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WHEN CHRIST WILL REIGN FOR 1,000 YEARS

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION
NUMBER 34
REVELATION 20:1-7

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REVELATION 20:1-7 "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. 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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. And when the thousand years are expired, Satar shall be loosed out of his prison"

Here we have before us the Millennial Reign of Christ. The Bible divides all history into dispensations. A dispensation is a division of history according to God's plan for man.

First Dispensation

We call this "THE AGE OF THE GENTILES". There was one race, one language. The four divine institutions were given to man at this time: volition, marriage, the family, and the nation. This dispensation ran from Adam to Abraham, a period of 2,000 years.

Second Dispensation

We call this "THE AGE OF THE JEWS". Here we have many nations and many languages. The Jews were a nation built on regeneration. They were called to give the gospel to the world but they failed. This age lasts from Abraham to Christ, a period of 2,000 years.

Third Dispensation

This is called "THE AGE OF THE CHURCH". This age began with Pentecost and will continue until the rapture of the church. Then will come the seven-year Tribulation period, which is a part of the Jewish Age and will complete the Jewish Age.

Fourth Dispensation

This we call "THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST". This period will last for 1,000 years. Sometimes this is called The Age of Christ. Six times here in Revelation 20 we have the phrase "1,000 years". We get the word Millennium from two Latin words meaning 1,000 years.

In chapter 1 of Revelation we had the introduction. In Chapters 2 and 3 we have a history of the church. In Chapters 4 and 5 we have the story of the church in heaven. In Chapters 6 through 19 we have a detailed description of the Tribulation. Now in Chapter 20 we have come to the 1,000 year reign of Christ.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

1. NO RELIGION ON THE EARTH.

This is a period of perfect environment. Man's history began with perfect environment and man's history will terminate with perfect environment.

Satan came into perfect environment the first time and talked man out of it. He will come back into perfect environment the second time and lead a revolt against God. God will give us perfect environment for the 1,000 year reign of Christ to show us that perfect environment is not the solution to man's problems. The solution to man's problems is regeneration. The greatest enemy of perfect environment and to man is religion. Religion is the great enemy of grace. Religion is the Devil's greatest weapon to defeat Christ. Christianity is not religion. Religion is man's attempt to reach God. Christianity is God's attempt to reach man. Religion is works--Christianity is grace. In God's plan of salvation there is no place for the work of man. Man tries to horn in on what God does for us in salvation, and when man gets in on the plan, then the chain breaks for no chain is any stronger than its weakest link. Human good has no place in the plan of God. The filling of the Holy Spirit plus Bible doctrine in the mind produces divine good. There is no place for human merit in the plan of God. God's plan for your life goes right on. Christianity is not a religion but a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

2. GREAT SPIRITUALITY WILL PREVAIL 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 65:24 "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

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."

From the Joel passage we learn how the Holy Spirit will fill believers during the Millennium. In Old Testament times only a few people had the Holy Spirit. In the Church Age every believer is given the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer. An emotional hangover is not a substitute for the filling of the Holy Spirit. Emotionalism is quite damaging and does not build spirituality. Tongues and healings and emotional eruptions have nothing to do with the Christian way of life. It is a cheap substitute for divine power. You can get emotional about many things but it has nothing to do with the filling of the Spirit or spirituality. Joel 2:28 has three verbs of ecstatic expressions. Emotion may accompany spirituality, but it is not a part of your spiritual life. You can be depressed and still be filled with the Holy Spirit. Now I know that many of you were on cloud nine when you were saved, but the emotion had nothing to do with the reality of your salvation. When a person says, "I was gloriously saved", it doesn't add one thing to his salvation. God knows what goes on in your minds and he has a sense of humor and that's why many of us are left here on the earth.

3. IN THE MILLENNIUM ISRAEL WILL BE RESTORED AS A NATION.

The restoration of Palestine today does not fulfill Scripture. The Jews today are back in the land in unbelief.

ISAIAH 35:7-10 "And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 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."

4. THE MILLENNIUM IS A TIME OF UNIVERSAL BLESSINGS.

a. Universal 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."

HOSEA 2:18 "And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely."

PSALM 46:9 "He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire."

b. Universal prosperity

PSALM 72:7-16 "In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. 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. And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised. 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."

c. 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."

d. A perfect world government

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"

5. IN THE MILLENNIUM THERE WILL BE A RADICAL CHANGE IN NATURE.

Nature will be loosed from the bondage of sin. The curse that came on nature in the Garden of Eden is now ended. Animals will lose their ferocity. Plant life will abound.

