



The Millennial Kingdom Of **CHRIST**

“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.” (Revelation 20:4)



The Golden Rule Of Interpretation

Created By Dr. David L. Cooper

Trying to understand what the Bible is saying can be difficult. I have discovered a way which has helped many people. It is known as Dr Cooper's Golden Rule. It is the rule that we will follow in this series.

“When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic (i.e. self-evident or unquestionable) and fundamental truths indicate clearly otherwise.”

“A. Seek the plain, literal meaning of the scriptures.

“B. Seek the figurative meaning only when the facts demand such an interpretation.

“C. Study every statement of the scriptures in context.

“Then study the facts of the context in the light of related passages and axiomatic (*i.e. self-evident or unquestionable*) fundamental truths.

“No prophecy of scripture is of private (special) interpretation (2 Peter 1:20)

“The sum of thy word is truth (Psalm 119:160)

“1. *The Golden Rule of Interpretation* is one of the most important principles governing us in our interpretation of the Scriptures.

“2. If we follow this rule, we shall never go very far wrong; **but if we fail to follow it, we shall never go right.**”

C. H. Spurgeon agrees,

“I wish never to learn the art of tearing God's meaning out of His own Words. If there is anything clear and plain, the literal sense and meaning of (the) passage, (it's) a meaning not to be spirited or spiritualised away. (C. H. Spurgeon Sermon No. 582 on-line source)

(“Cooper's Golden Rule” source: <http://www.messianicassociation.org/ezine19-dc.hermeneutics.htm>)



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Introduction:

Will Christ Rule On The Earth?

This section of the Single Paged Papers is about the coming reign of Christ on the earth. Each article takes a single page and is complete in itself. However each "single page" progressively adds information and presents an ever growing picture. The approach used is to take the plain words of Scripture at their normal every day meaning, just as we would read any other Instruction Manual.

The Book of Revelation came directly from God ...
"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John ... Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter..." (Revelation 1:1, 19)

Jesus Himself received the Revelation from His Father and transmitted it to John through an angel. Thus, these are the very words of God and it is He who reveals that Christ will reign on the earth, and He specifies that it will be for 1000 years. (Revelation 20) That is what the plain words that God inspired clearly teach, as we will see.

The Bible was written for the common man. *"And the common people heard Him gladly."* (Mark 12:37) The Word of God is meant to be *"a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* (Psalm 119:105) The prophetic word of God is not a puzzle to be solved. It does not require a special education in theology to understand its meaning.

The Single Paged Papers seek to provide a glimpse of what the Bible has to say about this matter for your consideration. Many may be surprised to learn that the coming reign of Christ on earth is a major theme of almost all of the Old Testament prophets, just as they also predicted His first advent.

Here is a strange thing. The prophecies of His first advent are understood in a literal sense, as they should be. Here are some of them. We are told that

1. Jesus would come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2),
2. That He would be born of a virgin and be called Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14)
3. That He would be a descendant of David, (Jeremiah 23:5)
4. We are told of His suffering and death (Isaiah 53) and many other matters.

It is noteworthy that the first coming prophecies were fulfilled literally and that fact is recognised by most denominational groups and commentators.

However, when it comes to His second advent they change their mode of interpretation to a ***non-literal*** one. **There is no Biblical reason for this inconsistency.**

It is not unfair to say that some man made theories will totally fail if we use a literally understanding of the plain words that God inspired. Probably all man-made theories bring confusion, and *"God is not the author of confusion"* (1 Corinthians 14:33)

The Background Setting To This Great Event

There are a series of end-time events from the Bible. One is commonly called *"The Great Tribulation"* in which the world as we know it will be almost totally destroyed. The human population will be severely reduced and the ecology ruined.

Jesus, when speaking of this time, says
"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." (Matthew 24:21-22)

Any honest observation of history will show that these overwhelming and horrible events have never happened. They totally devastate the earth and, had they already happened, they would be well recorded by mankind; **and they are not!**

Everyone knows about the atomic attack on Hiroshima and these Tribulation events are infinitely worse, devastating the entire planet when billions die. If they had already happened we would know about them as they could not be hidden.

After the Great Tribulation the Lord Himself establishes His Kingdom on a renovated earth as the plain reading of the Scriptures that follow will reveal.

This is not an attempt to deceive anyone. Our prayer is that the Lord will open all of our hearts and minds to **His truth** that we may become aware of it, understand it and be set free from anything that hinders us. May that be true for all of us.

Does Jesus Rule The Earth Now?

Below are two statements from the Scriptures that tell of the glorification of Jesus our Saviour. We read in Ephesians 1: 20-22 that

*“(God) raised Jesus from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, **and every name that is named**, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **And God has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things ...”***

Further we note in Colossians that Jesus is to be unmatched (preeminent) in all things.

*“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things He might have the preeminence.**”* (Colossians 1:17-18)

1. Is the name of Jesus *“Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, **and every name that is named**,”*... in our world today?
2. Are all things now *“**under the feet**”* of Jesus and is He *“**head over all things?**”*
3. Is Jesus **preeminent** over all things now?
4. Is Jesus **preeminent** in our media for example?
5. Is our media obedient to the rule of God?
6. Is the name of Jesus held in the utmost of esteem in Australia?
7. Is His the name above all names?
8. Is Jesus the Head of our Australian government, or any other government?
9. Does Jesus have the **preeminence** in the life of our Parliament? Our places of learning? Our entertainment? Our society?

It is quite clear that Jesus is NOT preeminent in our world. If we said that *“Satan is the most likely candidate for those titles at the moment”* we would be nearer the truth. The world does not currently follow Jesus because *“the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not ...”* (2 Corinthians 4:4) We are taught that *“the prince of the power of the air, (is the) spirit that now works in the children of disobedience ...”* (Ephesians 2:2) That teaches that Satan dominates our world now.

Despite these observed facts in our world, we read that the name of Jesus is to be above *“**every name that is named ... And God has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things ...”***

These are powerful statements from the Word of God and we must come to some sort of conclusion about them. Do these descriptions highlighting the preeminence of Jesus mean any specific thing, or are they just nice words that sound really good?

These words mean exactly what they say and nothing less. It is also abundantly clear that they do not apply to Jesus in our society today, and never have.

PLEASE NOTE THIS: the promises we are looking at come from Ephesians chapter one **and they are qualified statements** because the Ephesian letter begins by stating that **these statements will apply to a particular time in history.** Here it is ...

Ephesians 1:10 says, *“**That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him...**”* So we see that these promises will be fulfilled at a particular time in history. That time has not come, otherwise Jesus would already be *“the name above all names”* in our world, and He clearly is not!

If the history of mankind continues as we know it to be, and it will because our history today is basically the same as it has always been, **then Satan the Destroyer has won in the realm of life as we live it on the earth! For the absolute preeminence of Jesus surely He must be triumphant in the same arena where He was seemingly defeated.**

Satan’s wickedness has dominated the earth resulting in wars, disease, death, disasters of all kinds and more recently widespread terrorism.

