

Focus On The Gospel Reign

Gospel Reign Of King Jesus: Shelf 6 — Volume 51

The Old Testament prophets excited the minds of those who lived before the cross. They revealed that One was coming who would be King over all things. This coming King would reign over a restored Israel. The exciting thing for us today is that **these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus**. Regardless of all the excitement in the news media today concerning Israel among the nations, the recorded prophecies of the Old Testament referred to a King who came two thousand years ago and reigned over a restored Israel. However, that restored Israel would eventually, according to God's plan, be consummated in A.D. 70.

When this King Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father in the first century, He assumed kingdom reign over all things. He now reigns with all authority over all things. He will so reign until He comes again. When people of faith recognize the present kingdom reign of Jesus over all things, they should submit to His reign. Those who have already submitted are the church. This church is the present manifestation on earth of the kingdom reign of Jesus from heaven.

People must not allow themselves to believe that the extensive news reports of present wars throughout the world are a sign of the end of times. They must be concerned about what the Bible says concerning these things. The 10-volume series on this subject in the *WhatsApp Bible Library* were written over forty years ago by the author. They have been reformatted for smartphones, and now are on the Shelf 6 of the *Library*. It is our prayer that you will enjoy the read through these volumes.

CONTENTS

- 1 *Understanding Kingdoms* – 2
- 2 *Clarifying Kingdom Reign* – 7
- 3 *Warnings From The King* – 11

Chapter 1

≈ Understanding Kingdoms ≈

The Bible teaches that there is actually such a thing as a “millennial reign” of Christ. John revealed this when he wrote the book of Revelation:

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him a thousand years” (Rv 20:6).*

A. The Spiritual Kingdom

There are those who believe that this “one-thousand year reign” is the present authority of Jesus over all things, by which authority He exercises power over the kingdom of darkness with the power of the gospel. His disciples are the group of citizens (church) of the world who have taken up heavenly citizenship by submitting to the present kingdom reign of King Jesus. All the church, therefore, is kingdom. However, **all the kingdom of Jesus includes more than the church**. This is in reference to a spiritual kingdom reign of Jesus that is present and active in the world today.

B. A Physical Kingdom

On the contrary, there are those who believe that the one-thousand year reign, about which John wrote in Revelation 20, will be a physical kingdom of this world that will be established by Jesus when He comes again. It will be a literal reign of Jesus on this earth wherein the saints will have physical power over the unrighteous. In conjunction with this reign, the saints will supposedly take possession of

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume 50

the riches of this world. This is a view that pictures the reign of Jesus to be a physical reign as those that presently exist in our world, though Jesus will supposedly subjugate all earthly kingdoms when He establishes His kingdom. This view of the millennial reign of Jesus is referred to as **premillennialism**.

The word “premillennialism” is one of those words that can be quite challenging to understand. It is a word that is derived from a combination of several words. The root word “millennium” originated from two Latin words. *Mille* is the Latin word that means “one thousand.” *Annus* is the Latin word that means “year.” Put the two words together and we come up with the meaning, “one thousand years.” Add to this the prefix “pre,” meaning “before,” and we have the word “premillennial.” Thus the word means, “before one thousand years.” Add to this the suffix “ism,” that designates a doctrine, philosophy, theology or theory, and so in the religious world we come across the teaching of **premillennialism**. **This is the belief that when Jesus comes again, He will come to reign on this earth for a period of one thousand years.***

C. Sorting Through Kingdoms

We live in a religiously diverse world where there is a vast difference between people of faith concerning the teachings of spiritual and physical millennialism. The difference between the preceding two views is so vast that they are actually antagonistic to one another. In other words, if one is true, **then the other cannot be true**. Because of the excitement of a supposed future reign of Jesus on this earth, it is very important that Bible students clearly understand each view. This is especially true with the social chaos that prevails in the Middle East.

