

THE MYSTERY OF ISRAEL

SESSION TWO - COREY STARK

III. THE CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE: CONVERGENCE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

A. God's *eternal purpose* has always been to live openly in unhindered *face-to-face* communion with His people in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden upon the earth forever (Rev. 21:3; 22:4). Originally, God walked in fellowship with Adam, both realms operating in perfect unison (Gen. 1-2).

Rev. 21:3 Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... God Himself will be with them and be their God... 22:4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.

B. After the Fall, a “*veil of separation*” divided the two realms of heaven and earth (Isa. 24:18; 25:7; 34:4; Rev. 6:14). Therefore, the *centerpiece* of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to remove this “*separating veil*” and unify both realms of heaven and earth, during the *restoration of all things* (Acts 3:21; Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-20). Without this interpretive key to understanding God's end-time plan, confusion is inevitable.

Eph. 1:9 having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth... (Col. 1:19-20)

1. Heaven - the *spiritual and supernatural realm* where the beauty of God's presence and power are openly manifest (Rev. 4:2-8; Dan 7:9-10). The heavens are under the Lord's direct command, rule and authority (Ps. 115:16). In heaven God is seen without hindrance, adored and obeyed without question.

Rev. 4:2 Behold, a throne set in HEAVEN, and One sat on the throne. 3 He was like a jasper and a sardius stone... a rainbow... like an emerald... 5 And... lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

2. Earth - the *material and physical realm* where the natural human process of growth cycles, seasons, temperature, time, direction, weather patterns and physical sensation reach full expression, requiring a resurrected body (Gen. 8:22; Ps. 74:16-17; Eccl. 3:1-8; Mk. 4:26-29). God called it “good” (Gen 1).

Gen. 8:22 “While the EARTH remains, seedtime and harvest [growth cycle], cold and heat [temperature], winter and summer [seasons], and day and night shall not cease.”

C. Jesus is the *only unique person*, being both *fully God* and *fully Man* with the authority to orchestrate this dynamic convergence (Gen. 1:28; Ps. 115:16; Mt. 28:19). In descending to earth at the incarnation, Jesus never ceased to be God. In ascending back to heaven after the resurrection, Jesus never ceased to be Man. The Father and the Spirit are *not* human and *no* human will ever be God. There is truly *no one* like Jesus!

Ps. 115:16 The heavens are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men. (Gen. 1:28).

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

D. Gentile believers' most natural paradigm is *going away to worship* Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of *heaven*, emphasizing His *divinity* as the Son of God. The Jewish paradigm most naturally thinks of *staying and reigning* with the Messianic King as a man in the natural conditions of the *earth*, emphasizing His *humanity* as the Son of David (Isa. 9:6-7; Lk. 1:31-33). *The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms come together as one reality in Jesus, the “Son of Man”* (Mt. 16:16; Rev. 1:13; 14:14).

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IV. UNDERSTANDING JESUS' 1000-YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN ON EARTH

A. The *Millennium* (Latin 'mille' a thousand) is a *literal 1,000-year period* when Jesus rules the nations, as the greater "Son of David" upon His throne of glory from the city of Jerusalem (2 Sam. 7:1-17; Ps. 132:11-18; Isa. 9:6-7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5-6; Lk. 1:31-33). John emphasized this 1000-year period six times (Rev. 20).

Rev. 20:4 I saw thrones... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a 1,000 years... 6 They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a 1,000 years. (Isa. 9:6-7; Lk. 1:31-33)

B. The Father promised Jesus the *inheritance* of the nations as His rightful *possession* forever (Ps. 2:8). At this time Jesus will "break" them (Ps. 2:9) and "rule the nations" with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15).

Rev. 2:27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'

Ps. 72:11 Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him.

C. At Jesus' return, He will take legal, comprehensive and everlasting leadership over every nation (Dan. 2:34-45; 7:13-14; Rev. 11:15)! The Kingdom of God will be openly manifest worldwide, affecting *every sphere of society* (spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, educational, technological, environmental).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. 27 His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve Him. (Zech 14:9)

D. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth, as Jesus establishes righteousness, peace and prosperity, while progressively restoring the *atmosphere, agriculture, animal life* and *age* to the original paradise-like conditions seen in the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 72:1-19; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Job. 5:23; Hos. 2:18; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21). This will occur before the *resurrection* of the New Heaven and New Earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1; Rom. 11:15; 1 Cor. 15:35-49; 2 Cor. 5:17).

