

REVELATION CHAPTER 20 part 1

The millennium! (V. 1-6)

Basic Study of Revelation compiled by Gaetan.

As you recall from the last chapter, in the cataclysmic battle of Armageddon, the forces of God will win a glorious victory over the forces of the devil, his Antichrist and his criminal, counterfeit kingdom! It is then, after this big battle, that we, the saints of God, along with our King, Jesus Christ, will take over this World and set up the Kingdom of God on Earth, to rule and run it the way it should have been run, if man could have obeyed God!

The Bible says that this amazing new era will last for one thousand years, and therefore it is known to Bible Prophecy students as the Millennium, which is Latin for a thousand years. The rest of Revelation is mostly good news! We had to tell you the bad news first, all about the Antichrist, his reign of terror, the Tribulation, the Judgement of Babylon and its horrors, we had to tell you that first, and then came Armageddon. But now the victory! Now it's Heaven on Earth!

JESUS, the LION of JUDAH: WINNER at the BATTLE of ARMAGEDDON!





Every day, millions of Christians the world over pray the Lord's Prayer: "*Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.*" But most don't really appreciate the significance of that prayer and how literally it is going to be fulfilled. God's Kingdom will come physically on Earth as it is in Heaven. And it will be truly universal! "*He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and ... to the ends of the Earth*" (Psalm 72:8).

REV.20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the **bottomless pit** and a **great chain** in his hand.

**** REV.1:18** *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

**** REV.9:1** *And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the **key of the bottomless pit.***

REV.20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

**** REV.12:9** And the great **dragon** was cast out, **that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world.**

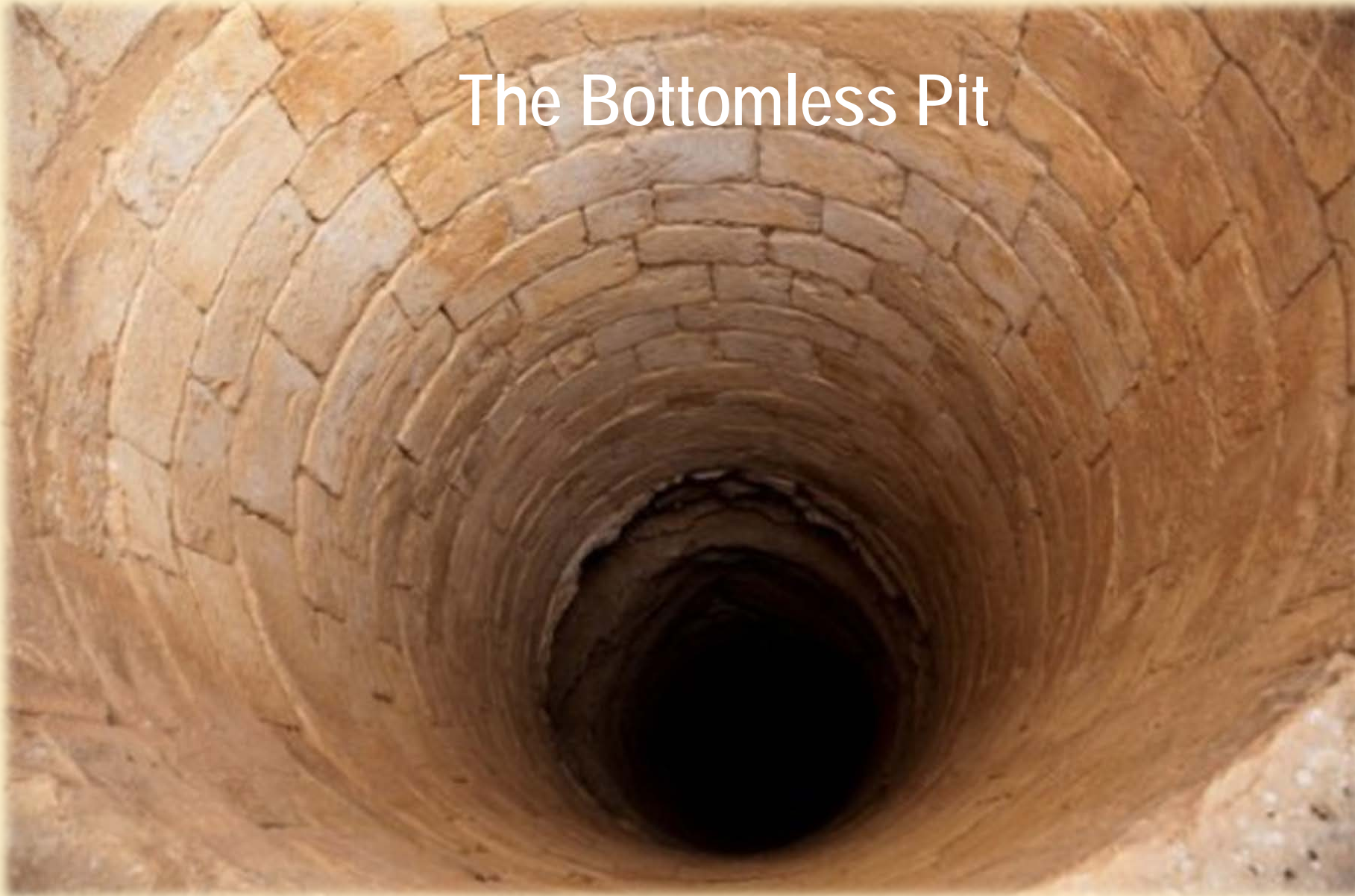
**** 2PE.2:4** ...God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into **chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment; (JUD.1:6)**

