

The New Earth

as presented in

Ezekiel & Revelation

(Paradise Series #2)

(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament, I will substitute the Hebrew words Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and the LORD and ruah for pneuma (spirit).)

The books of Ezekiel and Revelation unveil stunning images of our future home in Christ's 1,000 year reign upon the new or restored earth. Wonderfully painted images of the glory of Yahweh filling the new Temple, where Christ is the Prince are presented in the book of Ezekiel. Yahweh's promise to Abraham and Sarah that their seed will inherit the land is now fulfilled. A river of living water proceeding from the temple is swarming with fish and giving life to the fruit trees, regenerating the Dead Sea. The dried bones of the house of Israel shall stand upon their feet because they have been given life by the ruah (spirit) of Yahweh. The desolate wilderness becomes the Garden of Yahweh. Zion, Yahweh's holy mount, is restored. The book of Ezekiel records the destruction and the restoration of the earth. This revelation gave hope to the house of Israel in a austere time. During Ezekiel's time, the nation of Israel, approximately 150 years before had been sold into slavery while the nation of Judah was now taken captive and moved to Babylon because of their rebellion against Yahweh. For the righteous Israelite, the new, coming earth was unveiled in the book of Ezekiel in order to give them hope that their labors will not be in vain but rather be rewarded beyond all of their expectations; hope that there will be a new day when, their land that was made desolate, will become like the Garden of Eden,—and, their cities that were waste and deserted and thrown down, will soon be fenced, and inhabited (Ez. 36:35). This New Earth will be ruled by the King of Kings, and inhabited by mortal men, the immortal members of Christ's Body and the righteous who have now been awakened (resurrected) to immortality; the resurrection of the righteous.

The Christian Churches Massive Error

It appears that a great percentage of the Christian Church has built its foundation upon only one book in the Word of Yahweh, the Gospel of John, disregarding what all the other books have to say. I suppose their belief that heaven is the future home of living Christians and is the present home of dead Christians, arrives more or less from this book and the traditions of men. In the Gospel of John, Yahshua said, "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man who is in heaven;" "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (Jn. 3:13, 14:2-3). Now, if this was the only book in the Word of Yahweh, we might lean to their teachings but this is not the case. There are 65 more books that our Father has written for our benefit, which tell us where

Christ is going to be, which will also reveal where we will be; "...that where I am, *there* you may be also."

Many Christians appear to be very ignorant concerning the things of Yahweh. Responsibility for this ignorance could partly be laid upon their shepherds but it must also be laid upon themselves. Presently, most of them believe and have been taught that when you die you go immediately to heaven and that is that; end of story; there is no future judgment; there is no 1,000 year reign of Christ on the New Earth; there is no New Earth; there is no Zion where Yahweh himself will reign; Ezekiel's temple on the New Earth does not exist; mortal men do not exist in Christ's 1,000 year kingdom; there is no death in Christ's 1,000 kingdom and they know nothing of Yahweh's future kingdom that follows Christ's 1,000 year kingdom. They just believe that when you die, you are in heaven for eternity. These individuals are beclouded, naive and deceived. This man-made teaching has been sown by an enemy, while men were and still are sleeping.¹

Righteous, holy, anointed men and women can sleep while the enemy sows darnels in their fields. Many Churches, it seems, have created their own, 'Make Believe World,' as did King Solomon and King Jeroboam. This world includes Yahweh but it also includes mythology. For example, Solomon and Jeroboam, who were both righteous men and who both were anointed by Yahweh, allowed a mythological world to coexist with the Word of Yahweh, as is still done today. Who could have foreseen that these righteous men, in 40 years time, would change and add to the faith of David, who was a man after Yahweh's heart, who sought to do all of his will (Acts 13:22). This illustrations purpose is to prove that holy leaders, anointed by Yahweh, can, in a very short time, lead their flock down the wrong road. Solomon, who also was a prophet of Yahweh, who Yahweh appeared to twice, appears to have ended his course in life by building altars to other gods in order to please his wives. Three hundred sixty-nine years later, Solomon's shrines to these other gods were still present in Judah.² These lessons teach us that holy men, in a relativity short period of time, can turn from fully following Yahweh, to partially following Yahweh, thereby leading the sheep into the same error.³ This practice of commingling truth with lies is present throughout history and is still present today.⁴

The cause of the downfall of the followers of Yahweh was that they commingled the Word of Yahweh with pagan religions. They acquired the pagan religions by associating with and marrying pagans, which was forbidden by Yahweh.⁵ This pattern has been repeated over and over from the beginning of time. To illustrate this point, let us observe our own period of time and how this has occurred. Revelation chapter nineteen to twenty-two is a

¹ Mt 13:25 and, while men were sleeping, his enemy came, and sowed over darnel, in among the wheat,—and away he went.

² 2 Kgs. 23:13

³ Thus Solomon did the thing that was wicked in the eyes of Yahweh,—and went not fully after Yahweh, as did David his father. (1 Kg. 11:6)

⁴ Neh. 9

⁵ Ex. 34:12-16; Neh. 9; 13:26

simple presentation of our future. It reveals Christ winning the battle upon the earth. The accuser is then bound for 1,000 years while Christ reigns upon the earth, with mortals and immortals, for 1,000 years. We may ask ourselves, is this the Churches' present teaching on our future home? This is only act one because act two begins after Christ's 1,000 year reign. Act two is when Yahweh and the New Jerusalem descends to the New Earth, ever to remain; no mortals will be present in this act. Does the Churches teaching on our future home entail such events? Obviously it does not, which illustrates how the teaching of the Church has been commingled with pagan religions.