If one view concerning the preceding millenniums is true, then the other cannot be true. In fact, the issue goes beyond this. One view—the earthly millennial view—actually attacks the nature of the gospel of

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume 53

Jesus ascending to the right hand of God. If the future reign of Jesus on this earth is true, **then Jesus did not actually ascend to the Father in order to receive the right to reign over all things.**

One of the most publicized religious teachings in the world today is the supposed future reign of Jesus on a literal earth. In order to promote this physical millennial view, the religious world is constantly bombarded with proclamations as “the signs of the times are here” and “the kingdom of God on earth is about to be established.” All the wars that are publicized in the Middle East on the news media are supposed to be signs of the last days.

a. Led by propheteers. We can understand why there are so many confused people among those who believe in Jesus. In view of the inconsistent and biblically challenged religious world in which we live, people of faith are simply confused by the predictions of those who do not understand the millennial reign of King Jesus. Because of the often hysterical excitement of some religious leaders that is often stimulated by premillennial propheteers of these times, many have been led astray into believing manufactured prophecies of the signs of the times and the end of the world.

b. Led by desires for power: Because of the materialistic urges of those whose desire it is to rule over one’s fellow citizen, there has come from the religious world the teaching that these earthly inclinations will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again. It is assumed that these inclinations will be fulfilled in a religious manner during a one-thousand year reign of Jesus on this earth. Misguided religionists are encouraged that in the future people of faith will literally rule over the wicked, and subsequently, lay claim to all the riches of this world.

Premillennialism is actually a “prematerialism” by its proclamation that the saints will eventually inherit

the possessions this physical world. What could be further from the very nature of the principles of Jesus' teachings of self-denial of that which is of this world?

In any study of this subject, we are challenged to understand biblical prophecy. This is one area of Bible study where we must remind ourselves of some basic principles of biblical interpretation. The following are some of these principles:

1. Preconceived ideas

We must remember that any passage, or group of passages in the Bible, can be easily misinterpreted if they are interpreted with preconceived ideas. If we believe that Jesus is going to set up an earthly reign on this earth with all His saints, then certainly we will assume that this understanding should be read into those prophecies that speak of the end of times. As we study through the array of scriptures that are used to promote the teaching of premillennialism, this principle will be immediately recognized. Premillennial theology is such an all-encompassing teaching that it affects the interpretation of all New Testament prophecies that speak of the end of times.

This is not a theology that simply makes no difference whether one believes it or not. The most fundamental beliefs of the teaching affect some very fundamental teachings of the Bible, especially to the present gospel reign of King Jesus. Because this theology has so affected the thinking of religious people throughout the world, it is necessary that we examine some principal scriptures in the Bible that are used to support the belief.

2. The context is the commentary

Scriptures must always be interpreted in the context in which they were originally given. When examining the teaching of premillennialism, we must require that those who believe in this theology to stay within the context of their proof texts. In fact, it is not

necessary to study a particular doctrine in detail by examining every scripture that is used by those who promote the doctrine. **If just one scripture is found that contradicts the teaching, then the teaching is wrong.**

In order to understand the key scriptures that are used by premillennialists to support a supposed earthly reign of Jesus, therefore, we will first consider some of the presumed “proof texts” in their contexts. If the contexts do not support the premillennial teaching, then certainly the scriptures cannot be used as proof texts for the teaching.

Some have stated that a future millennial reign of Jesus on earth does not affect fundamental teachings. We would certainly question this because of the fact that passages that are used to support the theory are passages that are misinterpreted. If a future reign of Christ on earth is true, then certainly such would be clearly affirmed throughout the Bible. If the earthly reign of Jesus is true, then it must be the foundation upon which we should interpret all prophecies that refer to the final coming of Jesus.

But as stated previously, this teaching attacks one of the fundamental gospel events of the Bible. If Jesus is yet to come in order to reign over the kingdom of His people, **then He is not now reigning as King of kings.**

We do not know the nature of the new heavens and earth that are yet to come (2 Pt 3:13). Some have suggested that this will be the millennial reign of Jesus on earth. We think not. As Christians, we are headed for this new heavens and earth. However, we do not believe that such will be an extension of this present physical environment. As the patriarchs of the Old Testament, our hope is for a heavenly country, a city whose builder and maker is God.

The Christian’s hope is not in more of this world, but to enjoy a realm of existence that is free from the hardships of this material world.*

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume 59

Chapter 2

≈ Clarifying Kingdom Reign ≈

One objective of our study of biblical prophecy of the Old Testament is to discover the fulfillment of prophecy that was recorded in the New Testament. We do not believe that the Old Testament prophets' primary concern in prophecy was directed toward a millennial reign of the Messiah on earth that was centuries removed from both the prophets and the early Christians. The prophets' prophecies were fulfilled, **but they were fulfilled in the cross and Jesus' present kingdom reign.** If this is true—and it certainly is—then there is no room for a physical millennial view of any Old Testament prophecy.

