

15 – Dispensations 12: The Future Kingdom of God sermonaudio.com

Pt. 4

GIBS Dispensations

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Okay, this is our class on dispensations and we were unable to finish our series on the future kingdom of God or Christ last time so I want to conclude that tonight, and then we will begin looking at the different covenants in the plan of God.

So let me invite you to open your Bibles with me to the book of Revelation 20.
Revelation 20:1,

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 [now please note this] 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. 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. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired,

Now, these verses in verse 4, 5 and 6, in particular, refer to the future earthly kingdom of Jesus Christ. A kingdom, as we'll see tonight, which will be universal; a kingdom which will be earthly; a kingdom which is certain; a kingdom where the saints of God will rule and reign with Jesus Christ; a kingdom where righteousness and justice will prevail; a kingdom where war will cease and peace will rule; a kingdom where the wolf and the lamb shall dwell together; a kingdom where the universal knowledge of the true God will dominate; a kingdom where the past promises to Israel will finally be fulfilled; a future earthly kingdom where Jesus Christ will rule with a rod of iron. And this certain kingdom

of Christ will be the ultimate of what man for centuries has longed for on the earth but has been unable to produce as there could be no peace on earth until the Prince of Peace was present.

So we want to study tonight again about this future kingdom of Jesus Christ, and in doing so I want to answer some key questions about it. Now, again, in our understanding of the Scriptures, as you interpret the Bible in a normal, grammatical, historical, contextual way, you recognize certain economies relative to periods of time in which we call these economies dispensations. Again, they help define the plan of God as it unravels in human history.

First there was innocence and conscience. Then human government followed, which emphasized the Gentiles. Then promises so the beginning of the nation of Israel as we think of promise. Then law as God, again, made these promises and worked primarily through this particular nation. Then with the rejection of the kingdom in Christ's first coming in his crucifixion and resurrection, we have again the dispensation of grace and Christ now building his church which will culminate in the rapture of the church followed by the tribulation on earth. Then Christ's return to set up the first phase of his eternal kingdom called the millennial reign of Christ. We know that there will be the Great White Throne for the lost, and then eternity future will be ushered in and a new heavens and a new earth.

So what we want to do in this session is we're going to answer the key questions about Christ's coming on earth. First of all, is the promised messianic kingdom much of a topic in Scripture? And it's really interesting because 27% of the Bible is prophecy. You know, people who try to avoid prophecy have to avoid a lot of Scripture for a lot of it is prophecy. In fact, in the Old Testament, over 1,800 references to Christ's return that are there. Why so many? Because only so many were fulfilled in his first coming and he is going to come again.

In the New Testament, over 300 references to Christ's return. It's been projected 1 out of every 30 verses and 23 out of 27 New Testament books actually give prominence to Christ's return. For our mission devotions in Nicaragua, we read through 1 Thessalonians and one of the things that we noted was though the chapter divisions were added later, in every chapter of 1 Thessalonians there's a reference to Christ's coming. For each reference to Christ's first coming, there are 8 verses related to his second coming in the Bible, and so obviously the second coming of Christ is a very very prevalent theme in Scripture that we do well to take note of.

Now keep in mind as we think of the covenantal plan of God, though we believe in the dispensations, we actually believe in the covenants, as you should know from reading Showers' book now. In a literal way, we're actually dispensational/covenant theologians or theology, is what we believe. Not covenantal theology. The Abrahamic covenant reinforced with the land covenant, the Davidic covenant, the new covenant, then we recognize that those promises made to Israel in the Old Testament have to be fulfilled and they will be fulfilled in the future in the kingdom to come.

So what we're looking at when it comes to the kingdom is we're looking, again, at the reverse of the curse; paradise lost and paradise regained eventually; and how God always keeps his promises.

Now, I have formulated some questions related to the kingdom that I want you to be aware of and be cognizant of. And again, what I'm covering tonight is something that I would guess 95% of Christians do not know, and partly because they're not taught it in their churches; partly because when they are taught it, they spiritualize it instead of taking the Bible in the normal grammatical and historical, contextual way.

1. What will happen to Satan during Christ's kingdom on earth? Well, we just read that in verses 1 through 3. He will be bound in the bottomless pit. In the abyss, in this place where he is bound, it's a real place and he's not there yet, and I say that because those covenant theologians who reject the future millennial reign of Christ, actually believe that we're in the kingdom and then Satan, some of them believe Satan is bound right now. I think it was Dr. James Gray of yesteryear who said, "If he is bound, he's got the longest chain in the universe," because obviously he is very active.

As we think of his stages of his downfall, we recognize that he morally and spiritually fell here and then there is this loss, again, of certain demons in the flood. He was judicially crushed at Calvary, though he still is like a roaring lion walking about seeking who he may devour. We know at the midpoint of the tribulation, he's defeated by Michael and he's cast out of heaven fully. So with 3 ½ years, he turns his fury especially on Israel and why does he do that? Because for God to keep his promise, either God has to break it or Israel can't exist so that God has no one to fulfill it to, and he knows the first is not going to be true so he seeks to exterminate Israel. Then, we know that he is put here in the bottomless pit and then he's released for a little season and then he's ultimately thrown into the lake of fire. And this is all in chapter 20 of Revelation.

Again, verses 1 through 3,

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.

So we see this is what's going to happen in the future.

So how long will Christ's kingdom on earth last? Well, it'll last for, stage I, 1,000 years. And that is why you find the phrase "thousand years" repeatedly in this passage. Verse 2, "bound for a thousand years"; verse 3, "thousand years"; end of verse 4, "they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years"; verse 5, "the rest of the dead did not live again

until the thousand years were finished"; verse 6, "shall reign with him a thousand years"; verse 7, "Now when the thousand years were expired."