We have been given the Word of Yahweh in order to be held accountable to Yahweh. Leaders, who lead the people astray, are held accountable for their actions but the people themselves must also take responsibility for their actions since they also have in their possession, the Word of Yahweh; the instruction manual on what is right and what is wrong. King Jeroboam was anointed by Yahweh to lead the ten tribes of Israel away from the house of Solomon because King Solomon, later in his life, chose to worship other gods, along with Yahweh.⁶ These people, who Jeroboam was leading, knew the law of Moses. The law of Moses required all Hebrew men to come to Jerusalem three times a year.⁷ Jeroboam thought to himself, "...Now, shall the kingdom return to the house of David: If this people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of Yahweh, in Jerusalem, then will the heart of this people return unto their lord, unto Rehoboam, king of Judah,—and they will slay me, and return unto Rehoboam, king of Judah. Whereupon the king took counsel, and made two calves of gold,—and said unto them—It is, too much for you, to go up to Jerusalem, Lo! thy gods, O Israel, that brought thee up out of the land of Egypt" (1 Kg. 12:26-18). He also "...made priests from the whole compass of the people, who were not of the sons of Levi" (1 Kg. 12:31). The people of the kingdom of Israel went along with the mythology and sins of their King even though they knew the Word of Yahweh forbade these practices. So, in many respects, it has also happened today. How many Christians have actually read and studied the Old and New Testament? How many Christians could it be said of, "You do err by not knowing the scriptures." If people have studied the scriptures, then they are knowledgeable of the future earthly Messianic (Davidic) kingdom, Christ's 1,000 year reign upon the earth. The present false teaching of man's future home being heaven contradicts the books of Isaiah, Ezekiel and Revelation, to mention only a few. This man-made teaching, which states, "Heaven is our Home, O Christians" is no different than the teaching of Jeroboam when he told Israel, "...Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt" (1 Kg. 12:28)!

Searching the Scriptures

The tribes of Israel are clearly identified as inheritors of the New Earth. Their inheritance is plainly described in the book of Ezekiel. These tribes are also mentioned specifically in the book of Revelation. We may ask, "What about us and the people who lived before the

⁶ 1 Kings 11

⁷ Three times in the year, shall all thy males see the face of the Lord Yahweh. (Ex. 23:17)

twelve tribes came into existence?" As detectives, we are required to piece together the future events recorded in the Word of Yahweh. Some of the pieces of the puzzle are missing as was also true concerning the coming of the Messiah and the sacred secret. The future events are sure to occur but how they are all connected is still a puzzle. The righteous seed of Abraham and Sarah, which later became known as the house of Israel is the main story throughout the Word of Yahweh, the exception being our present age, where there is neither Jew nor Gentile. Today's believers, are not part of the house of Israel (the Bride of Christ) but rather they are the Body of the Christ. We were a sacred secret not known to the prophets until this sacred secret was revealed after the ascension of Christ (Eph. 3, Col. 1& 2). We are not mentioned in the Old Testament, which includes the four Gospels, neither are we mentioned in the books of Hebrews or Revelation because these books deal with the house of Israel. So where do we fit in the scheme of things?

We are the Body of the Christ, which was a sacred secret. We have been told that once Christ, who is the Head, comes for us, his Body, then we will always be with the Lord.⁸ This must mean, that when Christ descends in the clouds to catch up (harpazo)⁹ his Body and return to heaven, we will be with him; when he descends with his armies to the earth on the day of Har Magedon, then we also must be with him;¹⁰ when Christ reigns as King for 1,000 years upon the earth, then we must also be with him; when he subjects himself to Yahweh after his 1,000 year reign and Yahweh and the New Jerusalem descend to earth ever to remain, then we must also be where he is. The Body of the Christ's existence is different than the house of Israel's because our connection is not through the blood line of Abraham but rather through Christ; "Now, if, ye, are of Christ, by consequence ye are, Abraham's seed, according to promise, heirs" (Gal. 3:29). Heirs of what? Heirs of the promise that was given to Abraham and Sarah; "By faith, being called, Abraham obeyed—to come forth into a place he was destined to receive for an inheritance...By faith, he sojourned in the land of promise, as a foreign land, in tents, dwelling...For he was awaiting the city having foundations, whose architect and builder is, Yahweh" (Heb. 11:8-10). We are joint-heirs with Christ of the promises of Yahweh, one of which is inheriting the New Earth.¹¹ We are not associated with any of the twelve tribes of Israel because our association is rather through Christ who was of the tribe of Judah. In essence, we are his offspring; his children. We just might be called the sons of the Prince.¹²

Others who will occupy the New Earth, who also are not mentioned specifically in scripture, are those righteous individuals who died before the twelve tribes came into

⁸ After that, we, the living who are left, together with them, shall be caught away, in clouds, to meet the Lord in the air:—and, thus, evermore, with the Lord, shall we be! (1 Thes. 4:17).

