

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Week 10 – WHY?

March 20, 2018

### WHY will there be the rapture of the Church?

- The rapture of the Church (Jewish and Gentile believers in Jesus) will end the Church Age.
- The Church will be kept from *the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth* (Rev. 3:10). Those who “dwell on the earth” also known as “earth dwellers” are those who are non-believers.
- God will be focused upon ridding the world of wickedness and the wicked ones. His wrath will begin to be poured out on a rebellious world when Jesus begins to loose the seals on the scroll (Rev. 6:1).
- God will focus on cleansing the earth.
- God will purge Israel and prepare them for their Messiah.
- God will pick up where He left off with the Jewish people prior to Pentecost.

Through the 144,000 sealed male Jewish virgins (Rev. 14:4), and the two witnesses, God will use Israel, once again, as His redemptive tool during the Tribulation during which time there will be massive evangelism.

- Rapture passages: John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:16-18.
- Judgment Seat of Christ/Bema (which means judgment) Seat: While the Tribulation is occurring on the earth, believers from the Church Age will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ in heaven to either receive rewards or lose rewards based on how we have used our lives in service for the Lord after coming to faith in Jesus (II Cor. 5:9-10). The purpose of the judgment is not to determine whether or not we will enter heaven. The sins of believers have been judged at the cross. Our being given rewards at the Judgment Seat, or the loss of rewards at the Judgment Seat (NO LOSS OF SALVATION) prepares the believer for our role in the Millennial Kingdom! AND, knowing about our coming before the Lord at the Bema can dramatically affect the way we make decisions and the way we serve God now. (See Revelation Pt. 4/Week 3).
- The Marriage of the Lamb (Rev. 19:6-8) which will occur in heaven during the Tribulation on earth, will follow the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Church will be presented to Christ as a pure chaste virgin (II Cor. 11:2). The marriage relationship in Scripture speak to belonging to God...to joy...to being loved by God and to love Him. Eph. 1:4 – *He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,* Look at our beautiful Bridegroom – Eph. 5:25-27 - *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,* <sup>26</sup> *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,* <sup>27</sup> *that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.* (See Revelation Pt. 4/Week 4).

### WHY will there be seven years of Tribulation?

- To fulfill Dan. 9:27 – the “70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.” The antichrist will make a covenant with Israel for one week (seven years based on Daniel’s 70 year prophecy). The signing of the covenant will launch the Tribulation.

- To make an end of wickedness and wicked ones both Jews and Gentiles. To cleanse the earth.
- To bring about a worldwide preaching of the gospel of the kingdom.
- To fulfill Jer. 30:7 – “the time of Jacob’s trouble” – to purge Israel and to prepare them for their Messiah. The Jewish people/Israel must turn away from trying to establish their own righteousness and seek the righteousness of God through the Messiah Jesus. This will lead to the nation of Israel coming to faith in Jesus. (See Revelation Pt. 1/Week 5; subject is handled throughout Pt. 1, 2, 3, 4)

WHY will there be a 75-day interval between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom?

Dan. 12:11-12 - *And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up (mid-Trib), there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days.* <sup>12</sup> *Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.* From the time of the middle of the Tribulation at the abomination of desolations, when the image of the antichrist is set up in the temple, there will be 1290 days. We’ve been talking about 1260 days equaling the last 3.5 years. The first half of the Tribulation is 3.5 years and the second half of the Tribulation is 3.5 years. Daniel mentions an 30 additional days. And then a blessing is noted in v. 12 of Dan. 12 for him who waits and comes to the 1335 days. Here we have an additional 45 days. It appears that what we have is a 75-day interval between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Why? Suggested reasons for the additional 75 days:

- Israel is regathered following the Tribulation (Matt. 24:31).
- Jewish people who survived the Tribulation are judged (Matt. 25:1-30 – parable of the ten virgins [bridesmaids] and the parable of the talents).
- Gentiles who survive the Tribulation are judged (Matt. 25:31-46).
- OT saints and Tribulation saints are resurrected and, as some teach, they are rewarded (Dan. 12:1-3; Isa. 26:19; Rev. 20:4)
- The Millennial Temple is constructed or at least begun (Eze. 40-48; Zech. 6:12-13).

WHY will there be a Millennial Kingdom?

To give Jesus His inheritance:

Psa. 2:8 - *Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possession.*

To fulfill Ex. 25:8 - *let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.* God’s desire has been to dwell with man. John 1:14 - *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,*

God will dwell with man during the 1,000 Messianic Kingdom!

To redeem the creation:

- Without a literal Millennium under the reign of Jesus, God’s purpose for this world can never be fully realized. God will reverse His curse on the creation and fulfill His original purpose for the earth.

