

# Revelation 20:4

By Louis T. Talbot

Louis Talbot:

And good morning my radio friends and friends of the Bible institute of Los Angeles. This is Louis T. Talbot greeting you once again and my friends I'd like to say a word in regard to the booklets that we're sending out containing the heart of the messages that I'm giving on the Book of Revelation. We're going to get out 10 series of 10 booklets and, as I've said before, they're not mimeograph sheets they're printed booklets and the only drawback to them is that they have my photograph on the front page. But if you will overlook that you will find all the rest of it very helpful indeed. And these booklets will be a great help to you in after years in your private study of the Word of God.

All right Now I want you please to turn your Bibles to the 20th chapter of the Book of Revelation. You know that in the 19th chapter of the book that we have the account of the Marriage Supper of the lamb and then you have the glorious revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ when He comes as King of Kings and Lord of lords. And it's a wonderful description that the Spirit of God has given to us of the Lord Jesus Christ when he unveils himself to this world. You know that the theme of the book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. And you know that you have the revelation proper in the 19th chapter and in chapter 1 to 18 you have all the events that led up to the great event the revelation of Christ when the heavens are going to be torn asunder And the Lord Jesus Christ will come to this Earth King of Kings and Lord of lords. And we saw that in the 20th chapter that the devil is bound and he is the only one who can bind

the devil. And then we saw in verse 7, or rather, we saw in the first three verses that a great angel takes the devil and puts him into the shaft of the pit. And then we read at verse four, I want you to look at verse four, I think that we got down to verse 4 in our study, "and I saw thrones and they sat upon them and judgment was given unto them. And I saw the souls of them which 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 fore heads or in their hands and they lived and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Now that is the millennium, you know that that is the word the meaning of the word millennium. The word millennium is a compound of two Latin words. One is mille, M-I-L-L-E, which means a thousand and the other is annum. And you know that annum means a year, and millennium means a thousand years. The Lord Jesus Christ is going to reign over this Earth for a thousand years before he delivers the kingdom back to the father. And for that reason the coming kingdom has come to be called thus the millennium.

I think it is it is a great pity that we ever came to call that coming age the millennium. I think that if we had always called it what the Old Testament prophets call it, the kingdom age, that there would not be in the minds of a lot of folks today The misconceptions that there are. That is that we had always referred to it as the kingdom age but it is all right to call it the millennium because the word millennium, as I have said, just means a thousand years. And six times over you'll find the expression in the twentieth chapter of the book of Revelation, "and they lived and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years". Now in verse 4 you have the account of the resurrection of the bodies of the Tribulation saints. There you read, Look at the latter part of that. Now we better read all of verse 4 again with you. just read verse 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", that is, they lived again, It's the resurrection of their bodies that is here, "and they lived and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years." these tribulation saints, my friends, who died for their testimony to Christ, because they testified in the face of the Antichrist, are raised when the Lord returns in glory and they're given a place on earth, a place of power and they govern on the earth for a thousand years with Christ. Now they are the tribulation saints and I told you yesterday that in view of this that there is no question as to whether sole people will be saved during the tribulation period.

Now while the church is in heaven, the Holy Ghost who inhabits the church has left the world in that capacity. And yet during the tribulation period, the Holy Spirit will operate and he'll work among men as he did in the Old Testament period. The church is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. But even though the church is gone during the tribulation period, the Holy Spirit has gone back yet souls will be saved by his power because he will be operating as he operated in the Old Testament days. There will be a host of tribulation saints who will lay down their bodies because they receive not the mark of the beast and they will suffer martyrdom. But when Jesus comes they are raised and that is the first resurrection.

The first part of the first resurrection comes to pass when Jesus takes the judge into the glory. When we receive our resurrection bodies, now that is a mystery and it is not stated here. It is stated or symbolized in the fourth chapter of the book of Revelation. That is the first part of the first resurrection where the church is called the first fruits under Christ and the second part of the first resurrection is the tribulation saints. And so undoubtedly when the church is raised from the

dead, the Old Testament saints will be raised from the dead also and they will receive their resurrection bodies and they are the guests at the marriage supper of the lamb.

I told you in former broadcasts that the Old Testament Saints will not form the bride. They will be the guests at the marriage set for the lamb and they will be the friends of the Bridegroom. And you'll remember that in that 19th chapter and verse 9 it says, "Blessed are they that are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb". Now it's the Old Testament saints who are going to be called. It isn't the bride that's going to be called. I told you yesterday, or last week rather, that that when there is a marriage the bride Never receives an invitation, It's the guests that receive the invitation. Why, the bride is the wedding. There wouldn't be a wedding without the bride. She doesn't send an invitation to herself. And my friends when revelation chapter 19 and verse 9 reads, "Blessed are they that are called", It is not a reference to the church but rather to the guests at the marriage supper. And the guests at the marriage supper are other saints and must be the Old Testament saints and they are called to sit down with the church at the marriage supper of the lamb. And I think that the souls of the Tribulation Saints will also be at the marriage supper although the tribulation Saints, their bodies will not be raised until the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. You see that the second resurrection I wish before I just comment on that, I wanted you to read together verses 4 and 5 will you? Verses 4 and 5, "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", Now this refers to the unrighteous dead, "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."

My friends the Second Resurrection is when the wicked dead are raised after the millennial period. To be judged at the great white throne judgment. Now we shall see about that later. But this is the first resurrection and the first resurrection is at the beginning of the millennium Although the resurrection of the church, that is the bodies of believers before the tribulation, will be a part of that first resurrection although there will be a difference in time between the resurrection of the bodies of the Saints and the resurrection of the Tribulation saints at the close of the tribulation period.

