

## I. Review of Part 1-2

- A. Part 1 Crisis of Hope - I believe that one of the greatest crises that face the body of Christ today is the lack of conviction and unity concerning the doctrine of the promised kingdom of God. Only 27% of the church holds conviction when it comes to the topic of the “restoration of all things” and the promised kingdom to come. This is a massive departure from the hope and longing of the prophetic scriptures and the apostolic church. What is to be the steady anchor for our soul and the preoccupation of the bride has been relegated to a subcategory of doctrine. (Heb. 6:13-20; 1 Pet. 1:10-13)
- B. Part 2 Establishing the Promise - Since the inception of the promise of restoration that God gave Adam and Eve, there has been a progressive prophetic unfolding of exactly how that restoration would come to pass. A male child known as the “seed” would be given to humanity. This “seed” would come from the tribe of Judah through the line of David and be forever established as the king of the earth. Through His righteousness rule, He would restore the dwelling place of God to the earth once again, He would fully and permanently destroy Satan, sin, and death, and usher in an eternal reality of the fullness of God on the earth. (2 Sam. 7:13-17; Ps. 72; Is. 9:6-7)
1. This great promise became known as the promise of the “kingdom” or the “kingdom of God” and the promised individual became known as the “Messiah” or “Christ”. (Lk. 1:32-33, 2:10-11)

## II. Apologetic Understandings

- A. The Primary Understanding - When John the Baptist stepped upon the scene and declared “the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!” no one was unclear about what he was saying. All of Israel rightfully expected his declaration to mean that the Messiah had been born and would fulfil the promise of restoration. (Mat. 3:1-2)
- B. Misunderstanding the First Coming - It is true that the initial believers did not understand the purpose of the first coming of the Messiah as a substitutionary sacrifice to deal with humanity's sin. However, this does not mean that their Messianic expectations were wrong. In fact, the substitutionary death and resurrection of Jesus and its ramifications only enforced the reality of the coming Kingdom rather than causing them to question its practical or physical validity. (Acts 1:1-8; Heb 9:13-15, 27-28; Eph. 1:13-14; Col. 1:27; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)

1. Literal Fulfillment Established - Possibly the greatest apostolic pillar of the identity and work of Jesus as the promised Messiah is the literal fulfilment of over 300 prophecies, thus, setting a precedent of literal fulfilment of prophecies concerning Him.

*"The chances of just 8 prophecies coming true by sheer chance is 1 in 10 to the 17th power or (100,000,000,000,000,000). That would be equivalent to covering the whole state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep and then expecting a blindfolded man to walk across the state and on the very first try find the ONE coin you marked. Because of this, any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world." - Mathematics & Astronomy Professor Peter W. Stoner*

- a. In many cases, the prophecies that He literally fulfilled in His first coming are in the same passage as unfulfilled prophecies held as being spiritually fulfilled. This common interpretation denies basic hermeneutics and general common sense, and yet is by far the accepted and approved interpretation of unfulfilled prophecy. (Ps. 22:1-31; Is 9:1-7, 42:1-13; Zec 9:9-10)
- b. However, the vast majority of believers today relegate the remaining unfulfilled prophecies concerning Him as being spiritually fulfilled and do not believe nor hope for a literal fulfilment. This stance flies in the face of what all believers hold as the greatest proof of Christianity. (Is. 11:1-10, 65:21-25)