

***Now Concerning Spiritual Things***  
an historical account of one man's walk with God

6031 Steamboat Drive  
Dallas, Texas 75230-1851

April 10, 2001  
Jim Ash Letter No. 40

(972) 458-2260 Fax (972) 458-0288  
e-mail: jimash.min@worldnet.att.net

**THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM  
PART ONE**

“Rapture Preparation” was the subject of my last three letters wherein I emphasized (1) the reality of the Rapture as confirmed by scripture and (2) the activities of the raptured Church (the bride of Christ) during the following seven years spent in heaven. This seven-year period of time spent in heaven by the raptured Church coincides with an identical seven-year period of time on the earth known as the Tribulation.

Christians are aware of the first coming of Christ (His birth, His short earthly ministry, His death, burial, resurrection and ascension) because that is the thrust of much of the four Gospels and other parts of the New Testament. This is also a matter of historical record (both biblical and secular) which was prophesied many times by the Old Testament writers. The prophet Isaiah, for example, prophesied so much of the coming Messiah's activities more than seven hundred years before His birth that his writing is sometimes called the fifth gospel. The First Coming is therefore a well known historically documented fact.

However, just as the First Coming was unknown two thousand fifty years ago except as prophesied by Old Testament prophets, the Second Coming today is unknown except as prophesied by both the Old Testament prophets and the New Testament writers. But the Second Coming, which I believe will occur during the lifetime of those living in this generation,<sup>1</sup> is just as certain to occur as the First Coming, which is a matter of historical record. It is the Second Coming, which triggers the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ and the ending of the seven-year Tribulation.

---

<sup>1</sup>The prophet Amos wrote, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.(Amos 3:7). The Lord has given me a project which, when completed, will be of benefit to some of those who will be taken in the Rapture. My conclusion, therefore, is simple: Based on this project, which I have been working on for over two years, and one additional fact He has revealed to me concerning His coming, I believe this project will be of benefit to those living in this generation. For that reason I believe we are now living in the **Rapture generation**. And seven years after the Rapture, **Christ is coming back with His bride, the Church**, to establish His throne and begin His Millennial reign on the earth. Get ready Church!

Although the expression, “the second coming of Christ” is not found in the bible, the writer of Hebrews refers to that event in these words, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”<sup>2</sup>

A biblical knowledge of certain resurrections is necessary to understanding the Second Coming and some of the activities which will take place during the following millennial reign of Christ on the earth. I therefore list below as a matter of reference, biblical resurrections in the order of their occurrence.

**1. The first resurrections.** Matthew records this unusual occurrence, “Then behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to bottom; the earth quaked and the rocks were split and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves *after His resurrection*, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”<sup>3</sup> It is remarkable to me that neither of the other three gospel writers mention this incident. It is also remarkable that no further mention is made in the bible record as to where they went after appearing in Jerusalem and where they are today. Nevertheless, the bible records that many were resurrected *after* Christ was resurrected as the “first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.”<sup>4</sup>

In Israel's Feast of First Fruits, the Israelites, at the beginning of harvest, brought a sheaf of grain to the Priest who would wave it before the Lord on the day after the Sabbath.<sup>5</sup> The one bringing the sheaf would also bring as an offering a young male lamb, fine flour mixed with oil and a drink offering of wine. Since a sheaf contains more than one stalk, each with many seeds, it may be that the first fruits offering portrayed (1) Christ as *the* first fruits, *and* (2) the saints resurrected

---

<sup>2</sup>Hebrews 9:27, 28.

<sup>3</sup>Matthew 27:51-53, Italics added.

<sup>4</sup>See 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23.

<sup>5</sup>See Leviticus 23:9-14.

after Him representing the remainder of the sheaf as a wave offering to God. There are only two conclusions one can draw from this incident. Either they were raised *as was Christ* as the first fruits and were given the same bodies we will be given at the Rapture or they were raised as was Lazarus to die again. I am inclined to accept the first premise although I find no biblical support for this opinion.

**2. Rapture resurrections.** This has been previously treated in my last three letters and is mentioned here only to give the biblical order of resurrections.

