

INTRODUCTION

To bring you up to date or to review where we are, the Book of Revelation is divided into three parts. "Write the things which you have seen in the past" the vision of Jesus that's chapter one. "Write the things which are right now the seven churches I believe representing all churches of all time seven today but beginning in chapter 4:1, it's all in the future. How Jesus comes back to rapture the church—and that could happen at any moment—then there are the seven years of Tribulation on Earth. Jesus called it "Time of Jacob's Trouble, the greatest tribulation the world has ever known." And then in chapter 19 we studied where at the end of that seven-year Tribulation, Jesus comes back for the Battle of Armageddon with the saints and with the sword that proceeds out of his mouth and he slays his enemies. That's where we pick up today and it's like the calm after the storm. As we are introduced to a concept called "the Millennium."

I can remember driving down a road in Alabama and seeing a little clapboard church that had a huge sign reading, "So and So Church fundamental, premillennial, dispensational." It had to be a big sign to have those big words on it! I can remember later on I went to that church and asked one of the guys there, "What do those words mean?" He said, "I don't know but don't they look good?" A lot of times people don't know what the words mean. Today we're going to talk about that word, *millennium*. The word comes from two Latin words *mille* meaning "one thousand" and *annum* meaning "years." So millennium means a period of one thousand years.

Three views of eschatology

As we begin this study, let me share the three different views about the millennium with you. The word *eschatology* is the technical word for the study of final events. It comes from the Greek word *eskhatos*. If you were going to a seminary and wanted to take a class in prophecy or revelation or what's going to happen in the future, it would be a study of eschatology.

1. A millennial

There are basically three views are held by many Christians. Number one is a position called a *millennial*. When you use the letter "a" in front of a word, it cancels that word out; it's a negative. For instance the word *muse* means "to think" the word *amuse* means "not thinking." Sometimes when my wife and I watch a silly movie we'll say, "That was very amusing." You didn't have to think about it. So a *millennial* is the position that this millennium we're going to study discussed throughout the Bible is figurative. It is not literal. It's a figurative term. So there's really going to be no such thing as a millennium. If you go to some of the more liberal seminaries up East like Harvard Divinity School or Union Theological Seminary they basically teach a millennialism.

2. Postmillennial

The second position, which was really very popular at the beginning of the century, is called *postmillennial*. Now the word *post* means "after." This is a position many Baptists have held through the years and particularly, as I have said, around the beginning of the turn of the century. For instance George W. Truett, the pastor of the First Baptist Church in Dallas, was

postmillennial. Henry Ward Beecher was also postmillennial. Now the word *postmillennial* means they believe mankind and really God through mankind is going to usher in a Golden Age on earth, where there will be a thousand years where man has attained his potential and there will be peace, no war and everyone will be fair and honest and kind to each other. At the end of that thousand years this Golden Age then Jesus will come. Now if you have ever studied philosophy, Wassenbush promoted this philosophy at the beginning of this century, because mankind was advancing technologically. But this view was destroyed in the minds of many people due to World War I and World War II. At the beginning of this century people were thinking, “Well man is getting better. We’ve prohibited liquor prohibition the churches are being filled. Man is moving toward righteousness. Man is getting better and better and better and better.” But then, the war to end all wars occurred and then World War II and more wars since then and increasing crime. I don’t know many people today who hold this view, because we look around and see things are getting worse and worse.

3. Premillennial

Then there is the third position called *premillennial*. As you have figured out by now, I am premillennial. In other words, I believe Jesus Christ is going to come as it says in chapter 19 at the Battle of Armageddon. He’s going to set up his kingdom and then he’ll come before the millennium—therefore the word *premillennial*. In terms of eschatology, you can’t be absolutely dogmatic. I can love and fellowship with somebody who is amillennial or somebody who is postmillennial, because let’s face it you can’t be absolutely certain. The Bible is totally infallible, without error, but my interpretation of it and another man’s interpretation of it is not infallible. Having studied it for many years I just want to tell you I am personally more and more convinced of the premillennial view. Some other premillennialists include Billy Graham, Chuck Swindoll and Dwight L. Moody. So like one guy said, “You go your way, and I’ll go his way.” Study it for yourself and decide which you believe.

