

When King Messiah Reigns , Part II

Revelation 20:1-6

Now friend, it is highly important that we learn exactly how the Word of God describes the Messiah's reign. In the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, there is a petition for the coming of God's kingdom. Jesus said we should pray like this; "Let Thy kingdom come, let Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

From a careful study of those words of Jesus I have learned that the kingdom will come as an event rather than a process. That is a very important consideration. Over the centuries certain men have taught and believed if they try hard enough they will be able to bring in God's kingdom. But as we look on the world today, men are no nearer to bringing in the kingdom now than they were hundreds of years ago. In many respects they are further away from the kingdom. With all the injustices, wars, pestilences, famines, men are not bringing in the kingdom at all.

According to the Bible, Messiah will bring in the kingdom and His rule will be with impartial justice. He will rule the nations with His rod of iron. He will judge righteous judgments. Jesus once stated that God the Father has given all judgment to the Son. So when Messiah reigns there will be absolute justice and peace.

We continue in Revelation 20:1-6, WHEN KING MESSIAH REIGNS PART II.

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

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

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I stated that these verses compel us to draw several obvious conclusions. Let us now review the conclusions that I addressed in the previous chapter.

First was Satan will be Bound. I showed that the binding of Satan is future. He is not bound now. But he will be bound for 1000 years, just as the Bible tells us here. Now he comes sometimes as an angel of light and other times he may come as a roaring lion, so the Bible teaches us. He is always the deceiver. But when he is bound he will not be able to deceive the nations for a thousand years.

The second conclusion I spoke about was The Messiah will Reign. I pointed out that the Messiah will reign during the same time Satan is bound. His reign is predicted in a number of books of the Bible. The Messiah's rule will be characterized by peace, true peace.

Remember Jesus taught us to pray, "Let Thy kingdom come, let Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." So what is the third conclusion we are compelled to draw?

The third Conclusion; The Saints Will Share

The groups reigning with Christ are distinguished in Revelation 20:4. Three groups are clearly distinguished. First, there are those who sit upon the thrones. To help identify them, we refer to Revelation 4 where the 24 elders seated on thrones are redeemed from every tribe, kindred tongue and nation.

Then there will be the martyrs--those who were killed, were beheaded, literally axed to death, for the witness of Jesus. In Revelation 6, we learn of the martyrs of the fifth seal under the altar, and how they cried for vengeance.

The third group is the objectors to the beast. We learn in Revelation 13 that not all will bow to the beast, and those who do not will be martyred when they are found.

So we have the throne sitters, the martyrs and the objectors to the beast here described as being those who will share with the Messiah in His reign, the end of verse 4 tells us, "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Their role is designated, for they will reign with Christ, in verses 4 and 6, one thousand years. Jesus said when He spoke to the church in Laodicea in Revelation 3:20, "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I have overcome and am set down with my Father in his throne."

And, of course, they will have resurrected bodies and the rest of the dead will not be resurrected until after the thousand years. The saints who share in the reign of Christ will have taken part in the first resurrection when they were caught away at the sound of the trumpet. It is clear in I Corinthians 15:50 that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Therefore, in order to have part in that kingdom there must be the first resurrection in which the saints will all participate.

Their security has been assured for Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection." Please notice that they are protected from the second death, because, "On such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Surely, it must be plain that a time will come when the saints will reign with Christ. For that glorious day we long and wait. The Apostle John wrote, "We know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." We assure our hearts before God on the truth of these conclusions: Satan will be bound, the Messiah will reign, and the saints will share. Praise the Lord!

To have part in that glorious experience which Revelation 20, verses 1-6 describes, it is necessary for you to plan now. God has provided by the first coming of His Son for your salvation and preparation. Be sure you make your confession now. The Scripture says, "Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father." So it is not a matter of whether you are going to make that confession, friend, it is a matter of when you are going to make it. Make it now and you can have part in that great and glorious day.

I do urge you to receive Jesus as your personal Lord and Saviour now. Please do not neglect this important decision.