

Christ Rules All Nations – Part 1

We have so far looked at the immensely positive effect on Israel and their land, by the presence of Jesus back on earth after his return. At that time Jesus will sit on David's throne, in accomplishment of God's promise, "*When your days are fulfilled ... I will raise up your offspring after you ... and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever*" - **2 Samuel 7:12**, a promise which was confirmed before Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother - "*He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever ...*" - **Luke 1:32**. One of the titles of Jesus is the New Testament Greek word *Pantokrator* - "*I am the Alpha and the Omega ... says the Lord ... the Almighty*" - **Revelation 1:8**. *Pantokrator*- Strong 3841 - is he who holds sway over all things; the ruler of all. Jesus has final say in all decisions - for his kingdom will emphatically not be a democracy. This is because the Father has given Jesus all authority - **Hebrews 2:7** - "*You made him a little lower than the angels; You [the Father] crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. 8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet.*" Christ's rule will be one in which "Satan" - the opposer of God - will, figuratively speaking, be trussed up, thrown into the abyss, the door slammed and welded shut behind him for a thousand years - **Revelation 20:2**. Scripture is clear that this opposer of God is human nature - "*The mind of the flesh is enmity against God; for it is not subject [is not submissive] to the law of God, neither indeed can it be*" - **Romans 8:7 RV**. Mankind has been governing his own affairs for a long time according to his own natural thinking. Children are being brought through an education system which studiously excludes God and all that He has left on record for man's instruction. The result at Christ's return is that "*darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people*" - **Isaiah 60:2**.

John saw a symbolic vision which provides a clue as to the make-up of Christ's government. John saw a throne - "*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads*" - **Revelation 4:4**. Who are the twenty-four? A suggested starting point is in **Matthew 19:27**, where Peter said to Jesus, "*See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have? 28 So Jesus said to them, Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel*". The twelve apostles, all natural Israelites, will rule over their own nation, who formerly rejected their witness to Jesus being their true Messiah. How fitting will it be for these men, with the other faithful of Israel, to be assigned places as kings and priests over the nation which once repudiated them.

A hint as to the other twelve is found in **John 10:16** - "*Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.*" What John saw in his vision of the twenty-four thrones, was Jesus that **one shepherd**, sitting on his throne of glory in the presence of those faithful Israelites, **both natural and adopted**, who will rule with him - **2 Timothy 2:12**.

Jesus said of those who opposed the believers in Philadelphia, **Revelation 3:9**, "*I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.*" Believers in many other lands have been persecuted by their fellow-countrymen. How fitting will it be for these to be assigned by Jesus to the districts of their mortal sojourn, to be honoured and obeyed where they were formerly despised or ignored.