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THE KINGDOM IS PERFECTED

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
REVELATION 11:15-19
NUMBER 18

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REVELATION 11:15-19 "And the seventh angel sounded; 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. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings and an earthquake, and great hail."

I expect the roof to fall in and someone to faint or someone to have a bad coughing spell and some chairs to give way as we make this study of this passage. I have never given a serious study on Satan that something like this didn't happen. In the last part of chapter 11 and in chapter 12 we meet Satan. We have come to the seventh trumpet and the third woe which deals with the Millennial reign of Christ and the events that surround it. As we introduce this subject, there are four principles we should have in our minds.

I. SATAN IS THE RULER OF THIS WORLD.

He has permission to give any section of this world to anyone who will do his will. This is the basis of the bona fide offer Satan made to Jesus in Matthew 4:8-10. Satan actually offered the kingdoms of this world to Christ if he would bow down and worship him. It was a bona fide offer because Satan is the ruler of this world. Satan not only tried to make men sin, but Satan also tries to get men to do good so he can substitute human good for divine good. Satan is trying to head off the Millennial reign of Christ and in order to understand what Satan is trying to do in the world, you must understand the Millennium. But Satan is usually about 100 years late. Satan just can't afford to let the Millennium begin so he rises up and tries to set up perfect environment in the world and thereby, cut Christ off in his salvation program. Satan did his best to prevent the Virgin Birth and the Cross.

Illustration--There are certain places in the world where nations will go on Socialism and try to solve all of man's problems through human good. Possibly England is the best illustration of this in the world now. But Socialism is Satanic and will never solve men's problems.

Satan is called the destroyer of nations. There is one thing Satan has not done; he has never offered the entire world to anyone since he offered it to Christ. Christ refused Satan's bona fide offer because it bypassed the Cross. Get the crown without the cross is Satan's plan. Once more now Satan is going to offer the whole world to one man, and that man is the dictator of the Revived Roman Empire. This person will accept Satan's offer. We will study this man in Revelation 13.

II. THE PHRASE, "THY KINGDOM COME" IN THE LORD'S PRAYER MEANS THAT ONE DAY CHRIST WILL RULE THE WORLD.

We really can't understand that phrase, "Thy Kingdom Come" apart from the Millennium. At that time the will of God will be done in the earth just as it is now

being done in Heaven. "Thy Kingdom Come" has nothing to do with the Church Age. This seventh trumpet is the fulfillment of the prayer "Thy Kingdom Come". This prayer is to be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ.

III. A PANORAMA OF THE KINGDOM

The kingdom as we are using it here refers to the 1000-year reign of Christ. It will be right here in this old earth. Then a new earth will be made. This 1000-year reign of Christ is ushered in by Christ's Second Coming. After the Millennium Satan will be released for a season and then he and all the fallen angels and all unbelievers will be cast into the Lake Of Fire forever.

IV. AN OUTLINE OF THE KINGDOM.

- a. The Kingdom Is Promised. 2 Samuel 7:8-17, Psalm 89:20-27
The Kingdom Was Promised in Old Testament times.
- b. The Kingdom Is Prophesied. Isaiah 2:1-5, Isaiah 2:11-12, Isaiah 35--65--66.
- c. The Kingdom Is Presented. In Matthew, Mark and Luke.
In the Gospels the King is on the earth and he presents himself as King.
The Gospels tell the story of the King being presented to Israel.
- d. The Kingdom Is Postponed. This is done in order for the Church Age to occur.
- e. The Kingdom Is Proclaimed.
This is done by the Angelic Herald in Revelation 10 and by the two human heralds in Revelation 11.
- f. The Kingdom Is Plagiarized. The story of this is told in Revelation 13.
- g. The Kingdom Is Perfected. This is told in Revelation 11:15-19

There are five issues connected with the Kingdom--

I. THE CHARACTER OF GOD.

Will God keep his promise to Israel or not? The Bible says yes he will. The Post-millennial view and the a-millennial view says, "No, God will not keep his promises to Israel". The Pre-millennial view says that God will keep his promise to Israel.

