



hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he has built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple you are" (I Cor 3:11-17).

Christ's bride will be glorious and perfect in every detail. Rev 19: verse 9, introduces us to the Lambs marriage supper. Rev 19:9 "And He saith unto me, write, blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And He saith unto me, these are the true sayings of God."

This marriage supper will be like a wedding reception. It is basically a party, a celebration of people gathering together to congratulate the newlyweds, and celebrate their union.

Jesus the Christ and His bride, at this time are now at-one-ment. They are joined by marriage together as one. Their marriage supper will be a real party! A real reception. I say that because this party bash is going to take place when Christ and His bride return to earth from their wedding. Notice Luke 12:35-37, "Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and you yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He cometh and knocks, they may open unto Him immediately. Isn't that what Christ said to the Laodician church in Rev 3:20 verse 37, "Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to eat, [sit down for the wedding supper] and will come forth and serve them." We will find more guests at the blast of the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet!

Rev 11:14 -15, "The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly. And the seventh angel sounded; [the trumpet] and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever." Then in verses 17 -18, "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and was, and art to come; because You have taken to You Your great power, and have reigned. And the nations were angry, and Your wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that You should give reward unto Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Your name, small and great; and should destroy them which destroy the earth."

With that knowledge, let's read a few verses from the book of Revelation. To find more of who these guests are and where they came from. We will start in Rev 11, the chapter that speaks of the two witnesses and the two churches that came through the tribulation. "And I will give power unto My two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, [tribulation period] clothed in sackcloth. [humility]. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks [churches] standing before the God of the earth." Candlesticks of Rev 1:20, identify the lampstands~as churches. These churches are called the remnant in Rev 12:17, that kept the commandments of God and had the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Notice in Rev 12, that first speaks of those who go to a place of safety then those called the remnant that go to help the two witnesses. "An the dragon was wroth with the woman, [God's church] and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 12:17).

Now we will find more of the wedding supper guests in Revelation 7, where John writes about the 144,000 Israelites and the great multitude who came out of the tribulation and now have on white robes. Rev 7:9, "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands." Then verses 13-14 tell us, "Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from? And I said to him, "sir, you know." so he said to me, "these are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The millennial reception will bring time to an end and usher in eternity. Eternity is measured not by 1000 years, but forever and ever.

Let's find out more about this unique period, called the millennial kingdom, ruled over by the unique person of all time and eternity, Jesus the Christ. Why did God ordain and decree in His eternal plan that there would be a thousand-year period on earth that His Son [Jesus, the Christ] would rule with absolute Sovereign control and

perfect righteousness?

One reason is to vindicate Christ. And two is to vindicate God's plan. Jesus was rejected by the nation Israel when He came the first time to be their king. This time He will rule His kingdom with Jerusalem as His capital. Remember the magi asked in Jerusalem "where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matt. 2:2). In the millennium He will finally claim His throne, and receive all the glory that is His due. The millennial Kingdom will prove the wisdom of God's original plan for mankind. He created man to rule the earth in His behalf. Psalm 8:5, "For You have made Him a little lower than the angels, and has crowned Him with glory and honour." And in Heb 2:7, "You made Him a little lower than the angels; you crowned Him with glory and honour, and didst set Him over the works of Your hands."

In response to the conflict in heaven when Satan and one-third of the angels rebelled and were booted out of heaven. God wanted to demonstrate His glory to those angels. How? By fashioning human being, creatures inferior to those angels, so He use human beings to rule the earth while they overcoming their sins caused by the angel Lucifer, [Satan] and his demons.

This will also happen in the millennium, the "world just ahead." Note, the writer of Hebrews said angels will be ruled by Christ and His redeemed people. "For unto the angels has He not put in subjection the world to come, where of we speak" (Heb 2:5).

This goes all the way back to Genesis verses 1 and -2, When God took the chaos of the original creation and recreated it. God put man in the garden of Eden, with the command to subdue it and rule over the earth. God explained to Adam, "I have created this world for you to rule" Gen 1:26. But we now know Satan snuck in and ruined the renovation. Gen. 3 tell us Adam and Eve sinned, and in so doing handed the rulership over to Satan. This prince and power of the air Satan, took over the earth, and creation has been on a steady decline ever since.

But God made a promise in Genesis 3:15, that the seed of the woman, Jesus Christ, was going to come and destroy the serpent. Meaning, Jesus would overthrow Satan's overthrow of Adam and Eve in the garden. So the spiritual battle lines were drawn and the rest of the Bible is the unfolding story of the coming of the seed, Jesus, the Christ.

Jesus Christ, [God] became man, who defeated Satan, in fulfillment of "God the Fathers" promise. God made the statement in Heb 2:8, that He has "put all things in subjection under his feet." That is the feet of mankind that verse ends by saying, "But now we see not yet all things put under him. In other words, the creation has not yet been restored to man's rule, all though we can see traces of man's former dominance, in the fear that some animals have of humans. But if you run into a lion, you better run, because that lion will have no respect for you. Lions are not subjected to man today, although God originally made them that way.

