

# The Voice of Truth # 535

## Christ's Great Society Under His Earthly Rule

We've studied the fact of the millennial reign of Christ and his kingdom here on earth when he shall sit on his throne in Jerusalem as David's heir. The vast majority of the Old Testament prophecies are yet unfulfilled as they are the unfolding of the minute details wrapped up in the covenants made to Abraham and to David in Genesis 22 and 2 Samuel 7, regarding the kingdom. The word of God is so plain that even fools should not err therein. In the book of Revelation, this fact of the kingdom is stated in just three verses, Revelation 20:4,5,6. I want us to read the last part of the fourth verse, and then the sixth verse, listen:

**And they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

**Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

In my study of many writers and commentaries on the book of Revelation, and in discussion with individuals, the question has been raised, why did the angel not give more elaborate information to the writer of the book of Revelation concerning the earthly kingdom of our Lord, instead of summing it up in one short sentence, **and they shall reign with Christ a thousand years**. We raised the same question in our study of the resurrection and rapture of the saints, in the fourth chapter of Revelation; why is there not a detailed account of the rapture? And we found that the answer is that the rapture of the saints and the harvest of the resurrection is described minutely by the Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles in the other books of the New Testament. The same thing holds true regarding the prophecies of the future kingdom on earth and the reign of our Lord. There was no reason to go into detail here in Revelation since both the Old and the New Testaments give all the specific information we need to understand it clearly.

Let me say this, we preachers are just as lazy as circumstances permit, and the average preacher is too lazy to take time and read and study and meditate and pray and dig out and correlate the scriptures in the Bible on all these great subjects or doctrines of the word. That's right, and that's why the average preacher's changing pulpits, every year, or every two years. He's preached out. I know, many of them have come to me.

If you'll study the covenants made with Abraham and David and the prophecies showing how the covenants will be realized, you will be literally amazed at the hundreds of portions of scripture that deal with the kingdom. The Old Testament sets forth the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ at least four times more than it does his first coming as the suffering Savior. But someone said to me, "Pastor, there's about 12, or maybe 20 times more about the kingdom than there is about the first coming of Christ." The Jews in their spiritual blindness saw only a coming king, and not a suffering servant to die as a substitute for sin. Therefore, through unbelief; they rejected him as the substance and the fulfillment of their covenant promises, who should come as the suffering servant of Jehovah; and then they were broken off, and the Gentiles were grafted in through faith as the Gentile bride of Christ, or the church, and the kingdom was postponed. As the Apostle Paul said in Romans 11:20, **Well; because of unbelief, they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not high-minded, but fear: for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed, lest he also spare not thee.**

On the other hand, the religious world today is rejecting, through unbelief, the second coming of our Lord, the setting up of his earthly kingdom, and his rule here on earth in person. The apostle Paul in Romans 11: 20 said, **because of unbelief they were broken off**, that is the Jews, **and thou standest by faith**, the Gentiles. The Gentile age is coming to a close through unbelief. They're willing to accept the lowly Nazarene as a suffering servant, but they reject him as Lord and God. Now you put that thing down. The Jews accepted him as God and King, but would not accept him as the suffering servant. But today, the Gentiles, through unbelief, have come to accept him as the lowly Nazarene, but are rejecting him as Lord, King, and God. That explains why they are losing the sense of blood redemption, and it's the reason the person and work of Christ is no longer the substance of their religion. Religionists today have only the outward shell, the

outward organization, and an empty religious profession; no life, no power, no salvation. Therefore, they're trying to build in their own strength, with their own depraved minds, an earthly spiritual kingdom, which they think is the fulfillment of all the covenants made to Abraham, David, and revealed through the prophets. This is old Babylon, which we have seen in our study of Revelation, is the composite of all religions and all pagan and idolatrous worship that our Lord will utterly destroy before he returns to reign. Now you get that?

In studying the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, we want to look at it from several viewpoints. First, we want to look at it as Christ's great society during his earthly reign. We have seen how the Lord Jesus Christ cleared this earth of all of Satan's society, religion, and world orders, by destroying the cities, the cesspools of sin, and by destroying the capital city of the Antichrist - Babylon, as the seat of idolatry, and by destroying all the armies of the nations of the earth with their kings and rulers. We have seen how he sat in judgment on the nations and destroyed every unsaved individual the world over and completely cleared the earth of all rebellion and sin. Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ comes with his redeemed to the earth, swept clean of all that man has done under the satanic wisdom of the devil and he begins his society with the redeemed people of the earth. That is, all His resurrected saints and those who were preserved through the tribulation period, redeemed by His precious blood and living in their natural bodies. Those whom He brings with Him, the redeemed and the resurrected or translated saints, who have their new resurrected glorified bodies are the ones who will reign with him and occupy places of authority in this new earth and this new society. When he comes, all the redeemed saints who come through the tribulation period, those who do not bow to the Antichrist and who are preserved alive by the Lord Jesus Christ himself, will be the ones he will repopulate this earth with. Just think of an earth where every inhabitant is a redeemed child of God, not in name only, but in actuality, a saved, born-again believer. And then, ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ himself with his resurrected saints. Won't that be a gracious time? That's coming to pass, brethren. I don't care what you think about it. This is God's Word I'm talking about.

