

REVELATION

The Kingdom of
Christ Fulfilled

(Revelation 20:1~6)

*Daniel 7:21-22: As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and **the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.***

Revelation 19 reveals God stepping in at Christ's Second Coming.

Revelation 20 reveals the fulfillment of this promise of the saints possessing the kingdom.

Revelation 20:6: Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Prophecy is practical: knowing what God will do in the future affects how we live today.

As we look forward to Christ's Kingdom, we must live as citizens of His kingdom today.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

- ❖ Psalm 103:19: The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.
- ❖ We are *already* in God's kingdom, but we have *not yet* experienced every aspect of His kingdom.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

A. We experience this idea of already/not yet in our salvation.

❖ If we are a believer today, then we *already* . . .

❖ have salvation.

❖ have been forgiven for our sins.

❖ have spiritual life.

❖ have been given the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of our future inheritance.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

A. We experience this idea of already/not yet in our salvation.

❖ But if we are a believer today, then we have *not yet* . . .

❖ faced the moment of death where we should be sent to hell but God saves us from there.

❖ experienced the joy and wonder of heaven.

❖ seen Christ face to face.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

B. We are brought into Christ's kingdom at the point of our salvation.

❖ Colossians 1:13-14: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

B. We are brought into Christ's kingdom at the point of our salvation.

- ❖ Sometimes a dichotomy is set up where someone emphasizes either the heavenly kingdom or the future earthly kingdom.
- ❖ But Scripture teaches both, so we must not neglect one in favor of the other.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

C. Even though we are already part of the kingdom, we look forward to His future earthly reign.

- ❖ The Old Testament often prophesied the earthly reign of the Messiah, so New Testament believers looked forward to it.
- ❖ Acts 1:3: He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

1. Our relationship to God's kingdom today.

C. Even though we are already part of the kingdom, we look forward to His future earthly reign.

❖ Acts 1:6-7: So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you **at this time** restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons** that the Father has fixed by his own authority.”

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

❖ Revelation 20:1-3: Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

- ❖ Some assume that a spiritual being cannot be chained, so this passage must be figurative for God limiting Satan's power or influence on earth.
- ❖ We shouldn't use our ignorance of how something works to think that it can't happen.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

1. Angelic beings can be restrained in various ways.

❖ 2 Peter 2:4: For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

2. The Bible speaks of Satan having much freedom today.

❖ Satan opposes believers.

❖ Acts 5:3: Filled Ananias's heart to lie

❖ 2 Corinthians 2:11: Paul warns the Corinthians of Satan's schemes

❖ 1 Peter 5:8: Satan walks around as a roaring lion

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

2. The Bible speaks of Satan having much freedom today.

❖ Satan opposes unbelievers.

❖ 2 Corinthians 4:4: In their case the god of this world has **blinded the minds of the unbelievers**, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

2. The Bible speaks of Satan having much freedom today.

❖ 1 John 5:19: We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

A. During the 1,000 year kingdom, Satan is chained in the Abyss.

3. Satan is removed from the earth.

❖ Bottomless pit = abussos (Abyss)

❖ Revelation 9:1-3: At the fifth trumpet, demonic hoards are released from the Abyss.

❖ Luke 8: The demons specifically plead not to be sent to the Abyss.

2. During the earthly reign of Christ, Satan is removed from the earth.

B. Why is Satan removed from earth?

- ❖ Satan is removed so that he cannot deceive the nations during this time.
- ❖ Revelation 19: At His Second Coming, Christ is called Faithful and True.
- ❖ Unlike with Adam and Eve, people will learn the truth of God without the threat of Satan's deception.

Isaiah 2:2-3: It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

Revelation 20:4-6: Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

A. At this point, believers from the Tribulation are raised.

- ❖ Verse 4 emphasizes those who did not worship the beast or take his mark.
- ❖ Some call this a spiritual resurrection (salvation), but since the contrasting resurrection of unbelievers is physical, this one must be too.

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

B. Through the Millennium, Christ fulfills His promises of believers reigning with Him.

- ❖ Revelation 2:26-27: The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.
- ❖ Christ commended the faithful and exhorted them to hold fast, but also gave this promise.

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

B. Through the Millennium, Christ fulfills His promises of believers reigning with Him.

❖ Revelation 5:9-10: And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, **and they shall reign on the earth.**”

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

C. It is a great blessing to be among the believers who will reign with Christ.

- ❖ Revelation 20:6: Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- ❖ We must not take this great privilege for granted.

3. Believers will reign with Christ.

C. It is a great blessing to be among the believers who will reign with Christ.

❖ In salvation, God . . .

❖ saves His enemies from eternal punishment in hell.

❖ grants them a home in heaven and a part in His kingdom.

❖ gives them the very great privilege of reigning with Christ.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Christ is revealed as King of the earth while Satan is removed and believers are blessed to reign with Christ.
- The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) contains much practical teaching on how to live as a part of the Kingdom of God.
- Matthew 5:3-12 contains the well-known beatitudes.

Conclusion: What do we do with what God has revealed?

- Matthew 5:9: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
- We don't sacrifice God's truth in the name of peace, but as we strive to follow God's truth, God has also called us to be peacemakers.
- Romans 12:18: If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.
- As we look forward to Christ's Kingdom, we must live as citizens of His kingdom today.

NEXT TIME:

REVELATION 20:7-10

- The Final Rebellion