

A vertical photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is a bright orange orb on the horizon, with its light reflecting as a shimmering path on the water's surface. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a deep orange near the horizon. In the foreground, the dark, jagged silhouettes of rocks and trees are visible against the bright water.

*After*  
**CHRIST**  
RETURNS...



AFTER CHRIST RETURNS...



## INTRODUCTION

# After Christ Returns

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Many know that Christ is going to return to this earth, *but few know what happens after Christ returns.*

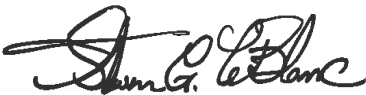
The wonderful news of the coming Kingdom of God is the heart and core of Jesus Christ's message to this world. The Bible is clear on this point: Jesus will return and establish the Kingdom of God on this Earth (Revelation 5:10). That kingdom will not be far away in some distant heavenly realm, as so many believe. Instead, Christ will be King over all the nations of this world, deposing dictators and tyrants alike who oppress and war against justice and peace (Revelation 11:15).

But did you know that God's saints will also reign with Christ? And that a great battle will occur at His return? Did you know that a new temple will be built in Israel,

and the Ten Commandments and the Festivals of God will be the rule of worship for the whole world? Finally, are you aware a great rebellion by millions against Christ will take place during his reign?

Will you rule with Christ when He Returns? Only those who are raised in the First Resurrection (Revelation 20:6) rule with Christ in His kingdom. There is so much people do not know about the Kingdom of God and Christ's return. Few ministers and Bible teachers understand the prophecies associated with Christ's soon coming rule over the nations.

Read on...and find out what takes place!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven G. LeBlanc". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with large, connected letters.

**Steven LeBlanc**



CHAPTER

# 1

## Christ Battles the Nations

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*“Then the Lord will go forth and  
fight against those nations...”*

(ZECHARIAH 14:3)

Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth and the Bible tells us a violent confrontation involving millions of troops will take place in the Middle East. Why is that?

Jesus' return will not be a secret. He will not be riding a donkey through a narrow passageway into Jerusalem this time. Instead, his return will be stunning and visible to all. He likens his return to a blaze of lightning crossing the sky east to west that will compass the entire earth (Matthew 24:27). Everyone on earth will see Him as He returns to establish the Kingdom of God. A great trumpet blast will announce his return, and the dead in Christ will rise from their graves. The saints who are yet alive will miraculously be changed from mortal to spirit (1 Corinthians 15:52-54). These are those who will rule with Christ on this earth for 1000 years (Revelation 5:10; 20:6).

The prophet Zechariah proclaims that a great war takes place when Christ returns to earth: *“Behold, the day of the Lord is coming . . . For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem . . . Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east . . . Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with Him . . . And the Lord shall be King over all the earth”*

(ZECHARIAH 14:1-5, 9).

Why would the nations want to fight the Son of God?  
Revelation 12:9 reveals another Kingdom – one that rules

on the earth, but is hidden from most. That kingdom is ruled by Satan the devil who has deceived the entire world. Satan and his fallen army of clever and powerful demons are constantly at work to influence the political leaders of this world. As Christ's return nears they will influence world leaders to send armies of the European beast power into the modern state of Israel. The northern armies will first overtake Jerusalem, then the armies of the European beast power and armies from the Asian powers will prepare to battle for control of the petroleum rich Middle East. A vast horde of millions from various nations will gather at the great valley of Jezreel, overshadowed by the hill of Armageddon; but instead of turning on each other, they will join forces to fight against a third foe, one they had not expected, but one who is the true object of Satan's wrath – the great army of the returning Jesus Christ.

The religious leaders of the Christian and Muslim worlds will not have prepared them for Christ's return (Revelation 17). As part of Satan's deception, false religious leaders will have given their adherents wrong understanding. They will have taught them they will ascend to heaven when they die. They will not have prepared them for Christ's actual return to set up His Father's kingdom on the earth. Thus great confusion will reign on the earth at the time of the end (Revelation 13:11-18). People's ability to judge events clearly will be severely crippled. Instead of welcoming Christ, they will actually turn, to fight against him when he returns.



