

# God's Master Plan In Prophecy

## Lesson 14 – The Millennial Reign

*Key Scriptures: Revelation 20:1-10; Isaiah 2,11,65; Zechariah 14:16-21*

### Introduction

We have now moved onward in our study of prophecy timeline beyond the Era of Grace and past the Wrath of God. At this point in the future, the world will be a vastly different place: the vast majority of those loyal to the Antichrist – which would have been the majority of people on the earth – will have been killed or at least become extremely sick because of the boils and plague that God brought upon everyone that took the mark of the beast. Two-thirds of the Jewish people will have been killed and the remainder of them will now be convinced that Jesus Christ is their Messiah. Most of the armed forces in the world will have been wiped out by God during the Battle of Armageddon. The tremendous earthquake that took place during the Wrath of God will have leveled most of the major cities of the earth and will have moved "every mountain and island out of their places."<sup>1</sup> Maps will be out of date and the earth will have been completely topographically transformed. It sounds like the setting of a science fiction novel, but all of these observations about what is to come is scripture!

John wrote about this future and final era of this earth's history in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter of Revelation. This chapter along with a few verses scattered throughout the Bible here and there serve to give us what we can possibly know about this future era. There are many areas of description left blank, but there is enough to at least intrigue us!

**Rev 20:1-2 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;**

The wildest difference of this time period will be that Satan will be bound for 1,000 years and despite all of Satan's boastings and claim of power today, in the end it only takes one measly angel to bind him! As long as we are obedient to God, we have nothing to fear from Satan.<sup>2</sup> Because the earth will be "devil-free" for 1,000 years and Jesus will rule upon the earth unopposed for that length of time, scholars commonly refer to this era as the "Millennial Reign" of God.<sup>3</sup>

Let us pause for a moment and think about the implications of the devil being bound for 1,000 years. There will be no temptation of the devil; no clubs and pornography or billboards advertising a worldly way of life. There will only be a minimum of sickness and most hospitals will close from lack of use. There will be no generational curses or familiar spirits passing down weaknesses from father to son. In fact, after the older people die off, there will come a day several hundred years into the Millennial Reign where nobody will even have memory of a devil or what it was like to live in a predominantly evil world!

**Rev 20:3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.**

After the Millennial Reign, Satan will be loosed for a short time. The first question that everyone asks when they read this scripture is, "Why will God allow Satan a chance to deceive the people of the Millennial Reign?" The answer is the same reason God allowed Satan access to the Garden of Eden and placed a forbidden tree within that Garden: because *God respects humanities' power of choice*. He refuses to be loved and worshiped by robots who have no choice in what they do but wants to be loved and served by people who do so because they want of their own free will to do such a thing. The people alive in the Millennial Reign will have an opportunity to experience temptation for themselves and then decide if they want to serve God or not!

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See Revelation 6:14; 16:20.

<sup>2</sup> See James 4:7.

<sup>3</sup> Some scholars also call it "the Kingdom Age" for reasons that we will eventually present in this Bible Study.

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## ***Prophecy #14 – The Millennial Reign***

**Rev 20:4** Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Throughout all of our studies of this era, we must keep in mind that the redeemed church – those who were ready to meet Jesus Christ at the close of the Era of Grace – have already been raptured and are in their glorified bodies which cannot see death or sickness. There will be people on the earth, the survivors and descendants of those who lived through the Wrath of God that are still living on the earth in ordinary mortal bodies, but we will be among them in our glorified ones! And after we help fight the Battle of Armageddon, we stay upon the earth and rule and reign with Jesus Christ for this 1,000 year period.

The information contained in these verses are very enlightening when one considers the teachings of those who embrace pre-tribulational view of the Rapture of the church, because John tells us that these who reigned with Christ a thousand years were those who were “beheaded for the witness of Jesus Christ and who – apparently even under duress – refused to worship the Antichrist and who did not take the mark of the beast. Obviously, not everyone who goes in the Rapture of the church or who rules and reigns with Christ will have been a martyr but apparently some will have been a martyr during the Great Tribulation. There is also no doubt that the scripture is telling us here that some of who had been killed during the Great Tribulation and who were killed because they refused to take the mark of the beast yet were resurrected to rule and reign with Jesus Christ during the Millennial Reign.

