

Part 3

God reveals to us, in His Word, quite a bit about the Millennium- more, even, than about the New Heaven, the New Earth or New Jerusalem. God obviously wants us to know what is coming and that we would anxiously and attentively look forward to it as a crucial aspect of the Eternal Salvation which we were chosen, by God, from the foundation of the World, to enjoy and for which God, Himself, paid the full price that we might freely receive it, that we might earnestly and expectantly look to His soon coming for us in the Rapture when He will take us back to Heaven for the 7 years of the Tribulation, during which, we excitedly look forward to meeting our Savior, and all those who've gone before us. Also, during that time, we will receive some of our eternal rewards; we will ready ourselves for our 'marriage' to the Messiah and we will relish in His magnificent Wedding Feast as we sit at the King's table with Him. Then, after those 7 years, we will accompany Him back to Earth, dressed in pure white robes, riding great white horses when He will destroy all His enemies, rescue all believers left alive and then set up His 1000-year Kingdom over which we will rule and reign with Him as His beloved Body and Bride. We are now, and forever, one with Him; the oneness of a husband and wife, now, is but a mere shadow of the reality of our eternal relationship with Him; the consummation of a marriage between a husband and wife, now, is, also, but a mere shadow of our consummation with Him and of our eternal oneness with Him: He in us and we in Him... forever!

Two groups of people will live in His Millennial Kingdom. First, there will be all those in glorified, eternal bodies like Jesus Christ's own which will include all of the True Church, Old Testament Saints and Tribulation Saints who will have been killed for their faith and their refusal to worship the Antichrist or to receive his Mark on their right hands or their foreheads.

We will judge the nations: *'And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'* Dan 7:27

*'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?'* 1Cor 6:2

We will judge fallen angels: *'Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more things that pertain to this life?'* 1Cor 6:3

*'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.** <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.'* Rev 20: 4

Many read that verse: *'This is the first resurrection,'* and they say, 'See... the first resurrection doesn't happen until after the Tribulation... there is no Rapture!' But they haven't read 1Cor 15:20: *'But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **But every man in his own order:** Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming.**'*

The First Resurrection happens in stages just like Jesus Christ's return happens in two stages: first, when He comes down to the clouds in the Rapture and then when He returns all the way down to the Earth at Armageddon.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the first fruits of God's harvest of resurrection from the dead unto Eternal Life. His was the beginning of the First Resurrection. Next will be those who are Christ's at His coming... those *'in Christ'* now. The True Church will rise, those who have died will rise first, and then we, who are alive and remain, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1Thes 4:17

First, the Lord Jesus Christ... then, the True Church at the Rapture and then, after the Tribulation, at His Second Coming down to Earth, those who died during the Tribulation for their faith and faithfulness. All of that is the continuation of the **'First Resurrection' which pertains to all who are resurrected to Eternal Life.**

*'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. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.'* 1Cor 15:24

Did you catch that? It will be throughout the entire 1000 years of the Millennium that the Lord Jesus Christ will be putting down all rule and all authority and power. **'For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. Then He will deliver up the Kingdom to His Father.'**

The false teaching of amillennialism says that we, the Church, will increase our rule over all areas of life, on Earth, until WE have put all enemies under our feet and then WE shall deliver up the Kingdom to Jesus Christ when He can, then, finally come back.

The Second Resurrection occurs after the Millennium; it will include all those since Adam and Eve, who have died in their sins and have been waiting in Hades, the miserable side of Sheol, the Place of the Dead. Remember, the 'good' side of Sheol, Paradise, is where the righteous dead had waited until Jesus Christ, the promised Deliverer, to Whom they looked forward, came, from the Cross, emptied it and took them all back to Heaven with Him. The Hades side of Sheol continues to fill up and will do so until the end of the Millennium when those who wait there will finally be raised up to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment when they will all be condemned and cast into the Lake of Fire which is the Second Death. That is when so many will stand before Him, crying out, *'But Lord, didn't we do so many great things in Your name!!'* He will say, *'Depart from Me, I never knew you!'*

*'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. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.'* Rev 20:11

All of those, at the Final Judgment, will be judged according to their works in the flesh, none of which ever produced any righteousness. Thankfully, we will be judged according to Jesus Christ's Work; *He became sin for us so that we could become the Righteousness of God in Him.* 2Cor 5:21

Remember, God's Elect were chosen, by Him, from before the foundation of the World. And, that is when each of our names were written in the **Lamb's Book of Life:**

*'According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will...'* Eph 1:4

*'And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not **written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world...**'* Rev 17:8

The second group inhabiting His Millennial Kingdom will be all those who are still in their original, mortal bodies who will have been able to stay alive throughout the 7 long years of the Tribulation. These will also include 2 groups: all the Jews left alive at His coming and all the Gentiles from every nation, tribe and tongue. The first group, we, who will be given eternal, glorified bodies, will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ in positions of authority commensurate with our faithfulness during these few, short years of our present, mortal lives.

*'His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'* Matt 25:23

The second group, those in mortal bodies who lived through the Tribulation, will be sent back to their nations of origin. All the Jews will be in Israel which will finally be expanded to encompass the huge boundaries God had promised to Abraham: from the Nile River in Egypt up to Lebanon, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River: all of present-day Israel, all of Jordan along with some of Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. And, God's promise of Land to Abraham and Israel was an everlasting promise:

*'...the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee. <sup>4</sup> If any of thine be driven out unto the outmost parts of heaven, from thence will the LORD thy God gather thee, and from thence will he fetch thee: <sup>5</sup> And the LORD thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed, and thou shalt possess it; and he will do thee good, and multiply thee above thy fathers. <sup>6</sup> And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.'* Deut 30:3

That will not happen until Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon and sets up His Kingdom and establishes Israel as the 'head of the nations:' He has promised to give the Israelites new hearts, like He did for us the moment we trusted Him and were born again. No such promise is given to the Gentiles; Gentile nations will not enjoy the same relationship with King Jesus as will Israel.

*'The LORD shall establish thee **an holy people unto himself**, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways. And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee. And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee. The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them...'* Deut 28:8

Then, finally, the Earthly People of God, Israel, will experience all the glory they had been promised by God, as the head of the Nations.

All believers still alive after Armageddon will be brought to Jerusalem to stand before the King. Although this will not be a 'Rapture,' as such, still, they will be brought to Jerusalem supernaturally:

*Speaking of the Tribulation and His return at Armageddon, Jesus said, 'And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. (His return at Armageddon, accompanied by all His Saints) **And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.'*** Mark 13:27, Matt 24:31, Luke 21:28

This is not the Rapture which will have occurred 7 years before, just before the beginning of the Tribulation. At the Rapture, there will be no angels gathering the Saints; we will simply rise up into the clouds to meet the Lord Jesus Christ in the air; He will come down only as far as to be 'in the clouds' to receive us unto Himself and then to take us back to the place He has prepared for us: probably the New Jerusalem which will later, after the Millennium, come down, out of Heaven, to the New Earth.

All of the Gentiles will then be sent back to their places of national origin.

In the Gentile nations, being repopulated from the original believers who lived through the Tribulation, their children, grandchildren, etc., may or may not trust in, and faithfully serve, the King; they may hide sin and rebellion in their hearts which is proven by the fact, that, at the end of the Millennium, when Satan is loosed from His prison in the Bottomless Pit for a short time, he is able to gather an innumerable host of rebels, from the Gentile nations, to travel to Jerusalem in an attempt to attack and overthrow the King of Kings.

*'And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.'* Rev 20:7

It will be completely different in Israel which will be a holy nation unto God; they will faithfully teach all their children and grandchildren to love and serve the King. Israel, during the Millennium, will be the perfect kingdom of holiness and righteousness before the Lord:

*'But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

<sup>34</sup>*And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: **for they shall all know me**, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.**'* Jer 31:33

*'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. <sup>21</sup> And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. <sup>25</sup> 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.'* Isa 65:20

*'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. <sup>7</sup> And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp (cobra), and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den (fiery serpent).*

<sup>9</sup>*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 11:6

The number of Jews and Gentiles still alive when the Lord Jesus Christ returns at Armageddon and destroys all unbelievers may be relatively small in numbers but remember: the Millennial Kingdom will last for 1000 years with mortals living very long lives like they did before the Flood when the world was filled up from just two people, Adam and Eve. After the Flood, the World has been filled up again from just 8 people: Noah, his wife, their 3 sons and their wives. During the Millennium, there will be no wars; crime will be immediately judged and punished fully, disease and plague will be unknown, no animals will kill humans and no babies will die or be aborted. Peace and safety will be universal; no one will have fear of crime:

*'And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'* Micah 4:2

The World will fill with people but there will be more than room enough for everyone:

*'Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.'* Isa 40:4

There will be no more uninhabitable mountains or valleys; every part of the Earth will begin to grow back into a paradise, like Eden.

*'But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.'* Micah 4:4

There will be room enough for every family to stretch out and live life to the fullest in the Kingdom of God.