## *Armageddon*

Many falsely believe that Christ fights against the nations in a battle called “*the battle of Armageddon*”. This is not true. The Bible does not tell us that Armageddon is the name of a battle; rather it is a geographic location some 55 miles north of Jerusalem. Instead, Revelation 16:14 calls this great end-time battle, “The Battle of That Great Day of God Almighty”.

In Revelation 16:16 we learn of the armies of the Asian kings of the east being “*gathered together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon*”. This is the only place in scripture where the word “*Armageddon*” is used. The word Armageddon comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew name *Har Megiddo* (meaning “hill” or “mountain”).

The hill of Armageddon looks over the expansive Jezreel valley. This valley is the staging area for the massive armies as they plan their attack against the great European army from the north that has already conquered Jerusalem (Revelation 11:2), taking half of her citizens captive (Zechariah 14:2). The Bible tells us that the great armies from the east and north, influenced by demons, will prepare to battle against one another, but will instead turn to fight against Christ (Revelation 16:14).

“The kings of the earth,” including the prophesied European dictator referred to in the Bible as the Beast, will turn against

Christ. The following passage written by the Apostle John describes Christ as the warrior King:

*“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. 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. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 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. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS”* (REVELATION 19:11–16).

John continues: *“And I saw the beast (the prophesied military dictator), and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him (against Jesus) who sat on the horse and against His army”* (REVELATION 19:19).

Where will the battle take place? The prophet Joel tells us that this riveting battle will take place on the outskirts of Jerusalem. *“For behold, in those days and at that time... I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there”* (JOEL 3:1–2).

The valley of Jehoshaphat, known also as the Kidron Valley, is located between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives,

and extends south. The world's armies will come together there to fight against Jesus Christ, who has returned to the Mount of Olives; and there will be a bloodbath the likes of which history has never before witnessed, Jesus Christ will destroy His enemies:

*“And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths”*

(ZECHARIAH 14:12).

John writes: *“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. 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”*

(REVELATION 19:20–21).

Jesus will crush the greatest military force ever assembled. He will return as King of kings and Lord of lords to enforce peace upon the nations, Satan will be cast away for 1000 years (Revelation 20:2-3). “And The LORD Shall Be King Over All The Earth” (Zechariah 14:9). Thus begins the rule of the Messiah over the earth (Isaiah 2:3).

In the next chapter we will see the importance of Christ's building a new temple during the Millennium.



CHAPTER

# 2

## The Return of Christ to the Temple

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*“...this is the place of my throne... This is where  
I will live among the Israelites forever”*

(EZEKIEL 43:7)

The Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 40 through 47, describe a vision of a future temple in the Holy Land that will be in use during Christ's reign on the earth. The building of this temple is one of his top priorities upon his return, and the importance of this vision is so significant that Christ interprets the event himself (Ezekiel 43:6-7).

The earlier chapters of Ezekiel (8-11) tell the story of God's departing from His people because of their refusal to repent of their vile sins. God makes it clear he will not remain close to a nation that claims a relationship with Him and at the same time continually violates His Commandments.

But the wonderful news is that a new Temple will be built after Christ's return. Christ will abide in the new Temple because the people of Israel will have gained a humble and repentant spirit, and will genuinely seek to obey their God and savior (Zechariah 12:10-14). Because of this, Christ will extend forgiveness to his people and will sit as King among them, never to depart again. God tells Ezekiel to describe the temple to the Israelites who have survived the Great Tribulation, He says, "*Let them consider the temple*" so that they will be ashamed of their former iniquities (Ezekiel 43:9-11).

Soon into Christ's reign, after the new Temple has been completed, the Bible tells of Christ's approach and his entering this newly built temple—an event so spectacular that the whole land will radiate with the light of Christ's glory (Ezekiel 43:2).