All of this leads us to a very important question to ask ourselves as we try to wrap our minds around all of this information: From modern times onward – in other words, from now in this nearing the end time events and after Calvary moment – until the end of time as we know it, how many resurrections are prophesied or detailed in the Bible? We are not counting individual resurrections where someone died and God miraculously raised them up temporarily, but rather where people are resurrected to never be in the sleep of death again – we are referring to eternal resurrections; how many of those are there yet to come?

The Bible details at least four more such resurrections yet to come:

1. *The saints who go in the Rapture of the church* or the Catching Away of the Saints. For those are dead in Christ to arise, there must of necessity be a resurrection.<sup>4</sup>
2. *The two witnesses*. The Bible clearly states that they were killed and resurrected three and a half days later.<sup>5</sup>
3. *The saints who were martyrs during the Great Tribulation* but who are resurrected to rule and reign with Christ here in the Millennial Reign.
4. *The final resurrection yet to come at the White throne Judgment* where every person yet unresurrected will be resurrected to stand before God and give an account of their life.

If one holds to a pre-tribulational view of the Rapture of the church, then they must also believe in at least four resurrections and that those instances listed above are all separate events because if the Rapture of the church takes place before the Great Tribulation then for those who were killed during the Great Tribulation to arise to rule and reign with Jesus Christ for the Millennial Reign there must be another resurrection. Furthermore, the two witnesses also have to arise after the rapture of the Church. If you hold to the pre-tribulational view of the Rapture of the church, then you have the Rapture of the church as the first resurrection yet to come, the two witnesses as the second resurrection yet to come, the martyred saints who gave their lives in the Great Tribulation as the third resurrection yet to come, and then the rest of the dead being resurrected to stand before God after the 1,000 year reign of Christ as the fourth resurrection yet to come. But notice the very next verse:

**Rev 20:5** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

The Bible clearly identifies that the martyred saints receiving their life and glorified bodies is the first resurrection that is yet to come! God has not resurrected anyone to eternal life since Jesus' resurrection after the cross and John saw these visions around A.D. 100. The Bible also clearly states that at the Rapture of the Church, the "dead in Christ shall rise

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See the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1 Corinthians.

<sup>5</sup> See Revelation 11:3-12.

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first."<sup>6</sup> If the Rapture takes place before the Great Tribulation as so many people believe then this resurrection of tribulational martyrs cannot be the "first resurrection" as the scriptures say!

When you realize that the tribulation is the persecution of the Antichrist upon the Jews and some Christians and that the Wrath of God is the judgment of God upon the world and that the two are altogether different, then all of the contradictions disappear. The Church will endure some persecution from the Antichrist during the Great Tribulation but will not have to endure the wrath of God.<sup>7</sup> All of scripture can harmonize with what John is teaching here if we make the first three passages listed above, the Rapture of the Church, the two witnesses being raised from the dead, and the martyred Christians who gave their life in the Great Tribulation as being one event and one resurrection. Furthermore, the two witnesses are resurrected at the 7<sup>th</sup> trumpet which blows at the end of the period of Great Tribulation, the martyrs are raised at the end of the Great Tribulation and the Rapture of the church takes place "at the last trumpet." All discrepancy and apparent contradiction disappears when you realize that these three resurrections described in the Bible as yet to come is – as John said – the first resurrection and are just different details of one resurrection. This is the first resurrection, the later and final resurrection where all men not yet resurrected will stand before the Great White Throne and give an account unto God is apparently the second resurrection yet to come. And there will only be two!

**Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**

The "second death" is not a physical death but a spiritual one and refers to being cast into hell and the lake of fire in eternal torment away from the mercy of God. If you go in the "first resurrection" or the Rapture of the Church, then you do not have to worry about going to the lake of fire! And this scripture makes it very clear that during the Millennial Reign, the Church will help Jesus Christ rule the world – we will be in glorified bodies and there will not be a danger of us being lost, but there will be people upon the earth who are still in ordinary bodies who will need our instruction and guidance. We will be getting them ready to face the onslaught of the devil when he is released and they will have no concept of what they will face except what we teach them. That the people of the earth will be physically normal human beings but the Church will be in our glorified bodies is fun to think about: we will be able to fly and appear and disappear, just as Jesus was after His resurrection! The world will certainly be a different place!

The laws of this age for salvation and pleasing God will no doubt be extremely different than the Era of Grace and the scriptures do not say exactly what will be required for salvation during this time – Jesus Christ will tell us what we need to know when we get there! There are several points that we can understand now from principles in God's Word.

First, we know that salvation will involve some sort of circumcision and blood being applied and it will also involve the Spirit of God and the Word of God in some way. We know that blood will have to be involved because these people will still be in need of the blood of Jesus Christ being properly applied to their lives for redemption. Under law, they used a sacrificial lamb that acted like a substitute. Under Grace we apply the blood and allow it to wash our garments clean through water baptism in Jesus' name. We don't know exactly how it will be applied during the Millennial Reign, but it will be involved. Circumcision works in the same way. God told Abraham that circumcision would be a sign of a covenant between his descendants and Him forever! Under Grace, we are spiritually circumcised through water baptism.<sup>8</sup> Under the Millennial Reign some sort of spiritual circumcision will be involved as well. Likewise the Spirit of God had to be approached correctly in the temple during the period of Law. During Grace, our bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost, and so the Spirit will be poured out in some way during the Millennial Reign. The Word of God will still be in force during the Millennial Reign because it will never pass away and we will be the ones teaching the people who are alive how to live according to the Word of God! We are not told now what those things will be because if God had done so, inevitably someone would try to do those things now when we should be concerned with obeying the principles of this Era of Grace!<sup>1</sup>

### **Isaiah's Millennial Prophecies**

That we will rule and reign on this earth is evident from John's teachings in the visions of Revelation. Other scriptures help to give hints as to the structure of how this will be. For example, the parables of Jesus teach us that apparently we will rule and reign over certain number of cities based upon who faithful we were with the things that God entrusted us during this time of Grace.<sup>ii</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> See 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

<sup>7</sup> See 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

<sup>8</sup> See Colossians 2:11-12.

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The prophet Isaiah wrote extensively about the Millennial Reign. The 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, and 66<sup>th</sup> chapters of Isaiah all deal extensively with this future time period. We will only mention the highlights of these chapters that help complete the picture of the world of the Millennial Reign of Christ:

**Isa 11:6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.**

One of the most interesting aspects of the Millennial Reign will be the transformation of animal natures. Before the Flood of Noah's day, all animals and apparently men were vegetarian and it was only after the Flood that God enabled man to eat meat. It was also at this time that God changed the nature of animals to be fearful of danger and of human beings.<sup>9</sup> During the Millennial Reign, God will change the animal natures back to pre-Flood conditions and the wolf will no longer hunt and kill the lamb and the leopard will no longer chase goats. The little child will play with the young lion and not be afraid because these animal's natures will have been changed by God!

**Isa 11:7-8 Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.**

The "lion will eat straw like the ox." It is very obvious from this scripture that the animals will become vegetarian again like they were before the Flood and it could be that the men and women will also become vegetarian again. Of course, the Raptured church will not have to eat for nourishment and will only eat if we so desire.<sup>10</sup> Small children will apparently be able to play with what had been very poisonous snakes and not be harmed!<sup>11</sup>

**Isa 11:9-10 They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. 10 Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious.**

Remember that in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Daniel, the rock that represented Jesus Christ grew into a mountain that filled the entire earth. Every temple that God commanded Israel to build was built upon a large hill or "mountain" and often the city and surrounding areas that worshiped the Lord there were referred to as this mountain. But during the Millennial reign it will not be just the Israeli people who worship God but everyone that is left upon the earth and apparently worshipping God will be the popular thing to do; even the Gentiles will seek the Lord!