The seat of government of the new earth will be Jerusalem. Christ will sit on the throne, and the scripture says that the twelve apostles will sit on the twelve

thrones with him, judging the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. Also, the scripture says that David will be the prince, and he will rule with him. Then throughout the entire earth, the resurrected saints will sit in places of authority, ruling with a rod of iron, that is, helping shepherd the nations with the rule of authority. Just to think that every individual member of every nation on the earth, when Christ takes over his reign, will be a saved individual, is a comforting thought, isn't it?

Now, what are some of the outstanding characteristics of this great society or world order of the Lord Jesus Christ as he rules and reigns upon this earth from Jerusalem? One of the most significant things that characterizes his reign is, universal peace. Because all nations of the earth will be under the rule of the Prince of Peace, who rules in righteousness. Isaiah 2:4 tells us, **And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.** The society of Satan and of the world (as Satan is the god of the world) is characterized by wars, rumors of wars, and strife. This is true in this present hour. But under the reign of Christ there be universal peace - No armies, no navies, no manufacture of firearms or implements of war; no schools to train soldiers or leaders of war. That will be a thing of the past, because the scripture says, neither shall they learn war anymore. Now you get that, you hold that. This truth is brought out clearly in Isaiah 9:6. **For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.** These five great names of our Lord set forth five great characteristics of the kingdom age under his rule. I know he's that to every individual today, but he'll be that to the world.

Let's notice another characteristic of his kingdom, and that is, there'll be no need of a committee for the preservation of wildlife, and there'll be no extermination companies, never will be, listen to God's word, Isaiah 11:6-9.

**The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.**

Isn't that a marvelous statement of fact that the Lord Jesus Christ will remove all enmity between the animals and between animal life and human life and he'll take away all the poison from the deadly serpents so that men and women can move over the earth's surface without fear of being harmed by animal life. In other words, he will restore that peace that prevailed during the life of Adam and Eve before they sinned. What a time to live in! I'm going to live in those days. I'm looking forward to those days. Are you?

You know, we saw over there that one of the punishments of the wicked during the tribulation period is he's going to turn loose every wild beast in this world upon humanity and let them vent their selves upon humanity. But during his great society, his earthly reign, he'll remove all the poison, all the enmity, everything in the world between animals and living creatures and between other creatures and the human race.

Then he said, **the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.** There will be such a remarkable and astounding outpouring of the Holy Spirit during the reign of Christ, according to Joel 2:28, and he will be so powerful in his transforming, glorifying power and imparting miraculous gifts to the saints, so pervading in and over, not only the Jewish nation, but every nation of the earth, that all shall be righteous, from the least unto the greatest. The influence of the knowledge of the Lord shall be so widespread over the Gentile nations that they shall rejoice in the light bestowed, because the whole earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord God of heaven. I am longing and looking forward to the reign of our Lord upon this earth, and I am anxious to be a member of His great society and world order.

Peace shall so prevail over the entire earth until there'll be no need to maintain a law enforcement department with officers carrying guns at their side. Of course, the saints shall rule with righteousness and judgment and with all the authority invested in them by the Lord Jesus Christ, and the wicked will be slain by the breath of the Lord's mouth, Isaiah 11:4, but listen to Isaiah 32:17,18.

