

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

JESUS' SECOND COMING & GLORIOUS MILLENNIAL REIGN – COREY STARK

I. THE DYNAMIC 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, physically distancing God from His people (Isa. 24:18; 25:7; 34:4; Rev. 6:14). Therefore, the centerpiece of the Father's plan of restoration for the entire created order is for Jesus to unify both realms, as it was in the beginning with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (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).

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* under God's direct authority (Ps. 115:16), where the beauty of His presence and power are openly manifest (Rev. 4:2-8; Dan 7:9-10). The New Jerusalem is the epicenter of the heavenly realm, even as earthly Jerusalem is the center of the nations (Ezek. 5:5).

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* under man's direct supervision and care (Gen. 1:26-28; Ps. 115:16), 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).

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 realities come together at Jesus' return when He brings the supernatural conditions of heaven to the earth!*

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

A. *Jesus' second coming* and *rapture of the Church* 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).

Mt. 24:30 *They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven... 31 He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect... from one end of heaven to the other.*

1. The *second coming* describes what Jesus does when He permanently comes to earth (Rev. 11:15).
2. The *rapture* describes what happens to the saints the moment we see Him appear in the sky (1 Jn. 3:2).

B. The triumphant return of the King of Kings is not a “secret event” (Mt. 24:23-27; 1 Thes. 5:1-11; 2 Thes. 2:1-4), but a *royal eschatological procession* for all to see (Ps. 19:1-6; 68:24, 32-33; Rev. 19:11-16).

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...*

Ps. 19:4 *The sun 5 ...is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices like a strong man to run its race. 6 Its rising is from one end of heaven... to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.*

C. Jesus is not *coming to go away*, but He is *coming to stay* (Dan. 2:34-35, 44) 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... 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.*

D. In the days of the sounding of the seventh trumpet, the mystery of God will be finished, as Jesus comes:

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

1. With *all the saints* (Dt. 33:2; Ps. 149:9; Zech. 14:5; 1 Th. 3:13; Jude 14) and *all the angels* (Mt. 25:31).
2. At the right hand of the Father with *great power* (Mt. 26:64; Mk. 13:26; 14:64; Lk. 22:69).
3. In His *Father's glory* (Mt. 16:27; Mk. 8:38; Lk. 9:26) and *golden splendor* out of the North (Job 37:22).
4. Traveling on *clouds* around the entire earth for *every eye* to see (Dt. 33:26; Ps. 19:1-6; 68:4; 104:3; Isa. 19:1; Dan. 7:13; Mt. 24:30; 26:64; Mk. 13:26; 14:62; 1 Th. 4:17; Rev. 1:7).
5. In the *brilliance of lightning* (Mt. 24:27; Lk. 17:24; 2 Th. 2:8), as *flaming fire* engulfs the darkened sky (2 Th. 1:8; Zech. 14:6).
6. He will cry out with a *great shout* and the *voice of an archangel* (Isa. 42:13-14; Joel 3:16; 1 Th. 4:16).
7. As He *raises* the dead (Isa. 26:19), *raptures* the Church (1 Cor. 15:51-52; 1 Thes. 4:13-17), *delivers* the captives of Israel (Ps. 102:20; Isa. 27:12-13; 40:11; 42:7, 16, 22; 49:9-12, 21, 24-26; 61:1; Jer. 30:3, 8, 10, 17; 31:16, 23; Ezek. 39:23-29; Joel 3:1-2; Amos 9:14; Mic. 2:12-13; 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19-20; Zech. 9:11-12; 10:10; 13:8; 14:2; Mt. 25:43; Lk. 21:24) and *defeats* His enemies (Ps. 110:5-6; Isa. 63:1-6; Hab. 3:1-16).

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III. JESUS' ROYAL ESCHATOLOGICAL PROCESSION – THREE STAGES

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 rides up through the land of Egypt toward Edom, delivering the captives of Israel, as He releases *7 bowls of wrath* on His enemies on the way to the 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).

Ps. 45:2 You are more beautiful than the sons of men... Therefore God [Father] has blessed You forever. 3 Gird Your sword upon Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty. 4 In Your majesty ride victoriously because of truth, humility, and righteousness... 5 The peoples fall under You. (Heb. 1:8-9)

C. *Stage 3 [Chronological #5]:* Jesus descends the Mount of Olives and triumphantly enters Jerusalem to be crowned “King over all the Earth”. With the epicenter of both realms under Jesus’ direct command, the New Jerusalem above and below converge to create a “corridor of glory”, unifying heaven and earth (Eph. 1:10)!

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 together 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 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 resistors will have an opportunity to receive Jesus as their Savior *after* He returns and be used by God to 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 the 7th trumpet Jesus takes legal, comprehensive and everlasting leadership of the earth in partnership with His Bride to initiate the Millennium (Ps. 2:8-9; Dan. 2:34-35, 44-45; 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Rev. 11:15-19).

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 “*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).

Rev. 20:4 And they [saints] lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

1. *Atmospheric Conditions* - The heavens will operate perfectly again according to God’s original design as 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). The sun will be 7x brighter, yet ashamed compared to Jesus’ glory (Isa. 24:23; 30:26).

Isa. 30:26 The light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days...

2. *Agricultural Conditions* - Produce will thrive in quality, size and abundance due to *progressive removal* of the negative consequences of sin (drought, famine, etc.) and *progressive increase* of the positive benefits 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...’

3. *Animal Life* - Jesus makes a “covenant of peace” with animals (Job 5:23; Isa. 11:1-9; 65:25; Hos. 2:18).

Isa. 11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them. (Isa. 65:25)

4. *Life Span* - Due to *environmental factors* (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. It will be common to live over 500 years, as before the 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.

C. Jesus’ *primary mandate* in the Millennium is to *prepare the earth for the Father’s permanent descent*, when His eternal state in heaven will be openly manifest upon the New Earth (1 Cor. 15:24-26) We will dwell in unhindered *face-to-face* communion with our Father in the Garden of Eden paradise forever (Rev. 21:1-8)!

1 Cor. 15:24 Then comes the end [Millennium], when He delivers the kingdom to 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...