**Isa 11:15-16 And the Lord will utterly destroy The tongue of the Sea of Egypt; And He will wave His hand over the River With His scorching wind; And He will strike it into seven streams And make men walk over dry-shod. 16 And there will be a highway from Assyria For the remnant of His people who will be left, Just as there was for Israel In the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.**

God will permanently dry up the Red Sea and the Nile River allowing all of the descendants of the Jewish people who were carried off into Egypt and Assyria during the times of the prophets to be able to walk to Jerusalem! This will be the final destruction of Egypt for their slavery of the Israeli people and apparently God never forgets when others treat His people wrongly.

**Isa 2:2 Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the Lord Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.**

This scripture confirms what we already know and then gives us additional information: that at the place where the house of the Lord will be established, people will come to worship God. That this will be the city of Jerusalem, we will see in a moment.

**Isa 2:3 And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

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<sup>9</sup> See Genesis 9:2-4.

<sup>10</sup> Also, some Bible scholars believe that we will be vegetarians except for being able to eat fish and cite the fact that Jesus ate fish after His resurrection – see Luke 24:42-43.

<sup>11</sup> See also Isaiah 65:25.

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The interesting point of this scripture is that the people are going to "the house of the God of Jacob." This seems to point to a physical building built in Jerusalem during the Millennial Reign. Zechariah 6:12 mentions that Jesus Christ, the branch and root of Jesse, will build the temple of this time. What this means is that this temple during the Millennial Reign is not the same one in which the Antichrist proclaimed that he was God during the Great Tribulation. That temple was probably destroyed by being swallowed up in the fracture in the ground that happened in the great earthquake at Christ's Second Coming. There is a temple mentioned in scripture that has caused scholars much debate and trouble in identifying it, the temple of Ezekiel. This temple has never been built but was detailed with specific building instructions in Ezekiel along with details about changes to Jerusalem.<sup>12</sup> It is very probable that Ezekiel saw the plans for the temple of the Millennial Reign, especially when we realize that the water flowing out of the midst of the temple corresponds perfectly with the waters flowing from the Dead Sea into the Mediterranean!

**Isa 2:4 And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will 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.**

For the first time in the history of the world, there will be 1,000 years of peace with absolutely no wars; what the Antichrist promised but could not do, the God of the Universe will perform!

**Isa 65:19-20 "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. 20 "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed.**

This is a very important verse to understand because it answers many questions about those who live through the Wrath of God and into the Millennial Reign. Keep in mind that the Church will be in their glorified bodies and will not be able to die nor be lost, so we are discussing the people who are living upon the earth during this time that are normal human beings. Let's take verse 20 phrase by phrase because there is actually quite a bit being stated here:

**No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days** – The lifespan of human beings will increase and it will be almost unheard of for an infant to die right after birth. The reasons for this will be the decreased activity of violence, coupled with the change in the earth to being similar to a pre-Flood state.

**Or an old man who does not live out his days** – Before the Flood, people lived to be 600-900 years old. It was after the flood that the changes in the earth brought the age down to 70-90 where it remains today. One man, named Methuselah, even lived to be 969 years old –that is almost an entire 1,000 years! Jesus said that "as it was in the days of Noah so shall the coming of the Son of Man be"<sup>13</sup> so it is very probable that people will live this long in the Millennial Reign.

**For the youth will die at the age of one hundred** – Today when someone dies before the age of twenty, we think, "how sad, they had their whole life before them." But during the Millennial Reign, if someone dies at only 100 years of age, we will say "how sad, they had so much to look forward to." It is very obvious that people will live much longer than they do today.

