



THE 1,000-YEAR REIGN WITH CHRIST

WHEN? WHERE? WHY?

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:6).

The Kingdom of Christ

One great KING over ALL THE WORLD! This great WORLD KINGDOM is soon to be established. All dictators, prime ministers, kings and presidents will lose their positions when the great KING takes over to rule ALL THE WORLD! Who will this great KING be?

The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ... (Revelation 11:15).

And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written. KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:16).

Yes, it is the LORD JESUS CHRIST who is soon coming to be KING over all the earth!

Christ Foretold His Kingship

The Jews expected Christ to come as a king at His first advent. The disciples expected Jesus to take over as king. They did not understand the purpose of His first advent. Jesus

taught them that He must die as a sacrifice for the sins of the world. But He also taught that He would come again and then He would truly be the great King.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory (Matthew 25:31).

The Throne of Christ

Before Jesus was born, God gave a wonderful revelation to His mother, Mary.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:31, 32).

This agrees with the prophecy found in the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 7:

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom...

From these verses we see that the throne of Christ will be DAVID'S THRONE. King David reigned at Jerusalem, here on this earth. The prophet Zechariah, foretelling of this time, says,

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth... (Zechariah 14:9).

A Special Time Period

When Christ comes again and takes over the rule of the earth, it will never again go back into the hands of corrupt men. His second coming ushers in a special time-period for a special work. Jesus spoke of this very special time as recorded in Matthew 19:28:

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus calls this special time the REGENERATION.

The apostle Peter when preaching to the Jews declared that Jesus would remain in heaven until a special time:

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began (Acts 3:21).

Thus we see that Peter calls this special period the TIMES OF RESTITUTION. And we note from the text that this special period is a time which begins at the second advent of Christ.

HOW LONG WILL IT BE?

WHERE WILL IT BE?

WHY WILL IT BE?

A One-Thousand Year Reign

When Jesus comes again, the dead in Christ will be resurrected.

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

This is the FIRST resurrection. Concerning those who come up at this time we read:

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

Notice the mention of a SPECIAL TIME PERIOD OF 1,000 YEARS! This tells us that those who come up in the first resurrection will be priests and will reign with Christ for that special time of 1,000 years.

Where Will It Be

Where will the redeemed, who come up in the first resurrection, reign with Christ? Will it be in heaven or on this earth? Where will Christ be at this time? We have already observed that when Christ comes, He sits on the "throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31). We also noted that the throne promised to Christ in prophecy is the throne of David and that this throne was on earth. We also found that after Christ returns, as described

in Zechariah 14, that He will be "KING OVER ALL THE EARTH."

Now we have just seen that the redeemed who come up in the first resurrection, which takes place when Christ comes, will then REIGN WITH HIM for 1,000 years. Since Christ is then to be reigning over all the EARTH on the throne of David, it follows that the redeemed who are reigning with him will also be ON THE EARTH! But we do not have to get this entirely from such a line of reasoning even though it is very clear. God has given us direct word about it. We turn to Revelation 5:9, and we find the return of Revelation of all ages singing the glory of Christ and saying:

...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

And so those who are made kings and priests at the first resurrection, when Jesus comes, will then reign with Him for 1,000 years ON THE EARTH!

Why Will It Be?

God has a great purpose in everything He does, and His ways are very great and carefully designed. Man can understand only what God has revealed of His great plan and purpose. We are not told all the reasons why there will be a special period of 1,000 years

immediately following the return of Christ to this earth, but we are given much very important information about it. In the 15th chapter of First Corinthians we find the second advent of Christ and the resurrection of the redeemed clearly described:

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 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. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet (I Corinthians 15:22-25).

From our study thus far we have learned that Christ will reign on the throne of David for 1,000 years. Now the question is, what will He accomplish during this time of his reign? The answer, as shown in the text we have just quoted, is: HE WILL PUT ALL ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET! He will reign UNTIL this is accomplished. Enemies will include sin, Satan, disobedient and wicked people, sickness and suffering, and finally death itself--"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death" (I Cor. 15:26). And when all the work has been accomplished which will be at the end of the 1,000 years, then Christ will turn over the finished work to God, the Father.