And you know what covenant theologians do is they say, a thousand years doesn't mean a thousand years. My response is, "Well, why doesn't it?" In fact, if you look at the use of numbers in the book of Revelation, I don't know that any of the numbers are figurative. Think about it: 144,000, is that literally 144,000? Are the 7 seals literally 7? Seven bowls, literally 7? Why would we think that a thousand doesn't mean a thousand? There has to be a good reason why you don't believe a number is the number, and just to say, "It doesn't fit my theology," doesn't fit.

So this first stage is for 1,000 years. Again, we look at again the book of Revelation set forth. We've got Revelation 2 and 3, the church. Then it is raptured here. Revelation 6 through 19. Then we've got the second coming. We've got the messianic kingdom. Again, it's for 1,000 years. But keep in mind, stage II, if you want to call it that, is it's forever. It's forever and it's been promised to be forever, it's just the first stage is 1,000 years before the Great White Throne judgment happens.

So if you read Daniel 7:13-14, what do you read?

13 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him [the Son of Man, namely Jesus Christ] was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is [what?] an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

So the kingdom is never going to be destroyed and his dominion is everlasting, which means the kingdom will last forever.

So when he saw, again, the statue in Daniel 2 or the beast in Daniel 7, again, the kingdom ultimately is the stone who fills the whole earth and destroys all the other kingdoms, and Christ will rule and reign forever. That's why Isaiah 9:6-7 say,

6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; 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 [consistent with the Davidic covenant] and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever.

Now what you have to do is you have to look at these passages and say, "Well, forever doesn't mean forever." That's what you have to do or else you have to accept it's forever, and I just accept that it's forever because there is no reason to interpret it any other way.

Question 3. Who will inhabit Christ's kingdom on the earth? Well, this is interesting. I want you to go to Revelation 20 where you probably still are, and look at verse 4. The first thing I want you to notice is the church-age saints.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.

Those thrones are the very thing that were promised in Revelation 3, if you want to go back there for a minute. Look at verse 21, Revelation 3:21, speaking to the church at Laodicea.

21 To him who overcomes [which is the believer] I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

So in chapter 20, 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.

So who are these people? Very good, they are tribulation saints. Tribulation saints.

Yeah, exactly, and what that requires is obviously resurrection which does happen when Christ returns.

And they lived

Now, how do people live who have been beheaded? Well, they got resurrected.

and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Thirdly, we know that Old Testament saints will become part of that, Daniel 12:1-2. And we also know that the apostles of our Lord are going to be there because in Matthew 19:27-28, he says this,

27 Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration [which is what's going to happen, regeneration], 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."

So, again, who's going to be there? The apostles and of our Lord. And again, what will all of this require? It's going to require a bodily resurrection. A bodily resurrection at least for those who die. Keep in mind based on Luke 14, I believe it's verse 14, that again, rewards and resurrections go together. So whenever someone is resurrected, there's always a reward attached with that and as you know something about the future resurrections that are going to happen, we know, again, Christ was the firstfruit. There is going to be the resurrection of church age saints; the dead in Christ rise first, then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them.

Then we have the return of Christ to rule and reign and when that happens, we're going to have the resurrection of Old Testament saints and tribulation martyrs. Now why does it say tribulation martyrs or those who died during the tribulation? Why isn't there going to be a resurrection of the other ones? Because not everyone dies in the tribulation. Remember, there are people who are going to come and they're going to go into that millennial kingdom with unglorified bodies and they're going to have children, as we're going to see, and so forth.

Then there's the resurrection of the unsaved to judgment at the Great White Throne judgment. So, again, you've got to keep your resurrections straight.

Furthermore, there's going to be in the kingdom to come, reproduced children in the kingdom still having sin natures. Now, this is by virtue of the fact that people who come into the kingdom with human bodies, unglorified, able to reproduce, and their children will be born sinners and need to be born again. Now, there are some interesting Old Testament passages. I have them up here so you don't have to turn in your Bibles for them, but Isaiah 65:20-23.

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 [now some trees are really really old], 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.

So we're seeing in the tribulation to come, there is going to be people who live, I mean in the kingdom to come, there will be people who live a long time and have a lot of children.

Now in Ezekiel 47:21-22, in kingdom context,

21 Thus you shall divide this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. 22 It shall be that you will divide it by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who dwell among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel; they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

So there are people, Gentile, a lot of Gentiles who obviously live and so forth in the kingdom to come as well.

Zechariah 10:6-8,

6 I will strengthen the house of Judah, And I will save the house of Joseph. I will bring them back, Because I have mercy on them. They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; For I am the LORD their God, And I will hear them. 7 Those of Ephraim shall be like a mighty man, And their heart shall rejoice as if with wine. Yes, their children shall see it and be glad; Their heart shall rejoice in the LORD. 8 I will whistle for them and gather them, For I will redeem them; And they shall increase as they once increased.

So we see here a promise of future population growth, this is the kingdom to come.

So next question: what will this ultimately result in? Interestingly enough, it will result in a worldwide rebellion against Jesus as the King, and in doing so, and I shared this with you before, but God is going to show through the dispensation of the kingdom that even under ideal circumstances with Satan being cast into the bottomless pit, that man is congenital rebel and a spiritual flop and a failure apart from the grace of God. And here Jesus Christ is ruling as King, and yet there will be those among those children, not all of them but those among the children, that are born during that time, who are now faced with the choice to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, that will go through the motions, as it were, like a teenager who can't wait to get out of the house and chafes under their parents' authority, and when given the opportunity to leave and rebel, they do so. That's why in Revelation 20:7, we pick up the account.