The obvious truth is that Jesus Christ has not had the preeminence in the world He created up to now and, unless Jesus comes to rule on the earth, then He will never have the preeminence in a world governed by wicked mankind.

The Bible revelation, when compared to the evidence provided by the history of the world, demands the reign of Jesus on earth. It seems unarguable that only His righteous rule will ensure that Jesus the Saviour has preeminence in all things on the earth.

The Word of God says that, *“in the fulness of time He **will** gather all things together in Christ”* and He will have the preeminence! I believe it, do you?

What Do You Make Of This?

Simple Statements From The Scriptures

Here are two descriptions of an amazing time promised by God to those who dwell on earth.

1: The Bible says

*And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: **and He shall rule them with a rod of iron:** and He treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on his vesture and on His thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. (Revelation 19:15-16)*

This is clearly talking about the the Second Coming when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in great glory to our world that remains in rebellion against Him. We read that He wields the two-edged sword. This "two-edged sword" is described elsewhere as the word of God. In this context, Jesus just speaks and, by His words alone, the nations crumble into defeat. So this is the time when Jesus conquers the earth, overwhelms wicked mankind with just a word, and is finally recognised as *King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords*.

There is a sequence of events described here:

First He "smites the Nations."

What is Jesus said to do next?

He is to rule the Nations.

And how is that rule described?

"He shall rule them with a rod of iron."

- I. **This cannot be** a description of Christ's rule in heaven for why would the Lord need a *rod of iron* to control those who will then be sinless? No sin there, hence no rebellion, so He would not need the rod.
- II. This passage therefore must be describing a time when the Nations **are NOT godly** because ...
- III. It speaks of rebellious sin in the world for Christ has to "*rule them with a rod of iron.*"
- IV. The plain words show that this must therefore be describing a scene on earth where rebellious and sinful mankind still live.

The great event described here **has not yet happened**, as a simple examination of the facts show. Look at the world around you ...

- I. Can you believe that Jesus is ruling with a *rod of iron* now?, or does sin abound?
- II. Is the rule of God being implemented on earth by Jesus now?

This description does not fit the world as we know it, and as all documented history shows our world to have been.

2: Here is a similar holy promise from God.

*"And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: **and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks:** nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."* (Isaiah 2:4)

- Are these real promises, or are these just fine sounding but never-the-less empty words?
- If this promise is real then it can only mean that there will be no more war.
- But we all know that the history of mankind is, more or less, endless warfare.

This cannot be a description of our world now, and it is not a description of ages past either. Our well recorded history proves that mankind has always been striving to make ever more powerful killing weapons, not farming implements!

These passages and many, many more are describing a wonderful time that is unknown in all of human history. Jesus is to rule "*the nations*" on the earth and only then can these wonderful things come to pass. **Please note that both passages must be describing an earthly rule as sin still exists as the plain words tell us.** We read "*And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people.*" This is describing rebellion and cannot be describing heaven, can it?

The Bible is describing the coming earthly rule of Jesus and it will be the most amazing time since the *Garden of Eden*. Under the rule of King Jesus the entire world will be as it should have been. Satan and sin have had their way since the fall of man, but the reign of Jesus will show how the world should have been without the sin of mankind.

These promises are only a tiny fraction of the many that God has given in respect of the Rule of Christ on the Earth. Jesus is coming back to reign in our world and He tells us so in very plain and easy to understand words.

His reign will be remarkable in every possible way FOR WHAT ELSE COULD IT BE?

Jesus will then be seen to be the name above all names, and He will be preminent in all things!

More Simple Statements From The Scriptures

*Here are two more descriptions of an amazing time
promised by God to those who dwell on earth.*

1: What can the following promise of God mean?
***“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, let us go up to the mountain of the
Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob;
and He will teach us 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.”*** (Isaiah 2: 2-3)

- Who has ever heard of “many people” saying “let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths...”?
- When was the last time we heard the Law “going forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem”? (Zion: see Glossary on page 19)

These events have never happened as any fair examination of history shows, and yet God plainly declares that they will “come to pass in the last days” as shown above.

2: Please read the following holy promises from God as recorded by Isaiah in 11: 6-9.

And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling (yearling) together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea.”

Whatever could these words mean?

- Who has ever seen wolves or lions laying down with lambs?
- Where are the children leading wild animals?
- Where are the lions eating straw with an ox?
- Where are the children playing harmlessly with deadly snakes?
- Who has ever heard of the “earth being full of the knowledge of Jehovah, as the waters cover the sea?”

None of these events have ever happened and they are but a **tiny fraction** of the **HOLY**

PROMISES of God in respect of His coming reign on earth from Israel. We must make some sort of decision about them. Are God's promises real or are they just nice sounding, but empty words? Do we need a highly educated scholar to explain what these obscure and “spiritual” words may mean?

Not according to Jesus who told His disciples, “Henceforth I call you not servants; **for the servant does not know what his lord does: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”** (John 15:15) God does reveal things to His friends and He speaks of them in plain language that we ordinary and uneducated people can easily understand.

These promises **are in plain words** and their meaning is obvious if we will but believe them. For these promises to come about there must be

- Nations existing who will worship the LORD in Jerusalem, for that is what He says.
- These Nations **are not godly**. We read elsewhere that Jesus has to rule them with a “rod of iron”, so it's not talking about heaven.
- There must be a house of the Lord established in Jerusalem for that is what He plainly says. More on this later in the series.
- There is a time coming when animals are no longer wild, when they do not pose a threat to each other, or to mankind, for that is what the plain words of the promises say.
- There is a time coming when the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of Jehovah “as the waters cover the sea” and that too is a glorious promise in plain words. More on this also later in the series.

For these promises to be fulfilled something totally foreign to any form of human government is required. These Scriptures are telling us that there is a time coming when our sad world will change to something we have never known. That wonderful time will need someone special to bring it about and that *Someone Special* is Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

He is coming to reign on earth when all these marvellous things, and many more, will be the natural and inevitable fruit of His leadership.

Challenging Passages

The First Challenge

Lessons From Isaiah 65:17-20 - Part One

The following two passages need thoughtful consideration to avoid a serious misunderstanding.

THE FIRST is from Isaiah 65,

Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be you 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 has not filled his days: **for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*** (Isaiah 65:17-20)

THE SECOND passage is similar, but has quite different implications.

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. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

*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. 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.*** (Revelation 21: 1-4)

Both passages reveal that there will be a new heaven and earth, **but they are not describing the same thing.** Please consider the differences for they are highly instructive to our understanding of these end-time events.

In **Isaiah 65** we are told in straightforward words that **death occurs** in this new creation thus ...

*There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that has not filled his days: **for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*** (Isaiah 65:20) (This discussion will be expanded later in this series.)

