

Thoughts Concerning Ruling and Reigning with Christ

There are several different Sacred Scriptures that present our ruling and reigning with Christ. These Scriptures teach us that there are several different ways in which Christ shall rule and reign and His saints with Him.

There are several different concepts about this, but one of the saddest concepts is that one that places this rule and reign in a coming 1,000 years physical age and does not pay much attention to the Spiritual Rule and Reign with Christ in this present Age of the Gospel Church. It also seems to place very little emphasis upon the coming great rule and reign of Christ over the New World in the eternal ages while admitting of such. Its main goal seems to place Christ in a rule and reign over this present evil world, on this sin cursed earth. I will say more to this later if the Lord is willing. It is also sad to me that most concepts of prophecy do not enter into the glorious unending rule and reign of Christ and His Brothers and Sisters during the Eternal Age.

Let me also say that when we consider this part of prophecy we must bear in mind that both the historicalists and the futurists have *somewhat to offer* in that both concepts must be joined together in a part or two. I mean this, while prophecy has a historical fulfillment, much of it relates to the past, and the present, as well as the future. It contains both a here and now as well as yet to be fulfillment.

I want to deal with these two concepts during this study.

Ro 15:12 **And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.**

Please note here that while other Scriptures present Jesus as both the ROOT AND THE OFFSPRING OF DAVID, PAUL HERE PRESENTS HIM AS THE ROOT OF DAVID. Which is first, the root or the plant? Are we going to say that David had for His root the Deity of Christ, and that David is therefore in God the Word somehow? This would deny the need for the Hypostatic Union between Christ and God the Eternal Word, and if David was in that Divine Being, himself, without Being in the Humanity of Christ, then it would suggest that perhaps others could by-pass Jesus Christ and have their roots in Deity as well. I think not!

We are flesh of His flesh, and bone of His bone, but we are not deity of His deity!

The meaning is that Christ Jesus is the ROOT OF DAVID IN CHRIST'S SACRED MANHOOD IN UNION WITH HIS DEITY, and as such Christ supports all His brothers and sisters as they grow up and are branches arising out of the root and branch of Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ did pre-exist David as well as Abraham, and as the Pre-

Existent God-Man, the elect are well rooted in the Being of Jesus Christ as their God-Man Mediator, King, Priest, and Prophet-Redeemer!

This well rooting in and with Christ is what we call *eternal union*. This union shall never be dissolved and is the ground and source of all our present and eternal blessings. We are not directly in union with deity, but Jesus is, and we are in union with Him in His union with Deity.

Re 5:5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

Well again Christ Jesus is affirmed to be the ROOT of David, or that David is one of the branches of Christ as is true of all other true believers.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

It is a blessing beyond our ability to comprehend in this present evil world, that we have our root and standing in Christ Jesus. He is the source of all our hope and life both now and in the world to come.

Ro 11:36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Also note well that Christ is here presented as the LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH. This is one of His allegorical natures. He is both the LAMB and the LION, showing His two advents in His one Being. His Lamb-like coming is over, and His Lion-like coming draws near!

Re 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Here Christ is presented in His two different forms, first the Divine Equal and then the Servant. He is both in His one Mediatorial Being as the God-Man.

Ro 11:16 For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

1Co 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Please note well that the final enemy is not Gog and Magog, but death itself.

Re 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Re 20:6 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.

Re 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Re 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

The Saints of the Lord shall rule and reign with Christ, by their union with Him, over both those who are cast into the Lake of Fire and over the Lake of Fire Itself. This may not yet be such a wonderful rule unto us, but as we go on then it will become more and more apparent how great of a blessing it is indeed to rule over the Second Death and not be a part of it.

Isa. 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

23 And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

This important reign shall take on its final and enlarged perfect form at the great Resurrection:

John 5:19 Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth *them*; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

23 That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

In my opinion the Second Death and the Resurrection unto damnation that Christ beings forth, are one and the same.

Also it is good to note that all this did the Father give unto Christ as His work and His inheritance. We join with Him in His work and His inheritance.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.

18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

2Ti 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him*: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

There is both a present, spiritual reign, and a yet future reign after our sufferings.

Re 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience

of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Ro 8:18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

2Co 1:5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

2Co 1:7 And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye be* also of the consolation.

