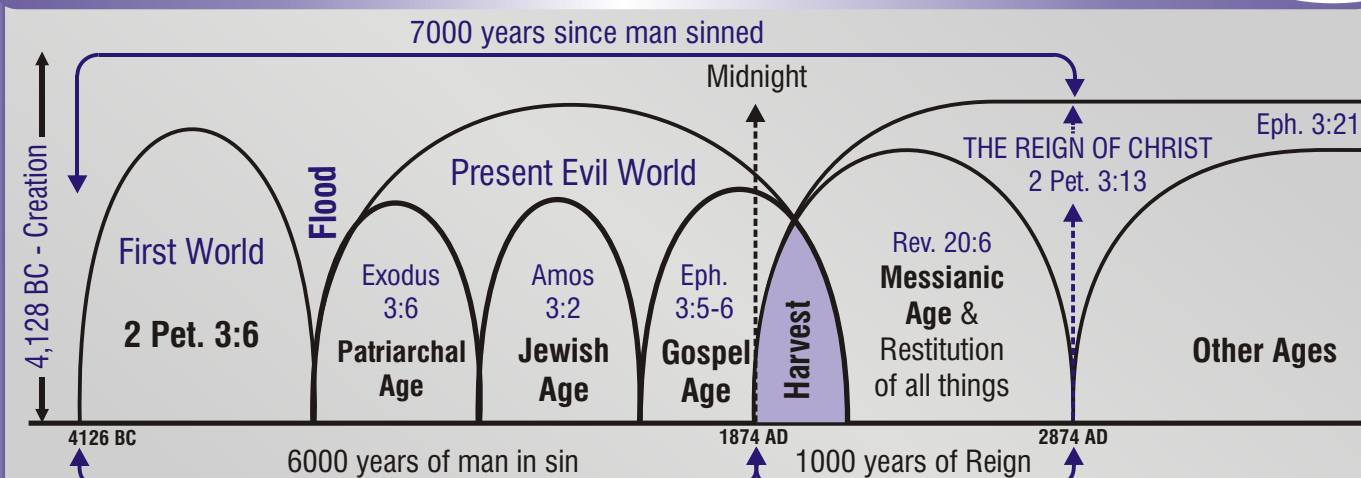
All enquiries and subscriptions to be addressed to:
The Editor, Christ's Kingdom, P.O. Box 28734 Kampala, Uganda. Email: Eliezer_biblestudy@yahoo.com
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CHRIST'S KINGDOM

THE REIGN OF THE LORD IN ZION — The News of Life. Obadiah 21

Prepare the Table, Watch in the Watchtower, Eat, Drink; .. Isaiah 21:5

"THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT, THE DAY IS AT HAND" (Romans 13:12)



"A Plan of Ages, which he formed for the ANOINTED Jesus our Lord" Eph.3:11, Emp. Diag.

"Write down the Vision and make it plain upon tables that every one may read it fluently." Hab.2:2-3 L.T.

The 3 Worlds — 2 Peter 3:5-13

WHEN WILL THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME?

"After this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be your Name. Your Kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Mat. 6:9-10)

No desire has been more eagerly expressed; no wish has been more sincerely wished; no need has been more earnestly felt than for a Kingdom of peace, joy, and happiness to replace present conditions on planet earth. Christians center their beliefs, their very lives, around Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus centered his life and his teachings around this theme of a coming Kingdom. He taught about it in his words: "But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:35-36).

Jesus illustrated the coming Kingdom in his parables: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Mat. 25:34). He demonstrated its power in countless miracles: he gave sight to the blind; he made the lame to walk, he even raised the dead! This was the Kingdom he promised; this was the Kingdom he preached; this was the Kingdom he died to achieve!

Continued to page 2

Isaiah 25:1

Vol. 3.6

June 2011

OBWAKABAKA BWA KATONDA BWA DDI?

