

## **END TIMES Part 5 – THE MILLENNIUM**

***The Lord's Day, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

**Reading: Revelation 20**

So far, in our studies on the subject of *The Revelation and End Times Prophecy*, we have looked at:

- 1. *1 Corinthians 15 – The Resurrection* – one resurrection at the end of the world.**
- 2. *Revelation 1 – Introduction to The Revelation* – that it is symbolic and spiritual, that it is all about Christ and His Church during the entire period of time from the apostles to the end of the world, and that it is pure gospel – literally *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.**
- 3. *Revelation 22 – The Coming of the Lord* – once, at the end of the world.**
- 4. *Matthew 24 – The Fall of Jerusalem and the End of the World* – that this is all about the fall of Jerusalem, not the end of the world, except by way of example.**

***THERE IS GOOD REASON FOR APPROACHING THIS SUBJECT IN THIS SYSTEMATIC WAY, WHICH AVOIDS WILD SPECULATION AND THEORIES, AND ALLOWS SCRIPTURE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE:*** It is a subject fraught with confusion and false doctrine, and unless we begin with a right perspective, we will likely only take preconceived ideas with us into the whole programme of our study (those preconceived ideas are, invariably, seeds sown into our minds by a long line of false teachers, foisted on the Protestant Churches by the Jesuits' Counter-Reformation movement since 1591, and particularly over the last 100 years, which have effectively erased from the mind of most Protestants, what for centuries since the Reformation, was considered sound and orthodox doctrine and not-negotiable tenets of the faith).

***THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE REVELATION AND END TIMES IMPINGES ON THE GOSPEL ITSELF.*** Many interpreters seem oblivious to this fact. Therefore, it is paramount that we understand what Jesus and the apostles taught:

- about the one resurrection at the end of the world, at Christ's second coming (not His third or fourth coming);
- about what *The Book of Revelation* says about itself, from beginning to end, that it is not literal, but is communicated in symbolic visions,

that it speaks of Christ, His gospel, His kingdom, His Church, His eternal reign with His saints, including His reign over all things on earth now;

- about the coming of the Lord, that it is at the end of the world, not 7 years before, and not 1,000 years later;
- and about the fall of Jerusalem, which happened in 70 AD, and marked the end of the Old Covenant, its temple, its city, and its people, because *that*, and that alone, is what Jesus spoke of to His disciples in *Matthew 24*, with only an oblique reference to the end of the world, which is yet to occur at the second coming of Christ.

All these things, we have observed, have been taught very clearly by all the relevant Scriptures, and are part and parcel of the gospel received by the Church since apostolic times, and are written into the Protestant Confessions since they were rediscovered with the rediscovery of Scripture during the Reformation. And if it takes us at least ten years of study to be clear on these things (as it did for me), then, when we do see it clearly, we find that we only agree with the reformers, because they too based all their doctrine on Scripture alone!

***NOW, UNLESS, BEFORE GOING ANY FURTHER, WE LIKewise PUT TO REST THE CURRENTLY PREVAILING ERRORS ABOUT THE 'MILLENNIUM,' WE WILL AGAIN BE DRAGGED BACK INTO CONFUSION,*** because again, the error of 'Millenarianism' (or Chiliasm), which Protestant Reformers like John Calvin so vehemently opposed, has been so ingrained into the thinking of the average Christian today, that it completely distorts even the gospel itself in their minds, (remembering that **WHEN PAUL SPOKE IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15, ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF ALL THE DEAD, ONCE AT THE END OF THE WORLD, WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, HE BEGAN THAT SUBJECT BY SPELLING OUT THE BASIC FACTS OF THE GOSPEL IN THE EARLY VERSES OF THAT CHAPTER – IN FACT, HIS SUBJECT WAS REALLY THE GOSPEL, NOT THE RESURRECTION OR END TIMES, WHICH ARE MERELY PARTS OF THE GOSPEL ITSELF,** so that he was laying down, in no uncertain terms, how the resurrection at the Lord's coming, at the end of the world, when all the dead shall be raised and judged, and either welcomed bodily into His eternal kingdom or cast bodily into the lake of fire, that **THIS IS AN INTEGRAL AND INSEPARABLE ASPECT OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST WHICH HE PREACHED), THEREFORE, SADLY, VERY SADLY, PAUL'S GOSPEL IS NOT THE GOSPEL PREACHED BY EVANGELICALS TODAY!**

***MANY PEOPLE TODAY, JUST PEOPLE IN GENERAL, CAN SEE THAT SOMETHING AWFUL IS HAPPENING TO OUR SOCIETY, AND INDEED TO ALL CHRISTIAN NATIONS, AND THAT WE SEEM INCAPABLE OF EVEN PUTTING ANY BRAKES ON THE DOWNHILL SLIDE.*** Even our political leaders are deeply concerned about crime, about the victims of crime, about the inability of our system of law and order to deal with even the most heinous crimes and criminals, but they don't have the moral and spiritual substance to deal with it, and ordinary people are all disturbed about the fact that our governments are all against us and against Christ and Scripture, and even against any common sense idea. But professing Christians also, and many churches, are deeply concerned; they know something must be done, **but in the case of Christians and churches, the saddest thing of all is that they are largely looking at the faults of the world, and not at their own faults and their own need of repentance.** There are Christian groups who have called everyone to join them in prayer and fasting for Australia during Lent – a motley crew, even a “mixed multitude,” who, probably, most of them, think that Christmas and Easter are the most important aspects of the gospel, and who really think the Lord is pleased when they curb some of their normal excesses during Lent without once thinking of whether they are true to God's Word or not, and give little thought to the Ten Commandments, one of which requires us to keep holy the weekly Sabbath day, not the annual Pagan Festivals. Sometimes I don't answer these sorts of invitations, because if I answered, I'd have to tell them the Truth, and I just get tired of speaking to brick walls; tired of speaking to those who are willfully as deaf as a post; tired of their smugness as they laugh up their sleeve at matters so serious as the lives of their own children, the future of their own nation, and the eternity of hell fire which awaits them as they mock the Lord Jesus; tired of casting God's “pearl of great price” before swine – and why are they so deaf, and so stubborn, in their rejection of God's plain Truth? It is because they **think** they are Christians; they **think** they are doing this and that to please God; like the Pharisees they are **proud** of their good works, running to and fro, running from one religious fad to another or from one mission to another; some are even proud of their humility; and they are **continually looking for something more than Christ**, when Christ alone is what all Scripture and all the gospel and even all creation are about! And if you think my judgment of such people is a bit harsh, just consider what response you get from them if you dare to challenge their self-based righteousness and good works! They are like Esau, who wanted the blessing, but couldn't bring himself to repent; he would rather sell his birthright than

repent, because he considered himself to be so right that he could not handle a ruling against him. Well likewise, the Christian Church of our day (broadly speaking), has sold its birthright! It has squandered 'Christ alone' for a "mess" of politically correct, self-righteous "pottage." Saying, "Let's do this! Let's do that! Please give to the cause so we can do this or that"! Like the Pharisees, they calculate everything, and say, "We can't say this, because such and such will happen, or if we say that, something else will happen", without one thought about what the Almighty God might do if they simply speak the Truth, or what He will do if they don't! But where is the man who will just speak God's truth? There is hardly any to be found! A few years ago, just before I began this part of our study of the millennium, our brother George Weir preached on revival on the Lord's Day. He was like Jeremiah, the Weeping Prophet. He wept his way through an hour of reading the Scriptures and prayer and preaching the pure Word of the Lord. He was faithful. He spoke as "the oracles of God." And I can say it loud and clear, without fear of contradiction, and George will say "Amen!", that unless the Churches of Australia cease to be like Esau and learn to love the Word of God and the Commandments of God more than their own free will, there will never be a revival. Until the Churches repent and turn back to the Word of God, to 'Scripture alone,' until believers turn back to 'Christ alone,' unless they see Him as the "Pearl of great price," and they want nothing else, they can fast themselves to death, pray themselves to death, and work themselves to death, but the Lord will not hear them!

*THE SINS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ARE THE REAL PROBLEM, AND ALL THE OTHER WOES ARE MERELY THE RESULTS OF GOD'S DISPLEASURE WITH A SINFUL CHURCH.* There is such a smugness and stubbornness about many Christians today, as if, they have their so-called "relationship with Jesus", nothing else matters, His Law is 'old hat' and unnecessary, His commandments are mere suggestions! If you suggest that their celebration of the Pagan Festivals of Christmass and Easter are a problem, they almost laugh at you, and with many of them it is not sheer ignorance speaking, they are actually unwilling to even consider the facts, which means they are basically dishonest people.

*THE POINT IS NOT ABOUT SINLESS PERFECTION, IT IS ABOUT THE TERMINAL DISEASE OF DISHONESTY IN THE CHURCH!* The question of whether to embrace Pagan traditions has become an 'acid test' for Christians, just as it

did in ancient Israel, when the worship of Baal and Ashteroth was the ‘acid test’ for them, because the Christmass and Easter traditions are pure Baal worship! Even King Solomon, the wisest man of all, married foreign wives and built temples to their Pagan gods and goddesses, and this was not without dire consequences for the whole nation of Israel. Will they ever learn? It seems not. Yet there is always hope, “with God, all things are possible”, as even Elijah has shown us, when he alone challenged the whole nation with its wicked king and queen, Ahab and Jezebel, and won a national victory, turning the whole nation back to God, as he exposed the folly of Paganism, and called them to repent. Yes, all things are possible, but not without hearing and heeding the Word of God.

***BUT TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD'S TRUTH, WHO WANT TO HUMBLY LEARN OF HIM, AND SIT AT THE FEET OF JESUS,*** to you today, brothers and sisters, I rejoice, and glory in the Word of the gospel with you, and count it a great privilege to be in your midst today, so that together we continue the great work of laying again the foundation of Christ's Church, and discover again in the Scriptures what is the gospel of Christ, which is “the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.”

May God give us ears to hear the Word of God. It is our desperate, and daily need, because it is only God's mercy which gives us ears to hear, while there are many who cannot hear, will not hear, and just don't care.

***SO, WHAT SAITH THE SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM?***

***BRIEFLY THE EVENTS OUTLINED IN THIS CHAPTER (REVELATION 20) ARE:***

- ***THE BINDING OF SATAN FOR 1,000 YEARS*** so he cannot deceive the nations, and his loosing again after the 1,000 years is ended, to deceive the nations. ***(20:1-3, 7)***

AND I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 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.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison....

- ***THRONES OF JUDGMENT (20:4)***

4 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.