Revelation 20:1-3. “And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.”

Skip down to verse 10, because this says something more about the devil who is the focus of this. “And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur,” This is a thousand years later that you’ll see that, “where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

I. THE REMOVAL OF SATAN

The first thing we need to talk about today is the removal of Satan. Who is the devil? Who is Satan? Verse 2 says he’s the dragon and the dragon speaks of fierceness. It says he is the ancient serpent, the serpent speaks of subtlety. He is the devil, *diabolos*, literally meaning “slanderer,” or “one who speaks against.” Then he is also called Satan you see there are four designations of the

devil here. The word *Satan* literally means *evil one*. What's going to happen to him? God is going to send an angel, not Gabriel, not Michael, not some mighty angel but an ordinary angel. God's going to say, "Okay, angel. It's time. Take a chain. Go down there, wrap up the devil and cast him into the pit." Have you ever heard, "Where did the devil come from?" You've heard preachers say, "Well, at one time the devil was an angel in heaven..." and tell the story of how he tried to rebel against God." Sometimes people say, "Well I've heard that but where is it in the Bible?" Turn to Isaiah 14 and I want you to read with your own eyes the passage of scripture that talks about the attempted ascent of the devil. How he tried to promote himself by climbing the ladder of spiritual ambition and become like God. "How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn!" That's the word for Lucifer. "You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low [deceived] the nations!" Revelation 20:3 says, "He'll no more deceive the nations." Notice how many times the word "I" appears in Isaiah 14:13; don't you think the devil is selfish? "You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Lucifer said, "I'm going up. I'm going somewhere in this heaven." Look what God said in verse 15. "But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit." This is exactly a prophecy of what we are reading fulfilled in Revelation. By the way, when that happens, people are going to say, "Wow! The devil is so powerless!" According to Isaiah 14:16, they're going to say, "Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made the kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?'" In other words the world's going to look at him and say, "You mean this old, powerless, spiritual entity—the devil, caused us so much fear? We can't believe it!"

Back to Revelation 20. Satan said, "I'm going up. I'm going to be like God!" Satan's desire is to be worshiped as God and that's what he has always tried to do. He wants to set himself up as God and be worshiped and God said, "Oh, no! You're going *down*!" Let me share with you again this spiritual principle you need to know, because it relates to your life and my life. In God's eyes, the way up is down and the way down is up! Did you catch that? The Bible says, "God resists the proud." In other words if you try to promote yourself, God will push you down but God says, "I exalt the humble!" I want you to notice how different Jesus was from the devil. In Isaiah 14, the devil says, "I'm going up!" but in Philippians 2:6-7, what does it say about Jesus? "Jesus being in the form of God didn't think it robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation and humbled himself and became as a servant." Do you see the difference? The nature of Satan is to say, "I'm going up. I'm going to be somebody!" but the nature of Jesus is to humble himself. What did God do to Jesus because Jesus had humbled himself? "Therefore, God hath highly exalted him and given him a name that is above every other name."

You can make two mistakes about the devil. You can underestimate his power and think he has no power over you whatsoever and that's a mistake. But I think a lot of people make the other mistake and that is to *overestimate* the devil. I'm here to tell you Jesus said to believers, "I give you authority over all the power of the devil of the wicked one!" That's not some time in the future. That's right now. Some people misunderstand that passage. They think it says, "I give you power over the power of the devil." NO. Jesus said, "I give you *exousia*, authority over the power, the *dunamis*, of the evil one." Let me tell you what that means. You as a blood-bought

believer, every one of you has authority over Satan in the name of Jesus! Let me illustrate that for you.