It is interesting that only **ONE** angel of God is able to suddenly lay **“hold”** of the accuser, the enemy named Satan, and leave him **“bound”** for a millennium. Evil is not some out of control force - it is indeed dangerous, but it is also a prisoner within the purposes of God. (See the amazing verses in **Isaiah 14:7-19**) It is amazing, though, that this **“Devil”** is only to be bound **“for a thousand years.”** There will be a **REASON** to let him go after that time (v.7, 8), just as there is a purpose in letting him roam freely right now.



REV.20:3 And **cast him into the bottomless pit**, and **shut him up**, and set a seal upon him, that he should **deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled**: and after that he must be **loosed a little season**.

The Bottomless Pit



That's plain enough! We're not going to be troubled by the Devil any more during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ on Earth, for he will be bound and cast as a prisoner into the Bottomless Pit and not be able to get out! We'll be rid of him, thank God! For a thousand years he will no longer bother us and no longer lead his legions, his demons across the face of the Earth to plague the World and its citizens!



“After that he must be loosed a little season.” That's when the Lord lets him out - at the end of the Millennium - lets him go about the Earth amongst the Millennial survivors, deceiving those who have rejected Christ and His authority, who are therefore led again by the Devil in another final rebellion against the Lord and His Kingdom, called the ***"Battle of Gog and Magog"***, at the end of which Satan, his forces, and even the entire surface of the Earth are burned up completely! ***(20:7-9)***

REV.20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had **not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark** upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**



LIVE and REIGN with
CHRIST for a 1000
YEARS!

We learned in the last chapter that when Jesus returns to earth for the Battle of Armageddon, there is going to be a great slaughter and a great destruction, according to God's Word.-- Nevertheless some of those who were not resurrected are going to live through it!--There will be survivors, *"the blessed ones of Daniel chapter 12"*. There will be some who will be left on the Earth, people that His Word says will form whole nations during the Millennium, otherwise we'd have no one to rule or reign over! (*Dan.7:12*).



And we are going to rule these people with a rod of iron and teach, train and show them how the World should have been run, and it will be an example to the Universe of what kind of government can exist when humankind is obedient to the Lord and free from the spiritual influence of evil.

