

INTRODUCTION TO THE MILLENNIUM 4  
The "Rest" of Hebrews 4

INTRO: It is much longer until we got back into Hebrews 4 than I had expected, but we are there. I have mentioned to you that I believe that the "rest" spoken of a few times in chapter 3 and more times in chapter 4 refers to the millennium. This is when the Lord will give His people rest. I further believe that Canaan is a picture of the millennium. One may think Canaan is a picture of heaven, but Canaan was not a perfect place. But Israel did rest there. They never moved from this land to another, unless by force and then they always sought to go back. They never left this land except when God punished them by allowing them to be taken out of the land. Israel out of the land is like a fish out of water. The millennium is not a perfect place, but it is a place of rest.

Somewhere in the past I gave you an assignment to find out if the "rest" mentioned here refers to the millennium. Pastor Daryl did quite an assignment and gave interesting information indicating that he believes this rest indeed refers to the millennium.

Now let me ask you this question: What did the OT saints look forward to? What was, and is still their hope? Has anybody here read in the Bible what their hope was? Did they look forward to going to heaven? Did they look forward to being caught up with Christ? What did they look forward to?

Now let me come back to the question regarding what the OT people looked forward to. In January of this year the news outlet, "Israel Today," had an article called, "Jewish Expectation and Christian Hope." It says this:

"For Christians, earthly hopes do not fit in with God's plan of salvation and therefore can never be fulfilled." Let me explain what they are saying. The Christian's hope is not an earthly hope. We hope to go to heaven. If that is true, the earthly promises to Israel cannot be fulfilled. Well, I would say that is not true of all Christians, but for by far the majority of professing Christians heaven is their hope.

I continue the quote now:

"It is quite the opposite for the Jews, who as the Kingdom of Israel are an earthly nation. So, in Judaism the human expectation of "waiting upon" the coming of the

Messiah dominates. The Messiah will establish His throne in this world, which will be the Kingdom of God on earth. The awaiting, the expectation (*lehamtin*) of the Jews, which is an earthly expectation, is different than that of Christian hope, which is directed to the hereafter." End quote.

<https://www.israeltoday.co.il/read/the-future-for-messianic-jews-in-the-last-days/>

Now let me ask this question: What are Christians looking forward to? That depends on our view of prophecy. If we are amillennialists, we are looking forward to Jesus Christ coming to take us to heaven, and after this we believe we will be in heaven forever. The Kingdom Now people, or postmillennialists, are looking forward to getting Christians into government and other positions of authority or influence and making this world better and better until it is ready for Christ to return. Then Christ will reign on earth, but they don't know how long. We believe that Christ will return for His own and so we are looking forward to the great catching up of the Church, and from there to be taken to heaven for seven years. After those brief seven years, we believe Christ will return to earth and set up the millennial kingdom.

Maybe the difference between the hope of the majority of Christian's and the Jewish hope could be expressed like this: The majority of Christian's hope is heavenly; the Jewish hope is earthly. The Jews expect the Messiah to come and set up His kingdom on earth. Christians, on the other hand, expect to go to heaven. Who is right?

Let me say this; the majority of professing Christians have no proper teaching on prophecy. Their view is there is no millennium and the Church has replaced Israel. That is simply unbiblical. What they are looking forward to is heaven. We can also say that in this view the prophets of the OT are mostly misunderstood and the book of Revelation is a huge mystery.

However, all premillennialists, whether they are pre-trib, post-trib, or mid-trib, believe God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled. That means they believe there will be a tribulation. After the tribulation there will be a millennium. And this millennium is the same earthly hope the Jews have. As we will see, this earthly hope of the Jews is also the hope of all premillennialists. The difference between the hope of premillennialist Christians and the Jewish hope is, the catching up of the Church.

If all we look forward to is the rapture, our hope is far too small. That time will only last seven brief years. The millennium follows and it lasts for 1,000 years and, though it is not perfect, it will be absolutely glorious! But that is not nearly all! After the millennium is eternity with God and Jesus Christ and you can read about that in Revelation 20-22.

And what I believe is that the "rest" spoken of in Hebrews 3 and 4 speaks of the millennium! So, I simply want to very briefly introduce the millennium to us. We could call it the kingdom of Jesus Christ. He will be the literal Ruler of that age and He will rule on earth!

