

Kingdom Report

Week 7 July 2018

The Coming of the Glory Cloud

Last week I introduced you to a new timeline for the Kingdom of God...the Alpha and Omega timeline. This week I introduce you to the coming of the Lord in the glory cloud...the end of an age and the beginning of a new age.

I know I shocked a number of you last week when I presented to you the Alpha and Omega, beginning and the end timeline....a trillion years!

Let me be honest with you here. I grew up in my understanding of the "end times" on a 7000 year time line. It seemed so logical. You have the Lord creating the earth in 6 days and then a day of rest. You have one day as a 1000 years making a period of 6000 years of human history and then 1000 years Millennial rule of Christ....and then it is over. What was over? Well you the rapture was before the 1000 years and then we come back to earth and rule for a 1000 years and then the heavens and the earth are destroyed and the Great White Throne resurrection takes place when everyone alive and dead are judged before God and it is over.

But then what? Well, then we have a whole new heaven and earth made by the Lord and the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven, a city of 1500 miles on a side and 1500 miles high.

But then what? Ah that was my problem. I could never get that question answered. From my Pentecostal upbringing the whole idea of 7000 years of human history was very satisfying and very neat. I could wrap my head around that. Very limited, very understandable. Adam created 6000 years ago according to our best Bible chronology, therefore the earth created 6000 years ago, then just ahead of us the any-moment rapture to meet Christ coming in the clouds and then return with Him to rule for a 1000 years and then the end.

But then the problems mounted and I will just mention several to give you an idea of what I was contending with:

- 6000 years since Adam is not so simple. I am not even going to get into the "age of the earth" arguments here. I only wish to point out that the scriptures that Jesus and the apostles read, what we call the Old Testament, the version they read was what we call the Septuagint version and there the ages of the patriarchs give a time line 1500 years longer than the Masoretic text we read from today. So there goes the neat 7000 years package of the ages.

- And then of course the very practical problem I shared with you before, that if you have 1000 years of compound growth of just 1% you end up with 83 trillion people who would need 10,000 earths of our present population to house, feed and survive.

- But even bigger problem are Revelation 21 & 22 which come after Revelation 20 the description of the 1000 year Millennial reign of Christ. Rev. 21 & 22 describe the New Heavens and the New Earth. Yes there is a description of the New Jerusalem but what else is there in this wonderful new world that God seemed to recreate.. Rev.

22;2 speaks of the need to heal the nations and verses 14- 15 says ***"Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city (the New Jerusalem) for outside are dogs and sorcerers and whoremongers and murderers and idolaters and whosoever loves and makes a lie."***

Now this last one is the real deal breaker. I have asked dispensationalists, post millennialists, a-millennialists, evangelicals, reformed church dominees etc...a very simple question....Why is it that after the "end" or after the Millennium, or as some like to call it "the eschaton" a nice theological evasion...why is it that after the last resurrection, the last judgment...when God has re-created the heavens and the earth and we have resurrected godly people on this new earth and God is present on this new earth...how in the world do we still have mobs of sinners as in idolaters, liars, murderers etc walking around paradise...ok they are walking around outside the New Jerusalem but still they are there! Yes right there at "the end"!

Nobody can give me an answer. Everyone wants to debate when or if there is a rapture, when is the first or second resurrection, when does Jesus return....but nobody wants to really talk about...when is the end? And what does the end look like and what is it the end of?

So I decided to answer that question myself for myself and I passed it on to you last week. Between Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end when heaven and earth shall pass away is probably about 1 trillion years. I have a right to that calculation because the Lord told me to look to the stars and the heavens a listen to them for they are talking silently (Psalm 19) and He said in Genesis 1 that the stars are for signs and seasons....and that includes the sign of the end and the season between the beginning and the end.

Now I make a further truth available to you from my discovery of time and seasons. Between the Alpha and the Omega there are periods of time the Bible calls "ages". These are particular sets of time in years when the Lord determines to do certain things within His preordained times. As Ecclesiastes so wonderfully says "there is a time for everything...."

