

A PRELUDE TO *BIBLICAL* EVANGELISM

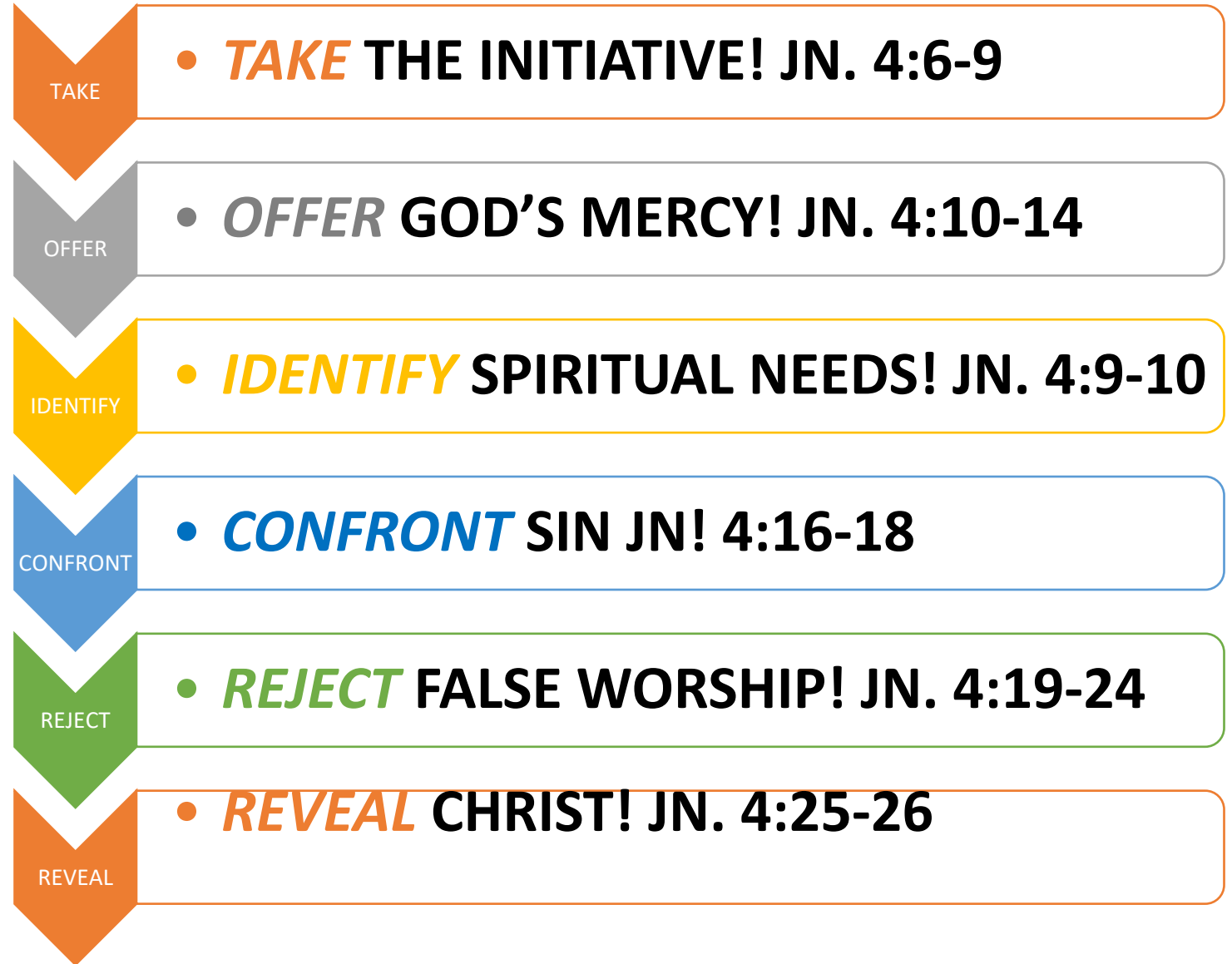




THE FRUIT OF
THE RIGHTEOUS IS A
TREE OF LIFE,
AND HE WHO IS WISE
WINS SOULS.

PROVERBS 11:30 NASB

PRINCIPLES
FOR
BIBLICAL
EVANGELISM
FOUND IN
JOHN 4, “THE
WOMAN AT
THE WELL.”



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.***

COMPELLING **REASONS** FOR INTERPRETING OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES **LITERALLY**.

- **First**, if the literal sense of a passage is rejected, who is to determine what the nonliteral or spiritual sense is, since the normal rules of interpretation do not apply? **WALTER C. KAISER, JR.**, poses the dilemma:
- Who or what will arbitrate among the various **[NONLITERAL]** meanings suggested and decide which are to be accepted as **AUTHORITATIVE**, and which are **FALSE**? Short of saying that every person's fancy is his or her own rule, there does not appear to be any final court of appeal. . . . There simply are no justifiable criteria for setting boundaries once the interpreter departs from the normal usage of language.

