

We've reached the most wondrous time in all of human history... *so far, that is...* and this time could be as little as 7 years from today; the Rapture could happen today, the 7-year Tribulation could begin today and the Lord Jesus Christ could return to Earth, with us, His Bride at His side, to set up His 1000-year Kingdom, on Earth at the conclusion of the 7-year Tribulation. That's where we are, now, in our study.

'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. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.' Rev 19:7

The 7-year Tribulation, the absolute worst time on Earth, ever! is just ending. In Heaven, we, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ are, finally, about to have our intimate relationship with the One Who was willing to come to Earth and be crucified for us and to pay the Bride price that we would be His, alone, forever... our relationship with Him, as His Bride, is about to be finalized, in some way '*consummated,*' '*for the marriage of the Lamb is come!*'

The Millennium, as we rule and reign with Him, will be our honeymoon.

From the foundation of the World, God the Father chose, and elected, each and every member of the Bride for His beloved Son. We are the Father's love gift to His faithful Son; we are His most prized and cherished possession from all time and eternity.

Now, from Heaven, we are ready to return to Earth, with Him, where He will destroy all His enemies and take full possession of His rightful inheritance, the Earth and all it contains; and we are, with Him, fellow-heirs of all that is:

'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.' Rev 19:11

We, the Saints of all ages, along with all His elect angels are His armies of Heaven.

'The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: ¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ' Rom 8:16

The horrendous World-wide, One-World system, Babylon, has been destroyed, that conglomeration of governmental, economic, financial, religious, entertainment and propaganda system of the Beast, which Satan had been building and perfecting over the past 6000 years, to fulfill his lifelong dream: in Isaiah: '*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!* ¹³ *For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.'* Isaiah 14:12

Lucifer's end is near, at least his 'end' for the next 1000 years.

Down below, all the armies of the Earth, led by the Antichrist are massed around Jerusalem and into the Valley of Armageddon.

'And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 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.' Rev. 19:19

And now... continuing...

Chapter 20:1: '*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.'

Last time, we said that one of the greatest deceptions of all time has been that Satan is, somehow, a great challenge, a worthy opponent, a worry or concern for God as if there has been a long, serious battle between good and evil, but look again at this verse: *'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...'*

Here is just one of God's angels; an angel so average that he isn't even named: *'an angel.'* He has in his hand a great and mighty chain: a chain so powerful and immense that it can even hold Satan fast for the next 1000 years. It's as if this angel has one hand tied behind his back and yet, what do we see... with only one hand, he is more than able to lay hold of Satan and then, with one hand holding onto Satan, he is able to wind that heavy chain around Satan so that he will be held fast for 1000 years in the Bottomless Pit. That is just one of God's angels! These 1000 years during which Satan is bound and imprisoned is called, the Millennium: the 1000-year Earthly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ during which we will rule and reign with Him.

Revelation doesn't give us much information about the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ; that is left to other Prophets of God, such as Isaiah: *'Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.'* Isaiah 4:3

'And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: (the Lord Jesus Christ)... But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. ⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. ⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.' Isaiah 11:1

In the Lord Jesus Christ's first coming to Earth, He came in fulfillment of Daniel chapter nine's 'The 70 Weeks of Daniel.' In His Triumphal Entry, the Sunday before His Crucifixion, He fulfilled that Prophecy to the very day! He came offering Himself as their Rightful King, to fulfill every Earthly promise to Israel, but He was rejected and crucified. From that time forward, God did not nullify His promises to Israel but Israel was 'put on the shelf,' as it were, and God did a new thing which none of the Prophets ever saw: He began to create His long-planned Bride for His Son, the True Church, each member of which had been chosen and elected, by God, from the foundation of the World: *'According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; ⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:'* Eph 1:4

Now the Lord Jesus Christ is returning to Earth in complete fulfillment of every prophetic promise to Israel; He will be their King as Israel becomes the 'Head of the Nations,' no longer 'the tail.' Satan will be bound and imprisoned in the Bottomless Pit while the Earth, once again, becomes a wonderful paradise under the righteous rule of the King of kings and Lord of lords; His very title tells us that there will be lesser kings and lords throughout the Earth; we, His Bride will comprise many, or all, of those kings and lords as we rule and reign with Him, under Him, first for 1000 years and then forever.

Here, also, we read that after the 1000 years of Jesus Christ's Earthly Kingdom, Satan will be set loose for a short time during which he will, once again, deceive the nations.

Verse 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.***'

We are not told who it is sitting upon these thrones. It may be the Elders whom John saw right at first as he was taken up into Heaven at the beginning of chapter 4: *'And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.'* Rev 4:4

These 24 Elders were sitting upon thrones and wearing crowns. They hold some great degree of authority, having been given thrones situated within the very Throne Room of God; we, as Jesus Christ's Bride, will also be given areas of authority as we rule and reign with Him for 1000 years and then forever. Most likely, the 24 Elders represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles as the True Church, the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We, the Bride, will be those to whom judgment is committed... it will be the beginning of our ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ... but not only the Bride... it also includes resurrected Old Testament Saints in glorified bodies and resurrected Tribulation Saints in glorified bodies... the Saints of all the ages will rule and reign with Christ for 1000 years.

'... 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.'