Note again First Corinthians 15:24. This

verse is written in reverse order. It tells us that Christ will reign until He has put down all enemies, rule, authority, and power, and then He delivers up the KINGDOM to God, which brings us to the end. The end of what? Evidently of the great special work of Christ which began when He was born the only begotten Son of God. This work includes His ministry, followed by the time of the work of the church in preaching the gospel for a witness to all nations, then Christ's second advent, and then the millennial age which brings the special work of Christ to its conclusion.

Does the kingdom of Christ actually come to an end? No, for we are told that His kingdom is everlasting and shall not pass away. It is only the first phase or the period of the special work of Christ which ends when Christ turns His kingdom over to God the Father.

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him... that God may be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:28)... when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the father... (verse 24).

A Beautiful and Glorious Time

Many Bible passages describe the conditions on earth during the millennium. Zechariah 14 describes the second advent of Jesus as being at a time when a great war is

being fought, which is evidently ARMAGEDDON, as it is called in Revelation 16:16. The great battle at Jerusalem is brought to a close as Jesus comes to earth and His feet stand on the Mount of Olives. The mountain divides and separates to make a great valley. The redeemed who have risen to meet Jesus in the air, as described in 1 Thessalonians 4:17, will descend with Jesus to earth—to this great valley. "... and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee" (Zechariah 14:5).

And it shall be a time of light: "... at evening time it shall be light" (verse 7). It will also be a time when "living waters" will flow (verse 8). To the woman at the well, as recorded in John 4, Jesus said He would give "living water" which would become to those who would receive it, "a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14).

After the coming of Jesus, when the resurrected saints shall have come to the great valley near Jerusalem and Jesus sits on the throne to rule, He will again give living waters.

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem... (Zechariah 14:8).

The redeemed of this age will then be immortal kings and priests reigning with Christ. Evidently the living waters of salvation and the message of everlasting life will be needed by other people who will be living upon the earth.

People Shall Learn the Way of God

In the second chapter of Isaiah, the establishment of the Kingdom of Christ over all the kingdoms of the world is described in symbolic language thus:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain [kingdom] of the Lord, to the house of his ways and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people ... (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Another beautiful description which reveals more of the special work of the millennium is in the 35th chapter of Isaiah. After describing the beauty of the restored earth, we find these words:

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstoppered. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters

break out, and streams in the desert (Verses 4-6).

Compare this with the living waters which the Lord shall send out from Jerusalem as mentioned in Zechariah 14:8.

And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the way-faring men, though fools, shall not err therein (Isaiah 35:8).

A Great Work To Be Done

A further insight into the great purpose and work of the 1,000 years is given to us in Isaiah 65, beginning with verse 18:

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people; and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them ... they shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble ... And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear ... They shall not hurt nor destroy

in all my holy mountain [kingdom] saith the Lord (Isaiah 65:18-25).

Read all of these verses in your own Bible and meditate upon what they may mean to mankind as the events take place during the glorious reign of Christ. Surely the millennium will be a wonderful time and there a truly great work shall be done.

Not a Second Chance

During the millennium, Christ completes the work of the plan of redemption, as described in the Bible verses above cited. There will evidently be people on the earth who need the "living water." There will be those who need to learn of the way of God. Children will grow up to a full life span. Those who are then still sinners will be accursed. There will be work for the redeemed of this age during that time for they will be "kings and priests." The word *priest* means mediator, and the priests of old were also teachers of the Word of God. But NONE of the work of the 1,000 year reign of Christ will be for people who hear, or have the opportunity to hear, the gospel of Christ NOW. Jesus said:

Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (lost) (Mark 16:15, 16).

