

# **THE REVELATION AND END TIMES**

## **PART 12 – CONCLUSION (CHAPTERS 19-22)**

**The Lord's Day, 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019**

**Readings: Revelation 19-22**

### **THE KINGDOM OF GOD – A PRESENT AND UNFOLDING REALITY**

*As we come to Chapter 19, the focus seems to shift, from majoring on the ongoing judgment of God being poured out on the earth, to focus more specifically on Christ's return.*

*THESE FINAL CHAPTERS, 19 TO 22, EMPHASISE CHRIST'S ULTIMATE TRIUMPH, including graphic visions of His bodily return, the raising of the dead, the judgment of the quick and the dead, the final judgment of Satan, the “beast” and the “false prophet,” and those whose names are not in the “Lamb's book of life,” as they are all cast into the “lake of fire”, and the glories of the eternal kingdom of God and Christ, after the total cleansing of all creation, of all the wicked, and all that is offensive to God.*

**ALTHOUGH THE FOCUS SHIFTS, AND THE EMPHASIS CHANGES, AS WE DRAW TOWARDS THE END OF THIS GREAT, FINAL PROPHECY, AT THE SAME TIME, THE SAME BASIC PATTERN CONTINUES IN THE VARIOUS VISIONS – that is to say that each of the visions still covers the whole of the time period between Christ's first and second advents and beyond. It is not a chronological account of events unfolding, but rather, wave after wave of the same glorious **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, culminating with the removal of all His enemies and the peace and purity of His unending kingdom – e.g. WHEN WE READ ABOUT THE “NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH,” WHILE IT IS THE FINAL PICTURE OF GOD'S KINGDOM ESTABLISHED ETERNALLY, THIS ALSO BEGINS WITH THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST! **NB: Revelation 21**, “AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **BEHOLD, THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN, AND HE WILL DWELL WITH THEM, AND THEY SHALL BE HIS PEOPLE, AND GOD HIMSELF SHALL BE WITH THEM, AND BE THEIR GOD.** 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, **Behold, I make all things new. (Remember how Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5**, “17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” **SEE HOW THE KINGDOM OF GOD BEGINS WITH THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST AND THE BELIEVER'S FAITH IN HIM!**) And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his**

God, and he shall be my son. 8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” **Think about this – Is this merely a picture of the future and final state of the kingdom of God (as many would claim), or does the vision, as all other visions in The Revelation, present the basic doctrinal truths about the kingdom of God? e.g.** “the holy city ... coming down from God out of heaven” – **DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE COMPLETED CHURCH, AT THE END OF THIS WORLD, WILL ACTUALLY DESCEND FROM HEAVEN TO EARTH? REMEMBER, THE REVELATION WAS GIVEN IN SYMBOLIC FORM.** Therefore, this figure is more likely to be a statement of the fact that the origin of the Church is heavenly, that, as Eve was taken out of Adam's body, so the Church had its origin in Christ Who came from heaven to earth to redeem His bride, and her origin is in the eternal decree of God, Who wrote the names of the elect in the Lamb's book of life, before the world was! **IF WE CONTINUE TO BE DUPED BY THE FUTURISTIC SCHOOL OF THOUGHT, AND TRY TO MAKE ALL THE BITS OF THE REVELATION FIT INTO SOME SORT OF CHRONOLOGICAL TIMELINE, WE RUN INTO INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF THE TEXT.** Let us rather see the vision as it is presented, a picture of the New Jerusalem, the Church of God, and then it is easy to understand, because obviously, a picture of the Church will tell us the truth about the Church.

**PETER, SPEAKING OF THE PRESENT EVIL WORLD, AND THE LOOMING JUDGMENT OF GOD AT THE COMING OF CHRIST, SAYS TO THE CHURCH,** “13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth**, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (**2 Peter 3**), clearly looking forward to the final state of the fulness of God's kingdom, something beyond this present state, but although John's vision speaks of the same thing, it is evident that he speaks of it as a present reality as well.

**A WORD OF WARNING ABOUT THE MANY HERETICAL RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS:** If you dabble around on the internet, among the churches, books, video ministries, you will find yourself adrift in a veritable sea of heresy, and in all probability, you will not even begin to realize just how many of the Devil's lies and false doctrines you are entangled in! There is every variation, every shade of heresy out there, and it is all far more popular than God's Truth, because human nature being what it is, people are always drawn after somebody who seems to have something special or something new! And, where end times prophecy is concerned, you will even find different heretical groups making points against other heretical groups – e.g. many would say (especially in the USA) that if you don't believe in the 'rapture' you are guilty of a gross heresy, and so they take a 'straw man', a false doctrine, which somebody is against, and they set up this sideshow of debate, and both sides of the debate are wrong. But there are people out there who (rightly) reject the futuristic rapture doctrine, who are also heretics themselves, on other points. **AMONG THE CHARISMATICS AND PENTECOSTALS, OVER RECENT DECADES, A VERY DECEPTIVE MOVEMENT HAS EMERGED** – I quote from a website, just very

briefly ([letusreason.org](http://letusreason.org)), and I don't recommend this website, I merely quote this information for what it is worth: **THE LATTER RAIN MOVEMENT** of the late 40's had given birth to numerous other sub-teachings. The Manifest Sons of God was divided into two major sects. The Walk, and the Body of Christ. The Walk came out of the Latter Rain Movement under the "apostleship" of John Robert Stevens, who like Paul Cain and others was a William Branham disciple. His was the Church of the Living Word in Redondo Beach, California.

**THE CHARISMATIC DOMINIONISM EXPRESSED IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE CURRENT SIGNS AND WONDERS MOVEMENT IS LARGELY AN EXTENSION OF THE MANIFEST SONS OF GOD DOCTRINE. MANIFEST SONS TEACHINGS ARE KINGDOM DOMINIONIST:** they believe in restoration of the Church, restoration of the 5 fold ministry with the offices of apostles and prophets, having authority through its leaders by strong shepherding and discipleship. A perfection of the saints, immortalization, and the attainment of being Christ as we become just like Christ in nature and ability. The Manifest Sons of God doctrine has an eschatology of **DOMINIONISM** through the perfecting of the saints under the leadership guidance of the latter-day prophets and apostles.