These Tribulation Saints will now go through God's fiery Judgment for Rewards. We will have passed through this same kind of judgment when we arrived in Heaven after the Rapture... All our works will pass through the refining, cleansing fire of God to determine each work's worth; if it was done for God's glory, we will receive an unimaginably wondrous eternal reward. If it was done for our own glory, we will suffer the terrible loss of an unimaginably wondrous eternal reward... absolutely every work we do, even as 'small' as giving a cup of water, will either gain or lose an eternal reward. Jesus said: *'And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.'* Matt 10:42 *'But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.'* 1 Cor 2:9

Now, for these Tribulation Saints, all their works will be examined through the fire of God:

*'I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. ¹⁰ **A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.'*** Dan 7:9

*'For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because **it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work** of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.'* 1 Cor 3:11

Verse 5: *'But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.** 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.'*

All the 'lost' dead will remain in Hades, the hot, miserable section of Sheol, the Place of the Dead, throughout the 1000 years of the Millennial Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. As regards all God's Elect who've died, the term, 'first resurrection,' refers to everyone since the time of Jesus Christ's resurrection; He was the 'first fruits' of God's harvest unto righteousness as He led the Old Testament Saints out of Paradise, the pleasant section of Sheol which is now empty, and took them all up to Heaven. Just as Jesus' coming to Earth has been a three-fold event... first, to Earth at His birth... second, in the clouds at the Rapture... and third, at Armageddon... so too, the 'first resurrection' has been a three-fold event... first, the Lord Jesus Christ after His Crucifixion along with the Old Testament Saints... second, the New Testament Saints at the Rapture... and third, the Tribulation Saints killed for their faith.

The 'second death' will occur after the second resurrection which will include all those who have died without

God's gift of eternal life; it will be the Final Judgment when they will be judged and sentenced to the Lake of Fire which will be their second death; they will experience the second death. Every saved person from all time, all God's Elect, none of them/us will ever experience the second death and, as a matter of fact, for some of us, even the first death will have no power because we will be taken alive, in the Rapture.

Verse 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.'*

God chose to not give us very much information about the 1000-year Earthly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. This Book, The Revelation, is mostly concerned with the 7-year Tribulation... the 70th Week of Daniel's Prophecy in Daniel 9 but it does give us some wonderful information regarding what will come after the Millennium.

But here, at the end of the Millennium, we see that Satan is released from his 1000-year imprisonment in the Bottomless Pit and he is allowed to once again deceive the nations and draw a huge number of people to surround Jerusalem in an attempt to overthrow the Rightful King of all Creation!

How can this be!! Why can this be!!

Everyone left alive at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, at Armageddon, after every enemy is killed with the Sword which proceeds from His Mouth... all who are left alive will be those who did not take the Mark of the Beast and did not worship the Antichrist or his image... they will have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; their Salvation will have been the result of the Gospel preaching of the 144,000 we saw in chapter 7. They will all enter the 1000-year Millennial Kingdom as mortal humans, never having died, or received, glorified eternal bodies. As they begin to procreate and multiply, refilling the Earth... many of their children, grandchildren, greatgrandchildren, etc. will never believe on and trust in what the Rightful King had accomplished on the Cross, 2-3000 years before.

The Lord Jesus Christ will be reigning as we, His Bride, reign with Him. He will judge outward disobedience but He will not judge the heart; mankind will be free to think and believe as they will and, so, many will again fulfill Jesus' Words: *'Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, ⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'* Matt 15:7

And remember: Satan will be bound during all this time and, we assume, as well, will demons and evil spirits be bound. Again, His Words to all His disciples: *'Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.'* Matt 18:18 Remember, everything Jesus was teaching and offering was in regard to His Earthly Kingdom for Israel; it was offered then, but rejected and it will again be offered to every person during the Millennium and many will reject.

Why would King Jesus allow such a thing which would finally metastasize into a full, worldwide rebellion?

When everything is accomplished and finished... it will have been proven that every human heart, from all time, is sinful and rebellious; it can only be tamed by God's Holy Spirit working within. Even with perfect government from the perfect King, every Earthly, mortal heart seeks sin and death.

No one will ever be able to say, 'It's not my fault... the devil made me do it; God is unfair! Remember, Satan cannot deceive them because he is bound in the bottomless pit during the millennium; they are deceived out of their own, wicked, rebellious, unregenerate hearts... just like today!

God will have been proven Righteous, Holy and Just in sending every person who rejected His Love and His free gift of Eternal Life, to the Lake of Fire, forever! And, He will have shown His unimaginable love, grace and mercy to all His chosen Elect of all time. Apart from His choice to reveal Himself, to call each one of us, to draw us to Himself and to then save and keep each one each one of us, eternally... we, too, would have been lost and sent to the Lake of Fire, which every one of us fully deserves. We will thank Him, we will praise Him and we will glorify His Holy Name forever!

Everything He did, from before time even began, He did it to create, to save and to glorify us, the Righteous and Holy Virgin Bride for His Son, His love-gift to the only One Worthy, the Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords, the Rightful King and Lord of all that is, the entire Universe, both seen and unseen.-

'Glory to God in the Highest and on Earth, peace, good will to those upon whom His favor rests.' Luke 2:14