

REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – FIFTH GOSPEL UNVEILED

S06 THE CONVERGENCE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH (REV. 21-22) – COREY STARK

I. PARENTHETICAL EXPLANATION FIVE: THE CONVERGENCE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

A. God's desire has always been to dwell in unhindered *face-to-face* communion with His people in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden on the earth forever (Rev. 21:3; 22:4)! In the beginning both realms operated together in perfect unison, while God interacted openly with Adam and Eve (Gen. 1-3).

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.

Gen. 3:8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...

B. After Adam sinned in disobedience to God's will a "*veil of separation*" divided the heavens and the earth, distancing God from His people (Isa. 24:18; 25:7; 34:4; Rev. 6:14). The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to remove this "veil" and unify both realms, as in the beginning (Gen. 1-3; Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-20). Due to His dual nature, Jesus is the only unique person with the authority to orchestrate this dynamic *convergence* (Mt. 28:18). Chronological sections 3-5 detail Jesus' plan of restoration from His appearing in the sky (Rev. 11:15-19) to the establishment of His Father's throne upon the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-8).

Mt. 28:18 And Jesus came... saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

Eph. 1:10 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 – in Him (Col. 1:19-20)

1. *Heaven* – the *spiritual and supernatural realm* of the New Jerusalem where the beauty of God's presence and power are openly manifest (Rev. 4:2-8; Dan 7:9-10). The heavens are under His direct command and authority (Ps. 115:16), where He is seen without hindrance, adored by all 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 (Gen. 8:22; Ps. 74:16-17; Eccl. 3:1-8; Mk. 4:26-29). When God originally created earth He declared it was "good".

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. Heaven is where a believer's *soul and spirit* has gone for the last 2,000 years (2 Cor. 5:8), as a temporary "holding place" awaiting the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:52). The saints do not need a resurrected body to relate to the spiritual environment of heaven but require one for the earth. This is why demons seek physical bodies for greater earthly expression (Mt. 12:43-44). Only as the spiritual and natural realms converge can we realize the *fullness of God* and express the *fullness of His purpose* (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10).

D. Gentile believers' most natural paradigm is to think of *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). *The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms come together as one reality in Jesus, the "Son of Man"* (Mt. 16:13-19; Rev. 1:13; 14:14).

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II. JESUS' SECOND COMING – A ROYAL ESCHATOLOGICAL PROCESSION (REV. 11:15-19)

A. The third chronological section (Rev. 11:15-19) details the sounding of the 7th and final trumpet, initiating *JESUS' SECOND COMING* and *RAPTURE of the Church*, which are two sides of the same coin (Isa. 27:12-13; Zech. 9:11-17; Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:15-17; 2 Thes. 2:1; Rev. 8:13; 10:7; 11:15-19). The second coming describes what Jesus does when He permanently comes to the earth. The rapture describes what happens to the saints the moment we see Him appear in the sky at the 7th trumpet.

2 Thes. 2:1 Now... concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him...

B. Jesus is not *coming to go away*, but He is coming to stay (Heb. 9:28), and when He does the *physical* Kingdom of Heaven is coming *with* Him to the planet forever (Eph. 1:9-10; Col. 1:19-20; Rev. 21:3, 10)!

Rev. 19:11 Behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, on His head were many crowns... 14 And the armies in heaven... followed Him on white horses... 16 KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS...

C. The triumphant return of the King of Kings is not a “secret event” (Mt. 24:23-27; Heb. 9:28), but a *royal eschatological procession* for all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33, Zech. 9:9-10; Rev. 19:11-16). At the sounding of the seventh trumpet (Rev. 11:15), Jesus comes with all the saints (1 Th. 3:13) and all the angels (Mt. 25:31), traveling on clouds around the entire earth for every eye to see (Ps. 19:1-6; Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7). He will descend with a great shout (1 Th. 4:16), the voice of an archangel and the trump of God, as He comes in His Father's glory (Mt. 16:27), golden splendor (Job 37:22) and great power (Mk. 13:26), traveling in the brilliance of lightning (Mt. 24:27; 2 Thes. 2:8), as flaming fire engulfs the darkened sky (2 Th. 1:8; Zech. 14:6), while He raises the dead, raptures the Church, delivers the captives of Israel and defeats His enemies.

Ps. 68:24 They have seen Your procession, O God, the procession of my God, my King... 29 scatter the peoples who delight in war... 32 Sing to God, you kingdoms... 33 To Him who rides on the heavens...

D. Jesus returns as King of Kings in context to a military conflict and battle for the city of Jerusalem. He doesn't return in a vacuum, but in response to the greatest night & day prayer movement for justice in history!

1. Saints on earth worldwide (Lk. 18:7-8; Isa. 42:10-16; 62:6-7; Mal. 1:11; Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; 22:17)

Lk. 18:7 And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him...? 8 I tell you He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He... find faith on the earth?

2. Saints in heaven (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; Rev. 4:4, 9-11; 5:8-10, 14; 6:9-11; 7:9-17; 11:15-19; 15:2-8; 19:1-8).