Some have said that the future is God's business because He will work all things according to His plan. This is certainly true. The Jews, before the coming of the Messiah, simply could not fully understand all that which would transpire in their future. We, also, cannot understand all that is revealed in the New Testament in reference to our future. However, enough information has been revealed in the Bible in order to allow us the opportunity to walk by faith, trusting that God will work that which is best for His people.

We cannot understand the nature of the new heavens and earth that is yet to come. However, because we cannot fully understand things that are yet in the future **does not justify misinterpretations of Scripture, especially Old Testament prophecy that was fulfilled by Jesus.** The future is God's business, but it is our business to understand Jesus as the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy.

*And He said to them, "These are the words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things must be fulfilled that were written in the law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me**" (Lk 24:44).*

One of the primary difficulties with the teaching that Jesus is coming to reign on this earth is finding those

within the camp of those who teach this who agree on the same thing concerning the earthly reign. All premillennialists agree on the earthly reign of Jesus, but often disagree extensively on details surrounding the beginning and ending of the earthly millennium. Nevertheless, there are several teachings that surround this teaching that are generally taught by all those who are promoting an earthly reign of Jesus. Some of the major teachings that are being proclaimed by those who advocate this teaching are the following:

PREMILLENNIAL TEACHINGS

1. Jesus is not now reigning over all things. When He returns in the future, however, He will establish an earthly reign over all things on this earth.*
2. Jesus will reign for a literal period of one thousand years on this literal earth when He returns.
3. Jesus is not at this time reigning on David's throne as prophesied in the Old Testament. However, He will reign on this throne in Jerusalem of Palestine during the one-thousand year reign on this earth. **
4. The Jewish temple will be rebuilt in the city of Jerusalem in order to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies concerning its reconstruction.
5. The nation of Israel, that is, the fleshly descendants of Abraham through Jacob, will be nationally converted and restored to the land of Palestine in order to fulfill prophecies concerning the restoration of national Israel to the land of promise. ***
6. The "lost ten tribes" of the northern kingdom of Israel will be gathered out of the nations of the world and restored to the land of Palestine in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning their restoration to the land. ****
7. When Jesus came for the first time in the first century, the Jews rejected His earthly kingdom reign that He intended to establish at that time. Because of this rejection, the earthly kingdom reign was postponed until the time of His last coming when He will forcefully establish His earthly kingdom reign.
8. The righteous dead will be raised at the beginning of the one-thousand year reign on earth. The unrighteous dead will be raised at the conclusion of the millennium. These two resurrections will be separated by the millennium.

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume *53, **54, ***58, ****56

9. This present age is not the last dispensation of time of God's work with this literal earth. The one-thousand year reign of Jesus on earth will be the conclusion of this environment. *

Though the above points are some of the principal concepts of the premillennial teaching, they do not comprise the entire teaching. There are a host of subsidiary beliefs that are promoted by individual enthusiasts. In fact, there are so many subsidiary beliefs that the theological world that affirms the earthly-reign teaching is constantly in debate over the details of the teaching. The division of belief concerning specific aspects of the teaching is so vast that the only concepts of the teaching on which the earthly-reign theologians agree are usually the preceding listed basic beliefs.

It is not our purpose here to examine the totality of the many beliefs of premillennialism. We want to simply place before our readers some of the key beliefs, and then examine these in view of some fundamental Bible teachings that these beliefs contradict. (In the other books on Shelf 6 of the Library at roger-e-dickson.org, I have covered in detail all the preceding teachings.)

Understanding God's work in the affairs of this world, especially in relation to final judgment, should strike fear in the hearts of the unbelieving. However, the prime mover in our obedience is a love response to the grace of God as revealed on the cross (1 Jn 4:19). Religious speculation has been going on since Paul wrote 2 Thessalonians. Nevertheless, the predictions of these misguided religious seers of the future continue to fail. Adherents to zealous predictions of the future seem to captivate continually the minds of those who are apprehensive about their present relationship with King Jesus.

