

THE THOUSAND YEARS REIGN OF CHRIST

By Joseph Edwards II

Updated: 08/10/26

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

In this paper, I will be discussing the meaning of the spirit word “thousand years” which is used by the apostles Peter and John in their letters to the churches. And since spirit words do not carry the same meanings as mankind defines them (**1Cor 2:13**), the spirit word “thousand years” must be representing something other than a literal thousand years of time.

To find the meaning of the spirit word “thousand years” I will examine how Peter and John use it in their spiritual teachings.

Let’s begin with what Peter says:

2Pet 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

When Peter compares a thousand years to a day, the “day” that Peter is referencing is the Day of the Lord. Both of the spirit words “thousand years” and the “Day of the Lord” represent Christ’s judgment over mankind (the children of the devil). However, there is one significant difference between the two spirit words. To find that difference, let’s look at how John uses the spirit word “thousand years”:

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the evil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the **First Resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.**

In the verses above, John is providing the details of the First Resurrection that all the Elect will experience before they die.

The spirit word “First Resurrection” represents the complete spiritual process of conversion.

Conversion for an Elect person is complete after they have received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment.

John the Baptist mentions both parts of the conversion process in the verse below:

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with Fire.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Latter Rain of the Spirit. It is this baptism that births the new child of God.

The baptism of Fire is the judgment of Christ that occurs when the Day of the Lord arrives. This baptism will immediately follow the new birth of the Elect person to remove all the spiritual things within them that has made them carnally minded and sinful.

Notice the order of the two baptisms the Elect are given: The baptism of the Holy Spirit comes first and then the baptism of Fire comes second. The order of these two baptisms is very important as it relates to the wrath of God. I will explain why a little later in this paper.

John presents the full spiritual process of the First Resurrection (conversion) in Rev 19:7-21 using the marriage analogy.

Let’s look at the birth of the child of God (the Bride) first:

Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the Marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

The Bride is made ready when she receives the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that will restore the Elect believer’s faith and birth the new child of God. The new birth is represented by the Marriage of the Lamb which joins the Bride to Christ and makes them “one flesh” (Gen 2:24 & Isa 54:5-7).

Immediately following the marriage ceremony is the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Rev 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb represents when Christ feeds the Elect believer His bread and New Wine. With this nourishment, the Bride will be spiritually strengthened just as Paul was strengthened when he experienced the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat (Marriage Supper of the Lamb), he was strengthened.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is also the spiritual fulfillment of the Lord's Supper:

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

After an Elect believer has consumed a sufficient knowledge of the truth, the Day of the Lord will commence on the Man of Sin who has now been symbolically separated from the believer. This separation is shown to occur because the wrath of God only falls on the Man of Sin who is the one who is sinful. The Bride of Christ is without sin because she is joined to Christ and has been washed clean by His blood.

Now that the marriage ceremony & the marriage supper have taken place, the Bride is now ready to reign with Christ in judgment over the Man of Sin (who they used to be).

This judgment is shown in Mat 24:37-41:

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood (judgment) they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark (Christ), 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two be in the field (within one person); the one shall be taken (Man of Sin), and the other left (child of God). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill (within one person); the one shall be taken (Great Harlot), and the other left (new divine spiritual nature).

The symbol “two” who are in the field (a place of work) represents one Elect believer who spiritually has both the child of God and the Man of Sin within them. Before judgment commences, the Man of Sin is “taken” from within the Elect believer and cast into the Lake of Fire.

The symbol “two women” who are grinding at the mill (a place of work) represents one Elect believer who has within them a spirit with a divine spiritual nature in the child of God and a spirit with a carnal and religious spiritual nature in the Man of Sin. Before judgment commences, the Great Harlot (a symbol for the carnal and religious spiritual nature of the marred spirit) is “taken” from within the Elect believer and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Now back to the Marriage analogy that John is using in Revelation chapter 19.

