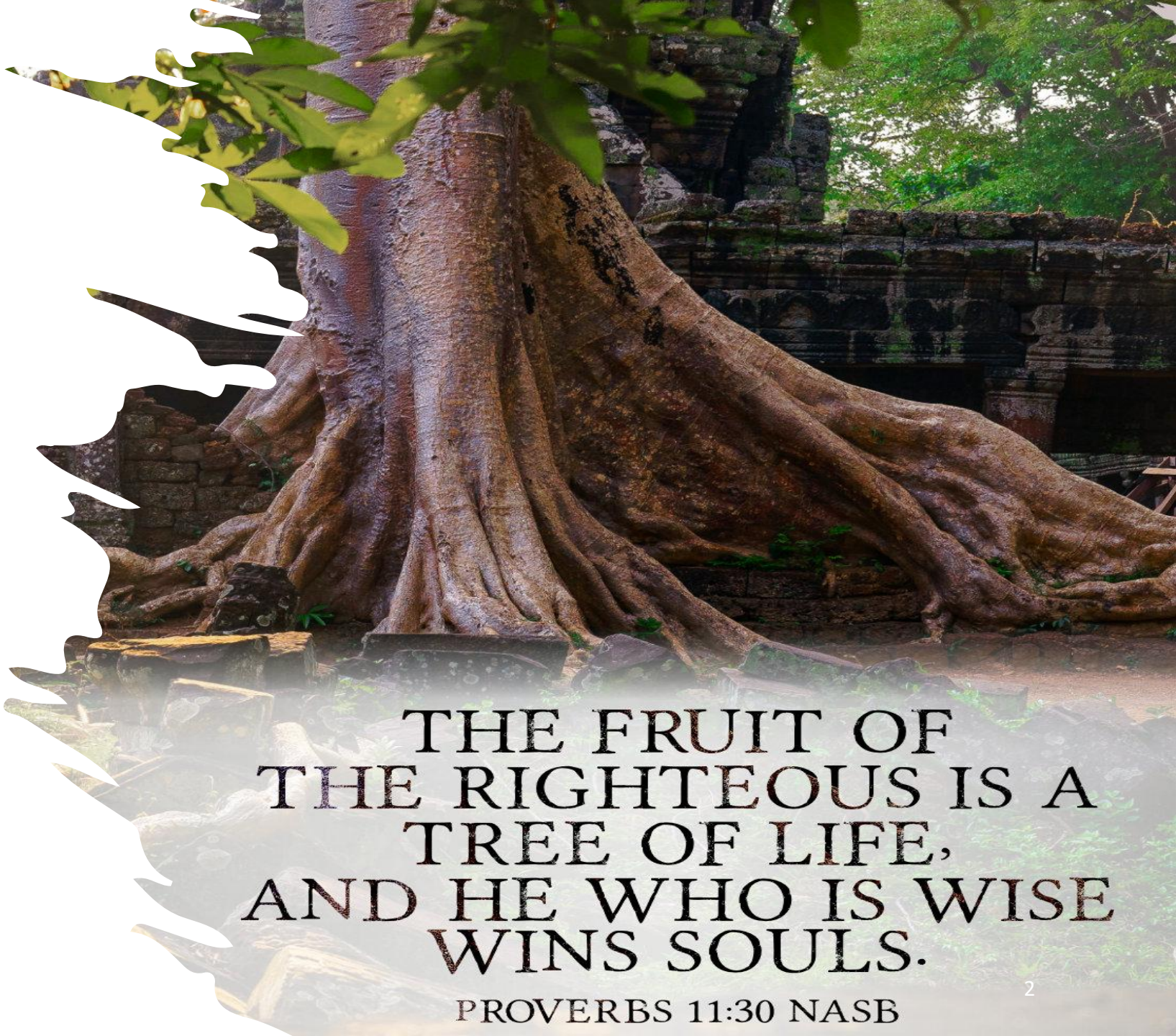
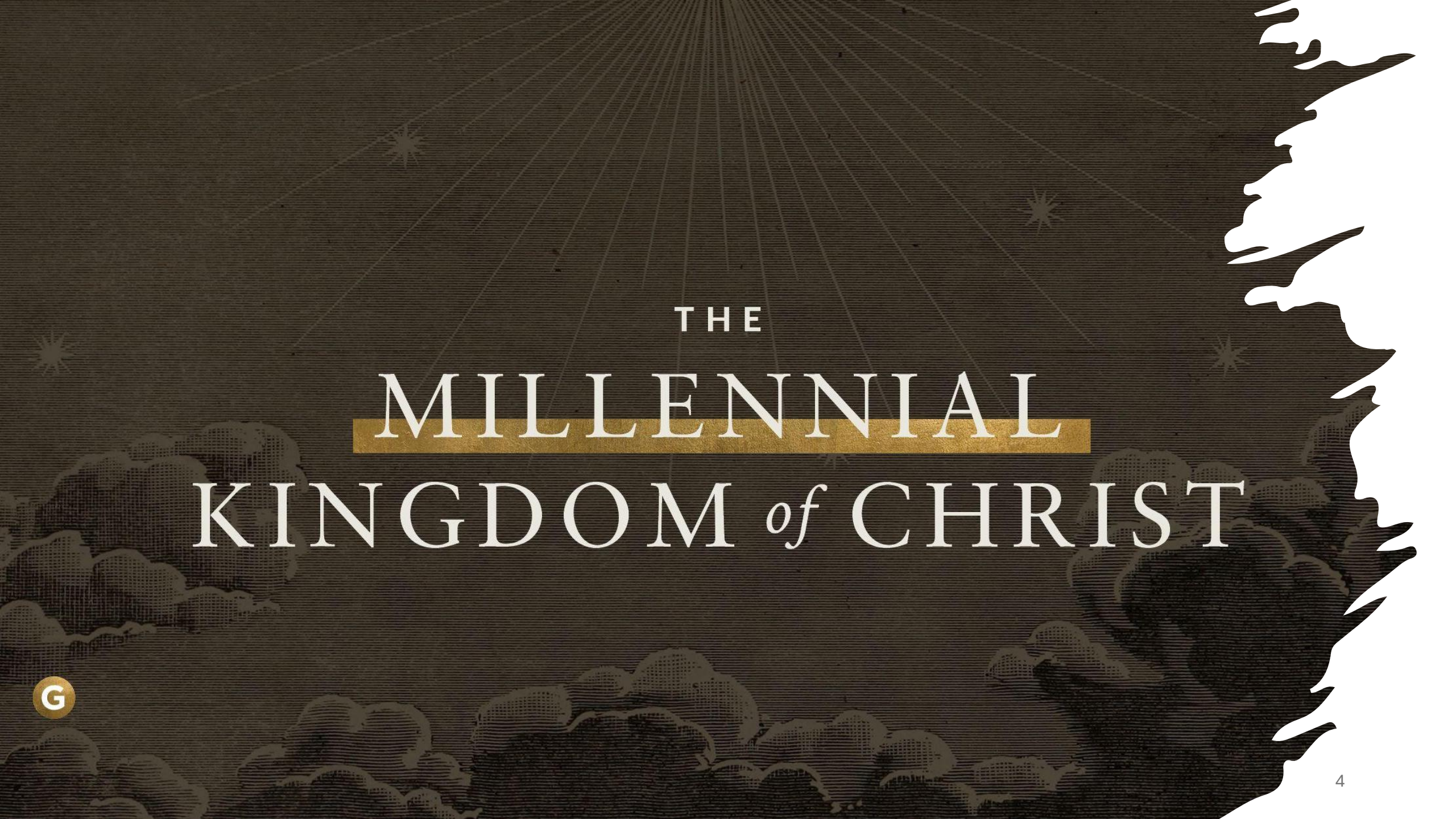
A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM




THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.
PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

PRINCIPLES FOR BIBLICAL *EVANGELISM* FOUND IN JOHN 4, "THE WOMAN AT THE WELL."

- TAKE
  - *TAKE* THE INITIATIVE! JN. 4:6-9
- OFFER
  - *OFFER* GOD'S MERCY! JN. 4:10-14
- IDENTIFY
  - *IDENTIFY* SPIRITUAL NEEDS! JN. 4:9-10
- CONFRONT
  - *CONFRONT* SIN JN! 4:16-18
- REJECT
  - *REJECT* FALSE WORSHIP! JN. 4:19-24
- REVEAL
  - *REVEAL* CHRIST! JN. 4:25-26


THE
MILLENNIAL
KINGDOM of CHRIST

THE *MILLENNIAL* KINGDOM

- ***THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM*** is called by many names in Scripture.
- In **(MATT. 19:28)** ***JESUS*** calls it ***"THE REGENERATION."***
- **(ACTS 3:19)** describes the kingdom as ***"TIMES OF REFRESHING,"*** while **verse 21** of that chapter calls it ***"THE PERIOD OF RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS."***
- The apostle ***PAUL*** refers to it in **(EPH. 1:10)** as ***"AN ADMINISTRATION SUITABLE TO THE FULLNESS OF THE TIMES."***
- But the Bible's teaching on the kingdom is not confined to the New Testament. ***THE KINGDOM IS AN IMPORTANT THEME THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE***; it is the goal toward which ***ALL OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY PROGRESSES.***

THIS IS *WHERE* WE'VE BEEN

- **THE 3 MAJOR VIEWS OF THE *MILLENNIAL* KINGDOM.**

PREMILLENNIALISM, AMILLENNIALISM, POSTMILLENNIALISM.

- **THE *REMOVAL* OF *SATAN.***
- **THE *BINDING* OF *SATAN.***
- **THE *CHRONOLOGY* OF THE *KINGDOM***

- ***THE ARCH ENEMY OF GOD, CHRIST***, and all true ***BELIEVERS*** is called ***"THE DRAGON,"*** a title that emphasizes ***HIS BESTIAL NATURE, FEROCIOUSNESS, AND OPPRESSIVE CRUELTY*** **(CF. REV. 12:3, 4, 7, 9, 13, 16, 17; 13:1, 2, 4; 16:13).**
- The title ***"SERPENT OF OLD"*** hearkens back to the Garden of Eden and Satan's temptation of Eve **(GEN. 3:1–6).**
- The term ***DIABOLOS***, translated as ***"DEVIL,"*** means ***"SLANDERER"*** or ***"MALICIOUS GOSSIP"*** **(CF. 1 TIM. 3:11; 2 TIM. 3:3; TITUS 2:3)**—an appropriate title for ***"THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN"*** **(REV. 12:10).**
- ***SATAN*** is a malignant liar; in fact, he is ***"THE FATHER OF LIES"*** **(JOHN 8:44).**
- The term ***SATANAS***, translated ***"SATAN,"*** and its Hebrew root ***SATAN*** are used **53** times in Scripture. Both words mean ***"ADVERSARY,"*** since ***SATAN OPPOSES GOD, CHRIST, AND ALL BELIEVERS.***

THE *DURATION* OF THE INCARCERATION

- **THE PERIOD FOR WHICH SATAN WILL BE BOUND** is defined as ***"A THOUSAND YEARS"*** **(REV. 20:2),** the first of ***SIX PRECISE*** and important references to the ***DURATION OF THE MILLENNIUM*** **(vv. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).**
- ***SATAN'S BINDING*** poses a serious difficulty for both ***POSTMILLENNIALISTS*** and ***AMILLENNIALISTS***.
- Remember, ***AMILLENNIALISTS*** argue that ***SATAN IS ALREADY BOUND.*** They believe ***WE ARE IN THE MILLENNIUM NOW*** (though they do not view it as one thousand literal years in length).
- Many ***POSTMILLENNIALISTS*** also believe that Satan is presently bound, because otherwise it is difficult to see how the church could usher in the millennium.

