

Christ's
Second Coming
and the
Millennium

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

All are looking forward to Christ's 2nd Coming thinking it will be a time filled with great joy. The Millennium will follow and everyone will be called and just about everyone will be eager to obey God. It will be a time of happiness and peace such as the world has never known or will it? Let's open our Bibles which is the sure word of God to see if this is what will indeed happen.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In the minds of many religious people who have spent some time reading the Bible, there is the belief that Christ will come a second time and a wonderful time of peace, safety, security, abundance and joy will follow.

For those of us who have been exposed to the teachings of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), we know that its teachings were that Christ was coming back in power and glory as King of kings and Lord of lords to rule over the nations of the world with His resurrected saints. Christ would take over the governments of this world and a worldwide educational campaign would be initiated to teach mankind the true value by which it should live. Just about everybody would become converted and full of zeal to obey God.

So, let's see what the Bible tells us about the time of Christ's Second Coming and the Millennium to ensure we have a correct understanding of just how these events will take place, the mood of the nations at the time of Christ's Second Coming and what will be the conditions that will exist during the Millennium and why.

Let's get started.

Focal Point of the Bible

It is essential to know that the Bible's focus is on the nation of Israel. In the Old Testament (OT) it was the physical nation of Israel and in the New Testament (NT), it is the spiritual nation of Israel. The OT nation of Israel was a physical nation. They were the descendants of Jacob whose name God changed to Israel. Israel had 12 sons and they became the 12 tribes of Israel who collectively were known as the nation of Israel. One became part of this physical nation by being born into it. The ancient nation of Israel was under the Old Covenant and was never given access to the holy spirits of the God family; it remained unconverted. Their worship of God was through repetitive, physical and symbolic offerings. The time of its conversion will occur following the events of the Great Tribulation.

The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman became a man born of woman for the purpose of living a perfect sinless life, suffering and dying on the stake to become the holy spirit God the Father's perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind upon repentance and belief. On the day of Pentecost, the holy spirit God the Father began calling men to salvation and those who followed their calling became chosen and were given access to the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches God's the Father's called and chosen ones, all things.

Those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are from the nations of the world and they worship God in spirit and in truth. Their conversion is a change in attitude from being hostile to God to wanting to obey Him as best they can in all things. This change in attitude is invisible to others; it is not possible in a given crowd of people to determine who, if any, among them are truly converted Christians. The truly converted live invisibly among the unconverted of the nations of the world. Being invisible to the world and to each other, they will not be found in large organizations of men claiming to be true representatives of God. They will be by themselves or in small scattered groups as sometimes, it is possible to get to know some of the other truly converted Christians.

Until Christ's Second Coming God the Father is only calling those who had been predestinated to be called from the foundation of the world. When the Millennium begins, all men will be called and given an opportunity for salvation. Those who follow their calling and remain faithful become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel. By the time of the Great White Throne Judgment, all men who have ever lived will have been called and given the opportunity to choose life by following and remaining faithful to their calling or to choose death by refusing their

calling. By the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind, all of mankind from Adam and Eve to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment will have been given the chance to become part of God's spiritual, New Covenant nation of Israel. In the end, there will be only 2 categories of people: those who are spiritual Israelites and those who are not.

The focal point of the Bible is always Israel, first as a physical nation, then as a spiritual nation. Becoming part of God's spiritual nation of Israel is what makes salvation possible.

Christ's First Coming

Since Israel is the nation God is working with and through which His master plan of salvation for mankind will be accomplished, Christ came to it at the time of His First Coming.

We learn that not only did He come to Israel but only for them.

Mat 15:22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

Mat 15:23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

Mat 15:24 But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

Ancient Israel was God's church in the wilderness.

Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Act 7:38 This is he, **[Moses]** that was in the **church in the wilderness** with the angel **[God the Word]** which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

We have to be careful to understand that the word "church" simply denotes a type of group, in this case, one that was to obey God. All those who have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are part of God's Church. The word "army" represents a different type of

group, one whose mission is to wage war. The word church does not always specifically refer to a collectivity of people who wants to obey God. Satan has his group of followers which the Bible refers to as being the synagogue or church of Satan. OT Israel never was able to obey God though called to do so but was still the group or church chosen by God in OT times.

Jer 7:23 But this thing commanded I [God] them, [Israel] saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

In NT times, the assembly, synagogue or group of people who constitute His church is no longer a specific physical nation but a spiritual one whose members are from the nations of the world.

Eventually, God separated Himself from physical Israel but He will choose it again.

Jer 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which **backsliding Israel** hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

Jer 3:7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

Jer 3:8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery **[idol worshiping]** I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot **[idol worshiping]** also.

Jer 3:9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and **committed adultery with stones and with stocks.** **[Idols]**

Jer 3:10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, **[pretended to]** saith the LORD.

