

CHRIST WILL BE ALL IN ALL

Chapter 5

THE COMING OF CHRIST AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Brethren, we have seen how the very judgment of the world will be committed to the Saints of the Most High. We are aware of what awesome responsibility and privilege awaits us as we rule and reign with Jesus Christ our Lord. But in what manner does He come? We all know the popular ideas concerning Him coming secretly to snatch away His faithful church, or the images of Him splitting the sky like lightning and touching down on the Mount of Olives. But do these traditions have their basis in truth, or myth? Is the coming of the Lord truly such a visible, public event that will result in open mouthed, wide eyed heathen pointing at the flashing heavens, or at empty spaces that were occupied by saints but a moment ago?

RAPTURE? TRIBULATION?

The most popular theory of all concerning the “second coming” of Christ is that He will come secretly and snatch away all believers to heaven in a ‘rapture’, just prior to a seven year tribulation. As is very common with popular views, there is no biblical support whatsoever for this view, which emerged relatively recently, and the greatest publicity in recent years for the ‘rapture’ theory has come, ironically, from a *fictional series*, ‘Left Behind’, and the very term ‘rapture’ is found nowhere in the Bible. When asked for scriptures, ‘rapture’ adherents are likely to point to something as bizarre as John being told to ‘come up here’ at the beginning of Revelation chapter 4, or ascribe tenuous interpretations to Jesus statements regarding coming “like a thief”. However, the view is so discordant, unbiblical and strange, that it can certainly be discounted, and it is not the purpose of this study to go into this vain imagining in any depth.

Another view is that Jesus will ‘crack the sky like lightning’ at the end of a period of great tribulation, and touch down outside Jerusalem, His followers having come up to meet Him in the air, at which point He establishes the Kingdom with a ‘rod of iron’, and rules from Jerusalem.

HOW MANY COMINGS?

When dealing with this subject of the coming of the Lord, we would do well to begin by separating fact from fiction. For instance, we must start by carefully examining the idea of a “second coming” altogether, simply because the phrase “second coming” *is never found in scripture!* It is instead a classic example of an unbiblical expression finding it’s way into the common parlance. We must understand, if we are to gain insight into the manner of Christ’s coming, that His coming is never seen as an isolated, future

event, but a continuous stream of revelation and visitation, ever growing in scope and magnitude.

COMING TO TAKE US WHERE?

A common misunderstanding regarding the coming of the Lord is the purpose and significance of His coming to and coming for the believer. Why is He coming to us, and where is He taking us? To better comprehend this, let us listen to Jesus' words to His disciples on the night of His betrayal:

¹ "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions;^[a] if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.^[b] ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know."

⁵Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:1-6)

The common understanding of this passage is that Jesus was preparing to go to the city of golden streets, where he would begin a renovation project on several mansions, that the twelve may all live on a specially prepared heavenly cul-de-sac. He would return at the end of time in the clouds to bring everyone back to their real estate in the blue yonder, after which all shall live happily ever after, harps in hand. Dear saints! Let us ignore such nonsense and read this carefully, with the eyes of the Spirit. Jesus, in verse six, states that *He is the way to the place He is preparing*, and then states that *the place is the Father!* Selah! Pause and consider! Jesus, having not yet offered Himself up, was going to the cross to prepare a way for all believers into the bosom of the Father! That is our inheritance!

Jesus goes on to speak of He and the Father coming to the one that loves them:

²³Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 14:23)

This spiritual coming of God and His Christ is one that grows and grows its reality and dimensions. It is the source, the essence, and the sustenance, of the Kingdom Of God and of Heaven.

THE COMING KINGDOM

To truly understand the nature of Christ's coming, one must first understand the nature of this Kingdom of which He spoke so often. Indeed, Christ preached the Kingdom above all else, mentioning it around fifty times in the Gospel of Matthew alone. But what IS this Kingdom? There have been many erroneous assumptions upon this subject, but to find the true nature of this Kingdom, let us hear the very words of our Lord Himself:

²⁰Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!"^[d] For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus reveals *the true nature of the Kingdom* right here! It is not a Kingdom whose approach is signaled to the natural senses – not a Kingdom where you could observe carefully with the eye of flesh and say “Aha - there it is!”. But why not? Because it is within you! Within us! And because it is within us, it must be a *spiritual Kingdom*, and a Kingdom that issues from the heart of the believer as the Lord reigns in that heart!

