

Conclusions

By Fernando Castro-Chavez

Remember that: 1) we are now with Christ, 2) having citizenship in the real and heavenly Israel, 3) fully participating “from the covenants of the promise”, and 4) filled with hope and 5) with God in the world (Eph. 2:12). Because we are “the Israel of God” (Gal. 6:16), and we are the sons and daughters of Abraham, fully participants in the promise, that “the promise may be certain for all the seed, not only to those of the law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham—who is the father of us all” (Rom. 4:16b), because “those who are of faith, the same are sons of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7b), and we are of faith, hence sons of Abraham, hence participants of the promise God gave to Abraham, “so then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the *man* of faith” (Gal. 3:9), “in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham come to the Gentiles” (Gal. 3:14a), because “the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed... which is Christ” (Gal. 3:16), because God granted the inheritance to Abraham based on the promise and not in the law (Gal. 3:18), “now if you are Christ’s, then are you Abraham’s seed, heirs according to promise” (Gal. 3:29).

The pattern is clearly seen when we recognize that seven of the nine manifestations we have today were also available in the Old Testament, which means that indeed we have all the good things that were available and promised in the past, as well as better and higher things today, that even when temporary, are fully useful for our powerful walk and life of today, until the day they will be replaced with something better (like the current speaking in tongues, being surpassed in the future by the unity of language, like angels or humans before Babel), or they will be fulfilled giving way to something bigger, as the literal Passover lamb was replaced by the literary ‘Lamb’, which is Christ Jesus; or like the water baptism of John that was surpassed by the baptism of holy spirit and fire brought by Christ.

The amazing thing is that those blessings and promises to Abraham include being and owning the land of the earth, so now we are the legitimate recipients of those promises, and the legal owners of the land of the earth! Because the just will inherit the earth! In Christ we are the legal inheritors of this earth!

We are going to be always safe with him, being protected by Him, even when these old heavens and earth pass away: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will absolutely not pass away” (Mt. 24:35, Lk. 21:33), “the world [cosmos, the whole universe!] that then was [before Gn. 1:2], having been inundated with water, perished [nobody survived in this first and global cataclysm]. But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word [of God] have been reserved for fire [almost all human traditions recall that the first world perished drowned by the waters, and that this one is going to perish by fire!], being kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men” (2 Pe. 3:6b-7), “I saw a great white throne, and him who sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away, and there was found no place for them” (Rev. 20:11), “the day of the Lord will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Seeing that all these things are to be destroyed in

this way, what sort of people do you need to be in your holy manner of life and godliness as you wait for and earnestly desire the coming of the Day of God, because of which the heavens, being on fire, will be destroyed, and the elements, will melt with the intense heat? But, according to his promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwells righteousness” (2 Pe. 3:10-13). God established the earth forever, He says so in the O. T.; however, in the same way as in the days of the flood of Noah, at that time the surface of the earth will be completely consumed, the waters of the ocean evaporated by fire, giving way to a renovated or New Earth in which justice is its trademark with no more global rebellions!

As said before, the only thing that provides meaning to all our belief is the resurrection of Jesus Christ; without this, we have nothing! Because he was resurrected, we also are going to live again when he will come for us, because we are the members of his body of immortal siblings and eternal collaborators. We are going to be forever wherever he will be!

“Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, for a meeting with the Lord in the air, and in this manner we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:17).

Jesus Christ walked resurrected over this earth during forty days in whose he did teach, cook, eat, and moved very fast from one place to another, etc. This was his example of the glory awaiting us, a demonstration of what we are going to be able to do in our immortal bodies when we will walk among the mortals in this earth. That was certainly an anticipation of his coming Kingdom; in general, his whole life was an annunciation of the coming Kingdom, as he himself declared: “I am a king. For this purpose I have been born, and for this purpose I have come into the world, that I should testify concerning the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice” (Jn. 18:37b).

With these articles I just wanted to open the streams of living water related to our love, faith and hope for you to enjoy. Their purpose is for you to be filled with the joy to know our blessed hope, the spiritual tools from God, and the brotherly love to comfort and edify believers, and to visualize the infinite array of wonderful things and benefits related to our eternity! The information that I did learn related to this has been so striking to me that I wanted to elaborate even more my introductory observations for your benefit, in order for you to be capable of standing on my shoulders and, if possible, to see at a longer distance.