**MARK THESE HERESIES, UNDER NAMES LIKE, DOMINIONISM, MANIFEST SONS OF GOD, KINGDOM NOW, SIGNS AND WONDERS, APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, SPIRITUAL WARFARE, SHEPHERDING, AND LATTER RAIN – AND NOTICE THAT THESE HERESIES ALL FOCUS ON CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES AND MIRACULOUS GIFTS AND WORKS, NOT ON CHRIST ALONE!** They do have an uncanny resemblance to what we teach, they have a 'grain of truth' about them (like the standard Protestant, Amillennial understanding of prophesy, which says that the kingdom of God is in force now). But the vast difference is that they teach that the Church is to bring in the kingdom of God on this earth – this is very much like a new form of Popery, with an earthly emphasis on the kingdom, but they teach that it all comes about by a miraculous movement in the Church, on this earth. How vastly different is this from the truth, that the saints in heaven are reigning now with Christ! Theirs is a humanistic Dominionism. It does not give glory to Christ as the now reigning King of kings! **IN SHORT, IT IS A FALSE GOSPEL, BASED ON FALSE INTERPRETATION OF PROPHECY. YOU CAN PICK IT BY ITS EMPHASIS ON MIRACLES AND BLESSINGS NOW, BY AN UNDUE EMPHASIS ON 'POSITIVITY', AND ON SUPER-MINISTRIES WITH MIRACULOUS SIGNS AND WONDERS. It is the Devil's modern answer to Popery. These days, Popery only appeals to the died-in-the-wool traditionalists, but this stuff seems to rake in just about everybody into its evil web – in fact most conservative evangelical churches, and even many reformed churches are already into this stuff! This is one of the reasons I have been very concerned about some of our Reformed brethren. Catchy, contemporary music, topical preaching on human issues, and a departure from the King James Bible in favour of contemporary versions, are the main tell-tale signs of such apostacy. I'm not into predictions, but it won't surprise me if in a few years' time, some of those supposedly Reformed**

churches, will be more like the Uniting Church or the Assemblies of God. **Can you see how that, unless you are properly schooled in the Word of God and sound doctrine, you will likely fall for all these things?** There was a good example of this just the other day, a video clip which somebody sent me to comment on. I could not fault a single thing the preacher said – but the great point of discernment was in what he did NOT say! Beware of positive preachers who will not criticise anything! Beware of those who do not openly oppose Popery and call it what it is! It is easy to say, “God wants you to repent of your involvement with Yoga or meditation”, but to say, “The Pope is the Antichrist, and always has been, and the Church of Rome is ‘The Mother of Harlots, have nothing to do with the Church of Rome!’” – that will make you unpopular. You will never get an invitation to travel the world and be a popular conference speaker if you preach like that! And that is what these positive, popular preachers will not do – they must be popular at any cost! They measure their own success by worldly acclaim. But we must defy all that is of this world and obey the Scriptures, “prove all things”, i.e. judge every word, every aspect of these ministries, not just a word here and there.

**So, let us turn to the Word of God. Let us see what God says about His kingdom, and then we’ll be equipped to deal with what the Devil’s ministers are saying:**

**ALL THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT, WE ARE PRESENTED WITH THE FACT THAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS ALREADY PRESENT, YET NOT COMPLETELY FULFILLED:**

- **GOD’S DWELLING WITH HIS PEOPLE BEGAN WITH JESUS – EMMANUEL:** When the angel assured Joseph that the child Mary was carrying was the Son of God, he declared, **(Matthew 1:23)**, “...they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, **God with us**” - we have just been reading in *The Revelation* how, in the context of the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, “**Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men**, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God,” **BUT MATTHEW HAS ALREADY TOLD US THAT JESUS OF NAZARETH IS “GOD WITH US”!** It all began at the first advent of Jesus, and also as Jesus ascended into heaven again and the Holy Ghost was sent in His place, God’s people began to see that, “the tabernacle of God is with men,” and God began in a very special way to dwell with His people from Pentecost on, in the power of the Holy Ghost. God had always dwelt with His people, and in the time of Moses, under the Old Covenant, He especially dwelt “between the cherubims” and in the “ark of the covenant,” in a visible place in the temple, in the midst of Israel, and although this presence of God was very real and powerful, it was all typical and figurative of the time to come when, in Christ, God would manifest Himself in a different way in the midst of His people, in a spiritual way which touched all believers all over the world, by gifts of the Holy Ghost, by enabling all God’s people to prophesy, (which was fulfilled at Pentecost **(Acts 2)**, and this has its ongoing expression in the Christian Church, not in the temple at Jerusalem);

- **JESUS CONFIRMED THIS BY PREACHING THE KINGDOM OF GOD AS A PRESENT REALITY IN HIS DAY:** From the very beginning of Jesus ministry, Mark gives us this account: **(Mark 1:14-15)**, “14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 And **saying, THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND: repent ye, and believe the gospel;**”

*When Jesus was challenged by the Jews after He had cast out devils, He replied, **(Matthew 12:28)**, “28 But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, **THEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COME UNTO YOU.**” In all this, Jesus was declaring the kingdom of God to be a present reality, even in that day – NB: the kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly kingdom, BUT UNLIKE THE KINGDOM PREACHED BY THE MODERN DOMINIONISTS AND RESTORATIONISTS, IT’S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN, NOT ON EARTH! SO, NOTE WELL THAT, ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE, THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS A PRESENT REALITY, BUT IT IS BASED IN HEAVEN – NOT ON EARTH!*

*When the Jews maintained their own self-righteousness before Jesus, He rebuked them in these words, **(Matthew 21:31-32)**, “Verily I say unto you, That **THE PUBLICANS AND THE HARLOTS GO INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD BEFORE YOU.** 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him,” here Jesus was saying that people had already been entering the kingdom of God;*

***THIS COMING DOWN OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD OUT OF HEAVEN AT CHRIST’S FIRST ADVENT, IS EVEN MORE CLEARLY TAUGHT IN MATTHEW 11,*** “11 Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 **AND FROM THE DAYS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST UNTIL NOW THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN SUFFERETH VIOLENCE, AND THE VIOLENT TAKE IT BY FORCE.** 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.” *The prophet Malachi had predicted, **(Malachi 4)**, “5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD,” and HERE IN MATTHEW, JESUS IS SHOWING US THAT THE OLD COVENANT AND ITS PROPHETS ENDED WITH JOHN THE BAPTIST, THEN CAME THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND IT WAS A KINGDOM WHICH MEN WERE ENTERING INTO IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST. THE “GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD” MALACHI REFERRED TO FOLLOWING THE COMING OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, WAS PRIMARILY THE FALL OF JERUSALEM, WHICH ENDED ALL REMNANTS OF THE OLD COVENANT SYSTEM, and marked the completion of the implementation of the New Covenant (the kingdom of God) in Christ.*

***IN ANOTHER REBUKE TO THE UNBELIEVING NATION OF JEWS, JESUS TOLD A PARABLE OF A MAN WHO PLANTED A VINEYARD, DEPICTING A REJECTION***

**OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD BY ISRAEL, AND THIS WAS HIS VERDICT: (Matthew 21:43),** “43 Therefore say I unto you, **THE KINGDOM OF GOD SHALL BE TAKEN FROM YOU, AND GIVEN TO A NATION BRINGING FORTH THE FRUITS THEREOF.** 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will **grind him to powder.**” So the kingdom of God was taken from Israel and given to people of all nations who received Christ, and unbelieving Jerusalem was ultimately “ground to powder”. Hence, the kingdom of God can be present in a nation, even on this earth, and then it can be taken away; it can be so in nations today, where Christ and His Church are honoured within the nation! **NOTICE ALSO, THE MENTION OF THE STONE WHICH WILL GRIND MEN TO POWDER – Jesus didn’t just pluck words out of the air in His preaching – He preached the Scriptures! THIS IS THE STONE OF DANIEL’S VISION, OF THE KINGDOM THAT GOD WOULD SET UP IN THE DAYS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE AND ITS KINGS. WHAT DO WE THINK IS HAPPENING TO GREAT BRITAIN, AND OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS, AND TO AUSTRALIA TODAY?** The kingdom of God is a present reality to all those who receive the King and give due honour to Him, and this applies to nations as well as individuals and churches, but ironically these same nations are showing that they follow the beast, that they are part of that great political and religious machine which the “Stone” was to fall upon. **LOOK AROUND AND YOU QUICKLY SEE EVIDENCE OF CHURCHES AND NATIONS WHICH ARE EMPTY SHELLS, BECAUSE, THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM – THEY NO LONGER HONOUR THE LORD JESUS, THEY NO LONGER TEACH HIS TRUTH:** e.g. **SCRIPTURE UNION**, although not a ‘church,’ is a popular Christian organisation, but the glory has long departed (if there ever was any): their worldly efforts to gain support for school chaplaincy are evidence: begging for money and support; they are not willing to rely on the Lord for their help; likewise their discipline of one of their chaplains who spoke the truth about homosexuality, so that to maintain worldly respectability, they have trodden the gospel of Christ underfoot and ruined a faithful chaplain in the process! **SCRIPTURE UNION IS A FARCE, AN EMPTY SHELL**, which all Christians should have been aware of long before now, because they have long employed worldly methods of funding; they long have employed the world’s psychology instead of the Word of God in their preaching; they long have been ecumenical in their approach, (they have no problem working with the Church of Rome); and they long have abandoned the true Scriptures in favour of modern perversions produced in co-operation with the Roman Antichrist! **LIKE THE APOSTATE BIBLE SOCIETIES, THEY WOULD MAKE THE EXCUSE THAT, BY MAKING THESE COMPROMISES, THEY CAN REACH MORE PEOPLE**, but as they do so, they undermine their own spirituality and their own credibility, and literally make themselves hypocrites. **LIKE EVE, THEY THINK THEY KNOW BETTER THAN GOD**, they think they can improve on God’s divine Words, but like so many Christian churches and organisations, “Ichabod” is written over their door, “the glory has departed,” **THE KINGDOM**

*OF GOD HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM THEM!* This is all happening in the present world, not in a distant future time and dispensation, which many attribute to the kingdom of God. Why is it that people cannot see the hand of God in all this? Because they no longer believe the Words of God in the Scriptures – they prefer the words of clever men and popular preachers. **THE SAME APOSTACY AND DEPARTURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS TRUE IN AUSTRALIA AS A NATION** – our Constitution is established squarely on Christ, “humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God”, the oath of office for Members of Parliament are taken on the Bible, but we have forsaken our God (nationally speaking), and the kingdom is being ripped away from us – Hence, **MERELY PRAYING FOR RAIN WILL NOT SOLVE THE EARTH-SHATTERING PROBLEMS WE FACE – GOD REQUIRES REPENTANCE FOR ALL THE DELIBERATE VIOLATIONS OF HIS WORD, AND HE REQUIRES REPENTANCE OF THE NATION, AS WELL AS THE CHURCH!** Don't let our leaders off the hook! Don't say, “They are unbelievers, it doesn't matter if they disobey God's Word”. It does matter! They are required to obey! And we, the Church of God, are required to challenge them to obey, and to warn them of the awful consequences of their disobedience, and their responsibility for the people they lead astray!

**LIKewise AGAIN IN MARK'S GOSPEL**, we are told how Jesus said at one time **(9:1)**, “Verily I say unto you, That **THERE BE SOME OF THEM THAT STAND HERE, WHICH SHALL NOT TASTE OF DEATH, TILL THEY HAVE SEEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD COME WITH POWER.**” Whether this was a reference to the transfiguration or to Pentecost, it was certainly in the days while the apostles were still living, that the kingdom of God came with power! It was not a yet-future time which we still await! All the apostles are long dead, but it happened in their life time, just as Jesus said.

**WHEN JESUS PREACHED AND WARNED THE PEOPLE OF THE JUDGMENT OF GOD, ON ONE OCCASION HE TAUGHT, (Mark 9)**, “43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee **to enter into life maimed**, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee **to enter halt into life**, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: **IT IS BETTER FOR THEE TO ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD WITH ONE EYE, THAN HAVING TWO EYES TO BE CAST INTO HELL FIRE:** 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.”

**CLEARLY, “THE KINGDOM OF GOD” HAS ALWAYS BEEN PREACHED AS A PRESENT REALITY, WHICH WE MUST ENTER INTO NOW, IF WE WOULD ESCAPE THE WRATH OF GOD. In this text, the terms “enter into life” and “enter into the kingdom of God” are used interchangeably. If you are born of the Spirit of God, you are in the kingdom of God. And yet there is another sense in which we must yet enter that same kingdom: When Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra,**

**Iconium, and Antioch, they went** “22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (**Acts 14**). **In this case, Paul seems to be referring to entering heaven itself.** Similarly, Jesus said, “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (**John 16:33**).

**I HAVE MENTIONED MANY TIMES THAT IT WAS THE JESUITS, NAMELY RIBERA IN 1590 AD, WHO INVENTED THE MODERN FUTURIST PERSPECTIVE ON BIBLE PROPHECY.** The Jesuits are **carnal men**, wicked men who have sold their souls to the Roman Antichrist and his **earthly kingdom, and they preach a future kingdom of Christ on earth, not the present reality of Christ's heavenly kingdom now!** (Although ironically, they also teach that the kingdom of God is really the kingdom of Popery on earth, and that the popes are Christ on earth!) But the Jesuits have proven themselves over the centuries, that they are in their element when they are lying and deceiving, assassinating kings and presidents, and undermining and overthrowing governments around the world. Even the republican movement, the Aboriginal land rights movement, and the push for recognition of the Aboriginals as a virtual nation within a nation, are all part of the Jesuit agenda today, an agenda to 'divide and conquer' all nations, and bring the whole earth under the absolute rule of Popery (not as a Christian Church but as a dictatorial, worldly power). So, as the Roman Church is a “whore”, a worldly unfaithful Church, “committing fornication with the kings of the earth”, she is not a spiritual Church but **A CARNAL CHURCH, AND THE SCARLET CLOTHING IS NO ACCIDENT – RED HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR CARNALITY, IT SHOULD BE NO SURPRISE THAT HER ELITE ARMY, THE JESUITS, ARE CARNAL MEN, AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS OF PROPHECY ARE CARNAL AS WELL –** they speak of a naturalistic programme, which involves wars and political struggles on earth, and culminates in a final outcome where Christ finally reigns; they cannot comprehend a risen and reigning Christ now, a kingdom of God, based in heaven now, which, Jesus said, is “not of this world” (**John 18:36**), which Christ Himself said had already come to Israel 2,000 years ago (**Matthew 12:28**), a kingdom of which “there shall be no end” (**Luke 1:33**)! **TAKE A STEP BACK FROM THE CARNAL REASONING OF THE JESUITS, AND REDISCOVER THE SPIRITUAL MEANING OF BIBLE PROPHECY! IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST AND HIS ETERNAL KINGDOM. It is about Christ's kingdom now on earth, and now more fully in heaven as each saint departs to be with Christ, and ultimately, at the end of this world, revealed in all its fulness and glory – the “grain of mustard seed” which grew and became a “great tree,” the “leaven” which leavened the whole lump of bread, (Matthew 13:31-33), and the “stone cut out of the mountain without hands,” that “smote the image (of all the great kingdoms of men and) “became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2).**

*I also want to thank Chris for asking the question just this week, about a certain ministry, which turned out to be highly providential for our study today – you can*



know about Ribera's Futurist error, but then you can be sucked in by the modern Dominionist heresies as well. Let us hear the Word of God, and let us give Him glory for His Truth and His Spirit, by which he keeps us from all evil and all errors.

