

## **A Glimpse of Life in the Kingdom**

### **Part 1**

**Dick Hill**

*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. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the priests of the Lord; they shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame you shall have double honor, and instead of confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double. Everlasting joy shall be theirs. For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth and will make with them an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation. He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

—Isaiah 61:4–11

There is coming a time when the world will repair ruined cities of the Jews, feed their stock, and plow their fields. The Jews will be named priests and servants of the living God. Instead of shame, they will receive double honor. They will be acknowledged by everyone. Righteousness will spring forth among all nations.

Beginning this short glimpse into life in the coming kingdom of Jesus Christ, I will take a snapshot of the coming new heavens and new earth. The new heavens and new earth spoken of in Revelation 21 and 22 must be compared with the new heavens and new earth mentioned in Isaiah 65. According to Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, they are not the same.

First the new heavens and new earth from Isaiah:

*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying. 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, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; 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. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. It shall come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the Lord. (Isaiah 65:17–25)*

Isaiah 65 is talking about a renovation, a remaking of the old order into a pre-Fall condition. In contrast, John said in Revelation that the old order has completely passed away and a new order has come.

According to Dr. Fruchtenbaum, no Old Testament prophet foresaw the events of Revelation 21 and 22. The new eternal order will be the time following the earthly kingdom reign of Jesus Christ. God gave His prophets a glimpse of the coming kingdom, but they could see no further. The fact that God said, "I make all things new" in Revelation is very significant (Revelation 21:5). Nothing in this life can prepare us to understand the things created in the new heavens and the new earth. The new heavens and the new earth of Revelation introduce the creation of a truly new eternal order.

The difference in the new heavens and new earth of the kingdom versus the new heavens and new earth of eternity can also be seen by the descriptions of the land of Israel. In the earthly new order, Israel will experience a renovation process. Some things will remain the same. Israel in the kingdom will be marked by a time of personal peace and prosperity, building, and planting (Isaiah 65:21–24). There will be guaranteed success in growing food because the effects of the curse will be removed. Life will be characterized by longevity. Death in the kingdom will be for unbelievers only. Everyone who enters the kingdom in the beginning, both Jew and Gentile, will be believers.

Babies will be born to those in physical bodies, and newborns will inherit the sin nature from their parents. Although Satan will be bound, the Adamic sin nature will still be at work in the lives of people. Those born in the kingdom will have one hundred years to believe. If they do believe, they will live throughout the kingdom, never die, and ultimately pass into God's new order (Isaiah 65:20). Isaiah speaks of both life and death in the kingdom. In the new eternal order, there will be no more death (Isaiah 21:4).

Of real significance, the Isaiah passage makes mention of the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. In the new creation of Revelation, however, there will be no more sea (Revelation 21:1).

Isaiah also mentions a newly created Jerusalem (Isaiah 65:18–19). Jerusalem resting on the highest mountain in the world will obviously be new.

*Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and peoples*

*shall flow to it. Many nations 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 will teach us His ways. (Isaiah 2:2–4)*

In the coming new order, a brand-new spectacular Jerusalem will appear, having the glory of God with supernatural light.

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Revelation 21:10–11)*

During the new order, the King will reign from His throne on His holy mountain in a new earthly Jerusalem. His law and His word will go forth throughout the world. The King will judge between people and rebuke nations. The nations shall beat their instruments of war into farming tools. Nations will not be at war with each other. Everyone shall be at home, and fear will be no more.

*And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree and no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the Lord our God forever and ever. (Micah 4:1–5)*

The Lord Jesus will teach and judge. There will be no war. There will be personal peace, security, and prosperity.

### **Satan Bound**

What will life be like in the coming earthly kingdom? First, we must realize that Satan will be chained in the abyss for one thousand years (Revelation 20:3, 7). It should be immediately obvious that the one who has been responsible for all the evil, confusion, war, and destruction is at last chained. What will this world be like without the demonic influence of the evil one? During the millennial kingdom, there will be peace, true peace: people with people, animal with animal, and animal with people. The effects of the curse of the Fall will be removed (Isaiah 65:17–25).

### **Subjects of the Kingdom**

What will people going into the kingdom be like? This has been of interest to all believers in Christ throughout the church age. Paul told the Roman church that we are co-heirs

with God and joint-heirs with Christ if we suffer with Him, and we will (Romans 8:16–18). Believers in every generation are not called from suffering; they are called to suffer. The extent of this suffering will be determined by the sovereign act of a holy God.

Paul said that our present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us. He told the church at Corinth that life in this fallen world is temporary and to be considered a momentary light affliction when compared to the glory that is going to be ours (2 Corinthians 4:16–18). These truths are promised to us with no strings attached.

There are three serious motivations constantly encouraging us to live for our Lord while we are here in this life. The first is that we are called upon to spend quality time in fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ. This fellowship is referred to as “walking by means of the Holy Spirit.” We walk by the Spirit in order to place on display the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:16–17).

Our lives are to reflect the fruit of the Spirit, which makes us like salt, making those who do not know Christ spiritually thirsty to come to the living water that Christ provides. The fruit of the Spirit enables us to become lights pointing the way to Christ. This is why believers are disciplined by God when they are out of fellowship with Christ (Hebrews 12:5–11). God is using us to draw the lost sheep to the Good Shepherd.

A final motivation for us to live a life pleasing in His sight is that we are going to be judged for how we have lived. It is my view that there is a judgment coming that will determine our position in our King’s coming kingdom (Revelation 20:4, 6). It involves the statement that so many use: “Well done, good and faithful servant ... Enter into the joy of your Lord” (Matthew 25:21). The quality of our reign with Christ is being recorded in this life, in particular the use of our spiritual gifts and the carrying out of our work of faith that verifies God’s life in us. Let me explain.