7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,

Now, notice the word "nations." Not just Israel. There are Gentile nations that, again, have populated the earth.

Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle,

And this isn't the same Gog and Magog as Revelation 37 and 38, this is a different battle.

whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city [namely, Jerusalem]. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Again, so often judgment and fire are connected. It may not always be the judgment of the unsaved, for we know that at the judgment seat of Christ, our works are going to be tested by fire as well, and so often fire is associated with judgment. Okay? Question?

Question. Back tracks a touch little bit. We had the sheep and goat judgment at the end of last time. Does that judgment include the Jewish nation or is there a separate judgment?

It includes the Jewish nation and the Gentiles.

Question. Okay, so it's everyone at that time? There is not, like, a separate Jewish...?

Well, there is a cleansing that goes on among the Jewish people as well, and so I don't know how connected that is or not. I don't really know the answer to that, but I know that when there is the judgment of the nations, that doesn't exclude Israel. Furthermore, that explains how there are Gentile nations in the future because there will be saved Gentiles who go into the kingdom with unglorified bodies just like saved Jews, and this explains why there will be nations in the future. In fact, it's very clear that Egypt will come and worship the Lord in Jerusalem; the nation of Egypt having a representative of those people, or whatever.

Now, just think for a minute: how many people can populate the earth in 1,000 years without a curse? So you can just see there will be a tremendous amount of people potentially born and living on earth during the first phase of the kingdom.

So how will Christ be functioning in his kingdom on earth? Well, he's the King. That's how he's going to be functioning. In fact, while you're in Revelation, go back to chapter 19 for a minute and here is a comment that's made in light of the second coming, because the passage beginning in verse 11 talks about his second coming, and if you pick it up in verse 15,

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.

So notice he's going to rule. He's the King above all kings and he's the Lord above all lords, is the idea. But remember, to set up that kingdom, it's not ushered in through diplomacy. The penalty for sin is death and God is holy and it's really ushered in by virtue of his return with church age believers, as he is the conquering General, as it were,

and even the battle of Armageddon isn't even a battle, it's a slaughter in which he destroys the armies of the world. That's why in the Olivet Discourse that assures us, assured Israel, "I'm leaving but I will return," Matthew 25:31,

31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Who sits on thrones but kings? That's why Isaiah, again, said the government will be on his shoulders, and then later he says, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom. Who is over a kingdom is a king. To be a king, you have to have a kingdom. You have to have people that are a part of that. And normally when you have a king, you have land. You have boundaries. In fact, you know, it's a little ironic the discussion that's going on in our country about national boundaries. Show me a nation who doesn't have boundaries. You can't have a nation without boundaries. Even in the millennial kingdom will not Israel have boundaries?

5. On whose throne and where will Christ rule? Well, Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of David. We just read it. And he is going to actually rule from Jerusalem. Jerusalem will be the headquarters of the world. It is interesting how at least our present President has said he's going to move our embassy from, I believe it's Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It's interesting. I hope he does. But we know one day Jeremiah 33:14-17,

14 'Behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah [I'm going to do this in the future]: 15 In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David A Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, And [now note it] Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' 17 For thus says the LORD: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel.'

He's referring back to the Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel and he says, "There's coming a day in the future I will perform what I have promised." Again, a promise given is a promise made, and a promise made is a promise kept, and that's what God is going to do. Jerusalem is critical to all this. Here is a little picture where Jerusalem lies today as you can see right here, and Jerusalem is basically dead center of the earth, and it's special to God. It's a special place, and what makes it holy isn't anything about the land itself, what makes it holy is God has set it apart. That's what makes it holy. That's why it's interesting in Luke 1, we read,

31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb [the angel told Mary] and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

So again, we see as part of that Abrahamic covenant, then came the land covenant, seed and blessing. Again, the land covenant, the Davidic covenant and new covenant, which we're going to start discussing in our next session.

6. Over whom shall Christ rule? Over all the nations. Remember, he's the King of all the earth, therefore, he's King over all the nations. Zechariah 14:9,

9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.

Notice, "shall be," and I say this because someone would argue, "Well, hasn't he always been King over all the earth?" Well, yes, in one sense he has, but he hasn't literally by way of Jesus Christ literally ruling on the earth.

In that day it shall be--"The LORD is one," And His name one.

So he's going to be King over all the earth and all the earth means? All the earth. Again, it's so good to be able to just take God at his word. You don't have to try to spiritualize any of that.

Look at Psalm 2 here. Psalm 2 is an interesting Psalm. It says, verse 6, again, remember the nations are there and they're all conspiring together how to overthrow the King, the Lord, and the Lord is laughing at them and he says,

6 Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. 7 I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron [that's why that is referred to in Revelation 19]; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Again, "My King On My holy hill of Zion." Again, we're talking about Israel and Jerusalem in particular.

7. Who will rule with and under Jesus Christ? What do you think? Faithful believers, especially church age believers, church age saints. Faithful believers, especially church age saints.

In Revelation 5, remember when Christ comes and gets the title deed of the earth and we all start worshipping, verse 9,

9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You [Jesus Christ] are worthy to take the scroll [the title deed of the earth and reclaim it for God], And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.

