

THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

COREY STARK

Bringing Heaven to Earth (Acts 3:21)

I. UNDERSTANDING THE RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

A. In Acts 3, Peter reveals heaven **must keep** Jesus until the “**restoration of all things**” or “**regeneration**” (Mt. 19:28). After Jesus returns, during the Millennium (Rev. 20), He will **fully restore** everything He that originally intended for mankind and his relationship with God in creating the Garden of Eden (Gen. 1-2).

Acts 3:20 That He [Father] may send Jesus... 21 whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets...

B. We can only appreciate the height of this “**restoration**” in light of seeing the depth to which humanity falls during the final 3½ years of natural human history, called the Great Tribulation (Dan. 12:1; Mt. 24:21-22). Jesus said, that unless these days were **literally shortened** (Mt. 24:22; Rev. 8:12), no human beings would be able to physically survive them (Isa. 13:12; Mt. 24:22; Mk. 13:20; Acts 3:18-24).

Mt. 24:21 For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. 22 And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved [physically preserved]; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. (Dan. 12:1)

C. The unprecedented activities of the **Day of the Lord**, both **great** and **terrible** (Joel 2:11; Mal. 4:5), will grow in intensity like “birth pangs” ushering in the Great Tribulation (Mt. 24:7-8, 21). Four “**eschatological winds**” will converge in **fullness** to create the “perfect storm” that will bring forth a **mature church**, bring in the **Great Harvest** and bring down **everything that hinders love**. It will be the greatest **pressure** the world has ever seen (Jer. 30:7; Mt. 24:21; Dan. 12:1) and **catalyst** to transition the earth to the Millennium (Isa. 66:8).

Joel 2:11 For the day of the LORD is great and very terrible; who can endure it? (Mal. 4:5)

1. **Creations Groan:** will progress from “birth pangs” (famines, disease, earthquakes) to full travail and finally birth (Ps. 82:5; Is. 24:5-6, 20; 66:8; Jer. 23:10; Mt. 24:7-8; Lk. 21:23-26; Rom. 8:18-22).
2. **Man’s Sin:** will become “fully ripe” through the Harlot system, as the mystery of iniquity brings forth the Antichrist (Dan. 8:23; Joel 3:13-14; Mt. 13:24-30, 36-43; 2 Th. 2:7-10; Rev. 9:20-21; 14:17-20).
3. **Satan’s Rage:** will be unleashed against Israel and the church, when he is cast down and his demonic hordes are released from the bottomless pit (Dan. 7:19-25; Mt. 24:15-22; Rev. 12:7-17; Rev. 13).
4. **God’s Zeal** displayed in a 7-fold shaking (Hag. 2:6-9) of **wrath** (Rev. 15:1) and **revival** (Acts 2:17-19).

Hag. 2:6 For thus says the LORD: ‘Once more... I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; 7 and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations... (Heb. 12:25-29)

D. Understanding our inheritance in the “**restoration**” is applicable to us now and very practical today, knowing that prayer determines the quality of life that we can experience in the grace of God **right now**, while emboldening our faith and resolve to overcome every obstacle that hinders us from attaining this **future fullness**. **Principle: what God will do in fullness then, He will do in part now if we ask.** Prayer = change (Gen. 18:17-33; Ex. 32:10-14; Ezek. 22:30-31; Am. 7:1-6; Joel 2:12-17; Jon. 3:5-10; Hab. 2:14).

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II. 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 family in paradise upon the earth forever (Rev. 21:3; 22:4)*! In Gen. 1-2, God walked in fellowship with Adam, as both realms operated together in perfect unison - the natural reflecting spiritual truths (Rom. 1:20).

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 the fall, a “*veil of separation*” divided the two realms of heaven and earth (Isa. 24:18; 25:7; 34:4; Rev. 6:14). The Temple veil separating the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies pictured this (Lk. 23:45). Therefore, *the centerpiece of God's eternal purpose* is for Jesus to remove the “*veil*”, fully establishing His Kingdom rule over all the earth. As the “*Son of David*”, He will join both realms together forever. This is the interpretive key to understanding the end-times. Without this foundational piece, 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 created the earthly realm and declared that it was “good” (Gen 1). Demons seek bodies for greater earthly expression (Mt. 12:43-44).