**The one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.** – The NASU gives a footnote with the literal reading of "the one who misses the mark" for "the one" and that phrase of "one who misses the mark" is the term in the Hebrew translated "sinner" virtually everywhere else. The NASU also has "thought" in italics indicating that the word is not in the original Hebrew but was added by the translators. Literally this part of the verse is saying, "the sinners, who do not reach the age of one hundred, will be accursed."<sup>14</sup>

What the literal Hebrew here is teaching us is an important concept to understand that clears up many answers that arise when we think of people being saved in the Millennial Reign. Those long lives and increased life applies to those who were born into the Millennial Reign or those who reached an age of accountability – that is, an age where they can know right from wrong and can choose to either accept or reject the Word of God for themselves – after the Rapture of the church. The "sinner" or those who were alive and old enough to choose for themselves before the Rapture of the Church

<sup>12</sup> In particular, read the Ezekiel chapters 40 through 47.

<sup>13</sup> See Matthew 24:37.

<sup>14</sup> Other translations give this meaning as the rendering of this part of the verse including, the KJV, NKJV, and ESV. The NIV gives it in a footnote.

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who somehow manage to remain alive through the Wrath of God and the Battle of Armageddon will still be "accursed." That is they will still die within their normal life expectancy of less than a hundred years old, and when they stand before the White Throne Judgment, God will be asking them, "Why did you not Repent of your sins and be baptized in my name and receive my Spirit and live for me?" If a Gentile person is old enough to choose the spiritual direction for themselves, and miss the Rapture of the church, I cannot find any hope for them to be saved for they missed their chance. That is why it is so important to be ready to go in the Rapture of the Church!

Let's say someone was twenty-five years old at the Rapture of the church and they did not have the Holy Ghost and thus did not go with the Church. Let's then say that person is not killed during the Wrath of God or the Battle of Armageddon. At the most they will live possibly another 75 years and then will die. They will not be resurrected until the White Throne Judgment and will have to answer to whether or not they obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ under Grace. Their children, however, who come to an age of accountability within the Millennial Reign are under a different set of rules. They will be judged by whatever the plan of salvation is for that future time. What this means is that by the first hundred years of the Millennial Reign anyone who had missed the Rapture will have already died and none of them will live until the end. Their children and grandchildren will be given a chance at salvation under the rules of the Millennial Reign.

This brings up several questions that we need to answer with scriptural principles. First, what is the age of accountability? I believe that it is different for each person. Because of constant and continual exposure to preaching and the Spirit of God, the age of accountability for my wife and I was quite young: I received the Holy Ghost at eight years of age and my wife was seven years old! The age of accountability is when a person can understand the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and choose to either respond or not to the drawing of the Spirit of God. There are some people, such as those with mental handicaps or injuries, who may never reach an age of accountability. When the children of Israel doubted God in the time of the Exodus, God refused to let anyone who was over the age of twenty years old to enter into the promised land.<sup>15</sup> For people of normal mental ability, then, twenty years of age is probably the maximum age of accountability. Under Grace, the fact that God pours out the Holy Ghost upon many people of younger ages seems to indicate that for some the age of accountability comes much quicker today. Ultimately God will be the judge of what each person's age of accountability is and if you are able to understand this Bible Study, you are no doubt of age!

The other question that needs to be addressed is what happens to the children under the age of accountability whose parents go in the Rapture of the Church? Are they left to fend for themselves? No, the answer is that most likely they will also go in the Rapture of the Church. This scriptural principle is again found in the story of the children of Israel's doubt at entering into the Promised Land. The children of Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who had kept the faith, were allowed to enter into the Promised Land regardless of their age at the time that Israel had rebelled.<sup>16</sup>