## *The Glory of the Lord*

The return of Christ to His Temple is one of the high points of all history. From the east gate Ezekiel, in vision, sees the breathtaking arrival of Jesus Christ (described as the coming of the “glory of the Lord” (Ezekiel 43:4). In this vision Christ arrives and enters the temple through the east gate. Once Christ has entered this gate, the door will be shut and never opened again during His millennial reign. Why? Because once Christ’s presence hallows the gate, no person will be allowed to enter through it; and he states in verse 9 that if they obey him, he will dwell among his people forever. This is how special Christ’s arrival is.

We see from the scriptures that the people are to be taught the law of the temple. The temple and its laws teach people about the holiness of Christ—the whole mountain on which the temple rests is considered holy because of Christ’s presence (Ezekiel 43:12).

So we ask...why is a temple built in Israel when Christ returns? Because the temple serves as the primary seat of religious education for the whole world:

✠ **The temple will be a visible sign of Christ’s Holy presence among His people (Ezekiel 43:7)—and the dwelling place of his glory (Ezekiel 43:4). Christ will enter the temple, never again to leave His people (Ezekiel 43:7). The temple is His “footstool”, that is, it is the place where He rests His feet.**

- ✠ **The rebuilding of the temple will cause people to be ashamed of their sins. It will remind them of their history of rebellion that brought on the destruction of Solomon's beautiful temple; and its re-establishment will lead them to repentance (Ezekiel 43:10-12).**
  
- ✠ **The Temple will be the seat of learning. The world will learn about the plan of God as the Festivals of God, which spell out His plan for humanity, are celebrated in the temple for the entire world to see (Ezekiel 45 and 46). People will come from around the world to learn the way of God and receive the teaching of His law: *"For out of Zion shall go forth the Law"*—the Ten Commandments (ISAIAH 2:3).**
  
- ✠ **The sacrifices that take place in the temple are to continually remind people that we need a savior (Jesus Christ)—and that there is a price to be paid for the forgiveness of sin—the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). These sacrifices cannot replace Christ's sacrifice, they only serve as a teaching tool—a reminder that Christ himself shed His blood so that we may be forgiven of our sins.**

## *The Prince*

Some have confused a prince mentioned in the latter chapters of Ezekiel with Jesus Christ; however, this person must make a sin offering for himself (Ezekiel 45:22). Obviously, Christ does not have to make any such offering. Also, Ezekiel 46:16-17 says this prince has natural children. Some say that this prince is the resurrected King David, since David will be, in relative position, like a prince under the great King,

Jesus Christ. But David is later referred to as a King (Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24). David, however, will be a spirit being who no longer needs to make a sin offering and will not have physical children. So the prince spoken of here must be a human being who must offer up an offering for his sins. This prince (see chapters 45-46) will serve as a civil leader, a physical ruler of Israel who is possibly of the house of David.

Do you see the significance of this beautiful temple? Christ will dwell among His people. He will teach the world about His plan of salvation (revealed through His appointed Festival days). The Commandments of God will be taught; all nations and peoples will worship Christ by celebrating these same Festivals and by keeping the Ten Commandments. This will bring about harmony and peace around the globe. We will learn more about the unifying factor of the Festivals in the next Chapter.





CHAPTER

# 3

## Festivals in the Kingdom

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*“...the Lord strikes the nations who do not  
come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles”.*

**(ZECHARIAH 14:18)**

A major prophecy about the coming Kingdom of God is found in the book of Zechariah. It is important that you understand this pivotal Prophecy. It reveals that Christ is to be worshipped during an annual Festival called the Feast of Tabernacles:

*“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. And **the Lord shall be King over all the earth.** In that day it shall be; ‘The Lord is one,’ and His name one.... And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem **shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles**” (ZECHARIAH 14:8–9, 16).*

People around the world will be expected to keep this festival, and the nations that refuse to worship Christ by keeping these days will suffer punishment in the form of drought (verse 18). God is serious about the proper worship of Christ—Christ is Holy and only God’s appointed festivals will be observed in the Kingdom of God. Christmas, Easter, Ramadan (Islam), The Festival of Diwali (Hindu festival), the Chinese New year celebrations—none of these manmade days are mentioned in scripture and will not be observed during Christ’s reign as King over the earth.