SO I SAY AGAIN, THAT THE REVELATION IS A SERIES OF VISIONS LIKE WAVES ROLLING IN, EACH ONE TELLING THE SAME OLD GOSPEL STORY, EACH ONE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IN DETAIL AND EMPHASIS, AND EACH ONE BUILDING TOWARDS A GLORIOUS FINALE; OR LIKE A DIAMOND WHICH IS BEING PREPARED FACET BY FACET, AND EACH FACET REFLECTS MORE LIGHT UNTIL THE FINAL FACET IS CUT, AND THE FULL GLORY OF THE PRICELESS GEM IS REVEALED: **Ch 19** emphasises Christ's triumphant return and final victory over His enemies; **Ch 20** emphasises the final judgment of the quick and the dead; **Ch 21** emphasises the "bride" of Jesus, or the "New Jerusalem", i.e. the Church in her glorious final state as she is presented to Christ complete and perfect; and **Ch 22** continues this theme and draws to a close with a warning and a reminder that the Lord is coming quickly, and the time is at hand. **The whole thing speaks of the present kingdom of God, which, by the way, is also called "the kingdom of heaven", and gives glimpses of its future state and ultimate glory. May the Church again be filled with the glory of this vision! Amen.**

## **Continued The Lord's Day, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

**AS WE COME TO THE FINAL PART OF THIS STUDY, BY GOD'S GRACE I HOPE TO FINISH WITH A FEW HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CLOSING CHAPTERS, WHICH AGAIN WILL BEAR OUT THE SYMBOLIC AND SPIRITUAL MEANING OF THE WHOLE BOOK OF REVELATION:**

- 1. CH 19: AS THE SAINTS IN HEAVEN CONTINUE TO PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENTS UPON THE "WHORE" (i.e. the Roman Catholic Church), A GREAT CRESCENDO OF PRAISE ENDS WITH THIS: "6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. 9 And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.**"**

**NOTE THAT THE WHITE LINEN, SYMBOLIC OF "RIGHTEOUSNESS" IS NOT, AS THE POPE'S MODERN BIBLE VERSIONS SAY, "the righteous acts of the saints" (NKJV), but the "righteousness of saints." (DON'T EVER TELL ME THERE IS ANYTHING GOOD ABOUT THE NEW KING JAMES BIBLE – IT IS ONE OF POPERYS MOST DECEITFUL TOOLS; IT HAS ONE PURPOSE ONLY: TO TAKE AWAY FROM ITS UNWARY VICTIMS, THEIR FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD!) NB this example of the Popish treachery of the NKJV, because THE SAINTS DO NOT GET TO HEAVEN BY THEIR OWN "RIGHTEOUS ACTS", BUT BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST ALONE, IMPUTED TO US! We are clothed in His righteousness, not our own, for sinners have no righteousness of their own – that is why we need a Saviour! We are saved "by grace, through faith, and that not of ourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast!" (Ephesians 2:8-9) – BUT Popery disagrees with this Scripture, and so does the NKJV! Let us hear the Word of God and not the Pope's lies; let us read the Word of God and not the Pope's fake bibles! Those who are presented to the Lamb, as His bride, are NOT clothed in their own "righteous acts", but in CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, imputed to them, as a free gift of grace. All glory is due to Christ! None is due to man! See 1 Corinthians 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according**

**as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. HE IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND WE MUST GLORY IN HIM ONLY!**

**AND THEN A VISION OF THE KING OF KINGS:** “11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And **out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron:** and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

**THIS IS A PICTURE OF CHRIST’S COMING IN JUDGMENT, although it contains elements of his atoning work at Calvary and His present heavenly reign, because even Calvary was part of God’s vengeance against evil, as He set His own people free, and of course, Christ’s resurrection and ascension to heaven’s throne is the great triumph of all ages.**

**THIS SCRIPTURE ALSO COMPARES CLOSELY WITH ISAIAH 53, where God’s ‘Suffering Servant’ is depicted, not as a victim, but as a mighty victor over all evil.**

**THIS IS CHRIST THE KING, CHRIST THE JUDGE!** After this, the birds of heaven are invited to a feast of the flesh of men. This speaks of temporal punishments – just as the “day of the Lord” was spoken of by the prophets as the destruction of Jerusalem, so the final destruction of this world will be similar. There are no time frames given, but these things are already happening, as Christ reigns now over all creation and over all His enemies, as Paul put it in **1 CORINTHIANS 15**, 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 see from all this, that the correct view of the New Testament, of the Christian Era if you like, is that after the millennia of types and shadows and rituals, God has at last taken charge visibly, and has installed His Son (visibly, for all creation *the see*) as His Heir to the very throne of God, to rule and reign for ever – hence all that occurs in creation, droughts, floods, fires, famines, wars, are all the work of the King of kings and Lord of lords. **THINGS IN THIS WORLD ARE NOT GOING WRONG! THEY ARE GOING ACCORDING TO THE REIGN OF THE ALREADY GLORIFIED KING OF KINGS. AND THIS IS PREDOMINANTLY WHAT THE REVELATION IS ALL ABOUT – we see in John’s visions, wave after wave of this same rule of Christ depicted in so many ways – it is given to us that we might rejoice in Christ at all times, knowing that all things are in His hands! False**

doctrine and false prophecy have taken such a wide hold, that many Christians are feeling defeated, grasping at straws, grasping at humanistic help and relief wherever they can find it, but psychology, and positive attitudes, and all that is of this world fails them. What they need is to get a vision of what John saw – and here it is! Christ risen! Christ exalted! Christ reigning! As Peter put it, “God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2). **This is fundamental to the gospel! This is the gospel! If any man is not preaching this ruling and reigning Christ, he is not preaching the gospel Peter preached!**

**THE DO-GOODERS OF THIS WORLD WANT TO CONTROL EVERYTHING, BUT CHRIST IS ALREADY IN CONTROL:** They want to save everything that has natural life in it. They want to feed all the hungry, save all the poor and the sick, stop all wars, and save all the animals and trees. This, in itself, may seem like a good thing, but OVER AND ABOVE THIS, IF WE HAVE EYES TO SEE IT, IS THE EXALTED AND REIGNING LORD JESUS, SMITING THE NATIONS WITH HIS ROD OF IRON – NO WONDER MORTALS SEEM SO POWERLESS TO CHANGE WHAT IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE WORLD! THE TERRIBLE THINGS COMING UPON THE EARTH ARE THE WORK OF GOD AND HIS CHRIST – THEY ARE NOT SOMETHING WE NEED TO FIX! Sadly, most of the world has been sold a 'dummy' – they think Christ is some sort of gentle, long-haired hippy who doesn't eat meat! They had never read and believed the Scriptures! “20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