**** DAN.12:12 Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.**

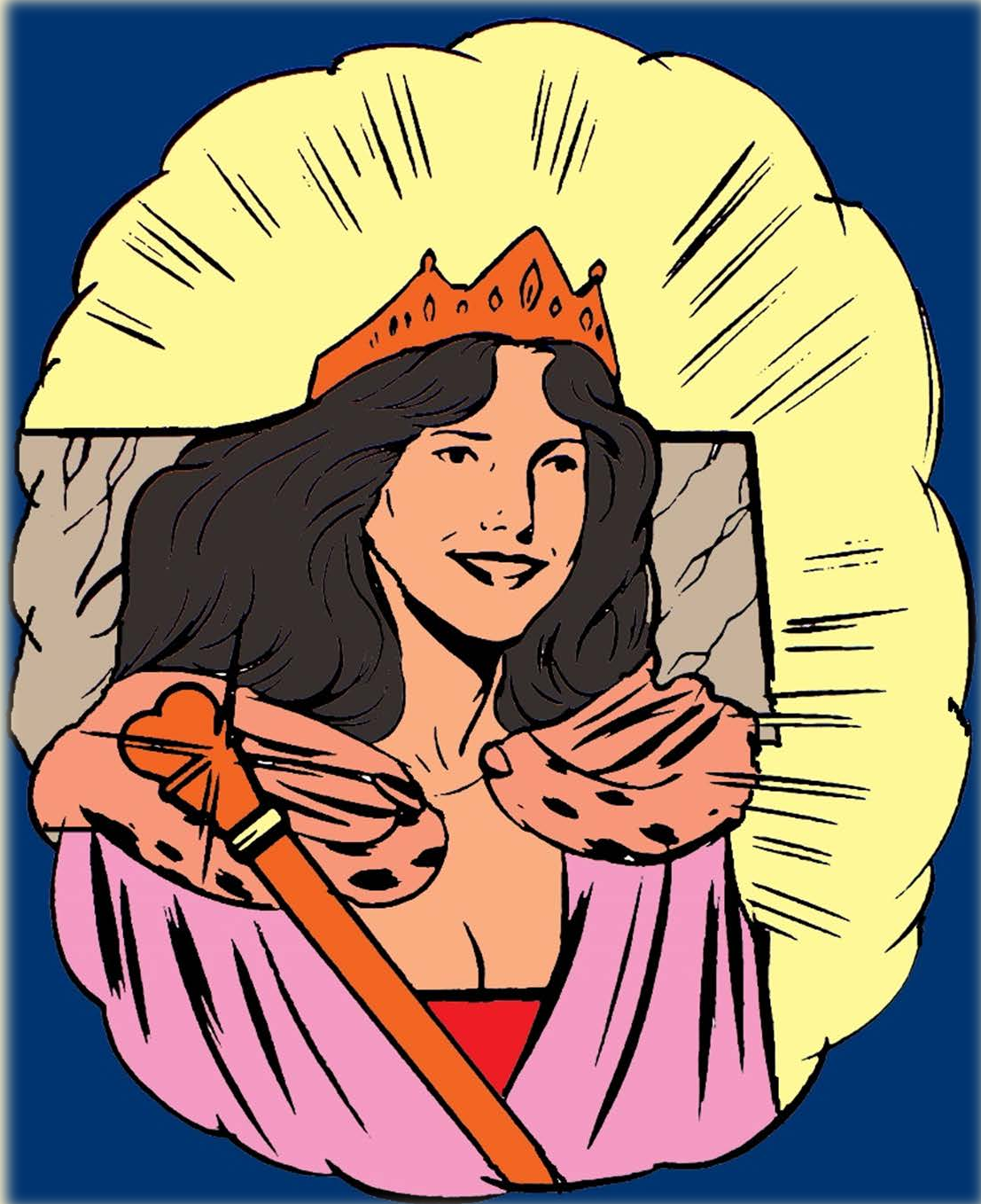
How will they be blessed? They will be blessed to be alive, for a start, and to enter into a new world where war has ceased. It may be an awful mess after the massive destruction caused by the Antichrist and his wars, but with the supernatural help of Jesus and His angels and saints, everything from this point on is going to get better. The restoration of the war-damaged Earth will then begin. Jesus will rule on Earth for 1,000 years, assisted by those who had been His followers in their earthly lives. The survivors, those who are the blessed, will live on in a simpler and righteous world, where loving God and others will be the governing rule.



