

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #71

2/27/2008

Following Armageddon Comes the Millennium: Part 7

19:21-20:10

In Revelation 20:2-3 God told us that He had **“Satan bound for a thousand years and cast 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.”** The key word **“fulfilled”** suggests to us that God has shown us and told us about some things that He is going to bring to their fullness during this thousand-year period which we call **Christ's Millennial Kingdom on earth**. It will be the most glorious and blessed period of time ever experienced on this earth because God's blessings, without any interference from Satan, will be poured out upon the subjects of **the Kingdom**. Even more blissful than what Adam experienced in the Garden of Eden will be the experience of the subjects of the King.

This is made possible because the binding and removal of Satan, with his seductive work of rebellion and the chaos and destruction produced by him, will be eliminated as a factor in the Kingdom. *Therefore, because the subjects live under the pure and direct rule of God in everything, God's Theocracy provides God's blessings without restraint or limitation.* Christ's unobstructed rule through **His Theocracy** is the key that enables this amazing time when everything functions fully as Christ intended when He created this earth.

God has offered man the blessings of **His Theocracy** six times. Each of these forms of **His Theocracy** prophetically embodies one or more essential aspects that are to be brought to fullness in **the Kingdom**. This is consistent with the way God presents His truth to us. Forty-one times in the Gospels we read where Jesus' first coming **“fulfilled”** some truth earlier presented. In Hebrews 8:5, the role of the High Priest is described as **“an example and shadow of heavenly things.”** Moses was **“admonished by God to make the tabernacle ... according to the pattern”** which God gave him on Mt. Sinai. Then, in Hebrews 10:1 the law's limitations and role is described: **“... the law having a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things.”** God used these expressions to tell us that many of the things He gives to us are patterns and images of some greater truths that are to be presented in their fullness sometime later. As God says it is with the role of the Tabernacle and the Law which God gave to Moses, so it is with **His Theocracy** — the unlimited and full expression of it, with all of its benefits, will be in **Christ's Millennial Kingdom**. Through what God has shown us in the six previous presentations of **His Theocracy** and what He tells us through the prophets will be fulfilled in **Christ's Millennial Kingdom**. Now, we shall attempt to extract and set forth some of these marvelous things which are to be fulfilled during this **thousand years**.

**Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.**

**Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

**Revelation 20:3 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.**

**Revelation 20:4 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 worshiped 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.**

**Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.**

**Revelation 20:6 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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**First, from God's Theocracy in the Garden of Eden, we are able to extract the following foundational aspects.** These were first set forth by God as axiomatic truths or foundational principles for how a heavenly life was to be lived on His created earth. The existence of them allowed the blessings of heaven to be poured out upon all of creation. These principles are seen expressed in the following ways:

**1) The source of all created elements and things**

All things existing in this created universe exude forth from the Creator and are dependent upon and accountable to Him for their existence, sustenance, order, function, and purpose.

**2) The authority of the Theocracy**

Resulting from the above, a structure of order existed in which the authority of the Creator and the accountability of the man was clearly defined. In this order of authority, **God's Theocracy**, man was totally dependent upon, accountable to, and functioned submissively under the rule of His Creator in each and everything.

**3) The relationship between the Creator and created man**

Because life was based upon the Creator's structural order of authority, a perfect, uninhibited fellowship of peace and harmony existed between the Creator and all creatures, including man specifically.

**4) The functioning of the created world**

Because of the presence of the above, all of the created world expressed the perfection of the Creator's plan in function and fulfillment of the Creator's purpose. This was expressed in an earthly, physical life for all of creation in which no deterioration, chaos, trauma, illness, aging, pain or death existed.

**5) The relationship between each of the created parts**

The basis provided by the above four axiomatic principles resulted in a perfectly harmonious relationship existing between all things created, particularly between man, animal life and all of the elements of nature.

The perfect expression of these five axiomatic, unchanging principles are the foundational principles upon which all things in the created world depend for existence and function. Their application in this world has been inhibited by the presence of Satan and sin, but, once again perfectly expressed, will characterize the Millennial Kingdom.

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**Second, from God's Theocracy expressed in the delegation of His authority to man allowing him to assert rule over himself in Genesis 9:6 we extract the following one critical aspect:**

The intrinsic and supreme value of human life was emphasized, singled out, protected and elevated above all other forms of created life.