Another point to remember in studying the age of accountability is that God takes in account the children's submission to their parents. In the instance where a child is old enough to understand scripture and is submitted to their Holy Ghost-filled parent's authority and correction, then it is very likely that child will go in the Rapture of the Church even if they have not yet received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. At least until they are at the age of twenty, which is where God drew the line. When Holy Ghost-filled parents discipline their children as they should, God respects their authority and usually does not bring additional judgment. Under Law, if a child rebelled against his parent's rules and would not respond to discipline, then that child was brought to the priests and then the child was stoned!<sup>17</sup> Of course, in Grace we do not stone kids who rebel against all authority, but they do spiritually cause themselves to be directly under the judgment of God by their actions. Such a child would be judged by God directly as to whether or not they go in the Rapture of the Church. So, to recap, children who are at an age where they know the difference between right and wrong, have not yet received the Holy Ghost, but are still under the authority of their Holy Ghost-filled parents, will most likely go in the Rapture of the Church as long as the parents have appropriately disciplined them for going against the scriptures and they have received that discipline. Appropriate discipline means that the child has admitted their wrong, and asked for forgiveness to the parents and to God along with appropriate punishment. Parents who discipline their kids according to the commandments of God are actually drawing the mercy of God to their kids. Parents who do not correct their children at all are allowing their children to take on the full wrath of God for their actions!

What about if one spouse is a Spirit-filled Christian and one is not? The children are still considered "holy" because of the one spouse that is filled with the Holy Spirit:

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<sup>15</sup> See Numbers 14:29.

<sup>16</sup> Deuteronomy 1:36.

<sup>17</sup> See Deuteronomy 21:18-23.

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**1 Cor 7:14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your children are unclean, but now they are holy.**

The point of this scripture is the spiritual condition of the children so if, for example, a mother was living for God and the father was not, then their children would still fall under the window of protection of the Spirit-filled parent. Of course, the father would not be saved, but the children would as long as the parents disciplined them according to the Word of God and the children obeyed their parents! In case of split homes, it would be decided by whichever parent the child is ultimately obedient.

### **Some Final Thoughts**

**Zech 14:16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**

The 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of Zechariah was about the Wrath of God and the Battle of Armageddon. At the end of this chapter we find additional information about the Millennial Reign: that those who are left after the war will come to Jerusalem every year to worship Jesus Christ. The "Feast of Booths" was a time when Israel celebrated God's salvation from the wanderings in the wilderness and this all fits perfectly with what we have just been discussing.

**Zech 14:17-19 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them. 18 If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. 19 This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.**

If a nation does not come to worship Jesus at Jerusalem, then He will cause a drought in their land. This is amazing simply because apparently even without any influence of the devil and with an open revelation of who Jesus Christ is, there will still be many people who rebel against the plan of God! This shows us that the major obstacle that we face in serving God is not the devil, but our own fleshly desires. It also seems from these scriptures that Egypt will be one of the nations that will at some time choose not to go worship and thus suffer drought.<sup>18</sup>

**Zech 14:20-21 In that day there will be inscribed on the bells of the horses, "HOLY TO THE LORD." And the cooking pots in the Lord's house will be like the bowls before the altar. 21 Every cooking pot in Jerusalem and in Judah will be holy to the Lord of hosts; and all who sacrifice will come and take of them and boil in them. And there will no longer be a Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts in that day.**

"Holy to the Lord" was the inscription upon the High Priest's hat under Moses' law. In Biblical times, horse bridles were typically fitted with bells and such and what these scriptures are teaching is that everything, even things such as work and transportation, will be according to God's will in that day and that God will rule over every aspect of the earth's life. He will truly be Lord of All! The reference to the "pots," "bowls," and "Lord's house" is further proof of there being a literal temple during the Millennial Reign! The "Canaanites" were those in the Promised Land who were evil and worshiped idols among the Jewish people. In that day, idolatry and open sinful rebellion will not be tolerated!

**Rev 20:7-8 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.**

After the 1,000 years are passed, Satan will be released to deceive the masses. He will be able to deceive many of the same nations who came against Israel during the Battle of Armageddon! He will convince many of them to join with him in a fight against God and Jerusalem.