**3. Resurrection of the two witnesses.** During the last half of the Tribulation (three and one-half years or forty-two months of thirty days each) two witnesses empowered by God will have a unique and unparalleled ministry.<sup>6</sup> They are compared to two olive trees and two lampstands.<sup>7</sup> These two witnesses will minister during the Great Tribulation when thousands will be killed as martyrs. But God will protect the two and His supernatural power will enable them to destroy any who would try to harm them.<sup>8</sup> They also have the ability to withhold rain, turn water into blood and to bring about plagues.<sup>9</sup>

Just prior to the Second Coming, the Antichrist will be allowed to kill them and their bodies will lie in Jerusalem for three and one-half days symbolic of the victory over them by the Antichrist. Symbolic of gloating over the victory, the people will then send each other gifts.<sup>10</sup> After three and one-half days God will resurrect them and transport them to heaven in a cloud as their enemies view this event.<sup>11</sup> At that hour a severe earthquake will occur and one-tenth of Jerusalem will collapse killing seven thousand people. The survivors will become terrified and then give glory to the God of heaven.<sup>12</sup> There is speculation that the two witnesses

may be Enoch and Elijah since neither of them died while others say the ministry of the two witnesses more closely fits the description of Moses and Elijah.

**4. Resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs.** The book of Revelation prophesies that many believers during the Great Tribulation will be martyred because they refuse to worship the world ruler.<sup>13</sup> At the midpoint of the Tribulation Satan and his angels are cast down to earth by the archangel Michael and his angels which accounts for the catastrophic events of the Great Tribulation.<sup>14</sup> Many will come to Christ during this time but will be martyred because of their refusal to worship the world ruler.<sup>15</sup> It appears that their resurrection may occur after the Second Coming, probably several days after it, but not before or at the Second Coming.<sup>16</sup> This event is also referred to as the “first resurrection” meaning before the resurrection of the wicked dead which will occur at the end of the millennium.<sup>17</sup>

**5. Resurrection of Old Testament saints.** Several passages of scripture suggest that this event will occur after the Great Tribulation. The exact time is not given but it appears that the timing will be either before or immediately following the resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs mentioned in Revelation 20:4-6.<sup>18</sup> This will permit David, as a Regent under Christ, to govern from Jerusalem the nation of Israel, the boundaries of which will be extended to those given by God to Abraham.

**6. Resurrection of the wicked dead.** After Satan is bound for one thousand years,<sup>19</sup> he will be loosed for a brief period of time and then be cast into the lake of fire, where the beast and the false prophet were thrown about a thousand years earlier, to be tormented forever and ever.<sup>20</sup> According to Matthew this place of torment was

---

<sup>6</sup>See Revelation 11:1-6.

<sup>7</sup>See Zachariah 4:3-14 for the olive trees comparison. See Revelation Chapter 11 and Zachariah 4:2, 11, 12 for the lampstands comparison.

<sup>8</sup>See Revelation 11:5.

<sup>9</sup>See Revelation 11:6.

<sup>10</sup>See Revelation 11:7-10.

<sup>11</sup>I believe it very likely that the world will view this event on satellite television, probably on CNN.

<sup>12</sup>See Revelation 11:12, 13.

---

<sup>13</sup>See Revelation 13:15.

<sup>14</sup>See Revelation 12:7-12.

<sup>15</sup>See Revelation 13:15.

<sup>16</sup>See Revelation 20:4-6; 19:11-21.

<sup>17</sup>See Revelation 20:5.

<sup>18</sup>See Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:1-3; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:21. Some bible students hold a different view and believe that the resurrection of Old Testament saints will be mid-Tribunational based on the seventh chapter of Revelation.

<sup>19</sup>See Revelation 20:2-7.