- ***THE SOULS OF MARTYRS AND SAINTS WHO HAD REFUSED TO WORSHIP THE BEAST (20:4)***

- ***THE SAME MARTYRS AND SAINTS LIVING AND REIGNING WITH CHRIST 1,000 YEARS (20:4)*** – the way these matters are listed implies that the same ones who reign with Christ are also the ones who are upon the thrones. (Just a little comment at this point: let us recall what Paul taught the Corinthians, (*1 Corinthians 6:3*), “Know ye not that **we shall judge the angels?**” and when John introduced *The Revelation* in the first chapter, he said of the Lord Jesus, (*Revelation 1*), “and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And **hath made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

***SO THERE IS NO QUESTION ABOUT IT – THRONES ARE THE PORTION OF ALL THE SAINTS*** – we *all* reign with Christ! Again in *Revelation 20:6*, we read, “They shall be **priests of God and of Christ**, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” And again, this describes **all the saints**, because *all* the saints are priests of God and of Christ!

***THIS DOCTRINE ALSO HAS A SOUND FOUNDATION IN THE PROMISES GIVEN TO ISRAEL: Exodus 19:5-6***, “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 6 And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.**”

***BUT THIS WAS NOT FULFILLED IN THE EARTHLY ISRAEL, AS THEY DID NOT OBEY AND DID NOT KEEP GOD’S COVENANT, BUT IT IS FULFILLED, IN THE SPIRITUAL ISRAEL, THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BECAUSE CHRIST HAS KEPT THE COVENANT FOR HIS PEOPLE, AND THIS WAS GOD’S PURPOSE FROM THE BEGINNING***, just as the Lord always intended it to be, as the

apostle Peter shows us, Christ is the focus: **1 Peter 2:3- 10**, “If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious. 4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up **a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.** 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 **Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,** 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. 9 **But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation,** a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 **Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

**WHO IS PETER ADDRESSING? *Not the Jews of his generation! Not even the Jews of a future generation! No! He addresses “you ... which believe,” the Christian Church! SO THE “HOLY NATION” AND “KINGDOM OF PRIESTS” THE LORD ALWAYS HAD IN VIEW, WAS NOT ISRAEL, BUT THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH!*** Hence the whole Christian Church lives and reigns with Christ, both in life and in death, and that includes the saints under the Old Covenant as well, they are part of the same body of the redeemed in Christ! This is not some obscure interpretation. It is the gospel of Christ, through and through!)

- **“THE REST OF THE DEAD,” *THOSE WHO ARE NOT MARTYRS OR SAINTS, LIVED NOT AGAIN TILL THE 1,000 YEARS WERE FINISHED (20:5)***
- **“THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION”, *THE FIRST RESURRECTION IS DEFINED AS THIS REIGN OF THE SAINTS WITH CHRIST FOR 1,000 YEARS (20:4-5)* - “This is the first resurrection.”**
- ***THIS “FIRST RESURRECTION” PERTAINS TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT HURT BY THE SECOND DEATH (20:6), “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power.”*** Again this can only be *all* the saints, because *all* the saints are not hurt by the second death! The “second death” is “the lake of fire,” so this “first

resurrection” clearly applies to all who do *not* get cast into the lake of fire! Are you saved? Are you destined for heaven according to the promise of the gospel you have believed? Then you shall not be hurt by the second death! You are *already* a partaker of the “first resurrection!”

- ***SATAN’S BEING LOOSED RESULTS IN THE DECEIVING OF THE NATIONS TO MOUNT A WORLD-WIDE ASSAULT ON “THE BELOVED CITY” (20:9).*** (*Arguably, this is happening now, as it seems everything on earth is being arrayed in battle against Christianity, and on a world-wide scale: Islam is invading every Christian nation, our own governments are aiding and abetting this invasion, the ‘gay’ movement, feminism, Marxism, and many other evils are making the same world-wide assault on every Christian nation, the ingrained false doctrines and cults are more prevalent than ever before, and faithful Christian Churches are few and far between. This could be it! This could well be Satan’s last futile effort to destroy the Church of God, before fire comes down from heaven upon him and his hosts! And even if it is, we have no idea how long it will be, but let us look and pray for the final fire from heaven!*)
- ***THE SATANIC REVOLT IS DESTROYED BY FIRE FROM HEAVEN (20:9).*** 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.
- ***THE DEVIL AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE TO BE TORMENTED FOR EVER (20:10).***
- ***A GREAT WHITE THRONE, AND ALL THE DEAD, STAND BEFORE THE LORD TO BE JUDGED BY THEIR WORKS,*** whose bodies are raised up from the earth and the sea, and their souls from hell, ***(20:11-13).***
- ***ALL THESE DEAD, AFTER BEING JUDGED BY THEIR OWN WORKS, ARE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE,*** which is called “the second death,” because their names were not written in the book of life ***(20:14-15).*** These are called “the dead,” as opposed to the “living” (those who “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”). The “living,” the spiritually alive, reign with Christ 1,000 years. The “dead” burn in the lake of fire for ever.

This is merely a brief summary of what we read in ***Revelation 20***, the bare facts of what that chapter contains, with a little comment added – ***and BEAR IN MIND, THAT THIS IS ALL THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM, WHICH***



***IS A STUNNING FACT, WHEN COMPARED TO THE FANTASTIC FABRICATIONS WHICH ARE TAUGHT AND WRITTEN ABOUT THE SO-CALLED JEWISH MILLENNIUM! Let us hear the Word of God, and if we do, the many nonsense words of the false teachers and deceivers will fade away! The Revelation is all gospel! It is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”!, Nothing more and nothing less! It is the capstone of the gospel of Christ, the last Word about His eternal kingdom and His eternal glory, and His eternal reign over all creation. Let us rejoice in Him and Him alone! Amen.***

## **END TIMES Part 5 – THE MILLENNIUM**

***Continued, The Lord's Day, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2018***

### ***Reading – Revelation 20***

We have looked at a brief overview of the main facts presented to us in ***Revelation chapter 20***, the events that accompany the return of Christ, the end of the world, the resurrection and judgment, and what the Bible actually says about the 'millennium', not what is popularly taught today about the millennium (***and mark well, that this is the only place in the whole Bible that the millennium is even mentioned***).

Now let us, in the same broad-sweeping fashion, look at a similar sort of summary of what is today, undoubtedly, the most popular understanding of what this chapter teaches (so, ***firstly, we've seen a summary of what the chapter says, now secondly, let us look at a summary of what is popularly taught that it says, and the two concepts are like chalk and cheese***). Sadly, it is not safe to content ourselves with only what the Scriptures teach – because of the prevalence of false teachers and false prophets (which Jesus warned about), we must be aware of the prevailing errors also, even as you cannot be a successful fruit grower without dealing with the major pests destroying the fruit. Hence let us observe:

### **THE COMMON UNFOUNDED VIEW PUT FORWARD BY THE FUTURISTS AND DISPENSATIONALISTS, (AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE MINOR VARIATIONS WITHIN THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, IT IS ROUGHLY AS FOLLOWS):**

- ***FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY TEACHES A 'RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH' (A CATCHING UP, OR TAKING UP, OF THE CHURCH TO HEAVEN) BEFORE THE LORD RETURNS, AND BEFORE THE END OF THE WORLD:*** that, prior to any mention of these matters in ***Revelation 20***, the Christian Church is *supposed* to have already gone to heaven (at the beginning of ***chapter 4*** in fact, in which they claim, "Come up hither," means the Church has gone up to heaven! How you can teach this just beggars belief! This Scripture is an account of what John experienced and saw – "Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne". It has nothing to do with some future experience of the Church! ***Those who teach that this is the 'rapture of the Church' are just plain dishonest, they are not teaching the Scriptures at all, but vain and wild imaginations, but more than wild imaginations,***

*the specific false doctrines of the Counter-reformation Jesuit, Francesco Ribera – 1591.*), they say that because the Church has been caught up to heaven, **none of this revolt of Satan applies to the experience of the Church, and the resurrection and judgment at the end doesn't involve the Church**, because the Church has already been raised in a **previous resurrection** (which Futurists call, **“the rapture”**), and the “beast” which persecutes the Church therefore cannot be Popery.

Some time ago, I bumped into an old friend in a shop, and he struck up a conversation about the end times, the so-called signs of the times, and how near the end must be etc. At one point in this discussion, when he mentioned the “rapture of the Church,” I pointed him to *Revelation 20*, and I said that **the Bible says nothing about a so-called “rapture of the Church” before the “tribulation,” before the “Antichrist” appears, and before the final resurrection**, (which is what he was claiming, according to standard Futurist, Dispensationalist theory), but in fact, *Revelation 20* depicts saints and martyrs who had gone *through the tribulation*, who had refused to worship the “beast,” who are said to be partakers of the *“first resurrection!”* I SAID, **“IF THESE MARTYRS HAVE LIVED ON EARTH AFTER THE CHURCH HAS GONE TO HEAVEN, HOW CAN THEY BE SAID TO PARTAKE OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION? HOW CAN YOU HAVE MORE THAN ONE FIRST RESURRECTION?”** And of course, he was completely dumbfounded – there is no answer to that question, “How can you have more than one first resurrection?” **If this supposed “rapture” is a resurrection (which they claim it is), then any resurrection after it cannot be called the “first resurrection!”** Hence, the whole Futurist scheme of propaganda about the so-called ‘rapture’ is blown away by this one question, and by a simple, straightforward reading of *Revelation 20!*

- **FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY TEACHES THAT, THE SAINTS MENTIONED HERE ARE NOT ALL THE SAINTS**, but a *special* group of martyrs who are all beheaded for their faith, during a short time (either 3 ½ or 7 years) called “the great tribulation.” The Church is *supposedly* not on earth for this either! It is already gone to heaven in “the rapture.” They call these martyrs “tribulation saints” and claim they are not part of the Christian Church which Christ receives when He comes on the clouds – what complete and utter nonsense that is! According to this theory, Christ comes to receive His Church, but it’s like those annoying TV

advertisements, “Wait! There is more!”, more saints to come, more resurrections for those whom Christ and the Holy Ghost had abandoned during their awful tribulation, are to somehow claw back a salvation based on their own strivings, when they were not ready for Christ when He came for His Church! But Jesus taught that there would be wise virgins who would be ready and foolish virgins who would miss out and be shut out of the marriage feast! Jesus’ point was about His second coming, and those left out were those He did not know: **Matthew 25**, “Verily I say unto you, I know you not. 13 Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.”