To fulfill the Biblical Covenants:

- God promised Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob land, seed, and a blessing. Those promises are expanded in the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant.
- During the Millennium, Israel will be given the land that God promised in Gen. 15:18; the Messiah will sit on the throne of David in Jerusalem; Israel will be restored as a nation at the end of the Tribulation and will enter into the Millennial Kingdom born again! And, the entire world will be blessed with Millennial conditions on the earth (the curse being lifted) when Israel as a nation comes to faith in Jesus.

To vindicate Israel before the eyes of all nations (I Sam. 17:46; Isa. 60 through 62)

*Isa. 62:1-4 - For Zion's sake I will not hold My peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a lamp that burns. <sup>2</sup> The Gentiles shall see your righteousness, and all kings your glory. You shall be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD will name. <sup>3</sup> You shall also be a crown of glory in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

*<sup>4</sup> You shall no longer be termed Forsaken, nor shall your land any more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called Hephzibah, and your land Beulah; for the LORD delights in you,*

*Isa. 60:1-3 – Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. <sup>2</sup> For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup> The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.*

So that the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God (Hab. 2:14)

WHY will Satan be bound for 1,000 years?

- During the Millennial Kingdom, with Satan bound, God will manifest His perfect righteousness and also give man an ideal state in which to live and worship Jesus.
- So that Satan will not deceive the nations.
- All outward sources of temptation must be removed so that those in their natural bodies giving birth to children with natural bodies will demonstrate what they are apart from Satanic influence. Because they will still be “natural,” they will be subject to the weaknesses of a mortal body, and will still be prone to sin. (The sin nature is strong – Rom. 7:18-20)

WHY will there be a Temple during the Millennial Kingdom?

God desired a temple built for His name in Jerusalem. He affirmed it through Nathan the prophet, David the king, Solomon the king, and through His presence at the dedication of the temple (I Chron. 17:1-27; I Chron. 22:11; II Chron. 7:1-3)

Temples: Solomon's; Zerubbabel's (embellished by Herod); Tribulation Temple (II Thess. 2:4); Millennial Temple.

Intent of Temple: Ex. 25:8 – to dwell with man; Isa. 56:6-7 - *Also the sons of the foreigner (Gentiles) who join themselves to the LORD, to serve Him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be His servants...<sup>7</sup> Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.*

- The Millennial Temple is distinct for any previous Temples. The first Temple that Solomon built lacked Gentile worshippers. The glory of God did not fill the second Temple built under Zerubbabel and will not fill the third Temple in the Tribulation. The Millennial Temple, however, will have Gentile worshippers and the glory of God. The world will come to the Millennial Temple to learn God’s law (God’s ways so that they can walk in His paths (Isa. 2:2).
- In the Millennium, the Temple will become the center that unites Jews and Gentiles in the worship and service of God (Isa. 2:2-3; Isa. 56:6-7; Isa. 66:18-21; Zech. 14:16) as the nations annually assemble in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech4:16).

WHY is it significant that the Millennial Temple is a literal Temple? Some teach that the Millennial Temple will not be a literal temple. Ezekiel saw in his vision a literal building that has not yet been erected.

- There is an immense number of details given concerning the Temple’s dimensions, parts, and contents. If Scripture devotes such detail to this Temple, we can safely assume that it will be as literal as the Tabernacle in the wilderness and as Solomon’s Temple.
- Ezekiel was told to “declare to the house of Israel everything you see” (Eze. 40:4). The Israelites were told – in relation to this future Temple – “to keep its whole design and all its ordinances and perform them” (Eze. 43:11),
- If the Millennial Temple is not to be a reality, how are we to understand the glory of God returning to this Temple? Is the glory of God not a reality?
- Mal. 3:3 - *He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness...in the literal Millennial Temple in Jerusalem.*
- The Millennial Temple will provide a place of worship for Israel and for the Gentile nations (Isa. 56:6-7).

WHY will all the nations worship God in the Millennial Temple?

Gen. 12:3 - *...and through you, all the families of the earth will be blessed.*

Gen. 18:18 – *God is speaking...Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.*

Psa. 117 – the center/middle chapter of the Bible - *Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! <sup>2</sup> For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!*

Rom. 15:8-10 - *Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,<sup>9</sup> and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: 'For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.'*<sup>10</sup> *And again he says: 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!'* God's desire is that Gentiles rejoice with the Jewish people.

Isa. 2:3 - *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.*<sup>3</sup> *Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'*

*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

Isa. 19:21-25 – Egypt and Assyria....