## *Punishment for Disobedience*

It is apparent from scripture that Egypt along with other nations will not submit to Christ's authority immediately upon His return. Because the Kingdom of God will be a world ruling kingdom, all nations will be required over time to submit to his authority. Egypt along with any other nations that refuse to come under the Kingdom of God will suffer punishment for not keeping the Feast of Tabernacles:

*Zechariah:14:17-19 tells us: "And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles."*

The word of God is clear that the Feast of Tabernacles, which is only one of Gods' festivals mentioned in Leviticus 23:33-36, will be kept worldwide as the Kingdom spreads around the earth.

The good news is that Egypt will eventually repent and yield to Christ as King. The book of Isaiah describes their change of heart in this manner: *"In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. And it will be for a sign and for a witness to the Lord*

*of hosts in the land of Egypt, for they will cry to the Lord because of the oppressors, and He will send them a Savior and a Mighty One, and He will deliver them.”*

*“Then the Lord will be known to Egypt, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day . . . 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. In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria [a reference to the northern power], and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians.*

*“In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land, whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance” (ISAIAH 19, VERSES 19-25).*

And now let’s look to see what the prophets reveal concerning the weekly day of worship—the day of the week upon which the whole world will worship God in unity. Will it be Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or some other day?

## ***The Day of Worship***

The Bible is clear about the day of the week God has chosen for His worshippers to come worship before Him. It is described as a weekly Feast, and God commands his followers to honor this day in a special way. Which day is it?

The prophets clearly state that the 7th Day of the week referred to in the Bible as the Sabbath will be observed during the millennial reign of Christ (Isaiah 66:23; Ezekiel 46:1). Sabbath observance will once again be impressed upon all mankind as it was from the very beginning of creation (Genesis 2:2-3). It will be demanded of the Jew and Gentile alike:

*“...and from Sabbath to Sabbath, All mankind will come to bow down before Me, says the Lord”. (Isaiah 66:23)*

How is this Sabbath day to be observed? The Bible explains that our regular work is to be done during the first six days of the week, but on the Sabbath day all nations – all people – are to rest from their labor. During the first six days of the week, the East gate of the Temple’s inner court will be closed, but on the Sabbath it will be opened for worship. The human prince will lead the people who are at the temple in worship, and will bring six male lambs, one ram, and a grain offering (Ezekiel 46:1-9) as a regular sacrificial offering on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is not only a day of rest, but also a day of rejoicing and congregational worship. Only the 7th day of the week will be set apart and recognized by God as the proper day for this weekly Feast.

## *Christ's Role Revealed in the Festivals*

You will notice when you study the books of the prophets that God has special Holy days and Festivals in addition to the weekly Sabbath that He expects His people to observe in their worship of Him. For example, the people will be expected to worship on the appointed Feast days that include the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread (Ezekiel 45:17, 21-22; 46:9,11), as well as the Feast of Tabernacles mentioned earlier (Zechariah 14:16).

Below is a list and a brief explanation of the Festivals of God. This explanation will include what the Feasts teach us about Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God:

The **Passover** reveals that Jesus Christ was the sinless Lamb of God. He gave His life so that the sins of mankind could be forgiven and the death penalty removed (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Romans 3:25; Ezekiel 45:21).

The **Feast of Unleavened Bread** teaches us that we have been called to put sin out of our lives. Mankind will learn that sin, the violation of God's law, is the cause of enormous human suffering. During this festival, leaven symbolizes sin, it is removed from our homes for the seven days of the festival (1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Exodus 12:19). By eating unleavened bread we are reminded that Christ (who is sinless) lives in us, and He is not the minister of sin (Galatians 2:17).

The **Feast of Pentecost**, also called Firstfruits, is a festival that pictures the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church. The firstfruits refers to those who will reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:6). God's spirit is given to true Christians to help them overcome sin, resist Satan, and create a new heart in them (Exodus 23:16; Acts 2:1-4, 37-39; 5:32; James 1:18).