The Revelation also describes a new creation but there we read that **“there is no more death”** ...

*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.*** (Revelation 21:4)

So we see that whilst these Scriptures seem similar to a casual observation, **they must be describing two different events as they contradict each other.**

In Isaiah's prophecy we see God creating a new heaven and earth, but death still curses mankind. This CANNOT be a description of the kingdom mentioned in Revelation 21 where it clearly states that **“there shall be no more death ...”**

Two Different Events Are Described

There is no inconsistency here for the plain reading of these prophecies show that they are obviously referring to different events. Isaiah is referring to the Lord making a new creation at the establishment of His earthly Kingdom. This is the time when Jesus shall reign on the earth.

This re-creation occurs straight after the *Great Tribulation* when the earth as we know it is virtually destroyed. Thus it requires serious renovation or a re-creation. The earthly rule of King Jesus will then be established. (More on this later in this series.)

This renovated earth will be populated with normal human beings who have survived the Great Tribulation. All of these survivors entering the Kingdom will know the Lord having been saved by the blood of Christ. Those who survive the Tribulation, but don't know the Lord, will **not** enter this kingdom and will be cast out and eternally lost. (Explained by Jesus in Matt 25: 31-46)

Here we see clear Biblical evidence in very ordinary words that there will be two re-creations.

1. The Kingdom of Christ on earth follows after the destructive tribulation period. This recreation is what Isaiah is describing and will be required after the earth is devastated by Gods wrath in the Tribulation.
2. The Revelation account is describing the new creation prior to saved mankind entering the eternal state, hence we read **“there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”**

(More detail of this in following Single Paged Papers)

The Second Challenge

A Further Revelation

Lessons From Isaiah 65:17-20 - Part Two

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. 18 But be you glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

19 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. 20 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. Isaiah 65:17-20

Jesus is to be exalted above all others, but that is not true at the moment as this little series is attempting to show. A time is coming when Jesus will “*in all things have the preeminence.*” (Col 1:18)

God chose the Jewish people and through them He planned to make His purposes known and to bring about the salvation of mankind. As we read in Genesis 18:18, “*Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*” As a result the Jewish people have been hated by Satan who has done his best to eliminate the entire Jewish race from the earth. From Satan’s point of view, the annihilation of the Jewish race makes good strategic sense. Eliminate the Jews and you destroy the revealed plan of God! Hence, the tragic history of the persecution of the Jewish people.

The Jews have been persecuted and hated because God chose them, even though they consistently rejected Him. Despite their failure to honour God, they remain His chosen people and He will yet bring His wonderful plan to pass. As St Paul assures us “*I say then, Has God cast away His people? God forbid ... God has not cast away His people which He foreknew.*” (Romans 11: 1-2)

In the “*new heavens and earth*” mentioned above we find an earthly Kingdom over which Jesus rules. What are we told about that Kingdom in these few verses?

We remind ourselves that Jesus is “*the name above all names*” and here we are shown that His choice of the Jewish people, made so long ago, **will be totally justified before the entire world for they bring joy to Him.** Here it is,

“Be 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.” (Isaiah 65:18)

Here we are prophetically shown a future scene in which we see a remnant of the Jewish people. What are they doing? They are serving God in

Jerusalem and these Jewish people are declared to be “*a joy*” to God their Heavenly Father.

Jesus is at last recognised by them as their Messiah, and they love Him, and they mourn over their waywardness and wickedness. God says that they will then bring “*joy*” to Him.

If Satan was able to destroy the Jews, and he has tried for millennia, God would be defeated. His promises to Israel could not be fulfilled. The coming Kingdom will show the world that

1. Satan did not win
2. he did not defeat Jesus
3. he did not cause the plan of God to fail
4. he did not eliminate the Jewish people
5. and those Jewish people bring a particular delight to God.
6. Jesus will be preeminent in all things.
7. We do not worship a God who is a loser!

Satan hates the Jews with a great passion. Many every day people have been conned by Satan and oppose the Jewish people, some knowingly, others ignorantly. In either case they are Satan’s people and, when the time comes, they will do his bidding. Many “good” Germans did exactly that when Hitler ruled. Satan’s hatred is rampant today as he knows that his time is short. His fury has ensured endless hatred of the Jewish race bringing monstrous persecution and death to them throughout the ages. It continues to this day.

In these verses Isaiah reveals that the chosen people, the much hated Jews, bring joy to God. **Jesus will have the preeminence in all things and God’s choice of Israel will be shown to be right before the entire world.**

Satan will be defeated in this matter, and in every other matter. The promises of God here require a Kingdom in which God’s choices will be realised and His promises fulfilled. That is but another reason for Christ’s Kingdom on the earth. It will be ruled from Jerusalem for God says “**And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people.**”

More Remarkable Features Of The Kingdom

A Third Lesson From Isaiah 65

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. (Isaiah 65:19-20)

This will examine another remarkable revelation about the coming Kingdom of Christ on the earth. All of these faithful promises come from Isaiah 65. and are in easy-to-understand English. They reveal a remarkable time in the history of our world. It is a time like no other.

If Jesus is to reign on the earth, then **His reign MUST BE vastly different to that of any other King, AND IT WILL BE.**

This passage reveals yet more detail of that reign. We read that

1. *The voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.*
2. *There shall be no more thence an infant of days,*
3. *nor an old man that hath not filled his days:*
4. *for the child shall die an hundred years old;*
5. *but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*

So we see that the days of mourning are over for the Chosen Jewish People for the promises directly concern them, and through them the entire world. We should remind ourselves that all of the Jewish people who enter the Millennial Kingdom are true believers and are as human as you are. Some unbelieving Jews and Gentiles will survive the Great Tribulation when God pours out His wrath on wicked mankind. The Kingdom is reserved for "believers only" so unbelievers cannot enter Christ's Kingdom. They are cast out by the Lord. (Matthew 25:32-34)

What a blessing the Kingdom will be to the Jewish people after enduring millennia of persecution, suffering and death. The promise says that there will be no weeping in the glorious Kingdom when Jesus rules upon the earth. That seems to be a necessity. How can we weep when our loving Lord rules us directly and with true justice and total fairness? If we continued to weep, then the rule of Jesus would be not much different to now, would it? So we learn that weeping is no more!

One of the reasons we may weep now is the loss of a child and that brings up another amazing fact of the Kingdom of Christ on earth. There will be no

infant mortality in the glorious reign of Christ on earth. All children will reach maturity. Death will still exist in the Kingdom, as we have seen previously, but here it is revealed that anyone who dies at one hundred years of age will be considered to be a youngster.

This passage also teaches that only the accursed will die in the glorious reign of Christ. The accursed are the unforgiven sinners. As we have already seen, **and it must be stressed**, that the people living in this Kingdom are normal everyday human beings like us. They all are born in sin, as we are. Thus everyone in this coming Kingdom needs to come to the Lord for forgiveness, just as we do now.