- YET THE ***BIBLICAL*** ***DESCRIPTION*** *OF* ***SATAN'S*** ***ACTIVITY*** IN THIS **PRESENT** **AGE** *MAKES IT* ***IMPOSSIBLE TO BELIEVE*** ***HE HAS ALREADY BEEN BOUND.***

1. ***SATAN*** PRESENTLY CONTINUES TO PLANT LYING HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH **(ACTS 5:3).**
2. ***SATAN*** SCHEMES AGAINST BELIEVERS **(2 COR. 2:11; EPH. 6:11).**
3. ***SATAN*** DISGUISES HIMSELF AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT TO DECEIVE PEOPLE **(2 COR. 11:14),** HE ATTACK BELIEVERS **(2 COR. 12:7; EPH. 4:27).**
4. ***SATAN*** HINDERS THOSE IN THE MINISTRY **(1 THESS. 2:18).**
5. ***SATAN*** LEADS BELIEVERS ASTRAY **(1 TIM. 5:15);** AND HE MUST BE RESISTED **(JAMES 4:7).**

- ***AMILLENNIALISTS*** and ***POSTMILLENNIALISTS*** generally argue that ***SATAN*** was bound at the ***CRUCIFIXION***, and that ***HIS BINDING SIMPLY MEANS THAT HE CAN NO LONGER DECEIVE THE NATIONS AND KEEP THEM FROM LEARNING GOD'S TRUTH*** (e.g., Anthony A. Hoekema, *The Bible and the Future.*
- ***BUT SATAN*** did not keep the ***GENTILE NATIONS*** from the knowledge of the truth before his alleged binding at the cross.
- The ***EGYPTIANS*** heard about the true God from ***JOSEPH***, and from the Israelites during the four hundred years they lived in Egypt.
- The ***ASSYRIANS*** of Nineveh not only heard the truth from ***JONAH*** but also repented **(MATT. 12:41).**
- The ***QUEEN*** *OF* ***SHEBA*** heard about the true God from ***SOLOMON*** **(1 KINGS 10:1–9).**

- The ***BABYLONIANS*** from ***DANIEL*** and his Jewish friends.
- The ***PERSIANS*** from ***ESTHER***, ***MORDECAI***, and ***NEHEMIAH***.
- Further, in what sense is Satan restrained from deceiving the nations in the present age, since he blinds the minds of unbelievers **(2 COR. 4:4),** ***"IS NOW WORKING IN THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE"*** **(EPH. 2:2),** and holds unbelievers' captive **(2 TIM. 2:26)** in his kingdom **(COL. 1:13)?**
- The ***TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE*** is that **Satan** is anything but bound in this present age—***BUT HE WILL BE DURING THE COMING EARTHLY KINGDOM OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.***
- It is only then that he will be incarcerated in the abyss, which will be shut and sealed so that his lying influence will be removed from the nations. His activity in the world will not merely be restricted or restrained but totally curtailed; ***HE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO AFFECT THE WORLD IN ANY WAY IN THAT PERIOD.***

- **THE *BINDING* OF *SATAN* WILL END ALL KINDS OF EARTHLY EVIL, BUT IT IS MERELY A PRECURSOR TO *CHRIST'S REIGN*.**
- **THE *MILLENNIAL KINGDOM* IS MARKED NOT MERELY THE *ABSENCE OF SATAN*, BUT BY THE *PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST*.**

THAT'S THE *TRUE BLESSING* OF THE *MILLENNIUM.*

THE *REIGN* OF THE *SAINTS*

SATAN'S work in the world is evident in how he influences unbelievers **(EPH. 2:2; 2 TIM. 2:26)** and blinds them from understanding the truth of the gospel **(2 COR. 4:4)**. But that manipulation—and all his other schemes—will be completely halted ***BEFORE*** the ***MILLENNIAL KINGDOM*** **(REV. 20:1–3).**

Yet this great arrest of Satan and his malignity merely sets the stage for the kingdom, where ***CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH WITH HIS SAINTS.*** This is described in **(REV. 20:4–6)** :

"THEN I SAW THRONES, AND THEY SAT ON THEM, AND JUDGMENT WAS GIVEN TO THEM. AND I SAW THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN BEHEADED BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY OF JESUS AND BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD…"