The **Feast of Trumpets**: Christ will visibly return to this earth with the blowing of a trumpet (Revelation 11:15). At that time He will resurrect the saints who have already died in faith and will instantly change those saints who are still alive to immortal spirit beings (1 Corinthians 15:52-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). They will serve under Him in establishing the Kingdom on the earth.

The **Day of Atonement** points to the time when Satan, the arch enemy of God and all those who worship Him, will be bound for 1,000 years (Leviticus 16:29-30, 20-22; Revelation 20:1-3). This is a solemn fast day upon which we humble ourselves before God. This Holy Day pictures our High Priest, Jesus Christ, making atonement for our sins, which allows us to be reconciled to God and boldly enter before His presence (Hebrews: 4:16; 10:19-20).

The **Feast of Tabernacles** is a seven-day festival that celebrates the rule of Christ on this earth. He will rule with the assistance of His saints, teaching the nations the law of God

and the observance of His festivals. There will be peace and physical healing—it is a time of great happiness (Revelation 20:4; Isaiah 35:5-10; Leviticus 23:39-43; Zechariah 14:16; Ezekiel 45:25).

The **Last Great Day** reveals to us that Jesus Christ will continue His redemption of humanity by resurrecting and extending salvation to all human beings who have died never having had an opportunity for salvation (Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 11:25-27; Luke 11:31-32; Revelation 20:11-13). This will be a massive physical resurrection of billions who have died never having known the TRUE Jesus Christ. Christ will serve as the great Judge of the works of all mankind (Revelation 20:11).

You can see that Christ is the focus of the Festival days. Without Him the Plan of God for mankind would simply not exist.

In our next chapter we will discuss the Leadership aspect in the Kingdom of God.





CHAPTER

# 4

## Who Will Rule with Christ?

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*“And have made us Kings and Priests...  
we shall reign on the earth”.*

**(REVELATION 5:10)**

God's anointed King, Jesus Christ, will return: "And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east" (Zechariah 14:4). Beginning with Jerusalem as His capital city, He will expand His reign around the globe, and all nations will eventually submit to Him as King (verse 9). God will give Christ the throne of His father David:

**"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. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end"** (LUKE 1:32-33).

Christ will rule directly from Israel, and His headquarters will be at Jerusalem: "*In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness*" (JEREMIAH 33:16). As we have already read, Christ will occupy the newly-built millennial temple, to dwell with His people, never to leave them again (Ezekiel 43).

### ***David, the Apostles, and the Saints***

During the coming thousand-year reign of Christ, the house of Israel (all the tribes of Israel) will be reunited with the house of Judah, and joined together they will become the world's greatest nation.

Under Christ, King David will be resurrected from the dead, made immortal, and will be the king over the reunified House of Israel. Regarding this reunited Israel God says,

*“And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again... David my servant shall be king over them and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes and do them... My servant David shall be their prince forever”* (EZEKIEL 37:22, 24-25).

Israel will again learn the way that brings happiness and peace. The millions in the reunited nation of Israel who survived through the Tribulation period will be taught to live by God's Commandments, statutes and judgments! Crime, poverty, sickness, and broken homes will come to an end. All the nations will observe the Ten Commandments. Religious unity will mean peace for all of mankind!

*(Remember—when the Bible uses the term “Israel,” or “House of Israel,” it is usually referring either to the ten tribes of the “Northern Kingdom” or to all twelve tribes, they exist today. Many of the descendants of the tribes of Israel can be found in the United States, Britain and the British-Commonwealth nations. Also, you may trace certain tribes of Israel to Northwestern Europe where they exist today. For more understanding order our **booklet The United States and Great Britain in Prophecy** at [worldwatchtoday.org](http://worldwatchtoday.org). Or order a free copy of the booklet by phone—the call is toll free: 1-877-449-6753.)*

Under David, each tribe of Israel will have its own individual Judge who will be one of the twelve resurrected apostles. Christ Himself assigned them to this office before He died: *“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel”* (LUKE 22:28–30).