The *New International Version* (NIV) puts it this way,

'Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.'

(Isaiah 65:20)

The "accursed" people are those who never turn to the Lord. Here we see the hardness of people's hearts. They are living in a perfect world, under the rule of Christ Himself, but they are still sinners just like you and me. Most will become true believers, but some will not. We read "*the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*" Only the unforgiven sinners die because those who are in Christ are not condemned viz: "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*" (Romans 8:1) So the death in this verse can only be referring to unbelievers and they alone will die in this new dispensation.

A glorious time is inevitable for Jesus "*through whom all things were made*" will be personally ruling on the earth for a thousand years. He will truly be "*preeminent in all things*" and all the earth will know it.

Our suffering Saviour will be the KING of kings and LORD of lords and everyone on earth will know it and rejoice in it!

Yet Another Challenge

From Isaiah 65

Even More Detail Is Given

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. 22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. 24 And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. (Isaiah 65: 21-24)

All that we are doing in this series is taking the plain words of Scripture at their normal and everyday meaning. We are following the *Golden Rule of Interpretation* as outlined at the beginning of this publication. If we thoughtfully read the above prophecy, which is an honest promise from our faithful God, we must conclude that such a thing has not yet occurred in human history.

1. Until now people do build a house and another inhabits their property, often for financial reasons,
2. people do plant and **not** enjoy the fruits of their labours (fire, theft, death, floods etc)
3. people do labour in vain
4. many are the families that *"have brought forth for trouble."*

So we are faced with this question: are these promises just words that sound good, or do they have some sort of *"deep spiritual significance"* that can only be understood by those initiated into some sort of deeper life? Neither conclusion is true.

These are just straight-forward statements from our God who reveals many things to us if we will just believe Him. St Paul assures us that *"all the promises of God in Christ are "Yes", and in Him "Amen", to the glory of God..."* (2 Corinthians 1:20) Thus we are assured that these promises, made in a plain language that even a child can understand, will eventuate.

The Lord reveals that a time is to come when normal every day humans like us

1. shall build houses, and inhabit them;
2. shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.
3. They shall not build, and another inhabit;
4. they shall not plant, and another eat:
5. They shall not labour in vain,
6. They shall not bring forth for trouble for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord,

But there are more unfulfilled promises in these few verses such as ... ***For as the days of a tree are***

the days of my people, and my elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. (v22) This promise is irrevocable linked to the preceding verses where we read

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: (v20)

How long are the days of a tree? Some trees that exist on the earth right now are known to be thousands of years old! The revelation of God in verse 22 is to emphasise His promise of verse 20 where He advises that all saved humans in His glorious earthly Kingdom will live extended lives, just like a tree. It is a return to the longevity of the earliest days mentioned in the Scripture.

And then comes the final promise of these few verses where our loving God declares that *"before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."*

That promise has already been fulfilled for God changes not and, even today, He hears our unspoken words, or the yearnings of the heart, and answers before we call. However this promise emphasises that this fact will have a special application in the wonderful Kingdom when Jesus rules on the earth.

So again we see further promises of God that have not been fulfilled, and have no hope of being fulfilled in the world as we know it to be. These promises demand something beyond what we know, and what humans have experienced throughout all recorded history.

It speaks of an idyllic time to come and of a time that no human leader could bring about. In fact, it is describing the reign of Christ on earth as any plain reading of the simple words of the promises surely reveal. This time is commonly and correctly called *The Millennial Reign of Christ* and it will surely come to pass.

Who Is The King That Reigns And Prospers?

5 Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby He shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness. Jeremiah 23: 5-6

There are several facets in the above promises. Here is the first of them.

1. God is going to raise up a righteous "Branch" unto the house of David. (verse 5)
2. Jesus is "the Branch" (see explanation below) and is from the royal line of David.
3. He shall be the King that *executes judgment and righteousness in the earth.*
4. This King will be called "*The Lord, our Righteousness.*"
5. This is to happen in "*days to come.*"

Surely no one will dispute that this King is Jesus our Saviour. Isaiah speaks of this same King when he writes,

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1)

Jesus, the "Branch" and "stem of Jesse" has come. So what is He to do according to the prophecy of Jeremiah? He is to be

1. a King (who) shall reign and prosper v5
2. in his days Judah shall be saved, v6
3. and Israel shall dwell safely: v6

Well, the simple fact is that Jesus has not, **and does not**, rule on the earth today. Some say this simply means that "*Jesus rules in heaven,*" and see this prophecy in allegorical terms. That means that it has a "*heavenly or spiritual meaning*" only. This is the way many prophecies are treated by some people. The end result is that most of the prophecies finally mean nothing at all, and are just "*spiritualised*" away. That is just a fancy way of saying that the promises are ignored.

This prophecy says in very plain words that this King "*shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.*" The simple truth is that Jesus does not rule in this way now on the earth, and never has in all of recorded history; but the Bible says that He will.

Further it says that "*Judah will be saved*" and "*Israel shall dwell safely*" but that is not yet so, and remains unfulfilled but again, it will be.

The prophet Isaiah also speaks of this divine rule on earth. He writes,

"And in mercy shall the throne be established: and He shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle

of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hastening righteousness." (Isaiah 16:5)

It is clear that this King who "*reigns and prospers*" does so from the "*throne of David*" in Jerusalem. Elsewhere we read that His reign extends over all the earth as Zechariah confirms.

"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one... 11 And men shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. (Zech 14: 9,11)

There is no evidence to suggest that the "*Lord is King over all the earth executing judgment and justice in the earth*" at the moment, nor at any other time in history. No one can truly say that "*Jerusalem (is) safely inhabited.*" If we make the plain words of this prophecy into some sort of statement that has a secret "*heavenly meaning*" then such promises become utterly meaningless.

Either the Bible says what it means, or we are left with the option that its words mean whatever anyone wants to make them mean. If that is the case, then the promises are worthless. Spurgeon says of this type of preacher, "*Certain divines like to preach an incomprehensible gospel, for it gives them the air of wisdom in the judgment of the foolish. Certain hearers prefer sermons which they cannot understand ... Souls want spiritual nutriment, not problems and riddles.*" (Spurgeon on-line Sermon No 1663)

The New Testament also speaks clearly of this great coming event. In the Gospel of Luke we read *And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for you have found favour with God. And behold, you shall conceive in your womb, and bring forth a son, and shall call His name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of his father David: and He shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end.*" (Luke 1: 30-33)

Jesus Himself is coming to rule on the earth according to the plain words of Scripture. If you change the meaning of these plain and straightforward words, or explain them away by some fanciful notion, you do so at your own peril.

