

## What is the purpose of the Tribulation Period and the Millennial Kingdom of Christ on Earth?

“To answer this question,” says Dr. Renald Showers, “We must go back to the beginning of creation, back to Genesis.” The late Renald Showers was a Bible teacher and contributing author for an evangelical magazine called “Israel My Glory.” What follows is an adaptation of a lecture he gave on this most important subject. Having given credit where it is due, we will begin.

There were two kinds of subjects in God’s kingdom: angels and men. God created 100’s of millions, maybe billions, of \_\_\_\_\_ to serve him in heaven (Revelation 5:11). Then, God created man to have dominion over everything here on the earth. So then, the original form of government on earth was a theocracy.

The word *theocracy* simply means \_\_\_\_\_, but there is more to our definition than this. Adam functioned as God’s representative to administer his kingdom-rule on Earth (Gen 1:20-26). So, a *theocracy* is a form of government in which God administers His rule through a \_\_\_\_\_.

The angel Lucifer fell from his exalted position because he wanted what God had. God had a kingdom of angels and men serving Him and worshiping Him. Lucifer wanted that, too. He rebelled against Almighty God and even succeeded in leading other angels in his revolt. They were promptly judged and cast out of heaven to earth. When Lucifer fell God changed his name to Satan, a name meaning \_\_\_\_\_. Satan also succeeded in leading man to revolt against God’s law and kingdom.

As a result of the fall of man, a subject that we have dealt with elsewhere, Adam lost the kingdom. This (and of course the death of man) was the main consequence of the fall. The second was the kingdom was successfully usurped from God. The theocracy was lost, but God will get it back. He will accomplish this in \_\_\_\_\_ phases: the Great Tribulation and the Second Coming of Christ.

Satan has dominated the kingdoms of this world throughout the OT and the NT. He controls the present world system (see 2 Cor. 4:4). Let’s turn now to Luke 4:5. Satan had the power and authority to give it to Jesus because it was handed over to him. Most likely Adam didn’t realize this when he disobeyed God. This is why Jesus called Satan

\_\_\_\_\_ . See also 1 John 5:19; James 4:4. The present world system is dominated by God's enemies. Don't love it. A church is an embassy representing God's kingdom on enemy soil.

Citizens of heaven await the glorious day when the King of kings takes the kingdoms of this world back. Let's look at the seventh trumpet judgment in Revelation 11: 15. The seventh trumpet contains within itself the last series of seven judgements. Notice what happens in heaven. Finally! At last! God systematically attacks and heavily bombards the world with three series' of judgments to interrupt and confound the kingdoms of this world just before God invades with his troops. This same tactic has been used by military generals of this world throughout history. Jesus will come from heaven to conquer his enemies and put down Satan's revolt.

Now, let's turn our attention to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ (Revelation 19; Zech. 12-14). Why does Jesus come riding back on a white horse with an army behind him? When a Roman general came back from war he would lead a victory march through the city of Rome riding on the back of a white horse. It symbolized to the people of that time a victorious conqueror. Jesus is returning as God's victorious conqueror to finish the job and take back the kingdom(see Rev. 19:11, 19). Satan was defeated at the cross but his \_\_\_\_\_ was not taken from him.

The unsaved will be removed from the planet before the kingdom is established (Matt. 13:24-30). And the devil will be bound in the bottomless pit during the 1,000 year kingdom (Rev. 20:1; Isa. 24:21-23). God must crush his rule and those who have followed him before the world comes to an end.

At the Second Coming of Christ, God's theocracy will be reestablished on earth (Rev. 20:1-6; Zech. 14:9 "King over all the earth"). This was lost through the first man, Adam. And this is why Jesus Christ is called the last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). The \_\_\_\_\_ will restore the theocracy as God's administrator over a new race of men. The last 1,000 years of the history of the present earth will be the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This should also tell you why Jesus often referred to himself as "the son of man". God will glorify himself with men and angels who willingly chose to serve him and will prove that he is the Sovereign LORD. No created being (no matter how clever) can finally and completely usurp His authority. The devil loses in the end. God wins!