- *AND THOSE WHO HAD NOT WORSHIPED THE BEAST OR HIS IMAGE AND HAD NOT RECEIVED THE MARK ON THEIR FOREHEAD AND ON THEIR HAND; AND THEY CAME TO LIFE AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.* **5,** *THE REST OF THE DEAD DID NOT COME TO LIFE UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE COMPLETED. THIS IS THE FIRST RESURRECTION.* **6,** *BLESSED AND HOLY IS THE ONE WHO HAS A PART IN THE FIRST RESURRECTION; OVER THESE THE SECOND DEATH HAS NO POWER, BUT THEY WILL BE PRIESTS OF GOD AND OF CHRIST AND WILL REIGN WITH HIM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS.”*

- With Satan, his demon hosts, and all God-rejecting sinners out of the way, the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness will be established. The supreme ruler in that kingdom will be, of course, the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone is ***"KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS"*** **(19:16),** and ***"THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM [ALONE] THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID"*** **(LK 1:32).** Yet He has graciously promised that His saints will reign with Him. They will rule subordinately over every aspect of life in the kingdom, and, being glorified and perfected, they will perfectly carry out His will.
- In this vision, ***JOHN*** sees the panorama of God's people resurrected, rewarded, and reigning with Christ. He ***"SAW THRONES"*** **(REV. 20:4),** symbolizing both ***JUDICIAL AND REGAL AUTHORITY***, and God's people ***"SAT ON THEM, AND JUDGMENT WAS GIVEN TO THEM." THE GLORIFIED SAINTS WILL BOTH ENFORCE GOD'S WILL AND ADJUDICATE DISPUTES.***

- Several ***SUGGESTIONS*** have been offered concerning the ***IDENTITY OF THE SAINTS ON THE THRONES***, but they can best be identified by determining who ***GOD PROMISED WOULD REIGN***.
- **(DAN. 7:27)** promises that the ***OLD TEST. SAINTS WILL REIGN IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: "THEN THE SOVEREIGNTY, THE DOMINION AND THE GREATNESS OF ALL THE KINGDOMS UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE HIGHEST ONE; HIS KINGDOM WILL BE AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM, AND ALL THE DOMINIONS WILL SERVE AND OBEY HIM."***
- ***JESUS PROMISED*** *THE* ***APOSTLES*** that ***"YOU WHO HAVE FOLLOWED ME, IN THE REGENERATION WHEN THE SON OF MAN WILL SIT ON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, YOU ALSO SHALL SIT UPON TWELVE THRONES, JUDGING THE TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL"*** **(MATT. 19:28).**

- ***NEW TEST. BELIEVERS*** are also promised that ***THEY WILL REIGN WITH CHRIST***. In **(1 COR. 6:2)** ***PAUL*** wrote, ***"DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT THE SAINTS WILL JUDGE THE WORLD?"*** while **(2 TIM. 2:12)** declares, ***"IF WE ENDURE, WE WILL ALSO REIGN WITH HIM"*** **(ALSO REV. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10).**
- The next passage introduces the last group of **saints who will reign with Christ** in His kingdom. As his vision continued, **JOHN** ***"SAW THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO HAD BEEN BEHEADED BECAUSE OF THEIR TESTIMONY OF JESUS AND BECAUSE OF THE WORD OF GOD, AND THOSE WHO HAD NOT WORSHIPED THE BEAST OR HIS IMAGE AND HAD NOT RECEIVED THE MARK ON THEIR FOREHEAD AND ON THEIR HAND"*** **(REV. 20:4).**
- These are the ***MARTYRED BELIEVERS*** from the **Tribulation (6:9; 7:9–17; 12:11).** The Greek term for ***"BEHEADED"*** literally means ***"TO CUT OFF WITH AN AXE"*** and is a figure of speech meaning ***"TO PUT TO DEATH"*** or ***"TO EXECUTE."***

The empire of ***ANTICHRIST*** exterminated ***TRIBULATION SAINTS*** because of their ***TESTIMONY OF JESUS.*** **(cf. 1:9; 12:17; 19:10),** because they:

1. ***FAITHFULLY PROCLAIMED THE WORD OF GOD***.
2. ***THEY HAD NOT WORSHIPED THE BEAST OR HIS IMAGE.***
3. ***HAD NOT RECEIVED THE MARK ON THEIR FOREHEAD AND ON THEIR HAND***.