The Exodus Celebration

The Passover Celebration To Be Replaced

3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, says the Lord. ... 7 Therefore, behold, the days come, says the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord lives, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 8 But, The Lord lives, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries wherever I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land. (Jeremiah 23: 3-4, 7-8)

Please read the above promise for there are a number of different factors in it. We see

1. The Lord is to personally “gather the remnant of (His) flock”
2. His flock is said to be scattered over many “countries where I have driven them”
3. He shall “bring them again to their folds”
4. They shall be “fruitful and increase”
5. The Lord’s shepherds “shall feed them”
6. And they “shall fear no more” and be “not lacking” in any worthwhile thing.

Isaiah also writes of this new gathering
11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left... and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isaiah 11:11-12)

Where do the children of Israel live today? Somewhere around eight to nine million live in Israel in 2016, but an even greater number are scattered all over the world. Somehow the Lord Himself is to gather His people from all over the planet and bring them to Israel where they shall live in security and peace.

There are many prophetic utterances in the Bible about this regathering of the Jewish people, and we are not really left in the dark about it. The promise of God is that He reveals His will to us through His prophets,

“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, without revealing His secret to his servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7)

The Exodus from Egypt (detailed in Exodus 12) was the major event in the history of the Jewish people. It is celebrated to this day by Judaism and called *The Passover*. It is a seven-day holiday and includes the *Feast of Unleavened Bread*, with special prayer services and fancy holiday meals. This celebration has been held annually for thousands of years and is rightly seen and observed as a great miracle of God to this day.

But what do these texts plainly say? They tell us that this great Passover Feast and celebration will

be superseded by an even greater miracle performed by the living God. We read,

“Therefore, behold, the days come, says the Lord, that they shall no more say, “The Lord lives, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;” (Jeremiah 23: 7)

Rather they will celebrate the NEW exodus from Europe and elsewhere. They will then say, *The Lord lives, who brought up and led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries where I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.* (Jeremiah 23: 8)

There was a migration from Russia some years ago, and another from Ethiopia and elsewhere, but in no way do they fulfil this promise which is on a massive scale. The Jewish people still celebrate the Passover and this passage assures us that they will **not** do so after this promise comes to pass. Thus this prophecy has NEVER yet been realised as anyone who will spend just a few minutes researching it will discover. **It remains a future prophetic event.**

The Lord Himself declares that He will personally regather His people. It will be such a miraculous event that it will be rightly seen as much more significant than the Passover. *“The Lord will gather (His) flock”* and return them to Israel where He will reign as King.

St Paul asks rhetorically, *“Has God cast away His people?”* (Rom 11:1) and answers *“God has not cast away his people (Rom 11:2)... And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (i.e. Israel) ... For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.”* (Romans 11:26-27)

The Lord is coming to rule on the earth. He will regather the children of Israel and fulfil all of His promises to them, and to us!



The Premier Nation On The Earth

10 'Shout and be glad, Daughter Zion. For I am coming, and I will live among you,' declares the Lord. 11 'Many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people. I will live among you and you will know that the Lord Almighty has sent me to you. 12 The Lord will inherit Judah as His portion in the holy land and will again choose Jerusalem. 13 Be still before the Lord, all mankind, because he has roused himself from His holy dwelling.' (Zechariah 2:10-13)

The history of Israel since it was scattered by the Romans has been bitter and tragic. They have suffered much hatred and endless persecution, and elements of the Church were very active in this persecution. Despite Satan's bid to annihilate the Jewish race, they have survived and will survive.

The ancient prophets tell of a time when the hated and maligned Jewish race will become the premier nation on the earth. It will also be a time when "many nations will be joined with the Lord in that day and will become my people." Here is a collection of these promises in easy to understand words and taken directly from the Holy Scriptures.

"The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 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 and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Jehovah from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations ..." (Isaiah 2:1-4)

The Psalmist tells us,

"Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said unto Me, You are my Son; this day have I begotten You. Ask of Me, and I shall give You the heathen for your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel." Psalm 2:6-9

Jeremiah speaks of a special reign to come,

"Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In His days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell

safely: and this is His name whereby He shall be called, The Lord Our Righteousness." (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

Jeremiah later adds detail and links the promises to the latter days

"Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and He (Jesus the Branch) shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

The Old Testament is full to bursting with promises about His reign and also tells of His chosen people who will be revered at last.

"But be 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..." (Is 65:18-19)

"And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat Him.' This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, "Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you."'" (Zechariah 8:22-23)

These events have never happened so

- do we dismiss them as mere words and "spiritualise" them away as some do,
- or believe them as truthful promises from our Holy God who inspired them.

These events will bring great glory to God and the whole earth "shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." (Isaiah 11:9) This is clearly describing the reign of Christ on the earth. What a glorious time it will be!

The Fruits Of The Land

Here are the prophets Joel, Amos, Zechariah, Ezekiel and Isaiah, providing some detail about the coming rule of Christ on the earth. They forecast “abundance.”

Israel, the Chosen People of God, are to be the premier nation on the earth. They will enjoy peace and prosperity and have no enemies at all. How different that will be to their tragic history of persecution and loss that continues even today.

An Abundance Of Food

Many are the promises of how the Lord will faithfully provide for Israel ...

“Then will the Lord be jealous for His land, and pity His people. Yes, the Lord will answer and say unto His people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and you shall be satisfied therewith...” (Joel 2:18-19)

In many other places, God promises an abundance of produce for His people...

“Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things ... for the tree bears her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. .. And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.” (Joel 2 various verses)

These are holy promises of God and they will be fulfilled in the new kingdom, but there are many more.

“For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things.” (Zechariah 8:12)

An abundance that the world has never known will be the experience of God’s chosen people as Amos confirms.

“Behold, the days come, says the Lord, that the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and it will flow from the hills.” (Amos 9:3)

Isaiah too speaks of this abundance

“He will also send you rain for the seed you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the land will be rich and plentiful.” (Isaiah 30:23)

Ezekiel adds more detail of this abundance and safety in Israel.

“And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods... And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that enslaved them.”

“And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid ... and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more.”

“Thus shall they know that I the Lord their God am with them, and that they, even the house of Israel, are my people, says the Lord God. And you my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, says the Lord God.” (Ezekiel 34: 25-31)

These promises, and there are many more of them in the Old Testament, are speaking of a time that has not existed since the Garden of Eden. At that time Israel, as the Chosen People of God, the apple of God’s eye will be the preeminent Nation of the earth.

*“And many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord Almighty and to entreat him.” This is what the Lord Almighty says: **“In those days ten people from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, “Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.”**”* (Zechariah 8:22-23)

These things have never happened. Some people believe that the Church replaces Israel. They argue that God is finished with Israel now and forever. If that is so then what happens to these promises? All of them are focussed on the land of Israel and its produce so how can these promises now belong to the Church? They cannot, can they? So if the Church replaces Israel then all of these wonderful promises must then lapse and thus become utterly meaningless. (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology> - See the Glossary p19 for a brief explanation.)