"Kale, musabenga bwe muti: nti Kitaffe ali mu ggulu, Erinya lyo litukuzibwe. Obwakabaka bwo bujje. By'oyagala bikolebwe mu nsi nga bwe bikolebwa mu ggulu." Mat. 6:9-10.

Tewali kintu kyonna kyagalibwa n'okwegombewa nga Obwakabaka bwa Katonda obw'omukisa n'essanyu n'eddembe okujja ku nsi era eno y'esaala emaze emyaka kumpi 2000 ku mimwa gy'Abakkiriza! Lino ly'essuubi lya bonna wano ku nsi eriko ennaku! Tukiraba lwaatu nti essubi ly'abakkiriza liri mu Yesu Kristo omunazalesi. Ne Yesu yesigamya embigambo bye ku Obwakabaka bwa Katonda — Luke 20:35-36, Matayo 25:34. Era Yesu yalaga amaanyi g'obwakabaka bwasubiza era bw'ategeeza; N'azuukiza abafu, n'awonya endwadde nyingi, n'abalema ne

Biraze ku 3

1

O LORD, thou art my God; I will praise thy Name; For thou have done wonderful things; Thy counsels of old are Faithfulness and TRUTH

WHAT WILL THAT KINGDOM BE LIKE?

Although this Kingdom was the central theme of Jesus’ life he did not originate the idea. The concept of this Kingdom permeated Old Testament prophecy. The prophets foresaw a Kingdom of health, with harmony between man and his fellow. They foresaw a Kingdom of peace, with total economic security. Isaiah spoke of all these promises: “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain” (Isaiah 11:6-9); “They shall beat their swords into plowshares” (Isaiah 2:4); “Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands” (Isaiah 65:21, 22). The prophets foresaw a Kingdom with harmony between man and animal; natural enemies of the earth will dwell together in complete peace and harmony; and formerly harmful creatures will no longer be hurtful or dangerous:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isaiah 11:6-9).

They foresaw a Kingdom of peace with harmony amongst men and no more war: “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).

They foresaw a Kingdom of total economic security; mankind will reap the rewards of their labor and live in security without fear of loss: “They shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.... mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands” (Isaiah 65:21-22).

The New Testament apostles foresaw a Kingdom in which even death would be done away; “There shall be no more death” (Rev. 21:4). And the best part is that these were not idle dreams. They were not wishful thinking. They spoke of living verities for one simple reason—they knew what they were talking about for they had been witnesses. The Apostle Peter said: “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye witnesses of his majesty. For he received from God the Father honor and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto you do well that you take heed” (2Pet. 1:16-19).

And the Apostle Paul, when speaking of himself, wrote: “Iknew a man in Christ...caught up to the third heaven” (2Cor. 12:2). In the next verse he calls this third heaven paradise. These Biblical writers could speak with such authority, with such sureness, for one simple reason; and to most of their Kingdom prophecies the reason for their positiveness is appended: “For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken it!”

WHO WILL THAT KINGDOM BE FOR?

It will be for the righteous (Mat. 13:43)! That Kingdom will be for the Christian (Acts 16:31)! The Kingdom will be for the Jew (Ezek. 16:55)! The Kingdom will be for the pagan of Sodom and Gomorrah (Mat. 10:15)! The Kingdom will be for the heathen of Tyre and Sidon (Mat. 11:22)! In fact the Kingdom will be for ALL people! “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment” (John 5:28-29 RSV).

ALL who are in their tombs will be raised to life—the Jew and the Arab; the Christian and the Atheist; the Catholic and the Protestant; the saint and the sinner; the priest and the master of voodoo—ALL! But that seems impossible! The

Bible clearly says: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). Yes! One must be a Christian to be saved. One must believe in Christ to live forever in that Kingdom. Yet the Bible just as clearly states that the men of Sodom and of Gomorrah, of Tyre and of Sidon, will be there. Can both be true? Yes! Both are true because both are in the Bible. And the Bible is true!