#### WHY will there be animal sacrifices in the Millennial Temple?

The blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin in the OT. So, the blood of bulls and goats will not take away sin during the Millennium. Some teach that the Millennial offerings will be memorials for the people living in the Millennial Kingdom. They will need a reminder of the ugliness of sin, the cost of sin to God. The shedding of blood in the Millennial Temple will visibly remind them that only Christ's blood can take away sin. However, nothing in the text indicates the sacrifices are memorials. Millennial sacrifices are to make atonement:

Eze. 45:15, 17, 20 - *And one lamb shall be given from a flock of two hundred, from the rich pastures of Israel. These shall be for grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them," says the Lord GOD....<sup>17</sup> Then it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel. He shall prepare the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel." ...<sup>20</sup> *And so you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the temple.**

Atonement is the Hebrew word, *kippur*, which means "to cover." In the OT, under the Levitical system, sacrifices were required to atone for/cover sin and to cleanse the buildings, the altar, the Levites, and the sanctuary. Animal sacrifices will be offered in the Millennial Kingdom to cover the worshippers' ceremonial uncleanness because God will be dwelling on earth in the midst of sinners living in their natural, unresurrected bodies. Without blood sacrifices these impure worshippers will defile God's holy Temple when they come to worship Him. Consider this – we know from Leviticus atonement purges uncleanness (Heb. 9:13). The purging will be required in the Millennial Temple because the presence of God will once again be dwelling in the land. Lev. 16 speaks of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, when animal sacrifices were made to cleanse the people and the "camp" where God dwelled in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and then the Temple in Jerusalem. This was never the purpose of Jesus' sacrifice. His sacrifice dealt with the internal cleansing. Sacrifices in the Millennium will not be a substitute for God's plan of salvation; they will not change the way a person

is redeemed. Salvation has always been and will always be by grace through faith in Jesus and in His shed blood on the cross. Nor will these sacrifices diminish Christ's work on the cross (Heb. 10:10). It is Christ's death, not animal sacrifices that take away sin.

More to consider: though animal sacrifices and priests have no place since Pentecost, this does not mean that they will have no place in Israel after the rapture of the Church. The Scriptures make a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. The fact the Church will have finished its work on earth by the time of the rapture doesn't mean that God will have finished His work of instruction, testing, and sanctification in Israel.

#### WHY will feasts be celebrated in the Millennial Temple?

Feasts celebrated in the Millennium: a Feast of the New Year (Eze. 45:18) never before celebrated emphasizing holiness in the Temple (to "cleanse the sanctuary"); the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread (Eze. 45:21-24) – the foundation of God's plan of Redemption; the Feast of Tabernacles (Eze. 45:25) – "the feast" on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. The Feast of Tabernacles (God dwelling with man) is fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

All nations will be required to appear in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Those that do not travel to Jerusalem for Tabernacles will be denied rain. If Egypt does not appear in Jerusalem for Tabernacles, they will be denied rain and they shall receive the plague – as other nations who do not keep this feast will receive!

*Zech. 14:16-18 - And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.<sup>17</sup> And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain.<sup>18</sup> If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.*

Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement, Pentecost, and Trumpets will not be celebrated during the Millennial Kingdom.

#### WHY does Ezekiel speak of the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem?

- The glory of God departed from Solomon's Temple because of abominations, idolatry, disobedience (Eze. 10:1-22 and Eze. 11:22-23).
- Eze. 43:1-2, 4-5 – in the Millennial Kingdom - *Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east.*<sup>2</sup> *And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east...*<sup>4</sup> *And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east.*<sup>5</sup> *The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*
- Eze. 44:1-2 - *Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut.*<sup>2</sup> *And the LORD said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the LORD God of Israel*

*has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.* Ezekiel specifically states that the gate he saw is “the outer gate of the sanctuary”; it’s the gate of the temple court and not a gate of the city.

Ezekiel is told that the eastern Temple gate is to remain shut because the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered through it (v. 2). We see the permanent presence of the Lord among the people.

Eze. 48:35b - *and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.*”  
JEHOVAH SHAMMAH!

#### Week 11

WHY will Satan be released after 1,000 years in the pit?

WHY will the heavens and the earth be destroyed?

WHY will there be a Great White Throne of Judgment following the Millennial Kingdom?

WHY will there be a New Jerusalem?

WHY did we study the book of Revelation?

#### QUESTIONS:

V8 moments?

How can you share this with others?

What are your observations and questions?

How does this impact your walk with the Lord?

#### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 10’s lesson with the Bible passages noted.

Email me your questions for Week 11’s class