- **SECOND**, adopting a **NONLITERAL VIEW** of the Old Testament kingdom prophecies raises some disturbing questions:
 1. What did those prophecies mean to their original addressees? If prophecies seemingly addressed to Israel really apply to the church, did God give revelation that, in fact, failed to reveal?
 2. If those prophecies were meant to apply **SYMBOLICALLY** to the church, why were they addressed to Israel?
 3. What meaning could such prophecies have in their historical settings? Ironically, many who **SPIRITUALIZE** Old Testament prophecies reject the futurist interpretation of Revelation because it allegedly robs the book of its meaning for those to whom it was written. **YET THEY DO THE VERY SAME THING WITH THE OLD TESTAMENT KINGDOM PROPHECIES.**

- **THIRDLY, SPIRITUALIZING** those prophecies leads to some glaring inconsistencies. It is inconsistent to argue that the **CURSES** they pronounce apply literally to Israel, while the **BLESSINGS** they promise apply **SYMBOLICALLY** and **SPIRITUALLY** to the church.
- An example of **INCONSISTENCY** in the **SPIRITUALIZING METHOD** of interpreting prophecy comes from the **ANGEL GABRIEL'S** words to **MARY** in (LK. 1:31–33).

“AND BEHOLD, YOU WILL CONCEIVE IN YOUR WOMB AND BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL NAME HIM JESUS. 32, HE WILL BE GREAT AND WILL BE CALLED THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH; 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 HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END.”

- If, as all conservative scholars agree, **JESUS** was literally conceived in Mary's womb, literally named **JESUS**, literally became great, was literally **"THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH,"** will He not **ALSO** LITERALLY reign on David's throne over Israel?
- Can the same passage be interpreted both literally and nonliterally? Further, both **AMILLENNIALISTS** and **POSTMILLENNIALISTS** interpret some prophetic events literally, such as Christ's second coming, the Great White Throne Judgment, and the new heavens and the new earth. **WHY NOT INTERPRET THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM LITERALLY?**
- Finally, **AMILLENNIALISTS** and **POSTMILLENNIALISTS** interpret the nonprophetic portions of Scripture according to the **LITERAL, HISTORICAL, GRAMMATICAL,** and **CONTEXTUAL** method of **HERMENEUTICS**; why adopt a **different method** for interpreting **PROPHECY**? Such an adoption is utterly arbitrary.

PREMILLENNIALISM

- *THE **NATURAL** CONCLUSION, THEN, IS THAT REVELATION 20 TELLS US OF A **FUTURE** TIME IN WHICH **CHRIST WILL REIGN ON EARTH FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS.***
- The rest of the passage supports this conclusion and can be divided into **4** headings: ***THE **REMOVAL** OF SATAN, THE **REIGN** OF THE SAINTS, THE **RETURN** OF SATAN,*** and ***THE **REVOLT** OF SOCIETY.***

So, for the remainder of this series, we will walk through this passage **VERSE BY VERSE** to understand everything we can about
THE COMING **KINGDOM OF **CHRIST.****

THE *REMOVAL* OF SATAN

- When we think of Christ's kingdom, the first thing that comes to mind is probably the peace or joy we will experience as its citizens. But for that bliss to be possible, *CHRIST MUST DEAL FIRST WITH HIS ENEMIES.*

(REV. 20:1–3) records:

“THEN I SAW AN ANGEL COMING DOWN FROM HEAVEN, HOLDING THE KEY OF THE ABYSS AND A GREAT CHAIN IN HIS HAND. 2, AND HE LAID HOLD OF THE DRAGON, THE SERPENT OF OLD, WHO IS THE DEVIL AND SATAN, AND BOUND HIM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS; 3, AND HE THREW HIM INTO THE ABYSS, AND SHUT IT AND SEALED IT OVER HIM, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT DECEIVE THE NATIONS ANY LONGER, UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE COMPLETED; AFTER THESE THINGS HE MUST BE RELEASED FOR A SHORT TIME.”

- The first matter for **THE KING'S ATTENTION** as He sets up His kingdom is the **confinement** of the **chief rebel**. The removal of **"THE GOD OF THIS WORLD"** (2 COR. 4:4), **"THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR . . . THE SPIRIT THAT IS NOW WORKING IN THE SONS OF DISOBEDIENCE"** (EPH. 2:2), will dramatically change the world. By this time:
- God will have destroyed all **HUMAN MUTINEERS**.
- Those who survived the **TRIBULATION JUDGMENTS** will have been executed at **ARMAGEDDON** (REV. 19:11–21) or the **GOAT JUDGMENT** (MATT. 25:41–46).
- The ringleaders of the worldwide revolt, **THE BEAST** (Antichrist) and the **FALSE PROPHET**, will have been thrown into the lake of fire (REV. 19:20).
- The final step in preparation for **THE KINGDOM** will be the **REMOVAL OF SATAN** and his **DEMON HOSTS**, so that **CHRIST REIGNS WITHOUT THE OPPOSITION OF SUPERNATURAL ENEMIES**.