The harmony between these seemingly conflicting concepts is in a simple statement of the will of God concerning man by the Apostle Paul: “God our Savior; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a

Kingdom Helpers

But there is still one more reason for the long delay. The work of the Kingdom is a big work. God’s plan is that there be helpers to assist Jesus in this great human uplift project. When Jesus reigns, there are those who will reign with him. “If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us” (2Tim. 2:12). “Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6). Also Rev.5:9-10.

It is the selection of this class and their training which has occupied the centuries since the death of Christ to the

present. These will be with their Lord in heaven, assisting him in the work of restoring men to perfect life on the earth. “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1John 3:2).

For these three reasons—the filling of the earth, the full permission of man to experience evil and its consequences and the selection of a class of co-workers with Christ in the Kingdom—there has been a delay of some twenty centuries in establishing that rule of righteousness. But come it will in God’s own due time.

WHEN WILL THE KINGDOM COME?

How will we know when that Kingdom comes? Is it near? Yes! It is near! The Bible contains abundant signs of changes that would take place in world conditions introducing that Kingdom. Many of these are found in a sermon by Jesus located in Matthew, chapter 24, based on a prophecy in the book of Daniel, chapter 12. We will look briefly at just four of these:

1. **A Time of Trouble Threatening to Destroy All Flesh:** “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Mat. 24:21-22). Not until the Second World War let loose the age of nuclear warfare has man had this ability to destroy all flesh. Today the dreaded word “overkill” heightens man’s fear with the ability to destroy all flesh many times over.

2. **A Knowledge and Transportation Revolution:** “But you, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” (Dan. 12:4). With the introduction of compulsory education, the widespread availability of printed material, and the introduction of the computer age, knowledge has been exploding exponentially—doubling every five to eight years. Means of rapid transportation are so common that we may forget that our ancestors of only 150 years ago were restricted to the speed of a horse, and most died without traveling more than a few miles from their homes.

3. **Israel:** “My people of Israel...shall build the waste cities and inhabit them...and I will plant them upon their land and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them,

says the Lord your God” (Amos 9:14-15). In a modern miracle, a people wandering homeless for 2000 years have returned to their ancient homeland. Despite numerous onslaughts by overpowering numbers of enemies, they have endured and stand strong today among the family of nations.

4. **Preaching The Gospel:** “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Mat. 24:14). In the early 1800’s Bible societies were established in Europe and the United States for the sole purpose of distributing the Scriptures all over the world. Today the Bible is still a best seller and is available in more than one thousand languages.

Now, once again, hear the word of the Lord: “So likewise you, when you see these things come to pass, know you that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand” (Luke 21:31). We are living in a day when man has the potential to destroy all flesh. We are living in a day when knowledge has been increased and many run to and fro. We are living in a day when the rebirth of Israel in her ancient homeland is a fact. We are living in a day when the Gospel—the Bible—is being published throughout the world. Therefore we are living in a day when the kingdom of God is nigh at hand!

Yes, man has prayed for many things. He has prayed for nothing harder or more often than the Kingdom. And that is a prayer that will soon be answered. “Our Father which is in heaven; hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Mat. 6:9-10). AMEN!

bakamanya Kristo nga wayise emyaka nga 1700 nga Yesu amaze okuzuukira! Bano bonna Yesu yabafiirira (Abeb. 2:9) era balina okuwulira Enjiri ey'Amazima! Guno gwe

OKULWAWO KW'OKUJJA KW'OBWAKABAKA!

Baibuli eraga ensonga nga ssatu:

ESOOKA, kwe kuzaala okujjuza ensi n'abantu. Bwatyo Katonda bwe yalagira Adamu ne Eva, okuzaala bagyuze ensi mu Olubereberye 1:28, era Baibuli eraga nti abantu tebanaweza myaka gisukka 7000 nga bali ku nsi oluvanyuma lw'okutondebwa era ensi tenagyula!