When Pilate was questioning the Christ regarding His Kingship, they had the following exchange:

³⁶Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

³⁷Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:36-37)

The Kingdom is not only “not from here”, but it also it also governed, sustained, and expanded, through different principles than the kingdoms of this world – namely, *spiritual principles*. This is where we can run into problems as believers, if we mix the spiritual with the carnal. For instance, if we do not shake our carnal concepts of what a kingdom looks like, but instead use the lens of the world to perceive it, we will imagine a kingdom of hierarchy, conquest, and violent suppression – a kingdom that has to be instituted by force, and sustained with a heavy hand of flesh. We have all heard the notions of Christ coming to reign from earthly Jerusalem, bloody sword in hand, while the nations are subdued under His armies of ‘christian soldiers’. A kingdom that can be primarily seen, felt, and experienced with all our earthy senses. Brethren, such a vain imagination will do violence to our spiritual perception, because we will then be seeking a carnal kingdom, rather than the true City of Zion. It is not so with the kingdom of heaven! This is not a kingdom where the lords are a terror to the meek, nor a kingdom where the servants beaten by the masters. It is a kingdom of love and service, from the

bottom upwards, and from the inside out. Let us not forget the words Christ spoke concerning 'rank' in the kingdom:

²⁴Now there was also a dispute among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' ²⁶But not so among you; on the contrary, *he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet *I am among you as the One who serves.**

²⁸"But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. ²⁹And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, ³⁰that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Luke 22:24-30)

Part of this dispute involved James and John wishing to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus in the kingdom. Being not yet filled with the Spirit, all the apostles still had very carnal perception, and were expecting an earthly kingdom in which they would be great lords. Yet Christ again and again stated that the kingdom is not so! The kingdom is not seen thus, nor ruled thus, nor perpetuated thus! A spiritual kingdom must begin with the Spirit of God, and be expressed through the spirits of men into this earthly realm.

Allow me to present an analogy to explain the nature of the kingdom. Imagine if you would an iceberg, towering above the crashing waves, mountainous and impressive. If we only believe the iceberg to be the part which is *visible*, it remains, indeed, a mountain, but we are in error concerning its dimensions and source. The far greater mass of the iceberg is beneath the waves, *unseen and invisible to the world above!* Indeed, once we realize the true height, breadth and width of the iceberg, we see that the protruding mass is but a *visible expression of the invisible!* And so it is with the kingdom! This realm is the expression, the visible manifestation, of the things unseen. Thus, we can understand why the kingdom cannot be carnal in origination or continuation, but *only in expression!*

¹⁶Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Seeing then, that the kingdom is earthly in its expression, we can better understand the symbols given to describe it. We can understand that when Jesus tells us that in His Father's house "are many mansions", He speaks not of literal houses with bricks, mortar, and ornamental pillars, but of the Father Himself being a dwelling place and abode for many. We must begin to have a conception of the spiritual principles of this great

kingdom! We must begin to comprehend how something begins in the spiritual realm and works itself out through a prepared vessel into an expression in this realm, for this principle is vital to understanding the manner and significance of the coming of the Lord.

COME, LORD JESUS!

²⁶"Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. ²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:26)

Jesus dealt with His coming in many places, notably in the discourse as He was leaving the Temple at Jerusalem. It is very pertinent to note that He prophesied concerning His coming shortly after stating that the earthly Temple would be thrown down. This was in fact a ‘changing of the guard’, as it were – and announcement of a new Temple, built not by human hands. In the scripture above, Christ states the nature of His coming:

²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

This saying of His has led to the assumption that at some future point, Jesus Christ will “crack open the sky” for all nations to see, before touching down on the Mount of Olives and beginning His rule. That good Christians have been induced to believe such an imagining is all the more perturbing in light of the Lord’s explicit earlier comments:

The kingdom of God does not come with observation; ²¹nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!"^[d] For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Can we forget these words already? I can solemnly assure you that were our beloved Lord to come and split the sky like lightning, millions of people would be able to say “See here!” or “See there!”. In such a case, the kingdom *would indeed come by careful observation!*

As is often the case with such misinterpreted passages, there is a key word that unlocks the true meaning. In this passage it is the Greek word that has been translated “lightning”. The word is ‘*astrape*’. The basic meaning of this word is ‘a bright shining’. It can indeed be translated as ‘lightning’ in some contexts, but here it means something altogether different. Let us look again at the context:

²⁷For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west...