Those Christians who grow in grace and knowledge, reject Satan’s influence and the ways of this world, and strive to overcome their own personal character flaws and sins will, in the Millennium, be given positions as leaders under Christ: *“And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron’”* (REVELATION 2:26–27). Christ has “made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign **on the earth**” (REVELATION 5:10).

Jesus gave the “parable of the pounds” to show Christians that in this life we must make good use of our time, talents and opportunities as we labor to live by every word of God (Matthew 4:4). Notice Jesus’ statement to the man who grew the most and gained ten pounds:

*“Well done, good servant, because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities”* (LUKE 19:17). **To the man who was zealous enough to gain five pounds, Jesus said: “You also be over five cities”** (v. 19).

We will be rewarded according to our works. The more diligent we are in using our talents to serve others, using

opportunities wisely to serve God, and the more determined we are to overcome our sins and shortcomings, the greater our reward!

### ***Abraham, Moses, Daniel and Elijah***

The Bible speaks of God's relationship with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These men are prophesied to be among God's leaders in the kingdom of God, Abraham being foremost. They are often referred to in scripture as "*The Fathers.*" Notice: "*There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out*" (LUKE 13:28).

Men such as Daniel, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isaiah and other prophets will have great responsibility in Christ's government. Elijah organized and led three schools at Jericho, Gilgal, and Bethel, for the purpose of instructing the students in God's Law and worship in the midst of a world saturated with false pagan teaching and religion (2 Kings 2:3, 5; 4:38). Many other prophets were faithful to God, facing death because they served God. They too will have great responsibilities in the Kingdom.

Those Christians who overcome in this life will be raised in the first resurrection, which the Bible calls a "better" resurrection (Hebrews 11:35), because they will have the astonishing opportunity to rule with the Patriarchs, Prophets, and dedicated women who lived during the Old Covenant

period. Those men and women of Ancient Israel who were faithful to God will be in that first resurrection (see Hebrews 11). You can read about the first Resurrection in our final chapter.

## ***New Covenant***

God prophesied He would someday (In the Kingdom of God) create a new heart in His people by giving them His Spirit so they would obey Him: *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God”* (EZEKIEL 36:26-28).

The New Covenant is God’s desire to give His people His Spirit so they can obey Him. Notice in this passage that God’s law is central to the New Covenant. It is important to understand His law has not changed nor ever been “done away” as some false ministers preach today.

*“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah . . . This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days,’ says the Lord, ‘I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”* (JEREMIAH 31:31-33; SEE HEBREWS 8:10; 10:16).

Remember, God did not find a fault in His law under the terms of the Old Covenant. The fault lay with the people who proved themselves to be hard-hearted and rebellious. The New Covenant is superior to the Old Covenant because it promises that people can receive the indwelling of God's spirit (*so they may keep the law of God from the heart*), and it promises *the gift of eternal life. The Bible states: ". . . He (Christ) is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises"* (HEBREWS 8:6).

### ***Overcomers Rule***

All pre-millennial servants of God who have overcome sin, Satan, and the evil influences of this world while proving themselves to be obedient to God, will be raised in the first resurrection and will have the astounding opportunity to rule with Christ in His kingdom. Anyone who properly values the calling of God, to be a leader in Christ's Kingdom, will give themselves totally to that calling. Remember the parable of the hidden treasure:

***"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, which a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field (MATTHEW 13:44).***

If God has called or is calling you to be in that first resurrection, you must value that calling, and not be passive in the face of an incredible opportunity.



CHAPTER

# 5

## Time of Great Healing

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*“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped”*

**(ISAIAH 35:5)**



God has in store for mankind a millennium of peace, healing, and happiness that is beyond description. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, He says of this time:

*“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” (ISAIAH 11:9).*

First, when Christ returns, tremendous geographical changes will take place in Israel. When Christ arrives at the Mount of Olives, just east of Jerusalem, an earthquake will split the mountain in two:

*“And His feet shall stand in that day upon the **Mount of Olives**, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and **half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.**” (ZECHARIAH 14:4).*

### ***Waters of Healing***

A fountain of living water described in the books of Ezekiel and Zechariah will have an enormous geographical impact. The source of this river has its origins at the temple, the location of Christ's presence:

*“In that day there shall be a **fountain** opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness” (ZECHARIAH 13:1). Then Zechariah 14:8 shows us where the waters will flow, “And it shall be in that day, that **living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former** (eastern) **sea, and half of them toward the hinder** (western) **sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.**”*

The living waters will flow out of Jerusalem in two directions, to the west to the great sea (western or Mediterranean Sea) and to the east to the Dead Sea (eastern or Salt Sea).