Jer 3:11 And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.

Jer 3:12 Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.

Jer 3:13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

The God of the Old Testament was the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. He spoke to Israel initially through Moses who was His prophet to Israel then, after Moses' death, through other prophets.

Num 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a [vision](#), and will speak unto him in a [dream](#).

Num 12:7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.

Num 12:8 [With him will I speak mouth to mouth](#), even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

With Moses, He spoke mouth to mouth but with all the others, He spoke to them in visions and dreams.

This is further confirmed in the following verses of the book of Hebrews:

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

The fathers here are those of OT Israel and God spoke to them by prophets with whom He communicated in dreams and visions as we have just read in Num 12:6.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

In the last days which started with Christ's First Coming to OT Israel and the day of Pentecost, God no longer speaks to the never converted OT nation of Israel. He speaks by His Son to those making up His spiritual nation of Israel, those called, chosen and faithful. God the Father's Son is the glorified Christ who now sits at the right-hand of God the Father.

God is no longer sending men to be His prophets. A prophet in religious terminology is one who speaks on behalf of God to God's nation to give it a message he has received from God for them. Basically, a prophet is someone speaking on behalf of someone else. A prophet of God is someone who speaks on behalf of God but the Bible also speaks of other men who are also prophets but who do not represent or speak on behalf of God, the prophets of Baal.

1Ki 18:19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

They were the false prophets of a false god which were killed as commanded by Elijah, a prophet of God, who exposed them as not being prophets of the one true God.

1Ki 18:40 And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.

Heb 1:1 makes it clear that in the last days in which we live, there are no men that are being used by God as His prophets to communicate with His spiritual nation of Israel. It is God the Word and Spokesman, one of the holy spirit of the God family, who teaches all things to the holy spirit God the Father's called, chosen and faithful, His New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel, His NT Church.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

This is fully explained in the Preamble to this study and I would refer you to it if you are not already aware of how this is done.

Heb 1:1 makes it clear that God's Church is spiritual as it is being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is the glorified Christ after His resurrection and ascension to His Father. This means that there cannot be any physical organizations of men who can be considered to be God's one true Church. God's Church and spiritual nation is wholly being built by God not men. Please see the following study for a full explanation this topic: [God's Church is spiritual](#)

Of importance to this study is also knowing that God's spiritual nation is God's little flock and why that is.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Christ referred to His disciples and all those who would become converted through the ages as being a little flock, not large organizations of men visible to the world owning big multi-million dollar estates on which sits luxurious buildings and with a ministry paid huge salaries and benefits from the money they take from those who follow them.

Why would God's flock or church be the little flock?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

As previously stated, all of mankind will have been called by the end of God's plan of salvation but being called is not the same thing as becoming converted. Being called is the first part of the process. Upon being called, God places before us a life and death decision. Will we come out of the ways of this world and submit to Him or will we ignore His calling and decide to remain in the world. Christ tells us that is the many who will reject their calling and the few who will commit themselves to obeying God. They were called but not chosen because they decided to stay in the world.

What about those who do follow their calling? Will they all remain faithful? What is Christ's warning to them?

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereto:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Christ urges all those called and chosen to be careful how they will treat their calling because “.....wide is the gate and broad is the way that lead to destruction.....” This is the way of compromising God’s truth with the ways of the world. It is maintaining a foot in the world and a foot in the church. They want the salvation offered them by God but without completely forsaking their previous beliefs and habits which they now know to be sin.

Christ tells us that it is the many who choose to enter into God’s church by taking the broad way because “.....strait is the gate and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life.....” Salvation requires abandoning all our previous unconverted beliefs and ways which are contrary to God’s law. It is not possible to serve 2 masters.

Mat 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

Mat 6:20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Mat 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

Mat 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Mamon is a word that refers to wealth and avarice, a love of money. The basic message is that it is impossible to serve 2 masters; one or the other will always become dominant in our lives. By the same reasoning, it is impossible for a truly converted Christian to half-heartedly follow Christ as he will, in most instances, gradually return into the world, again become spiritually blind and lose his salvation.

According to these Scriptures which apply to God's whole plan of salvation, we should then realize that there will never be a time when the world will be filled with deeply converted true Christians except for a few obstinate individuals who will refuse to submit to God when called.

With this information in mind, we are now ready to look at what will happen at Christ's 2nd Coming, how the world will react to it and the state of the world following His Second Coming.

Christ's 2nd Coming

Most Christians, whether of the many different Christians denominations of the world or members of God's one true Church, are greatly looking forward to Christ's Second Coming. They believe it will lead to a worldwide time of peace, safety, freedom from disease and prosperity. They think a wonderful new world will come into being that will be like heaven on earth as Christ and His resurrected saints take over the governments of this world. It is further thought that all those living during the Millennium will become and remain converted except a very small number of really stubborn individuals.

