

# "Jesus Rules!"

## *Various Scriptures*

We've been studying prophecy, specifically the future tribulation, otherwise known as the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel. These last 7 years have been paused by God until the anti-Messiah comes on the world scene, becomes a major political player and makes a 7-year covenant with Israel promising to protect them most likely because the world is upset with them.

Why Israel? Because the angel Gabriel told Daniel that the whole plan of 70 weeks of years (490 years) was about Israel and Jerusalem. God has paused His program with Israel since Jesus' resurrection and is focused on building Jesus' church (what Paul called the mystery the prophets never saw in Eph. 3) until these last 7 years. The first 69 x 7 years all centered on Israel and so the last 7 years has to focus on Israel. You can't say the last 7 years isn't 7 literal years and spiritualize it away to say that we've going through this tribulation now, if the first 483 years happened literally. God is consistent. Understand the Bible literally unless God clearly tells us otherwise.

Last week we looked at why Satan doesn't want us to read Revelation, primarily because it reveals his plan for these last 7 years but also his ultimate defeat. If he can keep us uninformed about God's future plans or confused, then more people will be deceived as to the anti-Messiah and Satan's anti-semitic program. Another area of confusion that I spoke about last week was that some Christians believe Revelation is not literal and that Jesus as already returned and is ruling now. That his rule isn't literal here on earth. Let's allow Scripture to help us clarify this.

When Jesus ascended to heaven we read that He is sitting at the Father's right hand, interceding for us (Heb. 7:25). But He's also

## **Sovereignly Controlling All Creation from Heaven**

*Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

Jesus' current rule is He is orchestrating and overseeing the whole world, behind the scenes, without anyone being able to see this

### ***As Co-creator with His Father (Col. 1:16-20)***

John wrote in His gospel that

*John 1:2 He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

The world may seem out of control at times but it is not. Nothing happens without God and Jesus' involvement and direction. Using the sinfulness in the hearts of evil people, God and Jesus are steering the world toward its ultimate conclusion; eternal judgment for the lost and eternal glory for the saved. Saving some along the way, God graciously and patiently gives people time to repent but at some point His patience will end and He will allow the world to be in such a satiation that the anti-Messiah will take advantage of the anti-Israel sentiment in the world to begin his plan to wipe them out. Deceiving them into a 7 year covenant of protection but in the middle of that 7 years he will break his covenant and seek to wipe out all Israel and anyone who believes in the true Messiah, Jesus.

In God and Jesus all things hold together and he is orchestrating to reconcile all things to Himself. *"For from him and through him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever, amen"* (Rom. 11:36).

Paul said this as well in Eph. 1:18

*<sup>18</sup> I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, <sup>20</sup> which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

So is Jesus ruling now? Again at this moment

### ***As Lord and Saviour in the heavenlies (Eph. 1:18-23)***

Jesus is and always will be Lord. Over all the spiritual realm as well as orchestrating the creation. And of course Jesus is our Lord and we submit to His rule as our Lord and Master. So, is Jesus ruling now? Jesus sits at the Father's side where they are sovereignly overseeing all the world and universe and working their plan as Scripture declares. But that doesn't mean Jesus has already returned and that is the extent of His rule, as some claim. Look at Heb. 2:5

*<sup>5</sup> It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. <sup>6</sup> But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" <sup>7</sup> You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor <sup>8</sup> and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. <sup>9</sup> But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

While Jesus is overseeing and orchestrating all of creation towards their ultimate goal, clearly He is not ruling on earth

## **Because the World Has Not Subjected to Him Yet**

Later on, the author of Hebrews writes in Ch. 10:11

*<sup>11</sup> Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. <sup>12</sup> But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins,*

he sat down at the right hand of God. <sup>13</sup> Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, <sup>14</sup> because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

He believes Jesus was in God's presence waiting for Him to rule after having defeated His enemies. So Jesus is waiting too. That makes sense because he Himself said about the time of His return in Matt. 24:36

<sup>36</sup> "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Jesus actually acknowledged that His coming would literally happen on a day, at a specific hour that we don't know yet. And He also said every eye will see Him when He returns. So, how can he be ruling yet? (Rev. 1:7)

In both passages from Hebrews, the author makes reference to Ps. 110, the most quoted OT passage by New Testament authors. It must be pretty important. What does it say?

