Who Is Jesus

Part Twenty / Wednesday, June 12, 2019

THE REIGN OF JESUS CHRIST
DURING THE MILLENNIUM

We come today to the final session in our 20-lesson study, “Who Is Jesus?” Next Wednesday I begin another series, this time: “Who Is God?”

Our attention now is focused on a period of time, 1,000 years in duration, called The Millennium. On the following page, you will find a simple diagram showing God’s schedule of the “end time:”

THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE indicates that period of time from the Cross to the end of the Great Tribulation (the Tribulation lasts for 7 years). Yes, many will accept Christ during the horrible time when the world is headed by a trio from Hell: Satan (the father); Antichrist (the son) and the False Prophet (the unholy ghost or spirit). But the salvation of lost humans during those seven years will be accompanied by martyrdom. In the Dispensation of Grace, it is the Blood of Christ that saves!

THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM is that thousand-year period of time between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of Eternity when “time” will be no more. During that thousand years, this earth will be under the direct control of Jesus Christ, Who will be the King, the reigning Messiah, for Whom we have longed for so long.

You will note there are two resurrections:

- Part One: the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb in Jerusalem: 1 Cor. 15:19-20 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. [20] But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

- Part Two: the second resurrection takes place during the Rapture when the living and dead rise to meet the Lord in the air.

- The Tribulation: this is that dreaded, indescribable horror on earth that lasts for seven years. Matthew 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. There will be three severe punishments for the lost: 1) The Seal Judgments, Revelation 6; 2) The Trumpet Judgments, Rev. 8; and 3) The Bowl Judgments, Rev. 16.
But following the Tribulation, Jesus returns to Earth: Rev. 19:11-21

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

[17] And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; [18] That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. [19] And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. [20] And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. [21] And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

This is the Second Coming of Christ. The first time He came, it was to die for the sins of the world. John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. But at the Second Coming, Jesus returns to rule!

Isaiah 11:1-16

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: [2] And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; [3] And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: [4] But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. [5] And
righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

[6] The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. [7] And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8] And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. [9] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

[10] And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. [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, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. [12] 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. [13] The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. [14] But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of
Ammon shall obey them. [15] And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the
Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and
shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. [16] And there
shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria;
like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Jesus is not coming back to Earth to negotiate; He is coming to rule. Here is just a brief
synopsis of His return from the 20th chapter of Revelation:

Verse 1: A great angel descends from God with a key and a chain
Verse 2: Satan is bound up for the full 1,000 years. Scripture says he will be “shut up.”
What peace will come to earth when that occurs!
Verse 3: During that thousand years, Satan can do nothing!
Verse 4: The redeemed saints (born again) will reign with Christ for 1,000 years
Verse 8: At the end of the thousand years, Satan is loosed for a short time. Why?
Because there will be millions upon millions of people born during the 1,000
year who have served Christ because they had no choice. Now God gives
them the choice - and shockingly, multitudes opt for him! Scripture labels
them “Gog” and “Magog.”
Verse 8: Satan gathers them to battle against Jesus at Jerusalem.
Verse 9: Fire falls from God and consumes them.
Verse 10: Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet are pitched into Hell forever.
Verse 15: All the resurrected lost (without Christ) are cast into the lake of fire.

Verse 8 is shocking when you consider that for all this time - of the Millennium -
multitudes have been protected and cared for by King Jesus. Yet the first time they have
a chance to revolt against Him, that is exactly what they do!

Do you remember that Jesus said, “If you are not FOR Me you are against Me!”
Matthew 12:30 He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with
me scattereth abroad. Scriptures teach that many confess support for Jesus with their
“lips” but they hearts are really far, far from Him. Is this what happens to the
multitudes during the Millennium?

THE THOUSAND YEAR PRISON TERM FOR SATAN

Apparently, from Scripture, it meant nothing to God’s adversary for upon being “loosed”
he immediately launched a revolt against God. Those thousand years in prison had done
nothing to change his heart, his anger at God, his insatiable pride! Reform? No, a
thousand times no! His heart was still vile.
Right away, upon his release, Satan attacks rank and file humanity. He does not attempt to seduce the “kings of the earth” for they are no more. Only Christ is in command. Satan goes directly to the people. He levels derision at the King of Kings and amazingly persuades the populaces of the planet to attempt to overthrow Jesus. That’s what he attempted to do when he was shot like a falling star out of Heaven, way back in the beginning when he launched the rebellion against God. It remains astounding to me that Satan actually preys on the dissatisfaction of the populace and induces them to believe they can successfully overthrow The King. Let’s remember, a thousand years earlier, as the Great Tribulation drew to a horrible close for him and his legions, Satan tried the same ploy with the nations, who, under the delusion of Antichrist rebelled against God’s Christ.

Once again, deja vu. A terrible disaster will follow. As one writer put it, “A madder thing than Gog and Magog’s attempt was never undertaken on Earth. It is simply a march into the jaws of death, for no rebellion against the Lord will be tolerated.” It ends quickly with the rebels in the hands of an angry God. Fire falls from the skies and ends their abortive attack. Not a one escapes. Satan now gets his full justice. Yes, before for a thousand years, he was imprisoned in the hell he made necessary. But now - it’s permanent. This is Satan’s last hurrah! He will never be heard from again! Amen!

It is the nature of unredeemed human nature - those who are not born again - to rebel against God. My Old Testament teacher of decades ago, Dr. Stanley Horton, wrote:

> Although the humans in the Millennium will have experienced the wonderful rule of Christ, they will still follow Satan at the first opportunity. This shows that with or without the knowledge of what Christ’s reign is like, unsaved people rebel! In justice, God can do nothing but separate them from the blessings forever.”