Let's start by reviewing what will be the world conditions at the time of Christ's Second Coming?

Jer 25:30 Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against **all the inhabitants of the earth**.

Jer 25:31 A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for **the LORD hath a controversy with the nations**, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.

Jer 25:32 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.

Jer 25:33 **And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth:** they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Jer 25:34 Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow your-

selves in the ashes, ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel.

Jer 25:35 And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape.

Jer 25:36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture.

Jer 25:37 And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the **fierce anger of the LORD**.

Jer 25:38 He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for **their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger**.

In the book of Revelation or of the Apocalypse, we are given more information on the events that will occur before Christ's Second Coming. There will be a martyrdom of God's saints (Rev 6:9-11) which will be followed by a great earthquake and extraordinary events in the sky (Rev 6:12-14).

Rev 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: **[These are God's saints who were killed from the day of Pentecost to the time of the 5th seal.]**

Rev 6:10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

Rev 6:11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. **[God tells them to rest for a little while until those who should be killed as they were during the coming time of tribulation should have occurred.]**

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the **sixth seal**, and, lo, there was **a great earthquake**; and the **sun became black as sackcloth of hair**, and the **moon became as blood**;

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. [The stars of heaven here are meteors that fall to the earth; the smallest star is bigger than the whole earth.]

Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Terrifying events take place in the heaven (the sky we see when we look up) and the earth is so shaken that the mountains and islands are violently displaced.

What will be the reaction of those who will then be alive and witness those extraordinary and terrifying events leading up to Christ's Second Coming?

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Rev 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

People will be so scared that they will ask for the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the wrath (anger) of the Lamb (God the Word who became Jesus-Christ). When the heavens are rolled up as a scroll (Rev 6:14) the people will see God the Word who is sitting on the right-hand side of God the Father (Heb 8:1; 10: 12).

Rev 6:17 For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

There is a time of great wrath coming from God upon the nations of the world. The events of the 6th seal are but an introduction to the much greater catastrophes that are to strike the earth and its inhabitants. After the opening of the 6th seal [the signs in the sky] there is a pause. It is the time when God's servants (those called, chosen and faithful who are then alive, God's church) are sealed with the seal of God. This seal is put on them to spare them from the suffering, destruction and death about to come over the earth as we enter into the 7th seal which is the Day of the Lord; the time of the wrath of the Lamb or of God the Word.

Rev 7:2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the **servants of our God** in their foreheads.

Those who are sealed are God's faithful servants who are then alive. They are God's Church which God will protect during the Great Tribulation.

The 7 Trumpet Plagues

In the 8th chapter of the book of Revelation, we have the opening of the 7th seal and continuation of the events which had been stopped while God's servants were sealed.

Rev 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Rev 8:7 The **first** angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and **the third part of trees was burnt up**, and **all green grass was burnt up**.

Rev 8:8 And the **second** angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and **the third part of the sea became blood**;

What John saw in the vision given him and that he described as being “....a great mountain burning with fire.....” is what today we would call a huge meteor entering the earth's atmosphere and partially burning up before smashing at great speed into the sea. Its impact will cause 1/3 of the animals in the sea to die as made clear in the following verse.

Rev 8:9 And the **third part of the creatures** which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the **third part of the ships were destroyed**.

In addition to causing the death of 1/3 of marine animals, 1/3 of the ships will be destroyed by the massive wave that will be created by the meteor striking the sea.

Rev 8:10 And the **third** angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters;

Rev 8:11 And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and **the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter.**

One third of the freshwater lakes and rivers of the world become poisonous after having been struck by another meteor called by John “..... a star from heaven burning like a lamp....” and many will die drinking from them.

Rev 8:12 And the **fourth** angel sounded, and **the third part of the sun was smitten**, and the **third part of the moon**, and the **third part of the stars**; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

Rev 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, **Woe, woe, woe**, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

The last 3 trumpets are called woes (troubles). Please read all the verses of the 9th chapter of the book of Revelation to better understand my comments regarding the following verses.

Rev 9:1 And the **fifth** angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

This is the first woe.

The star here is not a physical star but an angel. The bottomless pit is a place where Satan and his demons were imprisoned. The angel sets them free and God forbids them to hurt the environment and any of the men who have the seal of God on their forehead.

Rev 9:4 And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but **only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads.**

Rev 9:6 And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

It is a time when God will allow Satan and his demons to make the unconverted of the world so miserable that they will want to die but they will not have the courage to cause their own death to escape their torment (great physical pain or mental anguish).

Rev 9:11 And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon.

The Hebrew word “Abaddon” and the Greek word “Apollyon” mean: the destroyer. This destroyer is Satan the devil. Now the second woe begins.

