

## Episode #443 The Final Stages 1 – The Thousand-Year Parousia of Christ

I. We have considered the reality of the coming Kingdom of God on earth. We have considered that this Kingdom comes to earth by the pouring out of the Spirit in the “last days.” This kingdom ends with a great test of all who are on earth, a test which results in many who fail participating in a revolt against the kingdom. The Lord Jesus Christ puts down this revolt when He returns to earth. This is followed by the topic of today’s study: the thousand-year presence of Christ on earth called the “Parousia.”

II. There is not much information in the Bible about the stages of God’s plan that follow the Tribulation Period and the revolt against God’s kingdom. Yet it contains some information on these last three periods, and we will examine what we can find out about them in this series.

III. Facts about the Thousand Years.

- A. Many call this “The Millennium,” but this is man’s name for it emphasizing its length. The Bible calls it the Parousia.
- B. Parousia has been poorly translated as “Coming.” This was probably to support the childish view held in the Middle Ages that Christ’s “second coming” was to snatch His people away to heaven, send the wicked off to hell, and then destroy the world. This unbiblical idea could be maintained by translating Parousia as “Coming.”
- C. The Greek *parousia* means “to be present,” but there is another word that also means this, *pareimi*. Parousia has a technical meaning of being present because of who you are and what you do: an official presence. That is why the disciples could ask the Lord about His Parousia when He was already present with them: Matthew 24:3. They obviously had no idea He was going to leave them at all: John 13:33, 36-37.
- D. How does the Parousia differ from the premillennial kingdom period that precedes it? The premillennial kingdom will be a time so glorious it is largely beyond our comprehension. The glorious thousand years follow up on this with a few exceptions that make it even more glorious. One of them is Christ’s personal presence!
- E. We will examine the specific glories of the Parousia mostly from Revelation.

IV. Revelation 19:19-20:6. The start of the Thousand Years.

- A. Verses 19-21. The final battle between the forces of Satan and Christ results in a slaughter of Satan’s forces. The beast and false prophet are captured and thrown alive into the lake of fire for their ignominious end. The rest are destroyed by His word.
- B. Revelation 20:1. Satan is imprisoned in “The Abyss” until the day of judgment. How is someone like him held? II Peter 2:4. “Cast them down to hell” = *tartaroo*, “Tartaros-ized.” Tartaros in Greek mythology was a prison for the gods. God uses this word to mean a prison for heavenly beings. (Adam’s race at death enters Sheol until the day of judgment.) Chains of darkness = imperceptible bonds.
- C. Verses 2-3. Our first great difference between the Thousand Years and the premillennial kingdom of God. During the kingdom, Satan is free. For the Thousand Years, Satan is bound, and can no longer work his schemes.
  - 1. We should not get carried away, though. The might of Christ’s power overwhelms Satan in the kingdom, Genesis 3:15. “Bruise” Hebrew *shuwph*, overwhelm. Satan will be like a drowning man with the waves washing over him. But for the Thousand Years he is bound.

2. Satan does at last get his feet under him at the time of the revolt. Matthew 13:24-25; 37-39. He secretly gets a foothold that leads to the test period. But during the Thousand Years, he has no such opportunity, for he is bound.
- D. Verse 4. Who is “they”? Verse 19:19: Christ and His army. The souls who passed the kingdom test by giving their lives for Christ are raised and reign with Him during the Thousand Years.
- E. Verse 5. This is the “first resurrection” in the day of the Lord. There is one previous to the day of the Lord, however. Greek is “former” resurrection, of these two.
- F. Verse 6. These are the “overcomers” of the Tribulation Period. They are promoted, not just to be subjects of the kingdom, but to reign with Him. Another change in the Parousia: many who did not reign before are promoted to reign with Him then.

#### IV. Matthew 13:40-43. More about the Parousia.

- A. Verse 40. Interpreting the parable of the wheat and the tares. “End of this age” is the Greek *sunteleia tou aionos toutou*.
1. *Sunteleia* does not mean just “end,” but consummation. A courtship can “end” in a breakup, but it only consummates in a marriage. A pregnancy can “end” in a miscarriage or abortion, but it only consummates in a birth. This is the consummation of the eon, not the end of it.
  2. Age is *aionos*, better translated “eon.” It means an outflow, and in this case refers to the great outflow of God we call the kingdom of God. The premillennial kingdom does not end: it consummates in the Parousia.
- B. Verse 41. At that consummation, the Son of Man sends out messengers to gather “things that offend.” But “things” cannot offend. These are things that cause offense, like the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Then those who practice lawlessness. With all things that cause offense and all people who practice lawlessness removed, we can imagine that the Parousia will be like the Garden of Eden with no Tree of Knowledge! Even Satan will be bound. There will be no sin or death at all!
- C. Verse 42. All these things and people will be destroyed in a furnace. Wailing stands for great sorrow and gnashing of teeth for great regret. This will be on the part of those who are cast out.
- D. Verse 43. The result is the righteous will shine forth, their light unmixed with darkness. From time to time in the premillennial kingdom one might sin and be cut out. Never will this happen in the Parousia! None but the righteous will remain on earth. No sin, no death will mar the perfect condition of things then.

V. Conclusion: we have seen differences between the premillennial kingdom of God and the thousand-year Parousia of Jesus Christ. Christ will be present on earth, rather than ruling from heaven. Satan will not just have his power overwhelmed by God’s greater power: he will be chained in prison and unable to act. Many who pass the kingdom test will be honored by joining Christ in reigning in the Parousia. All things that cause offense and all people who practice lawlessness will be removed, so the earth in the Parousia will be like the Garden of Eden with no Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The earth will have gone from great to even better. May that glorious time come soon!