Now, "kings and priests" sometimes is translated "a kingdom of priests." It may be true but what is clear is we shall reign on the earth. So that's why while he reigns, it's not that he doesn't share that reign with others. In fact, in Revelation 2, this is what he says,

26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end

Now this is the one time there is a "he who overcomes, and keeps My works." Usually he just says, "to whom that overcomes." All believers. This qualifies it.

until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' [that's, again, Psalm 2 which we just read]--as I also have received from My Father; 28 and I will give him the morning star. 29 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Again in the New American Standard it says, "he who overcomes, he who keeps my deeds unto the earth, to him I will give authority over the nations." Authority over the nations and so, in a sense, Christ gives authority to faithful believers here, especially church age believers.

We read in 2 Timothy 2, and you know this passage well,

11 This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him [and we did], We shall also live with Him. 12 If we endure [some believers will], We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him [and some believers will], He also will deny us. [What? Certain privileges related to reigning with him.] 13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

So as we think of the future again, Christ returns here and there is going to be this sheep and goat judgment and the goats are going to be cast into hell and eventually to the lake of fire, everlasting punishment. Then we've got the millennial age and notice the church is reigning with Christ. Then you've got Israel who are the head of the Gentiles. And you've got Christ ruling on the throne of David and you've got the Gentile nations in blessing. So all of them will be there. There will be Israelites that are saved; there will be Gentiles that are saved; there is going to be the church reigning with Christ positionally, and it's all going on at the beginning of the kingdom to come until it gets populated with people who will not choose to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Now, you might think again, isn't that incredible? Here Christ is right there. Why wouldn't you put your faith in him? But remember, at his first coming he was here too

and he showed miracle after miracle who he was and they still wouldn't. Do you know why? It's called pride. The number one reason why people don't get saved is pride.

8. What will characterize Christ's rule? Well, what characterizes it is righteousness and faithfulness. Travis?

Travis. Are Old Testament saints in the kingdom? Will they have, like, a role or are they just basically the enjoyment of it that they were promised?

No, I think, again, they will have definitely a very strong role right here. Israel right here. Head of the Gentiles, according to Deuteronomy 28:13. So, yeah, the kingdom I think functionally on earth will be strongly Israelite. You see, I personally think the church functions out of the New Jerusalem hovering over the earth, as it were, during the kingdom and they serve and they rule and reign, but that isn't really their home. That's the view I take, and there are some differences on that among Bible teachers but I haven't been convinced otherwise yet. There are some things about Bible prophecy, there's a lot we can know and there are some things that we're just not certain about, at least not now.

Go ahead.

Question. In Matthew we saw all Israel, actually it's in Romans, "all Israel will be saved." Is that speaking of, like, the ones who are saved at the end of the tribulation? All of them that are saved physically enter the tribulation? Like, they are saved physically or, like, spiritual, or is it, like, literally every Jew at the end of the tribulation is, like, nationally they're saved because every single one of them turns?

Yeah, all of Israel will be saved is a promise made in the Old Testament. It is repeated in Romans 11. Pastor Pete just taught on that here, didn't he? Yeah, according to Zechariah, one third of the nation will constitute a nation as all of them, in the sense that the nation of Israel will have met the quorum. But one third of the nation and all of the saved Israel, will be physically delivered. That's how I would understand that. Nationally, physically delivered at the end of the kingdom. He's not talking about all Israel will be saved spiritually. I don't think that's what he's talking about. I think he's talking about national deliverance and the Old Testament promise is repeated again in Romans 11.

Question. (unintelligible)

Yes, they are unsaved and they are going to be in the goats and they're going to be cast into the lake of fire ultimately. They are going to experience everlasting punishment. It's interesting how Matthew 25 says they'll experience everlasting punishment, and part of that, it talks about how they'll be put into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels, but it's interesting, it says everlasting punishment. You see, question: when does everlasting punishment begin for the unsaved today, let's just say? So when he dies, is he involved in everlasting punishment right now? And I would say yes, it's just that everlasting punishment doesn't have to be in one place. He goes to Hades/hell right now until the Great White Throne judgment and at the Great White Throne judgment he is

cast into the lake of fire. But in any case, it's still punishment that's going to be everlasting. Just because it's in stages or in different locations doesn't mean it's anything less than everlasting. So just like I think everlasting life begins the moment you're saved and yet we're on earth, one day we'll transfer from earth to heaven, one day we'll transfer from heaven to the new earth, but that's all part of "everlasting life." So just because it's in stages and/or in different locations doesn't lessen the duration of it. Does that help?

Okay, 8. What will characterize Christ's rule? Again, righteousness and faithfulness. Here's Isaiah 11. This is one chapter you're just going to have to know, okay? You just have to know Isaiah 11. It's a real key passage about the kingdom to come.

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

So the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit upon the Messiah. This is a messianic passage. Even the Jews recognize that.

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,

You notice the sense of righteousness and judgment? By the way, is that happening in our day? Now, so often people don't get justice rendered.

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.

Righteousness and faithfulness is what's going to characterize, again, his judgment.

9. What will happen to the curse during Christ's kingdom? What will happen to the curse? It will be essentially removed. It will be essentially removed. Now, why do I say essentially? There is a reason why, because while it's essentially removed, there is a passage that talks about the fact that the snake, serpent, still will crawl on his belly and eat dust, and so not every aspect of it is totally completely removed until the new heaven and new earth.

10. What will be true spiritually of Christ's kingdom on earth at its beginning? What will be true spiritually of Christ's kingdom on earth at its beginning? What's the answer, do you know? Yup, all will know the Lord. All will know the Lord.