Rev 9:13 And the **sixth** angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

Rev 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

Rev 9:15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for **to slay the third part of men**.

Rev 9:16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: **[200 million men]** and I heard the number of them.

There will be a time of war which will result in 1/3 of mankind dying (Rev 9:15). Now, we come to the final and 7th trumpet of the 7th seal of the Apocalypse or book of Revelation which is the 3rd woe.

Rev 11:15 And the **seventh angel** sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

This is the time when Christ replaces Satan on the throne of the earth. Satan is a spirit being and Christ is the holy spirit God the Word. Satan's rulership was by his power to influence (nor force) men to do evil.

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past **[before your conversion]** ye **[who are now converted]** walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the**

spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [The unconverted of the world.]

Satan's rule over mankind is very real yet invisible even to the point where, for most people, Satan and his demons do not exist.

Christ's rulership when He takes over the throne of the earth, will also be invisible. He is now the holy spirit God the Word and as a spirit being is invisible to the world and His rulership like Satan's will be by His ability to share thoughts from His mind to the minds of the holy spirit God the Father's called, chosen and faithful. Christ's rule will be through the minds of those called, chosen and faithful. It will not be something visible to the world. This understanding will help us to correctly understand what will be the physical and the spiritual state of the world during the Millennium.

After the sounding of the 7th trumpet, Christ (God the Word, the Lamb of God the Father) begins sitting on the throne of the earth and the following events take place in heaven.

Rev 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev 11:17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, [This is the holy spirit God the Word] which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.

Christ's second coming is about to occur but when He comes He will be filled with wrath towards the unconverted nations of the world. It is also the time when the resurrection of God's saints to immortal, glorified spirit life will take place. They will constitute the Bride of Christ. They are God's saints from the days of Adam and Eve to Christ's 2nd Coming.

In the 15th chapter of the book of Revelation, we find out what also happens at the blowing of the 7th trumpet and why it is called a "woe."

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for **in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

The pouring out of the last 7 vial plagues is found in chapter 16. I have quoted the whole chapter and I have underlined all the resulting destruction.

Rev 16:1 And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out **the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth.**

Rev 16:2 And **the first** went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a **noisome and grievous sore** upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image. **[The unconverted.]**

Rev 16:3 And **the second angel** poured out his vial upon the sea; and it became as the blood of a dead man: and **every living soul died in the sea.**

Rev 16:4 And **the third angel** poured out his vial upon **the rivers and fountains of waters;** and they became blood. **[Everything in them died.]**

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.

Rev 16:6 For they **[The unconverted.]** have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy.

Rev 16:7 And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.

Rev 16:8 And **the fourth angel** poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.

Rev 16:9 And **men were scorched with great heat**, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.

Rev 16:10 And **the fifth angel** poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and **they gnawed their tongues for pain,**

Rev 16:11 And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

Rev 16:12 And **the sixth angel** poured out his vial upon the great **river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up**, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

Rev 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits **[devils]** like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, **[Satan (Rev 12:9)]** and out of the mouth of the beast, **[The head of the reconstituted and final resurrection of the holy Roman Empire]** and out of the mouth of the false prophet. **[The pope that will then be alive.]**

Rev 16:14 For they are **the spirits of devils**, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 16:15 Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Rev 16:16 And **he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.**

Rev 16:17 And **the seventh angel** poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, **It is done.**

Rev 16:18 And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great.

Rev 16:19 And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.

Rev 16:20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

Rev 16:21 And **there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent:** and men blas-

phemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great.

A talent weighs between 75 and 88 pounds depending on the different sources of information on the matter. Whatever may be the precise weight there is no doubt that this hail will be highly destructive.

The pouring out of the last 7 vial plagues brings to an end God's wrath.

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having **the seven last plagues**; for **in them is filled up the wrath of God.**

In the book of Revelation, there are a lot of symbols and figurative language being used whose clarification would greatly lengthen this document. My suggestion to the reader is to go to the following web site where you will find booklets by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), the former Pastor General of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), where the book of Revelation is explained.

I would recommend the following booklets: *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last, The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, Who or What is the Prophetic Beast? Who is the Beast?*

Simply click on the following link and you will be taken to the web site: [Herbert W Armstrong Searchable Library](#)

My goal in going through the 7 trumpet plagues of the 7th seal of the book of Revelation and of the 7 vial plagues of the 7th trumpet is to give the reader an understanding of how tumultuous and scary will be the time leading up to and after Christ's Second Coming. There will have been planet-wide destruction of parts of the forests, fields, sea, rivers and lakes and of the animals in them and there will be wars between the great nations of the earth which will cause the death of millions of individuals and great misery to the survivors.

The Great Tribulation

The 7 seals of the book of Revelation and the 7 trumpet plagues of the 7th seal is the time referred to in the Bible as being the Great Tribulation.

