

Revelation 6: 1; The Four Major Views of Revelation, Part 10,
"Post-Millennialism Concluded, Sermon # 54 in the series -
The Faithful and True Witness, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall
on March 25th, 2007, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

I would like to try and conclude my overview of the Four Major Views of the Book of Revelation this afternoon. I wanted to give you a taste of what each system teaches so that you would not be ignorant of the fact that many true believers and many godly expositors and preachers differ in their understanding of this book. The subject of prophecy, on this account, is not to be ignored, but rather to be given more careful attention. Let me remind you of where we were last week when we ended our introductory sermon on Post-Millennialism. I was telling you that in order for there to be a Millennium at all, that it would have to come before Christ's Second Coming because the Bible clearly teaches that Christ's Second Coming and the Resurrection of the dead take place on the same day. If you will look at the verses in the writings of New Testament in a plain, straightforward, and simple manner, you will find that there is a Day coming when our Lord Jesus shall return. We are not to be looking for many returns or many physical resurrections but we are to look forward to one Day; the Day of Christ's Second Coming, and one "hour" in which both the wicked and the righteous shall be raised. "Every eye shall see Him," on that great Day. This is the Day upon which the world will end, and the Day of Judgment will take place. It says in Acts 17: 30, "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained." You will notice that it says, "the world" will be judged. It will not be just the wicked world, but it will be the whole world. And I also used Acts 3: 19-21, in a past sermon, to prove to you this truth. "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of the restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." Heaven must receive the Lord Jesus until these times of restoration or restitution. This is not the Millennium, because in the Millennium not all things are restored. It is still a mixed state of sin and grace. When all things are restored, there will be no sin. It is only in the eternal state that all things are restored and that Day will not come until Christ returns.

We can say for a certainty that there have been "times of refreshing" that have come to the Church of Jesus Christ at a number of points in her history, over the generations that have elapsed since the days of the Apostles. There was the

Reformation, and there have been major revivals in the 1600s, the 1700s and 1800s. There has even been a little reviving in the 1900s, but if ever there was a need for a world-wide revival, a great out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, it is the days in which we are now living. This is what the Millennium will be. I tried to show you last week, what appears to me, must take place before the Millennium can be brought in; this great time-period of gospel prosperity and holiness to the Lord among many nations. It is, that the Antichristian powers must be defeated. This is what is largely being spoken of, in Chapters 6-19 of the Book of Revelation. The victory over these great systems of error which Satan has raised up, will come by gospel preaching accompanied by a great pouring out of the Spirit of God. This is not to say that there will not be literal physical wars and battles that will be linked to the spiritual victory over these powers, but the main focus of the Book of Revelation is the spiritual battle. What will follow the victory of Chapter 19, will be the binding of Satan which is mentioned here in Revelation 20. Satan's power to oppress and persecute the Church and Cause of Jesus Christ upon the earth will be bound during this particular period of time, the thousand years. Then, in conjunction with this, and following the battle that is won, there will be a great spiritual resurrection of the Cause of Christ that will take place all over the world. This is what is termed in Revelation 20, verses 5 and 6, as "the first resurrection." This first resurrection will not be a physical resurrection of bodies. It is a spiritual resurrection of souls. It is the resurrecting of the Cause of Truth and Righteousness in connection with the advance of the kingdom of Jesus Christ which is being spoken of here. The words, "I saw thrones and they sat on them," which is found in verse 4, are related to all that every person who was persecuted during the time of the reign of the Antichristian powers, suffered for, under the symbols of the first and second beasts of Rome. This verse I believe is linked to Daniel Chapter 7, Verses 15-27. Listen to verses 25-27. "He (that is the Antichrist) shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law." "Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time." (This is the 1260 days and 42 months of the book of Revelation) "But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever." "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the saints of the Most High." "His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." This is the binding of Satan, and the beginning of the Millennium. The question that I want to ask this afternoon is; What will this great pouring out of God's Spirit bring about, in terms of the advance of Christ's kingdom, after the Antichristian powers are destroyed and Satan is bound? Let me present what the Scriptures tell us.