⁹ 726 αρπάζω harpazo *har-pad'-zo* 1) to seize, carry off by force

¹⁰ Re 16:16 And he gathered them together unto the place that is called, in Hebrew, Har Magedon. Re 19:14 And, the armies which were in heaven, were following him, upon white horses, clothed with fine linen, white, pure;

¹¹ ...Yahweh, hath said unto me, My son, thou art, I, today, have begotten thee: Ask of me, and let me give nations as thine inheritance, and, as thy possession, the ends of the earth (Ps. 2:7-8).

¹² Eze 46:16 Thus, saith My Lord, Yahweh, When the prince [the Messiah] would bestow, a gift upon any one of his sons, his own inheritance, shall it be, for his sons, shall it remain,—their possession, shall it be, by way of inheritance.

existence, such as Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Melchizedek etc. These individuals are not part of the twelve tribes but never-the-less they will be with Christ upon the New Earth.¹³

The house of Israel, as followers of Yahweh, have been non existent since Acts chapter ten because they were replaced by the Body of the Christ. (In this age, any physical member of the house of Israel is an antichrist if they do not acknowledge Yahshua as the son of Yahweh.¹⁴ If they do acknowledge Yahshua as Lord, then they are no longer Jews but a member of the Body of the Christ.)¹⁵ After the members of the Body of the Christ are caught up into the air with Christ, the house of Israel will begin again (I Cor. 15, 1 Thes. 4). The Parousia of Christ for his Body apparently begins the Day of Yahweh (Revelation), which is a seven year period. Israelites and not Christians are the believers in the books of the Gospels, Hebrews, Revelation and the rest of the Old Testament.

The Future Earthly Davidic Kingdom (Christ's 1,000 year Reign)

Yahweh chose David as a King and a Prophet of Israel. He foretold a future day when the Son of David would build a house for his name, which was accomplished by Solomon and will also be accomplished by Christ in the book of Ezekiel.¹⁶ The book of Acts also foretold this event; "After these things, will I return, and will rebuild the tent of David that hath fallen, and, the ruins thereof, will I rebuild, and will set it up again" (15:16).¹⁷ This kingdom is unveiled in the book of Ezekiel from chapters 34 to 48. In these chapters, the earth is destroyed and then restored to be ruled by a Prince (leader). Yahweh speaks of this prince by saying, "...I will raise up over them one shepherd, And he shall tend them, Even my servant David,—He, will tend them, And, he, will become to them a shepherd; And, I, Yahweh, will become to them a Elohim, my servant David being a prince in their midst; —I, Yahweh, have spoken (Ez. 34:23-24); "And, my servant David, shall be king over them, And, one shepherd, shall they all, have,—And, in my regulations, shall they walk, And, my statutes, shall they observe, and do them" (Ez. 37:24). Other books of Yahweh have also foretold these events; "Alas! for, great, is that day, so that none is like it,—Yea, a time of anguish, it is, for Jacob, But out of it, shall he be saved. And it shall come to pass, in that day, Declareth Yahweh of hosts, That I will break his yoke from off thy neck, And, thy bonds, will I tear off,—And foreigners, shall use him as a slave no more; But they shall serve Yahweh their Elohim,—and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them" (Jer.

¹³ Ez. 18

¹⁴ 1Jo 2:22 Who, is the False One; —save he that denieth that, Yahshua, is the Christ? The same, is the Antichrist,—he that denieth the Father and the Son.

1Jo 4:3 And, every spirit that doth not confess Yahshua, of Yahweh, is not. And, this, is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, touching which ye have heard that it cometh: even now, is it, in the world, already.

¹⁵ Ga 3:28 There cannot be Jew or Greek, there cannot be bond or free, there cannot be male and female, for, all ye, are one, in Christ Jesus:

¹⁶ "And it shall be that, when thy days [David] shall be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, then will I raise up thy seed after thee, which proceedeth from thine own body,—and I will establish his kingdom. He, shall build a house for my name,—and I will establish his kingly throne unto times age—abiding" (2 Sa. 7:12-13).

¹⁷ Am 9:11 ¶ In that day, will I raise up the pavilion of David, that is lying prostrate,—and wall up the breaches of them, and, his ruins, will I raise up, and will build it, as in the days of age—past times:

30:7-9); "For, many days, shall the sons of Israel tarry, without king, and without ruler, and without sacrifice, and without pillar; and without ephod, or household gods. Afterwards, shall the sons of Israel return, and seek Yahweh their Elohim, and David their king,—and shall turn with throbbing hearts unto Yahweh and unto his goodness, in the afterpart of the days" (Ho. 3:4-5). These prophecies are foretelling the mission of the coming Messiah, Yahshua, "...the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright and the morning Star" (Rev. 22:16).

In the book of Ezekiel, Yahshua is referred to as, the one Shepherd,¹⁸ David and the Prince.¹⁹ The house of Israel is it's subject, not the Body of the Christ, which was a sacred secret. The territory is the land that was promised to Abraham. There will be a Temple because Yahweh is not present but his glory will appear at different times. The east gate is reserved for his glory to enter. Ezekiel said, "Then he took me unto the gate,—even the gate that looked toward the east; when lo! the glory of the Elohim of Israel, coming from the way of the east,—and, the sound of him, was as the sound of many waters, and, the earth, shone with his glory...And, the glory of Yahweh, entered into the house,—by way of the gate which looked toward the east" (Ez. 43: 1-4).