Then we read in verse 6. Now look at verse 6 will you? "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." Now the book of Revelation does not go into any detail in regard to the characteristic features of the thousand year reign of Christ because those characteristic features are foretold in all of the Old Testament prophecies. And then you'll find a great number of those characteristics in Matthew Mark Luke and John. I want to say that when Christ returns to rule and to reign and the church is with him and the tribulation saints are also raised with him, it's going to be a time of glory. And you know that we oftentimes sing the glory song and we sing, "All that will be glory for me". Now I like that song but you know that there is an element of selfishness in it, "all that will be glory for me". My friends the thousand year reign of Christ is going to be a time of glory but it is going to be a time of glory for other people besides just you and me. In the first place, in the millennial reign of Christ it will be glory for the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus will be back upon this earth just as definitely as he was 1900 years ago although he will be clothed in his un-created glory. And the Lord Jesus is going to be king in as direct and positive a sense as any king this world as ever seen. Only he will have a wider empire and a more autocratic sway.

Do you remember how that in the first chapter of Luke and verse 35 that you have the announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary concerning the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ? And then you read this, Luke 1:35, Now you put that down in your notebook and you'll read this, "and he shall be great and thou shalt conceive rather and conceive in my womb and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus and he shall be great and shall be called the son of the highest and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever and of his Kingdom there shall be no end". Do you know my dear friends that the latter part of that statement made by the angel Gabriel has never been fulfilled? The first part of it has. Jesus was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary but that statement in regard to his father giving to him the throne of David and he, sitting upon that throne and reigning over the house of Jacob, And of his kingdom there shall be no end. My dear friends, that that prophecy has never been fulfilled. Jesus never sat upon the throne of his father David. But when he returns to this earth, he will be the heir to David's throne. He will be the heir to Abraham's land. And when he returns he'll come as the son of David and he'll come as the son of Abraham.

You know that 1900 years ago, when the Lord Jesus rode into Jerusalem, You know that the leaders of the people had him arrested. And they said, "We will not have this man to reign over us." And when the matter was put before Pilate and Pilate said, "Will I crucify your king?" but they said, "We have no king but Caesar". And my friends, Jesus was given not the throne of David but given a cross. Then he went back to heaven and now he is sitting on the throne of his father in heaven. He is sitting on the father's throne. His throne is the throne of David and he will not step upon the throne of David until he returns in glory. And then in the 72nd psalm and verse 8 we read this, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth." That is that the Lord Jesus is not only going to reign over the land of Palestine and

over the house of Jacob But he is going to reign from sea to sea and from river unto the ends of the earth. That is He is going to have complete sway over every part of this world. And my friends, Jerusalem is going to be the king's capital city.

You read in Isaiah Chapter Two and verses 2 and 3, put this down, now all these prophecies refer to the millennium. That is the Messiah's kingdom when he returns. And Isaiah chapter 2 verses 2 and 3 he says this, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." My dear friends God has designated the land of Palestine as the geographical and the political center of the earth and he has designated Jerusalem As the metropolis of the world. Jerusalem is going to be the king's capital city in that day.

Then my dear friends, I've just got time to say a word about the glory that the millennium is going to bring to the church. Do you know that the church is going to reign with him? We are told in the epistles that he has made us a kingdom of priests and kings and we shall reign with him. My friends, fancy coming back to this old world where we are being misunderstood and misrepresented and where we have suffered and where we have been maligned. Think of coming back to this world and in that day reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ. You, for instance take 1 John chapter 3 and verse 2 and there you'll read this, "And when Christ shall appear, ye also shall appear with him in glory." Now in those days the twelve tribes of Israel will be back in their own land and the Twelve Apostles are going to have a unique place in that government. For instance,

Do you remember that in the 19th chapter of Matthew and verse 28, The Lord Jesus said this to them and he was referring to the time when he will return to this earth and establish his earthly kingdom. Matthew Chapter 19 and verse 28, Jesus said this, " 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." Now the word judge in those days was not a judicial office, it was an administrative office. And when Christ is ruling over this earth, during the thousand year's reign of Christ, he is going to rule the nation of Israel through the Twelve Apostles. The Twelve Apostles are going to sit upon twelve thrones and they're going to administer government over the Twelve Tribes of Israel. and you know that that was prophesied in Isaiah Chapter 1 and verse 26, Just put that down, Isaiah chapter 1 and verse 26 and there you'll read this, "And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city." now that statement, "I will restore thy judges as at the first, that Isaiah said, in chapter one verse 26, will have its fulfilment when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and the Twelve Apostles are in the land of Palestine sitting upon twelve thrones judging or administering government over the twelve tribes of Israel.

Now my friends, As for the government of the Gentiles, the Gentile nations, those nations that will go into the millennium, those judgments that will not be judged during the tribulation period, Those people that will hear and receive the message of the hundred and forty four thousand, in regard to how they're going to be judged You have an inkling from the 19th chapter of Luke where the Lord Jesus Christ speaks about a certain king going into a fare country to receive a kingdom And when he returned he reckoned with his servants. And he said to one servant, "I gave you ten talents and what did you do with them?" And he says, "I gained ten

talents also." and Jesus said, "Well done, Have thou authority over ten cities." Then he said to another, "have thou authority over five cities." my friends. Where are these cities? Where are these cities located? Where is this authority to be exercised? It's not to be exercised in heaven. There are not a lot of cities up there. This is the millennial reign of Christ. And my friends, that's where you and I come in. and we'll have our bodies and we will be reigning with Christ over the earth and Christ will govern through the twelve apostles in Palestine and through the rest of the world through the rest of the church.

Well we'll take this up on Monday where we leave off today. Goodbye. God bless you all.