Paul was aware of these "ages". Here is what he says to the Ephesians....
Eph. 2;7 ***"That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness towards us through Christ Jesus."***
Eph. 3:21 ***"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"***

Paul knew there was an incredible timeline of God's historical work through His Church still ahead. There are ages and ages still ahead...a seemingly endless amount of ages....world without end! (I think a trillion years approaches that figure of world without end!). Can you begin to see that there is something drastically wrong with our conception of the enormity of what the Lord is doing in this earthly, universe timeline. We are in no way talking about a 7000 year timeline.

We are also no way at the "end times"...but we are at the end of an age and the beginning of a new age! And the signal for that is the coming of the Lord in the clouds!

The Age to Come: Possessing the Promised Land

One of the great confusions in the discussions about the coming of the Lord is this reference of Him coming in the clouds.

Let me clear that up for you. But to understand that phrase the best thing is not to look to the weather outside and see if it is a clear sky then Jesus cannot come today...or some other silly interpretation. The best thing for interpreting scripture is to let scripture do the interpretation. And in this instance the only scripture that Jesus and the apostles had was what we call the Old Testament and it is there that we find what Jesus was referring to.

There are two ways that the Lord came in the clouds as we can see from scripture.

The one is the reference in Isaiah 19:1 ***"The burden of Egypt. Behold the Lord rides upon a swift cloud and shall come into Egypt and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it."***

These instances of the Lord coming in the clouds refer to His judgment on a nation. That is why Jesus told the generation of Jerusalem that rejected Him that He is coming in a cloud and that meant judgment so much that Jerusalem would be destroyed and with it the temple. His references to "Behold I come quickly" refer to this coming in the cloud judgment.

But again it also signifies the end of an age for a nation or a people. For Israel it meant the kingdom had been taken away from them and given to another (the gentiles) who is to be the new Israel of God. (and a New Jerusalem and a new Temple, which is His Church!).

The other coming in a cloud is far more interesting for me...and this is the Lord coming to His people with a new covenant, a new anointing, a new power and blessing.

The appropriate scripture for our generation of the Lord coming in a cloud is to be found at the handing over of the leadership of Israel from Moses to Joshua. Moses leading them for 40 years in the wilderness...then the new leader with a new anointing and a new commission.

Deuteronomy 31:14,15....

"Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold the time is near; call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting that I may commission him. So Moses and Joshua went and presented themselves at the tent of meeting. And the Lord appeared in the tent in the pillar of cloud and the pillar of cloud stood at the doorway of the tent."

Lets get this right....the Lord spoke of here is Jesus Christ. Jehovah of the Old Testament is Jesus of the New Testament. Jesus appeared to Moses and Joshua

coming in a cloud. When Jesus says to His Church I am coming in a cloud He is referring to His own History with His people recorded in scripture so that we can understand what He means. And what did His appearance to Joshua in a cloud mean?

Deuteronomy 31:23...gives is the answer...

"Then the Lord commissioned Joshua the son of Nun and said Be strong and courageous for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them and I will be with you."

Which is the same thing Jesus said to His disciples when He went up into a cloud "Lo I am always with you till the end of the age."

Except here is the difference...Joshua and the army of Israel had to go into Canaan and kill Canaanites.

We go into all the world and preach the gospel....baptizing them! What does that mean. Well baptizing them is another way, a better way of killing Canaanites. You go down into the water as a sign of death and resurrection, death to the old life, rise into the resurrection of a new creation in Christ.

Same Lord, same cloud, same power to do great wonderful things, but this time we kill the old flesh and create new nations in Christ...we are called to heal the nations of Canaan...not destroy them.

And the Promised Land? No it is not the 'Holy Land' of Palestine. It is what Paul said in Romans 4:13 ..."the promise to Abraham and his seed that they would be the heir of the world." That's right. That's right...Jesus is telling our generation that we are the heirs of the promises made to Abraham which is to possess the whole world for our Lord.

And that is the new age we are now entering. We are coming out of the wilderness wandering of Moses as leader. We as a Church are about to enter a new anointing and a new commission...all the world for Jesus.

Jesus is not coming in the clouds to take us out of the world. He is coming in the cloud of glory to anoint us with new power and a new commission...it is time to possess the Kingdom.

And when we have taken planet earth for His kingdom then lets get on with the great Kingdom ages to come to possess all the works of His hands for the next 900 billion years...world without end.