ROMANS 8:19-22 "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

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."

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 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."

6. IN THE MILLENNIUM JUSTICE FOR ALL AND IMMEDIATE PUNISHMENT OF SIN.

ISAIAH 11:3-5 "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. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."

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."

7. UNBELIEVERS WILL ALL BE REMOVED FROM THE EARTH AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM.

Believers will repopulate the earth. There will be a population explosion. Unbelievers will come into the population during the Millennium and at the end of the 1,000 years they will join Satan in a revolt.

(Note the parables of the Wheat and the Tares, The Good and Bad Fish, The Wise and Foolish Virgins.)

8. LIFE IS EXTENDED IN THE MILLENNIUM.

Only way people can die in the Millennium is through 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."

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." We have studied this verse where the mighty angel came down from heaven with a chain in his hand to arrest Satan.

REVELATION 20:2 "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" This is the arrest of Satan.

REVELATION 20:3 "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."
Here is Satan's 1,000 year imprisonment.

This powerful angel, probably Michael, cast Satan into the Abyss for 1,000 years. A seal was set upon him for the purpose that he would deceive the nations no more.

Satan deceives individuals and he deceives nations. "Should deceive" is aorist, active, subjunctive and this is very significant. This means that Satan may or may not get you in his trap and the thing that will offset it is Bible doctrine in your mind. Bible doctrine is what saved England and it is the one thing that is keeping our nation from falling now. We have enough born-again Christians in the nation to keep it from falling apart. Nations that have long survived have done so because of Bible doctrine. Many believe the greatest period of all human history was 96 to 192 A.D. Gibbon, the great historian, says this was the greatest period of history because of Bible doctrine. The rise and fall of nations is directly related to Bible doctrine.

THE PROGRAM OF SATAN'S DECEPTION

1. SATAN MAKES MAN BELIEVE THAT MEN BY HUMAN EFFORT CAN PRODUCE A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT CHRIST.
This is the Devil's great lie. He did this in the Garden of Eden and he has been doing it ever since.
2. SATAN'S BASIC ATTACK IS INTERNATIONALISM.
Satan tried to destroy nations. The Devil is trying to destroy the whole human race but God saved the race at the flood and set up national boundaries to protect the human race. All four divine institutions were designed to protect man. Satan wants internationalism for he knows this will destroy the possibility of evangelism. Genesis 11 teaches us the downfall of internationalism. So the human race has been saved and the balance of power has been preserved because of nationalism.
3. IN THE WHOLE SATANIC PATTERN SATAN PROMOTES HUMAN GOOD.
Human good is Satan's plan. Satan hates divine good. The issue is human good versus divine good.
4. UNDER THE CONCEPT OF HUMAN GOOD SATAN PROMOTES CULTURE, EDUCATION, REFORM, SOCIALISM, RELIGION, AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.
This is Satan's hope to bring in the golden age. He is trying to produce the Kingdom without the King or the cross.
5. IN THIS WAY GOD'S PLAN FOR MANKIND IS IGNORED, OBSCURED, OR REJECTED.
Its objective is to obscure the grace of God.
6. MAN HAS NO SECURITY OR HOPE APART FROM GOD'S PLAN FOR MAN.

So Satan will be chained and will not deceive the nations for 1,000 years. He will not be released until the 1,000 years be fulfilled. This will lead up to his revolt. He then will be released for a little while.

This word "Released" is an aorist, passive, infinitive. The aorist tense means that in a point of time at the end of the 1,000 years imprisonment he will be released. The passive voice means that God will release him. The infinitive is the infinitive of purpose and it means it is God's purpose to let him out so he can claim his own. Even in the Millennium there will be many people who will not accept Christ. They simply do not have the capacity to love God. So when Satan returns the unbelievers flock to him.

Note this principle--THE ANSWER TO HAPPINESS IN YOUR LIFE IS NOT YOUR ENVIRONMENT.

There are people who believe if they could just change their environment they could solve their problems. But this is not true.

Now in verses 4-6 our subject changes from perfect environment in the Millennium to the subject of the Resurrection. Lots of people were martyred during the Tribulation. These believers had dying grace. We will study this subject next time.