The prophet Daniel described the takeover of this world's governments by Christ's millennial kingdom in his famous vision in *Daniel, chapter 2*. He saw a great image, which represented history's various great World Empires, being destroyed by "a Stone which smote the image upon his feet", smashing it to pieces and blowing it away "like the chaff"!-- "And the Stone that smote the image became a Great Mountain (Kingdom of Christ), and filled the whole Earth!" (Dan.2:34, 35).

"For in the days of these kings" (the ten toes of the image, the ten final government leaders who fully cooperate with and yield to the Antichrist), "shall the God of Heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever!" (Dan.2:44; see also Rev.17:12-14.)





One of these days very soon, the King is going to come back to claim His Kingdom!--The Kingdom of the Most High shall come and shall destroy all the anti-Christ kingdoms of the World! Jesus is going to come and destroy them all! And He's going to restore the World under us and we're going to rule and reign over it with Him! God will sweep away all this world's kingdoms, but not all the people! -- Many of them will still be here, and we'll be their rulers.

The first event that apparently takes place at the beginning of the Millennium is also foretold in chapter 7 of the book of Daniel:

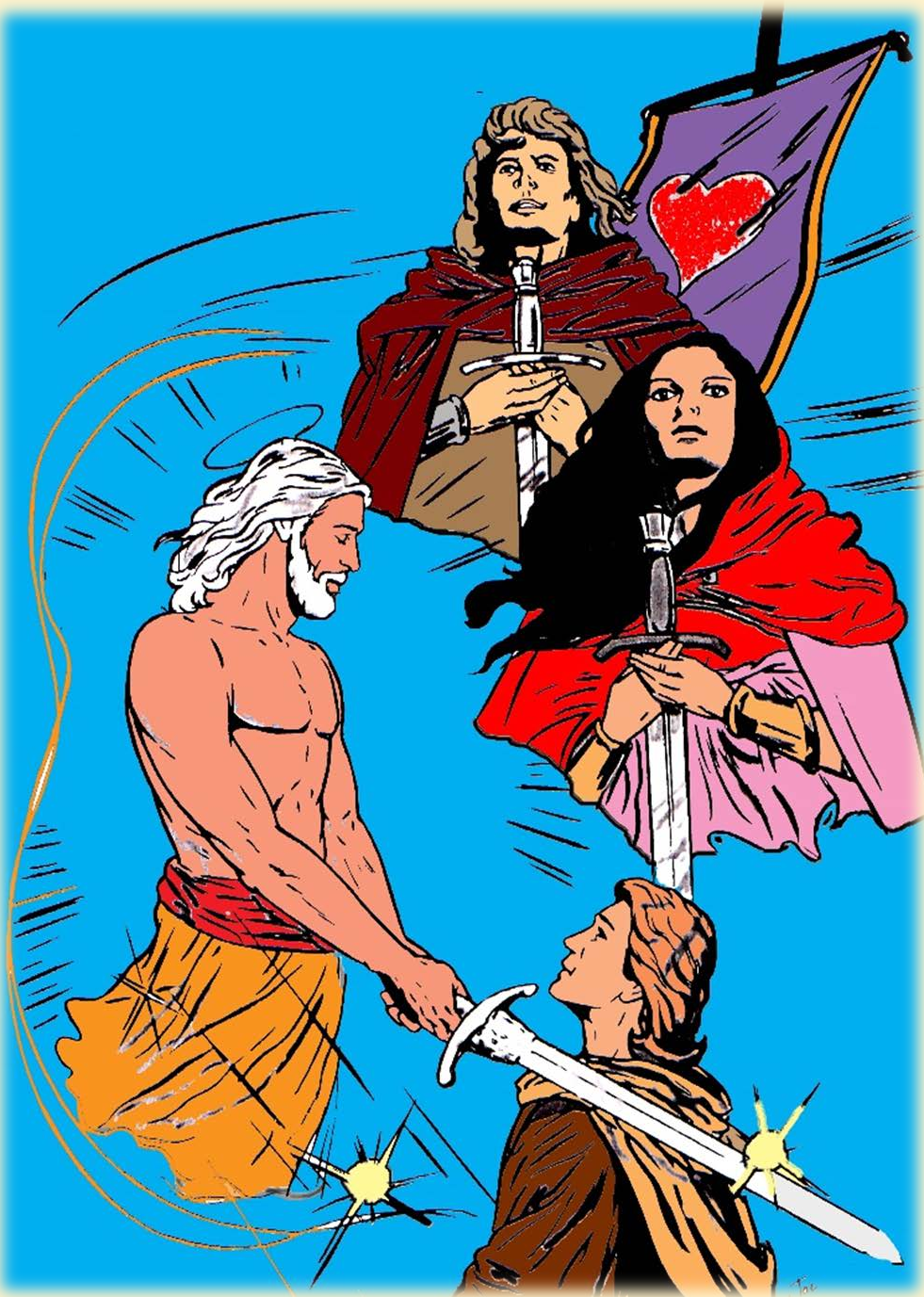
**** DAN.7:18, 22, 27 But the *saints* of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever... the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the *saints* of the most High; and the time came that the *saints* possessed the kingdom...**

