

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

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**THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
PART FOUR**

Introduction

J. Dwight Pentecost writes, "A greater body of Scripture is given to prophecy than any other one subject, for approximately one-fourth of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written."¹ And the focal point upon which all such prophetic utterances rest is the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. The whole of Bible Eschatology, or End-Time Events, rests in the Advent of Christ. The apostle Paul makes this clear in his first letter to the Church in Corinth, chapter fifteen, along this line:

In this chapter he first presents the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as proven fact since the resurrected Christ was seen by more than five hundred believers, then after that by James, then by all the Apostles and lastly by Paul. Then Paul addresses the fact that some in Corinth still did not believe in the resurrection of believers. His reasoning was based on the fact of Christ's resurrection as the first fruits of those that have fallen asleep [have died] – meaning that Christ's resurrection is proof that all other believers will likewise be resurrected. The Apostle then states that by one man (Adam) came death, by one Man (Christ) also came the resurrection of the dead. And if Christ is not risen, then all preaching is empty, our faith is of no effect and we are found false witnesses. But because God did raise up (resurrect) Christ, by His resurrection He overcame death, hell and the grave for the righteous on both sides of the Cross, for as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. Then Paul relates the extent of the authority given to Christ, that He will reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet and has destroyed death, man's last enemy. Then Christ, having received all authority from God the Father, will Himself (Christ) be subject to God the Father that He (God) might be all in all.²

This argument put forth by the apostle Paul is

¹J. Dwight Pentecost, THINGS TO COME, Zundervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, p. vii.

²See chapter fifteen of First Corinthians for the complete text of this brief summary.

excellent theology. But the best proof of the reality of the Lordship of Christ goes beyond one's intellectual rationale into the spiritual realm. And a very important thing one cannot capture in written form is explanation to the rational mind of the internal witness of the Spirit. An unbeliever will have no idea of what this means. Nothing exceeds the blessing of the personal relationship with our Lord that comes through the Holy Spirit. Christianity was never intended to be a religion. If it is a religion, it is *only one among many*. Since it is a *relationship*, it is unique – *the only one of its kind*. And that is what distinguishes Christianity from religion. You cannot *reason* a spiritual relationship. It simply doesn't compute in the mind since it is not of the intellect because the Holy Spirit communicates and communes with our *spirit*, not our mind, and testifies to our spirit of Jesus as the Christ. There will be many in these last days who call on the name of the Lord who *follow those who follow Christ* – who do not know the Lord personally nor walk in His ways. In those the fruit of the Spirit³ does not reside. The fruit resides only in those who know Him personally and may not be imparted through a second party. Direct contact with the Vine is essential for the impartation of His fruit. Jesus said it this way,

*"Abide in Me, and I in you [this is relationship]. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me [this is relationship, again]. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified [the Father is glorified by what He does for you, not by what you do for Him], that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."*⁴

Contact [relationship] with the Vine [Jesus] is essential for fruit bearing – not for fruit producing, but fruit bearing. The Vine *produces* the fruit. The branch [the believer] only *bears* [holds] it.

Scripture records many prophecies of the coming of Christ, including His birth, earthly ministry, death, burial, resurrection and His prominence in

³See Galatians 5:22, 23 for the fruit of the Spirit.

⁴John 15: 4, 7, 8, bracketed explanation added.

Eschatological events. The first prophecy of Christ in Scripture is about six thousand years old and was about four thousand years old when Christ was born.⁵ *The accuracy of these prophetic events that have already occurred are testimony to the accuracy of those yet to transpire including the Millennium.* On this fact lies our hope, the basis of my excitement about what lies ahead! Christ, the focal point of God's plan to replace "Adam's mark" on man, has fulfilled everything prophesied of Him to date. It therefore stands to reason, everything Scripture prophesies concerning all future Eschatological events, some of which will prominently involve Him, will come to pass without exception, exactly as prophesied. And that is exciting! As my last letter mentioned, I am not the only one of God's servants who believe that there are those *living in this generation* who will see the Rapture come to pass.⁶ All of the righteous beginning with Adam have looked forward to *OUR GENERATION!* Some call it the terminal generation, meaning the last generation of the Church on earth, for that it is. That great cloud of witnesses looking down on us⁷ thrill with our every victory and are saddened when we fail. And believers of today have opportunity no one before us has ever had! That is why we must be bold in prayer, redeem the time and seek to serve the Lord with all our heart,⁸ soul⁹ and spirit.¹⁰ Only then will we be available to serve the Lord according to His direction. And only that which we do at the direction of the Holy Spirit will affect the kingdom in a positive way and be counted as works of righteousness, the basis of our

⁵"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." See Genesis 3:15. This quotation is a record of God's prophetic utterance of the Immaculate Conception of Jesus ("her seed," not man's seed), His crucifixion (you shall bruise His heel), and His victory over Satan (His resurrection and victory over death) and the ultimate casting of Satan into the lake of fire permanently after he is briefly released from his prison (the Abyss) at the end of the Millennium to once more deceive the nations of the earth. See Revelation Chapter twenty.