EY'OKUBIRI, Omuntu kwe kuyiga empeera y'ekibi era n'obugyemu. Muburizi 1:13 akakasa nti abantu bali

mulimo gw'Obwakabaka bwa Kristo wano ku nsi (Zabbuli 72:8, 2:6-8, Ebikk. 3:19-23).

mububalagazze obungi wansi we njuba! Baakumanya kino era mu bwakabaka bwa Katonda balabe obulungi, olwo basobole okulondako — ku burungi/ obuwuulize n'obubi oba obugyemu (Okubbik.20:7-9).

EY'OKUSSATU, kwe kuteekateekeramu abayambi eri Kristo era y'Ekanisaye. Kino kitute ebbanga okuva ku pentecosto okutuusa ku nkomerero y'omulembe guno (Abefeeso 3:5-6).

OBWAKABAKA BUNO BWA DDI?

Tutegeerera ku kyi ebiseera by'Obwakabaka? Ebiseera bye bino! Baibuli eraga obuboneero bungi obulaga enkyuukakyuuka mu nsi olw'okuja kw'obwakabaka buno. Obubonero buno busangibwa mu kubuulira kwa Yesu mu Matayo essuula 24. So nga ne Danyeri esula 12 ateggeeza ebiseera bino eby'okutandika obwakabaka bwa Katonda wano ku nsi!

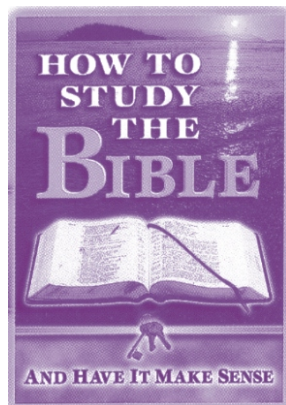
1. Akaseera akazibu era akakazigizigi, ettutumu ly'entalo. Matayo 24:21-22. Amawanga nga gatabaala amawanga. Okutya kwe ntalo nga amawanga galina obusobozi okusanyaawo ebiramu ku nsi. Kino bwekityo bwe kiri kati. Bomu za nukiriya n'ettutumo lyentalo wamu n'abantu okwekyaawa. Libya, Iraq, ekittabantu e'Rwanda, Buwarabu, Uganda, kumpi buli wantu! Danyeri yalagula akaseera ke tusemberedde (Dan. 12:1).

Biraze ku Lupapula 8

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FIND THE TRUTH ! John 17:17
Math. 25:6: "...Behold the Bridegroom,"

SOME BIBLE TOPICS TO BE COVERED: (EGIMU KU MITWE EGIYIGIBWA)

- ✳ **Why does God permit Evil/ Satan to do injury?**
(Lwaki Katonda ow'ekisa aleka Sitani okukola obubi?)
- ✳ **The Most Holy Faith — the Faith which was delivered to all Saints.**
(Okukkiriza okutukuvu ennyo — Okwaweebwa abatukuvu ba Katonda.)
- ✳ **The study of Bible Covenants.**
(Okuyiga Endagaano Za Katonda mu baibuli)
- ✳ **Church History — The Seven Churches and Seven Angels; Rev. 2**
(Ekanisa Omusanvu ne Bamalayika baazo Musanvu Okubikkulirwa 1- 2)
- ✳ **The Armageddon & the End of the World.**
(Olutalo ddekabusa era olw'enkomerero y'ensi)
- ✳ **Tongues, Miracles, Visions and Prophesying.**
(Eby'amagero, Okulabikirwa, Okwogera mu nnimi era n'Obwanabbi)
- ✳ **The TRUE Christian Baptism!**
(Okubatizibwa okuli mu byawandiikibwa, okw'amazima.)

And many others (Nebirala) !!!

batambula, n'abazibe b'amaaso ne balaba. Buno bwe bwa Kabaka bw'ateggeeza era bwe yaweerayo obulamubwe!

OBWAKABAKA BUNO BUNAABA BUTYA?