Premillennialism is not a new teaching that has been invented by recent theologians. It is simply an old theology that is being revived by modern-day

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume *57

prophets who find it fascinating to count wars and rumors of wars in an effort to captivate a following. These “sign seekers” are only descendants of those in the past who have always tried to generate a following of believers by proclaiming the signs of the end. But because the theory has been affirmed by theologians of years past does not prove it true. In fact, in reference to this particular teaching the opposite is true. Numerous predictions of the end of time and the establishment of the physical millennium by past self-proclaimed prophets have all failed to come to pass. All these past prophets, with their failed prophecies, prove at least one thing:

Misinterpretations of prophecy in reference to end of time events proves that God gave no clearly discernible “signs of the end” for the establishment of some millennial reign of Jesus on earth.

Modern-day self-proclaimed prophets are making the same theological blunder as those of years past. They are still predicting the end of the world and the establishment of some earthly reign of Jesus. Our children and grand children will look back on their failed predictions and say the same thing we are now saying concerning the failed prophecies of those in our past.

The Bible is a book of prophecy. It is a book of fulfilled prophecy. When Jesus came, He came to fulfill over three hundred Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself and the church. He came into a religious culture of prophecy, for the Old Testament was loaded with prophecies that would prepare the way for the incarnation of the Son of God. At the conclusion of His ministry, and prior to His ascension, Jesus said to the disciples,

*“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things must be fulfilled** which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me” (Lk 24:44).*

Jesus fulfilled all prophecies concerning Himself. However, since He came into a religious culture that was built on prophecy, He gave warnings to His disciples concerning those who would miss the fulfillment of prophecy in Him. In missing the fulfillment of prophecy in Jesus as the Messiah, some would continue to seek fulfillment of those prophecies that Jesus had already fulfilled. Essentially, the premillennialist is ignoring this warning today. Those who teach the coming earthly reign of Jesus are as the Jews who failed to recognize the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in Jesus and the church.

Chapter 3

≈ Warnings From The King ≈

Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in the first century were ignored by the Jews. They are also being ignored today by earthly-reign enthusiasts in order to place emphasis on speculations concerning the future. In view of this, Jesus placed warnings in His teachings concerning those who would fail to recognize the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in Him and the church.

A. Warnings Of Sign-Seekers

Jesus warned that there would be those who would proclaim, *“Lo, here or there”* in reference to the Messiah. In the context of His prophecies concerning the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, He warned His disciples, *“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ Do not believe it”* (Mt 24:23).

This warning is given in the context of a people who were thirsty for signs of the times. Of His generation, Jesus judged, *“An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign”* (Mt 12:39). He knew that many of the Jews were sign seekers. The irony is in the fact that they could not find Jesus in their seeking. Their theological prejudices blinded their eyes. Jesus said of these misguided seekers, *“You*

search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me" (Jn 5:39). They thought they could have eternal life through their calculated interpretations of the prophecies. However, they failed to believe in the One about whom the prophets prophesied would bring eternal life.

So it is today. There are those who are more interested in sign seeking than the Son of Man who is now reigning as King of kings. They are more interested in finding some Bible code about the future than in accepting the fact of the gospel reign of Jesus at this time.

Jesus knew that His personal presence must terminate among His disciples. They were to accept Him as the Christ (Messiah). For the disciples of Christ, therefore, Christians must not have their attention diverted to the prophetic fables of those who have denied the present gospel reign of the ascended Jesus. Even concerning His prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem, He warned His disciples, *"But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only"* (Mt 24:36). If while on earth only the Father knew of the time of the destruction of Jerusalem, then there would be no sense in trying to calculate when it would happen.*

During His personal ministry, Jesus sought to keep His disciples away from the religious culture of sign seeking concerning the fulfillment of prophecy. His disciples must simply be about their work and let God take care of those things that are yet to happen. In the context of future things, therefore, Jesus wanted His disciples to be prepared. In the context of the future destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, Jesus said, *"Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him"* (Mt 24:44).

If Jesus were on the earth today, we are sure there would be those in the religious community as the

* See roger-e-dickson.org, Library, Shelf 6, Volume 58

Jews who would ask, “*Teacher, we would see a sign from thee.*” The religious world is full of those who are sign seekers. They are trying to predict those things about which Jesus forewarned the disciples not to be concerned.

The Bible teaches that Jesus is certainly coming again. Christians, therefore, must simply be prepared at all times for the end of all things. Their preparedness is a sign that they believe that Jesus will do what He has promised to do, that is, to come again in order to take them home into eternal glory.