Here's a man who is a State Trooper, a law enforcement officer. He's not very big, he may not be very wealthy, he may not have much more than a junior college education and he steps out on a highway and coming down that highway is an 18-wheeler. Who's more powerful, the State Trooper or the semi? The semi is more powerful! Head-to-head the trooper is going to get flattened. Let me tell you what that State Trooper does. He stands there and holds up his hand and says, "Stop in the name of the law!" What's that truck going to do? He's going to stop! That State Trooper is not depending on his intellectual power, his financial power, or his physical power; he is standing there in the authority that has been given him by the State of Texas and he has authority over the power of that truck! I'm not any more powerful than Satan. In fact, I'm a lot less powerful than Satan and so are you BUT in the name of Jesus we have authority over him! Don't you be like Flip Wilson and say, "I didn't have any choice. The devil made me do it!" You can say, "Stop, devil, in the name of Jesus!" I just want to show you he is a defeated foe! And one day he's going to be thrown into the pit for a thousand years. So what's going to happen during that thousand years?

II. THE RULE OF CHRIST

The rule of Christ or you might want to say the reign of Christ is going to happen during that thousand years. Revelation 20:4-10. John said, "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."

There is a thousand-year gap between verse 6 and 7. The Bible doesn't go into specific details about what's going to happen during the thousand years; it just says this is what's going to happen when it is over. "When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sands on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They'll be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Let me tell you what I believe is going to happen during this time. When we studied chapter 19 I said when Jesus comes back at the Battle of Armageddon, we are coming with him, we are part of the army. When Jesus comes to rapture the church, he's coming *for* the saints and we'll be caught up into the heavens but when Jesus comes at the Battle of Armageddon, he's coming *with* the saints and we come with him back to planet Earth. You say, "All right. Here we are on planet Earth in our resurrected bodies our eternal bodies what are we going to do?" I'll tell you what the

Bible says we are going to do. We're going to reign with Christ a thousand years on the Earth. You say, "Huh! Never heard that before!" Maybe you've never studied it before but let me encourage you to read the following passages of scripture. Zechariah 14 and Isaiah 2 describe the millennium. Have you ever heard about the time when the lamb will lay down with the lion? When men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks? When peace will reign over all the Earth. That's what it's talking about, this thousand years when Christ will rule on the Earth Also read Micah 4. Many, many of the Old Testament prophets prophesy a time in the future when there is going to be peace and where all the nations will come to Jerusalem and bow down and worship God. That's never happened before! but I believe it's going to happen.

Many of the prophecies in the Bible relating to Jesus Christ have not yet been fulfilled. For instance, when the angel Gabriel came to announce to Mary that she was going to bear a child do you remember what he said? He said, "You're going to conceive and give birth to a son and you shall call his name Jesus and he shall save his people from their sins." Jesus has already done all of those things but then do you know what else Gabriel said that hasn't been fulfilled yet? He said, "and the government shall be upon his shoulders," Has that happened yet? Have we ever lived in a world and do we live in a world right now where all the governments of the world are upon the shoulders of Jesus? When the Security Council of the United Nations meets in New York do they fall on their knees and say, "Lord Jesus, this is your world and what do you want us to do"? Of course not. That hasn't happened yet—but it will! Why do you think Jesus told us to pray in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven?" I believe the Bible teaches the time will come when Jesus will live and reign on Earth and we're going to reign with him!

Verse 6 it says, "We will reign with him for a thousand years." Go back to Revelation 1:5-6. Verse 5 says he's loved us and he's freed us from our sins with his blood and verse 6 says "and has made us to be a kingdom and priests." Actually it says a kingdom *of* priests "to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever!" Did you think we were going to sit up in heaven somewhere and we were going to be kings up there and priests up there? No we're going to be kings and priests down here. Did you know I am a priest? I'm a Baptist priest! You can call me "Father David." I am a Baptist priest. One of the great distinctions of our faith is we preach the priesthood of all believers. We ought to preach as much as we preach that, the priesthood of all believers even though they are not Baptists. Sometimes I think we believe in the priesthood of Baptist believers only, which is a heresy compared to the true doctrine of the priesthood of *all* believers. That means there is no other mediator needed between you and God. You don't need some earthly priest through whom and to whom you confess your sins. You have direct access to God through Jesus Christ!