Rev. 6:9 I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God... 10 They cried... “How long, O Lord... until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”

3. Remnant of Israel (Zech. 12:10; Isa. 64:1-12; 30:18-33; Ps. 94:1-23; 98:1-9; 99:1-9). These God-fearing Jews are not yet saved and therefore not “raptured” at the 7th trumpet, however they will cry out to God for deliverance from the Antichrist and eventually all be saved (Joel 2:32; Rom. 11:26; Rev. 11:13).

Isa. 64:1 Oh, that You [Messiah] would rend the heavens! That You would come down! 2 To make Your name known to Your adversaries [Antichrist], that the nations may tremble at Your presence...

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III. JESUS' ROYAL PROCESSION – THREE STAGES IN THE DAYS OF THE 7TH TRUMPET (REV. 10:7)

A. Stage 1 [Chronological #3]: Jesus travels across the sky on clouds to rapture the saints, being seen by every eye, as His authority is announced over every nation (Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; Rev. 1:7; 11:15-19).

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn [in repentance] because of Him. Even so, Amen.

B. Stage 2 [Chronological #4]: Jesus marches up through the land of Egypt toward Edom, delivering the captives of Israel, as He releases 7 bowls of wrath upon His enemies on the way to Mount of Olives (Dt. 33:2; Ps. 45:3-5; 110:5-6; Isa. 11:11-16; 27:12-13; 34; 63:1-6, Mic. 7:15; Hab. 3; Zech. 9:11-17; 14:1-9; Rev. 16).

Hab. 3:12 You marched through the land in indignation; You trampled the nations in anger. 13 You went forth for the salvation of Your people... You struck the head from the house of the wicked...

C. Stage 3 [Chronological #5]: Jesus descends the Mount of Olives and triumphantly enters Jerusalem to be crowned “King over all the Earth”. As the “greater Moses” Jesus splits the Mount to deliver His people from the Antichrist armies, even as Moses split the Red Sea, delivering Israel from the Egyptians (Zech. 14:1-9).

Ps. 24:7 Lift up your heads, O you gates! you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

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

At Jesus' return there will be three types of people alive on earth. He will systematically evaluate each one for judgment or reward, according to their personal works (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:23; 20:12-13).

A. Redeemed: The saints who are gathered at the “rapture” during the first stage of 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 They will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the... earth [rapture] to heaven [resurrection].

B. Reprobate: The wicked who took the “mark of the Beast” and will be executed, imprisoned in Hades for 1000 years and then finally 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 shall drink of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength... 11 the smoke of their torment ascends forever...

C. Resistors: These are the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation judgments that refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not “born again” (Jn. 3:3-8). This includes the unsaved remnant of Israel, as well as, Gentiles from every nation. All will have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior after He returns and populate the millennial earth. Scripture refers to those “who are left”, “who survived”, “who escaped”, “who 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 The Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt... 12 from the four corners of the earth...

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

A. At Jesus' return, He will take legal, comprehensive and everlasting leadership of the earth in partnership with His Bride, physically confronting and ultimately destroying everything that hinders love by standing in opposition to His Father's will (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19; 20).

Rev. 11:15 The 7th [trumpet] angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven... "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

B. The Father gave Jesus the *inheritance* of the nations (Ps. 2:8-9). He will take His rightful possession by shaking everything that can be shaken to establish an unshakable Kingdom (Hag. 2:6-9; Heb. 12:25-29). Jesus will remove everything that hinders love, so that He may build upon a foundation of righteousness (Jer. 1:10).

Ps. 2:8 I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.

C. Immediately after *dashing the nations'* cities and infrastructures (Ps. 2:8-9) that were permeated by the sorcery of the Harlot (Rev. 17-18), *casting* the Antichrist and False Prophet into the Lake of Fire (Rev. 19:20) and *executing* the kings, armies and reprobate that took the mark of the beast (Dan. 7:11; Rev. 19:21), Jesus will incarcerate Satan in prison for 1000 years to initiate the *Millennium* (Rev. 20:1-3). During this time Satan will be unable to deceive the nations, after which he is released for a "little while" to give the nations the same opportunity as Adam and Eve, which was to demonstrate their love by obedience in the arena of temptation.

Rev. 20:2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a 1000 years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the 1000 years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

D. The "Millennium" (Latin 'mille' a thousand) is a *literal 1,000-year period* when Jesus will be crowned "King over all the Earth" (Zech. 14:9) and rule 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 time frame six times to assure us of its literal nature (Rev. 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).

Rev. 20:4 I saw thrones... and judgment was committed to them... 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.

E. Although the saints will live in New Jerusalem above (Jn. 14:2-3; Gal. 4:26; Heb. 11:10, 16; Rev. 21:9-22:5), we will continue to work and reign with Jesus, sharing in His authority and serving His governmental purposes upon the earth (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17; Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:9-10; 20:4-6; 22:5). We do this with the natural human processes not suspended, but *significantly enhanced* by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit, as when Jesus appeared and related to His disciples for 40 days after His resurrection (Lk. 24; Jn. 20-21; Acts 1).