- ***FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY TEACHES THAT THIS “FIRST RESURRECTION” IN REVELATION 20 IS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR THIS SPECIAL GROUP OF MARTYRS ONLY. HENCE WE NOW HAVE, SUPPOSEDLY, AT LEAST THREE RESURRECTIONS: FIRSTLY***, the 'rapture of the Church,' an escape to heaven before the tribulation gets underway, ***SECONDLY***, the resurrection of the martyrs who die during the tribulation, and ***THIRDLY***, the resurrection of the rest of those saved at the end of a further 1,000 years! (But the Bible says absolutely nothing about three or more resurrections!) Therefore,
- ***FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY TEACHES THAT WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS “THE FIRST RESURRECTION” IS ACTUALLY THE SECOND RESURRECTION! THEY SAY CHRIST DOES NOT RETURN UNTIL 3 ½ OR 7 YEARS AFTER THE CHURCH IS REMOVED FROM THE WORLD:*** that the millennium (or 1,000 years) is **after** Christ takes His Church up to heaven in a resurrection event they call 'the rapture', and after another 3 ½ or 7 years of tribulation, so that all these terrible works of Satan and Antichrist *supposedly* pertain to a time *after* the Church is rescued and taken to heaven, but according to them, after all this, Christ still has not returned – **so now we have, according to Futurist theory, a second resurrection which is called in Scripture, “the first resurrection,” but we also have a second coming of Christ, with yet a *third coming still to occur!*** But where in Scripture do you find even a hint of Christ's third coming?
- ***FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY TEACHES THAT THE MILLENNIUM IS A TIME WHEN THE GLORIFIED, PHYSICALLY RESURRECTED CHURCH COMES BACK TO EARTH AND REIGNS, WITH CHRIST, ON EARTH, AT JERUSALEM, OVER AN EARTH WHICH IS STILL***

**SINFUL, AND STILL UNREGENERATE OR UNSAVED**, but largely subdued, because Satan is bound by a chain. The doctrine is like a script from a bad science fiction movie! Many Futurists also say that even the Holy Spirit has been withdrawn from the earth during this time. (Can Satan be bound with a chain? Can the Spirit of God, which “moved upon the face of the waters” in the first day of creation – Can He be withdrawn from the earth? Can He, Who is the omnipresent, living God, be withdrawn from anywhere?)

- **SO, ACCORDING TO FUTURIST/DISPENSATIONALIST THEORY, BASICALLY, SATAN HAS HIS WAY MOST OF THE TIME, AND THWARTS THE EFFORTS OF THE CHURCH UNTIL CHRIST WHISKS US AWAY TO HEAVEN – (THIS IDEA BELONGS TO A DEFEATIST, CARNALLY-MINDED, FALSE GOSPEL – IT IS NOT THE TRIUMPHANT GOSPEL OF CHRIST), but it suits a self-centred, American style Church, which is all about ministering blessings to itself and escaping persecution!** They say our souls are not really safe until the day we are raised up in that *rapture* (the resurrection *before the first* resurrection), (because it is only then that we can be sure we shall not be under the power of the second death, or don't run the risk of denying our Lord when we are threatened with the guillotine), then, Satan is bound, but when he is released, he prevails again, until God destroys him. And then of course, there has to be *another* resurrection (which the Bible says nothing of), to cater for souls saved during the Millennium, because many Futurists claim that more souls will be saved in the Millennium than ever before it! But of course, the Bible says no such thing! Nor does the Bible even hint at such a bizarre, post-Christian ‘golden age’ – this idea is all Jesuit lies, taken on board by a backslidden Protestant Church, proud of its ill-gotten knowledge, and no longer humbly receiving the Word of God.

**PRACTICALLY EVERY WORD OF THIS FUTURIST FABRICATION ON END TIMES PROPHECY IS A LIE, HAS NO BASIS IN SCRIPTURE**, gives more power to the devil than he has, gives far less glory to Jesus than He deserves, invents all sorts of wild interpretations of these various bits and pieces of Scripture, interpretations which have no relation at all to *other* parts of Scripture; it spawns constant speculation about current and future events in world politics, which have nothing at all to do with Christ and His Church and the gospel, (which is where the Church *ought* to have its eyes focused); it reduces the “blessed hope” of the Church to a sudden escape from tribulation, rather than

the return of Christ to glorify His saints and destroy the wicked and vindicate Himself and the Word of God in a final triumph over all evil, as Paul puts it (**Titus 2:11-14**) “11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for **that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;** 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” So by contrast to this Futurist fantasy, the Bible actually exhorts us to keep up a steady perseverance in our spiritual duty and mission, on a day to day basis, *until* the Lord comes again (at the end of the world).

***WORST OF ALL, THIS FUTURIST IDEA RELEGATES THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, AND THE GLORIOUS NEW COVENANT, THE RISEN AND REIGNING KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, WHOSE KINGDOM IS “NOT OF THIS WORLD”, AND “HAS NO END”, TO A MERE PHASE IN GOD’S PLAN,*** sandwiched in between various eras or ‘dispensations’, most of which are supposedly about the Israelites or Jews, instead of placing Christ at front and centre of all things from eternity past to eternity future, and seeing all things past as pointing forward to Him, and instead of His return *once* at the end of the world being the very culmination of all things, not the handing back of the pre-eminence of Christ and His bride back to the Jews for another 1,000 years, (after they had despised Him for 2,000 years, and like the “foolish virgins”, were shut out of the wedding!); **THE SCRIPTURES DO NOT SAY THE JEWS MUST HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE, BUT THAT CHRIST MUST “HAVE THE PRE-EMINENCE” “IN ALL THINGS” (Colossians 1:18), which means, at all times as well!** In other words, all the things that the apostles of Christ taught, and warned about, and exhorted the Church to follow, and gave their lives for – the preaching and teaching of Christ till the end of the world – all this is given a back seat by this Jesuit-inspired Futurist view of prophecy. Is it any wonder that the Church of the past 100 years has been in increasing spiritual decline, and has increasingly thought more of itself and its own pleasure, its own well-being, and its own reputation, than of the Great Commission given to it, i.e. to selflessly preach repentance and forgiveness of sins in Christ's name until He comes again, and to love God above all else and our neighbour as ourselves even as we do so, and count it joy to go through much tribulation along the way?

**HENCE, IT IS ALSO NO WONDER THAT THE PREDOMINANT, AND MOST ACCURATE VIEW OF BIBLE PROPHECY HELD BY PROTESTANT AND REFORMED BELIEVERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY, HAS NOT BEEN A PRE-MILLENNIAL RETURN OF CHRIST, NOT FUTURISM/DISPENSATIONALISM, BUT IT IS “AMILLENNIAL” OR “NON-MILLENNIAL,”** i.e. that the Millennium is not a reality on earth at all, but a figure of the present spiritual reality of the kingdom of God, that there *is* no 1,000 years, (literally speaking), but that this speaks *figuratively* of the *spiritual* resurrection, which all the saints enjoy in union with Christ, and of the reign we all enjoy with Him from the moment of our new birth, through to our ascension into heaven to be with Him after the death of our mortal bodies, and the victory the whole Church enjoys over Satan from beginning to end, and the certain destruction of all the enemies of Christ and His Church when He returns to this earth! And there is good reason for the figurative nature of the “thousand years” – because that period of the reign of the saints with Christ varies from person to person! The saints have all lived and died and gone to heaven at different times over 6,000 years, so it is impossible to express this in a single number of years for each person – hence the figurative 1,000!

**SOME WOULD OBJECT TO THE IDEA THAT THE THOUSAND YEARS IS ONLY A FIGURE, THEY SAY, “YOU CAN’T SPIRITUALIZE THE SCRIPTURES!” BUT WHAT IF GOD GAVE HIS VISIONS TO JOHN AS FIGURES? WILL YOU DENY HIS WORDS? FIRSTLY,** let us remember that the whole book of *Revelation* is communicated symbolically, as we saw in the first chapter – he “sent and SIGNIFIED it by his angel unto his servant John” (*Revelation 1:1*); **SECONDLY,** try this test: just read through *Revelation 20*, leaving out the words “a thousand years” wherever they occur, and you will soon realize that you are reading pure gospel, all the way through; you are reading a prophetic comment on the whole Christian era, the whole New Covenant, with all the main points of the gospel being wonderfully declared and illustrated: Christ’s deity, His sacrificial, atoning death for His elect, His triumph over Satan, His ongoing reign over the rebellious nations, over a false Church, a false prophet, and a “beast” or power called “Antichrist,” His triumph over death itself in the resurrection of all flesh, His eternal reign over all things – **in short, the glory and the triumph of Christ, and His Church, in time and eternity! That is the whole theme and substance of *The Revelation*, and it is only when we try to invent a literal thousand years, that we find it all hard to understand!** (I mentioned in an earlier session a quote from Calvin, which is

so concise and so clear it is worth repeating again: speaking of those who teach a literal millennium, **Calvin** said that their doctrine was too puerile even to deserve an answer, and he charged them with “**limiting the reign of Christ to 1,000 years!**” **This is the crux of the matter. How greatly is our Lord Jesus Christ degraded by this false doctrine of a future Millennium on earth!** Isn't it He Who, the prophets and apostles said, is “the Lord from heaven,” that said even at His birth in Bethlehem, “of his kingdom there shall be no end” (*Luke 1:33*)? **In fact, as the Second Person of the eternal Godhead, Christ has never ceased to reign, and His reign had no beginning, as well as no end! BUT THIS DOCTRINE OF CHRIST'S ABSOLUTE AND SOVEREIGN REIGN OVER ALL CREATION IS AN AFFRONT TO THE CHURCH OF ROME,** because if she admitted this doctrine, the Pontiff would have to give up his crown and sceptre and all his gold and glory, and humble himself before the King of kings and Lord of lords! And kings and rulers all over the earth, who bow before the Roman Pontiff, would have to bow before Christ instead! Is it any wonder that Rome and her Jesuits are so hell-bent on overthrowing God's Truth on such matters as these? **NB:** Have you wondered why Australian politicians will not acknowledge that our Constitution is based on Jesus Christ? The reason is they all bear allegiance to the Roman Antichrist – they are all either Roman Catholics, Freemasons, Marxists, Atheists, Pagans, Evolutionists, or some mixture of the above. They kowtow to all these things, but they will not kowtow to Christ! This is what they now call ‘Multiculturalism’, and it is forcefully applied to the nations – it is essential to Roman Catholicism and Freemasonry (Rome is ‘catholic’, meaning world-wide, so it embraces everything, all the world, to achieve its goal of total control; Freemasonry openly accepts all religions, at least at its lower levels and at its public shopfront, but total control is its goal also, and Satanism is its true essence, as with Rome, so those ‘Honourable Members’ are not honourable enough to deny all this wickedness, and worship Christ alone, like Esau, they have already sold their birthright – they refuse to acknowledge the rule of Christ because they are servants of the Antichrist.