B. Warning To Be Prepared

In preparation for His final coming at the end of time, Jesus stated that His disciples **must be prepared at all times**. There are too many in the religious world today who are seeking to prepare for the coming of Jesus only in the time just before His coming. They thus seek to discover the signs of the times in order to make those last preparations. These religious seers calculate famines, wars and earthquakes in order to make some predictions concerning the exact time when Jesus will come again. However, they forget that **there have always been wars, famines and earthquakes**. If such things were intended by God to be indications of the end of the world, then such warnings have been given by God for almost two thousand years. These historical events have occurred since the first century.

The point is that Jesus, and the New Testament writers, have exhorted Christians of all time **to always be prepared for the end of all things**. Jesus’ warning concerning the end of the Jewish age in the destruction of Jerusalem is also true in reference to the end of the world. “*Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect Him*” (Mt 24:44). For the Christian, this principle is always true.

Christians must always be ready for God to finalize His work in reference to this world.

Paul wrote, *“But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you”* (1 Th 5:1). Is there something in this statement that should alert Christians concerning their attitude of those things that are yet to be? We think so. If Paul is saying anything, he is saying that Christians should not worry themselves about those things that are yet in the future.

Christians know that God is going to do what He has said He will do. Things concerning salvation have already taken place. Our worry concerning our salvation has been taken care of in Christ (See 2 Tm 1:12). It is not our place, therefore, to worry about those things that are in God’s control concerning the end of time. Our prayer is only that God expedite the events. For this reason Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:11,12, *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God.”* We must not miss what Peter is saying. Our realization that an end is coming should stimulate godly living (vs 11). Our godly living should so set us apart from this present world that we should desire that the end of this world come soon (vs 12).

Paul adds, *“Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober”* (1 Th 5:6). The word “watch” does not refer the Christian to endless speculations concerning things yet to come. On the contrary, **emphasis is on always being prepared for the accomplishment of God’s work in this world.** The New Testament does not teach that we should be concerned about times and seasons. It stresses daily preparedness through gospel living for the coming of Christ.

Regardless of the warnings that we find in the New Testament concerning being cautious of speculations about the future, there are those who are excited about world events in their efforts to predict the future. Their excitement has led to a host of scriptures that have been twisted in an effort

to make the Bible predict some specific date in the future for the end of the world. The Bible has thus been twisted in every shape in order to prove and confirm the theological sign-seeking of modern-day speculators.

Many precious prophecies of the Bible have been misquoted, misconstrued and misapplied in an effort to confirm the supposed millennial reign of Jesus on this earth. Because we live in such a misguided theological world of religious speculators who seek to produce a sensational religiosity, one should be cautious in his or her studies of biblical prophecy. We should be cautious concerning those who preach signs that supposedly predict of the future. The behavior of the Bereans is still a good example to follow. Luke recorded of these people, *“These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so”* (At 17:11).

C. Warning Of False Prophets

The New Testament is filled with warnings concerning false prophets. The reason for this is obvious. When we seek to construct a religion with a great number of adherents, there is an endless line of religious leaders who have allowed their imaginations to be fertile soil for the teaching of religious speculations.

The church of our Lord Jesus Christ was established on the fulfillment of prophecy. The Old Testament is a book of prophecy. It would be the natural result of those who know little or nothing of the Old Testament prophecies or New Testaments fulfillments to let their imaginations run wild concerning prophecy. Jesus, and the New Testament writers, knew this problem. Therefore, the Holy Spirit placed within both the Old and New Testament Scriptures a host of warnings concerning those who would seek to be recognized as great prophets by their predictions of the future (See Dt 13:1-5). The warnings are there

to protect the sincere and innocent Bible believer from those who would seek a following by proclaiming themselves to be some prophet.

Those who are looking for an earthly reign of Jesus consistently use the Old Testament in a way that bypasses reference to Jesus' present universal reign in order to focus their attention on the end of times. In doing this, they fail to recognize the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies in the first century concerning the present gospel reign of Jesus. Such false prophets subsequently speak of things that are simply not true. In so speaking concerning these things, they have led many unsuspecting souls into a deceptive system of religious thought that is contrary to the gospel reign of King Jesus.

The Holy Spirit knew that misguided religionists would do the preceding in reference to the Bible. Peter thus warned,

Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which those who are untaught and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures (2 Pt 3:14-16).