Zech. 6:12 "Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out..."

Isa. 9:6 For unto us a Child is born... and the government will be upon His shoulder... 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David...

1. Atmospheric Conditions - The starry heavens (sun, moon, stars) will operate perfectly, as the immediate atmosphere surrounding the earth is restored to an oxygen-rich global "greenhouse" with increased oxygen levels and atmospheric pressure (Gen. 2:4-6; Mt. 8:23-27; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:10; 2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 12:7-12; 21:1).

2 Pet. 3:13 We... look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Isa. 30:26 Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people...

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2. Agricultural Conditions – The earth will yield an increase of the fruit of the ground in quality, size and abundance, as in the Garden of Eden through a progressive removal of the negative consequences of sin (drought, famine, barrenness), as well as being positively affected by the progressive increase of righteousness (Job. 5:23; Ps. 72:16; Isa. 35:1-6; 51:3; Ezek. 34:26-29; 36:30-35; 47:1-12; Joel 3:18).

Ezek. 36:35 They will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden... 36 The nations... shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.

Ezek. 47:8 “This water [River of Life] flows toward the eastern region... When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. 9 And it shall be that every living thing... wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish... for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes... 12 Along the bank of the river... will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Zech. 14:8)

3. Animal Life - Jesus will break the curse of lawlessness seen in the animals due to sin (Rev. 6:8) by making a covenant of peace with them again (Job 5:23; Isa. 11:1-9; 65:25; Hos. 2:18). The animosity of animals toward one another and against humans will be removed (Rom. 8:20-21).

Hos. 2:18 In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground.

Isa. 11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion... and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. (Isa. 65:25)

4. Age - Due to multiple factors in the *environment* (increased oxygen in the atmosphere, enhanced nutrients in agriculture), the decrease of *sinful activity* and elimination of *Satan’s influence*, for those with natural bodies their *life spans will be reversed*, as before Noah’s day. Those who live only 100 years old will be thought to have lived a short life. It will be common for people to live for 500+ years.

Isa. 65:20 No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old... 22 For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

5. Population Explosion – The nations will rapidly increase in number as those with natural bodies marry and begin having children with extended life spans (Isa. 49:18-20; 60:22; 65:20, 22-23; Jer. 23:3).

Isa. 60:22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation.

Isa. 49:19 For your waste and desolate places... will even now be too small for the inhabitants... 20 The children you will have... will say in your ears, “The place is too small for me.”

Jer. 23:3 “But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

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E. Jesus' *primary mandate* in the Millennium is to prepare the nations for the Father's coming by bringing them into a voluntary righteousness that's had time to grow, mature and be tested (Rev. 20:7-10). Righteousness will be substantial in the Millennium and perfect on the New Earth. The earth is purged with fire at the end of the Millennium to prepare for the Father's permanent coming (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:11).

1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

F. Israel will be restored to her primary leadership role in the Millennium (Isa. 2:1-3; Zech. 8:11-13, 20-23). The resurrected saints will work and reign on earth, but live in the New Jerusalem (Jn. 14:2-3; Rev. 21-22).

Zech. 8:23 "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you."'"

Isa. 2:2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established... and shall be exalted... and all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall 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..." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Zech. 8:1-23)

V. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ALIVE ON EARTH AT JESUS' RETURN

A. Redeemed: The *saints* or "elect" who are gathered together at the rapture, during Jesus' procession across the sky (Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 1:7; 10:7).

Mk. 13:26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

B. Reprobate: The *wicked* who took the mark of the beast will be executed, imprisoned in Hades for 1000 years and then sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever (Isa. 66:22-24; Rev. 14:9-11; 19:21).

Rev. 14:9 If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark... 10 he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone... 11 And the smoke... ascends forever...

C. Resistors: The *unsaved survivors* of the Tribulation, comprised of both Jew and Gentile who refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not "born again". These are referred to as those who "*are left*", "*survived*", "*escaped*", "*remain*", the "*preserved ones*" or the "*remnant*" (Isa. 4:3-6; 10:20-23; 11:11-12; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:33-36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-12; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

Isa. 11:11 It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt... and the islands of the sea.

Zech. 14:16 And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.