⁶Some will be taken; many will be "left behind," the theme of some best selling books now in Christian book stores.

⁷See Hebrews 12:1.

⁸See Romans 10:10.

⁹The biblical soul comprises the mind, will, intellect and emotions.

¹⁰The spirit of man is that which animates him – gives him life. Without the spirit man dies. See James 2:26.

future judgment. On December 17, 1997, The Lord revealed to me three levels of spiritual growth in these prophetic words:

*"Salvation is the greatest blessing of My call. Rebirth is the greatest blessing of My kingdom and Spirit baptism is the greatest blessing of ministry. As you hunger for each, My blessing awaits. The call of hunger never goes unnoticed. And My response is Life to the hungry. Eternal Life, blessing and abundance."*¹¹

However, to whom much is given, much will be required.¹² To say this another way, more will be required of the vessel completely yielded to the Spirit but there will also be more opportunity for that one to serve the Master. The greater the desire to serve, the greater the testing (proving) of the servant. In yielding totally to the Lord for service, trials will come. And when they come, they come for growth. Trials are tests for promotion. Faithful obedience under trial is God's prerequisite for promotion.

God is doing things in the body of Christ today which previously were not needed. The time is coming, and now is, when one attempting to follow the general principles outlined in the Scripture will not avail in the kingdom. In today's world with the activity of the enemy stepped up, one must stay close to the Lord,¹³ prayed up and available on a daily basis. That means new orders and fresh manna daily to be equipped as a soldier to fight God's battles in these last days.

I have written all of this to emphasize how wonderful it is to be alive today as a child of God, to serve in His army, to usher into existence the Rapture as

¹¹All four Gospel writers confirm that Jesus came to baptize [all believers] with the Holy Spirit. See Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33. And once one is a believer in Jesus as Lord, this blessing is available. One may receive this blessing by accepting its reality as the scripture confirms, asking for the blessing and then yielding to Him (the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit is not "pushy," neither is He an intruder. When asked, He will respond. From there on it is a matter of yielding to Him and His gentle, quiet, soft-spoken way to glorify the Lord Jesus in you as a yielded vessel. One who denies this blessing usually does so because of (1) lack of faith, or (2) lack of understanding of what this blessing means, or (3) lack of understanding that this blessing is for all believers today. If you do not believe this blessing is for today, you will not ask. If you do not ask you will not receive, for He is received by faith, the only thing that pleases God. See Hebrews 11:6. Ask for the fullness of the Spirit in your life today!

¹²See Luke 12:48.

¹³Guidance is assured as one stays close to the Lord, prayed up and available.

the prelude to the Millennial reign of Christ. *Our walk with the Lord today is in preparation for our assignment during the Millennium when we come back with Christ to rule and reign with Him for a thousand years.*¹⁴ That is why serving Him faithfully today is so important.

Characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom

The Bible is replete with prophetic Scripture relating the blessings and glory that will be poured out upon the earth through the theocratic reign of the Lord Jesus Christ during the Millennium. To review briefly, when the Millennium begins, (1) both the wicked Gentiles and the unrighteous Jews will have been put to death,¹⁵ (2) for this reason and because of the destruction of life in the calamitous events of the Great Tribulation, the world's population will have been reduced by more than 50 per cent and (3) everyone entering the Millennium will be saved, i.e., either as a believing adult or a child who is not of an accountable age. Scripture references will be quoted as support for each listed characteristic with additional ones footnoted for your reading. Some of the conclusions I have drawn from scriptural inference may not be accurate. However, as you read, use your own imagination. Allow your own thoughts to soar into the future as we both contemplate the glorious time of the coming of Messiah literally and visibly as Savior, King and Lord to rule over the earth. Come with me now on an exciting journey that could be only a flick of an eyelid plus seven years away. Here are some of the characteristics of that glorious kingdom. Fasten your seat belts!

1. Peace. The prophets Isaiah and Micah paint the following word pictures: "He [Christ] shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."¹⁶ "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and

the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."¹⁷ "Many nations shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off."¹⁸

These scriptures, and others listed in footnote #18, confirm that war will be a thing of the past through a world government under Christ. All the kingdoms of the world will be united under His reign. The resultant effect on the economies of the nations of the world will be hard to imagine in the complete absence of expenditures for war machines of major nations. There will be no expenditures for arms and armament. In the United States, for example, there may be no use for the Army, Navy, Air Force, the Marines, the FBI, Secret Service or the CIA. All remaining military hardware such as guns, tanks ships, planes, etc., will either be abandoned or destroyed. Nuclear warheads, intercontinental and short range ballistic missiles, and biological weapons that remain will be destroyed. Both national and individual peace will be one of the hallmarks of the Messiah's reign. The resultant economic prosperity will be without precedent.