Again, they have to, covenant theologians have to repeatedly take this and qualify it. They'll say, "We all will know the Lord in the sense that Israel is the church and everyone

in the church knows him." You know, that kind of thing, but that's not what it says. Look at Habakkuk 2:14,

14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.

So, again, we see the earth is filled with the knowledge. Isaiah 11:9,

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.

So, again, knowledge of the Lord universal. Isaiah 54:8-13,

8 "With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment; But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you," [a reference to Israel] Says the LORD, your Redeemer. 9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to Me; For as I have sworn That the waters of Noah would no longer cover the earth [that's the Noahic covenant], So have I sworn That I would not be angry with you, nor rebuke you. 10 For the mountains shall depart And the hills be removed, But My kindness shall not depart from you, Nor shall My covenant of peace be removed," Says the LORD, who has mercy on you. 11 "O you afflicted one, Tossed with tempest, and not comforted, Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, And lay your foundations with sapphires. 12 I will make your pinnacles of rubies, Your gates of crystal, And all your walls of precious stones. 13 All your children shall be taught by the LORD, And great shall be the peace of your children."

Wow. All your children are taught by the LORD himself. I guess there will be no excuse. "You know, I had a bad teacher and that's why I didn't know." No excuses.

11. Where and what will be the key place of worship in Christ's kingdom on earth? It's going to be the temple. And where is the temple going to be? Well, in Jerusalem. It's going to be the temple in Jerusalem will be the place.

Now you have to keep in mind a difference between God's omnipresence and his locational presence. You say, "What do you mean by that?" Now think about this for a minute. 1. Is God omnipresent? Yup, in fact, isn't that what Randy taught us? The omnipresence of God. So God is everywhere present, on the other hand, does he not have a locational presence where, in a sense, he does business like in the tabernacle? You have the Shekinah glory there, right, then in the temple. Then today, isn't it interesting, today where does the Holy Spirit live? He lives in our body locationally and yet the Holy Spirit is omnipresent. So in one sense he's omnipresent, on the other hand, he indwells our body; on the other hand, while he's omnipresent, he's separate, though, from his creation in the sense that he doesn't dwell in the bodies of unbelievers.

So you have to distinguish theologically the omnipresence of God and the locational presence of God where at times he does visit. So in Ezekiel 37:26-28, it says,

26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them [keep that in mind]; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore [this is speaking of Israel again]. 27 My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 28 The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.

Now, a sanctuary is a place, what was it called earlier? Tabernacle. A tabernacle is a dwelling-place. In fact, you remember in John 1, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." Do you see how that word "dwelt" is literally in the Greek "tabernacle." Just like the tabernacle had the Shekinah glory and the presence of God, that presence of God was in the person of Jesus Christ and in the future, it'll be again Israel.

So as you think of the tabernacle, temple and ark in history and prophecy, again, first you have the tabernacle; then you have the first temple; and again, you have the Shekinah glory here in these places. Then you have the second temple but we don't see the Shekinah glory there. And now today on that very place, it is believed that the Dome of the Rock is there which is, again, one of the most holy temples in Islam. And we know in the future, the tribulation temple will be there and the abomination of desolation happens in that temple. So when Jesus Christ returns to the earth, we see the millennial temple will be set up and again the Shekinah glory will be an important part of that as Christ will be literally present and the Shekinah glory of God will, as it were, revisit the millennial temple.

Now, it's interesting when it comes to the millennial temple, remember this, remember Ezekiel 40-48. That is the section of Scripture that talks about the millennial temple and you're going to see several things mentioned there: priests; gates; you're going to see clothes; offerings; altar, a burnt altar and burnt offering; the Holy place, so forth, so forth. All part of that millennial temple. Tremendous details given.

Now question: why would Ezekiel cover this? Why would Ezekiel cover it? Because, again, what's happened to the nation of Israel when Ezekiel is there? They are in captivity, right, and they, as a result, they're bummed, right? They're in captivity. They know they've been disobedient and they know God is disappointed in them. What's going to encourage them? One day, God is going to fulfill his promises. One day, as a nation you're going to rise, as it were, and you're going to be involved with Christ, with the Messiah, ruling over the earth. One day, you're going to be the center of the earth. One day, those promises are going to be fulfilled. It's not yet but one day. By the way, where do people find hope? They find hope in future promises and that's exactly what happens in Ezekiel.

Oh, by the way, back in Ezekiel, one of the things that the backslidden Israelites would say is, "We don't have to worry. God is not going to judge us. We've got the temple. We've got the temple." And the Lord says, "I'm going to destroy that temple and I am going to discipline them. That is not a rabbit's foot that you think that because you have the temple, that I can't discipline you. I keep my word, I am going to discipline you and, in fact, I'm going to replace that temple with the millennial temple in the future." And I say that because, you know, so often we get these ideas in our mind that we're so special, God could never do this to us, like we're the exception, and the fact is, "be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap."

12. What will be some spiritual components of the worship in Christ's kingdom on earth?

1. Again, God's Shekinah glory will be present. God's Shekinah glory will be present. Again, I have some passages of Scripture. Again, this is what I would call a theophany or a Christophany. It is a physical manifestation of God's presence, kind of like the burning bush was. The Shekinah glory, again, you could see this through your senses that there was some kind of presence of God there and that will be present again in the future. It was true, again, there at the tabernacle. It was later in the temple. It was true there, as well, and it will be true in the future. Jeremiah 3:17,

17 At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

So there is God's Shekinah glory. B. There will be animal sacrifices will again be offered. Animal sacrifices will again be offered. Now, this is one of the most kind of curious things about this whole scenario. We know this from Ezekiel 43:13-27; Ezekiel 45:13-25. You say, "Well, why are they going to be offered since Christ was the last offering for sin?" I think that's a thing you need to remember: just because animal sacrifice is going to be offered again doesn't mean they are paying for sin or covering sin. They can be offered as a remembrance of Calvary just like we celebrate the Lord's Supper, and I think that's its primary function, though there is some difference of opinion regarding that.