It is not that the Scriptures cannot be understood. It is that those who are untaught in the Scriptures fail to understand the Scriptures. In their lack of knowledge of the Scriptures, they twist and distort in order to speculate concerning those things about which they know little.

But the above was nothing new concerning the religious world in which Peter lived and those before him. So he wrote,

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And

many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed (2 Pt 2:1,2).

The fact that Peter warned that many would follow the speculations of misguided religious teachers should be a warning that cautions every Bible believer not to be led astray by those who have little or no knowledge of the Bible. John likewise warned, *“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world”* (1 Jn 4:1). The only way this test can be made is by doing what the Bereans did in checking the gospel message that Paul preached. They *“searched the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so”* (At 17:11).

Before we believe any teaching today, we must first thoroughly examine the Scriptures in order to see if there are any contradictions with the Bible.

Christians should take heed in reference to the teachings that are commonly proclaimed in the religious world today. Simply because religious people are proclaiming religious statements, does not mean that such teachings are true. The principle of Jesus' statement concerning the end of the Jewish State are metaphorical in reference to the end of time. *“But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”* (Mk 13:32). The fact that Jesus made this type of statement in the context of prophecy, indicates that Christians should not trouble themselves with those things in the future that the Father has placed within His own knowledge and working. Our minds, therefore, must not be focused on seeking out that which is only within the knowledge of the Father. Christians must concentrate on that which is at hand by putting their trust in God who is working all things according to His purpose.

There are things that God has chosen not to reveal. Moses stated, *“The secret things belong*

to the Lord our God, but those things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Dt 29:29).

Christians must focus on what is revealed. They must not trouble themselves about those “secret things” that God has not revealed. When it comes to specifics concerning the end of time, God has not revealed such. He has only revealed that the end is coming. We must simply be prepared at all times for this end.

It is not our task to seek signs of the end in order to make last minute preparations for the coming of Jesus and the end of the world. It is the work of the Christian to carry on with the work of God in preparing lives for life and death (See Ep 2:10). Therefore, we must caution ourselves about anyone who would misguide our attention from our task of doing good. We must not be distracted concerning speculations of things God has not revealed. We must focus on what God has revealed.



ABREVIATIONS OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis - **Gn**, Exodus - **Ex**, Leviticus - **Lv**, Numbers - **Nm**, Deuteronomy - **Dt**, Joshua - **Ja**, Judges - **Jg**, Ruth - **Rt**, 1 Samuel - **1 Sm**, 2 Samuel - **2 Sm**, 1 Kings - **1 Kg**, 2 Kings - **2 Kg**, 1 Chronicles - **1 Ch**, 2 Chronicles - **2 Ch**, Ezra - **Er**, Nehemiah - **Ne**, Esther - **Et**, Job - **Jb**, Psalms - **Ps**, Proverbs - **Pv**, Ecclesiastes - **Ec**, Song of Solomon - **Ss**, Isaiah - **Is**, Jeremiah - **Jr**, Lamentations - **Lm**, Ezekiel - **Ez**, Daniel - **Dn**, Hosea - **Hs**, Joel - **Jl**, Amos - **Am**, Obadiah - **Ob**, Jonah - **Jh**, Micah - **Mc**, Nahum - **Nh**, Habakkuk - **Hk**, Zephaniah - **Zp**, Haggai - **Hg**, Zechariah - **Zc**, Malachi - **Ml**

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew - **Mt**, Mark - **Mk**, Luke - **Lk**, John - **Jn**, Acts - **At**, Romans - **Rm**, 1 Corinthians - **1 Co**, 2 Corinthians - **2 Co**, Galatians - **Gl**, Ephesians - **Ep**, Philippians - **Ph**, Colossians - **Cl**, 1 Thessalonians - **1 Th**, 2 Thessalonians - **2 Th**, 1 Timothy - **1 Tm**, 2 Timothy - **2 Tm**, Titus - **Ti**, Philemon - **Pl**, Hebrews - **Hb**, James - **Js**, 1 Peter - **1 Pt**, 2 Peter - **2 Pt**, 1 John - **1 Jn**, 2 John - **2 Jn**, 3 John - **3 Jn**, Jude - **Jd**, Revelation - **Rv**

International Bible Institute Library
 ≈ **Bible Curriculum For Bible Study** ≈
 Free Bible Study Courses & Books From
www.roger-e-dickson.org