

Now Concerning Spiritual Things

an historical account of one man's walk with God

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THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM PART NINE

Introduction. It has come to my attention that my writing on the events of the Rapture and the Millennium has apparently caused some who get my letters to question their relevancy to the NOW of time, while some may also question their validity. And I understand that fully. As a matter of fact I understood that *before* I began to write on end-time events in January 2001. The large majority of Christians have not studied end-time events and therefore may not be interested in such. On the other hand, the popular series of Christian books written on the Rapture and the Tribulation by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins seem to testify to the contrary. There is an army of Christians who are currently reading with fascination, the fictionally enlivened applications of those two biblically prophesied events, written by LaHaye and Jenkins. My writing on the Millennium is only one step farther down the time-line, but nonetheless is just as real as the Rapture and the Tribulation.

Certainly, there is also room for disagreement with my interpretation of scripture. But I believe September 11, 2001 was a 911-wake-up call to the future reality of *the events* (not the exact order of their occurrence) about which I write. Satan knows his time is short and has already stepped up his activity.¹ As I understand scripture, *every Christian will be a participant in the end-time events about which I write.* Here is only one example which makes my writing relevant to the NOW of time. While the following news event does not make today's headlines in the Dallas Morning News, one day it will and it will not be pretty. It will end up ugly but will begin with subtlety, good press, great promises and seemingly harmless.

A current news event is unfolding in Europe that was prophesied by Daniel about two thousand, five

hundred years ago,² which tells how we are nearing the time of the Rapture and the Tribulation.

There are now eleven nations in the European Union (EU): Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. The United Kingdom (UK) and Denmark (and perhaps other nations) may join *after* they see the economic disadvantage of not doing so and *after* they observe the stabilization of the Euro. The addition of the UK and Denmark would make a thirteen-nation confederacy. January 1, 2002 was E-day in the EU when Euro notes (currency) and coins were first introduced. Some kinks must be worked out of the new system. For example, German accounts due in Deutsche Marks payable after January 1, 2002, may be paid in D-Marks or Euros. Accounts thereafter will be generated in Euros. This principle will govern all other EU States. Most of the other minor change-over glitches are expected to be worked out prior to the end of 2002. Note that those in the media are now writing about EU States, *not EU Nations* – a subtle change, but nevertheless important, that portends additional changes to come as prophesied in scripture.

The decision to locate the central EU Bank in Frankfurt, Germany came after a real squabble between France and Germany over its location. German financial institutions are now spending fortunes reassuring their customers that the Euro is a good thing, that there will be no inflation, deflation, lost values, halved salaries or higher prices and that Equity is safe. After being the center of two World Wars, and now with the central EU bank in Germany, that nation (state?) is once again emerging as a strong financial, economic and political power to be reckoned within the EU.

Euro currency States will be able to reduce costs and compete with other parts of the world. The main reasons are (1) currency exchange costs will be reduced and, (2) the value of goods and services will remain

¹See Revelation 12:7-12. I realize that this scripture stating that Satan knows his time is short refers to the mid-point in the Tribulation, but there are other signs as well which indicate that the enemy's activity has already been stepped up as an end-time activity.

²See Daniel chapter six. As a matter of fact the whole book of Daniel is interwoven into the book of Revelation so as to produce profound prophecy on the end-time events about which I write.

constant as conversion costs are eliminated. Viewed in economic bloc trading terms, Euro currency States will be able to reduce costs and prices to compete more effectively in other parts of the world. The Euro will float against the US dollar and other international currencies. Putting this in plain talk, a Mercedes Benz and a kilogram of potatoes will suddenly be the same in Finland and Spain. If the Euro maintains credibility, it could transform the EU into one of the largest and most efficient world market places. The EU economy will be almost as big as the United States with a combined annual output of \$6.28 trillion, versus \$8.1 trillion in the US and will be the *world's largest single exporter and importer!* And believe me, that is real economic clout in the marketplace!³

All this is the beginning of what the books of Daniel and Revelation foretell, namely that the EU alliance of nations [now called states] will ultimately become the main block of power that will catapult a charismatic figure into world dominance. He then will become the Antichrist and defile the third Temple in Jerusalem at the mid point of the seven-year Tribulation. There are many other signs of fulfilled prophecy which I believe point to the Rapture within this generation. A generation is defined as forty years by the Psalmist in chapter ninety-five, verse ten. If my understanding is correct, that means that there are Christians living today *who will be taken in the Rapture!* And that is exciting to me and many other born-again believers all over the world.

Characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom (continued).

15. Temple Worship (continued)

Millennial Kingdom Worship (continued)

Strange as it may seem to some Christians today (and possibly to some Messianic Jews as well), worship in Ezekiel's Temple *during the Millennium* will be similar to previous Tabernacle and Temple Worship.