The judgment event described in Mat 24:37-31 is re-told in Rev 19:11-21.

Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 20 And the Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet (Man of Sin & spirit of anti-Christ) that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a Lake of Fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest (remaining thoughts/beliefs and carnal character traits of the Old Man) were killed with the sword (God's Word) which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

In the verses above, the Bride is shown to be reigning with Christ in judgment over the Man of Sin.

The Man of Sin represents the head/worsened carnal mind of an Elect believer who is in an apostate condition. Within the Man of Sin is the worsened marred spirit which is governed by the spirit of anti-Christ. The spirit of anti-Christ is the False Prophet.

The Supper of the Great God described by John is another spirit word that represents Christ's judgment. During the Supper of the Great God, the first portion of judgment falls on the Man of Sin. This is when he is "taken" and cast into the Lake of fire (v.20). The second portion of judgment falls on the Old Man (carnal mind) who is destroyed by the truth of God's Word (v.21).

In the final age, the Thousand Years Reign of Christ with His Bride will occur when the balance of mankind is judged in the Lake of Fire.

This verse applies;

Rev 5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Note on wrath: The Elect will not experience God's wrath during the Day of the Lord / Thousand Years Reign because they were "born again" prior to their judgment commencing. Because the new birth occurs prior to judgment, scripture shows that the Elect believer has now become the Bride of Christ who is reigning with Christ over their own judgment. During this time of judgment, only the Man of Sin is judged. To show that the Man of Sin is the only one who experiences wrath, the Man of Sin is taken from within the Elect believer and is cast into the Lake of Fire.

In contrast to the judgment of the Elect, the balance of mankind (those not chosen/the goats, **Mat 25:31-46**) will begin their time of judgment prior to their new birth occurring. Because the order of the new birth and judgment is reversed, the condemned people themselves are shown to be cast into the Lake of Fire:

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Because the balance of mankind was not found in the Lamb's book of Life, they will experience God's wrath as they are being judged in the Lake of Fire. However, before any of them perish, Christ will show them mercy and give them faith:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Christ's mercy will come to them as the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit, each condemned person will have faith in Christ (**1Cor 2:13**) and will be born as a child of God who will be gathered to heaven. The child of the Devil (who they used to be) will remain in the Lake of Fire until he perishes. This death will satisfy justice. This is conversion and salvation.

This scripture applies:

1Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day (Day of the Lord**) shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire (**judgment**); and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he (**the Elect**) shall receive a reward (**life during the ages and reigning with Christ**). 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so by fire. (**occurs in the Lake of Fire in the final age**).**

With what I have presented above, can you now see the difference between the Day of the Lord and the Thousand Years reign?

The Thousand Years reign only applies to the Elect. It is “like” the Day of the Lord (**2Pet 3:8**) when Christ judges mankind but instead of being on the receiving side of judgment, the Elect are on the administering side of judgment.

Also, the Elect will reign with Christ TWO times.

Ecc 6:6 Yea, though he live a Thousand Years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place (the Lake of Fire)?

The first time the Elect reign with Christ is over their own judgment (**Rev 19:11-21**).

The second time the Elect reign with Christ is over the judgment of the balance of mankind who have been cast into the Lake of Fire in the final age (**Rev 5:10**).

Both times that the Elect reign with Christ, the child of the devil/man of sin is destroyed in the Lake of Fire. But prior to the death of the child of the devil/man of sin, the new child of God will be born so that the individual will continue to live as a new creation in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jer 4:2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD lives, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him (Christ), and in him shall they glory.

Gen 22:18 And in thy seed (Christ & His Bride**) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

Because judgment is a necessary component of mankind’s salvation, Christ was eager to start it:

Luke 12:49 “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts (Gentiles**) with righteousness.**

One final point: The spirit word “Thousand Years” is understood as 10x10x10. The number TEN represents completeness and the number THREE represents a spiritual process. In the context of the spirit word’s usage, the Thousand Years represents the complete spiritual process of judgment.