***THEREFORE, AS WE BEGIN THIS FIFTH PART OF OUR STUDY ON THE REVELATION AND END TIMES PROPHECY, I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR POINTING OUT PLAINLY AGAIN, THE ERROR OF WHAT IS CALLED FUTURISM AND DISPENSATIONALISM: They are evil, they come from an evil source, the Satanically inspired Jesuits, and they have an evil effect on those who embrace them, leading them away from the gospel of Christ!*** These concepts



are (collectively) one of the most prevalent and destructive false doctrinal systems of our time; they have infected the great majority of Evangelicals; they began with the deliberate Counter-Reformation efforts of the Roman Catholic Jesuit order (*Ref: Francesco Ribera 1591 & Manuel Lacunza's work published in 1812*); they are not remotely scriptural; and, in typical Roman Catholic fashion, they even distort the very understanding of the gospel itself! Therefore, by God's grace, I am determined to show why all this is so terribly wrong, and by contrast to this, what the Scriptures actually teach. **The Jesuit involvement in this deception is so real and so obvious, and yet it continues to bear its poisonous fruit among so-called Protestants.**

***I HAVE ADDED TO MY NOTES, FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SEE A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF HOW WE CAN DISCERN THE JESUIT DECEIVERS AMONG THE CHURCHES, AN ARTICLE I HAVE GLEANED, BUT FOR NOW, LET ME JUST OUTLINE THE PROPHETIC SCHEME OF THE JESUIT FRANCISCO RIBERA, WHICH PROVES THE JESUIT INFLUENCE UPON ALL MODERN FUTURISTS:***

***The following is an excerpt from Wikipedia ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco\\_Ribera](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_Ribera)), and the information contained in this quote can be sourced from Encyclopaedia Britannica as well:***

**Apocalypse commentary**

In order to remove the papacy of the Catholic Church from consideration as the Antichrist (as an act of countering the Protestant Reformation)<sup>[citation needed]</sup>, Ribera began writing a lengthy (500 page) commentary in 1585 on the *Book of Revelation* (Apocalypse) titled *In Sacrum Beati Ioannis Apostoli, & Evangelistiae Apocalypsin Commentarij*, proposing that the first few chapters of the Apocalypse apply to ancient pagan Rome, and the rest he limited to a yet future period of 3½ literal years, immediately prior to the second coming. During that time, the Roman Catholic Church would have fallen away from the pope into apostasy because of the Reformation cry stating that "the papacy is the seat of the true and real Antichrist." (Martin Luther, Aug. 18, 1520). Then, he proposed, the Antichrist, a single individual, would:

- Persecute and blaspheme the saints of God
- Rebuild the temple in Jerusalem
- Abolish the Christian religion
- Deny Jesus Christ
- Destroy Rome
- Be received by the Jews
- Pretend to be God
- Kill the two witnesses of God
- Conquer the world.

For all their hot air and all their popularity among the churches, the Futurists are reading off Ribera's script – they are teaching exactly what he taught

400 years ago! Here is the absolute proof! Just Google it and see for yourself. The old Protestants never taught this rubbish, because their text was the Word of God, not the propaganda of Rome and her Jesuits.

**FOR FURTHER READING:**

**AN EXAMPLE OF DISCERNING THE HAND OF THE JESUITS AMONG US:** I gleaned from a website (<http://www.birthpangs.org/articles/prophetic/lacunza-intro.html>), the following comments which illustrate what I am saying in this – just bear in mind that this writer is trying to put a positive construction on these Jesuits:

**Lacunza's contribution to present day Evangelicalism was to go back to the literal truth of Scripture; to reassert the restoration of the Jews in the end-times; the two-fold coming of the Lord; the millennial reign; the setting up of the temple sacrifice once again; and, the restoration of the earth following the yet future and final defeat of Satan. His position has been described technically as 'futurist post-tribulational'.**

'Ben Ezra' is the pseudonym for a Roman Jesuit priest named Manuel (sometimes *Emmanuel*) de Lacunza (1731 - 1801). The pseudonym may be seen as a way of making the work acceptable to Jewish readers and diverting attention from the station of the author.

This information will occasion many Protestants to read no further, but if Luther was correct in demanding 'Sola Scriptura' (and we would not dare to disagree) then Lacunza may be taken as a model of those that would follow Luther's call. If ever an author was to insist absolutely on the veracity and primacy of the Word of God these pages show such a one. Indeed, one of the prime reasons for his work was to rebut the centuries old claims of the 'doctors of the Church' who sought to put the Church in the position of the Jews both now and during the end times. **Lacunza takes us back again and again to the inerrant word of God and sweeps away 12 centuries of replacement and amillennial theology to show again the teaching of the early church and the scriptures.** For these reasons, and despite the support of his peers who read the work, the Catholic Church banned the book.

None-the-less, we have to recognise that Lacunza was a Roman Catholic and a Jesuit;

***WHAT A COMEDY OF ERRORS! WHAT A CONGLOMERATION OF ERRORS! LIKE THE TWISTS AND TURNS OF THE SERPENT HIMSELF, THIS SHORT COMMENT IS SO FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS IT BEGGARS BELIEF! The slimy, scholarly, gentlemanly double-talk, which this writer employs here, is typical of the Jesuits and of those they train. They sow confusion into the mind, instead of the Word of God! It is just the way they play on words: e.g. while admitting that the Church had been 'Amillennial' for 12 centuries since Augustine, the writer puts a bad connotation on Amillennialism, by calling it “replacement theology,” and claiming it does not adhere to Scripture. (To put it simply, “replacement theology” means a theology which replaces Israel with the Christian Church, but isn't that exactly what Jesus did when He instituted a New Covenant, a “better covenant” based on “better promises”)? THE WRITER ALSO SPEAKS WELL OF THIS JESUIT, LACUNZA, BY CLAIMING HE BROUGHT THE WHOLE CHURCH BACK TO SCRIPTURE, AND COMPARING HIM TO MARTIN LUTHER (BUT THIS MAN'S THEOLOGY OPPOSES EVERYTHING LUTHER STOOD FOR!), then he acknowledges that Lacunza is a Jesuit and tries to divorce himself from Rome and the Jesuits – well he can't have it both ways. So, what is he implying? That this Jesuit was a good man, and a good theologian, and in many ways better even than the Protestant Reformers – well, he doesn't actually say that, but that is what he very distinctly and cunningly implies! That is what he wants the reader to believe! THIS IS TYPICAL JESUIT TREACHERY! THEY HAVE THIS UNCANNY, SATANIC ABILITY TO TEACH YOU THAT BLACK IS WHITE OR WHITE IS BLACK, AND TO GET AWAY WITH IT! They are like the Old Serpent himself! And they serve him absolutely. THEIR MOTTO IS, “THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS!” How else could they achieve this great wonder of the Counter-Reformation, so that all Evangelicalism today (doctrinally speaking) eats out of their Popish hands? (I admit that Lacunza's doctrine may differ in some degree with modern Futurist views, but the point is that the whole general scheme of his doctrine is the same, and that it has achieved a monumental shift of doctrine world-wide, a shift that has turned back the tide of sound doctrine which had been established for over 1200 years!) I draw your attention to the timeline I have prepared to remind us of the Jesuit influence on Church history –***

please take a copy of it as an aid to your studies; this history serves as a good reminder of the realities we face in the Church and the world even today, because of a deliberate and ongoing Popish Counter-Reformation – the Jesuits are still very active among us.

**ONE OF THE GREAT ERRORS OF FUTURISM IS THAT IT PREACHES A PRE-MILLENNIAL RETURN OF CHRIST** (i.e. that Christ returns, not at the end of this world, as Scripture plainly states in many places, but at least 1,000 years *before* the end of this world; that the great resurrection of Church, does not happen at the end of the world, as Scripture again plainly teaches, but at least 1,000 years before it!)

**THIS FALSE DOCTRINE OF A PRE-MILLENNIAL RETURN OF CHRIST COMPLETELY DESTROYS THE IMPACT AND INTEGRITY OF THE GOSPEL, as instead of plainly preaching, as the apostles did, that every soul must be ready to meet Christ when He returns, when all the dead are to be raised and all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, IT GIVES THE FALSE HOPE OF A SECOND CHANCE AFTER HIS RETURN!** This is exacerbated by preaching not only a Pre-millennial return of Christ, but in most cases, a Pre-tribulation return of Christ as well, meaning that Christians are going to escape the so-called tribulation as well. Hence we have many people foolishly speculating about what it might be like on earth 'after the rapture' or 'after the apocalypse' (as they say), when the Scriptures teach us plainly that all we can look forward to after Christ's return, is either eternal bliss in heaven with Him, or eternal punishment in the lake of fire. And this is why we endeavour to preach to every creature, as we are commanded to do, repentance and remission of sins in the name of the Lord Jesus! Even Hollywood is under Jesuit influence – as many movies have been made about a post-apocalyptic world, with people trying to survive among the ruins. What nonsense this is, because when Christ returns, even the dead shall be raised, and both the quick and the dead will stand before Him for judgment!

**HAVE YOU NOTICED THE MODERN CHURCH, BY AND LARGE, NO LONGER PREACHES REPENTANCE?** Have you noticed the modern Church no longer preaches the judgment and condemnation of sinners? Have you noticed the modern Church no longer preaches heaven or hell for eternity? Have you noticed the modern Church talks more about Israel and the Jews and world events, than about the return of Christ? Have you noticed that they no longer engage in vigorous evangelism, but bow to Multiculturalism and political correctness by not proselytising other faiths, so in this they go hand in hand with Popery, and even defend Popery, rather than being like the historic Protestants, Martin Luther, John Calvin etc., who squarely called out the Pope as the Antichrist, and endeavoured to win souls from his evil grasp? **THERE IS ONE DISTINCT REASON FOR THIS – THE MODERN CHURCH NO LONGER**

**BELIEVES IN THE RETURN OF CHRIST AT THE END OF THE WORLD!** This is a departure from the gospel of Christ! There can be no question about it; and this is the work of the Jesuits!

**THE BEST BOOK I CAN RECOMMEND ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MILLENNIUM, IS WJ GRIER'S "THE MOMENTOUS EVENT."** It outlines briefly the history of belief about the millennium throughout the whole of Church history, and points out that the kind of Futurism and Pre-millennialism which prevails today, has never been widely accepted in all of Church history. I quote Grier briefly,

**"Augustine**, who was one of the greatest men of the Christian Church of all time, lived AD 354-430. He at first adopted Pre-millennialism, but gave it up as 'carnal'. Augustine, says SJ Case, laid 'the ghost of (pre)millenarianism so effectively that for centuries the subject was practically ignored.'