³Information on the European Union and the Euro was obtained from two Websites:

(1) travelsthroughgermany.com/website2/eurodollar.htm

(2) sysmood.com/e-day.htm

An unlimited amount of additional information may be obtained by entering the words Euro or Euro Dollar in your search engine. There is also information on the Web which indicates that the UK is presently against joining the EU. In my opinion that makes no difference whatsoever in the outcome of the prophecy in Daniel, Revelation and other prophetic biblical writings concerning the certainty of the forthcoming end-time events about which I write.

Here are some of the similarities:

1. Worship will be centered around an altar. Exact descriptions are given for the altar base, the rim around its edge, the height, the altar hearth, its height and the four horns at the corners, the length and width, width of the rim and steps (not a ramp as in the first two Temples) which face toward the east. See Ezekiel 43:13-17.

2. Burnt offerings, sin offerings and trespass offerings will be offered. See Ezekiel 4:39.

3. There will be a reinstatement of the Levitical priesthood through the lineage of Zadok who proved faithful after the failure of the Levitical priests in the line of Eli. See Ezekiel 44:15; 1Samuel 2:35; 1 Kings 2 26-37, 35.

4. The meal offering is reinstated (see Ezekiel 42:13).

5. The procedures for cleansing the altar are described in detail in Ezekiel 43:20-27, for cleansing the Levites who minister in Ezekiel 44:25-27 and for cleansing the sanctuary in Ezekiel 45:18.

6. Daily morning sacrifices will be offered as described in Ezekiel 46:13.

7. The feast of the Passover will be observed; see Ezekiel 45:21-15. The feast of Tabernacles will become an annual event; see Ezekiel 45:25.

8. Two places in the Old Testament give instructions for two lambs of a year old to be offered every day, one in the morning and one in the evening.⁴ In Ezekiel's millennial Temple ONLY ONE LAMB is to be offered in the morning; see Ezekiel 46:13-15. I believe there may be two reasons for offering the *one lamb in the morning*: (1) the "other Lamb" – the Lord Jesus – who was offered "once and for all" will be there with them every day, and (2) morning may have been chosen for the sacrifice because the "other Lamb" was sacrificed (died on the cross) *in the afternoon* sometime after three P.M. (the ninth hour) and before sunset.⁵

9. Apparently the year of Jubilee is restored (see Ezekiel 46:17). Under the Law of Moses, each fiftieth year (after seven weeks of years), alienated lands were returned to the original owners and Hebrew bondservants were freed, see Leviticus 25:8-16, 23-55; 27:16-25 This practice prevented the accumulation of land in the hands of a few, and at regular intervals,

⁴See Exodus 29: 38-42 and Numbers 28:3-10.

⁵See Mark 15:34-47.

legally raised families and individuals out of destitution to competency. This practice prevented the lawless and dangerous outbreaks of the poor, the penniless, against the large possessors of property to which other states or nations are liable without this safeguard. It is going to be interesting to see how this is put into effect or enforced under millennial "ideal" conditions. I am greatly impressed with the fact that God's laws given to Moses have become the basis for criminal and civil statutes in freedom loving countries the world over.

10. The Shekinah Glory of the Lord comes into the Temple through the east gate (see Ezekiel 43:4, 5). *This is a very special event!* To my knowledge, this is only the third biblical record of such an occurrence. The two other occasions were (1) the Tabernacle: when Moses finished erecting the Tabernacle the cloud covered the structure and Moses was unable to enter it because of the cloud and the attendant glory of the Lord (Ex. 40:34,35). (2) Solomon's Temple: when the first Temple was finished, Solomon offered sacrifices of sheep and oxen so plentiful in number they could not be counted or numbered for the multitude. He then offered the dedicatory prayer (2 Chronicles chapter six) and fire came down and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices and the glory of the Lord filled the Temple and the priests could not enter it because the glory of the Lord filled the house (2 Chronicles 7:1, 2).

I hope to be present when the glory of the Lord fills Ezekiel's Temple after it is built by the Lord Jesus at the beginning of the Millennium. That will be quite a "blow out." In Solomon's dedicatory prayer for the first Temple, he said "I have surely built You an exalted house, and a place for You to dwell forever." (2 Chronicles 6:2). However the glory of the Lord left that Temple (in three stages) after it was defiled and the structure was destroyed in 586 BC. I believe it has *always* been God's desire to dwell *forever* in His own Temple (house) on the earth of His creation. Ezekiel's Temple will allow Him to experience that blessing. Even now, I can imagine visiting *that Temple! Talk about a "tourist's attraction!"* I wish I knew the exact date of the dedication by the Lord Jesus. If possible, I'd like to make reservations for that spectacular event right now. If open invitations are given, can you imagine the size of the crowd?!!! Never in the history of the world will there have been anything compared to this event!