Mortals living & dying during Christ's 1,000 year Reign

A very important point in our study is that the Day of Yahweh does not kill all of the people on the earth. These mortals, that survived the day of tribulation, and there could be billions of them, will be alive when Christ sets up his 1,000 year reign upon the earth. Christ rules these mortal people with a heavy hand, as foretold in the Psalms; "Yet, I, have installed my king,—on Zion my holy mountain. Let me tell of a decree,—Yahweh, hath said unto me, My son, thou art, I, today, have begotten thee: Ask of me, and let me give nations as thine inheritance, and, as thy possession, the ends of the earth: Thou shalt shepherd them with a sceptre of iron,—as a potter's vessel, shalt thou dash them in pieces" (Ps. 2:6-9); "Thy sceptre of strength, will Yahweh extend out of Zion, Tread thou down, in the midst of thy foes" (Ps. 110:2). The adversary will be bound for this time period, which leaves Christ's kingdom being unhindered from "...the principalities, against the authorities, against the world-holders, of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenlies" (Eph. 6:12). This time period will be, what many would call, a Theocracy;²⁰ Christ being the sole holy and just ruler. The book of Ezekiel as well as the

¹⁸ Eze 34:23 And I will raise up over them one shepherd, And he shall tend them, Even my servant David,—He, will tend them, And, he, will become to them a shepherd;

¹⁹ 05387 נָשִׂיא nasy' naw-see' or נָשִׂי nasi' naw-see' 1) one lifted up, chief, prince, captain, leader: Ez. 44:3; 45:7, 16, 17, 22; 46:2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 16-18; 48:21, 22

²⁰ A form of government in which God (or a deity) is recognized as the king or immediate ruler, and his laws are taken as the statute-book of the kingdom, these laws being usually administered by a priestly order as his ministers and agents; hence (loosely) a system of government by a sacerdotal order, claiming a divine commission; also, a state so governed: esp. applied to the commonwealth of Israel from the exodus to the election of Saul as king. OED

book of Isaiah describes these mortals as marrying and dying.²¹ These people sin and are in need of animal sacrifice to cleanse them of their sins.

Immortals living during Christ's 1,000 year Reign

There are two classes of terrestrial immortals that will be present on this new or restored earth. We, the Body of the Christ, who received immortality upon Christ's Parousia for his Body, will be present.²² The other righteous people, who are sleeping (dead) will now be awakened from their sleep (resurrection), after the adversary has been bound, to become immortal (never to die again).²³ This event is called the resurrection of the righteous, which would include all of those righteous people who died before Acts chapter ten (the Age of the Sacred Secret). These people do not require animal sacrifices because they do not sin; they are righteous. They will be as the Priest of Yahweh and of the Christ.²⁴

The puzzle concerning Christ's 1,000 year reign is that the duties and the positions of the immortal Israelites and the immortal members of the Body of the Christ are not apparent in the Word of Yahweh. Yahweh's reign upon the New Earth after Christ's 1,000 year reign is not as difficult to discern because all the people on the earth are immortal even though it appears that the house of Israel is the only party present, which obviously is not the case here. The Body of the Christ, once again, appears to be a sacred secret, hidden away in the mind of Yahweh and Christ, only to be revealed at the appointed time.

Zion

"From the time Solomon built the temple, Zion²⁵ became the center of Yahweh's activity. Yahweh identified himself as, 'the One who dwells on Mount Zion' (Isa 8:18). Here he initiates his work of salvation and here he begins his judgment against sin (Am 1:2). Psalm 48 renders great praise to Mount Zion. It is called 'the joy of all the earth' and 'the city of

²¹ Isa 65:20 There shall be thenceforward, no more, A suckling of a few days, or an elder, Who filleth not up his days,—But, a youth, a hundred years old, may die, Yea, a sinner, a hundred years old, shall be accursed,

²² 1 Cor. 15 & 1 Thes. 4:13-18

²³ Dan. 12:2 and, many of the sleepers in the dusty ground, shall awake,—these, *shall be* to age-abiding life, but, those, to reproach, and age-abiding abhorrence; Lu 14:14 and, happy, shalt thou be, that they have not wherewith to recompense thee, for it shall be recompensed unto thee, in the resurrection of the righteous. Ac 24:15 Having, hope, towards Yahweh, which, even these themselves, do entertain—that, a resurrection, there shall certainly be, both of righteous and of unrighteous: Rev. Rev. 20:5-6 ... This, is the first resurrection. Happy and holy, is he that hath part in the first resurrection: upon these, the second death, hath no authority; but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of the Christ, and shall reign with him for the thousand years.