Saints of God, lightning does not come from the east and flash to the west! There is no set direction that lightning flashes from or towards! Indeed, the Greek word for “flashes” is ‘*phaino*’ which is more accurately translated ‘shine’, as in the King James:

²⁷For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west...(KJV)

Brethren, there is a light that comes from the east and shines to the west. There is a 'bright shining' that fits the very description, a light that 'gives light to all men coming into the world'. The great light our world revolves around - The Sun!

THE RISING OF THE SON

A good friend recently relayed to me how, in His communion with the Lord, He has received the revelation that the whole of creation is a metaphor to teach us about God and His Christ. Thus, Farmers can see the laws of reaping and sowing at work, parents understand something more of the Fatherhood of God, while husbands and wives understand a new dimension of Christ and His bride, the church. In other words, Christ did not look around Him for natural ways to explain the unseen realm - those things around Him were created for that purpose! When we can understand the metaphors, and the spiritual language of God, many truths that were before unrecognized, though right in front of our face, become apparent.

One of the greatest symbols and metaphors for the Lord Jesus Christ is the Sun. There are too many dimensions to this truth to go into them all here, but consistently, throughout scripture, we find Christ to be both the morning star (the star that appears on the horizon shortly before dawn, and the Sun, the Day Star itself:

"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." (Revelation 22:16)

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, [Or We also have the more sure prophetic word.] which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; (2 Peter 1:19)

**¹⁷I see Him, but not now;
I behold Him, but not near;
A Star shall come out of Jacob;
A Scepter shall rise out of Israel,
And batter the brow of Moab,
And destroy all the sons of tumult." (Numbers 24:17)**

and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. (Matthew 17:2)

He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Revelation 1:16)

Behold even the time when His followers went to His tomb:

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb *when the sun had risen*. (Mark 16:2)

When both the Son and the Sun had risen! What a beautiful metaphor! Understand, saints, the significance of this symbol. Lightning comes by flashings and thunder, but the Sun rises slowly, gradually, warming the earth with its rays gently, till it dominates the whole sky. "For as the sun rises in the east and shines to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be..." This truth is radically different from the orthodox perception of His coming.

The question remains, however. How can Christ come gradually, like the rising of the Sun? Brethren, the mystery involves His Body, which we are!

¹ **Arise, *shine*;
For *your light has come*!
And the glory of the LORD *is risen* upon you.
²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the LORD *will arise* over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.
³The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to *the brightness of your rising*. (Isaiah 60:1-3)**

What a staggering truth we see here! The glory of the Lord *rising* on His chosen people, Zion! His glory will be seen upon us! His glory – not ours. He will *arise* over us! Gentiles (unbelievers) will come to that light, to the brightness of that *rising*!

¹ **"For behold, *the day is coming*,
Burning like an oven,
And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble.
And *the day which is coming* shall burn them up,"
Says the LORD of hosts,
"That will leave them neither root nor branch.
²But to you who fear My name
The Sun of Righteousness shall arise
With healing in His wings;
And you shall go out
And grow fat like stall-fed calves. (Malachi 4:1-2)**

Christ being the Sun of Righteousness, we can also begin to have a better grasp of just what 'The Day of the Lord' is. The dawning of His light into the darkness of carnality, ignorance, and rebellion. A light that is a glory to all that is Godly, and a judgment on all that is vile:

³⁷**He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.
³⁸The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are**

the sons of the wicked one. ³⁹The enemy who sowed them is the devil, the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴²and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear! (Matthew 13:37-43)

Here we see God's judgment against all things carnal, as anything offensive in His kingdom is burned (judged). We also see that this takes place at the end of the age. Referring back to Malachi, we see that it is the day which is coming that burns them up.

⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thessalonians 2:8)

It is the brightness of the coming of the Lord that destroys the lawless one, the carnal man seated in the Temple of God claiming to be God. It is the dawning of that Day that spells the end for the works of the flesh, for sensuality and darkness.

THE TEMPLE MADE NOT WITH HANDS

Brethren, it is essential that we comprehend the nature and scope of the Lord's coming, as much as our spirits can grasp it. Understand that the church, under the influence of the carnal mind, has been waiting for an isolated, external event, that will signal the "second coming" of Christ and institution of His government upon the earth. Yet the phrase "second coming" is found nowhere in scripture! The coming of the Lord is more than a single, universal occurrence – as if one could divide time into "before His coming" and "after His coming". Rather, His coming is a continuous event, and manifests in different ways at different times. And the great coming that "every eye shall see (know, perceive)" is dawning like the great Day it is, gradually and certainly. As the body is purged, refined and pruned, it is being prepared to receive the fullness of the Head, the very Temple of God receiving its capstone!

⁶So he answered and said to me:

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:
"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,"
Says the LORD of hosts.

⁷"Who are you, O great mountain?
Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain!
And he shall bring forth the capstone
With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!""

⁸Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

⁹"The hands of Zerubbabel

Have laid *the foundation of this temple*;^[a]

His hands shall also finish it.

Then you will know

That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. (Zechariah 4:6-9)

In Zechariah, as elsewhere in the prophets, we see the Lord speak concerning His temple. Indeed, the whole journey of Nehemiah, Ezra, etc, from Babylon to Jerusalem to rebuild the holy city and, ultimately, the temple, is a great foreshadowing of the bringing forth of the glorious temple of God out of the hopelessness of an apostate church (symbolized by Babylon and those who remained there) to the beauty of a fulfilled Zion.

The book of Haggai has much to say on the matter: In the first chapter we see the people rebuked by the Lord:

¹ In the second year of King Darius, in the sixth month, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, saying, ²"Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, saying: "This people says, "The time has not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built."'"

³Then the word of the LORD came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ⁴"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple^[a] to lie in ruins?"

⁵Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways!

⁶"You have sown much, and bring in little;

You eat, but do not have enough;

You drink, but you are not filled with drink;

You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm;

And he who earns wages,

Earns wages to put into a bag with holes."

⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! ⁸Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD. ⁹"You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts.

"Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.

¹⁰Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its

fruit. ¹¹For I called for a drought on the land and the mountains, on the grain and

the new wine and the oil, on whatever the ground brings forth, on men and

livestock, and on all the labor of your hands." (Haggai 1:1-11)

There are many great symbolic truths contained in this passage. The people of God are dwelling in their own house while the Lord's house lies in ruins (living their own lives with no regard to the life of God or His people – the true temple). Because of this attempted self sufficiency they are sowing much and bringing in little, and not having enough to eat (performing the works of the flesh to little fruit, and not feeding on the true bread from Heaven – Christ, but starving on the meager fare of their own religion). They

drink, but are not filled with drink (are not filled with the Spirit). They clothe themselves without warmth (they clothe themselves with the rags of their own works, not the righteousness of Christ). And so on. The Lord admonishes His people to be concerned with His holy habitation above all, and in chapter two we see the fulfillment of these commands:

³"Who is left among you who saw this temple^[a] in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing? ⁴Yet now be strong, Zerubbabel,' says the LORD; 'and be strong, Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest; and be strong, all you people of the land,' says the LORD, 'and work; for I am with you,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁵"According to the word that I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt, so My Spirit remains among you; do not fear!"

⁶"For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; ⁷and I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations,^[b] and I will fill this temple with glory,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁸"The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the LORD of hosts. ⁹"The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,' says the LORD of hosts. "And in this place I will give peace,' says the LORD of hosts." (Haggai 2:3-9)

After a period of darkness and distress, God sovereignly stretched out His mighty hand to rebuild the ruined temple at Jerusalem, and so it is with the true Temple of God! After these centuries of darkness and deception, He is surely once again stretching forth His hand to gather the living stones, and to fill His temple with the glory of Jesus Christ!

"Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH!

From His place He shall branch out,

And He shall build the temple of the LORD;

¹³Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD.