And remember in the Levitical sacrifices, how many sacrifices were there? Do you remember? How many different kinds of sacrifices? Wasn't there 5? Five, if I remember right, and 2 or 3 of them were blood. I think 2 were blood and 3 were not. So just to offer an animal sacrifice, again, even though it's a blood sacrifice, doesn't mean that it's somehow paying for and/or covering sin. It can have other purposes as well.

Isaiah 56:7,

7 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.

Now if you keep in mind, this is what the Lord Jesus Christ said. Remember, when he cast out the moneychangers, what did he say? "You have made my Father's house instead of a house of prayer, a den of thieves." He's referring to this passage right here. So, again, a shadow means there is a reality. A shadow is empty when reality comes, and so I see this, again, having kind of like, "Do this in remembrance of me," kind of function.

Furthermore, the Sabbath and certain feasts will be observed. In Ezekiel 44, we actually see this, but there is going to be, the Sabbath is going to be remembered again. If you want to turn in your Bibles, go to Ezekiel 44 here. Ezekiel 44:24, what do we read?

24 In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths.

Again, the context is a future kingdom. Remember, chapters 40 through 48 deal with the temple and so forth, so they're going to observe the Sabbath in the future. Now, why should that not surprise us? Why should it not surprise us because what's the kingdom? They are Jewish, right, in flavor, so that shouldn't surprise us at all. And they're also going to actually keep a few certain feasts. Zechariah 14:16,

16 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 [do what?] worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Well, that's interesting, isn't it? So in the kingdom to come, they are going to be celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles as one. The Feast of Tabernacles, a little booth like they do today.

So, you see, the feasts of Israel in prophecy, you know, there were these different feasts that happened and so you've got 7 feasts begin, the spring cycle you've got Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, the feast of Pentecost, Weeks. The fall cycle you've got Trumpets, you've got the Day of Atonement and Tabernacles right here. But then when Christ returns, here's the kingdom, these fall feasts are fulfilled at Christ's second coming. The Feast of Trumpets. Now, some try to take Trumpets and apply it falsely to the rapture because there is a trumpet associated with it, but there are many trumpets and you've got to keep them straight when you look at eschatology. Then the Day of Atonement here and Tabernacles there. So we see that those fall feasts. The spring feasts were fulfilled in Christ's first coming; the fall feasts will be fulfilled in Christ's second coming to the earth. So there is typology attached to those feasts.

Furthermore, what else would we expect with a new dispensation but new revelation will begin. New revelation will be given, but that's true with every dispensation, isn't it? With every dispensation there is new revelation, with that new revelation is a new test, new responsibility to respond, and there is always judgment at the end and so forth. So Joel 2

will finally be fulfilled. It was not fulfilled at the day of Pentecost. What Peter said is, "This is like what's going to be fulfilled in the future."

28 And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on [notice this] all flesh;

Did that happen on the day of Pentecost? No.

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. 29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Now notice, your daughters are going to prophesy and dream dreams, that means that has got to be new revelation that is going to be given, but that fits. Again with all the dispensations, we recognize there always is new revelation that is going to happen and such will be the case in the millennial kingdom as well, which leads us to a fifth spiritual component of worship in Christ's kingdom on earth: universal worship of the true and living God alone without any spiritual deception from Satan. Universal worship of the true and living God alone without any spiritual deception from Satan.

Let's go to Isaiah 19 for a minute while we're in the Old Testament there. Isaiah 19. Here begin in verse 16 as the heading says, "Future restoration of Egypt and Assyria," this is subject to Israel in Christ's kingdom and for our purposes we pick it up in Isaiah 19:21.

21 Then the LORD will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the LORD in that day [won't that be incredible?], and will make sacrifice and offering; yes, they will make a vow to the LORD and perform it. 22 And the LORD will strike Egypt, He will strike and heal it; they will return to the LORD, and He will be entreated by them and heal them. 23 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria--a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

Question: when was this ever fulfilled? Again, people who don't take the Old Testament literally, these prophecies, when were they ever fulfilled? And how are they being spiritually fulfilled in the church today? In fact, look at Egypt, look at Assyria today. You know what's going on in Assyria, right? Keep up with the news? I mean, what's going on in Assyria is horrible. You know, they are turning on their own people. They're genociding kids. In Egypt today, just on Easter, how many "Christian churches" were attacked and people killed? And to think that one day Egypt and Assyria are going to be worshipping with Israel, worshipping the true and living God is just incredible. That day, all people are going to know the Lord.

Zechariah 8:23,

23 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'

Are you seeing that today? Isn't that incredible. Ten people saying, "God is with you. We've heard. We want to go with you!" No, what are they doing today? Trying to slit the throat of the Jews today, but in the future, again this is going to happen.