²⁴ Happy and holy, is he that hath part in the first resurrection: upon these, the second death, hath no authority; but they shall be priests of Yahweh and of the Christ, and shall reign with him for the thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)

²⁵ Zion usages: 2 Sam 5:7; 1 Kgs 8:1; 2 Kgs 19:21, 31; 1 Chr 11:5; 2 Chr 5:2; Ps 2:6; 9:11, 14; 14:7; 20:2; 48:2, 11f; 50:2; 51:18; 53:6; 65:1; 69:35; 74:2; 76:2; 78:68; 84:5, 7; 87:2, 5; 97:8; 99:2; 102:13, 16, 21; 110:2; 125:1; 126:1; 128:5; 129:5; 132:13; 133:3; 134:3; 135:21; 137:1, 3; 146:10; 147:12; 149:2; Song 3:11; Isa 1:8, 27; 2:3; 3:16f; 4:3ff; 8:18; 10:12, 24, 32; 12:6; 14:32; 16:1; 18:7; 24:23; 28:16; 29:8; 30:19; 31:4, 9; 33:5, 14, 20; 34:8; 35:10; 37:22, 32; 40:9; 41:27; 46:13; 49:14; 51:3, 11, 16; 52:1f, 7f; 59:20; 60:14; 61:3; 62:11; 64:10; 66:8; Jer 3:14; 4:6, 31; 6:2, 23; 8:19; 9:19; 14:19; 26:18; 30:17; 31:6, 12; 50:5, 28; 51:10, 24, 35; Lam 1:4, 6, 17; 2:1, 4, 6, 8, 10, 13, 18; 4:2, 11, 22; 5:11, 18; Joel 2:1, 15, 23, 32; 3:16f, 21; Amos 1:2; 6:1; Obad 1:17, 21; Mic 1:13; 3:10, 12; 4:2, 7f, 10f, 13; Zeph 3:14, 16, 18; Zech 1:14, 17; 2:7, 10; 8:2f; 9:9, 13; Matt 21:5; John 12:15; Rom 9:33; 11:26; Heb 12:22; 1 Pet 2:6; Rev 14:1

the great King' In some of the prophets, especially Isaiah, Jeremiah, Joel and Zechariah, Zion appears as the central location for Yahweh's great deeds of salvation in the future. He will cleanse away Zion's sin by judgment (Isa 4:4). That is, the city will be redeemed by justice and righteousness (Isa 1:27, 33:5). Yahweh will build the city by laying a precious cornerstone in Zion (Isa 28:16). The glory of Yahweh which was present in the Exodus shall return to protect its inhabitants from the elements (Isa 4:5ff). Yahweh shall firmly secure the city from its enemies (Isa 33:20). Yahweh's people shall return in joy and singing to Zion from the various places of their exile (Isa 35:10, 51:11). Then they shall weep no more (Isa 30:19). The land will become as fruitful and lush as the Garden of Eden (Isa 51:3). The scope of this restoration is for all peoples; foreign nations shall come to Mt. Zion to worship (Isa 2:3; Mic 4:2). All of these fantastic changes in Zion will give her the new name, 'My delight is in her' (Isa 62:1-5). But the greatest difference is that Yahweh himself will reign there in that day; "...Thus, saith Yahweh of hosts, I am jealous for Zion with a great jealousy,—Yea, with great wrath, am I jealous for her. Thus, saith Yahweh, I have returned unto Zion, and will make my habitation in the midst of Jerusalem,—and Jerusalem, shall be called, The city of fidelity, and the mountain of Yahweh of hosts, The mountain of holiness" (Zech. 8:1-3)." (See Appendix A for more information)

In the Day of Yahweh, John said, "And I saw, and lo! the Lamb, standing upon the mount Zion,—and, with him, a hundred and forty-four thousand, having his name and his Father's name written upon their foreheads" (Rev. 14:10). After the Day of Yahweh, Yahshua will be installed as King on Zion, Yahweh's holy mount (Ps. 2:6). He will rule there for 1,000 years after which the New Jerusalem will descend from heaven and Yahweh, himself, will dwell with us age-abidingly; "For Yahweh hath chosen Zion,—He hath desired it as a dwelling for himself" (Ps. 132:13); "Yahweh loveth the gates of Zion, More than all the dwellings of Jacob" (Ps. 87:2).

If you go to Billy Graham's web site²⁶ and do a search on 'heaven' you will find 269 articles but if you type in 'Zion,' you will find 0 articles. This is an illustration that is common for the majority of the Christian web sites as well as ours. As we have seen by the above scriptures, 'Zion,' has a very special place in the heart of our Father as it should also have in ours. Some people will have a tendency to exchange the location of Zion from being a place on earth to a place in the heavens in order to fit the scriptures into their man-made theology. Studying the above scriptures on Zion will show that the future Zion will be a place on the New Earth where Christ and Yahweh will live; Christ in his 1,000 year reign and then Yahweh will descend with his New Jerusalem, the City of Yahweh.²⁷

²⁶ <http://www.billygraham.org/default.asp>

²⁷ Ps 48:8 Just as we have heard, So, have we seen, In the city of Yahweh of hosts, In the city of our Elohim, Elohim himself, will establish her, unto times age-abiding.

Ps 101:8 Morning by morning, will I uproot, All the lawless ones of the land, That I may cut off, out of the city of Yahweh—All the workers of iniquity.

Isa 60:14 Then shall come unto thee, bending low, The sons of them who had humbled thee, Then shall bow down, unto the soles of thy feet, All they who had despised thee; And they shall call thee—The city of Yahweh, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

The Soil of Israel

Ezekiel, chapter thirty-seven, foretells the day when Yahweh will open the graves of the house of Israel and put ruah (spirit) within them, giving them life to settle them upon their own soil.²⁸ The house of Israel and Judah will no longer be two kingdoms but will be reunited as one kingdom, under one King. Yahshua, known as, 'my servant David,' as 'the one Shepherd,' as 'the Prince,' will be King over the New Earth as Israel dwells upon the land which Yahweh gave to his servant Jacob.²⁹ Yahweh solemnizes a covenant of prosperity with Israel. His sanctuary will be in their midst. His habitation shall be over them. He will again become their Elohim while they become his people. The nations (the mortals) will know that Yahweh has set apart Israel by placing his sanctuary in their midst, unto time age-abiding.³⁰

The Glorious Temple of Ezekiel

In the book of Ezekiel, the temple will be built in Christ's 1,000 year reign. (A lay out of the temple can be view at Appendix B and the land of the 12 tribes at Appendix C.) Animal sacrifices will again occur. It appears that the reason for these sacrifices, is that there are mortals and they sin during this time period. Sacrifices to Yahweh for sin began with Cain and Abel and will also occur in Christ's 1,000 year reign. The only time sacrifices are not necessary, in the history of mankind, is during our time period, the Age of the Sacred Secret and during Yahweh's reign as King, which begins in Revelation 21. The holy of holies began with Moses and will continue through Christ's 1,000 year reign. Our age is only one, of the two time periods after Moses, where there is no physical temple for Yahweh, the other being Revelation chapter twenty-one.³¹ The Body of the Christ is presently the naos³² [sanctuary] of Yahweh; "Know ye not that ye are a shrine [naos] of Yahweh, and that the ruah (spirit) of Yahweh within you doth dwell" (1 Cor. 3:16); "...ye are fellow-citizens of the saints, and members of the household of Yahweh... In whom, an entire building, in process of being fitly joined together, is growing into a holy shrine [naos] in *the* Lord; In whom, ye also, are being builded together, into a habitation of Yahweh in ruah (spirit)" (Eph. 2:19-22). It appears that no naos (sanctuary) is necessary when Yahweh is present. Yahweh is present on this earth through the Body of the Christ and he will be present on the New Earth, which begins in Revelation chapter twenty-one.³³

Ps. 83:1-3 His foundation, is in the holy mountains: Yahweh loveth the gates of Zion, More than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things, are to be spoken of thee, O city of Elohim.

Ps. 46:4 A river! whose channels, shall gladden the city of Elohim, The Most High, hath hallowed his habitation.

²⁸ Ez. 37:12-14

²⁹ Ez. 37:15-28

³⁰ Ez. 37:28

³¹ Re 21:22 And, sanctuary [naos], saw I none therein; for, Yahweh Elohim of Hosts, is the sanctuary thereof, and the Lamb.

³² 3485 ναός naos *nah-os'*1) used of the temple at Jerusalem, but only of the sacred edifice (or sanctuary) itself, consisting of the Holy place and the Holy of Holies (in classical Greek it is used of the sanctuary or cell of the temple, where the image of gold was placed which is distinguished from the whole enclosure)

³³ And, sanctuary, saw I none therein; for, Yahweh Elohim of Hosts, is the sanctuary thereof, and the Lamb. (Rev. 21:22)

A River of Life flowing from the Temple Area

Most of us are familiar with John 7:37-38, which reads, "...Yahshua was standing, and he cried aloud, saying—If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink: He that believeth on me—just as said the Scripture,—River, from within him, shall flow, of living water." This living water is identified as ruah (spirit), an invisible force. In Christ's 1,000 year reign on the New Earth, there will be living waters that flow from the temple area, healing the people and the land. (I would venture to say that these waters flow from the naos (the holy of holies).) These waters begin as a mild wading stream, ankle deep, and end up as a river that no one can cross. Trees partake of these waters thereby producing monthly fruit and leaves that are for the healing of sickness. Great fish will occupy these waters resulting in food for all. Ezekiel 47:1-12, Joel 3:18 and Zechariah 14:8 will inspire, motivate and give hope to those who labor for Yahweh and Christ because they are great visual revelations that record this living water.

After Christ's 1,000 year reign ends, Yahweh descends with the new Jerusalem making a New Earth. Zion, it appears, is still the geographical center of the New Earth. This New Earth has no naos (shrine) because "...Yahweh Elohim of Host, is the naos (sanctuary) thereof, and the Lamb" (Rev. 21:22). It also has no sun, as Christ's 1,000 year kingdom has because "...the glory of Yahweh, illumined it, and, the lamp thereof, was the Lamb" (Rev. 21:23). This New Earth also has a river of living water; "And he pointed out to me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, issuing forth out of the throne of Yahweh and of the Lamb, in the midst of the Broadway thereof. And, on this side of the river and on that, was a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, every several month, yielding its fruit; and, the leaves of the tree, were for the healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:1-2). These records of events, which will occur upon the New Earth, stand in stark contrast to the Churches man-made teachings on their 'Heaven.'

Why do the Israelites offer sacrifice in the New Earth?

There appears to be an enigma in the book of Ezekiel. The mortal people will be offering sin offerings and sacrifices for their sins during Christ's 1,000 year reign. This practice occurred in the Gospels but was abolished in our age because Christ paid the price, being a one time sacrifice. The book of Hebrews, which is for Hebrews and not Christians, also records a one time sacrifice as was offered by Christ. Our question is, in Christ's 1,000 year reign on the New Earth, why would they be offering sacrifices for sin when Christ, the Prince is present? A possible explanation for this anomaly could be that these Israelites lived in a time (our present age) when Christ was offered to them but they rejected his sacrifice by rejecting him as their Messiah. These Hebrews will be treated differently than other Hebrews because they lived in an age when they were without excuse. Their sins, it appears, were not cleansed by Christ sacrifice, which had them revert back to the times of Levitical law. The book of Ezekiel has much in common with the book of Leviticus. We may not fully understand many things recorded in the book of

Ezekiel but never-the-less it is true whether we understand it or not. Sometimes, we can only hypothesis the enigmas that are recorded in our Father's Word.

