

WELCOME TO THE KINGDOM

Part 3

"THE MILLENNIAL REIGN"

By Phillip Hayes

I am not sure if any of us realize the awesome authority God has given to mankind. Look at these amazing verses in Hebrews. *"But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings"* [Hebrews 2:6-10].

God wants our focus to be on what our Lord and Savior accomplished in the days of His flesh! When we see Jesus, we see the Victory that He not only won for Himself, but for us also.

God has already placed all things under the dominion and authority of man! However, we haven't realized the fulfillment of this scripture. We see faith released at times and miracles manifested, but they are very few. Sickness and death are still quite real in all our lives. Sin still has an occasion to

slay us if we are not wary. War and famine continues to plague mankind.

But we do live in God's Kingdom don't we? Jesus reigns in this Kingdom doesn't He?

The answer to both questions is yes; but we don't yet see the fullness of the power of the Kingdom in our lives, but we see Jesus! We see Him through His Word! He commanded the very elements of this world and they obeyed Him. He defied gravity, He rebuked the winds and the seas, He translated Himself and His apostles on one occasion, He turned water into wine, He fed multitudes by speaking food into existence and He is bringing many sons into this same glory! Jesus said, *"Everyone that is perfect shall be as his master."* (See Luke 6:40).

The Kingdom of God that we cannot observe with our natural eye is about to be manifested, or revealed. We are approaching the fullness of the manifestation of the Kingdom of God!

When will it happen? Let's look at Chapter seven of Daniel's vision. The saints possess the Kingdom in verse 18. In the 27th verse the saints are given the Kingdoms under the whole heaven. I believe that the Kingdom the saints possessed in the 18th verse was the spiritual, unseen Kingdom that Jesus brought into this world. I believe that the Kingdoms under the whole heaven found in the 27th verse are the kingdoms of this world. What happened between these two events?

Verses 21 and 22 reveal a war against the saints and a time of trouble, war and persecution such as the world has never seen! Tribulation came to the saints of the Most High God! Here is what will soon occur: *"I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom" [Daniel 7:21-22].*

It will appear that Satan has completely overcome the saints of God, but God will keep a remnant during the time of

the wrath of Satan. The vision of Daniel is revealing the time of the greatest tribulation the earth has ever seen. Please consider that the tribulation period is the wrath of Satan, not the wrath of God that comes afterward. Consider this powerful statement recorded by the writer of the Book of Acts, ". . . *that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God*" (See Acts 14:22). The Kingdom is freely given, but the fully manifested Kingdom requires warfare!

Revelations chapter twelve also gives us a picture of a war in Heaven. Could this be a picture of a war in the Kingdom of God? I believe it very well could be! Where is heaven? Ephesians 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; and 3:10 all reveal that we are already in heavenly places! Please review parts one and two of this article. We are in a spiritual war saints!

Paul warned the saints at Ephesus: "*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand*" [Ephesians 6:11-13]. The Greek word for high places is *epouranios*. The definition of *espouranios* is: *above the sky; celestial, (in) heaven, heaven (-ly), high*. The war you are fighting is in Heaven!

You may not admit it, but some of you have been spiritually defeated! Many times, it seems that you can't get a prayer through. You know it's the truth! Some of you would back slide in a minute if you were not extra careful. We sing, "We've got the power", and spend all day at the doctors office! The medicine cabinets of most Christians are full because they can no longer believe that God will heal them. Some of you are still bound with unclean habits; drug and alcohol dependence, etc. Some of you can't lay aside the sin that easily besets you. I could go on and on. It appears Satan is winning the battle!

The enemy is prevailing against the saints and the worst is yet to come! The mark of the beast is at the door! The antichrist is being revealed and trouble is at every hand. The great tribulation most all Christians have a fear of will actually bring about the total defeat of Satan and all his angel ministers. The saints of God will be perfected and they will bring about the fullness of the Kingdom of God on this earth. The saints shall possess the Kingdom!

I believe the reason we are not victorious over all the temptations and pressures of life is because we have forgotten who we are. We forget that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. We are "born again" to be priests, kings and lords in this life and in the life to come! (See 1Timothy 6:15; Revelation 7:14; 19:16; 5:10 and 20:6). But we see Jesus! Keep your eyes on Him!

There is a set time for the saints to possess the Kingdom. *"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" [Acts 1:6]*

Jesus said, "It wasn't for them to know the time or the seasons, but they would receive power to be witnesses". The Apostles were not asking about the spiritual Kingdom that John and Jesus had declared was at hand. They wanted to know when the Kingdom would be restored to Israel. We know the church is the True Israel. A Jew is not a Jew outwardly but a Jew is one inwardly. (See Romans 2:28-29). Jesus had already revealed to them all things pertaining to the Kingdom. But this one thing was withheld from them. It was not for their generation to know when the Kingdom would be fully manifested.

I know many Christians believe Satan has already been cast out of Heaven, but the book of Revelation is a prophetic book which states that Satan is before the Throne of God accusing us day and night!

Satan will soon be cast out of heaven, (the heavenly kingdom realm). Don't forget about the tares, they are in the

Kingdom, but they will be cast out! When they are cast out, the Kingdom will be revealed in righteousness: *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night"* [Revelation 12:9-10].

Remember the parables! Satan is still accusing you and I before the throne of God. Where is the throne? God said heaven is my throne. I hope you are receiving this! I am declaring unto you heavenly things, not earthly things!

Of all the Bible scholars, students and teachers I have known, none has ever really understood that the book of Revelation is a Book of Prophecy! However, the following verses verify this book foretells future events, not events that has already taken place: See (Rev. 1:1, Rev 1:3, Rev. 4:1, Rev. 22:18, Rev. 22:19)! The vision was given and written about the year 96 A.D. That is about 26 years after the destruction of Jerusalem and some 56 years after the birth of Christ.