While you're in Isaiah, go to chapter 52 for a minute. Isaiah 52:1,

1 Awake, awake! Put on your strength, O Zion; Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! [You see, Zion and Jerusalem go together.] For the uncircumcised and the unclean Shall no longer come to you. [wow] 2 Shake yourself from the dust, arise; Sit down, O Jerusalem! Loose yourself from the bonds of your neck, O captive daughter of Zion! 3 For thus says the LORD: "You have sold yourselves for nothing, And you shall be redeemed without money." 4 For thus says the Lord GOD: "My people went down at first Into Egypt to dwell there; Then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what have I here," says the LORD, "That My people are taken away for nothing? Those who rule over them Make them wail," says the LORD, "And My name is blasphemed continually every day. [That's what's going on now.] 6 Therefore My people shall know My name; Therefore they shall know in that day That I am He who speaks: 'Behold, it is I.' 7 How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things [you know, this is quoted in Romans 10], Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" 8 Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the LORD brings back Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem! For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations; And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God.

So we see again this universal worship that goes on during this time.

Question 13. What will be some changes related to Israel during Christ's kingdom on earth? Well, first of all, their present territory will dramatically increase. Their present territory will dramatically increase.

Now we touched on this several times and we're going to reinforce this when we look at the land covenant but, again, Genesis 15:18 made it clear,

18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

So here is the Promised Land. This is what Israel occupies today, and so as a result, they're obviously not enjoying the land. We know also from the Bible, the division of the land during the millennial kingdom and who is going to get what part of Israel. Kind of neat. Neat picture here. It shows you which tribes get what and where as we think of, again, the land that has been promised to them.

Secondly, some changes related to Israel: there will be topographical changes to the landscape. So not only will they enjoy the land, but God is going to change topographically the landscape as well.

Go to Ezekiel 47 for a minute. Ezekiel 47:8-12. Again, remember that section, Ezekiel 40-48 talks about the future kingdom, the millennial temple, and so forth.

8 Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed.

I picked up a cold in Central America. It's funny, I haven't had a cold in Minnesota for years, but a year ago in El Salvador I got a cold and this year in Nicaragua. I've got to go to warm climates to get a cold. Verse 9,

9 And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. 10 It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea [that's the Mediterranean], exceedingly many. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt. 12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month [that's not happening now], because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.

So we see, again, just these changes that are going on. Isaiah 2:2 says,

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.

So there are going to be these topographical changes that occur in light of the Lord's return. In fact, when he sets his feet on the Mount of Olives, there is a topographical change that occurs.

Zech 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives [when Jesus Christ returns], 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.

So the Mount of Olives, here's a picture of it right here. When Jesus Christ comes, that's where he's coming. He's coming to that location after he fights Armageddon and everything. He's going to come and he's going to plant his feet on the Mount of Olives there and it's going to split in two and there is going to be a great valley that happens as a result of that.

Furthermore, here's another change: Jerusalem will be enlarged and its name changed. Jerusalem will be enlarged and its name changed. Look at Ezekiel, while you're there, chapter 48. Ezekiel 48:35. It's talking about Jerusalem. Verse 30,

30 These are the exits of the city [the city of Jerusalem]. 35 All the way around shall be eighteen thousand cubits; and the name of the city from that day shall be: THE LORD IS THERE.

That's going to be the name of the city. So, again, this is greater Jerusalem. According to the Israeli plans, they want to develop it. The Lord says it's going to expand even more than that in the future.

Here's another change: the land will be healed and become very fruitful. The land will be healed and become very fruitful. While you're in Ezekiel, go to chapter 36, verses 33 to 36.

33 Thus says the Lord GOD: "On the day that I cleanse you from all your iniquities, I will also enable you to dwell in the cities, and the ruins shall be rebuilt. 34 The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. 35 So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.' 36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate. I, the LORD, have spoken it, and I will do it."

Notice again, why does God do all of this? Part of it is to show that he is a faithful God and he keeps his promises. So the land is going to be healed, it's going to become very very fruitful in places that were desert, are desert today, will be luscious, lush gardens like the garden of Eden in the future.

Question 14. What will be some of the social characteristics during Christ's kingdom on earth? Well, first of all, there will be unimpaired labor and great economic growth. Unimpaired labor and great economic growth.

Go to Ezekiel 48. I'm trying to draw all these verses right out of Ezekiel so you don't have to go too far. Ezekiel 48:18-19. What do we read?

18 The rest of the length, alongside the district of the holy section, shall be ten thousand cubits to the east and ten thousand to the west. It shall be adjacent to the district of the holy section, and its produce shall be food for the workers of the city. 19 The workers of the city, from all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it.

So, again, we see there is this tremendous labor force that happens. There is economic growth. In fact, here's what Isaiah 65 says, 21 through 23.

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 don't have to build a house and someone else lives in it]; 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.

So, again, we see this unimpaired labor, this great economic growth.

There are a few other characteristics before we try to bring this to a close. There will be a universal language spoken. There will be a universal language spoken. Now, that will be nice because, obviously, there's a lot of language barriers since the Tower of Babel, right? Zephaniah 3:9,

9 For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, That they all may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him with one accord.

When I was in Poland, one of the translators said to me, "Do you know what language they speak?" I said, "No." He said, "It's Polish." I said, "Really? Why is that?" He said, "Because it takes you 1,000 years to learn it."

One day there will be a new language and, furthermore, there will be no more wars, this is C, or political conflicts. No more wars or political conflicts. Now, that's not true now.

That will be true then. In fact, finally, that promise that's made about taking the weapons of war and turning them into plowshares will be fulfilled and it's not fulfilled in the UN. Ironically, it has a statue of that outside of the UN, as if the UN can possibly bring this in. Zechariah 14:10-11,

10 All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. 11 The people shall dwell in it; And no longer shall there be utter destruction, But Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Is that true today?