Mat 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Mat 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

It will not be a time when people will be filled with joy at finally seeing the long awaited Second Coming of Christ. They will not be falling on their knees in fervent prayers of thankfulness to God that finally Christ has returned as promised to bring what they think is peace to the world. As we have seen, they will be so scared that they will ask for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them. The nations will not understand the meaning of the supernatural signs they will see in the sky (the events of the 6th seal) which is the beginning of the events leading up to Christ's 2nd Coming. Their comprehension of these events will be that of unconverted people who cannot understand God's holy Bible. Their only possible reaction will be to be terrified.

The Great Tribulation is a time of anger and destruction. The first part of the Great Tribulation occurs as the result of the wrath of Satan. He has been ruling on the throne of the earth since the fall of Adam and Eve and he is filled with great wrath knowing that his reign is about to end.

Rev 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon [Satan the devil] fought and his angels, [His demons]

Rev 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Rev 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea!** for **the devil** is come down unto you, **having great wrath**, because he knoweth that he hath **but a short time**.

The second part of the Great Tribulation begins with the Day of the Lord which starts with the opening of the 7th seal and lasts until the pouring out of the last 7 vial plagues.

Christ's 2nd Coming

During the events of the Day of the Lord, Christ's 2nd Coming will occur. The popular belief is that He is coming back to the world to usher in a time of peace among the nations and to bring salvation to the masses.

Let's see what the Bible tells us about who Christ is returning to at His Second Coming and why.

Zec 14:1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

Zec 14:4 And his feet **[Christ's feet]** shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Christ is coming back to the physical nation of Israel not to the world.

When God spoke to ancient Israel from Mount Sinai, the people feared greatly and thought that they would die if they stayed and listened.

Exo 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the **mountain smoking**: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Exo 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but **let not God speak with us, lest we die.**

So, Moses told them, that in the future the LORD will speak to them by a prophet who will be raised up from among them which is to say, their descendants.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, [will be an Israelite] like unto me; [Moses] unto him ye shall hearken;

Deu 18:16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, **Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.**

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

Deu 18:18 I [God] will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, [Will be an Israelite] like unto thee, [Moses] and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Christ is an Israelite of the tribe of Judah begotten or conceived by the holy spirit God the Father and born as both fully God (His father was God) and fully human (His mother was Mary).

Who is that prophet to speak to?

Peter and John were going into the temple. They saw a man lame from birth asking for alms. Peter stopped and healed him. The people saw it and gathered around Peter and John. They were Israelites and here is what Peter told them.

Act 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; **[The LORD here is Jesus Christ as made clear in the following verse. He will be present among them not the world; He will be sent to them, physical Israel.]**

Act 3:20 And he [God the Father] shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you **[Israel]:**

It was preached to them by the prophets that God had sent to their forefathers.

Act 3:21 Whom **[Christ]** the heaven must receive **[must remain in heaven]** until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The restitution or restoration of all things are the truth God had sent to Israel by His prophets and which they had always rejected.

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, [Ancient Israel (Deu 18:15)] A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, [Will be an Israelite] like unto me [Moses]; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

When this prophet comes to Israel it will be the time when Israel will be called and salvation will be offered to them which is also the time of the making of the New Covenant God promised He would make with them.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. [Will not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel.]

Christ, at His Second Coming, is returning to the modern day descendants of OT Israel to complete His ministry to them which was cut off after 3 1/2 years. It was to last one week or 7 days which in fulfillment is a year for a day. There then remains another 3 1/2 years of Christ's ministry that has to be completed.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Christ will spend 3 1/2 years teaching Israel and at the end of His ministry, there will be the making of the New Covenant. Not all of Israel will enter into the New Covenant; in fact, most of them will not.

Why?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

And of those who do follow their calling, it is the few who remain faithful until the end of their lives.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

In other words, it is the many of the few who are chosen who will enter into the New Covenant by the wide gate which is the way of compromise with the world. They will not want to fully abandon their former beliefs which they will then know to be sin while obeying God in other matters. They will not fully commit to obeying God in all things to the best of their ability. They lose their salvation. It is the few of those called and chosen who will be faithful.

There will be no massive nor lasting conversion of the nations following Christ's Second Coming even though all will be called. It should be remembered that being called is not the same thing as being converted. It is only a first step which has to be followed by a lasting commitment to obey God which as we have just seen is something that few maintain.

This is the way it has been since the day of Pentecost and for those of us who have been part of the WCG, it should be evident that it is not the many who remain faithful. This became very evident after the death of HWA and the great ease with which the false prophets changed the doctrines of the church and how the many followed them into the several new false churches of God.

With this knowledge in mind, we are now ready to make our way into the Millennium.