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, from the cross to 2nd Coming (2 Cor. 5:8), as a temporary “holding place” for disembodied spirits, awaiting a resurrected body (1 Cor. 15:52) and “restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21). The saints do not need a resurrected body to relate to the spiritual environment of heaven. 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. The 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. *The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms come together as one reality in Jesus, as the “Son of Man”* (Mt. 16:16; Rev. 1:13; 14:14).

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III. JESUS SECOND COMING - A ROYAL ESCHATOLOGICAL PROCESSION

A. Rev. 11:15-19 details the “sounding” of the 7th and final trumpet, initiating “*Jesus’ Second Coming Procession*” and the “*Rapture of the Church*” (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; Rev. 8:13; 10:7; 11:15-19).

B. Jesus’ triumphant return to earth as “*King of Kings*” is a “*royal eschatological procession*” for all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33, Zech. 9:9-10; Rev. 19:11-16). 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 all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; Mt. 24:30). He descends 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 brightness, brilliance and beauty of lightning (Mt. 24:27; 2 Thes. 2:8), as flaming fire engulfs the darkened sky (2 Th. 1:8). Jesus raises the dead, raptures the church, delivers the captives and destroys 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...

C. The 7th trumpet is the only one described as sounding for days. It completes the “mystery of God”, which includes His eternal plan to prepare a mature bride of Jew and Gentile, along with the full # of martyrs (Rev. 6:11) to rule the earth with Jesus in equally-yoked partnership forever (Eph. 4:11-16; 5:27; Rev. 19:7).

Rev. 10:7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel... the mystery of God would be finished...

D. Jesus’ “royal procession” is a three-stage process, involving many events within a 30-day period of time, in the days of the sounding of the 7th trumpet (Rev. 10:7). It is in context to a military conflict around the city of Jerusalem. We understand that there is a 30-day period by comparing Dan. 12:11 (1,290 days) with Dan. 9:27 (1/2 week), Dan. 7:25; 12:7; Rev. 12:14 (a time, times, ½ time), Rev. 11:2; 13:5 (42 months) and Rev. 11:3; 12:6 (1,260 days). The saints follow the “cloud” (Mic. 7:15; Isa. 11:11-12; Neh. 9:10-15; Ps. 78).

IV. JESUS’ ROYAL PROCESSION - THREE STAGES

A. **Stage 1:** Jesus’ procession travels across the sky on clouds to rapture the saints seen by every eye, as His Kingship is announced and asserted over every nation (Ps. 19:1-4; Mt. 24:30-31; Mk. 13:26-27; Rev. 1:7).

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 because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Jude 14)

B. **Stage 2:** Jesus’ royal procession marches up through the land delivering the captives, as He destroys (executes) His enemies on the way to the Mount of Olives and into the city of Jerusalem (Deut. 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).

Ps. 110:5 He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. 6 He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries [leaders].

C. **Stage 3:** Jesus descends from the Mount of Olives, triumphantly entering into Jerusalem to be crowned “*King over all the Earth*” (Zech. 14:1-9). Jesus arrives at the Mount of Olives at the perfect time to rescue the remnant of Israel who has been trapped against the mountain by the Antichrist armies (Zech. 14:1-5).

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

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

A. There will be *three types of people alive on earth* when Jesus appears in the sky at the 7th trumpet. He will systematically evaluate each one for judgment or reward, according to their works (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 2:23; 20:12-13).

1. **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 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 [rapture] to the farthest part of heaven [resurrection].

2. **Reprobate:** The wicked who took the “*mark of the Beast*” and 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...