A priest speaks to God on behalf of the people and a priest speaks to people on behalf of God. During this millennium, we're going to be a kingdom of priests to judge the world, rule with Christ. Who are we going to rule? This gets a little interesting. There's going to be a whole population of people on the earth who are going to be alive when Jesus comes back to the Battle of Armageddon. There are going to be generations of people who live and die and we're going to be in our resurrected bodies. So how can we relate to people who are just "human?" Just like Jesus did. After Jesus was resurrected, he came out and dealt with the disciples. He went into the

Upper Room and said, "Here I am! Feel of me! Does a ghost have flesh and blood?" He went to the seashore there in Galilee and fixed breakfast for them, ate with them and he related to them—and he was in his resurrected body. The Bible says, "When we see him, we shall be like him." Have you ever noticed there are a lot of passages in the New Testament that speak about us reigning with Christ? It says, "If we suffer with him, we shall reign with him." 1 Corinthians 6:1-2 talks about how two Christians shouldn't take each other to a secular court of law, because Paul says, "Don't you know that one day we will judge the world? We will sit as judges over humanity, why should you take spiritual matters before an earthly court." The Bible says for that thousand years we'll be reigning with Christ.

At Christmas time we sing that song, "He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love." Have you ever thought about those words? Is it true? Does he rule yet? Does he make all the nations prove yet? Not really but every time you sing that song you are singing about the millennium when he will.

Three parts of the First Resurrection

1. Christ

What is the first resurrection? It says, "Blessed and holy are they who are part of the first resurrection. I want to be a part of it! Well you will be. 1 Corinthians 15:22-23 says, "For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come." Literally, that word means *the end ones*, it's in the neutral gender which means *the end ones*, not the end of time but the end persons, men and women "will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power." What is this first resurrection John is writing about here? We know Jesus was the first one, so there are actually three parts to the first resurrection. Number one was Christ. What are the "firstfruits?" That doesn't mean anything to us, because we are not agriculturally based and we don't practice Jewish Feast Days but in the Old Testament they had firstfruits. They planted their crops and when the barley and wheat started to grow, when the very first kernels began to burst forth, they went out into the fields and gathered a bundle, the "firstfruits," and they went to the temple and waved that bundle of "firstfruits" before the Lord thanking him for it. They are thanking by faith, because the rest of the field had not developed yet. These were the "firstfruits" it was an anticipatory thanksgiving. "Thank you, God," and it also was an expectation of all the others that should come. When Jesus was resurrected he was the "firstfruits" and it is a picture of all the others who will come.

2. The Rapture

Look again at 1 Corinthians 15:23. Christ, the "firstfruits" is number one. Then, when he comes, "those who belong to him" that's the second part, the rapture—when Jesus comes back to rapture the church, all of us who are here when he comes back. We're the second part of the first resurrection. You might think of it as "the harvest" using the same analogy of "firstfruits." The farmer took his firstfruits and waved them, and then when the rest of the harvest was ready, he harvested all of it. That's a picture of the rapture.

3. Tribulation Saints

Number three is comprised of the Tribulation saints, because it says number one, “Christ” number two, “those who are his when he comes” and number three, “the end ones.” There are going to be those who come out of the Tribulation and die for their faith. That’s a picture of “the gleaning.” After the main harvest, there were pieces left in the corners of the field, sort of the “leftovers,” and the farmers and the people went back “gleaned” the leftovers. That’s a picture of the Tribulation saints. These are all the ones who will be a part of this first resurrection who will come back with Christ.

Notice it says, “The second death has no power over them.” What is the second death? Verse 14 says, “Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.” If you are a Christian when Jesus comes back to rapture the church, you’re part of the first resurrection. You are blessed and holy and the second death has no power over you!

III. THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT

Third is the righteous judgement. I’m sort of like an Egyptian mummy, I’m pressed for time so let’s hurry on along here a little.