The Millennium

After Christ's 2nd Coming, everybody will be given access to the holy spirit God the Father. This we know by the following Scripture:

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

The holy spirit God the Father is the only one who can call men.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Those who follow their calling then become chosen and are then taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [The holy spirit God the Word] whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Joh 14:28 Ye have heard how I said unto you, **I go away, and come again unto you**. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Christ after His death on the stake, resurrection, glorification and ascension to His Father would come again to His disciples on the day of Pentecost. He was the Comforter who was **with** them and who after His ascension to His Father would be **in** them.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that **he may abide with you for ever**;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth **with** you, and shall be **in** you.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.**

Christ as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman would come back and be in the disciples and it would teach them, and all truly converted Christians throughout the ages, **all things** as we have just read in Joh 14:26.

This has been the way God has been making salvation possible since the day of Pentecost. And, as we have seen, of the many called, few are chosen because they refuse to follow their calling and of the few who follow their calling, few remain faithful. Would this be any different during the Millennium?

Will there be a massive conversion of mankind with only a few not remaining faithful to their calling?

Will God change the administration of His plan of salvation during the

Millennium to make it easier for people to become and remain converted? Will Christ and His resurrected saints take over the governments of this world, embark on a worldwide educational campaign to teach the nations the true value by which they should conduct their lives?

Will the nations become deeply converted and filled with great zeal to obey God in all things as best they can? Will the Millennium be a foretaste of the Kingdom of God?

Let's spend some time examining what the Millennium will be like.

We know that preceding Christ's 2nd Coming and after, there will be much destruction of the environment and of human and animal life which will end with the pouring out of the 7 vial plagues which brings to an end God's wrath.

Rev 15:1 And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.

If you will recall what happens during the Great Tribulation as described in the first part of this study, you should realize that when the Great Tribulation ends, the earth will have been devastated, its animal and human population greatly reduced and the environment will have suffered much destruction. The earth and humanity will then enter a time of renewal and healing which is a process that will take place over many decades.

The Physical Environment

God's intervention during the Day of the Lord will be through His power to control what we call the forces of nature or the weather.

The earth's climate or weather is controlled by the unbreakable physical laws set in motion by God at the time of the creation of the heaven and of the earth. The physical universe is God's creation and is maintained in existence by the power of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Col 1:15 Who [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [to glorified, immortal spirit life by a resurrection from the dead] of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

This present physical universe is kept in existence until the time comes for it to be dissolved by the same power who created it and replaced by a new heaven (universe) in which there will be a new earth.

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The present heaven (universe) and earth were created by the holy spirit God the Word who created all things and how did He do it?

Psa 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

He spoke it and it was done.

The universe and the earth reflect the very nature of God who is alive and eternal. It is self-sustaining and would endure forever as created but for the actions of men which often lead to environmental disasters as they pursue what is right in their sight. Nature or the environment always return to its originally created state when men cease their often well-intentioned but environmentally destructive practices. When left undisturbed by men's actions, the environment gradually and unfailingly returns to its originally created state.

A relatively recent example of nature being able to recover on its own even from a great natural disaster is the example of what happened after the eruption of Mount Saint Helens in Washington. The area was thoroughly destroyed but over the years has been recovering and in time will go back to its original state.

The Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument serves as both a memorial to the 1980 eruption and a place for ongoing scientific research. Visitors can see the remains of the eruption, as well as learn about the processes that continue to shape the landscape. It also provides an opportunity for people to witness the resilience of nature as the area continues to recover.

Overall, the eruption and the ongoing recovery of Mount St. Helens serve as a reminder of the immense power of natural

forces, but also the incredible resilience of the planet's eco-systems. (Aggregated data from CHAT-GPT)

The great disasters that will occur during the Great Tribulation (GT) will be the result of extremes of weather and of a meteor hitting the ocean causing the death of 1/3 of its animal life. The people who will be alive when these events occur will see them as extraordinary weather phenomena and will not realize that what is happening is the wrath of God upon the world. When the GT ends, their main concern will be to rebuild their towns and cities and, as quickly as possible, go back to living their lives as they did before.

Over many decades, the damages made to the environment will correct themselves through the recovery mechanisms built into the earth by God to maintain it as a place suitable for human habitation. Human beings like all other animals are highly dependent upon certain conditions being maintained that make life possible. Any major and sustained changes in the earth's environment would inevitably lead to the extinction of mankind.

Changes God Will Make

The massive destruction coming upon the earth will be through the weather which God can modify as required to accomplish His will. God can also control the animals He created and during the Millennium, He will make changes to their nature.