3. **Resistors:** These are the unsaved survivors (Jews and Gentiles) of the Tribulation judgments who refused to worship the Antichrist, yet were not “born again”. This includes the unsaved remnant of Israel, as well as, Gentiles from every nation. These will all have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior after He returns and will be among those who populate the Millennial earth. The Scripture refers to these “*resistors*” as those “*who are left*”, those “*who survived*”, those “*who escaped*”, those “*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 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.

B. Jesus will save the entire “*remnant of Israel*” in one day (Isa. 66:8; Rom. 11:26-27), bringing a 1/3 of the nation (Zech. 13:8-9) and 1/2 of the city (Zech. 14:2) through the Tribulation judgments (Jer. 31:1-14).

Zech. 13:8 “And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’”

Zech. 14:2 For I will gather all the nations to battle against Jerusalem; the city shall be taken... half of the city shall go into captivity, but the remnant of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Isa. 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor [intercession], she gave birth to her children. 9 Shall I bring to the time of birth, and not cause delivery?” says the LORD.

Rom. 11:26 so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

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VI. 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 stands in opposition to His Kingship and 1000-year reign (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19; 20).

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

Dan. 2:34 A stone... struck the image on its feet... and broke them in pieces. 35 Then... were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone... became a great mountain and filled the whole earth... 44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

B. The Father promised Jesus the inheritance of the nations as His rightful possession forever (Ps. 2:8). Right now, there's a very small percentage of the people in the nations that love and obey Him, but at His return Jesus will rule them all with a "rod of iron", requiring absolute and unconditional obedience or they will receive swift and severe consequences (Isa. 60:12; Zech. 14:16-19).

Ps. 2:8 I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and... for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15)

Isa. 60:12 For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and shall be utterly ruined.

Zech. 14:17 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. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the Lord strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. 19 This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

C. 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 was the only person in Scripture to have insight into this 1000-year time frame (6x Rev. 20).

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

Lk. 1:31 You will conceive... and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Isa. 9:6 Unto us a Child is born... a Son is given; 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 and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.

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D. At this time the Kingdom will be openly manifest worldwide *affecting every sphere of life* (spiritual, political, judicial, social, financial, educational, technological, environmental). Daniel saw Jesus' coronation as the eternal King over all the dominions of the earth, including every sphere of society in every nation!

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)

E. In the Millennium Jesus will receive an unprecedented measure of favor in 7 specific spheres of life.

Rev. 5:11 I heard the voice of many angels around the throne... 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb... to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and 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.

F. 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; 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 atmospheric heaven 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). The moon will shine like the sun and the sun will be seven times brighter than its current state (Isa. 30:26).

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; 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 that moves, 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.”

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. 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.

G. Jesus’ **primary mandate** in the Millennium is to **prepare for the Father’s permanent coming** by bringing all the nations 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 will be purged with fire at the end of the Millennium to prepare for the Father’s 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.

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VII. JESUS WILL REIGN AS “KING OF KINGS” IN THE MILLENNIUM

A. Jesus will rule a worldwide Kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: ***kings of the earth*** (non-resurrected bodies) and ***resurrected kings*** (saints with resurrected bodies). Together they will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of life in every city and every nation in the Millennium.

Rev. 1:5 Jesus Christ, the faithful witness... Ruler over the kings of the earth [natural bodies]. To Him who loved us... 6 and made us [resurrected saints] kings and priests to God.

Rev. 19:16 He has... a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

B. The resurrected saints will be made kings over the various spheres of life (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. 5:10). Our setting in Jesus’ government during the Millennium is based on ***faithfulness*** to our personal assignments right now (Rev. 3:21)!

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations 27 ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’ as I also have received from My Father...

Rev. 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I sat... with My Father...

1. We will all appear before the ***“judgment seat of Christ”*** (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9-11) to give an account for ***how we responded*** to our personal assignments and life circumstances and ***how we invested*** what God entrusted to us – capacities, abilities and resources (Mt. 25:14-30).