In Ezekiel 47:8-9 we are told the waters of the Dead Sea will be healed.

*“Then said He unto me, these waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea, which being brought forth into the sea, **the waters shall be healed.** And it shall come to pass, that everything that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live, and there shall be a very **great multitude of fish**, because these waters shall come thither, for they shall be healed; and everything shall live whither the river cometh.”*

Christ continues to heal the land and the millions who live in His Kingdom; mankind will be healed of disease, sickness and infirmities:

*“The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing” (ISAIAH 35:1-2).*

*“Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (vs. 3-6).*

*“For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water” (vs. 6-7).*

## ***Peace and Prosperity***

Jesus Christ will not only heal the land He will change the nature of animals! Animals will no longer be dangerous:

*“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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den” (ISAIAH 11:6-8).*

Micah the prophet reveals that people will own their own land (Micah 4:4), *“But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid”*. This short verse is rich with meaning. It reveals that each family will own productive property; people will live in safety, a world free of crime.

Jeremiah reveals how mankind will at last find peace. *“No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more”* (JEREMIAH 31:34).

The nations of the Middle East will be at peace, enemy nations shall become friends: *“In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing in the midst of the land whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, ‘Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel my inheritance”* (ISAIAH 19:24-25).

We eagerly pray that God’s Kingdom will come soon, we know that God is preparing things for us that go way beyond the human imagination, *“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him”* (I CORINTHIANS 2:9).

But as wonderful as Christ’s rule will be, there will be those who rebel against Him. We discuss this rebellion in our next chapter.



CHAPTER

# 6

## War of Rebellion

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*“...[Satan] will go out to deceive the nations...  
to gather them together to battle,  
whose number is as the sand of the sea.”*

**(REVELATION 20:8)**

At the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ, the Bible reveals that an angel “*laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished*”—REVELATION 20: 2,3. But this is not the end of Satan, for after the thousand years are finished Satan “*must be released for a little while*”—VERSE 3. Upon his release he begins to stir up resentment and rebellion against Christ and the millions living peacefully in Israel. Notice what is recorded in Revelation 20 beginning in verse 7:

*“When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be let loose from his prison, and he will come out to seduce the nations in the four quarters of the earth. He will muster them for war, the hosts of Gog and Magog, countless as the sands of the sea. They marched up over the breadth of the land and laid siege to the camp of God’s people and the city He loves. But fire came down on them from heaven and consumed them. Their seducer, the Devil, was flung into the lake of fire and sulfur...”* (VERSES 7-10, REVISED ENGLISH BIBLE).

As you have just read, at the end of the millennium, Satan will be released for a short time, and he will immediately go out to deceive millions of people from the four corners of the earth. This great evil spirit will gather human armies—that possess the same spirit of war as Gog and Magog—two of the nations that fought against God in the beginning years of the Millennium (Ezekiel 38). These armies will converge on Jerusalem, but will quickly be destroyed by Christ, and then Satan will be put away never to manipulate human beings again.

Why would God release Satan to again deceive people after the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ? Though no specific explanation is given, it is clear that God is allowing Satan to test the nations to see whether or not people will choose God's way of loving obedience to His Laws, or Satan's way of selfishness and rebellion. God has always tested His people to see what is in their hearts and whether they are totally committed to Him (Deuteronomy 8:2; 1 Thessalonians 2:4; Hebrews 11:17). Once this great test is completed Satan will be banished forever and will never again be allowed to deceive anyone.

The world will rejoice to see that finally Satan has been removed permanently. And now we see what God will do next as He continually works with human beings and expands the number of people who may enter into His kingdom.