#### I. IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

As we begin, let us consider first Hebrews 3:11 and 18.

Verse 11 says:

*11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'*"

Who is "they"? Well, it was Israel in the wilderness. Verse 18:

*18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey?*

This was given in the same time. The *rest* referred to the land of Israel. Canaan does not picture heaven. There was sin in Canaan. It pictures the millennium, which though it will have sin, sin will be dealt with promptly by the government of Jesus Christ. That is what was supposed to happen in Canaan as well but Israel disobeyed. Hebrews 4 will speak much more of this rest.

Now, what we want to consider first is a few promises in the OT to the millennium. We could begin in Genesis 3:15 where God, for the first time, promised a Redeemer. It says this:

*15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

For the majority of time in the OT, they simply had the promise of a coming Redeemer. However, the promises of God to a kingdom in which this Redeemer would rule on earth

comes later in the OT and there are very many references to that and we will consider only a few. We get the beginning of some of the promises that the Messiah will rule on earth in the books of Moses which were written some 2500 years after the first prophecy to a Redeemers. Deuteronomy 18:18 says:

*18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.*

Here we get an indication that this Redeemer will be a prophet like Moses, and that He will rule Israel, because here they are instructed that when He comes, they are to listen to Him.

When we move into the prophets of the OT, we find prophecy after prophecy referring directly to the millennial kingdom on earth. Let me show you that from a few verses you are very familiar with. Listen to Isaiah 9:6-7:

*6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;*

We know that the Child referred to here is Jesus Christ, Jesus the Messiah. But then it says this:

*And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

*7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Did that happen when He came the first time? No! That will happen in the millennium. Did peace come on earth when He came the first time? No! But peace will come when He comes the second time. He will be the Prince of Peace. I need not tell you from the time of Christ until now we have not known a time of peace. No doubt, this speaks of a time future which we know as the millennium. Why did these things not happen when Jesus came the first time? Because Israel rejected Him and had Him killed!

His government will increase and there will be no end to it. After the millennium it will continue throughout the time of the new heavens and new earth. And we note that He will sit upon the throne of David. That is a common thread in the OT and all this will happen in the millennium. This is what the Jews were, and are still looking forward to.

How does this kingdom begin? Turn to Zechariah 14. Well, we could read Revelation 19 here but we will do that later. It begins when Christ comes back down to earth with the Church and He defeats all the enemies of God. Listen how the transition from the tribulation to the millennium takes place in Zechariah 14. This passage begins in the tribulation and ends in the millennium:

*1 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming, And your spoil will be divided in your midst.*

*2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; The city shall be taken, The houses rifled, And the women ravished. Half of the city shall go into captivity, But the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.*

*3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle.*

*4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.*

*5 Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You.*

*6 It shall come to pass in that day That there will be no light; The lights will diminish.*

*7 It shall be one day Which is known to the LORD—Neither day nor night. But at evening time it shall happen That it will be light.*

That speaks of the tribulation. Verse 8 now takes us into the millennium:

*8 And in that day it shall be That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur.*

*9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be- "The LORD is one," And His name one.*

Here we have entered the millennium.

Now turn to Isaiah 2:1-4:

*1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

*2 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.*

*3 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.*

*4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; 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 anymore.*

The millennium will be a time of peace. The world has not known peace since Cain killed Abel in Genesis 4. So, it will be a time of peace, a time we all long for. Turn to Isaiah 11:1-9. We want to see some of what it will be like in this time:

*1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*

This speaks of Jesus Christ.

*2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

Jesus quoted these words when He did a reading in a synagogue. The passage then goes on like this:

*3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;*

*4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.*

*5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

*6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them.*

*7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*

*8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.*

*9 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.*

How would you like to live in that time? This is part of the true hope of the Christian. If you read Romans 8 and you will see it there. Well, I believe that is what the "rest" of Hebrews 3-4 speaks of.

Turn over now to Isaiah 65:18-25.