To everyone who HEARS the gospel there is but one message: "Behold NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the

day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). No one will have a second chance to accept the living water of salvation. But in the millennium it will flow from the headquarters of the King at Jerusalem, and the saints, as kings and priests, will reign with Christ and accomplish the great work so that at the close of the 1,000 years, Christ will have put down all enemies and will turn the results of the completed work of salvation to God the Father.

The Closing Scene

For the closing scene of the millennium we again study the twentieth chapter of Revelation. At the beginning of this chapter we find that Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit. In other Scriptures the pit is used as a symbol for the grave. (See Job 17:16; Psalm 28:1.) Satan is put into the bottomless pit for the 1,000-year period of the reign of Christ.

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having a key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled. . . . (Revelation 20:1-3).

And when the thousand years are

expired. Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth... (Revelation 20:7, 8).

All of the wicked will be gathered together by Satan, and this great army shall attack Jerusalem and the great camp of the saints in the valley which has been made near Jerusalem:

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 (Revelation 20:9).

Thus this ungodly multitude is destroyed by the fire of God. They become ashes and are left with "neither root nor branch" (Malachi 4:1, 3). Following this is the judgment at the great white throne which culminates the work of the millennium.

The redeemed of the present age will already have been judged, for they will then have reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But there is evidently a need for a judgment for many others at this time. This judgment will be made from records compiled in the great record books of God. Even as it is with us, the names of those who are found to be God's true people will be found recorded in the Book of Life:

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. And death and hell were cast

into the lake of fire. This is the second death (Revelation 20:15, 14).

This will come to a close the events of the special time-period of one thousand years called the millennium.

The Eternal Kingdom of God

In 1 Corinthians 15:26 we read that the last enemy that is destroyed at the time of the reign of Christ is death. Then Christ will deliver up the Kingdom to God the Father. The Kingdom of Christ does not end; it simply enters a different phase. Even Christ is then subject to the Father *that God may be all in all* (1 Cor. 15:28). This ushers in the beautiful picture described in Revelation 21 and 22—the eternal Kingdom of God in the New Earth. This old earth will have been cleansed by fire in the same manner it was once cleansed by water, as we find described in 2 Peter 3:5-13.

The Holy City, the New Jerusalem, descends from heaven to this renewed earth:

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 (Revelation 21:3).

Read all of chapters 21 and 22 to get the full picture of the final home of the redeemed of all ages. Surely it will be wonderful and well worth all the sacrifices which we may make in this life. Surely it pays to serve

Jesus! Let us accept Him now and walk in His way that we may reign with Him in His KINGDOM ON EARTH during the millennium, and then enjoy the restored and renovated NEW EARTH for all eternity.

(Note: For a study refuting the teaching that the earth will be desolate and the saints be in heaven during the millennium, ask for the tract, "*The Destiny of the Earth*." This is another of the free tracts in this series which will be sent free upon request to the publishers.)

62-6-6-189

OTHER FREE BIBLE TRACTS

Order for personal study or giving to others

Title	Pieces each
The Doctrinal Beliefs of the Church of God (Seventh Day)	32
The Danger of Counterfeits and Importance of Bible Truth	12
Steps to Salvation	18
Has Time Been Lost?	16
Can Christians Particpate In Carnal Warfare?	12
Rebelling, Jews and Bible Prophecy	24
The Observance of this Lord's Supper	24
Which Day Is the Lord's Day?	32
Should the July 4 Sabbath Be Observed by Christians Today?	20
The Bible and Man's Food	35
What Christians Should Know about Easter	13
Would He Ever Forfeit?	34
The Change of the Sabbath	16
Where Did Christ Go After His Ascension?	24
God's Treatment of Jews and Gentiles	30
The Foundation of the World	32
If a Man Dies, Does He Still Live?	24
The End of the Law	6
Is the Bible True?	4
What Must I Do to Be Saved?	4
Seven Reasons Why the Seventh-Day Sabbath Should Be Observed	8
Two Appointments You Must Meet	4
The Ten Commandments	8
Bible Prophecy	6

Printed by
The Bible Advocate Press
1000 Broadway, New York, N. Y.