

The Old Testament describes a time of blessing unheard of at this time. There will come *times of refreshing, times of restitution of all thing*. These times will come when *God shall send Jesus Christ*, Acts 3:19-21. At that time the Messiah, Jesus, the Christ shall reign in his promised everlasting Kingdom. *This stem of Jesse shall judge with righteousness the poor and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked*. The carnivorous animals and the venomous snakes *shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain*, Is 11:1-11. *Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem*, Isaiah 2:2-4. *In that day the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever*, Daniel 2:44. *The nations shall not learn war any more. But God's people shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. And the LORD shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever*, Micah 4:1-8.

These passages of Scripture describe the leading up to and the beginning of the Theocratic Kingdom of God, the Millennium. That there will be a glorious Messianic Age is the indisputable subject of prophecy in both the Old Testament and the New.

The Lord's people look for the Lord Jesus' return from heaven when they shall be resurrected from among the dead, and the creation be delivered, as Paul wrote to the Romans, *For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body*, Rom 8:22,23.

Notice again these two O. T. passages. First Jer 23:5,6. *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS*.

And Dan 7:¹³*I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. ¹⁴And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed...*²¹*I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; ²²Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom...*²⁷*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him*.

These two passages, along with Rev 19 and 20, plainly teach that the 1000 years reign will not come until Christ Jesus comes again the second time.

But how did John come to understand what he wrote in Rev 20? Did he receive it from the Jewish rabbis? We answer, yes! Of course he received it from God, but this was the teaching and expectation of the Lord's people in the O. T. times. 2Tim 3:16 says, ¹⁶*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.* And 2 Pet 1:20,21 says, ²⁰Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, ²¹Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Let us look at Rev 20.

In verses 1-3 the binding of Satan is revealed to John.

In verse 4-6 John tells us of the judgment and resurrection of the tribulation saints and the first resurrection.

In verses 7-9 we have the loosing of Satan and the final rebellion of Satan and Gog, after 1000 years.

Verses 10-15 reveal the doom of Satan, the establishment of the Great White Throne, the resurrection and judgment of the wicked in the lake of fire.

The binding of Satan. John observes *an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*