In verses 11-15 John says, “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead,” Dead there doesn’t mean physically dead. There is a word, *nekros*, where we get our word *necrology* from that speaks of those who are physically dead but this is the word *thanatos*, spiritually dead, lost people. “And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and the books [plural] were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death [which literally means “the grave”] and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

This is often called the “Great White Throne Judgement.” We are calling it, “The Righteous Judgement.” Through the years I have heard people when they want to wax eloquent and they’ll pray a prayer something like this: “Oh, God Grant that we may gather around Your great white throne someday.” Well don’t pray that prayer for me! Because the only people at the great white throne are going to be lost people. There are going to be no Christians there. Because during that time we are reigning with Christ and the thousand years are over and we are there for all eternity. And we’re going to see where we are going to be in the new heaven and the new earth, the New Jerusalem. That’s chapters 21-22. But these are all lost people. This is the second resurrection of the dead, the spiritually dead.

1. The Judge

Who is this judge? In John 5:22, Jesus said, “The Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgement to the Son.” Jesus Christ is going to be the judge. Jesus is either going to be your

defense attorney or he's going to be your judge! In other words, he is going to be your advocate who stands before the Father and says, "David Dykes is one of mine. I plead his case. I have already taken his punishment. He is standing in my righteousness." I have already let him be my defense attorney. Have you? He's either going to be your advocate or your judge. You're going to meet him one way or the other. He's going to be the judge.

2. The Judged

Number two, notice not only the judge, but those who will be judged. Who are they? Verse 12 says, "I saw the dead." They are the spiritually dead. All the saints, the believers, have participated in this first resurrection a thousand years earlier. A thousand years *later* this is the resurrection of all the dead. You know what happens to a Christian the moment they die. The body is buried. The soul and spirit go to be with Jesus. The body is put into the grave in death. When Jesus comes back to rapture the church as it says in I Thessalonians 4, "He'll bring the souls and spirits of those who died in Jesus and the dead in Christ shall rise first." They'll receive their new resurrection body. Then, we who are alive and remain shall be called together. We'll be changed in the twinkling of an eye. We'll receive our resurrection body right then." Then a thousand years later God will deal with the lost. So what happens to a lost person the moment they die? Their body goes into the grave, into death. The Old Testament used the word *sheol* but their soul and their spirit immediately goes into Hades. The King James Version never distinguishes between Hell and Hades. There are two different Greek words *Geenna* for Hell and *Aides*, which is actually transliterated into English as Hades. Hades is a place of torment. In Luke 11 when Jesus talked about the rich man dying, he went to Hades literally. Hades is like the county jail before the final sentencing to the state pen for life—in this instance for eternity. It says here "death means the grave delivered up the bodies." Hades delivered up the souls and the spirits and they stood before the great white throne judgement.

Who's going to be there? "Great and small." There are going to be some notables there. I imagine Adolf Hitler will be there. I don't know whether he is lost or saved, but I suspect he was lost. There will be some great names there. Some of the great criminals and wicked minds of history will be there but also people you have never heard of. I have known some people who have no time for God. We call them "absolute infidels," wicked people who never darkened the door of the church. They're going to be there. And probably when they stand there they're going to say, "Well, I heard these preachers hollering about this and so I guess I deserve it. I'm here!" There are going to be some good people who never committed a crime there. They worked with Little League and were in the Chamber of Commerce and never cheated on their taxes and were good, honest people; they just never got around to accepting Jesus. Isn't that sad?

Do you know who else is going to be there? Some church members who thought they were saved! I'm not saying it, Jesus said it in Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven." He says, "On that day," which day do you think he is talking about? The day we're studying today. "On that day MANY"—not just one or two—"MANY will say unto me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'" Then he's going to say, "I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!" I want to tell you again like I have told you a thousand times and I'll tell you a thousand more times:

SALVATION IS KNOWING JESUS CHRIST! Not knowing *about* him but knowing *him* personally, intimately!

3. The Judgement

a. The Bible

What about the judgement? The Bible says there are going to be books there. I think there are going to be at least three books there. I think one will be God's holy book, the Bible. I think it's going to be open and it's going to say, "This was God's standard. This was God's love letter to you. This was God's way of saying, 'This is how you can know me through Jesus.'"

b. The book of works

It also says there will be other books there besides God's book of Law. There will be the book of works because it says every man will be judged according to his works. He's going to be judged by what he did but not for salvation. In other words, it's going to be like all his works are going to stand on one side up against God's holy law and what does this book say? This book says if a man keeps the law on every point yet offends it on one point he is guilty of it all! This book says, "All right! If you can be absolutely, totally perfect all of your life, come on into heaven" but no man can ever stand and say, "I've been absolutely, totally perfect—except Jesus Christ.