1st will come the conversion of the Jews -

This event is an integral part of "the first resurrection". Turn with me to Ezekiel 37. These blessed verses have been used by many preachers in many generations to show how a spiritual resurrection of the heart of a person is necessary for them, in order to be saved and to serve God. It is a perfectly appropriate application. May it be used this way often. But the immediate context of these verses and the wording itself, lead me to believe that this is speaking of a spiritual resurrection of the "whole house of Israel", an event which will result in their conversion as a nation and people to Jesus Christ, and their being brought into the Church. It will be, I believe, one of the great things done by God Himself at the beginning of the Millennium. Verse 1 says, "The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones." "Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry." "And He said to me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'" "So I answered, 'O Lord God, You know.'" "Again He said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord!'" "Thus says the Lord God to these bones: 'Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.'" "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, and cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live." "Then you shall know that I am the Lord." "So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and bones came together, bone to bone." "Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them." "Also He said to me, Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God: 'Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.'" "So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army." "Then He said to me, 'Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel.'" "They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!'" "Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus say the Lord God' Behold, O my people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel." "Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up from your graves." "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land." "Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it, says the Lord."

Now notice with me, that there are certain things here which fit in well with the "first resurrection" of Revelation 20. Ezekiel is commanded to prophecy to the bones. This is the symbol of the preaching of the gospel to the Jews. The only way that they can be converted as a nation is if God "causes breath to enter into them and they will live." Then Ezekiel prophesies and the sinews and muscles and bones come together to make a "body" for each of them in this group. But there is

still no actual life. This, I believe is a picture of what has happened to Jews in our day, in post-World War II Israel. They have come back into their land, but they are presently not converted to Christ, as a "house". There is "no breath" of the Holy Spirit in them, as it says in verse 8. Then Ezekiel is told to prophecy again and say to the breath, "Come from the four winds, that these slain might live." When Ezekiel does this; "the breath comes into them and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army." This phrase, "they lived and stood up upon their feet," reminds me very much of our passage in Revelation 20 where it says, "They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years". I believe that they are linked. I believe that this passage is saying that when there is preaching directed to the Jews, at God's appointed time, accompanied by the Spirit's mighty power, then they will be converted to Christ as a whole house. They will be, as this text calls them, "an exceedingly great army". That is; that they will become mighty soldiers enlisted in Christ's Cause. Listen to Zechariah 10: 6. "I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph." "I will bring them back, because I have mercy on them." "They shall be as though I had not cast them aside; for I am the Lord their God, and I will hear them." Verse 9 - "I will sow them among the peoples, and they shall remember Me in far countries; they shall live, together with their children, and they shall return." Again, think of the words, "they shall live". It sounds very much like the words of Revelation 20. I wish that I had time to open up all these passages but I don't here at this time. You can look further at Zechariah 12: 7 - 13: 2, for further confirmation of these things.

2ndly- In the Millennium many other nations in a general sense shall receive the gospel and many among those nations shall be saved.

We are in the book of Zechariah, so turn over with me to chapter 9. Once again God speaks in this chapter of His bringing saving grace to His ancient people the Jews. You can see this in verses 1 and following. When we come to verse 12 it says, "For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew--I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these." He is speaking of the prosperity of gospel preaching by and among the Jews. Verse 13 -- "And it shall come to pass that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing." "Do not fear, let your hands be strong." And most certainly their hands will be strong. In verse 20 and following it says, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another,' saying, 'Let us continue to go and pray before the Lord, and seek the Lord of hosts.'" "I myself will go also." "Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the Lord." "Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