Obwakabaka buno tebwatandikibwa kubuulilwako Yesu yekka wabula Katonda yali yateekateeka era ne butandikibwa okulangiwa bannabibe bonna era nga basonga ku Kristo nga Kabaka wa bwo! Wano Yokaana omubatiza wa tegeereza nti "Mwenenye, Obwakabaka bwa Katonda busembedde". Obwakabaka buno bwali bulindirirwa kuba bannabi baali babuteegeza (Daniel 7:13-14)! Isaaya nalaga nti Empologoma enetula n'omwana gw'embuzi, so nga n'omwana omuto anafuga empologoma era anazanya n'Etimba, era nti ensi en'egyula okumanya Katonda nga amazzi bwe gajjuza ennyanja —

Isaaya 11:6-9. Era Isaaya alaga nti tewaabe ntalo (Isaaya 2:4), era binno ne bikakasibwa Mikka 4:1-4. Mukiseera kino, tewaabe buzibu mu by'enfuna y'abantu kuba abantu bakulya ebibala bye ntuuyo zabwe so sibalala era tewaabe kupangisa mayumba — Isaaya 65:21-22.

Abayigirizwa ne bongera okulaba Obwakabaka oba Obufuzi wano ku nsi obutabeemu na kufa! — Okubikkurirwa 21:4, 20:6, 5:9-10. Bino ebigambo bya bwesigwa kuba bano bali ne Kristo era nebalabako ku maanyi g'Obwakabaka bwa Katonda (2 Petero 1:16-19).

OBWAKABAKA BUTEGEKEDWA KUBA BWA BAANI?

Nti Obwakabaka buno bwa Abatuukirivu (Mat. 13:43)! Era nti bwa Abakkiriiza bonna (Ebikk. 16:31)! Era bw'Abayudaya (Ezek.16:55)! Era bwa ban'amawanga — Sodom ne Gomola (Mat. 10:15), Taya ne Sidoni (Mat. 11:22)! Amazima nti Obwakabaka bwa bantu bonna — Tewewuunya ekyyo, kuba ekiseera kigya abantu bonna abali mu ntaana bwe baliwulira eddobozi ly'omwana wa Katonda ne bazivamu — Yokaana 5:28-29. Yee, walibeerawo okuzuukira kw'abantu bona, abalungi n'ababi wano ku nsi (Ebikk. 24:15, Isaaya 26:19). Tulaba nti kinno ky'ekiseera ky'omusango era Baibuli etegeza lwatu nti "Mukiseera ky'omusango, abantu lwe baliyiga obutuukirivu wamu n'Amazima — Isaaya 26:9!

Kino abatume kye bakakasa (1.Tim. 2:3-6), nti "Kino kye kirungi ekisiimibwa mu maaso ga Katonda omulokozi w'abantu bonna, alireetera ddala abantu bonna okulokolebwa era n'okuja okutegeerera ddala Amazima. Kuba waliwo Katonda omu, n'Omubaganya wa Katonda n'abantu omu, omuntu Kristo Yesu, ey'awaayo obulamu bwe okuba omutango gwa bonna, okutegeza kulibaawo mu ntuuko zaakwo! Kino kiraga nti abantu bwe bazuukira bagya kusooka kutegezebwa AMAZIMA! Mu byonna, Baibuli eraga okugwa kw'omuntu (Abaruumi 5:12) n'okununulibwa kwa bonna (1 Abakk. 15:21-22)!

OMUTANGO GWA BONNA!

Omutango gwa bonna gulaga obwenkanya bwa Katonda mu mateekage ag'obuutukirivu! Era ensibuko y'obulokozi! Adamu ye yayonoona nga atuukiridde era n'afuna empera y'obujjemu wamu n'abannabe bonna (Abar.5:12); Bwekityo, kyaali kyetaagisa omuntu atuukiridde, okutwaala ebibonyobonyo bya Adamu — kwe kufa, okusobola okununula Adamu n'abannabe! Mu baana b'Adamu nga tekisoboka kuba bonna bazaalibwa mu kibi (Zabbuli 51:5) era bayonoona! Katonda kyaava awaayo omwanawe abe Omutango nga, afa.