Is God just deceiving us? Do His promises just fade away with time? Was God surprised when Israel failed Him and so God became “caught out” with these many promises that He could not now fulfil? Such foolishness cannot be, can it? Instead we see recorded here the coming history of the Jewish people. How wonderfully different it will be to the sufferings of the Jewish people even today.

In the wonderful Kingdom-to-come Jesus the Messiah will be glorified, and the Bible clearly says He shall reign on the earth for 1000 years!

Why Is It Called The Millennial Kingdom?

As these *Single Paged Papers* have said, Christ's coming Kingdom is often spoken about in the Old Testament. Nearly all of the Old Testament prophets give detail of this coming kingdom and only Jonah and Nahum fail to mention it. Malachi and Habakkuk do not speak about it directly, but they do speak about the world situation that immediately precedes the coming kingdom and in doing that they at least allude to it.

When the Lord walked the earth the Jewish people understood the promises of the kingdom that have been mentioned, and many others not yet mentioned. Their expectation was that the Messiah would bring in that Kingdom. Jesus did offer the Kingdom but they out-and-out rejected Him deceitfully declaring "*We have no King but Caesar*" (John 19:15) and so the Kingdom was deferred. (See <https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/the-kingdom-parables>)

There are several matters that the Old Testament prophets did not reveal

1. What was the duration of the Kingdom, or even that it had a duration.
2. The circumstances by which the Kingdom would come to an end and
3. how this would lead into the Eternal state.

We find the duration of the Kingdom mentioned in only one place, Revelation 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.

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.

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. 7 And when the

thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison ...

These Papers have shown the Old Testament frequently speaking of the reign of Christ on the earth. It is obvious that **the fact** of the coming Millennial Kingdom **does not rest** on these verses from Revelation. We have seen much detail of the Millennial Kingdom so far in this little study and almost all of it is from the Old Testament. Only in Revelation is the time-frame for these events spelled out. Revelation also provides the time-frame of all of history to the very end of time, as shown elsewhere in these "*Single Paged Papers*." (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/revelation-timeline>)

The Old Testament records a multitude of kingdom promises to the Jewish people. As we have seen, they can only be fulfilled in the Messianic Kingdom on the earth. These can only be earthly events, never heavenly ones for Christ rules "*with an iron rod*" and death still exists within the Kingdom.

The contribution that the Revelation verses make to our understanding of the Millennial Kingdom is to provide the time frame of one thousand years to it, and when it begins. That time frame is repeated six times so it is not accidental, and it is not incidental either. Revelation also reveals that this Millennial Kingdom will end by leading into the eternal order beginning with the Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers.

In this series we have considered briefly some of the Old Testament prophecies that speak of the coming Messiah reigning from David's throne. He will rule over a peaceful Kingdom the likes of which has never been known in all of human history. The real teaching of the Millennial Kingdom stems from the overwhelming weight of Old Testament material **understood literally** as we understand all Instruction Manuals.

The main thing that the Revelation text adds to this wealth of Old Testament evidence is that the Messianic Kingdom will last for one thousand years, and hence the word "*millennium*."

In fact the book of Revelation is almost totally silent about the *Millennial Kingdom* and focusses on the *Great Tribulation* that precedes it. The *Millennial Kingdom* is essentially an Old Testament revelation, but it gets its popular name from Revelation, hence it is called the *Millennial Kingdom*.

Who Can These People Be?

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. (Revelation 20:4)

Please read and think about the above Scripture for it pictures a special group of people who are seen to be in heaven; **but who are they?** We are told that these martyrs are those who

1. Were beheaded for the witness of Jesus
2. For being faithful to *"the word of God"*
3. They had not worshipped the *beast* (an alternative name for the monstrous Antichrist)
4. Had not bowed to the image of the *beast*
5. Had not received the mark of the *beast*
6. In conclusion, the entire description links these people to the era of the *beast*.

Please think about this: **Firstly**, this group of martyrs cannot be anyone from the Old Testament times. No one of that era had to refuse the mark of the *beast*, nor were any forced to worship him etc., so it is not referring to any of the Old Testament saints.

Secondly, we live in the era following the Old Testament times. Is this describing people who lived after the times of Jesus in what is commonly called "the church age," which means the last 2000 years or so?

The answer must be "no." There has never yet arisen any person like the *beast*, the Antichrist. No one up to now, has had to worship Antichrist or *"lose their head."* Many have been killed for the sake of Jesus, and are still being martyred for Him. The persecution of the modern Church is happening now and is terribly real, but all the killings today are not linked to the man called the *beast*, the *Antichrist*.

Multitudes throughout the Church age have died rather than deny their faith and the Word of God, but none of these examples fit the scene painted here in these verses from Revelation. It clearly declares that all of these martyrs were killed because of their opposition to the *beast*.

Lastly, the *beast* (Antichrist) has not yet recognisably appeared in our world and demanded allegiance. **So the facts presented in this prophecy have not yet happened.**

We read that St John, in this revelation from God, *"saw thrones"* and witnessed *"judgment"* in favour of these martyrs murdered by the *beast*. We are told that after their martyrdom *"they lived and*

reigned with Christ a thousand years." (The concluding words of verse 4 above.)

So we see that there is to be a resurrection of this special group of martyrs (for they were all killed) and they (along with others) will reign with Christ on earth for one thousand years. That is what the plain words of this passage clearly says.

Consider this: We have seen that this group

1. Are not Old Testament saints,
2. They are not New Testament saints,
3. They are not martyrs from the Church age of history (the time since Pentecost),
4. **Therefore they have not been martyred yet** for their time in history has not yet arrived.

The evidence shows that these martyrs are killed during the great tribulation which is still to come upon the world. It certainly has never happened up to now.

Further it also shows that the tribulation era **must precede** the second coming of Christ for it is the glorified Christ who destroys the *beast*. Here it 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 does judge and make war....And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, ... And out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron ... 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. **And the beast was taken (and) cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.**"* (Revelation 19: 11-20)

Our headline verse at the top of this page (Revelation 20:4) shows that after these events

- Jesus will establish the Millennial Kingdom on the earth when
- these martyrs, **who are yet to be killed** (and others), will *"live and reign with Christ a thousand years"*

according to plain reading of the inspired words of the revelation given to St John. These are all future events. None have happened so far, as any fair look at history will show. Some do explain them away with all sorts of fanciful notions and, in doing so, they deny the simple and straightforward words of Holy Scripture.

The Millennium In The New Testament

Christ's Reign On The Earth

This series has highlighted various details from the Old Testament that talk about the coming reign of Christ on earth. We have seen that in the New Testament that God says that this reign will last one thousand years. Therefore it is quite correctly called *The Millennial* (meaning 1000) *Reign Of Christ*. But that is not all that is taught in the New Testament.