2. Jesus will ***evaluate*** and ***reward*** all believers in 7 categories: ***Capacity for God*** (Gen. 15:1; 44:28; Rev. 21:3, 7; 22:4), ***Resurrected Glory*** (Dan. 12:1; 1 Cor. 15:35-58), ***Beautiful Garments*** (Rev. 3:5, 18; 19:8, 14), ***Kingdom Government*** (Lk. 19:11-27; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27; Rev. 20:4-6), ***Eternal Gifts & Gold*** (Isa. 40:10; 62:11; Mt. 5-7; 1 Cor. 3:9-15; Rev. 2-3; 11:18; 22:12), the ***New Jerusalem*** (Jn. 14:2-3; Rev. 21:9-22:5) and ***New Heavens and New Earth*** (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; Acts 3:21; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1, 5-7).

C. Our eternal rewards and governmental setting in Jesus’ millennial reign is a major focus in Scripture. We have insight through the ***12 apostles*** (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:28-30), ***Zerubbabel*** (Hag. 2:23), ***king David*** (Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; 44:3; Hos. 3:5), the ***sons of Zadok*** (Num. 25:12-13; Ezek. 44:15-16).

Lk. 22:29 And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Hos. 3:5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They shall fear the Lord and His goodness in the latter days.

D. In the Millennium, the kings of the earth will ***all*** be “born again” and be the ***most mature*** and ***dedicated intercessors*** who worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24). They will be set by Him personally (Dan. 2:21; 7:9; 20:4) and base the religious, moral and social order of their national governments on God’s Word, specifically including the Sermon on the Mount (Ezek. 44:23-24; Mt. 5-7).

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

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VIII. THE SAINTS WILL REIGN WITH JESUS FOREVER AS A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

A. Jesus will rule over the nations, as the greater “*Son of David*” in the Millennium. However, He is not content to merely have this authority and rule by Himself, He longs to rule in deep intimate partnership with His people now and in the age-to-come forever (Dan. 7:13-14, 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. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5).

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - 27 ‘ He shall rule them with a rod of iron... as I also have received from My Father...

Dan. 7:13 “Behold, One like the Son of Man... 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 shall not be destroyed... 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever... 22 ‘And the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom... 27 Then the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

B. The natural human processes will not be suspended, but significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit. Jesus will not just “wave His hand” and fix everything, but will work in dynamic partnership with the saints. He will reestablish the infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city and village throughout the entire earth. Cities will be rebuilt brick by brick, fortified and modeled after the New Jerusalem. Vineyards will need to be replanted and will grow in abundance (Isa. 65:21). This will include replacing all the governmental leaders with righteous leaders and legislation at every level of public life in every city, as well as, reestablishing life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, investments, etc.), spiritual life (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), education (from elementary to university levels), law enforcement, agriculture (equipment, distribution), media and arts, technology, environmental, and social institutions, etc.

Isa. 65:21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit... 22 My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Isa. 6:3 “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”

C. As resurrected saints in the Millennial Kingdom, we will have real physical material bodies with “flesh and bones” (Lk. 24:39), having the same DNA in appearance, personality, gender, memory, etc. Our physical resurrected frames will be uniquely glorified (Dan. 12:3), our bodies will be completely healed with perfected senses (1 Cor. 15:54), our minds will be 100% renewed (Jn. 8:32), our emotions will be fully restored (Rev. 21:4) and our desires will be in perfect unity with the Holy Spirit, as we delight to do God’s will (Ps. 40:6-8). We see aspects of this when Jesus taught His disciples for 40 days after the resurrection in His new body (Mt. 28:1–20; Mk. 16:1–8; Lk 24:1–53; Jn. 20:1–21:25; Acts 1:1-11; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Rev. 1:5).

D. Everything that makes life enjoyable and dynamic right now, will be radically enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit added to it (Hab. 2:14; Num. 14:21; Ps. 72:19; Isa. 6:3; 11:9; 65:21). The reason we get excited about life in natural realm is because the fabric of our being is composed of the “dust of the earth” and when God originally created the natural realm He called it “very good” (Gen 1:31).

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E. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are kings and priests (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).

1. *As kings*, resurrected saints will evaluate the past, determine future action plans and appoint people who serve in various capacities at every level of society under their authority. This will include training and managing the people they appoint. Our unique personalities and gifts will be seen in our leadership.