**Third, from God's Theocracy expressed in His covenants to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3) we extract essential organizational aspects that form the basic organizational and functional structure which is brought to fullness in the Millennial Kingdom.**

These aspects are expansions and applications of the foundational axiomatic truths or principles for earthly living which God first set forth in the Garden of Eden. When God set forth His foundational principles for His created world, they were first set forth in a perfect world unaffected by sin.

When Abraham responded to God's call, God covenanted with him to build a completely new nation out of his descendants. God then structured this new nation, now composed of sin-affected men, to accomplish the following: 1) to be so organized in both secular and religious matters so as to express on earth patterns of heavenly truths; 2) to receive God's holy commandments purposed to enable sinful man to be able to live a life on a sin-affected earth that reflected heavenly life as much as possible so that men could be the recipients of heaven's blessings; 3) to become a channel for God's redemption of sinful man and the reestablishment of **His perfect Theocracy** so that He might be unrestricted in pouring out His blessings upon man. The following organizational aspects emitting from the Abrahamic covenants are to be fulfilled in the **Millennial Kingdom**:

**The Nation and the Land**

God established a nation of people out of Abraham's descendants. Though, by and large, that nation of people rejected His rule, His covenant with them and promise regarding their continued existence was not conditioned upon their response, nor can it be negated by the acts of others, but will persist as long as this universe exists (Deuteronomy 7:7-8; Isaiah 10:21-22; 43:1-7; 60:21; Jeremiah 23:3-6; 31:35-36; 32:36-41; Ezekiel 37:23-28; Romans 11:1-5). Even if the majority of the natural descendants of Abraham reject Christ, there will be a remnant who will turn to Him as their Messiah during the Tribulation Period, survive it and enter **the Millennial Kingdom** in their natural bodies (Deu. 4:39-31). All of the land God promised to Abraham's descendants will be given to the nation of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom (Genesis 15:7-18; 17:8) even though their disobedience has prevented them from possessing it today.

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## The Organizational Structure

### The Family

In ways that are not fully explained to us, the nation of Israel will once again be functionally organized around the descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob as Jacob indicated on his death bed: *“And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days”* (Genesis 49:1). In Matthew 19:28 Jesus told His twelve disciples that they would “sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” which apparently takes place during the Millennial Kingdom.

### Jerusalem

Jerusalem will be the governmental center of the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 2:2-4; 52:1-9; Jeremiah 3:17-18; Zechariah 2:1-13).

### The Temple

The Temple is to be rebuilt in Jerusalem, though it will not be exactly like that Temple or an exact reinstatement of the Aaronic system of worship. God gave Ezekiel a detailed vision of the Millennial Temple and the worship that is to be carried out there. Those details in Ezekiel 40:1-47:12. Note the similarities and the differences.

A careful reading takes note of some of the differences: the location in Jerusalem is different; the size of the Temple in the Millennium is different; the Arrangement of the Temple is different; there is no Ark of the Covenant, no Pot of Manna, no Aaron's rod to bud, no Tables of the Law, no Cherubin, no Golden Candlestick, no Shewbread, no Veil, no unapproachable Holy of Holies and no Mercy-Seat. While there are observances of some of the same holy days, such as Passover, there is no mention of Pentecost.

There are similarities. The offerings, at first, appear to be the same. There are to be blood offerings for sin as there was in the Old Testament. However, it should be noted that, when God interpreted the efficacy of the blood offerings in the Mosaic system, as is read in Hebrews 10:1-8, He told us that those offerings did not take away sin, but were *“figures”* or *“parables”* (Heb. 9:9) and *“shadows of good things to come”* (Heb. 10:1). **Those sacrifices of the Old Testament looked forward with hope and faith to God's ultimate provision. The sacrifices offered in the Millennial Temple will look backward to what God has done with joy and thanksgiving, much like we take of the Lord's Supper today.**

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### **The Law and the Commandments of God**

When God gave Moses the Commandments they were earthly expressions of heavenly truths. They were God's statements in man's language of how to live on earth in a manner that reflected the perfect environment of heaven. Through Moses God told the people that if they lived in obedience to what He had told them that they would have happy, successful lives: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success"* (Joshua 1:8).

God had already told them: *"Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?"* (Deu. 4:5-8).

Indeed, God was extremely clear and redundant about the heavenly holiness of these commandments: *"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, ... And all these blessings shall come on thee, ... if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. The Lord shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand..."* (Deu. 28:1-2,12).

*"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"* (Micah 4:1-2). Life in the Millennial Kingdom will be lived according to the Commandments Moses received from God. We should get used to living by them now.