Satan will not be surprised at his fall. The world has always wanted to grasp a fairy-tale concept that everything will turn out all right in the end and there will be no judgment. What a lie! Only those in Christ need not worry about it. 1 John 4:15-18

> Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. [16] And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. [17] Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. [18] There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

I never think much about Hell - except great concern for those going there. We are confident, rather, of our blessed hope in Christ Jesus and there is no condemnation to us.
FACTS CONCERNING THE 1,000 YEAR REIGN – THE MILLENNIUM

1. The Millennium as it concerns Jesus

You must understand that this teacher takes the Bible literally. Based upon that premise, let’s talk about our Lord. He will be personally on Earth and will rule from the throne of David. (Jerusalem)

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Behold, the days come, saith 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.

Zech. 14:9

And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

Theologians point out two primary issues concerning our Lord’s reign:

✓ It will be characterized by peace. Isaiah 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

✓ And global righteousness. Isaiah 11:4-5 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. [5] And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

How can THE KING maintain righteousness (remember - there will be several billions of people here who are not redeemed by the blood of Christ; they serve Jesus because He is the King and they must obey Him. That’s another reason why so many will switch sides to follow Satan when he is loosed from prison).

This is how righteousness will be maintained:

• a speedy judgment of sin Zech. 14:17-19 And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. [18] And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast
of tabernacles. [19] This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the
punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

- Christ will rule with a firm and strong hand: Psalm 2:8-9  
  Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. [9] Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

- With Satan bound in prison for the thousand years, it is possible there will be a lessening of temptation

2. The Millennium as it concerns THE CHURCH

The Church will have the privilege of “ruling and reigning” over the Gentile world with Christ.

- 1 Cor. 6:2  
  Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

  Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. [17] And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. [18] And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. [19] And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

- 2 Tim. 2:12  
  If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

3. The Millennium as it concerns ISRAEL

Since 1948, Israel has been a full-fledged nation. It has consistently defended itself against aggressors. It my personal feeling that this development is a forerunner of what is coming in the Millennium. There will be a spiritual revival in the Holy Land:

Romans 11:25-26  
For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. [26] 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:
Many new Bible preaching churches are being opened now in Israel. Some of them are quite large. Even in Jerusalem itself, there are some strong churches, not nearly enough, of course, but the spiritual “breezes” are blowing.

Will there be a general movement among Israelis to honor prophecies? According to Scriptures, yes.

- Ezekiel 36:24-29
  For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.
  [25] Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. [26] A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. [28] And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. [29] I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you.

Israel will be a “sending” nation of missionaries to the Gentiles

- Zech. 8:20-23  Thus saith the Lord of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: [21] And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord, and to seek the Lord of hosts: I will go also. [22] Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. [23] Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

DURING THE MILLENNIUM, THE WORLD IN GENERAL WILL ENJOY A TIME OF WELL-BEING AND JOY!

Isaiah 35:5-6  Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. [6] 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.
WHAT EVENTS BRING THE MILLENNIUM TO A CLOSE?

No, the Millennium is not eternity. It is already defined as 1,000 years. There are no “years” in eternity because time is non-existent then. But time, as we know it, is about to end and we the redeemed of God will enter eternity. So as we prep for that, what happens?

1. Satan will be loosed from his prison, as already noted. After his aborted coup against God, he is defeated at Jerusalem and pitched for all eternity into Hell. Rev. 20:7-10

   And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, [8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. [9] And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. [10] And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

2. Next the “lost” will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:11-15

   And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. [12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. [13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. [14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. [15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

   Where will this judgment take place? Somewhere besides this Earth because verse 11 teaches that the Earth as we know it will not exist any longer.

   Note this carefully: Hell is not annihilation - that is, the ultimate destruction of those who are sent there. Rather it is eternal damnation. This is a key realization of how much God hates sin!

3. Now the final kingdom comes into being. 1 Cor. 15:24

   Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.
4. Next God creates the “new heaven and new Earth.” God redesigns this planet as He originally meant it to be in Genesis, before sin and Satan ravaged it.

5. The final subject of prophecy is the NEW JERUSALEM. Rev. 21:2-26

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. [3] And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. [4] And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. [5] And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. [6] And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. [7] He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. [8] But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

[9] And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. [10] And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, [11] Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; [12] And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: [13] On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. [14] And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. [15] And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. [16] And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. [17] And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. [18] And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. [19] And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; [20] The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. [21] And the twelve
gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the
city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. [22] And I saw no temple therein:
for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. [23] And the city had
no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did
lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. [24] And the nations of them which are
saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and
honour into it. [25] And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall
be no night there. [26] And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into
it.

Rev. 22:1-5

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of
the throne of God and of the Lamb. [2] In the midst of the street of it, and on either
side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and
yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the
nations. [3] And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the
Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: [4] And they shall see his face;
and his name shall be in their foreheads. [5] And there shall be no night there; and
they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light:
and they shall reign for ever and ever.

I wanted all these verses in the notes as a reminder to us of how absolutely beyond human
words this will be!

The New Jerusalem - suspended somewhere in space - will be huge, 1500 miles cubed!
This means streets over streets, stories over stories to a height of 1500 miles! The gates,
each made of pearl, never close. No need of sun or moon (Rev. 21:23). Its inhabitants
will be the Bride of Christ - the redeemed Church.

FINALE

“When we consider God’s plan and provision for us, we may well exclaim with Paul, ‘O
the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!’” (Romans 11:33)
What a plan for the ages God has prepared for us, paid for us, in full, by the glorious Son,
Jesus the Christ!

NEXT WEEK WE BEGIN A NEW SERIES:  WHO IS GOD?