1 Cor. 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge [evaluate] the world? 3 Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate] angels? (Mt. 19:28)

2. *As priests*, resurrected saints will worship, intercede and communicate the knowledge of God to others (non-resurrected people on the Millennial earth, plus the saints in the New Jerusalem). The primary government of the Millennial earth will be released through continual intercession.

F. The key to understanding *Jesus' Davidic reign* in the Millennium (Lk. 1) is that it is a “governmental movement” that flows from the “Tabernacle of David”, which combines both worship music and governmental intercession as the means to release and advance the Kingdom of God upon the earth. Jesus is a King-Priest after the order of Melchizidek (Zech. 6:12-13) that releases His Kingdom now and forever through worship-driven prayer that is fueled by the beauty of God!

Amos 9:11 On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom [Islamic villages], and all the Gentiles who are called by My name.” (Acts 15:16-17)

G. “*Learning from our Father's*” - The Twenty-Four Elders, as the most powerful, mature and highest ranking men in authority within the government of Almighty God, spend their strength beholding the beauty and glory of God's Person (Rev. 4:4; 5:5-6; 7:11; 14:3) unto transformation by revelation (2 Cor. 3:18), effortlessly producing worship (Rev. 4:10; 5:8-10, 14; 11:16-17; 19:4), intercession (Rev. 5:8-10) and proclamation (Rev. 4:11; 5:4-5, 8-10; 7:13-17; 11:16-18) as the primary means to advance God's Kingdom (Listed 12x Rev. 4:4, 10; 5:5, 6, 8, 11, 14; 7:11, 13; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4).

1. *Rev. 4:4 Around the throne... I saw twenty-four elders sitting... (Rev. 5:6; 14:3)*
2. *Rev. 4:10 The twenty-four elders fall down before Him... and worship... and cast their crowns...*
3. *Rev. 5:8 The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp [worship music], and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song...*
4. *Rev. 5:14 The twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.*
5. *Rev. 7:11 The elders... fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God...*
6. *Rev. 11:16 The twenty-four elders who sat before God... fell on their faces and worshiped God...*
7. *Rev. 19:4 The twenty-four elders... fell down and worshiped God... saying, “Amen! Alleluia!”*

H. Worship (harp), intercession (bowl) and proclamation all flow naturally from the revelation of God.

1. Worship - Worship is agreement with who God is (You are worthy, beautiful, holy). See Song 1:12.
2. Intercession - Intercession is simply agreement with what He said He would do.
3. Proclamation - Proclamation is simply declaring who God is and what He said. When we see God as He is, we must proclaim what we've seen and heard (Acts 4:20). It's like “fire in our bones” (Jer. 20:9).

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IX. THE INTERCESSORY MINISTRY OF JESUS - THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK

A. Jesus rules the universe now and forever through the priestly ministry of intercession. This is seen in ***Jesus engaging in intercession forever!*** (Isa. 53:12; Lk. 22:32; 23:34; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Jn. 2:1; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15, 17, 21)

Rom. 8:34 Christ... who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

Heb. 7:25 He [Jesus] always lives to make intercession...

B. King David and the Tabernacle he established with a functioning priesthood foreshadowed Jesus' government operating in the Millennium (Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:16-17) after the "***order of Melchizedek***" (Zech. 6:12-13). Melchizedek was the first "King-Priest" who ***reigned on earth*** before men through his priestly ministry of ***worship and intercession*** before God.

Ps. 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not relent [change His mind], "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (Gen. 14:18; Psa. 110:4; Heb. 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1, 10, 11, 15, 17, 21)

C. During the Millennium Jesus primary mandate will be to establish the Father's Kingdom upon the earth, as it is in Heaven (Mt. 6:10). He will lead the global prayer and worship movement from the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem, as the ultimate ***King of Kings*** and the final ***High Priest*** over the entire order of the Melchizedek priesthood. He will perfectly join the two offices together in unity under the Father's authority.