II. THE UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT.

This is the other side of the coin. God made four covenants to Israel--The Abrahamic Covenant, The Davidic Covenant, The Palestinian Covenant and The New Covenant. They are all unconditional covenants.

III. THE DISPERSION OF ISRAEL.

Israel is dispersed under the fifth cycle of discipline. The Jews were scattered all over the earth and are still scattered unto this day. But God will recover them and bring them again into their land. The Bible says this will happen.

IV. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

Will Christ actually return to the earth in the worst time of world history and establish his Kingdom? The Bible says, "Yes". When the earth is at its worst, Christ will return. Satan is trying to make life perfect on the earth and give every man all he needs so he can say to God-- "Look God, I've given man all he needs and you are not needed in the earth. Look God, I have won the angelic conflict". But the only trouble with this is that he can't quite cut it. Satan knows what the Bible says about Christ establishing his Kingdom, but Satan is desperate and he will do anything he can to defeat Christ.

V. THE MILLENNIUM.

If the Kingdom of Christ is eternal why so much emphasis on the thousand year period. In other words, why the Millennium? The reason is this--In the thousand year period Christ is going to do in an instant what Satan had tried to do

throughout all human history. Christ will bring perfect environment and perfect environment will be shown not to be the answer to man's problems. The only thing that is the answer is Bible doctrine. The only answer to man's needs is regeneration. In the Millennium no one will be out of work, no one will be hungry. But perfection will be shown not to be the answer to man's problems, for man will still have an old sin nature and even in perfect environment there will be millions who will not accept Christ. That is why Satan will be released for a season so he can gather to himself his own.

Let us now study the concluding part of Revelation 11.

REVELATION 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; 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." The great voices are the voices of angels. In other words, this is a giant angel voice choir, but they are a speaking choir, not a singing choir. Notice their announcement--

THE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORD ARE BECOME THE KINGDOMS OF OUR LORD AND OF HIS CHRIST; AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER. These kingdoms have been Satan's. "Are become" is an aorist, active, indicative and means in that point of time this actually happened. "He shall reign" is a future of logical progression and it means Christ will walk right into this earth and take over immediately. It is not dependent on human volition like it was the first time he came. He takes over and sets up his kingdom. He destroys all the armies of the earth at Armageddon. Only believers go into the Millennium. The new race started off in Noah's day with only believers and the Millennium will start off the same way. So the Millennium is God's final demonstration that perfect environment is not the solution to man's problems.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

1. During the Millennium there will be no religion on the earth. The greatest source of evil in the earth is religion.
REVELATION 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."
2. There will be great spirituality during the Millennium.
JOEL 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:"
ISAIAH 65:25 "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."
ZECHARIAH 14:16-17 "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. 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." During the Church Age Jesus is absent and the Holy Spirit is the power in the individual that produces the character of Christ. Please remember that emotion is not the real factor involved in the filling of the Holy Spirit. Emotional activity does not result from the filling of the Holy Spirit. In the Millennium with Christ present emotions and ecstasies will play a much larger part in human life, but it will be safe when Christ is present to control it. Satan is always around trying to turn emotions and ecstasies into something false. But in the Millennium Satan will not be present to turn emotion and ecstasies into something ridiculous.

3. Israel will be restored in the land as a nation of born again individuals. ISAIAH 35:8-10 "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."
ISAIAH 65:19 "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."
ZECHARIAH 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: 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. Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord. 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."
 The nation of Israel today is not a fulfillment of prophesy. Zionism today does not fulfill the promise of the Bible to bring the Jew back to the land in belief.
4. All war and armament will be over. A period of perfect peace. There will be wars until that time, but when Christ sets up his kingdom, war will be over.
ISAIAH 2:2-5 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain 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. 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. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord."
5. There will be universal prosperity.
PSALM 72:7 "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth."
PSALM 72:16 "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth."
ISAIAH 65 "I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name. I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts; A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; Which remain among the graves, and lodge in the monuments, which eat swine's flesh, and broth of abominable things is in their vessels; Which say, Stand by thyself, come not near to me: for I am holier than thou. These are a smoke in my nose, a fire that burneth all the day. Behold, it is written before me: I will not keep silence, but will recompense, even recompense into their bosom, Your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord, which have burned incense upon the mountains, and blasphemed me upon the hills: therefore will I measure their former work into their bosom. Thus saith the Lord, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not;