Read the Bible by yourself, thinking it carefully and acutely and God will reveal His hidden wonders to you. This happened to me. The Word of God itself is going to show you His hope, which is a living reality. This work pretends to raise your interest in these subjects so vital, and to keep the hope on high within our minds, which will encourage us to do our best in this earth, as if our works were done unto God and not to men, for the day to receive our recompenses at the Tribunal for rewards or *Bema* of Christ: “knowing that your labor in the Lord is not in vain” (1 Cor. 15:58b). We need to carefully study the promises of God for us related to the coming Kingdom, in which we are going to be reigning with Christ.

“This is the promise that he promised us, eternal [aionion] life [the life *in the Age to come*]” (1 Jn. 2:25).

This is the topic that we can explore in detail day after day to fill our souls with the hope that keep us moving, that keep us going. It is a living topic full of novelty, and of things that will not be completely

revealed until that day when they are going to be closer and closer to happen, like those, still secret, thunders: “when he [another strong angel] cried, the seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders uttered *their voices*, I was about to write, and I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Seal up the things which the seven thunders uttered, and do not write them”” (Rev. 10:3b-4). That there is information still sealed within the revealed Word of God is a major reason to search diligently and to read everything related to our hope, and related to the future of the holy humanity announced by God since the time began. That’s why it is important to read everything related to it, and what God did manifest to other holy men and women through the ages, carefully evaluating every statement, and comparing it with the Word of Truth, as each one of us, or any “Ministry” as a group on this earth, only knows “in part”: “we know in part, and we prophesy in part” (1 Cor. 13:9). Check carefully everything, every small reference, every quotation... they may hold some keys to understand. Do careful studies of words, of word by word and of their original text, and how they are used in each book of the Bible. Have a file where you may store related Scriptures from the whole Bible to have a clearer and clearer image of what are we able to perceive today about our eternal future.

“Listen, my beloved brothers, did not God choose the poor of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” (Jam. 2:5).

It is very motivating when a new gem of a verse is discovered in the Word of God, or when a new facet of an ancient verse is found, it is a treasure to our souls! So you yourself need to dig in it in order to find such so valuable treasures! And, of course, the spirit of God in you will guide you to find them for the rejoicing of your soul! Holy men of the past had written abundantly about it and we can learn a lot from their spiritual and intellectual perception, as far as we receive those words, like the new believers at Berea that received “the word [that Paul was preaching] with great willingness, examining the Scriptures daily, *to see* whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11b). Do not depend completely on any one group or any one individual’s studies, teachings, or research as the only source for your information. An enlargement of your knowledge may be reached by searching multiple sources, while the fullness of the Revelation available to us by God will most widely be appreciated only if it is in agreement with the Scriptures of the Bible. Remember that the apostles of Jesus were twelve and that Peter wrote that some things that Paul wrote were hard to understand, and that the superficial and the inconstant men, fed by their carnality, were keen to twist and distort to their own gain, but also to their own damning.

But remember, for the spirit of God manifested by His saints, in accordance to the rest of the Scriptures found in the Bible, there is no law! For that reason it is so vital to read and re-read all the Scriptures of the Bible: “I stir up your sincere mind by way of a reminder, that you should remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the Lord and Savior through your apostles” (2 Pe. 3:1b-2), “to write the same things is not tiresome to me, while for you *it is* a safe *measure*” (Phil. 3:1b).

There is not a 100% perfect expositor; and because we only know in part and only prophesy in part, you need to search the Scriptures directly by yourself, to analyze critically the Biblical research of others related to this and to any other subject, and make up your own mind with the intelligence that God provided to you. We need to remember that the holy spirit of prophecy goes beyond any human rule of

grammar, or of “biblical interpretation”, frequently having meanings and meaningful immediate and remote applications to texts and contexts. So, do not allow yourself to be encased in an “only one unique interpretation” for your understanding of the things of the Bible. We can constantly see that God Himself is editing His earlier revelations to give them new and rich meanings according to the current circumstances. Please, break down any and every mental barrier that may be hampering you to see the full picture of all those things that God has to offer to you now, and forever! Again, as we already saw, the best example at hand is the application to the speaking in tongues by Paul (1 Cor. 14:21-22a) to the words written in a different context by Isaiah (Is. 28:10b-12). Being always open to new understandings and meanings for the old and well known verses, in fully agreement with the rest of the Scriptures and with the Word of God that the gift of holy spirit within you will show you; and this is only possible because the Word of God is a living Word!

Another example in the same direction was when Isaiah was telling to one of the kings of his nation to seek for specific details related the birth of the son of a specific young woman that that king knew, as antecedents of victory over the enemy nation, a statement that by the spirit of prophecy dwelling within Matthew the apostle, and overruling any later academic conditioning related to the “to whom it was spoken”, he saw in the same passage, guided by God himself, the prediction, that none of the previous scholars of Israel saw before, of the birth of Jesus: “All this took place so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet was fulfilled, saying, **Behold, the virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel**” (Mt. 1:22-23a).