- 2. NEXT, WE COME TO CHAPTER 20, WHICH WE HAVE DONE A THOROUGH STUDY OF PREVIOUSLY. LET IT SUFFICE TO SAY THAT THIS DEALS WITH THE GENERAL RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT OF ALL FLESH.** The only escape from that awful judgment and the “lake of fire” which is the destination of all unbelievers, is for our names to be found written in the “book of life”. This chapter also reveals that the so-called ‘millennium’ is not a literal-1,000-year period, nor is it on earth, but it is clearly shown even in the immediate context, that it is symbolic, and it is in heaven. But we’ve studied this in depth before, so I won’t go further into this just now. **THIS SO-CALLED ‘MILLENNIUM’ IS THE REIGN OF CHRIST AND HIS DEPARTED SAINTS, IN HEAVEN AND FROM HEAVEN.** It is the realization of the “promised land”, the heavenly “Canaan”, after the saints have crossed the “Jordan” in death, and now enjoy pleasures for evermore at the Lord’s right hand, sharing in His present, glorious reign over the earth! **THE WORLD AND THE FALSE CHURCH HAVEN’T NOTICED IT YET, BUT JESUS IS ALREADY REIGNING OVER ALL CREATION – THE SCRIPTURES SAY SO! PETER SAID IT IN ACTS 2! PAUL SAID IT IN 1 CORINTHIANS 15! AND JOHN SAYS IT ALL THROUGH THE REVELATION!** The only thing that

Christians lack is faith in God's Word, because God's Word tells us we have all things that pertain unto life and godliness, and all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. Let us look up! Let us look unto Jesus, "the Author and finisher of our faith"!

**3. CH 21: I have already mentioned some aspects of this chapter, but LET US BRIEFLY NOTE, CONCERNING THE NEW JERUSALEM, which is the Church, "the bride, the Lamb's wife":**

- **SHE HAS THE GLORY OF GOD; her light is as the light of a precious stone (v11), as the Church has no glory of her own, she is like the moon reflecting the light of the sun, she reflects the glory of the Lord Jesus who is also called "the Sun of righteousness" Who is risen with healing in his wings (Malachi 4:2). This imagery of the church as the moon and the Lord as the sun, is not somebody's clever idea for a sermon illustration, it is the design of the Creator, and it is revealed all through the Scriptures – NB: THE SUN AND MOON WERE LITERALLY CREATED TO PICTURE CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, AND OF COURSE, THE PROPHETS UNDERSTOOD THIS AND SPOKE OF IT!**
- **HER WALL "HAD TWELVE GATES, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE TRIBES OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL" (v12). The Church is elsewhere called, "the Israel of God" (Galatians 6:16), and her members are called "Jews inwardly" (Romans 2) "28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." And these twelve gates signify that the entrance into the city of God is by becoming a true Israelite, i.e. a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **"AND THE WALL OF THE CITY HAD TWELVE FOUNDATIONS, AND IN THEM THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB" (v14). This signifies that, as Paul put it very plainly to the Gentile believers at Ephesus (EPHESIANS 2), "13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed**

together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

**THE CHURCH OF GOD IS NOT A PHYSICAL CITY OR TEMPLE MADE OF STONES – THESE ARE ALL FIGURES OF WHAT SHE IS. SHE IS A BODY OF PEOPLE INHABITED BY THE VERY SPIRIT OF GOD!** And note well, that any person, church, ministry, or mission, which is not founded on the very Scriptures laid down by Christ and His apostles, does not belong here – **THE ETERNAL CITY OF GOD IS FOUNDED ON CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES, NOTHING ELSE!** Recently I was chatting with a friend, and he talked about the importance of Christians’ agreeing on the main things, (e.g. that salvation is in Christ and nothing else), and that we should be able to be in unity, based on that. I said to him that the problem is that many agree (superficially) on this basis, but then they bring into the mix, some of the most grievous heresies, which actually undermine that very foundation, and contradict that very statement. (Let’s face it, there are many who talk a lot about Jesus but don’t really know Who and What He is!) He talked more about the importance of unity, and I said that that sort of unity seems like a great idea, but I don’t find it in Scripture! You see, this is the problem with many, many Christians – they come up with great ideas and opinions, but they forget to consult the Scriptures!!! The Scriptures do not make excuses for false doctrine and false gospels, and the **UNITY** the Scriptures talk of, is unity **IN** God’s Truth, **NOT** unity of truth and error together, **NOT** unity outside of God’s Truth. **YOU CANNOT CLAIM TO BE FOUNDED ON CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES, IF YOU DISAGREE WITH THEIR BASIC DOCTRINE – BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT MOST CHURCHES AND PROFESSING CHRISTIANS ARE DOING THESE DAYS!** If you want proof of what I say here, just take a look at the historic confessions of all the Protestant Churches (Church of England, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregationalist) – they all agree far more than you might think, but those churches generally don’t hold to their own historic doctrines these days. There is an enormous problem in the modern church – people are oblivious to the Truth; they seem incapable, or unwilling, to simply read the Scriptures and accept what they say (they can’t even agree on the plain facts of their own Church history). My friend asked what I’d been preaching on. I told him about our studies on *The Revelation and End Times* over the past year, and he talked about the different views people have on this, but I told him that **WE ARE NOT CALLED TO COMPARE THE OPINIONS OF MEN, BUT TO TEACH THE WORD OF GOD!**

**THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH IS CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES! WHAT PART OF “CHRIST AND THE APOSTLES” DO SO MANY PROFESSING CHRISTIANS NOT UNDERSTAND?** Do they not understand that a building must be built on a foundation? Do they forget what Jesus said about the man who built his house on the sand? **IT WOULD BE AN AWFUL SHOCK TO**

MANY CHRISTIANS, TO FIND THAT JESUS DID NOT COMMAND HIS APOSTLES TO GO FORTH AND COMPARE THE OPINIONS OF MEN – THAT THE BIBLE PLAINLY SAYS THAT HE COMMANDED THEM TO GO AND TEACH HIS TRUTH: “Go ye therefore, and TEACH all nations....” (**Matthew 28:19**)! How did (supposedly) the most evangelical and Bible-based believers get to the place where they have no capacity for sound reason and common sense? How did the Church founded on the Rock (Christ and His apostles – the Scriptures) get moved off-site to the shifting sand? Very easily – for many decades, they have been feeding on the Devil’s false doctrine and the Pope’s fake bibles!