Satan is the god of this world yet he remains in the heavens, just as he did in Jobs time! (See Job chapter one). You must realize that heaven is much more than a place that can be understood with natural reasoning.

Let's examine some of the teaching of the "Thousand Year Reign" commonly called the millennium and compare them with the verses we find in the book of Revelation.

First, is it really for a literal thousand years, or is this an allegory of a long unexplainable period of time? One thing is certain, the kingdoms, (governments) of this world will become the kingdoms (governments) of our Lord and His Christ. *"And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for*

ever and ever" [Revelation 11:15]. There should be no question in anyone's mind about this.

And now from Revelation chapter 20: *"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. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" [Revelations 20:1-6].*

Some teach the devil is bound and we are presently living in the thousand year reign and there is no end to it. They believe the term "thousand years" is only symbolic and really means forever.

This reasoning is weakened in the very same verses that we find the thousand year reign in! The thousand year reign clearly has a finish! There is an end to the thousand year reign! Look at verse five of Revelation twenty again, *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection".* If the Word of God declares a thousand year reign with Christ that will have a conclusion, should we not accept this?! I certainly believe so. I will concur that this thousand years could be an allegory and could be ten thousand years or more! The point I want to

make is there will be an end to it. It is therefore, a dispensational period for a Divine purpose.

It is very plain that this thousand year reign with Christ is after the first resurrection. Also, anyone should be able to understand that the devil is not bound today! Certainly, the church has power over Satan through faith in Jesus name.

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" [James 4:7]. This scripture in James as well as many others indicates that Satan is obviously not bound. If he were bound, why should we have to resist him? If he is bound, there is no power of the enemy for us to have authority over. He simply would not be available to hinder or trouble us at all. We would have no adversary! Satan is as active today as he was in New Testament times. Satan hindered Paul and the early church and is the very cause of the wicked seed having been sown in the church. Satan and his angels (ministers) are still sowing his seed today deceiving millions.

There remains sickness, disease, death, war, poverty and famine throughout the earth. No, no! Satan is not bound!

But there is a time coming when he will be cast out of heaven, no longer to war in a spiritual realm against the true seed of God. The prophecies concerning the end time found in the Bible must be fulfilled. Therefore, Satan will be given power to war against the saints and persecute them in the earthly realm. Read all of Revelations 12 when you have time. The woman is the church!

After the Church overcomes him by the word of their testimony, and by the blood of the Lamb, Satan will be bound, and the Bible tells us that it is for a specific time, for he will be loosed again.

We see in the fourth and fifth verses of Revelation twenty that those who rule and reign during this thousand year time period, are the saints that have clearly come through the great tribulation. They have overcome the mark of the beast and have been resurrected! *"And I saw the souls of them that*

were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection" [Revelation 20:4-5].

Those that were beheaded? The rest of the dead? You can see plainly that this thousand year reign is after the first resurrection and second coming of Christ! This is not the spiritual reign of Christ that began at Pentecost! This thousand year reign comes after the mark of the beast was given. This is clearly yet future in God's timetable.

But is the thousand year reign really a thousand literal years? We know that a thousand years is but one day with the Lord (See 2Peter 3:8). God is Eternal! There no such thing as time with Him! We also know the Kingdom given to Jesus is an everlasting or eternal Kingdom. *"For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" [2Peter 1:11].* The word everlasting also means eternal. His Kingdom is forever, it has no end! (Also see Daniel chapter seven).

I would like to address the first resurrection mentioned in verse five, *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection".* If there is a first resurrection, there must be others. Our search finds there is a second resurrection.

For a clear understanding, let's look at the difference between the two.

The First Resurrection: Are the souls that were beheaded for their witness of Jesus, and the Word of God. They are the ones who refused to worship the beast; neither did they receive the Mark of the Beast. The people in the First Resurrection are blessed and holy! They are priests of God and reign with Christ during the thousand years. You find this description in Revelation 20, verses five and six: *"But the rest*

of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" [Revelation 20:5-6].

Those teaching the "rapture" say the "rapture" is the first resurrection. This would have to be true as there are only two resurrections! These two verses and many others as well give us an insight when this glorious event will take place! The first resurrection "rapture" comes after the mark of the beast is instituted and after a period of persecution and tribulation when Christians will be murdered for their faith!

The Second Resurrection: It is also referred to as The Great White Throne Judgment. This is the final judgment of Satan and the human race. This resurrection and judgment comes after the thousand year reign! This resurrection is for every human being that every lived! Both small and great, rich and poor.

The book of life will be opened in this final judgment. I do not believe this judgment is for "Born Again Christians". I believe those names that are written in this "Book of Life" are those that never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe God is Love and there will be some that will be saved according to their works. God is kind and compassionate.

Very few people know there are actually two deaths. You will die once in the flesh while on this earth. But if you are not a Christian there is a second death after you are resurrected and judged. Please don't come to the second resurrection and judgment! Make your plans now to be in the First Resurrection! Give you whole life to Christ now! Repent and die to your sins; be "Born Again" from above! Here are the scriptures that describe the last final judgment and the second death. *"And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and*

Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" [Revelation 20:7-15].

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" [Revelation 21:8]

I believe the scriptures are being fulfilled every day, We do not know the day, nor the hour when all these things that are written will come to pass. However, we believe it is soon, very soon!

Don't be fearful! God will give every one of His chosen power to overcome whatever we must face. Just put all your trust in Him that is able to keep you from falling.

". . . Let the weak say, I am strong" [Joel 3:10].