<sup>20</sup>See Revelation 19:20, 21; 20:10.

prepared for the devil and his angels but those who refuse Christ (and thereby choose to serve the enemy – Satan) will share the same punishment. At present the lake of fire is uninhabited. The world ruler (the Antichrist) and the false prophet (the beast) will be the first to be thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning brimstone (sulphur),<sup>21</sup> the final judgment of the wicked. A thousand years later all the unbelieving dead will be thrown there, their final place of eternal judgment.<sup>22</sup>

In the sixteenth century at the Council of Trent, the Roman Catholic church adopted the doctrine (purgatory) that sins not confessed can be forgiven by a purging experience of suffering. The basis for this finding is in the Apocrypha, 2 Maccabees 12:43-46.<sup>23</sup> The Apocrypha is not accepted by most Protestants. Additionally, Jesus emphasized that punishment involves fire,<sup>24</sup> is a place of darkness<sup>25</sup> and is eternal<sup>26</sup> so that there is no second chance, for, “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”<sup>27</sup> The scriptures tell of no second chance interval between death and judgment.

The good news however is that God is still willing that none should perish.<sup>28</sup> Enclosed in this letter is a “Salvation Ticket” with simple instructions on becoming a child of God. You can be saved eternally **now** by following these simple instructions. You must be born again ( the second time) to see the kingdom.<sup>29</sup> And I can tell you, from more than thirty-five years of experience, I have enjoyed life more since I “sold out to God.” Nothing, absolutely nothing compares to knowing the Lord personally. Through knowing Him personally one grows to the point where he can be at peace with his God, his neighbor (that’s everyone) and himself on a

daily basis. And once one is saved, he no longer has to *work* to maintain his salvation since Jesus paid for it on the cross -- once and for all. One “plus” that comes with the personal relationship is growing to the point where you eagerly await His coming again. Let me tell you, it’s going to be an exciting ride, both ways, a fun trip and I already know my assignment for the millennial reign with Christ! I invite you to go along with me. You do not have to be called by God to a highly visible office in the Church to receive the full and unlimited anointing of God’s Holy Spirit. That’s one reason why I write: to let you know that all God wants is a plain, common, ordinary garden-variety type person (like me, for example) who is out there in the trenches of everyday life, committed to Him, under His care, protection and blessing doing “his thing.” Your “rebirth certificate” is the ticket for this trip of a lifetime and everyone who goes must have a ticket.

The reality of the Great Tribulation judgments set forth in Revelation chapters 6-18, when taken literally, and I accept them as literal occurrences, reveal that much of the earth will be devastated and billions of people will be killed. This will reduce the population of the earth by more than fifty percent! The earthquake depicted in the seventh bowl judgment will level many of the earth’s buildings and probably kill millions more.<sup>30</sup> In this final judgment before the Second Coming, mountains and islands will disappear and most of the world will be configured differently. The land of Israel will also have a change in topography, but this will be an improvement over the terrain as it exists today.<sup>31</sup>

On the day that Christ returns, armies that have been fighting each other for power will be engaged in house to house fighting in Jerusalem. But when the glory of Christ appears in the heavens, these armies will have another Foe: Christ and His army.<sup>32</sup> Christ will then kill them all (millions) with the sword in His

---

<sup>21</sup>See Revelation 19:20.

<sup>22</sup>See Revelation 20:11-15.

<sup>23</sup>**John F. Walvoord**, *END TIMES*, Word Publishing, Nashville, TN, pp. 179, 180.

<sup>24</sup>See Matthew 5:22; 18:8, 9; 25:41; Mark 9:43, 48.

<sup>25</sup>See Matthew 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; 2 Peter 2:17.

<sup>26</sup>See Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10, 14, 15.

<sup>27</sup>Hebrews 9:27.

<sup>28</sup>See 2 Peter 3:9.

<sup>29</sup>See John 3:3.

---

<sup>30</sup>See Revelation 16:17-21.

<sup>31</sup>The northern portion of Palestine will be apportioned to the tribes of Dan, Asher, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Reuben and Judah (Ezekiel 48:1-7) while the southern portion will be apportioned to Benjamin, Simeon, Issachar, Zebulun and Gad (Ezekiel 48:23-27) with the Holy Oblation between the northern and southern divisions (Ezekiel 48:23-27). The present city of Jerusalem will be greatly enlarged as well. The topography of the land will be changed (Isaiah 33:10, 11; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Zechariah 4:7; 14:4, 8, 10) and instead of the mountainous terrain of today a great fertile plain will come into existence. (Zechariah 14:4).