With earth's coming golden age called the millennium, mankind will realize his original destiny and purpose to rule, because of the person and work of the man, Jesus, the Christ. We will rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years. That today we celebrate as the Feast of Tabernacles! Rev 20:6 conveys to us, "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection: on such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. God demonstrates to the angels what He can do with mankind, lesser creation when mankind operates according to His will and His word.

Lets process a little more of Christ's millennial reign Apostle John said in Rev.19:11-14, "I saw heaven opened: and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called **faithful and true**: and in righteousness He judges and wages war. And His eyes are a flame of fire. And upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written upon Him which no one knows except Himself and He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses." This will be quite a sight.

Jesus Christ will ride out of heaven to inaugurate His Kingdom and begin the wedding reception. We will be with Him, because no Bridegroom goes to His reception without His bride.

But in order to usher in His thousand-year rule Jesus Christ must deal with His enemies. So His first task will be judgment. That's the purpose of the army following Him. According to verses 15 and 16, "From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name

written. 'King of Kings, and lord of Lords.' Here is Jesus, the Christ coming back from His throne in heaven, to rid Himself of all opposition, as He sets up His throne on earth.

The earth has just gone through the three and one half year period known as the tribulation and God is ready to conclude this portion of His judgment in preparation for His millennial reign.

Jesus described His return in Matthew 24:27, where He said, "Just as the lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be." Then He continued in verse 29 -30, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened. And the moon will not give its light and the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn." This is the return we just read about in Revelation 19. The whole world will see Jesus Christ returning in glory. It will be like a lightning strike that gains worldwide attention. Christ's return to establish His reign is going to be a climactic event.

The great battle in which Jesus Christ eliminates His enemies prior to His kingdom on earth is called the battle of Armageddon, which followed Satan and his tribulation. This battle takes place in the huge valley of Megiddo in Israel, west of the Jordan at the end of God's great wrath. The enemies of Christ will join behind the antichrist and the false prophet to go to battle against Christ as He rides out of heaven with His bride and resurrected saints Rev. 19:17-20. "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; That you 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. 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 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. The antichrist and the false prophet are judged at this point and thrown into the lake of fire. Their armies will perish in a great slaughter. Satan's armies of the earth will be wiped out.

If the bride and saints are coming back with Christ and a good portion of the earth's population is wiped out at Armageddon, who will be left on earth to populate the millennial kingdom? It will be populated by people yet to be called, who suffered and came through the great tribulation, they somehow survived and are now brought into the millennium.

In Revelation 1:7, Jesus said that when He returns every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him. This is a reference to the whole tribes of the children of Israel, at Jesus' coming to establish His kingdom, the remnant of the house of Israel that survives the tribulation will see Him and realize He is their Messiah whom the nation rejected and who was crucified.

In Zech 12:10, Zechariah says the nation will weep and mourn over the rejections of its Messiah. "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they have pierced; they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. Zechariah is here presenting the children of Israel's future as it might have been. Yet how different would have been the history of Israel, if the people had accepted the gift of God's sacrificed Son. When Christ comes again, the truth of who He is will be revealed to the whole world.

When we were talking about Christ eliminating His enemies, you may have noticed that He did not mention very much about the greatest enemy of all – Satan. Satan will be dealt with separately because God has a special judgment awaiting him for the duration of the millennium. John wrote in Rev 20:1-3, "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."

The reason the millennium will be a golden age is that the devil will be put out of commission for the entire millennium time. Our enemy, who has been tempting and corrupting the human race since Genesis 3 will not have access to the nations for one thousand years. There will be no deception from Satan the devil in Christ's kingdom.

This is the process of Christ's millennial reign. He will come with His bride and saints, He will win the battle of armageddon and judge the antichrist and false prophet, and He will resurrect the tribulation martyrs and usher in His kingdom.

What will Jesus Christ's millennial kingdom look like? How will it function since He is the unique person in all of eternity and in all of history. We would expect His kingdom to be unlike any other! Let's describe some of the elements so we can better understand this golden age of which you and I will be a part.

The first thing we need to understand is that Christ's kingdom will be a theocracy, literally the “rule of God.” No democracy here, no voting for your favorite candidate, no majority to carry the day. Jesus Christ will rule “with a rod of iron,” as it says in Rev 19:15, “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.” His authority will be absolute!

You want a Biblical picture of Christ Jesus' reign, look at Daniel 7:13-14, Which describes the one who will have total dominion. “I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, [the Father] and they brought Him near before Him. And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

And the prophet Zechariah says, in chapter 14 verse 9, “The Lord will be king over all the earth: in that day the Lord will be the only one.” Everyone will conform to Christ's will during this age. Let me clarify something here. The millennial kingdom will not be a perfect ages because there will still be unconverted human beings living, on earth. People will still possess their human nature, that we will be working with. In other words, you and I will be teachers of perfection because we will have been changed and judged to receive our rewards and given our new spiritual bodies.

The millennium people will have children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, because human life will continue. There will be no crime or anything like that, when Jesus Christ sits on His throne. To put it in today's terms, He will not take any guff from anybody. Any attempted rebellion will be dealt with instantly. The earth will finally function the way it is supposed to function.

Our rulership in the millennium will extend to all the universe, that now lies dead. Pray one day Christ will apply to our portfolio, “His Lord said to him, 'well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matt 25:21). 🙏

James Russell