Zech. 6:12 "Behold, the Man [Jesus] whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD... 13 He shall... sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace shall be between them both [king and priest]."

D. Jesus operated in His priestly ministry using the "***principle of intercession***" when He created the heavens and the earth. The Father, having deep thoughts and plans burning in His heart, ordained that His Son must speak out those thoughts in words, as the way to release the Spirit's power. Jesus is clearly identified as the Creator who spoke, "***let there be...***" (Gen. 1; Ps. 33:9; Jn. 1:1-3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:13-17; Heb. 1:2; 11:3)

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning... 2 The earth was without form, and void... and the Spirit of God was hovering [waiting] over the... waters. 3 God [Jesus] said, "Let there be light" and there was light...

E. In Psalm 2, David records a conversation that he overheard within the Godhead, revealing Jesus' need to engage in intercession, as the ***only means*** of inheriting the nations as His possession. In other words, if Jesus is to receive ***all*** that the Father has ordained for Him to receive, then even ***He must ask*** to receive it!

Ps. 2:7 I [Jesus] will declare the decree: The LORD [Father] has said to Me, "You are My Son..." 8 Ask of Me [intercession], and I [Father] will give You the nations for Your inheritance...

F. During the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will rule over the nations through intercession, referred to as the "***rod of His mouth***" (Rev. 2:27; 12:5; 19:15; Ps. 2:9; 110:2; Is. 11:4) or the "***sword of His mouth***" (Is. 49:2; Eph. 6:17; Rev. 1:16; 2:12; 19:15, 21). The rod of Moses that released God's power was an Old Covenant picture of this reality (Ex. 4:1-5, 7:19; 8:5, 16; 9:23; 10:13; 14:16; 17:5-6, 8-13).

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X. RESURRECTED SAINTS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

A. The New Jerusalem is where resurrected saints will live (Phil. 3:20). However, we will work and reign on the Millennial earth with governmental responsibilities under Jesus authority (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:3-5). The saints will easily travel from the New Jerusalem to the Millennial earth, as angels now travel from heaven to earth (Jn. 1:51). We will have more interaction and come much more frequently than angels do now, because there will be an “open heaven” with the veil between the two realms completely lifted (Isa. 24:18; 25:7; 34:4; Rev. 6:14). Like the veil in the temple was rent between the Holy place and the Holy of Holies, so also the separating veil between heaven and earth will be torn in two at Jesus’ return (Mt. 24:30).

Rev. 5:10 [Jesus has] made us a kingdom of priests to our God: and we shall reign on the earth.

B. Jesus will establish infrastructure in partnership with the resurrected saints who will oversee those with non-resurrected or natural bodies. The resurrected saints will have a dynamic role in training the “resistors” (humans with non-resurrected bodies) who become “born again” in Millennium after Jesus’ return to earth.

Rev. 2:26 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations - 27 ‘ He shall rule them with a rod of iron... as I also have received from My Father...

C. The necessary infrastructure to govern each sphere of life will gradually increase in capacity, quality and quantity as the leaders grow in wisdom and skill development (Zech. 6:12; Isa. 9:7). The 1000-year period isn’t abstract, but necessary to apply all that Jesus teaches in every sphere of society, giving it time to take root, mature and be tested, revealing its authenticity. All work, including Jesus’ work will be tested by fire at the end of the Millennium, coming forth as gold, silver and precious stones (1 Cor. 3:9-15; Rev. 20:7-9).

1 Cor. 3:12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

D. The saints, as well as natural leaders with non-resurrected bodies will need to learn and then apply what they’ve learned. Jesus with His saints will be involved in training the non-resurrected leaders of the nations in God’s ways. As wisdom is gained and applied, society will progressively improve. Together they will establish training institutions that all nations may systematically learn Jesus’ ways in every sphere of life (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, technology, etc.).