<sup>32</sup>Revelation 16:16; 19:19.

mouth.<sup>33</sup> Following this destruction will be the marriage supper of the Lamb to which the righteous will be invited.<sup>34</sup>

**The millennial government.** The government during the Millennium will be a theocracy under the immediate direction of Christ, not as a convenience, but as a necessity. All judicial power will be vested in the King of Kings<sup>35</sup> as He assumes the Davidic throne. David will rule under Christ as Regent over Palestine while living in Jerusalem, the capital of the millennial world. Resurrected saints are also to have positions of responsibility as a reward.<sup>36</sup> There will be nobles and governors, and princes shall rule in judgment.<sup>37</sup> Under David the twelve disciples of Jesus shall sit upon twelve thrones and govern the twelve tribes of Israel. Many lesser authorities will also be designated. For example, authority to rule over ten cities and five cities.<sup>38</sup> And each authority will answer to his immediate superior. These positions of authority are given as rewards for faithfulness. It appears also that there will be judges raised up.<sup>39</sup> Thus, this will be the governmental pattern for Palestine.

The theocratic reign of Christ will be universal. Since the rule of Palestine will be through David to the twelve and on down to judges and rulers over the cities, for example, the same subdivided authority will apply to all other nations of the earth. There will be no part of the earth that will not be under the authority of the King.<sup>40</sup>

The millennial reign of Christ will be one of ***inflexible justice and righteousness*** to include the poor, the meek and opposition by the wicked will be result in instant death, for “with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked.”<sup>41</sup>

The reign will be characterized by the fullness of the Spirit, imparting spiritual discernment to know wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding.<sup>42</sup>

The government will be unified with no divisions in Israel (Israel and Judah will become one) or in any other part of the world. The coveted “world government” will at long last be realized and with it will come the cessation of both national and international strife and division. Any outbreak of sin will be dealt with, without delay.<sup>43</sup> Any overt act against the authority of the King will be punished quickly with physical death. And the ability to deal righteously and justly will be imparted by the absence of Satan and his influence along with the manifestation of the King’s literal Spiritual presence to restrain from any sin! Hence, here is one reason for allowing the fullness of the Spirit to operate in the Church today. I expect the fullness of the Spirit then will be greater than He is manifested in the Church today, but allowing the fullness of the Spirit to operate today in the Church will be on-the-job training! As we approach the Rapture-time, I believe that *the anointing of the Holy Spirit will greatly increase where He is allowed freedom and not quenched by negative teaching or the absence of teaching*. There are signs that this is now beginning to happen at Hillcrest Church, which will further prepare us to rule and reign with Him during the Millennium.

Those alive on the earth at the beginning of the millennial Kingdom will include all the saved of Israel and the saved of the Gentiles living at the time of His return. The scripture is clear that all sinners will be cut off before the establishment of the Kingdom.<sup>44</sup>

. . . . more about the millennial Kingdom next time, the Lord willing.

---

<sup>33</sup>See Revelation 19:15, 21; 19:17, 18.

<sup>34</sup>See Revelation 17:7-9.

<sup>35</sup>See Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:3-7; 11:1-10; 16:5; Daniel 2:44; Obadiah 17-24 and many others.

<sup>36</sup>See Matthew 19:28; Luke 19:12-27.

<sup>37</sup>See Jeremiah 30:21; Isaiah 32:1.

<sup>38</sup>See Luke 19:12-28.

<sup>39</sup>See Isaiah 40:10; Zachariah 3:7, Isaiah 1:26.

<sup>40</sup>See Daniel 2:35; 7:14; Micah 4:1, 2; Zechariah 9:10.

<sup>41</sup>See Isaiah 11:3-5; 25:2-5; 29:17-21; 30:29-32 and others.

---

<sup>42</sup>See Isaiah 11:2, 3.

<sup>43</sup>See Ezekiel 37:13-28; Hosea 1:11; Psalm 2:9; 72:1-4; Isaiah 29:20, 21; 65:20; 66:24; and many others.

<sup>44</sup>See Isaiah 1:19-31; 65:11-16; 66:15-18; Jeremiah 25:27-33 and numerous other scriptures.