Isa 11:6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

Isa 11:7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isa 11:8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

Isa 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

Isa 35:2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

Isa 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

Isa 35:6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isa 35:7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

Isa 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

Isa 35:9 No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there:

Isa 35:10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isa 51:3 For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

Some of the changes to the environment will be made by God but in a way where men will not see them as being from God such as the changing of the nature of animals. Other changes will be the result of the natural regeneration processes made part of the physical creation by God. Overall, the healing of the environment will come about mostly by natural means. The world's populations will have been greatly reduced during the GT which will give the planet the time it needs to regenerate itself as there will be considerably less pollution entering the environment.

The inability of mankind to pollute the air, waterways and oceans as before because the populations of the world will have been greatly reduced by the events of the Great Tribulation is how the earth will return, most if not all of the way back, to its original beauty and its biological masses will return to the seas, rivers, lakes, forests and fields of the earth. Mankind will not see those changes as coming from God but simply as nature healing itself on its own. Remember that God remains unknown to men unless they are called and chosen and even then, His existence has to be believed by faith not because He is manifesting Himself in a way we can perceive by our physical senses. The time of the Great Tribulation will be no different.

The Conversion Process

The events leading up to Christ's 2nd Coming will fill mankind with terror. Men will be desperately seeking to hide themselves thinking the events that they are seeing will lead to their death. They will ask for the rocks and the mountain to fall on them and hide them.

Christ's 2nd Coming will occur and great and widespread weather catastrophes and war between the great nation of the earth will continue to cause much damage to the earth and the death of men and animals. Finally, they will stop and there will be much time and effort required for men to rebuild their nations. The Millennium will begin, the nations will slowly rebuild and the environment will gradually heal. God will then call all men who survived the Great Tribulation and their descendants until the end of the Millennium.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

What will be the result of their being called? Will everybody except some rare exception follow their calling and remain faithful until the end of their natural lives? Here is what Christ Himself tells us about how people react to being called.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Why are they not chosen?

They refuse God's calling; they choose to remain in the world not being willing to commit themselves to obeying God as they would then have to change too many things in their lives which they find enjoyable and that they don't want to change.

What about those who follow their calling?

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Christ's advice to them is to be careful what they do with their calling. He warns them that it will be the many who will not want to fully forsake their previous ways which they now know to be contrary to God's law and therefore sin. They try to find ways of justifying them so they won't have to change them. They want God's Kingdom but not at the cost of abandoning all of their previous life in the world; so, they compromise. This is the wide gate and the broad way that the many take and which leads to perdition.

The gate leading to salvation is strait (effort is required) and narrow is the way (must seek to follow God's law and nothing else) and Christ says that it is the few that find it which is to say, who are ready to take the time and make the effort to obey God as best they can for the rest of their lives. They become distracted, loose their focus, slowly drift back into the world and lose their salvation.

Spiritual Condition of Mankind During the Millennium

It being given that many are called and few are chosen and of the few who are chosen, it is the few who remain faithful, then this means that during the Millennium, it will be the great majority of the world's population who though all having been called will be unconverted.

As we know, it is not possible to teach spiritual truth to the unconverted because their attitude toward God is as follows:

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

And, God's spiritual truth is only knowable by revelation.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned.**

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save

the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Conversion is required for God to reveal to them spiritual truth; otherwise, it is impossible for them to know it.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

1Co 2:10 But God hath **revealed** them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

What is the impact of this understanding on how things will be during the Millennium?

Lord of lords and King of kings

It was taught in the Worldwide Church of God that Christ at His Second Coming was coming in power and glory as Lord of lords and King of kings to rule over the nations with a rod of iron. God's law would be applied to all without exception. Below are some of the Scriptures quoted in support of this belief.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is **Lord of lords, and King of kings**: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Mar 13:24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

Mar 13:25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Mar 13:26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with **great power and glory**.

One of the many questions that come to mind is will God rule over the nations by force?

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

According to this Scripture, God will only rule over those who accept to be led when they are called. He will not force them to do so.

Another question that arises is why is it that God will not rule by force over men?

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

God requires that men be free to choose life or death when given the choice to do so at the time of their calling. For them to be able to choose there must be no power that can force them to choose something against their will. It has to be their decision.

Mankind was created in the image of God (mind power) and in the likeness (general physical appearance) of God and the Word.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

The reason why God did this is because mankind was created as a means for Him to reproduce Himself. Mind power and absolute free moral agency make it possible for men to be individuals, have personality, spontaneously generate original thoughts based on their perception of the world, personal likes and dislikes, interests, aptitudes, knowledge and a host of other factors which are unique to each individual. God does not want to fill His kingdom with beings who are mind controlled by Him as He would then continue to be all alone like someone surrounded by computers he has programmed and whose responses are all known in advance and who are unable to go beyond what has been programmed in them.

God is a family where we have God the Father and God the Son who are to be joined by many other brothers and sisters.