- **THESE FOUNDATIONS, AND THE WALL ITSELF, ARE OF IMPERISHABLE MATERIALS:** garnished with the most beautiful and precious gemstones, all stones of high quality and hardness which endures (**v19-20**). **The Church shall endure for ever, and shall for ever shine, with the glory of Christ, her Head and Husband.** Paul taught the Corinthians (**1 Corinthians 5**), that Christ was the only foundation on which to build, and that ministers must build in “**gold, silver, precious stones**”, not, “**wood, hay, stubble**” which shall be burnt up at the judgment. Here, in this vision, John views the glorious end result of the kingdom of God, the Church of God in all her glory, represented in the same symbolic figures of gold, silver, and precious stones. We, God’s children, do not turn into stones, **WE DO NOT SUDDENLY BECOME A BUILDING! WE ARE THE BUILDING (FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING)!** just as the whole New Testament teaches. No city has ever been made of gemstones, but this vision indicates, in a figure, the priceless value and quality of the body of Christ, redeemed and made perfect, and fit for His heavenly, eternal kingdom. May God give us grace to appreciate something of the glory that awaits us in His heavenly kingdom, even as we continue in this vale of tears, as pilgrims in this barren land. Let us look up! Our redemption draweth nigh! All praise and glory to God, and to His reigning King of kings! Amen.

Continued the Lord's Day 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Today, we continue to look at the closing chapters of **Revelation**, firstly, on the city of God, the Church, in **Chapter 21**. We have seen already that this eternal city has: “the glory of God”; that she has “twelve gates” with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel in them; “twelve foundations” with the names of the twelve apostles in them; that she is made of imperishable material (precious stones); that she is not a physical or natural city or temple, but the vision is of the people of God in their glorified state, founded on Christ and the apostles, just as we read in **Ephesians 2:20**. In this, our final session, as we see the book draw to a close and a conclusion, we have this ultimatum, which might well be put in these words,

**CHOOSE THIS DAY WHOM YOU WILL SERVE – CHRIST OR ANTICHRIST?**

**Let us observe further:**

- **HER MEASUREMENTS, AS WELL AS HER FOUNDATIONS AND GATES, CONTAIN THE FIGURE 12 – GOD'S GOVERNMENT:** 12 gates, 12 foundations, height and breadth 12,000 furlongs square, the wall 144 cubits (12 x 12). Twelve speaks of God's government: The Church is God's building and habitation, and it is under His perfect rule of Law and government – as Isaiah said of Jesus, “the government shall be upon his shoulder”! (**Isaiah 9:6**). This is further evidence that the 144,000 Israelites in **Ch 7 & 14** are figures of the whole Church of God – we see here a mingling of Jew and Gentile believers in the final figures which represent the Church. There are some who speak of so-called ‘MESSIANIC JEWS’ – THERE IS NO SUCH THING! Any Jew, just like any Gentile, is either a Christian or not, he is either a believer in the Lord Jesus or an unbeliever, either a “sheep” or a “goat” – THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GOATISH KIND OF SHEEP OR A SHEEPISH KIND OF GOAT, the goats are on Jesus' left hand and the sheep on His right hand – end of story! In **14:1** we read that the 144,000 stood with the Lamb on Mount Zion “having his Father's name written in their foreheads.” In **ch 7** they were sealed with God's seal on their foreheads. **THE SEAL OF GOD UPON HIS PEOPLE IS THE HOLY GHOST – PAUL SAYS SO:** “after that ye believed ye were sealed with that HOLY SPIRIT of promise” (**Ephesians 1:13**); “we have the MIND OF CHRIST” (**1 Corinthians 2:15**); and with our right hand we do his works – “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (**John 14:12**), but I only mention this by way of contrast to the mark of the beast. INTERESTINGLY, THERE IS NO MENTION OF OUR RIGHT HAND – BUT I'LL COME BACK TO THIS LATER. **BY CONTRAST, THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE BEAST (THE ROMAN ANTICHRIST), HAVE HIS MIND AND DO HIS WORKS – i.e. they are sealed upon the right hand or the forehead with the symbolic number of the name of the Antichrist, the ‘Vicar of the Son of God’ – in Latin this equals 666 (Revelation 13). NOBODY WILL ENTER**



**THE ETERNAL CITY OF GOD, WHO DOES NOT RELY ON CHRIST ALONE. NOBODY WHO WORSHIPS THE ROMAN BEAST, BY RELYING ON THE VIRGIN MARY, OR THE PRIEST'S SIGN OF THE CROSS ON HIS FOREHEAD IN WATER BAPTISM, CAN HAVE ACCESS TO GOD AND HIS KINGDOM,** “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time” **(1 Timothy 2:5-6)** – every other way to God is a false way, the way of idolatry, the mindset and works of Antichrist, not of Christ! **ANTICHRIST'S FALSE METHOD OF SALVATION IS BY WORKS, NOT BY GRACE ALONE – THIS IS THE WATERSHED, THE LINE IN THE SAND:** you stand on one side or the other of that line in the sand; if you say you rely on grace plus works, then it is really works you rely on, not grace at all. **PAUL TAKES A MOMENT TO EXPLAIN TO THE ROMANS JUST HOW RIDICULOUS IT IS TO TRY TO MINGLE WORKS AND GRACE – ROMANS 11: 5** Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. **MAKE YOUR CHOICE: ARE YOU SAVED BY WORKS OR GRACE – BECAUSE ALL THAT IS NOT OF GRACE ALONE IS WORKS.** If you say salvation requires baptism, repentance, obedience to the commandments, or any other form of works, you are terribly mistaken – salvation is by grace through faith in Christ – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life”! Good works and obedience are absolutely essential, but they are not the means of salvation, only the results of it. **SO, YOU EITHER BELONG TO CHRIST AND HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE, OR TO ANTICHRIST AND HIS WORKS. WHOSE MARK IS ON YOUR HEAD – CHRIST'S OR ANTICHRIST'S?**

**SOME TAKE THE MENTION OF NOT BEING ALLOWED TO “BUY OR SELL” WITHOUT THE MARK OF THE BEAST, AS BEING LITERAL, BUT WE MUST REMEMBER THE WHOLE REVELATION IS SYMBOLIC AND SPIRITUAL –** the buying and selling, in this case, is not about day to day trading and commerce, but primarily about religious and political control. The Vatican does have a whole of life influence over the world, and there may well have been times when this situation was literally true, and may also be so in the future, but more importantly, it is spiritually true at all times for all peoples. Just as when Christ said that those who believed would “take up serpents” **(Mark 16:18)**, and the apostle Paul, when a viper fastened onto his hand, literally threw it into the fire and survived **(Acts 28)**, but the general spiritual meaning was, that those who follow Christ, would overthrow their spiritual enemies – **REMEMBER THAT SATAN HIMSELF IS CALLED THE SERPENT AND THE DRAGON. NOTE ALSO THE STORY OF ST GEORGE, THE DRAGON-SLAYER:** The flag of England, with its cross of St George, is a gospel standard, a testimony, that this George fought against the Roman Beast, the “Dragon” of Scripture! George was a Christian who fought against the spiritual beast of Popery! – **SO IT IS WITH THE MARK OF THE**