My sharing for the congregation is that the spirit of prophecy within us overrides legalistic ‘educational’ rudiments such as the: “To Whom It Is Written”, as the writings of Paul and the rest of the apostles, evangelists and believers, demonstrate time after time. Things spoken to people in the past can be re-applied, edited and improved by God’s spirit within us for a greater and bigger meaning without contradicting anything else genuinely revealed by God at any time in history.

These examples indicate that we need to leave behind any preconceived human rule, or regulation or human doctrine, no matter the prominence of the expositor, in order to arrive to the presence of the Word of God the most unbiased as it is possible for human beings. This also requires a certain degree of tolerance when reading, investing time and a willing heart, also to the works of other holy men and women of God, as all of them still are knowledge “in part”; so their studies maybe imperfect, but also maybe wrapping a valuable treasure of understanding and divine inspiration and we do not want, due to the rudiments of the rationalizing of our Biblical research, to lose important revelations already given. Remember that even the rudiments of the speaking in tongues, of prophecy, of the current knowledge will be unnecessary, will disappear or be replaced for better things at the coming of Christ for us!

Born again believers were doing bad and very bad things in the first century, to the point that the apostle made very clear that they will not lose salvation but that they certainly were losing all their recompenses, see for example: “let each one be careful how he builds... the fire itself will test each one’s work, *and show* of what kind it is... If anyone’s [bad] work is burned, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Cor. 3:10b,13b,15), “to deliver such a one to the Adversary for the ruin of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:5), “some, having

thrust away, have shipwrecked their faith, of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to the Adversary, that they might be taught not to blaspheme” (1 Tim. 1:19b-20). It seems that Hymenaeus and Alexander believed in Jesus as Lord, but then they started doing and teaching extremely bad things, to the point that Paul delivered them to the Adversary for the ruin of their flesh: “that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus”! And, as we saw before, the same happened in the most extreme way to Ananias and Sapphira, both died for lying to the spirit of God dwelling in Peter (Acts 5:1-11)!

“[God] wants all people to be saved and to come to a full knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). God, like us, has desires that He alone can not accomplish without our help; for example: He “wants all people to be saved”! But, as He respects the free will of every one, He can not save them if they don’t desire to. And because God wants us to have “a full knowledge of the truth”, this, our given part, is enough in the eyes of God to be for us our “full knowledge of the truth”! We need to tell others about this marvelous truth, but neither us or God, are capable to make them believe out of their free decision, they need to decide for themselves!

For example, talking about different levels of salvation according to the understanding or will of humans, we see that it is written of the Gentiles: “When Gentiles who do not have *the* law do by nature the things of the law, these, not having *the* law, are a law to themselves, since they demonstrate the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their reasonings accusing or else excusing one another” (Rom. 2:14-15). The next Scripture written before also has a general application for the nations: “[God] **will repay each person according to his works**: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and incorruptibility—life *in the Age to come*. But to those who are selfishly ambitious, and refuse to be persuaded by the truth but are persuaded by unrighteousness—wrath and indignation” (Rom. 2:6-8). Thank God that we, the ones that belong to Christ, are saved by grace and not by works. And one more, from the lips of Jesus, with application to the Gentile nations that did not know the Bible, and to the Hebrews that knew it: ““And that servant, who knew his lord’s will, and did not make ready, nor did according to his will, will be beaten with many *stripes*, but he who did not know, and did things worthy of stripes, will be beaten with few *stripes*. And to whomever much is given, of him will much be required, and to whom they commit much, of him will they ask the more” (Lk. 12:47-48).

These scriptures show the amazing reality that there are different promises to different people in the Bible: to the born again Christians God promises that they are going to heaven during the time of the events described in the book of Revelation (7 years), then to return to defeat the Antichrist, and to establish the one thousand years Kingdom of Christ. To the believers of the O.T., mostly from the Hebrew nation, God promised that they are going to be raised from the dust to enter immediately to the Kingdom of Christ. Because of the Gentile Balaam's prophecies (who said: "I behold him [Jesus], but not near", Nm. 24:17), and of the future restoration of Gentile countries, it seems that the hope for the gentiles of the past that were good and/or obeyed, is that God will rise them up from the dust. God really wants everybody to be saved, but each one according to his hope in God’s Mercies. Thus, the hope for the Christian is in clear contrast to the hope for Israel and to the hope for the gentiles.