Kino kye kitegezebwa mu "bulokozi bwa Baibuli era obwa Katonda" = (1 Abakk. 15:21-22) — "Kubanga okufa bwe kwabaawo ku bw'omuntu, era n'okuzuukira kw'abafu kwabaawo ku bwa muntu; Kuba bonna nga bwe baafiira mu Adamu, era bwe batyo mu Kristo bonna mwe balifuukira abalamu". Kale okufa okusooka, Katonda kwe yateekateeka okununula oba okulokolebwa kw'abantu bonna! Olwo bonna abantu baweebwe omukisa nga mukadde waffe Adamu ne Eva gwe baweebwa mu lusuku Edeni, okwesalilawo eri obulamu bwabwe bbo.

OKUMANYA AMAZIMA

Abantu bonna bakusooka kuzuukuzibwa (Ebikk. 24:15), olwo bajje okuyigirizibwa amateeka ga Katonda ag'obutuukirivu, AMAZIMA. Kuba kirabe naawe nti Yesu we

yajjira ku nsi nga abantu bangi baafa dda gamba nga abayisirayiri nga baava emisiri, Sodom ne Gomola, abaafa mu nsi eyasooka, Era nawano mu Uganda, abantu

ransom for all, to be testified in due time" (1Tim. 2:3-6). God will have all men to be saved! Jesus Christ gave himself a ransom for all! How much plainer can it be stated! ALL—Jew and Gentile; saint and sinner; Christian and Jew and pagan—ALL! Yet..."there is no other name whereby men must be saved than that of Jesus Christ." Both are scriptural statements! Both must be true! But, How?

Two phrases in Paul's words to Timothy must be examined to answer this question. FIRST, let us look at the phrase: "to be saved." Saved from what? What does it mean to be saved? The answers come readily. Saved from death!

A RANSOM FOR ALL!

The word "ransom" itself shows the principle on which the Bible's offer of salvation is based. It is taken from the Greek word "anti-lutron," meaning "a price to correspond." A simple balance scale illustrates it well. Adam sinned and brought upon himself and his posterity the merited penalty of death. The scales of justice demanded it. Christ died as a corresponding price—a perfect man for a perfect man—to offset the sin of Adam and bring the scales of justice back into balance. Simple? Yes, it is simple! It is scriptural! And it is true!

Since all of Adam's children (and thus their descendants as well) were born after the first sin, they were born into a dying condition (Rom. 5:12). The Psalmist David expressed it well: "Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). Since Adam's descendants include both good people and bad people, both saints and sinners, both believers and unbelievers, they are all guaranteed salvation through the shed blood of Christ, which was freely given for Adam and all his descendants.

A KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH

This is where the second phrase of Paul's statement to Timothy needs to be examined. "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1Tim. 2:4 KJV). Notice the order! God will first have all men to be saved, and, second, come to a knowledge of the truth. Wouldn't you expect that order to be reversed? That men must first know the truth—know Jesus—before they are saved? That would seem logical. But that is not what the Bible says. God's plan is for all men to "hear the voice of the Son of Man and come forth" from the graves; and then to be instructed in "the knowledge of the truth." That's what God's Kingdom is all about. It has two parts. First, raise all men

Saved from sin! These answers are correct, but they reveal only half of the truth behind the words: "all men to be saved."

The Bible is a complex book. But its central theme simple. It is the story of redemption. It begins with man created perfect and placed in a perfect garden home—Eden. It soon sees the original pair—Adam and Eve—sin and plunge the entire race into the consequences of sin—death. The Bible closes with man restored to perfection in a perfect earth, an earth cleansed from the defilements of sin—including death itself. In between it weaves a story of promise and fulfillment, of despair and hope, of prediction and reality, of man being redeemed by one man—Jesus.

The Apostle Paul summarized the whole of the Bible message into two short sentences: "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (1Cor. 15:21-22).