Israel is to arise once again according to St Paul. Some in the Church claim that God has abandoned Israel and that their role as *"the chosen people"* of God no longer applies. This doctrine is mostly called *"Replacement Theology."* It teaches that the Church REPLACES Israel and that God is forever done with national Israel. (see Glossary)

The false claims of *Replacement Theology* are answered by St Paul in Romans where he asks the rhetorical question *"I say then, Has God cast away His people?"* and he answers immediately *"God forbid. ... God has not cast away His people which He foreknew."* (Rom 11: 1-2) What did God foreknow? God foreknew everything. Nothing takes God by surprise. God foreknew that the Jewish people would reject Him, but He chose them anyway. The plain and simple words of Isaiah 53 show this to be so.

Paul goes on to explain that Israel's long decline, is never-the-less a temporary matter, by saying that ... *"God has given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear; unto this day."* (Romans 11:8) He then explains that the restoration of Israel is coming;

*"I say then, have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? **God forbid:** but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy."* (Romans 11:11)

Then Paul seems to become excited as he reveals a wonderful truth. He explains,

"Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? ... For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead." (Romans 11:12 and 15)

So the plain and inspired words of Paul teach that God is to be a reconciled (reunited) with Israel as if *"from the dead"*; but when does this take place? St Paul answers,

"For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery ... that blindness in part

is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the father's sakes. For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance." (Romans 11: 25-29)

So St Paul reveals that national Israel is blinded until the time comes when all the Gentiles (and Jews), **who form part of the Church**, have finally *"come in."* (See Box below) Once that happens, the numbers of the saved **that make up the Church** will be completed according to St Paul. Then the Lord starts His work **through** the Jewish people and it continues right throughout the Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth.

To those who claim that the Jewish people have been replaced by the Church Paul reminds them that *"**the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.**"* (Romans 11:29) That means that God does not change His mind about the Chosen People. That also means that all the Covenants and all of the promises to the Jewish people have not been thrown out and remain true today.

And so all the great guarantees to Israel are still in force according to the New Testament. Promises such as those wonderful guarantees in Ezekiel 36: 24-29 will come to pass. viz

*"For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. **Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses."***

This is referring to all people who are converted to Christ, including the *Messianic Jews*, that is Jewish people who are converted to Christ in the Church era.

Who Rules The Earth Now?

*“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked **according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience**, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”* (Ephesians 2: 1-3)

The above is a very striking passage of Scripture. Please read it and think about it as there is much we can learn from it. Amongst other matters it teaches us that Satan is the ruler on the earth right now.

In the great temptation Jesus did not correct Satan when Satan claimed to rule the earth. Satan said to Jesus *“All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.”* (Luke 4: 5-7)

Jesus did not challenge that statement of Satan and He would have if it was a lie. So we may fairly conclude that Satan now rules the earth. That can only mean that Jesus is NOT ruling the earth now.

However we read that a day is coming when Jesus will be preeminent in all things viz...

*“And (Jesus) is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things He (Jesus) might have the preeminence.**”* (Col 1:17-18)

So a coming day is promised when Jesus will take His rightful place as KING of Kings, but clearly He is not in that role now. The plain words of the Bible emphatically show that Satan rules the earth now. How does Satan implement his rule? The above Scripture from Ephesians show that Satan rules through the various worldwide political systems, through *“the sons of disobedience”* and that means through the non-believers. It is true that some systems are better than others, but Satan dominates them all. These systems are collectively described as housing *“the sons of disobedience”* and Satan is described as the **controller** of the world's political systems, Satan is *“the spirit who now works in (or through) the sons of disobedience.”*

The Bible here shows that the world's political systems are controlled by the prince of darkness in whom is no light at all. Most people do realise that governments are corrupt, but live in the vain hope that they are wrong and that something good may yet come about. The hope that politics will somehow bring in a glorious time of peace and plenty, of goodness and light, and of justice and fairness is tragic and worse, it is laughable.

There is hope for us. The Scriptures are clear that Christ will have the preeminence someday on the earth. If we are to enjoy an idyllic time on the earth

then the rule of Satan must be overthrown, otherwise the world will just continue on as it has ever been. So how can Satan's rule be overthrown? We are not left in the dark about it for the whole matter is clearly described in the Scriptures. Here it is in Revelation 20. We read

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

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

*“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more**, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

(Revelation 20: 1-7 selected)

So the Scriptures teach us in the plainest possible words that the rule of Satan **will** be overthrown one coming day by our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the *“Lion of Judah, the KING of all Kings and the LORD of all Lords”* and He will be recognised in all His beauty when He comes a second time to take His rightful place on the earth.

The Revelation account goes on to detail what happens after Satan is cast out and shows that Jesus will then take up His rightful place as the true Ruler of the earth. There will be a judgment of the wicked and they will be *“cast out.”* (Matthew 25:32-33) The believers who survive the holocaust of the Tribulation that immediately precedes the coming of Christ, will then inhabit the Kingdom of Christ on earth and they will live and reign with Him.

This is the time when Jesus will be *“preeminent on the earth”* as He has never been up to now by His own admission. His rule will bring in a time of peace and prosperity such as the world has never known. Such a time will never will be known whilst we remain under Satan's heel. He is currently ruling through wicked mankind of all political persuasions.

The Millennial Reign Of Christ on earth is a constant theme of the Bible, but we never hear it preached, do we? The silence of the Church on this matter is also predicted in the Bible. It is all a part of the *Laodicean Church age* and this subject is covered elsewhere in these *“Single Paged Papers.”* (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/the-laodicean-church>)

“The Earth Shall Be Full Of The Knowledge Of The Lord As The Waters Cover The Sea” (Isaiah 11:9)

The above is a straight forward statement from the prophet Isaiah. This identical verse also appears in Habakkuk 2:14. What could this verse possibly mean? Surely it means exactly what it says. But ...

- Can anyone truly say that right now “*the earth is full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea?*”
- Can anyone truly believe that such a time has ever been known on the earth?

There are some commentators who say “yes.” When writing about this exact verse, that is also recorded in Habakkuk, we read viz...

“This text accurately declares that “the knowledge” of God’s glory shall cover the whole world, a fact already demonstrated for millenniums.”

This commentator goes on to claim that this verse, “*prophesies the inauguration of the universal kingdom of Yahweh upon the earth. This, of course, means the Church of Jesus Christ and the initiation of the reign of Our Lord on Pentecost.*” (My emphasis. Coffman Habakkuk 2:14 comments available on-line.)