Sacrifices in the Tabernacle and the first two Temples were offered as *memorials* and as

remembrances,⁶ however sacrifices in Ezekiel's Temple will be offered "to make *reconciliation* for the house of Israel." Ezekiel explains, "And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the Sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, *to make reconciliation* for the house of Israel."⁷

As I have previously written, some bible students spiritualize Ezekiel's Temple while some hold that the Millennium *will be fulfilled through the Church*, now comprising Gentiles and Messianic Jews, in the present age. However, the order of worship centered around the altar in Ezekiel's Temple seem to be proof that the fourth Temple will be *literal and built by the Messiah Himself during the early part of the Millennium*.

There are several features which are unique to Ezekiel's Temple:

1. No wall of partition to exclude Gentiles. The apostle Paul settled this with the following words in his letter to the church at Ephesus, "For He Himself [Christ] is our peace, who has made both one [Jew and Gentile], and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in the ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from two, thus making peace".⁸ Gentiles were previously welcomed only in the Outer Courts, but excluded from the Inner Courts on the pain of death.

2. No Court of Women. The apostle Paul also settled this issue once and for all in writing these words to the Galatian church, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."⁹

3. No Laver. The Laver was a place of washing hands and feet before offering sacrifices, which stood

⁶For sacrifices offered as memorials see Exodus 3:15, Leviticus 2:2, Numbers 5:15, Joshua 4:7, and there are many others. For sacrifices offered as remembrances see Exodus 17:14, 2 Samuel 18:18, Psalms 6:5, Ezekiel 21:23, 24, Mark 11:21 and there are many others.

⁷Ezekiel 45:17.

⁸Ephesians 2:14, 15, brackets inserted.

⁹Galatians 3:28.

before the altar and the Tabernacle. Jesus said to His disciples, “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.”¹⁰

4. No Table of Showbread. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall not thirst.”¹¹ He is also the bread which came down from heaven (John 6:41).

5. No Lampstand or Monorah. Jesus said to His disciples, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life.”¹²

6. No Golden Altar of Incense. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”¹³

7. No Veil. While on the Cross, “Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then Behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep [had died] were raised.”¹⁴ We as individual believers may now come boldly to the throne of grace through our High Priest.¹⁵

8. No Ark of the Covenant. “‘Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days,’ says the Lord, that they will say no more, ‘the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.’ It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit it, nor shall it be made any more.”¹⁶

As I have previously written, at the beginning of the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus, the topography of the earth will be changed and “restored” while Satan and his angels will be locked away in the Abyss.¹⁷

¹⁰See Exodus 30:19 and John 15:3; Ezekiel 36:24-27.

¹¹John 6:35. See also Micah 5:4.

¹²John 8:12. See also Isaiah 49:6.

¹³John 14:6. See also Zachariah 8:20-23.

¹⁴Matthew 27:50-52. See also Isaiah 25:6-8, brackets inserted.

¹⁵See Hebrews 4:14-16.

¹⁶Jeremiah 3:16. See also John 10:30-33.

¹⁷See Revelation 20:2.

Commerce, manufacturing, industry, business, buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage will occur in a favorable “climate” and on a prosperous scale never previously known to mankind. Babies will be born and the population will soar. But those born during the Millennium will have the same sin nature as man has today and will therefore need the salvation that comes only through Christ Jesus. Each one born during the Millennium will need to be instructed in matters of God’s grace, mercy and salvation. For this reason, some bible students believe that the Temple sacrifices will be *Memorial*¹⁸ in principle, *looking back* to the time of the Cross, just as the Tabernacle and the first and second Temples *pointed ahead* to the Cross. The significance of the Cross to mankind cannot be overemphasized. On that event hangs man’s salvation and his ultimate restitution to a state of being God intended beginning with Adam. The Old Testament is the New Testament concealed – the New Testament is the Old Testament revealed. Both Testaments are *one book* with the Cross, i.e., the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as the Christ – as the focal point. But I believe what happened at the Cross cannot be fully apprehended until we are in our changed (raptured or resurrected) body when we will be able to see Him (the Lord Jesus) as He is and know [Him] as we are known [by Him] in our glorified state. I have this additional opinion (not found in scripture to my knowledge) gleaned from the writing of others: Before we can be ushered into the throne room of God, I believe some (perhaps many?) of us may need additional teaching or instructions in the Word to strengthen us in preparation for that awesome and glorious event.

It is going to be interesting to me, as a participant in the millennial reign with Christ, to observe the acceptance of Jesus by those born during the Millennium under what one might term “ideal conditions” without the interference of Satan, his angels and the demonic hordes under his control.

. . . . more later, the Lord willing.

¹⁸The “memorial principle” is the same as the Lord’s Supper instituted just before His death on the cross. We are to partake of the bread and the wine as a “remembrance” or as a “memorial” of Him until He comes again. See 1 Corinthians 13:23-26. I believe that when He returns at the beginning of the Millennium, we will cease to observe the Lord’s Supper and the sacrifices in the millennial Temple may then be instituted as the “memorial” of His death.