**In his chapter on "The reformers and the millennium," Grier says,** "When the reformation came, millenarianism (Note: i.e. the doctrine of a 'millennium'), again appeared. It was an item in the belief of a wild and fierce sect of the Anabaptists. **The Reformers** set their faces against the teaching of this sect. The Augsburg Confession, drawn up by **Melancthon**, approved by **Luther**, and submitted to the Emperor and rulers of **Germany** as the confession of the Protestant faith, **condemned millenarianism as 'Jewish opinion'...** The English 'Confession of Edward VI', from which the Thirty-nine Articles were condensed, also condemns millenarianism in these terms, 'Those who attempt to revive the fable of the millenarians oppose the sacred Scriptures and throw themselves headlong into **Jewish absurdities.**' Calvin shows contempt for pre-millennial ideas when he says in the chapter on 'The Final Resurrection' in his *Institutes*, .... **those Millenarians, who limited the reign of Christ to a thousand years. Their fiction is too puerile to require or deserve refutation.** (Comment added: – How appalled would Calvin be if he saw today's Church so full of 'millenarianism, or Chiliaism, as they called it?) The Belgic Confession, which was widely adopted in **Holland, Belgium and Germany**, guards the statement concerning the second advent of Christ by teaching that the time of its occurrence is unknown to all created beings, and that it will not take place *until the number of the elect is complete.* This guards against one of the worst features of

the common pre-millenarian scheme, namely, that there will be people saved *after* Christ comes for His own. **The Second Helvetic Confession** which was adopted in **Scotland, Hungary, France, Poland, and Bohemia**, speaks in very strong language: 'We reject the Jewish dreams that there will be before the Day of Judgment a golden age upon the earth, and that the pious will take possession of the kingdoms of the world, after their enemies, the ungodly, have been subdued.' The Confession then proceeds to quote Scripture against these 'Jewish dreams.' **WHEN AT THE REFORMATION MEN TURNED AGAIN TO THE WORD OF GOD, EVIDENTLY THEY FOUND NO MILLENARIANISM THERE (emphasis added).** Let us turn last of all to the **Larger Catechism of the Westminster Divines**: 'We are to believe, that **at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust; when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed;** and the self-same bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls for ever, shall be raised by the power of Christ, and by virtue of His resurrection as their Head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to His glorious body; and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonour by Him, as an offended Judge. **'Immediately after the resurrection shall follow the general and final judgment of angels and men;** the day and hour whereof no man knoweth, that all may watch and pray, and be ever ready for the coming of the Lord.' (Greer finishes this chapter by saying,) **THE HISTORIC PROTESTANT POSITION IS NOT MILLENARIAN. IT INSISTS THAT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST IS THE SIGNAL FOR THE FINAL AND GENERAL JUDGMENT."** (EMPHASIS ADDED)

**GREER'S RESEARCH IS THOROUGH AND TRUE. ALL THE HISTORIC PROTESTANT CHURCHES BELIEVED IN, AND WROTE DOWN IN THEIR CONFESSIONS, A RETURN OF CHRIST AT THE END OF THE WORLD! MOST IMPORTANTLY, HIS CONCLUSIONS ARE NOT ONLY IN KEEPING WITH HISTORIC DOCTRINE, BUT ALSO WITH THE SCRIPTURES.** When Paul wrote to the Corinthians about the gospel and the resurrection etc. (1 Corinthians 15), he said that when Christ comes, "Then cometh the end..."! **He mentions no millennium, nor does Christ, nor does anyone else, except John in this one figurative vision! Whether you think the millennium is figurative or somehow a real thing on earth, one thing is absolutely certain and undeniable, that there is no millennium**

*after Christ returns, because, “Then cometh the end”! Let us hear the Word of God (1 Corinthians 15):*

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming.

**24 Then cometh the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

***WE ARE THEREFORE FORCED BY SCRIPTURE TO CONCLUDE THAT, THOSE WHO TEACH THERE IS TO BE A TRIBULATION AND/OR A MILLENNIUM AFTER CHRIST RETURNS FOR HIS CHURCH, TEACH A FALSE GOSPEL!*** It is heresy! It is not a mere variation on some unimportant aspect of doctrine – it is an error in the very gospel itself, because when Christ comes, there will be no salvation for all those who are not ready to meet Him then! Even in the one passage of Scripture which mentions the “thousand years” (***Revelation 20***), the resurrection and judgment are after the 1,000 years, not before! And since all the Scriptures plainly tell us Christ is coming to judge the quick and the dead, then the resurrection and judgment are at his second coming, “Then cometh the end”!

***LET US REMEMBER WHAT WE OBSERVED IN OUR OPENING LESSONS***, that the Revelation is ***symbolic***, not literal, it is ***Scriptural***, not something strange and new, and therefore relates closely to all aspects of the gospel and of other books of Scripture, and that it is ***Spiritual*** in nature and application, not carnal, or worldly, or political, or even Jewish – **in short, *The Revelation and all so-called end times prophecies are all about Christ and His Church, not Israel and the nations of the world! The Old Covenant is ‘Old’! It is finished!*** Therefore, the Scriptures mention no such thing as a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, nor is such a bizarre idea even hinted at, so, by the grace of God, let us adhere to the Scriptures as the Reformers and all the great Protestant Churches did, and as old Augustine did centuries before them, and lay to rest again the ghost of this false doctrine of a millennium, so that all may eagerly await the return of Christ at the end of the world, unshackled and unhindered by the Counter-Reformation propaganda of the Jesuits. Amen.



## **END TIMES Part 5 – THE MILLENNIUM**

***Continued, The Lord's Day, 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 – Reading: Revelation 20***

Now, concerning the Millennium, it is really a very straightforward matter, but we will need to do some serious study to prove it, because the enemies of the gospel have contrived such an intricate system of lies and deceit about it.

From our opening session on this chapter, and from passing references to the 'millennium' in other related lessons, you will know by now that I am saying that the Bible does not teach a so-called 'millennium' at all; it does not teach that there is to be a literal period of 1,000 years' golden age for the Jews or the Christians with Christ reigning on earth, either before or after Christ's return – this concept is simply nowhere to be seen in Scripture, as we have already proven.

***SO NOW LET'S SEE WHY THIS IS SO, SCRIPTURALLY SPEAKING:***

### **REASONS WHY A PRE-MILLENNIAL RETURN OF CHRIST IS NOT FOUND IN REVELATION 20:**

1. **SCRIPTURE ALONE CAN INTERPRET SCRIPTURE** – ***NB: THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THIS 'MILLENNIUM' MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN SCRIPTURE.*** If Scripture must be interpreted by Scripture (and surely no Bible believer can deny this), then we have no Scriptural basis for this idea of a specific period of 1,000 years, a golden age for Israel after Christ's return. And Scripture indeed *must* interpret Scripture, for we need only one reference to establish this: **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, “All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

***SINCE THE REVELATION IS A SERIES OF VISIONS, “SENT AND SIGNIFIED” (REVELATION 1:1) BY THE LORD, I.E. COMMUNICATED SYMBOLICALLY, Ch 20 is no exception to this, and we do not have any clear indication in the text itself as to just what some of the symbols mean – we must glean the necessary truth from other parts of Scripture. And since no other part of Scripture even remotely hints at such a 1,000 year golden age on earth, we must conclude already that it is impossible to establish such a doctrine (a so-called earthly 'millennium') based only on a pure guess as to the meaning of the vision. WE MUST LOOK TO ESTABLISHED DOCTRINE FROM THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT TO FIND THE MEANING, and this we can quite easily do, if our minds are not already***

bent and twisted by false doctrine, by a bias of Futuristic, or a childish Literalistic system of “private interpretation.”

So the bottom line on this first point is that, if Scripture must interpret Scripture, there is nothing else in Scripture, other than this chapter (*Revelation 20*) which even mentions a 1,000 year reign of Christ, let alone a 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth at Jerusalem!

2. ***SCRIPTURE MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN ITS CONTEXT – THE CONTEXT OF REVELATION 20 SAYS NOTHING OF A JEWISH STYLE 'MILLENNIUM' WITH CHRIST REIGNING ON EARTH AT JERUSALEM, BUT RATHER THE OPPOSITE! Revelation 20:4***, “4 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.” The wording is very specific - “***I saw the souls of them that were beheaded...***” They are the souls of dead people! **THEY ARE THE SOULS OF SAINTS, AFTER THEIR PHYSICAL DEATH**, and before they are united to their transformed bodies in the resurrection. **This is before the resurrection, and the scene is in heaven, not on earth!** Therefore it is not something which is yet to occur, but it is the present reality of all the departed saints in heaven, even now!

***THEREFORE THE IDEA OF A JEWISH STYLE MILLENNIUM ON EARTH, BASED AT JERUSALEM, FOR A LITERAL 1,000 YEARS, IS COMPLETELY OVERTHROWN BY THE ONLY PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE WHICH SPEAKS OF A MILLENNIUM (REVELATION 20)!*** What a lesson in context is this! And the lesson is simply this: read what the Scriptures *actually say*, not what somebody's book *claims* that they say!

***IF ANYONE IS NOT CONVINCED BY THIS PORTION OF SCRIPTURE ALONE, THEN COMPARING REVELATION 6:9-11, MAKES IT CRYSTAL CLEAR:*** “9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar **the souls of them that were slain for the word of God**, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, **dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?** 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, **until their fellowservants also and their brethren,**

**that should be killed as they *were***, should be fulfilled.” Here the scene is made even clearer, as the text explains that **these “souls” are departed from their dead bodies**, and are awaiting the death of their fellowservants – **clearly they are in heaven, where all believers go immediately when they die**, and where all departed souls of believers are, even now, **until the resurrection**: As Jesus promised the dying thief on the cross who looked to Him for salvation, (*Luke 23:43*), “Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.**”

Departed souls who believe on the Lord Jesus go immediately to be with Him! This is basic gospel truth! And this basic gospel truth is borne out by the apostle John's heavenly vision – **it is a vision of heaven, not earth, and all the Scriptures agree!**

***IN CASE ANYONE MIGHT OBJECT, OR ASK THE QUESTION, “BUT, THESE SOULS ARE NOT MERELY ‘SOULS’ IN HEAVEN, THEY ARE RAISED AGAIN,*** because the text says, “They **lived** and reigned with Christ a thousand years!” Well, look carefully at what the Scripture says, and be careful not to read Futurist fantasy into it! It says, “They **lived...**” It does **not** say, “They **lived again...**” In other words, they **continued to live** as immortal souls in heaven, awaiting the resurrection! ***Revelation 6*** helps to clarify this as it includes the part about waiting until their brethren are killed, in what is so obviously the very same scene as in ***Revelation 20***. The text does go on to say, “This is **the first resurrection....**” But what is meant by “the first resurrection”? It cannot mean there are more than one resurrection, as everything else in Scripture gives no hint of more than the one. Therefore it can only be the *spiritual* resurrection which every believer has in Christ, spiritually, at the new birth, for Paul plainly teaches, (*Ephesians 2:4-6*), “4 But **God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And **hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus...**” What does “quickened” mean? It means made us alive. But he says more than “quickened.” He adds, “And **hath raised us up..!**” This is a resurrection which he speaks of in past tense - “hath raised”! Likewise Paul says to the Colossians, (*Colossians 2:12*), “Ye are risen with *him...*” - again, a past event has given us, in Christ, a present reality, of *being risen* with Him! This speaks of the exalted position every believer in Christ enjoys spiritually – ***it is not a***

***physical resurrection but a spiritual one! The first resurrection is undoubtedly a spiritual one.*** The text reinforces this fact by further stating, (***Revelation 20:6***), “6 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.” Let us ask ourselves the question, “Of all people in the world, who are they upon whom “the second death hath no power”? And who are they who are 'priests of God and of Christ'?” There can be only one answer: “Those who are born of the Spirit of God!” And so, **this new spiritual birth is the “first resurrection.”**

The Futurists say that the 'rapture' of the Church *before* the tribulation, and *before* the Millennium, is the first resurrection, but here in the Scriptures are tribulation saints beheaded for their faith, who are partakers of the “**first** resurrection”! **You cannot have two first resurrections! No, the first resurrection is not a physical resurrection – this is the only explanation which does not do violence to the Scriptures.**

***SO, WHAT IS THE 1,000 YEARS? IT IS A FIGURATIVE REPRESENTATION OF THE LONG AND PERFECT, GOD-ORDAINED TIME, IN WHICH THE CHURCH REIGNS WITH CHRIST, FIRSTLY, ON EARTH WHILE WE LIVE, AND SECONDLY, IN HEAVEN WITH CHRIST AFTER OUR DEATH, AND ALL THIS IS BEFORE THE RETURN OF CHRIST, BEFORE THE RESURRECTION. The picture John saw was in heaven, not on earth, because that is where most of the saints spend most of their time before the resurrection*** – How long has Moses been in heaven? How long for Peter, and Paul, and John? Far more than 1,000 years! But 1,000 years suffices (symbolically) to cover this vision of the whole Church in one figurative sweep – the whole Church, risen with Christ, and seated with Him in heavenly places!