So, by this view, the earth right now is “*full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*” having come about through the Church. **It is impossible to believe that when such evil abounds in our world.** This commentator is a man of goodwill and he is one of many commentators who truly believe that God is finished with Israel, now and forever. That is his fixed mindset. Because of this fixed mindset those people automatically interpret any promise to Israel as applying to the Church. **Sometimes the mindset of the commentator overrides the plain words and teaching of the text.**

Our passage comes from Isaiah 11 and it is all about the regathering of Israel from amongst the nations. Its simple words reveal that it has nothing at all to do with the Church. See for yourself,

And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. (Isaiah 11:12)

The plain words here need no fancy explanation as their meaning is obvious. Israel is to be gathered by the Lord and, in those days to come, “*The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*” Such a glorious thing has never happened, has it? Consider the words; how overwhelmingly do “*the waters cover the sea*”? In one word “*totally.*” Here we are assured that the whole of the world’s population shall have

knowledge of the Lord, and the people of that day will be, more or less, soaking in it. It will permeate the whole of society and every man, woman and child will be surrounded by it.

Many in the Church have understood this great fact and tried to bring it about via evangelism and missionary endeavour. Our efforts so far (in over 2000 years) have fallen far short of this bold claim. In fact the claims of Christ are repeatedly falling on deaf ears today. Some of those ears are daily becoming deafer still, and will do so until Christ returns. This is a promise regarding Israel and the coming reign of Christ on earth, it will never be achieved by the Church.

Our “*post Christian*” world today frowns upon Christian things in the name of *political correctness*. How dare Christians claim that people are sinners, that homosexuality is sinful in the eyes of our holy God, that same sex marriage is contrary to the will of God! It will not be long before we are forbidden by Law to say such things. Already they are “*politically incorrect.*” We must not offend anyone, it’s called *discrimination*, but it is quite acceptable to say what you like about Christians who are fair game.

The world today is opposing the very commands of God and laugh at His laws. The Parliament pass legislation, and the media promote all sorts of wicked things, that are totally offensive to our Lord. The Christian faith, once the foundation of western society, is under attack by all sorts of activists. They do so with the full cooperation of the media, and a pathetically weak Church who cannot even find unity on matters that are totally condemned in the Scriptures. We have Parliamentary leaders who really are “*the blind leading the blind.*”

Never-the-less the promises of God remain true and a time is surely coming when “*the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*”

- Can you believe that mankind can bring this about?
- Can you believe that our Law Makers and Parliament will somehow turn from their current attitudes?

They won’t! This holy promise of God awaits His rule on the earth. Can you seriously imagine it coming to pass in any other way? Promises like this one, and many others detailed in these pages, can only be fulfilled during the reign of Christ on the earth.

Will Jesus “Lose”?

Will There Be More People In Hell Than In Heaven?

*“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all things He might have the preeminence.**”* Colossians 1:17-18

The Scriptures teach that Jesus will have the preeminence in **ALL** things. We read of His dominance over all things in the above Scripture, and elsewhere such as

*“(God) raised Jesus from the dead, and set him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, **and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And God has put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things ...**”* (Eph 1:20-22)

However we do not see Jesus as preeminent in our world today! The world at large denies Jesus and wants nothing to do with Him. That leads to the following question: *Do you think that there will be more people in hell than in heaven?*

If we look at our world as it currently is then we may well fairly conclude that the population of hell will far exceed the population of heaven. Our world is drowning in false religions, *Islam, Buddhism, Paganism* of many types and *Hedonism* which is just a fancy name for *self-worship*. There are groups who call themselves a Church, but whose worship practices and doctrines are far from godly.

If Jesus is to be preeminent in all things, then how can there be more people in hell than heaven? If that were to be a fact then Jesus has lost in the very realm in which He alone is the “*Specialist*”, the realm of salvation. Salvation is His mission as we read in Luke: “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” (Luke 19:10)

I came across a sermon by Spurgeon who said, “*Do you think that Christ will let the devil beat him? that He will let the devil have more in hell than there will be in heaven? No: it is impossible. For then Satan would laugh at Christ. There will be more in heaven than there are among the lost.*” (C.H. Spurgeon Sermon No 39 available on-line)

Salvation is why Christ came and died, and He will be preeminent in it. There will be more people saved than lost because otherwise Jesus will not be preeminent in the very thing He came to accomplish. **Jesus will not lose** in the realm of salvation!

If more will be saved than lost then where will these people come from? They hardly seem likely to come from the world as we know it, do they? Our age is the age of hedonism, the age of self-seeking and pleasure at all costs. Is our age any different to

earlier times? In some ways it is for we have invented even new ways of sinning being “*inventors of evil things.*” (Romans 1:30)

The Bible tells of a time when Jesus Himself will physically reign on the earth. This time is often and correctly called the *Millennial Reign of Christ*. It will be a time of great accomplishment, a time of absolute peace and a time when the whole world will worship the Lord. We read

“For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14

This shall be a time such as the world has never known and this is the time when almost all the people on earth will worship and follow the Lord. We say “*almost all*” because the humans on earth at that time will still be fallen creatures, as we are, and the Bible plainly declares that many of them will finally rebel against the Lord.

The great tribulation that will come upon the earth just prior to the Lord coming in great glory, will destroy most of the earth's population. Those who live through this *day of God's wrath* will be judged and the **believing survivors only** will go on to repopulate the earth in the Millennial Kingdom. They will be sinners just like us, and their children will also be sinners who need a Saviour.

But at that time the “*earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*” and thus the great bulk of mankind living at that time will be saved, but not all. Isaiah tells us “*For when Your judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness*” but he also warns that people will resist, “*Let grace be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord.*” (Isaiah 26: 10)

The population of the earth will continue to grow throughout the whole of the Millennium Reign of Christ and will be enormous, far exceeding anything the world has known so far. (There is detailed information regarding this matter in other sections of this series that will not be repeated here.)

There will be billions saved in that coming era. The population of heaven will far exceed the population of hell for **Jesus will have the preeminence in all things!**

Glossary Of Terms Used

Replacement Theology also known as **Supersessionism**

This is a doctrine that promotes the idea that God is now and forever finished with Israel. It teaches that Israel has been "*replaced by the Church*" and so the promises to Israel now become the property of the Church.

It forms a part of the doctrines of the Anglicans, the Roman Catholics, the Presbyterians, some Baptist Churches, the Uniting Church and others. This whole subject is dealt with in another series of these "*Single Paged Papers.*" (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/replacement-theology>)

The Great Tribulation also known as "**The time of Jacob's trouble.**" (Jeremiah 30:7)

The above terms are used in Scripture to describe this period of turmoil and destruction that comes upon the whole of the earth. It is "*a time of great fear and trembling*" when "*men's hearts fail them for fear.*"

It is a time when God's wrath will be poured out on wicked mankind. It leads to the glorious moment when Israel at last recognise Jesus as their Messiah.

From that moment on the Lord fights for Israel as covered elsewhere in "*The Single Paged Papers.*" (<https://www.thesinglepagedpapers.com/gems-from-zechariah>)

Zion in the Scriptures is often used as a synonym for Jerusalem as is the case here in Isaiah 2.