Welfare programs as we know them today will be nonexistent. The poor, although fewer in number, will be cared for amply, equitably and justly and without discrimination. .

Jerusalem will be the Capitol City of the world. Policy for all nations will be made in Jerusalem and the administration of such policy will flow forth from that city. There will be Gentile representatives to the nation of Israel appointed for the purpose of coordinating the world government under the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁹

2. Joy. Isaiah wrote this of the joy of that day, "You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have

¹⁴See Revelation 20:6.

¹⁵See Matthew 25:31-46 for the treatment of the wicked Gentiles and Ezekiel 20:33-38 for the elimination of the unrighteous Jews.

¹⁶Isaiah 2:4.

¹⁷Isaiah 11:6-9.

¹⁸Micah 4:2, 3 (a). See also Isaiah 9:4-7; 32:17, 18; 60:18; 65:25; Ezekiel 34:25; Hosea 2:18.

¹⁹My reason for making this statement is that the Lord has said to me that I will be a Gentile representative to the nation of Israel during the Millennium.

broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian.”²⁰ “Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And in that day you will say: ‘Praise the Lord, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion [Jerusalem], for great is the Holy One of Israel [Christ] in your midst!’”²¹ “Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”²²

As affirmed by these scripture verses, the fullness of joy will be experienced. And the reason is clear. Pleasure is of the flesh, happiness is of the soul and joy is of the spirit – man’s spirit, that is.²³ But the way man’s spirit experiences joy is when the Holy Spirit is invited to dwell in an individual in His fullness. That is a life-changing event triggered by man’s hunger for God! When God’s Spirit (the Holy Spirit) touches man’s spirit (the lamp of the Lord²⁴) the light and joy of the Lord indwells that man. Joy is *produced* by God’s indwelling Spirit, it comes no other way. Scripture reveals that joy is also a fruit of the Spirit of God.²⁵ With Christ dwelling literally and bodily on the earth,

²⁰Isaiah 9:3, 4.

²¹Isaiah 12:3-6, bracketed explanations added.

²²Isaiah 61:7, 10. See also Isaiah 52:9; 14:7, 8; 25:8, 9; 30:29; 42:1, 10-12; 60:15; 61:10; 65:18, 19; 66:10-14; Jeremiah 30:18, 19; 31:13, 14; Zephaniah 3:14-17; Zechariah 8:18, 19; 10:6, 7.

²³Pleasure is of the flesh. See Hebrews 11:25, KJV; 2 Timothy 3:4; Luke 8:14.

Happiness is of the soul. See Psalm 128:2; 144:15; Proverbs 3:13; 16:20. The soul comprises the mind, the will, the intellect and the emotions including personality and happiness is experienced through the emotions.

Joy is of the spirit. See Matthew 25:21; Nehemiah 8:10; Galatians 5:22, 23.

²⁴See Proverbs 20:27.

²⁵See Galatians 5:22, 23.

His presence, in the absence of Satan and his angels, will permeate His whole creation in a way that has not happened since man’s (Adam’s) fall in the garden of Eden. And believe me, with everyone on the earth saved, in the presence of the fullness of the Lord, *the joy of the Lord* will be experienced to a degree unattainable since man’s (Adam’s) fall. And that has always been the ultimate goal of God from the beginning!

3. Removal of curses. As a result of Adam’s sin, God pronounced curses upon Satan, woman, man and the earth.²⁶ These curses will be removed. Satan and his angels will be locked in the Abyss (or bottomless pit),²⁷ while man, woman and the earth will flourish as before Adam’s death mark was placed upon man. The earth will be returned to abundant productivity as it was before Adam sinned. All hindrances to productive abundance (thorns, thistles, drought, pestilence, blight, fungus, temperature extremes, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, the presence of Satan’s evil, etc.) will be removed. The reason Eden was called a *garden* is because of the supernaturally produced abundance into which man was originally placed. God’s original creation included an earth so abundant and balanced that every need was produced and provided for man and for every creature that flies in the air, lives on the earth and in the water. Sin destroyed that abundance and hence created conditions which caused scarcity contrary to God’s plan. That abundance will be restored during the Millennium.

Animals will no longer be wild, ferocious or dangerous. Here, I am again reminded of the garden of Eden prior to sin. It is my opinion that animals prior to sin in the garden of Eden were neither dangerous nor ferocious, nor will they be during the Millennium as scripture affirms.

In my next letter. . . . more about the exciting Millennium when, after waiting about six thousand years, God will once again be able to *let the good times roll! Let ‘em come! Hallelujah!*

²⁶See Genesis 3:14-19.

²⁷See Revelation 20:1-3.