CHAPTER

# 7

## Will You Rule with Jesus Christ?

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*“...that they might obtain  
a better resurrection.”*

**(HEBREWS 11:35)**



The “few” not the “many” will rule with Christ at His return. Hebrews 11:35 tells us that there is a “better resurrection” and only those raised in that resurrection will be given leadership responsibilities during the Millennium. Will you seek to be in that better resurrection? There is a significant difference between the first and second resurrections, let’s see what that difference is.

The first resurrection is called by that name: “...*They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...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*” (REVELATION 20: 4-6).

This resurrection will take place at the second coming of Christ when the righteous dead will be resurrected to immortality (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17). This is the resurrection referred to as a “better resurrection” (Hebrews 11:35). Why a better resurrection—because those who are in this resurrection reign with Christ as Kings and Priests (Revelation 20:6). They will rule on this earth, actually participating in Christ’s government (Revelation 5:10). What a rare opportunity this is—to rule with Christ and the other saints for 1000 years!

Upon His return Christ “*will reward each according to his works*” (MATTHEW 16:27). While salvation itself is a free gift of God not based on human efforts, one's works and fruit demonstrate how much a person has yielded to God and will be a factor in determining each person’s degree of

reward and leadership authority given in God's Kingdom (Matthew 19:11-30).

The first resurrection will consist of saints with whom God has been working from the Old Testament period until the time of Christ's return. Those in this resurrection have repented of their sins and accepted Christ as Savior in this life. They have made great effort in this physical life to "overcome" their sinful nature. They reject Satan's way of selfishness, greed and lust. God gives them His Holy Spirit to help them live the Christian life (Romans 8:9). Only those with the indwelling Spirit of God are allowed to rule with Christ.

Revelation 20:5 references the second resurrection in an inset explanation: *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished."* The second resurrection occurs at the end of the Millennium; the magnitude of this event (2nd Resurrection) is enormous. Tens of billions of people who have never understood or known Jesus Christ will be resurrected to physical life and given an opportunity to learn about Him; they will be given a chance to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and live a changed life with the help of God's spirit.

This resurrection, also known as the Great White Throne Judgment, is described in Revelation 20:12: *"and I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened [the books of the Bible now opened to their*

*understanding, and another book was opened, which is the Book of Life (they now have the opportunity to have eternal life), and the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.”*

These billions will have the chance to read the Word of God, to be instructed in God’s way, and to make a decision to either obey Christ or disobey.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 gives us further insight to the fact that millions of the Tribes of Israel, who have died, will be raised at this time—they will come to see their sins, repent and accept Christ as Savior and King. This is a wonderful time of reconciliation between God and mankind. People will come to learn how to worship God and will obey His Commandments.

### ***Your Choice?***

Will you choose to come out of this world and commit yourself with Christ’s help to live a life of overcoming? Christ states, *“and he that overcomes, **and keeps my works** unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And He shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of My Father”* (REVELATION 2:26-27). A few verses later He adds, *“To him that overcomes will I grant to sit with Me in My throne...”*

(REVELATION 3:21).

This is your time to make a decision; either to seek repentance or to ignore such a great calling! You can be in that First Resurrection, but remember it is only those who are accounted worthy to be in the First Resurrection who have the opportunity to reign with Christ.

But you must reject the selfishness and sin that is rampant in this world. Repentance is crucial and few churches today focus on its significance. True repentance demands that stop breaking God's laws. Sin is the breaking of God's commandments (1 John 3:4). Those in the Kingdom of God will honor God and not violate the Ten Commandments (Revelation 22:15).

**Do not be passive in the face of God's calling.** If you are interested in learning more about repentance, overcoming and baptism; phone us at our toll free number and request our booklet on **Water Baptism** (Toll free call: 1-877-449-6753). You may also request to speak with one of our ministers if you have any questions.

If you would like to know more about the **resurrections** spoken of in the Bible, visit our website: [worldwatchtoday.org](http://worldwatchtoday.org), and download, or request our Bible Study on *THE LAST GREAT DAY*.







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