BEAST, IT HAS A SPIRITUAL MEANING, TO ADHERE TO POPY IN THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS. Let us not get hung up on literal aspects, which may or may not be literally true at one time or place; let us receive the comfort of this prophecy as it was intended, as spiritual truth for all generations. People are very gullible: they hold onto the literal, futuristic, Jesuit interpretation, and maintain, contrary to all Scripture, that there has to be a literal time (IN THE FUTURE!) when the Antichrist literally stops the whole world from buying and selling anything, if they do not take a literal mark on their foreheads! Just stop and think about this for a moment! This has been a theory for at least 400 years – has it happened yet? Has there been any indication it is really about to happen, literally? No! It is all speculation, all fantasy! Have you noticed that when people stick like glue to heresy, they do so against all sound reason? E.g. the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Seventh Day Adventists, they have never ceased to predict the date of the Lord's return, no matter how many times they got it wrong, but can you convince them they have the whole wrong approach, and that this is WHY they keep getting it wrong? No! Those who are obsessed with healings and signs and wonders, their whole lives are devoted to proving that God still does miracles. Some of them have been praying for healing for their diseases for decades, they have gone from meeting to meeting, and ministry to ministry, seeking the elusive miracle, but with all this focus on themselves and their own condition, do they ever stop to think about their doctrine? Can you ever get them to look at the Scriptures and see, that it is not God's will to heal every disease, in every person, at all times, and that today, 2,000 years after the true apostles have all died, there are no apostolic ministries who can heal all the sick! No. They are obsessed, they will not let go of their idol, their little drug of healings and miracles. Thousands, even millions, of professing believers, for one reason or another, according to one false doctrine or another, spend their whole lives chasing the elusive rainbow that never materialises, but can you get them to search the Scriptures to see if these things be so? Can you get them to see that Paul sought the Lord three times for healing, and the Lord refused to heal him saying, "May grace is sufficient for thee" (**2 Corinthians 12:9**)? **No. Those miracle-chasers have no place for Paul's doctrine of God's sovereignty.** LIKEWISE, THE LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF THE FUTURISTS AND DISPENSATIONALISTS, ON THE MARK OF THE BEAST, IS JUST AS RIDICULOUS, AND IT BECOMES JUST AS OBSESSIVE, AND LIKE ALL THINGS THAT COME FROM THE JESUITS (IN THIS CASE, RIBERA IN 1590), IT COMES FROM THE FATHER OF LIES, from the old serpent and dragon himself, because it is a 'smoke and mirrors act' to deceive, and to divert attention from who the Antichrist is – if the Jesuits can succeed in getting the Church to believe that the Antichrist has not yet appeared, and that the Pope couldn't possibly be the Antichrist, (when he has already been deceiving them for centuries!), then they have done their Counter-Reformation job very well, and so they have, for most of the Church believes

them today, and the Protestant Reformation, which exposed the Roman Antichrist centuries ago, is just a vague memory, and is irrelevant to this foolish and wilfully ignorant generation of so-called 'Evangelicals', which follows that very Antichrist without realizing who he is! I'm sorry if this sounds a bit rough, but the churches are being devoured by wolves, duped by the Devil's ministers, to the point where there is hardly anything left that resembles a Bible-believing Church, and those who would say they are Bible-believing, are ashamed to call themselves Protestants, and rightly so, because they do not hold the old-fashioned Protestant doctrines, nor do they expose the Roman Antichrist, as their Protestant forefathers did! I'm sorry, but it's far too late in the day to major on politeness and platitudes, when the great need is to major on God's Truth, even at the expense of offending those who oppose it. It is the Lord, our Maker and our Judge, Whom we should be afraid of offending, not man.

**IN REVELATION 13, WE ARE TOLD, THE WHOLE WORLD WORSHIPS THE BEAST:** 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. **People want literal interpretation – well take a look around! This is literally true today – THE WHOLE WORLD WORSHIPS THE ROMAN BEAST – and it can be observed, if only we have spiritual eyes to see it, if only we believe the Scriptures and not the false teachers:** Just about a week ago, I shared an article posted by a friend on Facebook. It was an article revealing from the Royal Commission in Australia, that the Catholic Church paid \$213,000,000 to 4,445 children sexually abused by priests in Australia. This was literally hush-money, paid by the "MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH", to its victims, to cover up the most heinous crimes imaginable. This is public knowledge, but it is not being widely reported. Why? Because all the major media are under the control of the Roman Antichrist – they all worship the beast! What is really interesting also, is that, the very next morning after I reposted this article, it was pulled from Facebook, with the comment, "This content isn't available right now"! Is Mark Zuckerberg a Roman Catholic? I don't know. I think he is a Jew, but it doesn't matter what he is, if his name is not in the "Book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (**Revelation 13:8**), then he is a worshipper of the beast – the Scriptures tell me so! **"AND ALL THAT DWELL UPON THE EARTH SHALL WORSHIP HIM, WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB SLAIN FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD" (Emphasis added).** Rupert Murdoch is one of the most powerful Roman Catholics in the world: he owns a massive share of the global media industry. But did you know he also owns Zondervan and Thomas Nelson Publishers, the main distributors of the New King James Bible, which also publish various editions of the KJV (with many deceptive notes added)? The whole world –

including most ‘Christians’ – is in the grip of the Roman Antichrist, eating out of his hand, and defending his heresies! Here is more proof of the doctrine, more proof of the reality and relevance of **The Revelation** to every-day life, in all the history of the Christian Church. Anybody who says the Antichrist hasn’t been revealed yet, is already deceived, by the very Antichrist! Here is proof that all (consciously or unconsciously) worship the Roman beast – they all side with it against Christ and His Church; they all reject the Word of God in order to follow the same beast. Here is proof that all who do not openly declare the truth of these Scriptures and these realities of every-day life, are evil, they are not good people, they are not true Christians, no matter how loudly they profess to be so. They are dishonest, because they refuse to hear the Word of God, which is plain and simple! **I AM SPEAKING PRIMARILY OF PREACHERS** – many ordinary believers are deceived in part by them, but when they hear the truth they can accept it. **BUT IT IS THE PREACHERS WHO ARE THE “WOLVES” – THEY ARE DETERMINED NOT TO HEAR THIS TRUTH: THEY DENY IT; THEY FIGHT AGAINST IT; THEY VEHEMENTLY DENOUNCE IT, AND THEY DOGGEDLY STICK TO THE POPE’S DOCTRINES AND THE POPE’S FAKE BIBLES!** These scandals of Popery are not done in a corner! They are not hidden from view. They are out in the open for all the world to know – “Choose this day whom you will serve!” – Will you serve and defend the paedophiles and those who protect them? Will you side with those who continually change the divine, preserved Words of Scripture? Or will you separate yourself from such wicked persons and serve Christ alone? **WILL YOU SERVE CHRIST OR ANTI-CHRIST? MAKE UP YOUR MIND!** You know, the most awful and ironic thing about the people of this world is that, many who say they have no religion, that they are not following anybody, they also are on the side of the Roman Antichrist, and cannot see it, they deny it, but in reality, they follow and defend the heinous crimes of the mother of harlots! This is an awful tragedy, but we ought to be rejoicing in it, because it proves the truth of God’s Word every day, and it proves that Christ is ruling and reigning, even over the Roman Antichrist and all the powers of this world!

- **AND THIS CITY HAS A VERY EXCLUSIVE CITIZENRY:** “And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life” **(21:27)**.

**4. CH 22: WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE AND WONDER ABOUT THE ETERNAL PARADISE,** what the new heaven and new earth will ultimately be like, because the detail of it simply isn’t revealed to us. Paul saw “paradise”, “the third heaven”, and “heard words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter” **(2 Corinthians 12)**. But the Lord has revealed to us the spiritual nature of His kingdom, and we must be content with that.