Another Gentile that will be raised from the dust to see God face to face is Job! “For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this *I know*, that in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. *How* my heart yearns within me!” (Job 19:25-27).

The events after our return to earth with Christ to defeat the Antichrist, and to imprison Satan, include the selection of good and just gentiles to enter the Kingdom, and the exclusion of the bad gentiles outside of the Kingdom.

Very extremely sadly, events confronting Paul and Peter at Galatia (Gal. 2:10-21) are still a living reality today due to our human carnality. I write to my fellow brethren in Christ that our spirit is not bound, going beyond carnality and divisions of the precious body of Christ, by speaking in tongues for every born-again believer on earth today, in disregard of divisions, being those geographical or ideological.

The day will come in the future when immortals will be walking among mortals to offer an immediate and free salvation and the transformation of the bodies of those who believe, presenting them immediately in front of the throne of God.

After the 1,000 years of the Kingdom of Christ, Satan will be released from his prison. Only the fire from heaven sent by God, while His son Jesus Christ is on earth with his saints, will be capable to defeat all those innumerable humans opposing Jesus by following Satan. Satan himself will be taken to the lake of fire with sulfur where the diabolic spirits that possessed the Antichrist and the false prophet will be.

In earlier chapters, I mentioned briefly some of the principles for Biblical understanding and research. However, when dealing with prophecy and the apostolic ministries of our calling, I must say that I was surprised to see that those rudiments of ‘*kindergarten*’ does not necessarily apply at all when we are walking and thinking guided by the spirit of God. For example, all those words related to the future Kingdom directed by God and spoken by his prophets in the past, in the Old Testament, even when initially were given “to” Israel, “for” our learning, now, because Israel rejected their own legitimate king and leader, Jesus Christ, God his father decided to open the doors of the offer to everybody else willing to accept the free salvation as offered today in this age of grace.

Think about this, being Jesus Christ the legitimate inheritor to head that Kingdom, and being us today, the members of his body, of his congregation or Church, while at the same time we have the promise of being the joint-heirs with Christ, meaning that any legal right that Jesus has to the Throne of Israel for ever, we also have it within us! And we have all of that just by accepting by grace the Lordship of Jesus, and by receiving his gift of holy spirit.

Today we are fellow-citizens and co-participants of all the promises that God has done in the past, including the promises given to Israel! We, the born again believers, coming from all over the world, and mostly from any imaginable gentile nation, we are the rightful and more than genuine rulers of the future nation of Israel and of the world for ever and ever! Always remember that right now we have the promise that wherever Jesus is going to be in the future, we will be also with him, for example, right there, ruling at the center of the precious City that will descend from heaven!

“We shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thess. 4:17b-18).

Of course, these words are some of the most comforting words ever written. So, while a rebellious and evil nation or individual is, and will keep, trying to obtain a global dominion of the world, pleasing men and not God, with even still worst and the most devastating and deceiving consequences for the planet as explained in the Apocalypse (the book of Revelation), and in other books of the Bible, we, the born again believers, even without doing anything related to the current and disgusting situation of lies and deceptions of such current corruption in the world, we are going to inherit all the glory, and power, and dominion, for ever and ever! And exactly as Jesus Christ, we will rule, govern, and have domain, but also exactly as he, we will serve and love!

So, the fact of discovering Biblical truths by myself just by doing a careful reading of the Scriptures and an unbiased reading of related writings of faithful men of old, a process that should continue until my end. This is revealing me the same and very simple truth held by the first century apostles: that the eternal dwelling of the born again Christian is not going to be heaven forever, but only a brief station there (and the astounding possibility of future travels at will through the whole heavens), and that then, even God Himself, His Holy City and His Throne, are moving here to dwell forever over the New Earth, inside the Holy City, and that from here, presumably to rule the rest of human affairs, and the rest of the angelic hosts, and of the rest of the universe.

I asked God with tears in my eyes that I wanted to know Him! And this request needs to continue always, directed directly to Him without relying fully on any men or human group or institution.

The eternity that is waiting to us did blow my wildest thoughts, forcing me to bend in awe at the presence of a most wonderful reality in the future! A reality worth living now, and because of our recompenses of particular benefits, possessions and privileges for the thousand years, every smallest action and thought in the current earth and body of us, will certainly have a tremendous consequence for our good or lack thereof in the life to come.

“Godliness [that living and personal relation with God] is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come. This statement is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance” (1 Tim. 4:8b-9). And I repeat this again, every small and apparently insignificant thought or action in this life, will have serious consequences for the outcome of our recompenses or their lack in the life “which is to come”. “The will of God, which is in accord with the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 1:1b), and this is the Will of God, that we will live with godliness, a thing “profitable for all things”!