He shall bear the glory,

And shall sit and rule on His throne;

So He shall be a priest on His throne,

And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'" (Zechariah 6:12-13)

**¹ "Behold, I send My messenger,
And he will prepare the way before Me.**

And the Lord, whom you seek,

Will suddenly come to His temple,

Even the Messenger of the covenant,

In whom you delight.

Behold, He is coming,"

Says the LORD of hosts.

²"But who can endure the day of His coming?

And who can stand when He appears?

For He is like a refiner's fire

And like launderers' soap.
³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver;
He will purify the sons of Levi,
And purge them as gold and silver,
That they may offer to the LORD
An offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:1-3)

We see here the Lord depicted as coming to His temple, as He sits and refines the sons of Levi – the priesthood of God. It is He who is building this great temple – the temple that shall bear His own glory! When this temple has been fully prepared, it shall be flooded with His glory, and so shall the words be fulfilled:

¹ Arise, shine;
For your light has come!
And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
And deep darkness the people;
But the LORD will arise over you,
And His glory will be seen upon you.
³The Gentiles shall come to your light,
And kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3)

For this is our great destiny, and perpetually unfolding reality, to be the living temple of the Lord!

For you^[a] are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people." (2 Corinthians 6:16)

Remembering, brethren, that all the scriptures are for our instruction, take time to meditate upon the constant references to the temple, from the scriptures previously mentioned, to the painstaking measurements and calculated dimensions of the temple in Ezekiel and Revelation. These things all pertain to the glorified body of Christ – His temple:

¹⁹Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)

Considering this in the light of His coming, is it not apparent that as He is, so we must also be, that we may become His express image?

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but *we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.* (1 John 3:2)

When He is revealed in His body, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is! *And we shall see Him as He is, for we shall be like Him!* Praise His glorious name! Knowing that we are in His image will mean that we can now see Him as He is, in His multi-membered body! The new man – the completed Temple! This glorious fulfillment of our union in Him is reason to fill every spirit-born child of God with unspeakable joy! How unstoppable and certain is the increase of that kingdom, that coming, that temple! We can now understand the beauty of the stone (Christ) of Daniel's prophecy that strikes and destroys the kingdoms of this world, becoming a kingdom that fills the whole earth:

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. (Daniel 2:35)

FROM SEED AND ROOT TO BRANCH AND TREE

The kingdom of God began in a seed, even Christ Jesus. And that seed has reproduced Himself in many, that:

in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:7)

Not only that, but He is preparing us to bear His image, and to bear His ministry – not of ourselves, but as sanctified vessels filled with His Holy Spirit, presence, faith, compassion and love!

**²¹Then saviors^[e] shall come to Mount Zion
To judge the mountains of Esau,
And the kingdom shall be the LORD's. (Obadiah 1:21)**

Esau (the carnal man) shall be judged by the body of the savior, and liberation shall go forth unto the dark world:

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with *the glory which shall be revealed in us.* ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because *the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.* (Romans 8:18-21)

What a hope! What a gloriously high calling! And what a wise, all powerful, God of love! His glory shall increase and increase, His kingdom shall expand as the soothing rays of the sun, till it touches all that was cold and hard and dead!

**⁹They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.
¹⁰"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:9-10)**

**³³Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD,
For He is coming to judge the earth.^[b]
³⁴Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever. (1 Chronicles 16:33-34)**

God's coming judgments shall be a cause of joy, as His mercy endures forever, and as the Holy Lamb stands as a beautiful banner to all peoples! Saints of the Most High – *this* is the God we serve! Put away those heathen notions of a God who tortures, who inflicts cruel terror in endless waves, and come to the Rock of our Salvation and rejoice!

CONCLUSION:

The Lord Jesus Christ, as promised, is coming. He is ever coming. He came, and comes, and cometh still. His coming is the coming of a King – and a kingdom. He is the full expression of that kingdom, the preeminent one, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the Head of the body. The King – and the kingdom – are coming in and through His holy temple, the place of God's habitation in the Spirit, and they are coming through a people sanctified and conformed to His blessed image. There is a new man – Head and body, that will minister to the hurts of the world, shine great light into the dark places, and seek that which is lost. Of the increase of this kingdom there will be no end! Hallelujah!