“AND he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

**Remember, Jesus said, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.** 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive” **(John 7)**. *And in many places in Scripture, the spiritual life of God, and the very Spirit of God, and even the Word of God, are spoken of in the figure of water. The woman at the well in Samaria, at first didn't grasp the spiritual meaning of Jesus' words, when He said, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water” (John 4:10). Here is the all-important question, “Have I asked the Lord Jesus for the living water? Do I have eternal life? Have I looked to Him, and to Him only, for eternal life?” We must, if we are to be citizens of this eternal city of God!*

**22:2**, “In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, *was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*”

**THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY THE NATIONS ARE HEALED, I.E. BY THE LORD JESUS** (*He is the tree of life*), and the preaching of the twelve apostles, this is “*manna from heaven,*” *only the Word of God can sustain you for all eternity. Hear the Word of God, and not the interpretations and fantasies of men! Christ is the great Subject of the Scriptures! The people look here and there, at astrology, psychology, natural therapies – some even think they can make the human body live for ever; I saw a TV documentary that showed an Australian farmer growing some special kind of grain crop, and he credits a psychic for guiding him to it; people attend business seminars, and self-improvement seminars; politicians look to this policy and that opinion poll, to improve their performance: they are all rubbish, rubbish, rubbish! Only Christ can sustain and help mankind, both in time and eternity, both in temporal and eternal matters!*

**LET US READ ON TO THE END, WITH THIS SPIRITUAL MINDSET. WE HAVE NO NEED OF INTERPRETATIONS AND SPECIAL INTERPRETERS. IF YOU BELIEVE IN THE LORD JESUS, JUST READ ON, AND DRINK IN THE LIVING WATERS OF HIS ETERNAL LIFE AND KINGDOM:** “3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: 4 And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: **and they shall reign for ever and ever. (AWAY WITH THIS NONSENSE HERESY, THAT THE SAINTS SHALL REIGN WITH CHRIST FOR ONLY 1,000 YEARS. WE SHALL REIGN WITH HIM FOR EVER! HERE IT IS IN BLACK AND WHITE!!)** 6 And he said unto me, These sayings *are* faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 8 And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had

heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. 9 Then saith he unto me, See *thou do it* not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God. 10 And he saith unto me, **Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. (THE TIME OF THE REVELATION IS NOT 2,000 YEARS FUTURE – IT IS “NOW”! IT WAS “NOW” EVEN WHEN JOHN WROTE IT! DO YOU HEAR THE WORD OF GOD?)** 11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star. 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: **19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. (WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE THE MODERN BIBLE TRANSLATORS, WHO HAVE TAKEN MUCH OUT OF THIS PROPHECY, INCLUDING THE VERY NAME OF THE LORD JESUS?)** 20 He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.”

**WELL THIS CONCLUDES OUR STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT OF THE REVELATION AND END TIMES PROPHECY.** *It has taken about a year to get through it, and yet I have tried to keep to the bones of it rather than draw it out too long. I suppose I could wish I had spent more time, gleaning more of the precious grains of godliness from it, taking time (you might say) to enjoy it more along the way, but I've been conscious of the great need of the Church today, to get a right understanding of prophecy, to underline and reiterate what the Word of God really teaches, in the face of all the confusion which exists to the contrary, and the plethora of false doctrines and false cults which pervert these very doctrines, and of course even more amazingly, how the very Antichrist himself, and his Counter-Reformation agents, the Jesuits, have practically succeeded in deceiving the whole visible Church, so I've kept to a steady plan, trying to expound the true meaning of the text in every case. May God use it for His glory and the help of His people!*

*I HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THROUGHOUT OUR STUDIES OF THE REVELATION, THAT WE*

*MUST NOT GET BOGGED DOWN IN TRYING TO INTERPRET THE DETAILS, but we must take a step back, and see these glorious visions for what they are, yet sometimes, the Lord does give us insight into some of the detail. Before concluding, I want to share one such example: **FOUR TIMES IN THE REVELATION, WE ARE TOLD ABOUT THE SERVANTS OF GOD HAVING THE “SEAL OF GOD IN THEIR FOREHEADS” (CH 7:3, 9:4, 14:1, 22:4), BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THE MARK OF THE BEAST, IT IS SAID TO BE ON THE BEAST’S FOLLOWERS’ “IN THEIR RIGHT HAND, OR IN THEIR FOREHEADS”**. This is interesting, because of all the world which follows the beast, there are basically two categories: those who are literally Roman Catholics, and they have been literally marked on the forehead by Popery’s water baptism; and then there are all others who do not belong to Christ, do not have salvation by grace alone through faith alone, but who are either just plain self-righteous, or subscribe to a false doctrine of salvation by works – this encompasses every form of false religion, including Popery! **EVERY SOUL ON EARTH, WHO IS NOT SAVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD, THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST ONLY, IS EITHER SELF-RIGHTEOUS, THINKING HE DOESN’T NEED GOD’S SALVATION BY GRACE, OR, HE IS RELYING ON SOME FORM OF WORKS TO BE SAVED (AND WORKS ARE SIGNIFIED IN THE REVELATION, BY THE MARK OF THE BEAST ON THE RIGHT HAND ONLY ONCE, WHEREAS FOUR TIMES, THE SAINTS ARE SPOKEN OF AS BEING MARKED IN THEIR FOREHEADS ONLY, BUT NOT ON THEIR RIGHT HAND!)**. So, while the Antichrist’s camp can be marked on either the forehead or the right hand, signifying Roman Catholicism or some other works gospel, the true saints are marked only on the forehead, reminding us that our works play no part in our salvation, but by God’s grace alone, we are given “the mind of Christ” and the “seal of the Spirit”!*

***LET US CONCLUDE BY REMEMBERING THE MOST CENTRAL AND FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS OF THE REVELATION:** THAT THE REVELATION IS NOT LITERAL AND POLITICAL, OR EVEN HISTORICAL, IT IS SYMBOLIC AND SPIRITUAL; IT IS NOT OF THIS WORLD BUT OF THE ETERNAL WORLD OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; IT IS THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST ILLUSTRATED; it is, as the opening verse declares, “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**”; and “the time is at hand.” And the question this book poses to us all is, (just as Joshua challenged his generation – **Joshua 24:15**, “Choose you this day whom ye will serve.....as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”), the question pertaining to the Christian era, i.e. “these last days” (**Hebrews 1**), **WILL YOU SERVE CHRIST OR ANTICHRIST?** Because Antichrist embraces all forms of Heathenism, every form of false religion and false doctrine, including no religion at all; he manages to attract all who hate Christ, all who pretend to love Him but don’t, all who detract from the very Words of Christ in any way, and his tell-tale signs are that he hates the doctrine of salvation by grace alone, and that, as the ring-leader of those who, like the Serpent in the beginning, twist and change the Scriptures, he is in breach of this final warning given to the world: If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

*May the Lord bless you always as you read it, may He give you great reverence for every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, may He do so for His own glory, for you and your house! Amen.*