THE *CHRONOLOGY* OF THE *KINGDOM*

- **AS IT FREQUENTLY DOES IN *REVELATION*** (e.g., 6:1; 7:2; 8:2; 9:1; 10:1; 13:1; 14:1; 15:1; 16:13; 17:3; 19:11; 21:1), the phrase ***“THEN I SAW”*** (REV. 20:1) indicates ***CHRONOLOGICAL PROGRESSION***.
- The location of this passage in the ***CHRONOLOGICAL FLOW*** of Revelation is consistent with a ***PREMILLENNIAL VIEW*** of the kingdom.
 1. AFTER THE ***TRIBULATION*** (CHAP. 6–19).
 2. CHRIST WILL ***RETURN*** (19:11–21).
 3. SET UP ***HIS KINGDOM*** (20:1–10).
 4. WHICH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE ***NEW HEAVENS*** AND THE ***NEW EARTH*** (21:1).

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- Thus, ***THE **MILLENNIAL KINGDOM** comes AFTER CHRIST'S **SECOND** COMING BUT BEFORE THE ESTABLISHING OF THE **NEW HEAVENS** AND THE **NEW EARTH**.***
 - ***AMILLENNIALIST*** like ***ANTHONY HOEKEMA*** has to acknowledge that, taken at face value, ***THE **CHRONOLOGY** OF REVELATION SUPPORTS **PREMILLENNIALISM**.***

- The passage clearly teaches that **CHRIST'S RETURN PRECEDES THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**—a scenario incompatible with both **POSTMILLENNIALISM** and **AMILLENNIALISM**, but exactly what **PREMILLENNIALISM TEACHES**.
- To get around the difficulty which Revelation's chronology poses for their views, postmillennialists and amillennialists must deny that **CHAPTER 20 FOLLOWS CHAPTER 19 CHRONOLOGICALLY**. But such a denial ignores the chronological significance of the phrase **"THEN I SAW,"** as noted above.
- It also ignores the **CONTINUITY OF THE CONTEXT**: Having dealt with Antichrist and the false prophet in **CHAPTER 19**, Christ deals with their evil master, Satan, in **CHAPTER 20**. Why do they **reject** such an obvious **chronology**?
- It is apparently done for no other reason than to eliminate **PREMILLENNIALISM, NOT BECAUSE THERE IS ANY JUSTIFICATION IN SCRIPTURE**.

THE BINDING OF *SATAN*

- **THE *IDENTITY* OF THE ANGEL WHOM JOHN SAW** coming down from heaven to bind Satan (REV. 20:1) is not disclosed, but he may be *MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL* (REV. 12:7; CF. DAN. 10:13, 21; 12:1; JUDE 9).
- Whoever the angel is, he possesses great power. He is sent to earth with a specific agenda:
 1. TO SEIZE *SATAN* FOR THE THOUSAND-YEAR DURATION OF THE KINGDOM, BIND HIM, CAST HIM INTO THE ABYSS AND SEAL IT.
 2. AND THEN RELEASE *HIM* AT THE END OF THE THOUSAND YEARS.

- The term **“ABYSS”** appears **7** times in Revelation (e.g., 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8), always in reference to the **TEMPORARY PLACE OF INCARCERATION** for certain **DEMONS**. The **ABYSS** is not their final place of punishment; the **LAKE OF FIRE** is (**MATT. 25:41**). Nevertheless, it is a place of **TORMENT** to which the demons fear to be sent (**LUKE 8:31**).
- **THE PRISONERS IN THE ABYSS** are among the **VILEST AND EVILLEST OF ALL DEMONS** and include the **“SPIRITS NOW IN PRISON, WHO ONCE WERE DISOBEDIENT, WHEN THE PATIENCE OF GOD KEPT WAITING IN THE DAYS OF NOAH”** (**1 PET.3:19–20**).
- **THOSE DEMONS**, who attempted to corrupt the human race by cohabiting with human women (**GEN. 6:1–4**), will **NEVER** be released (**JUDE 6**). They will be transferred directly from their **temporary incarceration in the ABYSS** to their **permanent place of punishment, THE LAKE OF FIRE** (**CF. ISA. 24:21–22**).

- OTHER **DEMONS** SENTENCED TO THE **ABYSS** WILL BE RELEASED AT THE **FIFTH TRUMPET JUDGMENT TO TORMENT **SINNERS** (REV. 9:1–12).**
- THE **KEY** GIVEN TO THE ANGEL BY GOD (REV. 20:1) SIGNIFIES HIS DELEGATED **AUTHORITY** (CF. REV. 9:1); he has the power to open the abyss, and then to shut it after casting Satan inside.
- THE **METAPHOR** OF BINDING **DEMONS** WITH A CHAIN ALSO APPEARS IN (JUDE 6). This chain is formidable, given Satan’s greatness and power as the highest created being (CF. EZE. 28:14).
- THE **ANGEL** “**LAID HOLD OF**” SATAN (REV. 20:2), who is unmistakably identified by the same **4 TITLES** given him in 12:9.

- First, he is called ***“THE DRAGON,”*** a title that emphasizes ***HIS BESTIAL NATURE, FEROCIOSNESS, 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).