Another characteristic is there will be peaceful conditions even among nature. Peaceful conditions even among nature, and this is where Isaiah 11 says the wolf shall lay with the lamb. You know, unfortunately, I've even erroneously said this, that the lion will lay with the lamb, but technically it doesn't say that. Technically it says the wolf lays with the lamb. In fact, the believer, a prophecy guy down in Nicaragua did point that out to me. He said, "There's one thing I disagree with you about, the picture of the lion laying down with the lamb." I said, "Oh yeah, you're right. That's a wolf laying down with the lamb." But it does talk about a lion, a wolf, a lamb, a scorpion, a little child leading it all. This is an old kind of classic photo that someone put together.

Furthermore, there will be true and unprecedented justice. We read earlier about that. The Lord will rule and he won't rule with the hearing of the ear or the seeing of the eye. He will know the truth and all the facts. There will be truly unprecedented justice in the future.

Furthermore, there will be the removal of harmful environmental effects. There will be a removal of harmful environmental effects. You see, if you go to Isaiah, I'd like to just see this for a minute. Go to Isaiah 33 for a moment. Isaiah 33, we read in Isaiah 33:24,

24 And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.

So, in the future the inhabitants will not say, "I am sick," and there is going to be just a lot of very good health, obviously, in the kingdom. But if you go to Isaiah 35, I'm going to connect these for a moment. Isaiah 35:5-7,

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

By the way, that's where they get their devotional, streams in the desert from that verse right there.

7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

So we notice the great change here. The blind are going to see. The deaf is going to hear. The lame is going to walk. The dumb is going to sing.

And one of the things you have to remember, it talks about that in light of the battle in Ezekiel 38 and 39, the Gog and Magog battle, that the weapons of warfare are actually going to burn and it's going to take 3 ½ years for it to be cleaned up. Now, I take it, you see, I personally take that...no, it's not 3 ½ years, 7 years for it to be cleaned up. I personally think the battle of Gog and Magog happens in the first half of the tribulation which means even during the beginning of the kingdom, there is a clean-up process going on just like there's a transition in government.

So, next we see what will be some of the social characteristics? G. There will be great economic prosperity worldwide. Great economic prosperity worldwide. And again, we could be reading verses on all of this but we're not. Let's just face it, with the Lord ruling, the curse basically reversed, great topography, great health, lush lands, whatever. What would you expect? Great economic prosperity. That's why the prosperity gospel people, they're just in the wrong dispensation. It's going to happen, just not happening now, and it's going to be great.

Here's what Amos says,

13 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "When the plowman shall overtake the reaper [now that's interesting], And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. 14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them," Says the LORD your God.

Now has that been fulfilled yet? No, it hasn't because they have been pulled up in the past, right? But in the future, they won't be pulled up. They will be in the land indefinitely.

15. What will longevity and health care be like during Christ's kingdom on earth? Everyone is concerned about health care, right? What will it be like? Well, we've already seen, Isaiah 65:20-21,

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.

Now, if a person is considered a child at 100, you're living a long time, right? Now, but the sinner being 100 years old shall be viewed as accursed, is the idea, under the curse of death because that's the last thing that needs to be dealt with. So what you're going to see is you're going to see prediluvial longevity will be restored. You know, before the flood, did they live a long time? How long did Methuselah live? Remember? 969, right? 969, and you're going to see the same kind of length of time. People living a long time. In fact, someone even challenged whether people die during that kingdom.

So how does all of this relate to you? Well, we've seen tonight in the kingdom to come is going to be basically a reverse of the curse with great positive changes spiritually, topographically, economically, socially, militarily, governmentally, and even health care wise. You're going to see Paradise regained and wonderful promises of God fulfilled. Again, remember the purposes of God in human history relate to creation and redemption: the creation of the world, the creation of the nations, creation of Israel, creation of the church. As we think of redemption again, we're going to see that fulfilled as God, again, has a plan for the universe; he has a plan for the salvation of individual men; he has a plan for Israel; he has a plan for the church; for the angels; and he has a plan even for the demons. And this is one of the things that distinguishes us from covenant theology, is that we recognize that God doesn't have just one plan for the salvation of man, and Israel is not the church and the church is not Israel, but he actually has multi-plans all designed ultimately to bring him glory in that in the future, God will fulfill his plan as promised. But in the meantime, we live in this dispensation of grace in which Christ is building his church. We live in pluralistic societies. We are dwelling today in the United States of America; we have believers and unbelievers coexisting. At the beginning of the kingdom, all will know the Lord. There will be no such thing as a pluralistic society. At the beginning, in fact, there will be no freedom of religion in the kingdom to come. Did you know that? But there is now and we're thankful for it. We want to maintain that. And we know that Christ is building his church and one day the Lord is coming again in the first phase of his coming, as "the dead in Christ rise first, and then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words."

I'm so glad to be living in this dispensation. I'm so glad I'm a part of the church, so glad that my blessings are heavenly, but it's not without a spiritual battle. It is in the midst of the spiritual battle that we live and we need to understand God has a plan for Israel, God has a plan for the church, but God has separated and don't let anyone unite. Understand those differences but keep in mind, God always keeps his word and he's going to keep it towards Israel just like he's going to keep it to us, and there is a wonderful future kingdom on earth.

Lord willing, time wise in our future studies, and we're running out of time, is I really need to cover Revelation 21 and 22 and we also have the covenants we need to cover yet, so we've got some work to do and so what we're going to do is we're going to take about a 20 minute break here and then we're going to come back and we're going to start working our way through the covenants and I hope to get through at least 2 of them tonight.