for a blessing is in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all. And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there. And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. But ye are they that forsake the Lord, that forget my holy mountain, that prepare a table for that troop, and that furnish the drink offering unto that number. Therefore will I number you to the sword, and ye shall all bow down to the slaughter: because when I called, ye did not answer; when I spake, ye did not hear; but did evil before mine eyes, and did choose that wherein I delighted not. Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, my servants shall eat, but ye shall be hungry: behold, my servants shall drink, but ye shall be thirsty: behold, my servants shall rejoice, but ye shall be ashamed: Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart, but ye shall cry for sorrow of heart, and shall howl for vexation of spirit. And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord God shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name: That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. 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. 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. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

6. There will be universal knowledge of God.
ISAIAH 11:9 "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."
7. There will be a perfect government under Christ.
ZECHARIAH 14:9 "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one."
ISAIAH 11:1-2 "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 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;"
8. A radical change in nature will occur at that time.
ISAIAH 35:1-2 "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."
ISAIAH 65:25 "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord."

ISAIAH 11:6-9 "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. 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 cockatrice' den. 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."

Weather will be perfect throughout the earth.

9. There will be a perfect administration of Justice in the earth.
ISAIAH 11:3-4 "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: 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."
PSALM 72:12-14 "For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also and him that hath no helper. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight."
10. Unbelievers will all be removed at the beginning of the Millennium.
11. The life span is extended and only those who die will be those who become evil and disobey and are killed by capital punishment.
ISAIAH 65:20 "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."
12. The church will reign with Christ in the earth and in all the universe. These resurrected ones will then have no old sin nature. During the Millennium salvation will be the same--faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit will indwell everyone in the Millennium (every believer).

The Order Of The Resurrection Is Like This

1. Christ resurrected first--
2. At the proper moment the Church will be resurrected.
3. Then at the Second Coming of Christ the Old Testament saints and Tribulation Martyrs will be raised up.
4. At the end of the Millennium all millennial saints will receive their resurrection bodies.

All unbelievers get their resurrection bodies at the last judgment. The last twelve chapters of Ezekiel describes worship during the Millennium.

REVELATION 11:16-17 "And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned." Here we have the response of the 24 elders. It is simply an explanation of how Christ takes to himself the power that actually belongs to him and he rules and reigns. "We give thee thanks" simply means they are thankful that the angelic conflict has come to an end with victory for Christ.

"Which art" refers to his human and divine nature united.

"Wast" refers to his deity before he became human.

This sets Christ out as being unique in all history.

PLEASE NOTE--BETWEEN VERSES 17 AND 18 THE MILLENNIUM TAKES PLACE.

REVELATION 11:18 "And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth."

We are now at the end of the Millennium and the Satanic revolt has come. It is described in Psalm 2. This is the unregenerated man's response to perfect environment. Please notice that we still have "Nations". This is the time of the last judgment. The "Time of the dead" refers to all unbelievers being judged at the last judgment.

The believers of the Millennium are to be rewarded at this time.

They all receive their rewards--Old Testament saints--Martyrs--Millennial saints.

At the end of the Millennium all Old Testament saints are resurrected.

Satan and all unbelievers and all fallen angels are placed in the Lake of Fire.

REVELATION 11:19 "And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail." This is the heavenly temple. The Ark of the Covenant reminds us that God keeps his word. It is a reminder of God's grace and a reminder that God keeps his word.

This last phrase indicates that judgment is coming. Lightenings, thunderings and earthquakes speak of judgment that is coming.