It was from this death sentence on the human race, then, that all men are to be saved. This salvation is guaranteed by the death of Christ to all men—the good and the bad (Heb. 2:9). But it is one thing to obtain salvation; it is quite another thing to maintain that salvation. While the death of Jesus promises life from the grave for all, it does not promise that that life will be maintained forever. Adam and Eve were given life in the Garden of Eden. They did not deserve it. It was simply a gift. It was God's grace. They could have maintained that life forever. They did not because they sinned. In this same manner all men will receive life in God's kingdom. They do nothing to deserve it. It is simply a gift. It is of God's grace. They can maintain that life forever. But will they? Just as with Adam and Eve, the option will be with men.

from the grave. Second, instruct them in the rules of God so that they might keep them and maintain the life they have been given. That is God's plan. That is the beauty of the Kingdom! That assures the permanence of salvation! That is the promise of the Bible!

But is that not giving man a second chance? Indeed it would be if sin and evil had caught God by surprise. But they did not—more about that later. Because God permitted sin and evil for a purpose, life from the dead for all is not a second chance but merely the completion of what God had originally planned for man.

WHY THE LONG DELAY?

But, if God's Kingdom is so wonderful why is it so long delayed? Jesus died nearly 2000 years ago and there is still no Kingdom. Instead of improving, many feel that world conditions have gotten worse.

The Bible outlines three reasons for the delay. FIRST, to fully populate the earth; SECOND, to let man have a thorough experience with sin and its consequences; and THIRD, to develop a class of individuals to help Christ uplift the human race to life, perfection, and happiness. When God first made man and placed him in the Garden of Eden he gave him a commission. "And God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth'" (Gen. 1:28 RSV). Demographic experts today say that this is just the problem. The earth has a population explosion which threatens our existence. But is this truly so? The Bible indicates that man has been on this planet for a little over

6000 years. The total population from creation to the present has been estimated at between thirty and fifty billions. That's a lot of people!

Yet the earth is a big place. Fifty billion people could each have 60 square feet of space on the island of New Zealand alone. But that's not much space, you say! True! But New Zealand is not a great part of the earth, either! Not only does man need more space to live on, land is required to grow the necessary food for man's sustenance. This, too, has been provided in God's plan. Notice, once again, the words of the Prophet Isaiah: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God" (Isaiah 35:1-2).

The Desert Shall Blossom as a Rose

Thousands and thousands of square miles today are filled with desert—the Sahara, the Gobi, America's great Southwest Desert, the outback of Australia. Countless more miles are unproductive wilderness area and scrub land. Think of all of these blossoming as a rose. Think of the productivity of the world's breadbaskets: the Ukraine, the vast prairie

provinces of Canada, the great plains of the United States. Think of these joined by the vast areas of today's deserts! Yes, there is room, and even enough room for more. And God's commission was to "fill the earth." This "filling" is one of the reasons for the great delay in ushering in that kingdom for which we are taught to pray.

The Permission of Evil

Man's experiences on the earth have been hard ones. Not only has he had to earn his living by "the sweat of his brow," but the inhumanity of man to man has filled all decent men with revulsion. Natural disasters, such as floods, earthquakes, famines, volcanic eruptions, have added to the misery of the human scene. Does man really want to live forever in such conditions? If there is a God, why has he permitted such suffering?

There is a purpose—and a good one—for all of this evil. Listen to the words of King Solomon: "And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail has God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith" (Eccl. 1:13 KJV). Sin was introduced on this earth through the intervention of an evil personality—Satan. His influence has made such evil epidemic. Every being who has ever lived can well identify with the words of David of old: "Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5).

One of the reasons for the success of the kingdom of God is based on a simple premise—that evil influences will be restrained—Satan will be bound. "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season" (Rev. 20:1-3).

With Satan bound while man is educated in the laws of God and righteousness, human beings will have the wonderful opportunity to compare two life styles—sin, with its consequences of misery, sickness and death; and righteousness, with its consequences of happiness, health and life. Is there any question which they will choose! Certainly they will choose life.