Conclusion

2 Peter 3:7-13 sums up the future; "While, the heavens and the earth that now are, by the same word, have been stored with fire, being kept unto the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly men. But, this one thing, forget not, beloved,—that, one day, with Yahweh, is as a thousand years, and, a thousand years, as one day. Yahweh is, not slack, concerning his promise, as some count, slackness; but is long—suffering with regard to you, not being minded that any should perish, but that, all, unto repentance, should come. Howbeit the day of Yahweh will be here, as a thief,—in which, the heavens, with a rushing noise, will pass away, while, elements, becoming intensely hot, will be dissolved, and, earth, and the works therein, will be discovered. Seeing that all these things are thus to be dissolved, what manner of persons, ought all the while to be, in holy ways of behaviour and acts of godliness,— Expecting and hastening the presence of the day of Yahweh, by reason of which, heavens, being on fire, will be dissolved, and, elements, becoming intensely hot, are to be melted;

But, new heavens, and a New Earth, according to his promise, are we expecting, wherein, righteousness, is to dwell."

The new or restored earth where righteousness dwells was the hope of Abraham and Sarah. They were awaiting the city whose architect and builder is, Yahweh.³⁴ Yahweh has proclaimed, "...I, have installed my king,—on Zion my holy mountain" (Ps. 2:6). This City of Yahweh will first be rebuilt by Yahshua, the Prince, in his 1,000 year reign. He will rule the ungodly mortals "...with a sceptre of iron,—as a potter's vessel, shalt thou dash them in pieces" (Ps. 2:9). The immortals shall be "...priests of Yahweh and of the Christ, and shall reign with him for the thousand years" (Rev. 21:6). The New Earth will be as the Garden of Yahweh.³⁵ The river of life shall flow through the land healing all who come into contact with it. The twelve tribes will receive their inheritance as promised to Abram. Christ will then be King of Kings and Lord of Lords to all those who dwell upon the earth.³⁶ The deceiver has been bound but his presence will be felt one more time before he is thrown into the Lake of Fire, alive! He will be loosen and deceive many mortals into rebelling against the righteous, holy and loving, King of Kings. "And they came up over the breadth of the land, and surrounded the camp of the saints (holy ones), and the beloved city. And there came down fire out of heaven, and devoured them" (Rev. 20:9). Act two is now about to commence!

³⁴ For he was awaiting the city having foundations, whose architect and builder is, Yahweh. (Heb. 11:10)

³⁵ Isa 51:3 For Yahweh hath comforted, Zion, He hath comforted all her waste places, And hath made her wilderness like Eden, And her waste plain like the garden of Yahweh,—Joy and gladness, shall be found in her, Thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.

³⁶ And he hath, upon his mantle and upon his thigh, a name, written—King of kings, and Lord of lords. (Rev. 19:16)

Appendix A

Zion

It is possibly related to Arabic *sâna* from root *s-w-n*, meaning protect, defend; hence *sîyôn* may have meant place of defence, fortress. Others suggest derivation from root *sahâ* ‘be bald’; cf. Syriac spelling *sehyôn* for this name.

Zion is the fortified mound between the Kidron and the Tyropean valleys that David captured from the Jebusites. {#2Sa 5:7} Subsequently, it became known as the city of David. With the building of the temple to the north, that hill later became known as Mount Zion. Zion may even refer specifically to the temple vicinity or more generally to Jerusalem itself; sometimes it includes the entire nation, the covenant community itself. {#Isa 1:27 Ps 97:8} ‘Zion’ appears frequently in Psa and Lam. It seldom refers to the political capital of Judah, but much more often stands for the city of God in the new age.

From the time Solomon built the temple, Zion became the center of Yahweh’s activity. Yahweh identified himself as ‘the One who dwells on Mount Zion’. {#Isa 8:18} Here he initiates his work of salvation and here he begins his judgment against sin. {#Am 1:2}