You can see the tremendous impact on the rest of the nations of the world because of the conversion of the Jews to Christ, coupled with the pouring out of the Spirit in greater measure. Many peoples and strong nations; the ratio of ten Gentiles coming to one Jew, all coming and looking to find Christ in that day. These were the verses that motivated Jonathan Edwards and others in his day to form the "concerts of prayer." This can be seen in Edward's treatise entitled, "A Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of God's People, in Extraordinary Prayer, for the Revival of Religion and the Advancement of Christ's kingdom on Earth." One of the reasons that Edwards, in his treatise, urges the churches on to prayer is found in Part 2 of the discourse. It is a section speaking on "motives to a compliance with what is proposed". The first section is entitled, "The latter-day glory not yet accomplished." The second section is entitled, "The latter-day glory unspeakably great." In it he talks about the Millennium and what it will be like. I would urge you to take the time to read it. In a footnote in the third section, entitled, "How much Christ prayed and labored and suffered in order to the glory and happiness of that day," he says, "There is reason to think that through the greater part of this period, at least, the number of saints will, in their increase, bear a proportion to the increase of the number of inhabitants." "And it must be considered, that if the number of mankind at the beginning of this period be no more than equal to the present number, yet we may doubtless conclude, that the number of true saints will be immensely greater; when instead of the few true and thorough Christians now in some few countries, every nation on the face of the whole earth shall be converted to Christianity, and every country shall be full of true Christians; so that the successive multiplication of true saints through the thousand years will begin with that vast advantage, beyond the multiplication of mankind; where the latter is begun from units, the other doubtless will begin with hundreds, if not thousands." "How much greater then will be the number of true converts, that will be brought to a participation of the benefits of Christ's redemption, during that period, than in all other times put together!" Perhaps you think that Edwards is too optimistic? Well, I will let you read the Bible and his treatise.

Look at Isaiah 60, verse 1. Here we find the outcome of the pouring out of the Spirit upon the Jews and the nations following their conversion. "Arise, shine; for your light has come!" "And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you." "For 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." "The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." God is speaking through the prophet to Israel here. "Lift up your eyes all around and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side." "Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to

you." The "sea" here in this verse is not a literal body of waters; it is rather the nations and the people in those nations. In Revelation 17: 15, it says, "the waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues." Here in Isaiah it means, that an abundance of the peoples among the nations shall be turned to think about Christ because of the conversion of the Jews. The strength which their conversion brings to the Church of Jesus Christ is seen when the Church preaches the gospel in connection with the pouring out of the Spirit during this time period. Isaiah 11: 9 says, "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

What kind of increase of light must take place to accomplish this great work of conversions? We find the answer to that in Isaiah 30, verse 26. It says, "Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stoke of the wound." I have often compared this with a dimmer switch on a light. The light that we have now in terms of the Spirit's illuminating God's word, compared to the light shining during a time of revival is like turning up of the dimmer switch. Things become much clearer in terms of truth and righteousness. Sin is exposed in a greater sense. Conviction of sin becomes much more general and affects the mind and the conscience in a greater way. The truth of this can be verified by reading accounts of revival. But in the Millennium, the light will be turned up so that what was once the light of the moon, now is like the light of the sun. And the light of the sun will be 7 times brighter.

3rdly- What will be the results of this greater light?

I haven't time to go into it in depth, but I can say that there will be several very tangible results. The greatest one will be that holiness will prevail in a very general sense in society. You find a good indication of this in Zechariah 14: 20. "In that day "Holiness to the Lord shall be engraved on the bells of the horses." "The pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar." "Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts." Also, war against the Lord's people in persecution, and even war among the nations themselves, shall cease during this period. Isaiah chapter 2, verse 2 shows us this. "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it." Verse 4 says, "He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Also, advances in knowledge and medicine with the Lord's blessing shall bring about a greater longevity of life. It says in Isaiah 65: 20, "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being

one hundred years old shall be accursed." And verse 22, "They shall not build and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." This is the glorious time of the Millennium, a time for which the church now presses forward to see. Isaiah 62: 6 shows us that it is something also for which we should pray. "I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; they shall never hold their peace day or night." "You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent, and give Him no rest till he establishes and till He makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth."