

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#41 More Promises For The Millennium

The number 24 represents a completed body.

I Chron. 24:1-5, 7-18: David divided the Tribe of Levi into 24 divisions to represent the whole. There were 24 officers of the sanctuary representing the 24 divisions of the Levitical priests as well as 24 divisions of singers in the Temple.

I Chron. 25: 24 is also connected with the worship of God.

24 elders are seen throughout Revelation as a single group with priestly roles. They represent the church in heaven before God's judgment of the world during the Tribulation.

The Church saints will reign with Christ for 1000 years as kings and priests. This could involve civil government and spiritual instruction for the millennial populations. We will exercise varied religious and political functions under His supreme command through the millennium in accordance with the faithfulness of our service in this present life.

God has made promises to the Church and Tribulation Saints He will fulfill in the 1000 years.

Rev. 20:4 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 1000 years.

Who is They? Context:

Rev. 19:7-8 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. To her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

Rev. 19:11-16 tells of the Arrival of the King at the end of the 7 year period.

1. His Names: He is called "Faithful and True," "The Word of God," "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords," and a name known only to Himself.

2. His Appearance confirms His identity: His eyes are as a flame of fire.

Many crowns are on His head. He wears a vesture stained with blood; not His own, but of the winepress of divine wrath.

3. His Activities: In righteousness He judges and makes war.

a. Descending from heaven, He leads the heavenly armies with the sharp sword of His mouth and is coming to smite the nations and to rule them with a rod of iron.

4. Who is with Him? Rev. 19:14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses [compare 19:8]

5. ALL the rays of Biblical prophecy come into sharp focus here as they point to Jesus Christ.

6. The last word from heaven just before His descent reminds us: "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Note: Describes the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ. There is NO mention of a rapture event. NO reference of believers receiving a glorified body. Believers alive at the end of the 7 year Tribulation will remain on earth to enter the Millennial Kingdom in their natural body. The only event that results in believers receiving glorified bodies is found in Rev. 20:4-6 where those who became believers during the Tribulation and were killed because of their faith are resurrected. It is also believed that at this same time Old Testament saints will be resurrected, also receiving glorified bodies [see Daniel 12:2].

Rev. 19:17-21 THEN I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸ that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Rev. 20:1-4 THEN I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

Rev. 20:4 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 1000 years.

Note: After the binding of Satan the very first scene shown to John was a plurality of "thrones." Judgment is given to those who sit enthroned.

I Cor. 6:2a, 3a Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?

Know ye not that we shall judge angels?

Consider: Many crucial matters need to be settled for the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

1. What nations and what people will be permitted to enter His Kingdom and enjoy its wonderful benefits?

2. Assignments of responsibilities within the divine government

Who is they? I believe "they" refer" to those who have come with Him from heaven.

Notice: The bride of Christ has made herself ready. Marriage has taken place.

1. Judgment was given unto the first group. [They]

This is a reference to the Church saints who were raptured preceding the Tribulation Period.

2. They have already been at the Judgment Seat Of Christ, had their works evaluated, received crowns, positions of authority, etc.

a. The outcome of this judgment will determine the position of each Church saint in His Kingdom.

I Cor. 3:10-15 But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ...Each One's Work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of What Sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Rev. 20:4 A 2nd group of saints who are to co-reign with Christ are those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the Word of God. These will be martyred during the first half of the Tribulation. The Cry of The Martyrs is mentioned in Rev. 6:9-11

⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

Rev. 19:2 For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.

4. A third group of saints are those who did not worship the Antichrist or his image, and did not receive the mark on their forehead or on their right hand.

a. Since these things were initiated at the middle of the Tribulation, these are the saints from the second half.

5. Both Church and Tribulation saints will co-reign with the King for 1000 years.

a. Tribulation Saints = Rev. 20:6b but they [Trib. Saints] shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

b. Rev. 1:6; 5:10; I Pet. 2:9-10 - Church is both Kings and Priests

Indicates Church saints will be directing both civil government and spiritual instruction for the Gentile millennial populations.

6. Please note: OT saints have a different destiny.

7. The Church and Tribulation saints will co-reign with the Messianic King over the Gentile nations. They will be His representative authority and carry out His decrees to the nations. It may appear that at first the hosts of resurrected saints, including the redeemed of all the ages, will far outnumber the depleted population of the earth at the beginning of the millennium. It seems there might be more "kings and priests" than "subjects." A few factors to consider:

- Not all saints will receive a reward of authority and/or ruling.
- Some?? will "scarcely be saved" and "shall suffer loss."
- The opportunity they might have had for fruitful service in His Kingdom will be given to others. [Luke 19:24-26]
- Could those who receive rewards of authority and/or ruling serve as teachers and leaders for those who are still "babes in Christ?"

Rev. 20:5-6 But the rest of the dead [unsaved men and women whose souls are imprisoned in Hades] did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.

Over 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."

"What is the first resurrection? What is the second death?"

Daniel 12:2 summarizes the two very different fates facing mankind: "Many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." Everyone will be raised from the dead, but not everyone will share the same destiny. The NT reveals the further detail of separate resurrections for the just and the unjust.

Revelation 20:4-6 a "first resurrection" and identifies those involved as "blessed and holy."

Rev. 20:14 The second death [the lake of fire] has no power over these individuals.

The first resurrection, then, is the raising of all believers.

John 5:29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

The first resurrection takes place in various stages.

I Cor. 15:22-23 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

1. The resurrection of the dead began with Jesus Christ Himself, as the "first fruits of them that slept. [I Cor. 15:20]

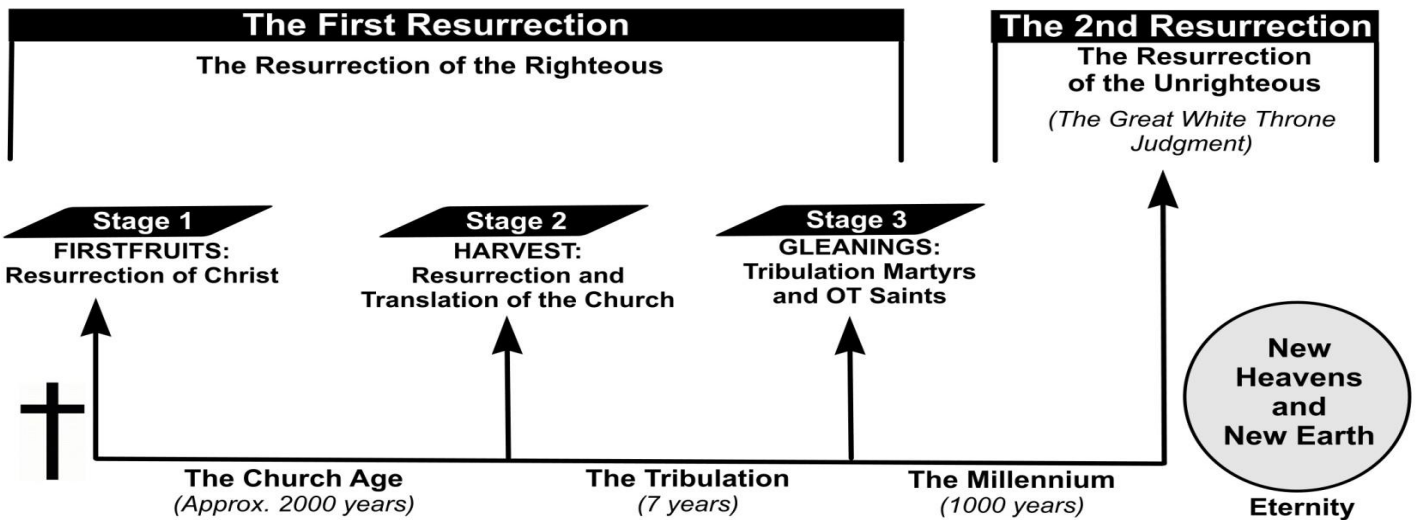
2. The general harvest will be at the rapture, when "the dead in Christ shall rise" along with living saints. [I Thess. 4:16-17]

3. The middle of the Tribulation Period will see the resurrection of the 2 witnesses. [Rev. 11:11]

4. Resurrection of the OT saints [Ps. 17:15; Isa. 26:19; Dan. 12:1-2] [75 day interval]

5. The Gleanings: Rev. 20:4 the resurrection of the martyrs at the end of the Tribulation And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

This completes the 1st Resurrection.



Who Will Populate The Earth During The Millennium?

Two distinct groups: those with glorified bodies, and those with earthly bodies.

A. Those with glorified bodies consist of:

1. The Church received glorified bodies at the rapture [I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:21-23, 51-53]
2. Those who are resurrected after Christ returns to Earth: OT Saints & Tribulation Martyrs

B. Those who have earthly bodies can be subdivided into two groups:

1. Believing Jewish Remnant who lived through the tribulation and enter the millennial kingdom.
2. Believing Gentiles who were designated as sheep and entered the millennial kingdom

a. The Sheep/Goat Judgment - Matthew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats.

b. Purpose is to determine the righteous from the unrighteous Gentiles.

c. Sheep = Enter the Millennial Kingdom - Have eternal life

d. Goats = Depart, you cursed; and these will go away into everlasting punishment, Therefore, no unbelieving Gentile will survive to live on into the Millennial Kingdom.

Consider: It will be a small number of living Gentiles and Jews who enter the Millennial Kingdom. MANY have already been martyred.

C. These 2 groups will have children and the population of the world will grow exponentially.

1. Life spans will be expanded and death will be curtailed.

Isa. 65:22 For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people,

Isa. 65:20 "No more shall an infant from there *live but a few days,*

Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;

For the child shall die one hundred years old,

But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.

- It seems those who refuse to accept the Lord will die at age 100.
- Prophecy implies that the life span will be returned to what it was before the Flood

B. Promises to the Nations

1. God has promised that a time will come when the nations will be provided with their greatest dream — namely, Worldwide Peace. This has been an international dream since the beginning of time, but it has proved to be impossibly elusive.

Peace conference after peace conference has been held. Multiple treaties have been signed. World organizations have been formed. Yet, war continues to ravage the nations.

God has promised to give Mankind and the earth a rest from its wars. When He comes...

Zech. 9:9-10 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, a colt the foal of a donkey. [fulfilled] And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and He shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Isa. 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people. Only then will the nations "hammer their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

God has promised to flood the earth with peace, righteousness, justice, and holiness:

Isa. 11:9 "The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

Zech. 14:20-21 Even the bells on the horses bridles and the pots in the kitchens will bear the inscription "Holy to the Lord."

C, God's Promises to the Creation

1. Remove the curse which He placed upon the creation due to the sin of Man. He has promised to deliver the Creation from its bondage to decay and to restore it to its original beauty, balance, and peace.

Romans 8:18-23 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

a. Isa. 11:6 The carnivorous animals will become herbivorous.

b. Isa. 11:8-9 The deadly animals will cease to be poisonous.

c. Isa. 35; Ezek. 34:25-31 The plant kingdom will flourish and produce bountifully.

d. Ezek. 36:35-36 The land of Israel will be so radically transformed that visitors will proclaim in amazement: "*This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden.*"

So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities *are now* fortified *and* inhabited.' ³⁶ Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places *and* planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken *it*, and I will do *it*."