*18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy.*

*19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.*

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.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

24 "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

There are hundreds of passages in the OT that speak of the millennium. It is this that the Jews looked forward to, and they still do today. Their problem is that most of them still do not realize that Messiah has come already and they have rejected Him. By the way, today more and more Jewish Rabbis are turning to Christ and a number of Jews and even Arabs. But let me say this with full assurance, that in the beginning of the tribulation much of that will change and hundreds of thousands of Jews will realize that Jesus Christ is Jesus the Messiah!

## II. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Well, let me ask, does the NT speak much of the millennium? Did Jesus refer to the millennium? Did Paul speak of it? Let us begin with Matthew 3 and the ministry of John the Baptist. We begin in verse 1:

1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,



2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Now, just what is this "kingdom of heaven"? The reference here is to the millennium! John did not know about the Church age. Did you know that from the time John said these words until the millennium was only about 9 years away at the most? We know this from Daniel chapter 9 where he prophesied the 70 weeks. Let me show you where this happened. I'll explain briefly here and we'll look at it more closely later. (Use illustration. Do notes while showing where this happens.)

Daniel said that 70 sevens were determined upon God's people, Israel. We know exactly when those 70 sevens began. It was in 444 B.C. When you calculate 69 of those sevens, according to Sir Robert Anderson who figured this out years ago and no one has been able to refute yet, that 69 of those sevens take us to the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. That was 2 years, in my calculation, after John preached the words we just read. The 69<sup>th</sup> seven should have led into the 70<sup>th</sup> but it did not because the Jews rejected Christ and had Him killed. But from where John the Baptist was, it was only 9 years until the millennium should have begun. So, he said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." It was. No OT prophet prophesied the Church age, that is why Paul calls it a mystery (Eph. 3).

Now go to 4:17:

17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Here Jesus is referring to the same thing John spoke of. Go now to Matthew 5:5:

5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Jesus is speaking to the Jews and the word translated "earth" can be translated "land." If so, it refers to the land of Israel. When do the meek inherit the earth? In the millennium, not in heaven!

Go now to 6:10:

10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

When is His will done on earth as it is in heaven? Surely not now! Again, it refers to the millennium.

Go to 8:11:

*11 "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.*

One could argue that this refers to heaven, but I think it refers to the millennium.

Go now to 19:28:

*28 So Jesus said to them (i.e. the disciples), "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (the millennium), when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

When do the 12 disciples rule the 12 tribes of Israel? In the millennium! Well, there are many more but go not to Romans 8 to see what the Apostle Paul says. We begin in verse 18:

*18 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.*

The creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption. When does that happen? In heaven? No! in the

millennium. Earthquakes, famines, pestilences will come to an end. The animal kingdom will be delivered from devouring one another! We saw this in Isaiah earlier. So Paul says we do not consider our present sufferings to be worthy to compared to this time we will spend with the Lord in the millennium! What is the Christian's hope? The long-promised rest!

By now you will be very familiar with Revelation 19, but turn to it again. I have told you before that I see the book of Revelation a most chronological book. Chapter 1 is an introduction. Chapters 2-3 give the Church age in seven stages. Chapters 4-5 introduce heaven to us from where John will see what is to happen in the future. Then chapters 6-19 give us the tribulation time. Chapter 19 gives us the transition from the tribulation to the millennium. Chapter 20:1-10 show us how the devil is bound for a thousand years and then it gives us the thousand years until they come to an end. Chapter 20:11-15 give us the last judgment. Chapters 20-22 give us the eternal picture of the new heavens and the new earth.

So, chapter 19 gives us the transition from the tribulation to the millennium. From the Jewish wedding procedure, we have come to the end of the private wedding and now we will be going to the marriage supper. For this the Lord and His bride go back down to earth. We begin in verse 1:

*1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!*

*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."*

*3 Again they said, "Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever!"*

*4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"*

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you His servants and those who fear Him, both small and great!"

6 And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"

7 "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."

8 And 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.

9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

The Lord will now take His bride to where the wedding supper will take place. We continue in verse 10:

10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them

*with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

*16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Now there is so much that should be said here, but for the sake of time we'll just say that the Lord has come down to earth to rule with a rod of iron. This will be a just government. Isaiah 9:6 said the government would be on His shoulders and that is what we have now.

