

**The 1689 Confession; Chapter 8, Paragraph 10 – “Of Christ the Mediator”, Message # 31 –
“Christ’s Cause and Kingdom”, Presented in the Adult Sunday
School Class, by Pastor Paul Rendall on August 2nd, 2020.**

Paragraph 10 – This number and order of offices is necessary; for in respect of our ignorance, we stand in need of his prophetic office; and in respect of our alienation from God, and imperfection of the best of our services, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable unto God; and in respect to our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need his kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to his heavenly kingdom.

Psalm 45: 1-5 – “My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my verses to the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” “You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips; therefore God has blessed You forever.” “Gird Your sword on Your thigh, O Mighty One, with Your glory and Your majesty.” “And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; and Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.” “Your arrows are sharp in the heart of the King’s enemies; the peoples fall under you.”

I have been trying to show you, in our study of Christ the Mediator, that Christ is presently ruling and reigning over all the earth as the Mediatorial Head of His Kingdom and His Church. These verses that I just read to you talk about how fair He is in His person, how gracious He was to needy sinners, in His speech, during the time of His earthly ministry. Grace was poured out upon His lips in His faithfully teaching us the way of salvation in Himself. Therefore God the Father has blessed Him forever and will fulfill all of His purpose in relation to His Son’s Intercession for all of His elect people, and also for the forward progress of the gospel to the nations in relation to the Great Commission being completely fulfilled.

This progress of His kingdom, over the course of this whole Church age, is pictured very wonderfully for us here by Christ’s girding His sword upon His thigh, as the Mighty One going forth to a warfare. He goes forth in His glory and His majesty, and in His majesty He rides prosperously, or victoriously, it says here in verse 4, for the cause of truth, and meekness (humility), and righteousness. It says that His arrows are sharp in the heart of His enemies, and that the peoples fall under Him. He, by His Spirit convicts people of sin through and by the truths of His word, so that sinners are brought effectually unto Him. This is a picture which we really should consider more carefully if we are to understand Christ’s the advance of His kingdom to victory over all opposition, both in men’s hearts and in relation to the Devil’s schemes. These verses show us what He is doing and what He will do in future years to see His cause prosper. This is the object of His intercession, I have said to you in our last few sessions, not only for individual believers to be victorious over the world and the flesh and the Devil and to come to greater holiness, but also that His Church would come to spiritually reign upon the earth someday. Last time I read to you from –

Revelation 5: 8-10 – “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.” “And they sang a new song saying: You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nations and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign upon the earth.”

I would like to speak to you more particularly of the meaning of Revelation 20: 1-6, but I have felt compelled to set the stage for this by showing you a number of other texts before I do that, so that you will see it and understand it better when I do explain it to you. I want to show you that the book of Revelation gives us in an overview, the History of the Church, from its inception, to the climax of redemptive history in the saints coming to spiritually reign upon the earth in the time of the Millennium. In chapters 6-19 the Book of Revelation shows us all of Satan’s greatest schemes to deceive the nations;

those false religions which have deceived a large portion of mankind. And then in Chapter 20 we for the first time read of Satan's being bound for a thousand years and his being released for a short time after that.

Then we hear that the Millennium is the first resurrection which is a spiritual resurrection of the spirit of the martyrs. We read of thrones which are then set up at a certain point in the history of the Church so that Christ's Church, His saints, will come to spiritually reign upon the earth. But to really understand the Millennium these truths need to be understood in the context of Christ and His Bride the Church, going forth together in His cause of truth, and meekness, and righteousness, making progress together in the gathering in of God's elect, over all the generations until His Second Coming. The progress of Christ cause in truth, with the truth of the Bible; by the saints in every generation will be making progress in meekness and righteousness, so that the Christian religion will be finally seen by all the nations of the world to be the only true religion, and that every knee must bow and every tongue must confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Let me give you another couple of verses from –

2nd Timothy 2: 10-13 – “Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.” “This is a faithful saying: For If we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.” “If we endure (suffer) with Him we shall also reign with Him.” “If we deny Him He also will deny us.” “If we are faithless He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.”

We are sanctified through the means of suffering, but we are also then able to contribute to the forward progress of the kingdom of Christ and His cause. Christ's ruling and reigning is over all people and all things. Some Christians do not understand that Christ is presently reigning. But if you study history you will see just how many of God's saints have suffered down through all the centuries of Church history. We will not understand Christ's cause and kingdom if we do not think of the suffering of Christians which has taken place. It is estimated, it says in the book – “The History of Romanism” by John Dowling that 50,000,000 Christians were persecuted and lost their lives under the Roman Beast; that is from the persecutions under the Roman Emperors and then following that, the persecutions of the Roman Catholic Beast, the Papal system. (P. 541, The History of Romanism, by John Dowling D.D, 1870)

But we can rejoice in this, in our day, in this country; that at least we have the 1st Amendment. We have religious freedom and the liberty to worship according to our conscience and the Word of God. On the national level we do not have a dictator persecuting us. We have separation of powers in our government which prevent a dictatorship and rights have been given to us which prevent the leadership of this country from persecuting us. Now, certainly this could change. But as long as we have this right, we will not be being persecuted by our own government. Why don't the other nations of the world have separation of powers and a 1st Amendment protecting religious freedom? We have had it for 200 years. The other nations should take notice and implement the same in their nation's laws and have a Constitution like ours.

But there was progress at the foundation of our country. Individual believers will always face persecution during this Church age, even during the time of the Millennium, on the level of individual persons and private citizens persecuting Christians, persecution taking place in families like when Jesus said – I came not to bring peace but a sword and a man's enemies will be those of his own household. That will always take place during this Church age. But what won't be taking place during the time of the Millennium is the governments of the world and kings of the earth persecuting with bloody persecution, the saints.

Daniel 7: 7-28 – “After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words. "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of

Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.” “I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.” “As for the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away, yet their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.”

“I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven!” “He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.” “Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.” “His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.” “I, Daniel, was grieved in my spirit within my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.” “I came near to one of those who stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of these things: ‘Those great beasts, which are four, are four kings which arise out of the earth.’ “But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”

“Then I wished to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its nails of bronze, which devoured, broke in pieces, and trampled the residue with its feet; and the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up, before which three fell, namely, that horn which had eyes and a mouth which spoke pompous words, whose appearance was greater than his fellows.” “I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.” “Thus he said: ‘The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all other kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces.’ “The ten horns are ten kings Who shall arise from this kingdom.”

“And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, And shall subdue three kings. He 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. '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 people, the saints of the Most High.” “His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.” “This is the end of the account.” “As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed; but I kept the matter in my heart.”

So, the vision given to Daniel here in this chapter is of four great beasts coming up out of the sea, that is among the sea of peoples and nations. Each of these beasts represents an Empire. They each represent a world monarchy, that opposed and oppressed God’s ancient people the Jews in Old Testament times, and then the 4th of these world monarchy’s oppressed and deceived many people concerning Christ’s kingdom and His saints in New Testament times. The first beast was a lion with eagle’s wings which was Babylon. The second beast was a bear which devoured much flesh which was Medo-Persia, the third was a leopard which had on its back four wings of a bird, which was the kingdom of Greece. It had four heads and dominion was given to it. And then the last or the 4th beast, we are told, was dreadful and terrible and exceedingly strong, with huge iron teeth. And it was devouring and breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it and it had ten horns. This is the Pagan Roman Empire transitioning to the Papal Roman empire after the Pagan Roman Empire fell in 476 A.D. And as Daniel considered the horns, these kingdoms, another horn, a little one came up among them, and there, in this horn were eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

What do these things mean? Well Daniel was not told, at first, until he had been given another sight in this vision; that of thrones that were put in place, and the Ancient of Days, God the Father being seated in visionary form there. And His throne was a fiery flame of judgment. Daniel watched until the the court was seated, and the books were opened, and then he watched until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame. And the rest of the beasts also had their dominion taken away. And as Daniel watched further he saw One like the Son of Man, that is, our Lord Jesus Christ, coming with the clouds of heaven, coming up to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him and it says that to Him was given dominion, and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples nations and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion and one which shall not pass away. His kingdom will not be destroyed.

This is the prophecy of Christ reigning during all of this Church age. But what else is related? What is related is the destruction of Christ's and His kingdom's enemies, both in Old Testament and New Testament times. From verse 15 onward you find the explanation and interpretation of these four beasts. But it goes on to say in verse 18, that even though there are these beasts, when the 4th Beast is destroyed, the the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and reign forever, even forever and ever. Now, if you will remember these beasts were also shown to us before in Nebuchadnezzar's dream in chapters 2-5. They were the world monarchies of Babylon, Med-Persia, Greece, and following that, Rome. So Daniel asks about the fourth beast (Rome) which was different from the others, and about the little horn, and he is given a description of Rome's greatness and the terrible persecution of his own people. But even more amazing, a tremendous statement is made to us of Christ's Church; that is, that during the time of the Papal Roman empire, her having ten kingdoms of the former Roman empire and having made the transition to being the little horn or the Roman Antichrist who persecutes the true Christ of Jesus Christ, a judgement is made by God the Father, and the kingdom is given to the saints. This is what is being described for us here in Chapter 7. In verse 21, Daniel sees this same horn making war against the saints, that is the saints of Christ's Church, and prevailing against them until the Ancient of Days, God the Father comes and renders a judgment in favor of them, the saints of the Most High, and the time came, it says in verse 22, for the saints to possess the kingdom. This is not the end of the world, or Christ's Second Coming; it is rather the end of this deceiving persecuting power of Papal Rome and the beginning of the saints reign.

Then from verse 25 on, we find a description of the Roman antichrist who will intend to change times and law, and the saints it says, are given into his hand for a time and times and a half a time, the 1260 days/ years prophecy of the Book of Revelation. The saints are given into his hand for that specific length of time, but the court shall sit and his dominion will be taken away, to consume it and destroy it forever. And then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him; that is Christ. That, my dear friends is the prophecy of the Millennium or Christ's kingdom ruling spiritually among the nations. I want you to see that the Millennium of Revelation 20 is the historic fulfillment of this prophecy in Daniel 7.

So what is being said here in Daniel 7 is that Christ as the High Priest and King of the Church will Intercede and Intervene in history to establish His Church's spiritual victories among the nations.