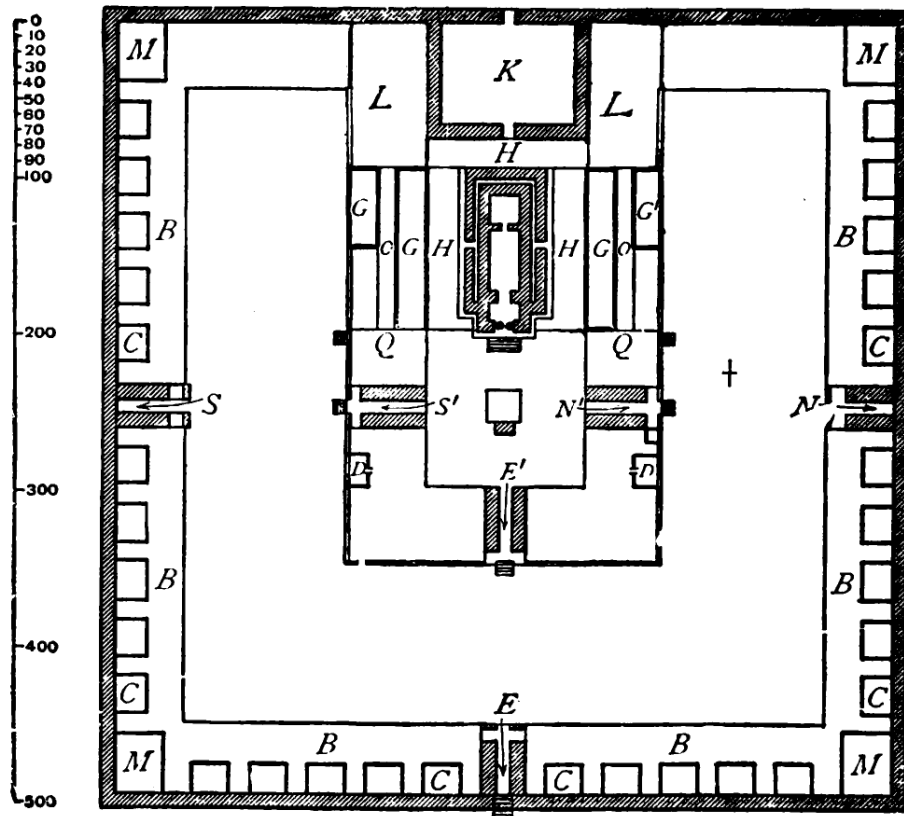
Zion frequently occurs in poetic passages, referring to the temple area where Yahweh dwells. #Ps 48 renders great praise to Mount Zion. It is called ‘the joy of all the earth’ and ‘the city of the great King’ (v. 2 [H 3]). It is also said to be located in the far north (v. 2 [H 3] but cf. NIV). In Canaanite religion the assembly of the gods was thought to meet in the far north. Therefore the Psalmist is using poetic language to show that Zion is the religious center, not only for Israel, but for the entire world. Since the city of Yahweh is in the same place as the assembly of the gods, it means these gods have no existence or power outside of Yahweh. Ezekiel even seems to refer to Zion as the ‘navel’ of the earth, the place where Yahweh sustains this planet. {#Eze 38:12, though ‘eres here may refer only to the land of Palestine} Its sanctity, however, does not rest in location, but rests solely in the fact that Yahweh has chosen to dwell there. The crucial distinguishing factor between mythical ideas and the biblical expressions concerning Zion resides in the fact that Zion was not set apart as holy at creation. It possesses no intrinsic holiness. It became important to the Lord and to Israel only within history. {cf. #Ps 78:68} Hence it acquired meaning and sacredness. This fact is further verified in that ‘Zion’ is not mentioned in the creation account nor in the Pentateuch at all, except that Mount Moriah is specified as the place where Abraham offered up Isaac; {#Ge 22:2,14 2Ch 3:1} the first reference to Zion is #2Sa 5:7.

Nevertheless because of Israel’s disobedience even Zion would not be spared; it actually fell to the Babylonians in 587/6 B.C. Lamentations frequently refers to Zion and ‘the daughter of Zion’ to express overwhelming sorrow at Zion’s destruction. {#La 1:4,6,17; etc.} In captivity the Psalmist was so despondent that he could not bring himself to sing any of the songs of Zion. {#Ps 137:1ff} But even in exile the people still had faith and prayed for Yahweh to rebuild his city and to restore its fortress (#Ps 102:13,16 [H 102.14,17]; #Ps 69:35 [H 69.36]).

In some of the prophets, especially Isa, Jer, Joel, Zech, Zion appears as the central location for Yahweh’s great deeds of salvation in the future. He will cleanse away Zion’s sin by judgment. {#Isa 4:4} That is, the city will be redeemed by justice and righteousness. {#Isa 1:27 Isa 33:5} Yahweh will build the city by laying a precious cornerstone in Zion. {#Isa 28:16} The glory of Yahweh which was present in the Exodus shall return to protect its inhabitants from the elements. {#Isa 4:5ff} Yahweh shall firmly secure the city from its enemies. {#Isa 33:20} Yahweh’s people shall return in joy and singing to Zion from the various places of their exile. {#Isa 35:10 Isa 51:11} Then they shall weep no more. {#Isa 30:19} The land will become as fruitful and lush as the Garden of Eden. {#Isa 51:3} The scope of this restoration is for all peoples; foreign nations shall come to Mt. Zion to worship. {#Isa 2:3 Mic 4:2} All of these fantastic changes in Zion will give her the new name ‘My delight is in her’. {#Isa 62:1-5} But the greatest difference is that Yahweh himself will reign there in that day. {#Zec 8:3 Isa 59:20} (TWOT)

Appendix B

The Temple of Ezekiel



PLAN OF COURT AFTER DAVIDSON.

(Adapted from *The Cambridge Bible*.)

†, the prophet's position.

B, pavement (xl. 5).

C, thirty chambers, outer court (xl. 17).

D, chambers for the priests (xl. 44-46).

G, G', thirty chambers, inner court (xli. 6, 7; xlii. 1).

H, gizrah, or the separate place (xli. 12).

K, building behind the separate place (xli. 13-15).

L, kitchens for the priests (xlvi. 19, 20).

M, kitchens for the people's sacrifices (xlv. 21-24).

N, passageway (xlii. 4).

Appendix C

The 12 Tribes Land in Ezekiel