So the second reason is that the context of Revelation, which alone mentions the 1,000 years, says the opposite of what the popular Futurist theory teaches, that the saints reign in heaven with Christ, now, not on earth at some future time after His return!

3. **ALL SCRIPTURE SPEAKS OF THE JUDGMENT OF THE UNBELIEVERS AT CHRIST'S RETURN – HENCE NO UNBELIEVERS ARE LEFT TO POPULATE THIS SUPPOSED JEWISH 'MILLENNIUM' ON EARTH!** We have seen in

previous sessions how all the parables of Jesus which teach about the judgment, **all teach a dividing of believers and unbelievers at His return:** the goats and the sheep, the fisherman's catch of good and bad, the harvest of wheat and tares, and the wheat and the chaff. Let us just read one example so that we don't miss the impact of the exactness of the language used: **Matthew 13:37-43**, “37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; **the harvest is the end of the world;** and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; **so shall it be in the end of this world.** 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” The constant warning of Jesus and His apostles was, (**Luke 12:40**), “40 **Be ye therefore ready** also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not.” **Matthew 16:27**, “27 For the **Son of man shall come** in the glory of his Father with his angels; and **then he shall reward every man** according to his works.” **2 Peter 3:11-13**, “11 *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of *persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, 12 **Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,** and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless **we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth,** wherein dwelleth righteousness.” **2 Timothy 4:1-2**, “I CHARGE *thee* therefore before God, and the **Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;** 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

When that day comes, the unbelieving Jews will not be given another 1,000 years of earthly glory at Jerusalem, nor will other nations – they will all be standing before the judgment seat of Christ, and after that they will be burning in everlasting fire, along with all others who were

not ready, but proved to be unbelievers and rebels still, at the coming of Christ.

Our third reason there can be no millennium on earth is that when Christ returns He will raise all the dead, and judge all the world, and that judgment will be final.

4. **SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT “THE END” COMES AT CHRISTS RETURN – HENCE THERE CANNOT BE A ‘MILLENNIUM’ TO FOLLOW “THE END!” THE END IS THE END!** We saw this in our recent study of *1 Corinthians 15* on the subject of the resurrection: *1 Corinthians 15:22-26*, “22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at his coming. 24 **Then cometh the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that shall be destroyed is death.*” *Matthew 13:40*, “As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; **so shall it be in the end of this world.**” *13:39*, “...the harvest is **the end of the world...**” *13:47-50*, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 **So shall it be at the end of the world:** the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.” **All Scripture puts the return of Christ and the judgment of the quick and the dead, the good and the evil, at “the end of this world”! The world can only end once – notice, it is not “an end,” but “the end.”**

There is no programme, and no prophecy to be fulfilled after the end of the world, no more living and dying, no more tribulation, no more 1,000 years, no more resurrections, and no more judgments! The Scriptures are crystal clear, and their crystal clarity on these things, exposes the Jesuit lies which have spawned the Pre-tribulation and Pre-Millennial Futurist manipulations of Scripture for what they are.

Beware, the Dispensationalists will try to confuse you with the idea that the Greek word for “world” in this context is “aion,” which means “age.” And that is so, but nowhere in Scripture – I repeat, Nowhere in Scripture

is it even hinted that there are any so-called “ages” or “worlds” after this one. Read the Scriptures for yourself, and see – we have already shown proof enough of the words of Jesus and the apostles. The truth, according to Scripture, is that, if we think of the world as an “age”, then we are already in the last age now (that is a subject we will look at in detail later on, God willing – i.e. that the Christian era is “the last days,” and there are no days after the last days! e.g. Peter tells us we “look for new heavens and a new earth” (2 Peter 3:13), not another half-baked, Jewish kingdom on this same earth, for a limited time of only 1,000 years!)

**SO OUR FOURTH REASON IS THAT THERE CANNOT BE A MILLENNIUM ON EARTH AFTER CHRIST'S RETURN, BECAUSE HIS RETURN IS AT THE END OF THE WORLD!**

5. **SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT “DEATH,” CHRIST'S “LAST ENEMY” SHALL BE PUT UNDER HIS FEET AT HIS RETURN (1 CORINTHIANS 15) – HENCE THERE CAN BE NO DEATH AFTER HIS RETURN (AS WOULD BE REQUIRED BY 1,000 YEARS OF THE SUPPOSED LIVING AND DYING OF UNREGENERATE SOULS ON EARTH)! We have already noted this Scripture, but let us also underline the fact that it points out that death is Christ's last enemy to be destroyed. If Christ comes to judge and destroy all His enemies, and the last enemy is death, then death is “swallowed up in victory” *at the resurrection*, and there shall be no more death after that. This completely rules out the possibility of further souls living and dying after the resurrection, either in a special time of tribulation or in a so-called 'millennium' on earth. According to Scripture, there are no such things!**
6. **FINALLY, SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT CHRIST'S REIGN IS ETERNAL IN ITS DURATION, NOT MERELY 1,000 YEARS! This point alone soundly proves that the 1,000 years is a figure only, not a literal period of time.**

We have seen already that, because the various saints live and die at different times, over thousands of years, so that, to portray this “reign” of the saints with Christ, 1,000 years is just a round figure, depicting a long time, but a time which, by necessity, is different in length for different saints – e.g. the apostle Paul, who said “21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better,” (Philippians 1:21-23), has been in heaven

with Christ, for nearly 2,000 years, whereas some of our departed friends have been in heaven with Christ only 10 years or so – so to picture this reality, this doctrine, in prophecy, a round figure must be employed, and so it is.

But above and beyond this fact, we know for certain, from various Scriptures, that ***Christ Himself reigns for ever***, that **He reigned in eternity past**, before He became a man, that **He reigned in reality, even in His state of humility** while He walked the earth and allowed Himself to be abused by wicked men (in that He had power to heal the sick and raise the dead at will, and even to call upon legions of angels if He so desired) but while He walked the earth He also was omnipresent as the eternal God (He told Nicodemous while He stood before him that He was in heaven – ***John 3:13***, “And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, *even* the Son of man **which is in heaven**”, and that **after His ascension** He was, and still is, upon heaven's throne with the Father, so **He has occupied heaven's throne, after His ascension, for almost 2,000 years already:**

- ***John 1:1-3***, “IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”
- ***John 17:4-5***, “4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, **O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.**”
- ***Isaiah 9:6-7***, “6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”
- ***Luke 1:32-33***, “the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 **And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.**”
- Some would object on the basis that the 1,000 years must be understood literally and that ***1 Corinthians 15*** backs this up: “25



For he must reign, **till** he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, **then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**” **Firstly**, to say that Christ reigns **till** His enemies are put under His feet, does not necessarily mean that He does not **continue** to reign **after** that – such an idea is mere conjecture, it is not required by the words that are written. **Secondly**, the fact that the Son is said to be subject to the Father, does not necessarily mean that He ceases His reign – in the three Persons of the Godhead, the Scriptures always show the Son and the Spirit as being in subjection to the Father. This is part of the eternal order, but notwithstanding this, all three Persons are equally divine, and equal in power, and in every other respect. In fact, **on the very basis of this equally and unity of the Godhead, it cannot be said that the Son ever ceases to reign with the Father!** And, as we have just seen, other Scriptures make it clear that it is so.

If we consider the rest of the *Revelation* in the light of what we have discovered so far about properly reading and understanding it, we will find these same themes repeated over and over throughout the visions of this prophecy, and the risen and reigning, glorious Christ, with His glorified Church singing His praises: on earth while we suffer tribulation; in heaven after we depart; and after the resurrection for ever, in the new heavens and new earth. *The Revelation* is nothing but the gospel of Christ, Christ and His Church wedded to Him for ever, revealed to John in the most glorious and stupendous visions. Let us receive it as it was given to us, with the blessing promised to everyone who reads and receives it for what it is – Christ crucified, risen, ascended into heaven, at the Father's right hand, reigning, where He was before, with the glory He had with the Father before the world was. Amen.

*Continued, The Lord's Day, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2018*

**WHAT IS THE MEANING OF SATAN'S BEING BOUND FOR 1,000 YEARS?**

**Revelation 20:1-3**, “AND I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and **a great chain in his hand**. 2 And he laid hold on **the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years**, 3 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.”

*As we must always do, let us turn to the Scriptures to answer this question, not to popular books and theories and wild imaginations, even if those things seem to prevail all around us. What saith the Scriptures?*

1. **JESUS BOUND SATAN AT CALVARY – THE SCRIPTURES PLAINLY TELL US THIS!**

*To begin on this point, to keep us in perspective, just a bit of plain, common-sense understanding of Scripture:*

**JUDE MAKES A SIMILAR STATEMENT ABOUT THE BINDING OF ALL EVIL SPIRITS (FALLEN ANGELS): Jude 6**, “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting **chains** under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”

**LIKEWISE PETER**, in **2 Peter 2:4**, “4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast *them* down to hell, and delivered *them* into **chains** of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment...”

**WE KNOW THAT DEVILS CANNOT BE BOUND BY CHAINS: Mark 5:1-4**, “AND they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. 2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that **he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces**: neither could any *man* tame him.”