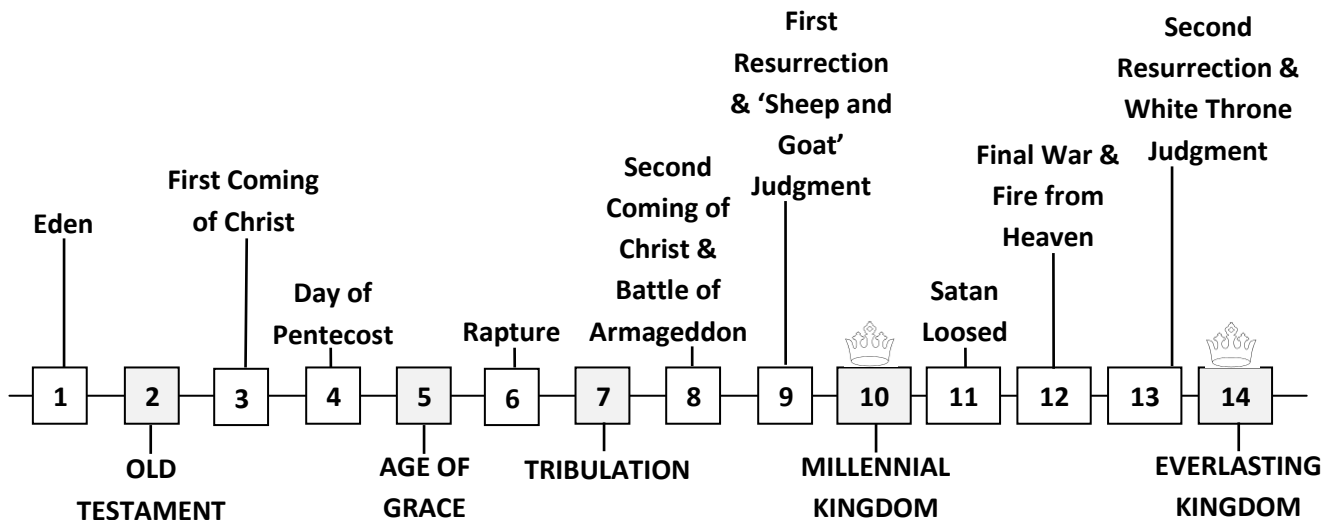
To the general believer, the same thing is told: “And this I [Paul] keep praying, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, in order to determine the things that are best, so that you may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, being filled with the fruit of righteousness, which *is* through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God” (Phil. 1:9-11). The prayers of Paul were for the Philippians to make their love to grow “still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”! And that’s exactly why I also decided to write these chapters, and also to grow in “all

discernment". It is God Himself who wants us to take the right decisions, why? "In order to determine the things that are best". We are saved by grace, but we need to still do always the right things, for our recompenses! So that we may be "pure and blameless until the day of Christ"!

"Now he who plants [the evangelist] and he who waters [the pastor] are one, but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow-workers [the freely committed ministers], you are God's field, God's building [the new believers not yet committed to be laborers]" (1 Cor. 3:8-9). This is very interesting because it talks about specific and different recompenses for the committed laborers of the body of Christ, as "each will receive his own reward according to his own labor"! These, we learn, are going to be recompensed at the *Bema* of Christ, "the judgment seat of Christ", "for we must all be exposed before the judgment seat of Christ, in order that each one may be repaid for the things *done* by means of the body, according to what he has made a practice of doing, whether good or worthless"! (2 Cor. 5:10a), in the day of Christ (see next paragraph). The amazing thing is that we, even when we want to simply share with others about the greatness of the Word of God, we are the direct collaborators of God! "You are serving the Lord Christ. For he who does wrong will be paid back for what he did wrong, and there is no respect of persons" (Col. 3:24b-25). We are serving our Lord and not ourselves or an earthly group or leader; we also need to remember that this was written for us, the believers living in the age of grace!

"Watch yourselves, so that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may receive a full reward"! (2 Jn. 8).

Finally, I leave for your personal studies and for your consideration, a brief and oversimplified chronogram of God's purpose of the ages (source: Schoenheit, 2004):¹



¹ Credits: Image taken from: Schoenheit, J.W. Appendix A. Events Important to Understanding the Hope (p. 179). In: *The Christian's Hope: The Anchor of the Soul*. Christian Educational Services. 2004. 287 p. <http://www.truthortradition.com/book7/>