Rev. 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us a kingdom of priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 1:6)

Dan. 7:27 The kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the saints of the Most High.

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F. In the Millennium, Jesus will take legal dominion of *every sphere* of society in *every nation* of the earth in partnership with the saints (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 20:4-6). His kingdom is comprehensive, everlasting and incorruptible (Dan. 2:34-45; 7:13-14; Rev. 11:15-19). At this time the Kingdom will be openly manifest *affecting every sphere of life* (spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, educational, environmental, etc.).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days... 14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him... 27 His kingdom is everlasting... and all dominions shall serve Him.

G. Jesus will progressively establish peace, righteousness and justice in the earth (Ps. 45:4-6; Isa. 9:6-7) by healing *individual lives* (Rev. 7:9-17), restoring *families* (Mal. 4:5-6), transforming *society* (Dan. 7:13-14, 27; Rev. 11:15), and restoring the *created order*, as He brings the mystery of God to completion (Rev. 10:7).

Isa. 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward... forever.

H. In the Millennium Jesus will receive an unprecedented measure of favor in 7 specific spheres of life. The key to understanding this passage is in Jesus' ability, as a *resurrected human King*, to "*receive*" this directly from the Father and through the collective grace of the Holy Spirit upon His people. The Lamb who was "worthy" to *give everything* for the sake of love is now "worthy" to *receive everything* for the sake of love.

Rev. 5:12 Worthy is the Lamb... to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing!

1. Power - all of the political power and authority to govern every national government.
2. Riches - all of the financial wealth and resources of both heaven and earth to execute His plan.
3. Wisdom - all of the wisdom of the Spirit and collective insight of His people for His purposes.
4. Strength - an infinite supply of spiritual and emotional stamina, as He directs the strength of nations.
5. Honor - the most sought out Man throughout the nations as He receives the utmost relational honor.
6. Glory - every knee will bow and every tongue confess, as He receives all of the glory due His name.
7. Blessing - an unprecedented blessing from the Father and all the people for His purposes and plans.

I. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth, as Jesus establishes righteousness, peace and prosperity in *society*, while progressively restoring the *atmosphere, agriculture, animal life and natural age* back to the original conditions of paradise that were 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; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Job. 5:23; Hos. 2:18; Zech. 6:12; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

1. Atmospheric Conditions - The heavens (sun, moon, stars) will operate perfectly again according to God's original design as the immediate atmosphere surrounding the earth is restored to an oxygen-rich "global greenhouse" (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). Though the sun will be 7x brighter, it is said to be "ashamed" for its' apparent lack of brightness compared to Jesus' glory, which illuminates the New Jerusalem (Isa. 24:23; 30:26; Rev. 21:23; 22:5).

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...

Isa. 24:23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.

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2. *Agricultural Conditions* – Produce will thrive in quality, size and abundance, as in the Garden of Eden due to the *progressive removal* of the negative consequences of sin (drought, famine, barrenness, etc.) and the *progressive increase* of the positive benefits that are a result of righteousness (Job. 5:23; 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.*

3. *Animal Life* - Jesus will break the curse of lawlessness seen in 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). Animals are a factor in death at the fourth seal (Rev. 6:7-8), due to the widespread famine (Rev. 6:5-6) and common demonization (Mt. 8:31-32; Mk. 5:12-13; Lk. 8:32-33; Rev. 12:9). Jesus will reverse this so even a nursing child is safe.

Isa. 11:6 *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat... 7 The cow and the bear shall graze... 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. *Life Span* - 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*, the life spans of those with natural bodies will be reversed. Even those living up to 100 years will be considered as having a short life. It will be common to live for over 500 years, as it was before Noah’s flood (Gen. 6:3).

Isa. 65:20 *No more shall an infant live a few days... the child shall die one hundred years... 22 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. *Global Population* – 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.*

J. Jesus’ *primary mandate* in the Millennium is to *prepare the earth for the Father’s permanent coming* by bringing the nations into a voluntary righteousness that has grown, matured and been tested (Rev. 20:7-10).

1 Cor. 15:24 *Then comes the end [of the Millennium], when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father... 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death... 28 then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him [Father]... that God may be all in all.*

K. Immediately after the Great White Throne judgment and final sentencing to the Lake of Fire (Dan. 12:3; Jn. 5:29; Rev. 20:11-15), the current heavens and earth will be renovated by fire (2 Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 20:9-10) *not* annihilated (2 Cor. 5:17) and resurrected into its’ perfect eternal state; the New Heavens and New Earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-8). Here we will dwell in unhindered face-to-face communion with our Father in the paradise-like conditions of the Garden of Eden on the earth forever (Rev. 21:1-8)!

Rev. 21:3 *Behold, the Tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... God [the Father] will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. 5 Then He... said, “Behold, I make all things new... 6 It is done!... 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his [Father] God and he shall be My son. 22:4 They shall see His face... 5 forever!*