<sup>1</sup> *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."*

<sup>2</sup> *The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies.*

Jesus used this passage to confront the Pharisees with the Messiah's deity. David is speaking and David says God/Yahweh (LORD) was talking to David's Adonai (Lord). Who was David's Adonia/Lord? The Messiah/Christ and God says he will rule from Zion until His enemies are His footstool. The Pharisees understood the passage is about the Messiah but were unwilling to admit it.

So Ps. 110 is only one of many places that say that

## **Jesus Will Physically Rule from Jerusalem When He Returns**

***Exactly as promised (Micah 5:2; Is. 9:6-7, etc)***

It's November now so it's okay to talk about Christmas. Let's allow Scripture to speak for itself:

*Mic. 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

<sup>3</sup> *Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.*

<sup>4</sup> *He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.*

<sup>5</sup> *And he will be their peace.*

Israelites will return to the land of Israel in the future, especially just prior to or early in the tribulation because there is a promise of security. But the Messiah will return to Israel and defeat His enemies and rule from Israel. If we believe in this literal prophecy about His birthplace we must believe He will rule from Israel as it says.

*Is. 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

Government. David's throne and kingdom were earthly. Jesus will rule from that time on and forever. What an interesting phrase. If this is talking about eternity only, and not the millennium, why would there be a need to exercise justice and righteousness when there is no sin? And will there be a need for government in eternity?

Let's not stop there. Let's go to another familiar Christmas passage:

<sup>30</sup> *But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."*

Remember, Gabriel is speaking. The same Gabriel who gave us the end-time framework of the 7-year tribulation and the promise of Israel's salvation from a terrifying beast one day. The Lord God will give Him the throne of David (in Jerusalem) and He will reign over the house of Jacob – Israel. And His kingdom will never end – ah, ha, eternity, right? No, it just says once He takes His rule over David's throne that no one will ever usurp Him, 'from that time on and forever'. Because if this is the millennium, and it is 1000 years as Rev. 20 says, we know that Satan will be released after being locked up for those 1000 years, attempt to overthrow Jesus but fail and is tossed into the lake of fire. Then the white throne judgment. Then the new Jerusalem comes down. '*From that time on*' [His earthly 1000-year rule] *and forevermore*'.

And if we look at Acts 1 when Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives to heaven where the angel said 'He will return exactly as you saw Him leave' with Zech. 14 which says when he returns His feet will touch down on the Mount of Olives, saving Israel from annihilation and establishing His rule from Jerusalem.

During this reign on earth, Jesus will rule

***With absolute authority (Is. 11; Rev. 19)***

Isaiah 11:3-5 describes how Jesus will rule:

*He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;*

<sup>4</sup> *but with righteousness, he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

<sup>5</sup> *Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

If Jesus is reigning now from heaven, why are we not seeing justice? Why is there war anywhere? Why is sin not being dealt with? Isaiah said this is what His rule will look like, here and in Is. 9:7. When Jesus returns according to Rev. 19 we read,

<sup>11</sup> *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. <sup>13</sup> He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. <sup>14</sup> The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. <sup>15</sup> Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He*

*will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. <sup>16</sup> On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

I believe the Bible when understood literally teaches that Jesus will physically return to this earth and rule from Jerusalem for 1000 years. At this time people will live longer, in peace and justice. But it is still on this earth and sin will still exist and some will still not submit to Jesus, even though He is clearly Lord. I believe Jesus and His Father are in control of the world now, and working out their plan for the world and for you and me. There are two more reasons why I do not believe we are in the millennium now and Jesus is already ruling and I get that from the communion table.

First, in Rev. 19:6-10 we read **just prior to Jesus’ coming** that we (the church, the bride of Christ) are enjoying the wedding supper of the Lamb. That clearly hasn’t happened yet. Then we read about Jesus’ return in victory in v.11-16.

Second, the apostle Paul commanded us to keep the Lord’s supper “until He comes”

*1 Cor. 11:26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

If Jesus has already returned to earth and there is no millennium then why are we still taking communion? The biblical evidence for a physical and literal return of Jesus to a physical and literal time on this earth, in which every eye will see Him, is overwhelming. We are still awaiting His return to establish His rule on earth that will last 1000 years, as Scripture teaches.

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If you have any comments or questions about this passage please contact us  
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