Php 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Heb 2:10 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

1Pe 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

1Pe 4:13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1Pe 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

To be a co-partner with Christ in His sufferings in this present evil world brings also the promise of our being with Him and partaking with Him in His glory and His rule and reign for ever and ever. *Of His Kingdom, there shall be no end!*

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

The important question here *is what earth* is John speaking about? Are we going to rule and reign with Christ on this present evil world in addition to Christ's present spiritual rule, or are we going to reign and rule with Christ on the New Earth? *In my opinion it is upon the New Earth.*

Joh 12:26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

Joh 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.

Joh 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

I hope to discuss why I cannot believe in a still future carnal rule and reign of Christ over this present sin cursed world at the proper time.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 *Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

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

It is noteworthy as to when this happens, at the sounding of the 7th or last trump. See I Cor. 15. Also it note worthy to see how long this Kingdom is to last that shall be become Christ's at the sounding of the 7th Trump? He shall reign for ever and ever. Please also note that this future Kingdom is distinct from this present Kingdom, for it will concern the Kingdoms of this world, or the Nations.

Mt 19:28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Heb 1:8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

The Father addressed His Son as God, and promised Him a Kingdom that is forever and ever. This is the Kingdom wherein dwells righteousness and His rule will include only those in righteousness.

Re 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

This is the special promise for all true believers, to be with Christ where He is, to sit with Him in or on His Throne. This manner of both overcoming and ruling with Christ shall be in the same manner that He has done. With us this is impossible, but by our union with Christ in what He has done for us, this is our present and coming blessing.

I Thess. 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Rev. 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

This last promise of a rule over the nations is for the *enduring believer*. The believer who endures unto the end shall rule the nations with a rod of iron. They, by that iron rule, shall be broken into shivers as vessels of a potter over clay.

The questions are when, and what nations?

In my opinion this relates to a *yet future rule* and the nations are *the goat nations*. This will involve their being judged at the last judgment and their being cast into the Lake of

Fire. The saints shall have an active part in both of these events, and this is one of their ways of ruling in the coming New World and Eternal Age of glory.

Re 20:6 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.

The promise of the King-Priests and their rule and reign with Christ is for a 1,000 years. At issue here what is mean by the term 1,000? Many say this is a yet literal 1,000 years reign. Others say this is a symbolic number and is placed for the Kingdom that shall be forever and ever, and therefore of His Kingdom there shall be no end. The only difference between what is here stated and what is stated elsewhere about the duration of this rule and reign is the term 1,000. If we govern its meaning by what is reveled elsewhere we conclude that this is a definite number expressing an indefinite number. I know that seems to be a contradiction, but the Scriptures clearly express that His Kingdom shall be unending and shall last for ever and ever.

Re 22:5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

Lu 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

To conclude on this point, the Lord Jesus Christ does here have a spiritual rule and reign in and over His Gospel Church, Ordinances and ministers. He does have a providential rule and reign over the entire creation and He upholds all things by the Word of His power.

We further observe that He shall have a yet future rule and reign with His saints over the Nations. We believe this will occur after His Second Coming, after His final and great Judgment, after He has called forth all the dead, both the righteous and wicked, and has judged them all, and then He shall cast them into the Lake of Fire.

The reign and rule shall be upon the New Earth and shall not end. Because He lives His rule and reign shall last for ever and ever. The inhabitants of the Lake of Fire shall abide therein under His rule and dominion so long as Jesus Christ lives. He shall never be brought down to die again.

Rom. 8:31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth.

34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In conclusion let me ask these questions concerning the Lake of Fire and those who dwell therein, both evil men and women and all evil spirits, devils, demons and Satan himself:

1. **Who is going to cast them into the Lake of Fire; I mean in an authoritative manner:**
2. **Who is going to be alive and watch over the Lake of Fire and keep all its inhabitants in their place;**
3. **What will keep them from getting out and trying once again to overthrow the Kingdom and Rule of Christ?**
4. **Let us remember that God the Father has placed all this into the Hands of His Only Begotten Son;**
5. **Therefore the Son's Kingship over the wicked and their final place of abode shall last as long as He does.**

With these questions in mind and other thoughts expressed, I hope that this study has enlarged the importance of the Rule and Reign of Christ over the last enemy, even the second death.

For of the Kingdom of Christ there shall be no end. For the execution of His justice shall include the Second Death, even the Lake of Fire. There shall never be any release of its prisoners so long as Christ shall be alive and ruling.

Mark 9:43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be

cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:

48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

We must certainly be careful to note that the final prison of the damned, the Lake of Fire, or the Second Death, *is not going to be maintained by its inmates.*

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Heb 1:3 Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Joh 5:22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

He shall reign over death for ever and ever!

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.