Mat 12:47 Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

Mat 12:48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

Mat 12:49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

It being given that God will not rule by force over the nations to convert them; that during the Millennium, there will be no universal conversion of the nations; and that it is impossible to teach spiritual truth to the unconverted, it follows that Christ at His Second Coming will not take over the governments of this world and teach them against their will. If conversion could be achieved that way, God would have done so from the beginning.

God wants those to whom He will give eternal life to be individuals of character which is to say, they must, after having been shown the truth at the time of their calling, make the decision to commit themselves to obeying Him for the rest of their lives with nothing and no one forcing them to do so. This attitude of obedience in all things will be recorded in the spirit essence which gives man's animal brain mind power and which returns to God at the time of death.

Job 32:8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Man's character and physical appearance is recorded in the spirit in man and it is this spirit record that God will use in resurrecting him to immortal glorified spirit life. His attitude of obedience to God maintained until his death while a mortal, physical human being will become an unchanging part of his spirit body as spirit once fully created can no longer change. This is why Lucifer and the angels that sinned can no longer change and become obedient to God. They failed their test of obedience and their character is stuck forever in an attitude of disobedience to God. The test of obedience given them completed their spiritual creation.

By and large, the world during the Millennium will be very similar to the way it is now and the conversion process will be exactly the same as it is now. The events of the Great Tribulation will be understood as having been rare and unique freaks of weather and the survivors will resume their lives as before.

The Scriptures which say that Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords and will rule over the nations with a rod of iron cannot be referring to a time when Christ will forcibly rule over the unconverted nations of the

world. It is rather something that will happen in God's Kingdom where there will be many rulers at different levels of authority according to their works of obedience in this life. A kingdom has many rulers with different levels of authority and in God's Kingdom they are the ones over which Christ will rule, not forcibly but because the members of God's Kingdom have chosen to be ruled by Christ and God the Father.

Conclusion

There are 2 main points that I wanted to make in this study.

The first one is that Christ's Second Coming will not be recognized by the world when it occurs. There will be extraordinary things happening in the sky and many great disasters will be caused by weather which God will use as His instrument. The planet will be suffer great damage during the Great Tribulation some of which will be as a result of war between the superpowers that will then exist. When the turmoil ends, a long period of time will be needed for the environment to get back to normal and for the cities to be rebuilt. There will have been much fear, suffering and death. Christ's Second Coming will not be a time of great joy in the world as thought by most people. *It will not be the beginning of the end of sufferings for mankind.*

The second one is that Christ, contrarily to what is believed, will not rule over the nations of the world following His Second Coming and force men to become converted. If conversion by force were a possible way for God to reproduce Himself then He would have been doing so a long time ago. The administration of God's plan of salvation for mankind will not change during the Millennium or the Last Great Day nor can it. There is no other way for God to achieve His goal of reproducing Himself.

Character cannot be created by fiat which is to say, it is not something that can be effected by a command from God and against men's will; it is not something that can be created by force in an individual. Character is something that has to freely and willingly come from the individual in whom it is to exist. It can only be found in a being who has mind power, the absolute freedom to choose and who consequently can knowingly, freely and willingly make the decision to obey God as much as is possible for a human being to do when called by God. This attitude of obedience is recorded in the spirit in man which God will use in the resurrection. At that time, this attitude of obedience maintained until death, in the resurrection to immortal glorified spirit life, will become an unchanging part of man's new spiritual body. Salvation which is becoming God as God is God is impossible without character as God will

not grant immortal, spirit life to anyone He cannot be certain they will never rebel against Him as Lucifer and the angels placed with him on the earth did.

Salvation is a process that goes on between individuals and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. It is an individual and personal process requiring the freewill cooperation of the called out one. It is a process that goes on in the mind of the called out one which is not visible to others. It is not a group process nor the observation of man made ceremonies which supposedly are acceptable to God as a form of worship. New Testament Christians are to worship God in spirit and in truth which is something which again goes on invisibly in the minds of those who have accepted their calling.

God is building His Kingdom one person at a time and He is doing it Himself by sharing thoughts from His mind to the minds of those called out and chosen as they live invisibly among the unconverted of the world as they do right now as I write this study. God's law which is the basis of God's government is written in the minds of the truly converted; it is God's government in their lives.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put **my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The world during the Millennium and the Last Great Day will continue as it is today in accordance with God's plan for the salvation of mankind. Men will be called and have to make the decision to submit to God or stay in the world. Those called and chosen will have to grow in knowledge and in the perfect holy righteous character of Christ as much as they can. The conditions established for salvation will not change during the Millennium or the Last Great Day.

Christ's Second Coming will not be the beginning of a new world of peace, safety, security, freedom from disease, abundance and great prosperity to be enjoyed by all nor will the Millennium and the Last Great Day. The only time when there will be heaven on earth is when God creates a new universe and a new earth after the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day which brings to a close God's plan of salvation for mankind.