Verse 17:

*17 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.*

The tribulation is over. The millennium will now begin. So, look at chapter 20 now:

*1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*

*2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

*3 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.*

Here we have the devil bound for the thousand-year reign of Christ, and then we go into the millennium in verse 4:

*4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Here the believers who have been resurrected live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years. Those who lived through the tribulation will now repopulate the earth. At the beginning of the millennium there are no unbelievers on earth.

So, this is the beginning of the "rest" spoken of in Hebrews 3-4. Well, we have left out many Scriptures that refer to the millennium but that gives us some idea of how huge this subject is. And this is what the OT people looked forward to, and it is also what we should be looking forward to. But because of so much misinformation on the teaching of prophecy, few do.

### III. THE OVERALL PICTURE

I want to now give us an overall picture. But before I do so, remember that we are looking at this in light of Hebrews 4 and with the view that the millennium is the "rest" spoken of in chapters 3-4.

Let us begin with a prophecy in Daniel 9 that will take us from 444 years before Christ to the time of Christ. We begin in verse 24:

*24 "Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.*

The words, "seventy weeks" can read "seventy sevens." If we take these as weeks, we do not arrive at anything

significant. If we take them as seventy sevens of years, now we have something very significant. We have very clear dates in the next verses and we'll look at them.

*25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.*

We know precisely when that command was given to restore and build Jerusalem. We see that from that time until the time of Christ will be 7 weeks and sixty-two weeks. All of that is significant but we'll leave it for now. What is important to us is that it is 69 sevens until Messiah the Prince. Sir Robert Anderson, many years ago, said the exact day these weeks ran out was when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey.

Verse 26:

*26 "And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

After the 7 weeks and 62 weeks Messiah was to be cut off. That happened after Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the donkey. Then 40 years later Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed. These are all historical facts.

Now that brings us to the 70<sup>th</sup> week and here we meet something very crucial. This verse says:

*27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."*

What is most amazing to prophecy students is that all the events prophesied from verses 24-26 have happened. They can easily be found in secular history. You don't need the Bible to find those. But when you come to verse 27, not one event in this verse has ever been fulfilled. What happened

is that the 69 sevens all followed one after another, and we would expect that the 70<sup>th</sup> week would follow the 69<sup>th</sup>. But what happened? Israel rejected their Messiah and the Church age entered. In 70 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed and Israel never operated as a nation again until 1948. But Israel's Messiah has not yet come. Why not? Because the Church age is not yet over. We believe we are very, very close to when it will be over. It will be over when the Lord takes the Church home.

Now we must understand that Israel and the Church are two separate operations of God. The Church did not replace Israel in God's plan, as many hold. God stopped the clock of Israel when they rejected Jesus Christ. He then began the Church in Acts 2 and it will be His primary work until the Church is removed from earth. Then the 70<sup>th</sup> week will begin. That 70<sup>th</sup> week is the tribulation. When the tribulation is over, those who come out of the tribulation alive will repopulate the earth over the next 1,000 years.

The Church which was raptured to heaven before the tribulation will reign with Christ during those 1,000 years. This is all recorded in the book of Revelation.

And when that happens, the OT saints and those who died during the tribulation will be resurrected and enter the millennium as well. We read that Christians will some day sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the Kingdom of heaven. That is what will happen during the millennium. All the saints who ever lived before the Church began will be there. All the saints of the Church age will be there. And all of them will live on earth. So Matthew 5 said, "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth." Jesus said the twelve disciples would sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. This, I believe, is the rest spoken of in Hebrews 3 and 4.

CONCL: So, to conclude, what is the Jewish hope? Well, it is the kingdom of the Messiah on earth. What is the true Christian's biblical hope? Well, for us, first and foremost it is the rapture and an end to this sin mad earthly experience! But that is but a brief time. Then the Christian comes back down to earth with Christ and He puts an end to evil. He puts the false prophet, the antichrist, and Satan in hell and peace reigns for 1,000 years.



Then Satan is loosed for a brief time, and then he and all his followers, whether demons or humans are cast into hell. Then God renews the heavens and the earth and God Almighty comes to dwell with man on earth forever and forever. If you find that hard to believe, read the book of Revelation and believe it and you will see exactly that. The Christian's hope is far more than just the rapture!