**Rev 20:9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.**

This scripture is important because it tells us that our base of operations as we rule and reign with Jesus Christ will be Jerusalem. As far as the battle, it will not be much of a fight and this verse is all that we know or have to know about it: God devours the armies with fire and they are gone!

<sup>18</sup> This could mean the literal nation of Egypt or could be meant spiritually: Egypt is always a type of "living in sin" in the Bible.

## ***Prophecy #14 – The Millennial Reign***

**Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

At this time the devil's free movement is over and he is cast into the lake of fire where he shall be tormented day and night. The Millennial Reign is over and next comes the White Throne Judgment, which we will study in our next lesson. Time as we know it has now come to an end.

## Endnotes

There is a principle in God's Word where He always allows a small group of people to live according to principles before He reveals the complete picture. For example, God allowed Abraham to learn what it was like to give blood sacrifice and walk by faith before He revealed to the nation of Israel all of the sacrifices contained in the 613 laws of Moses. God then allowed the nation of Israel to kill a sacrificial lamb outside of the camp and use its blood for redemption and even celebrate the Passover with the application of blood upon the door posts of their house, long before the Lamb of God was slain and the Apostolic Church was born! Likewise, while Jesus Christ was upon earth, He frequently taught "kingdom principles" which was the Godly way to live in a sinful world. His famous Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew 5-7, is full of kingdom principles. Apostolic Christians try to live by these principles in a world that does not. But during the Millennial Reign, we will be teaching these kingdom principles with a greater understanding and the entire earth will be required to live by them! The teaching of "kingdom principles" in this time is why some scholars call it the "Kingdom Age." Just as we now look at the Old Testament scriptures which were written for Israel and yet learn spiritual principles from them, we will one day read the New Testament scriptures which were written for Grace and yet see spiritual principles that apply to the Millennial Reign! No one knows what those revelations are because we are not there yet!

<sup>ii</sup> For instance, Jesus taught a parable that represented how the earth will be divided up among the church in Luke chapter 19:11-13. Take the time to read it and then observe the following points:

This story was told to teach us about the kingdom of God. The people of Jesus' day thought that He was going to destroy the Roman rule and set up the Millennial Reign right then, but Jesus dissuaded this theory by telling them that it would be like this story where a certain nobleman went away for a time to receive a kingdom and then come back. He took ten servants and gave them each about \$2,000 in today's money and commanded them to keep busy until he returned. In other words, "wait faithfully in your duties until I come back." There are many ways to view this parable, but it is not hard to see that the nobleman easily represents Jesus Christ going into heaven and coming back again and that the servants are the church who are waiting upon His return.

The majority of the world did not receive Jesus and for the most part will reject the message of Jesus' salvation. It is a sobering thought that the best odds scripture can give us for people being saved is 50%. There will be two in the field, and one shall be taken. Two shall be grinding at the meal and one shall be taken and another left (see Matthew 24:41). In fact, Jesus taught that the road to heaven is narrow and "few there be that find it" (Matthew 7:14). Furthermore, when the Lord comes back, He will be interested in what those that He left behind have done with what He has given them! According to verses 16-21, the amount that the servants had increased what the Lord had given them determined how many cities that they ruled over during the Lord's Kingdom upon the earth! To the one who got ten pounds, was given ten cities! In other words, our position in the Millennial Reign of Christ will be dependent upon what we are doing now with everything that God has given us!

God has given every human being a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). When He comes back, He wants to know what you have done with that faith. We must act upon our faith! Have you acted upon it and Repented? Have you acted upon it and been baptized or received the Holy Ghost? Have you acted upon it and won others to God and faithfully applied the Word of God until your life was transformed into what you should be? Or do you have the attitude of the unfaithful servant: "God demands too much and it's too hard to live according to His rules." How you view God is what He will be to you. If that's how you choose to view God's Word then He will be harsh to you, but if you ever get the revelation that God is merciful and every commandment of His Word is for your good, then you will come to know Him in the power of His love and protection! And what you do with your faith now determines your position of power during the Millennial Reign!