**CLEARLY PETER AND JUDE, AS THEY REFER TO THE FALLEN ANGELS WHO FOLLOWED SATAN IN HIS REBELLION, REFER TO NOT SO MUCH A PLACE (“HELL”) BUT A STATE, INTO WHICH THESE FALLEN ANGELS WERE CAST.** NB: The Greek word translated “hell” in **2 Peter 2:4**, is not found

elsewhere, and is not the same word which is usually translated “hell” in the New Testament. Some commentators make much of this and claim it is an entirely different place, but this is based on nothing but a wild assumption. The word is “**tartaroo**,” which Strong translates as “to incarcerate in eternal torment,” and he says it comes from “**Tartaros**, (the deepest abyss of Hades).” The other two NT words translated “hell” are “**Gehenna**,” (“The valley of the son of Hinnom”), and “**Hades**,” meaning “unseen,” or “the place (state) of departed souls.” And Strong tells us Hades can be translated “grave” as well as “hell.” **From all this it is likely that all three words that our English translators rendered “hell” mean practically the same thing, and can represent either a place or a state of judgment, depending on the context.** The spirits are bound or 'incarcerated', in the sense that they are **condemned** already and strictly **controlled**, though not shut up in a literal prison from which they are unable to move about, so that they can still actively pursue evil in the earth at the same time, according to the Lord's purposes. Likewise Satan, their leader, is still active in all sorts of evil throughout the world, but **Christ has bound him, and made him incapable of deceiving the elect of God in every nation, whom God has chosen and is drawing to Himself; SATAN IS NOT BOUND FROM CAUSING PHYSICAL WARS AMONG THE NATIONS, BUT HE IS BOUND FROM PREVENTING THE SALVATION OF THE ELECT FROM ALL NATIONS – this is a spiritual matter, and Christ's kingdom is a spiritual kingdom (it is “not of this world”),** therefore because of a prevailing literalist mindset, whereby the average reader of *The Revelation* today has been taught to ignore the plain instruction in the book itself, (to ignore the fact that it is **symbolic**, and that its lessons are **spiritual**), you get these fantastic ideas about wars and nations, playing on the minds of most people, instead of the spiritual truth intended by these prophecies.

**ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, SATAN IS BOUND! CHRIST HAS ALREADY BOUND HIM:** Jesus was falsely accused by the Jews of casting out devils by the power of Satan – here is part of His answer: *Matthew 12:28-29*, “But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. 29 Or else **how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.**” Jesus was saying to them that He does not work *for* Satan, nor does He work *by* Satan's power, but that He has

literally overthrown Satan, He has “bound” him, and is spoiling his house or kingdom!

### **HOW DID JESUS ACCOMPLISH THIS?**

**FIRSTLY, BY HIS SUPREME AUTHORITY AS GOD ALMIGHTY, THE SON OF GOD!** This is shown in Jesus’ temptation (*Matthew 4*) – He just told Satan where to go!

**SECONDLY, HE ACHIEVED THAT VICTORY ALSO ON OUR BEHALF AT CALVARY,** by substituting Himself to be punished by God for *our* sins, and imputing His own righteousness to us, thereby declaring us to be without guilt and without sin, so that Satan no longer has any legal claim against God's elect children – our redemption is a legal and spiritual reality! **HEAR THE NOTE OF TRIUMPH IN JESUS' WORDS AS HE LOOKS FORWARD TO CALVARY: *John 12:31-32*, “31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. 32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all *men* unto me. 33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.”**

**THIS “DRAWING” OF “ALL MEN” TO JESUS IS NOT ABOUT SAVING EVERY SOUL, BUT ABOUT OPENING UP THE WAY OF SALVATION TO MEN OF ALL NATIONS!** AND THAT IS THE VERY MEANING OF THIS BINDING OF SATAN IN **REVELATION 20**, that he no longer deceives the nations – that he cannot prevent the salvation of **men of all nations**, that he cannot prevent their beating of “their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” (*Isaiah 2:4*)! **People say, “Oh but that won't happen till the millennium!” And I say to them, “Get with it brethren! Get a proper spiritual understanding of the Word of God! The false teachers approach the Word of God with a carnal mind, not spiritually. So, forget the false teachers and their lies, and get an understanding of what the millennium is. It is happening now! The Church is enjoying this millennium with Christ already, because it is a spiritual thing, not carnal; it is about the kingdom of heaven, not the kingdoms of this world!”**

**SIMILARLY, IN KEEPING WITH THIS SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE BINDING OF SATAN, WE SEE IN REVELATION 12: 7-13, THAT THE DEVIL AND HIS ANGELS WERE CAST DOWN TO THE EARTH, NOT LITERALLY TO HELL, ALTHOUGH THAT IS THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION (THE LAKE OF FIRE).** “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought

against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 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.** 10 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. 11 **And they overcame him** by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. 12 **Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.** 13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child.*” *Again, false teachers, carnally, ignore some Scriptures in order to establish their own interpretations of other Scriptures, whereas the spiritual person looks at all Scriptures and accepts them all, knowing that one Word of God does not contradict another, and seeks to understand them all properly, and in context.*

***THE BINDING OF SATAN WAS FULLY ACCOMPLISHED AT CALVARY, AND THIS BINDING OF SATAN HAS BEEN ENFORCED WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THE CHURCH HAS BOLDLY STOOD ITS GROUND AND PREACHED CHRIST CRUCIFIED, AND WHERE THE CHURCH HAS STOOD FIRM IN TIMES OF PERSECUTION: “11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.” i.e. they knew their redemption was complete, and they were spiritually minded, not clinging to this world, but looking forward to a better one.***

See how even in *Revelation 12*, the departed saints in heaven are given a special mention as to their blessings, as they reign with Christ, and are free from Satan's persecutions. And while the whole world is naturally opposed to Christ and warring against Christ, Christ, at Calvary, when He shouted, “It is finished!”, He sounded the eternal decree concerning His elect children of all nations, which is in fact, the prophetic fulfilment of the divine decree prophesied by Moses to Pharaoh, “**Let my people go, that they may worship me!**” (*Exodus 5 etc.*) So, out of a world,

warring against Christ, God brings forth a people from all nations, subdued by His love, His eternal decree, His atoning sacrifice, **laying down their weapons of war against Him** (lies, blasphemies, murders etc.), who “learn war no more,” are reconciled to God, and worship Him for ever! And, just as this is the binding of Satan a thousand years, it is also the reigning of the saints with Christ 1,000 years. Can you see how the two go together? **THIS IS THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE MILLENNIUM – the millennium is not a natural or worldly phenomenon, but spiritual (in other words, it is the kingdom of God! The rule of God shared with His people).** *To illustrate this reality of “learning war no more”, take the people of Ireland: After centuries of war and hatred against the English, they are still so obsessed with this hatred that, many of them continue in a spirit of revenge, to justify cold blooded murder. They are blinded by the hatred in their hearts, but if they come to Christ, that will go, they will be changed, and they will not continue these bitter grudges – as Christians, born of God’s Spirit, they will “learn war no more”! And the same is true of e.g. converted Australian Aborigines – they don’t hate white men, as some do, because of something that happened 200 years ago, they rather thank God that He brought the gospel to them by those white men, despite the many wrongs and hypocrisies that were in the historic mix. Here is an interesting observation of sinful, unregenerate man – he will hold onto hatred and bitter grudges, and at the same time expect all others to be sinless and perfect, although he isn’t perfect himself. But when he is saved by the grace of God, he will “learn war no more”, just as the Scripture says.*

**So, Jesus bound Satan at Calvary.** I am reminded of correspondence I’ve had with an old acquaintance, John Wilson, who has fought like a lion for the ancient right to trial by jury, a right we've had in the British law system for centuries, but which is continually denied by wicked judges and lawyers in our courts, as they victimise ordinary people and refuse them justice. I replied to John at one time with a word of encouragement from the Scriptures, and in part, I said this: *They think they deceive us, but they deceive themselves far more, as Jesus rules over them even now and the saints who are already departed rule with Him in a kingdom which is "not of this world" and which "shall have no end": Isaiah 9:6* For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the

government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. **Revelation 2:24** But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden. 25 But that which ye have already hold fast till I come. 26 And **he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:** 27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. **Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. 21 To him that overcometh will **I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.**” ***THIS WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOHN WAS REALLY THE DOCTRINE OF THE MILLENNIUM! THIS IS THE BINDING OF SATAN AND THE REIGNING OF CHRIST AND HIS SAINTS. SATAN IS ALREADY BOUND, AS JESUS SAID, “IT IS FINISHED!” THIS IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD!*** You simply cannot improve on this, but men try to do so every day! But if you look for something better than the kingdom of God, you've missed the point. **JOHN WILSON** has been different from most so-called ‘freedom-fighters’, in that he has not been ashamed to declare the sovereign name of Jesus Christ. There are many who fight for what is right, but they fight in their own strength, and they run the risk of ending in utter despair if things don’t turn out right for them. Many are doing so today – they advocate all sorts of psychological helps, ‘**MEN’S SHEDS**’ and so on, to help stem the tide of the epidemic of men’s suicide– this is all so futile because **firstly**, it leaves Christ out of the picture, and **secondly**, it is only the pursuit of the very same thing that started the suicidal problem, a wilful, “I can do anything” kind of attitude!; likewise ‘**WOMEN’S RIGHTS**’, where they fight for the right to kill their own babies. **THE INVICTUS GAMES IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE.** Like all do-gooder programmes, it will do much good, but instead of looking to Christ our Creator and Saviour for help, it brazenly holds up it’s own counterfeit “I AM” sign, in defiance of Christ Who is the true “I AM”,

and claims I will not be conquered – this is not a good work according to Scripture, it is a blasphemy! ***BUT IF WE FIGHT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS WE CANNOT LOSE, AND WE CANNOT LOSE HOPE, BECAUSE WE KNOW HE IS ON THE THRONE OF HEAVEN, HE HAS BOUND SATAN, AND HE HAS GIVEN HIS PEOPLE AN EXALTED POSITION, WITH HIMSELF, AT GOD’S RIGHT HAND!*** This is the millennium! This is reigning with Christ, and it is not literally 1,000 years, but for all time, until Christ returns and restores all things and destroys all His enemies! This is cause for great rejoicing among the saints.

**IT IS SAD HOW FALSE DOCTRINE TROUBLES THE SAINTS:** they know from the Scriptures that they are saved and enjoy many privileges in Christ, but their false teachers tell them that Satan is not bound yet and that they are not reigning with Christ yet, so confusion is the result. This is why sound doctrine is so important – false doctrine is destructive, it robs the Church of assurance and joy! And the errors of false doctrine are compounded further, when defeated saints turn to the world, for entertainment, for psychology and counselling, for answers to their lack of joy, when all this is caused by false doctrine, and the destruction of their faith in Christ alone and in Scripture alone.

## 2. **SATAN IS BOUND FOR 1,000 YEARS**

***THIS IS THE SAME AS THE TIME OF THE REIGN OF THE SAINTS*** – in other words, Satan was bound by Christ's redeeming work at Calvary, and the effect of that binding lasts for the whole time in which Christ is gathering His elect from the earth.