Isa. 2:3 Many people 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 [Jesus] will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.” Out of Zion shall go forth the law [word of God]... the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

E. The resurrected saints in partnership with natural leaders will bring the gospel to those needing salvation. The lost will not instantly and automatically be converted at the moment of Jesus’ return, neither will their children, born in the millennium (Jer. 23:3). It will take time and effort to convert each individual and make disciples in every nation, teaching them to observe and obey all things Jesus commanded (Mt. 28:18-20).

Isa. 66:18 I will gather all nations... and see My glory... 19 Among them who escape I will send to the nations... who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. 20 Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...

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F. Social improvements or the “healing of the nations” will be **progressive**, not instantaneous. Those who reign with Jesus will be involved in the greatest restoration ministry in history (Rev. 22:2; Ezek. 47:12).

Rev. 22:2 Tree of life... the leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. (Ezek. 47:12)

G. The resurrected saints in partnership with the “kings of the earth” will oversee what is rebuilt by labor, restoring that which was destroyed in the Tribulation (Isa. 58:12; 61:4; 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 36:36; 48:18-19). Cities will be rebuilt. Vineyards will be replanted.

Isa. 61:4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

Isa. 58:12 Those from among you shall build the old waste places; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.

Ezek. 36:36 Then the nations which are left all around you shall know that I, the LORD, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted what was desolate.

H. The resurrected saints along with the “kings of the earth” will work together to re-establish businesses to generate financial resources (Isa. 60:1-18). The nation of Israel will be very prosperous in the Millennium (Isa. 30:23-25; 35:1-2; 60:1-18; 62:8-9; 65:21-23).

Isa. 60:5 The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. 6 ...They shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord. 7 ...And I will glorify the house of My glory.

I. The resurrected saints will oversee the work necessary to restore God’s order in the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life (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; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

J. In the Millennium, sin will still occur by those with natural bodies. Even false prophets will continue in the Millennium (Zech. 13:3). Jesus will rule with a “rod of iron,” thus sin will be punished swiftly and severely (Ps. 2:9, 72:9-11; Isa. 11:4; 66:20, 24; Zech. 13:2-4; 14:16-19; Rev. 21:8, 24-27; 22:14-15).

Zech. 13:3 It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother... will say to him, ‘You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.’

Rev. 21:24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light [New Jerusalem]... 26 And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside [New Jerusalem] are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

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K. There will be a great ingathering or “exodus” of all the Jewish people to Israel (Jer. 23:1-8).

*Jer. 23:3 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... 5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. 7 “The days are coming,” says the Lord, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ 8 but, ‘...who brought up and led... Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”*

L. The Jewish priesthood will teach and judge in the Millennium (Ezek. 44:23-24).

Ezek. 44:23 “And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. 24 In controversy they shall stand as judges, and judge it according to My judgments. They shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings, and they shall hallow My Sabbaths.

XI. THE FATHER’S THRONE ESTABLISHED ON EARTH FOREVER!

A. The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus’ core message was that God’s Kingdom was being released in a new measure on earth. The NT makes clear that the Kingdom is ‘*already here*’ (in a limited expression) but is ‘*not yet*’ fully here until Jesus returns and prepares for its coming.

Mt. 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

B. The high point of human history is the *Father dwelling in unhindered face-to-face communion with His people in paradise on the earth forever* (v. 3). This is the most challenging yet ultimate reality that God determined to accomplish through Christ. The dilemma is that God cannot violate His blazing holiness and yet will not violate man’s free will to sin. Thus, He had to establish a salvation process and context for human beings to voluntarily choose Him in love, and receive resurrected bodies that can endure dwelling face-to-face in the consuming fire of His immediate presence (Heb. 12:29; Rev. 20:11).

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

C. Dwelling in God’s immediate presence is our greatest inheritance (Ex. 25:8; Lev. 26:11-13; Ezek. 37:26-27; Rev. 21:3). Through intercession, the resurrected saints in partnership with Jesus will prepare the nations for the Father’s Throne to permanently descend to the earth (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 21:1-8; 22:4).

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. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For “He has put all things under His feet.” But when He says “all things are put under Him,” it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. (Rev. 21:3; 22:4)