Did you hear about the guy who went to Heaven and stood at the gate and there was a sign that said, "Entrance Requirement: One Billion Points." He stood there and he said to the angel, "Well, now, let me see I went to church on Sunday night. How many points is that worth?" Gabriel said, "Zero." The guy said, "Well let me see I tithed. How many points is that worth?" Gabriel said, "Zero." The guy said, "Well I kept pre-schoolers in the nursery. How much is that worth?" Gabriel said, "Zero." "I sang in the choir. How much is that worth?" "Zero." Finally the guy got exasperated and he said, "You know at this rate it's going to take me the grace of God to get into this place!" Gabriel said, "That's worth a billion points!" It is not by works of righteousness that we have done but according to his mercy.

c. The Book of Life

There is one other book there, the book of life. "Whoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Earlier in Revelation, Jesus was talking to one of these churches and said, "Be faithful to me and your name will not be blotted out of the book of life?" I believe the moment someone is born, their name is written in the book of life and when you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, which is his will for your life, your name is still there, but I believe when a person dies without ever having accepted Jesus Christ or in some instances when they commit that sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost—absolute and final denial and rejection. I believe their name is blotted out of the book of life.

The most important question you can ask is "Is my name in the book of life? Have I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior?" If you haven't, it's not too late. You can do it today. You have a destiny with deity and either way you are going to stand before Jesus as your Lord or you're going to

stand before Jesus as your judge!

OUTLINE

Milli =1000 Annum =year Millennium =1000 year

Three views of eschatology:

1. Amillennial: No millennium, it's speaking symbolically
2. Postmillennial: Jesus will return after 1000 years of peace and prosperity
3. Premillennial (my position): Jesus will return to set up His kingdom for 1000 years.

I. THE REMOVAL OF SATAN (vs. 1-3)

We have been given authority over the power of Satan. His attempt to be God is described in Isaiah 14.

II. THE RULE OF CHRIST (vs. 4-10)

We will live and reign with Christ for 1000 years. See Luke 1:30-33; Zechariah 14; Micah 4; and Isaiah 11:4-9.

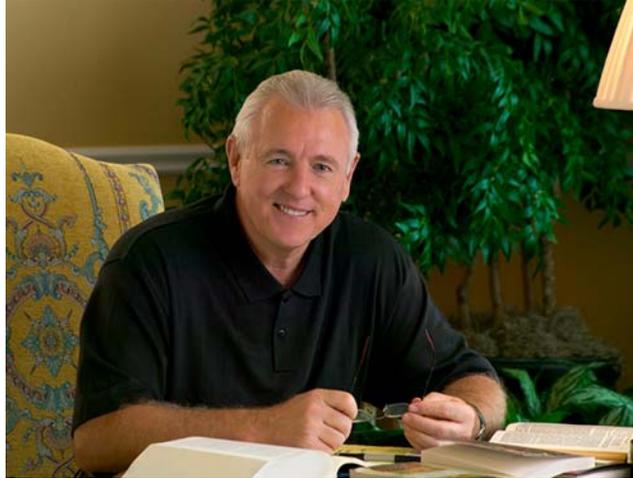
"For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: all will be made comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom of God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power." *1 Corinthians 15:22-2*

Three parts of the First Resurrection

1. Christ: "the firstfruits"
2. The Rapture: "the main harvest"
3. Tribulation Saints: "the gleaning"

III. THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT (vs. 11-15)

1. The Judge: Jesus will be the judge (John 5:22)
2. The Judged: No Christians will be there—only the spiritually dead
3. The Judgement: "Books" may include:
 - a. The Bible
 - b. The book of works
 - c. The book of life



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For the Joy...
Pastor David Dykes