***CHRIST GAVE HIS POWER OVER DEVILS TO HIS DISCIPLES:***

**THE SEVENTY EVANGELISTS** He sent out. Notice His comments when the seventy returned: ***Luke 10:17-19***, “And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, **even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.** 18 And he said unto them, **I BEHELD SATAN AS LIGHTNING FALL FROM HEAVEN.** 19 Behold, **I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy:** and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

**WAS THIS GIFT AND PROMISE, CHRIST GAVE, TO DO WITH PHYSICAL MATTERS, OR SPIRITUAL?** Well, it is true, that as God's children and His servants on earth, we are physically invincible until our work on earth is completed (we do have protection against physical harm), but these



“serpents” and “scorpions”, were not literally animals Jesus spoke of. Clearly, they are the spiritual forces of darkness – He goes on to say, “over all the power of the enemy.”

**SIMILARLY IN THE GREAT COMMISSION: *Mark 16:15-20***, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”

**And, if we look at the broader perspective of this binding of Satan, and of the Great Commission given to the first disciples, we see that,**

**ALL BELIEVERS HAVE POWER TO RESIST THE DEVIL: *James 4:7***, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

***HOW CAN YOU DO THIS? BECAUSE CHRIST HAS BOUND HIM FOR YOU!***  
**And that binding of Satan is for a figurative 1,000 years, meaning till the end of time.** But there is a particular purpose mentioned in this binding of Satan 1,000 years:

3. ***SATAN WAS BOUND TO PREVENT THE NATIONS' BEING DECEIVED***

***Revelation 20:2-3***, “2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 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.”

The Greek word translated “nations” is “ethnos”, which means **tribes, peoples, nations, Gentiles, or heathen.** The particular meaning it has is “nations *other than Israel*,” and the common rendering of this throughout the Bible has been “Gentiles” or “heathen.” And the spiritual meaning really comes down to this – those who are not the people of God.

**UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, WHICH IS THE CULMINATION AND FRUITION OF ALL GOD’S PURPOSES WITH MANKIND, THE PEOPLE OF GOD ARE THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, NOT THE NATION OF ISRAEL.** And let us remember again the ground-work we did in our study, which shows plainly that *The Revelation is a symbolic book and a spiritual book*, and then we will realize that **the battle is also a spiritual one**, but that doesn't mean that the battle doesn't also involve physical persecution and even the slaughter of Christians, which has been happening all over the world during the Christian era, even while the Church has been enjoying its triumph in Christ through the preaching of the gospel to all nations. **But the focus of Scripture is always on the kingdom of God, not the kingdoms of men!**

**REMEMBER, THE KINGDOM OF GOD, MANY TIMES IN SCRIPTURE, IS ALSO CALLED “THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!”** (That is a very fruitful study to do some time). Let us remember that, until Christ came and died for His people – died for His elect from every nation, until His shed blood broke the legal condemnation and bondage over our souls, and secured our redemption, and until by the Great Commission He sent His Church forth in His name to preach deliverance to the captives, (with, virtually, the decree of God, saying, “Let my people go from all nations!),” *until Calvary*, the people of God were predominantly of one nation only, Israel, and the rest of the nations, by and large, were in heathen darkness, deceived by the Devil to do his will, and were also part of the Devil’s infernal army which waged war against Christ. Remember the Devil is the “god of this world” (*2 Corinthians 4:4*). **We might well say he is the god of the nations, or the god of the heathen, as opposed to Him Who is the “God of Israel,” the true God.**

SO, CAN YOU SEE THAT SATAN IS BOUND, AND THAT HE CANNOT PREVENT THE SUBDUING TO CHRIST OF HIS ELECT FROM ALL NATIONS? Unless we have, as Jesus said, “eyes to see and ears to hear,” unless we see the spiritual nature of the Word of God and the kingdom of God, we can never accept the spiritual meaning of these prophecies! **EVEN THE AVERAGE CHRISTIAN HAS LITTLE IDEA JUST WHAT A GLORIOUS VICTORY CHRIST HAS WON, and is continuing to win with His Church, over the nations and over the forces of darkness in this world, which is being played out in reality every day.** We should not be looking for Christ to so change the world as to make it something other than it is.

The world will always be an ungodly and wicked enemy of Christ, until the day He destroys it completely. **CHANGING THE WORLD IS NOT WHAT OUR VICTORY CONSISTS IN. In spite of the world, Christ is building His Church, and the gates of hell cannot and “shall not prevail against it”!** Christ is having His way over all the nations even now! His kingdom is not of this world! His kingdom is far better and far greater, and you and I who believe on His glorious name, belong to that infinitely superior kingdom, that infinitely superior world, which this world knows nothing of. **ACCORDING TO DANIEL'S PROPHECY, CHRIST'S KINGDOM IS A GREAT STONE, CUT OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN WITHOUT HANDS (DANIEL 2:34-45), AND IS CRUSHING ALL THE KINGDOMS OF MEN, and is filling the earth (not in a literal, visible sense, but in the sense that earthly kingdoms are being plundered spiritually as Christ builds His Church), and there is nothing earth can do about it, and nothing Satan and all his hordes can do about it! AND ULTIMATELY, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE FILLED WITH THE KINGDOM OF GOD, NOT AS A RESULT OF CONVERTING ALL SINNERS, OR SUBDUING THEIR WILLS, BUT BECAUSE IN THE END, ALL SINNERS WILL BE CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE, AND ONLY THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL SHINE FORTH IN THE ETERNAL KINGDOM OF GOD.** Jesus meant what He said when He declared His kingdom was like a grain of mustard seed which would become a great tree to shelter the birds, and like leaven which would eventually leaven the whole batch of dough – it is already a reality that Christ has been preached to all the world and the whole world has tasted of the benefits of the kingdom of heaven – the gates of hell, have not prevailed against Christ and His Church! This is the binding of Satan 1,000 years.

### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SATAN IS LOOSED FOR A LITTLE SEASON?**

#### **1. SATAN IS LOOSED ONLY FOR A “LITTLE SEASON”.**

**Revelation 20:7-9**, “7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 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. 9 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.” **WE ARE NOT TOLD HOW LONG THIS IS TO BE.** But it is to be at a time so near the end, that the number of God's elect have been fully gathered from the nations,

because what follows is the destruction of those ungodly hordes who come against the beloved city. **THEREFORE, WHEN THE CHURCH'S DARKEST HOUR IS UPON HER, THE GREAT DAWN OF CHRIST'S COMING IN JUDGMENT IS ABOUT TO BREAK!** Just as Jesus said to the Jews, when He spoke of the looming judgment of Jerusalem, (*Luke 21*), He gave them this glorious hope to hold onto: “28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” And so it will be, just before He returns in judgment at the end of this world!

But this is also the hope we can hold every day, that in the most trying and threatening circumstances, the Good Shepherd is always watching over His little flock, and will not suffer His sheep to be devoured by wolves, but will come upon those wolves in terrible judgment as they threaten His flock!

We have seen this happen ourselves, when our enemies were most brazen in their opposition to the Word of God against those who made a stand upon it, before long those enemies had disappeared. The Lord took them away. This is cause for great rejoicing in the fear of God. Satan will have his day, or his moment in time, but the eternal Day of Christ shall go on for ever!

## 2. **SATAN DECEIVES THE NATIONS AGAIN IN A WORLD WIDE ASSAULT AGAINST THE SAINTS.**

People continually wonder where God's programme is up to, and try to interpret who “Gog and Magog” are supposed to be, but all this is irrelevant to the main point of the prophecy – that all this business about the binding of Satan for the figurative 1,000 years of the Christian era, if we understand it spiritually, shows that **when he is loosed for a short time to deceive the nations, it basically means that a resurgence of Paganism or Heathenism will prevail in this world towards the end of time. In other words, the time just before Christ returns to judge the world will be marked by such a resurgence of Paganism and all evil, that the very existence of the Christian Church will appear to be threatened.** It *could* mean world-wide persecution of Christians on an increasing scale; it *could* be that international laws are passed so that Christianity becomes illegal in all nations, or it could mean things will go on very much as they are now. **LET US BE AWARE OF THE FRENZIED,**

**ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORK OF ALL NATIONS**, including our own, including many nations which have been historically Christian, to enact the legalisation of all sorts of evil: abortion, euthanasia, sodomy, witchcraft, same sex marriage, abortion, and there are even those who are pushing for the legalisation of paedophilia! Have you noticed that all over the earth, the so-called “indigenous people” are being promoted, and even rebellion by indigenous people against their governments everywhere is being promoted? This is why the Jesuits are promoting 'Aboriginal land rights!' This is why we have Pagan Aboriginal ceremonies in our Christian parliament house! This is why our successive governments for some decades now have all promoted a policy of “multiculturalism” at the expense of Christianity! And it is the same all over the earth! **MULTICULTURALISM IS REALLY MULTI-PAGANISM, OR “MULTI-HEATHENISM!” IT IS MULTI-FALSE GODS!** It is the deliberate and systematic multiplying of false gods and their worship in every nation on earth! And already, the 'anti-discrimination laws' basically outlaw Christianity in principle, so that we are only a step away from an open campaign against the very existence of Christianity and Christians on earth! Such is the brazen face of evil in high places today, that we even have High Court judges who advocate these sorts of evils. When evil is so brazen, and governments all over the globe are in cahoots in these things, pushing for a one world government, then it is very possible that the “little season” when Satan is loosed to deceive the nations, to revive Paganism, and to bring them all against the Church, could well be upon us today! I don't try to predict how near the Lord's return may be, and most of what you read about ‘signs of the times’ is based on false doctrine, but there are definite signs of a world-wide assault against Christianity today, and this really hasn't happened since Noah's flood.

### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? - CHRIST RETURNS TO JUDGE THE WORLD**

Well, the text tells us, “fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” The Lord Jesus promised His Church from the beginning, when He sent the first disciples out to preach Him to all the world, “Lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world” (**Matthew 28:20**), and so He is. We have nothing to fear. What more could we wish for, than to walk with the King of kings and Lord of lords, daily in His service.

So, I say it again, as we continue to study *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, that *The Revelation* is all about Christ, and His Church, and His gospel, through

time and eternity, and in fact it could all be summed up in that glorious “Great Commission” the Lord gave to His Church just before He left to ascend to His heavenly throne: *Matthew 28:18-20*, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” There is no greater joy, no greater privilege, no greater purpose, than for us to live every day as witnesses to the Lord from heaven, and to His every Word, and to love His every Word better than life itself! What things of earth could possibly compare with this? And when Christ comes, we will see all things clearly, understand His higher purposes, be filled with joy unspeakable, knowing that in all our suffering, all our errors, and even our sins, the sovereign Lord had a pure and perfect purpose, and all wrongs will be righted, all wickedness and injustice avenged, all God's enemies banished for ever, and all that He has prepared for His children fully realized. By God's grace, let us be consumed with this glorious theme of Christ and His kingdom, especially in **THE DOCTRINE OF THE MILLENNIUM, WHICH IS SIMPLY, CHRIST AND HIS BELOVED BRIDE, THE CHURCH, REIGNING WITH HIM, IN BOTH TIME AND ETERNITY.** Amen.