**And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;**

Listen again to Isaiah 54:14. **In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror, for it shall not come near thee.**

Listen again to Isaiah 55:12. **For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.**

This same truth is brought out in Isaiah 60:18. **Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls salvation, and thy gates praise.**

Isn't that marvelous? Let me give you one more scripture. **And they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses, and plant vineyards; Yea, they shall dwell with confidence, when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about them; and they shall know that I am the Lord their God.**

Here's an interesting scripture found in Ezekiel 34:28. **And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the land devour them, but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid.**

Won't it be a marvelous day when every man shall dwell safely in his own home? There will be no rioting, no robbery, no lurking by the roadside, no hidden enemy to prey upon you. Peace will be the outstanding characteristic of the great society of Christ during his earthly reign. Every rebel will be immediately put to death. Isaiah 1:28, **and the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be**

**together, and they that forsake the Lord shall be consumed**, as we've said, **with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked**. Capital punishment will prevail worldwide throughout the reign of our blessed Lord. The Bible plainly teaches capital punishment, and it will be enforced during the reign of Christ. Christ's reign on earth cannot be a kingdom of peace except it be a kingdom of holiness. It will be the reign of God on earth or a theocracy. Therefore, it will be a holy kingdom in which holiness is manifested through the king, through the king's subjects. The land will be holy, the city will be holy, the temple will be holy, the subjects will be holy unto the Lord. Listen to Isaiah 2:4, **In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and beautiful for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem.**

Let's turn to Isaiah 29:18. **In that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.**

You know that'll be a gracious day when there'll be no deformities, no blindness, no deafness among the inhabitants of that new society. There'll be no illiteracy. All will be able to read. All will be able to learn, all will be able to see and to hear. There won't have to be any poverty or illiteracy program. The old prophet goes on to say in that 19th verse, **the meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.** Then the 20th verse, tells us, how everything will be kept holy unto the Lord, **for the terrible one is brought to naught, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off.** In other words, open sin and rebellion among the inhabitants of the earth will be immediately destroyed. The earth will be kept completely clean, and there will be nothing but holiness unto the Lord. In connection with this thought, let us read Isaiah 35: 8.

**And the highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; and the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring man, though fools, shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and**

**come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

Not only will it be a great society of holiness, but the expressions of that state of holiness among God's people will be manifested in joy, singing, and praising the Lord. Everywhere you turn, everywhere you go, men and women will be praising the Lord. And in Zechariah 14:20, we find that holiness unto the Lord will be expressed everywhere: **In that day there shall be upon the bells of the horses, Holiness unto the Lord; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judea shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.**

Holiness will characterize every movement of the Lord's people and their common pursuits of life - the riding of the horses, the plowing of the fields, and so on. Holiness will be the outstanding mark of everything. Won't it be a gracious day to live in? I'm going to be there because I'm going to rule and reign with my blessed Lord.

Now in connection with holiness of the Lord, characterizing every phase of His reign, we find that there'll be a full knowledge of the Lord. The ministry of the king through his priests and ministers will bring his subjects into full knowledge of His word, according to Isaiah 2:3, **And many people shall go up and say, Come ye, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.** Praise the Lord. Then he says that all of his people shall be taught of the Lord and the heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerer shall be ready to speak plainly. Praise the Lord. What a day it'll be! What a great society to live in! What a world to move in! In Isaiah 30:20 he says, **Yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, this is the way, walk ye in it, when you turn to the right hand, and when you turn to the left.** In other words, my friends, we'll come to know more and more of the Word of God as we follow



on to know the Lord, more of the unfolding of the beauty of the holiness of the Lord, His great redemption, and the power of His holiness and goodness and righteousness. We'll understand better His great mercy that endures forever because everywhere you turn, the Bible will be read; men and women will be talking about the Lord. And every place of business, every farm home, every vineyard, every nook and corner of the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Every person will be greeted in the name of the Lord. This knowledge will come about through the instruction that issues from the King, the Lord Jesus Christ himself. It'll be the paramount thing of his kingdom to teach his subjects his word. The old prophet Jeremiah, speaking of those times in Jeremiah 3:14,

**I will take you one of a city, two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: and I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind; neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done anymore.**

Why? Why? **At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.** Now why? Because the Lord will be there. Praise the Lord. What a day! No wonder, no wonder the Jews were looking for a king. O Jews, if I'm preaching to you, turn to him now, the suffering servant, that you might behold him as the king. He is the king, the king of the Jews, the king of the Jews. Not only did he say he was the king of the Jews, but he is the king of the Jews. He's the king of the world. Praise the Lord, he's mine, is he yours? Won't that be a pleasant land? Won't it be a land of holiness, a land of peace, a land filled with the knowledge of the glory of God? I'm going to be there, are you? And another outstanding characteristic set forth in the prophets regarding the kingdom is, it'll not be a time of idleness, but there will be a perfect economic system in which the needs of the people will be abundantly provided for. The entire labor system will be under the guidance of the King, for he says in Isaiah 61:8, **I will direct their work in truth;** as the great labor leader of the world. What a glorious society will be developed through the provision for the needs of every individual throughout the entire earth.