... And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints** of the most High, whose kingdom is **an everlasting kingdom**, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

The saints that it is talking about here and in other passages that we will quote in this class are not just those canonized by various churches, such as the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, as “saints,” but rather all those who have received the wonderful “Son of Man” as Jesus is referred to several times in the Bible. His Kingdom will be populated by all those who love Him. The saints that suffered under the Antichrist in the Tribulation seem to receive special mention: **“I saw the souls of them... which had not worshiped the beast... neither had received his mark.” (20:4)**

Yet not only those who were persecuted and killed, but all of God’s saints will rule and reign with Him during the Millennium.





**** REV.3:21** *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. The picture of us sitting upon thrones as rulers in the Kingdom of God on Earth is mentioned frequently in the Scriptures. And as for sitting together with the Lord on His throne, this simply means that we will share the power of the Lord with Him when He reigns on Earth.*

**** REV.5:10** *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

**** LUK.22:29-30** *And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt.19:28)*

**** 1CO.6:2** *Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? (2Tim.2:12)*

God will engage the services of His saints to help Him govern the world during the Millennium. Many have already been with Him in Heaven and know a lot more about things than we do. They've lived years, centuries, many even millennia in Heaven, so they would have undoubtedly learned much by this time. The great patriarchs and prophets and heroes of the Bible and Christian history are going to be right up next to Jesus and His heavenly counselors. And the Lord is going to put His dedicated followers of today into positions of responsibility.

Too many people have the idea that after Jesus returns they are going to be way off somewhere in Heaven, perhaps floating peacefully on a cloud. But at least some of Heaven, part of the Kingdom of God, is going to be right here on Earth during the Millennium. And God's people are going to be called upon to assist Jesus right here on Earth in our great task of ruling the world.



REV.20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the First Resurrection.

And it says that *“the rest of the dead”*, meaning the unsaved, the unrighteous dead, (because the righteous dead have already been resurrected and raptured to be with the Lord) *“lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”* There is no resurrection of the unsaved, the unredeemed, until this thousand years is finished, until the end of the Millennium, at the Great White Throne Judgement: The only ones who have so far been resurrected and raptured to be with the Lord are the Saints of God, the believers, those who love Jesus. *“This is the First Resurrection,”* meaning that which has already taken place, of the Church, the followers of Christ at the Rapture, obviously the First Resurrection. (Perhaps also *Mt.27:50-53*, see our class of 1st Co. chapter 15)



REV.20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

He therefore has a blessing to give those who take part in the First Resurrection, the Rapture of those gathered to be with Jesus Christ at the end of the horrible Tribulation era, after which the Antichrist's rule will come to an end. We have a glorious, beautiful and wonderful Resurrection. We will be raptured, either from the grave or from the very face of the Earth from the living, as we go to be with the Lord.

**** 1 Thes.4:16-17** *For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*





Verse 6 clearly distinguishes between a first and a second resurrection; so who are the “rest of the dead”? All those who lived through the Millennium and yet at the end of it followed the Devil and were then destroyed, plus all the dead of all ages who were lost and therefore could not take part in the *"First Resurrection"* at Christ's Second Coming. All the people who ever lived, whether good or bad, who had not come to the Savior, will stand at this Great White Throne Judgement of God.

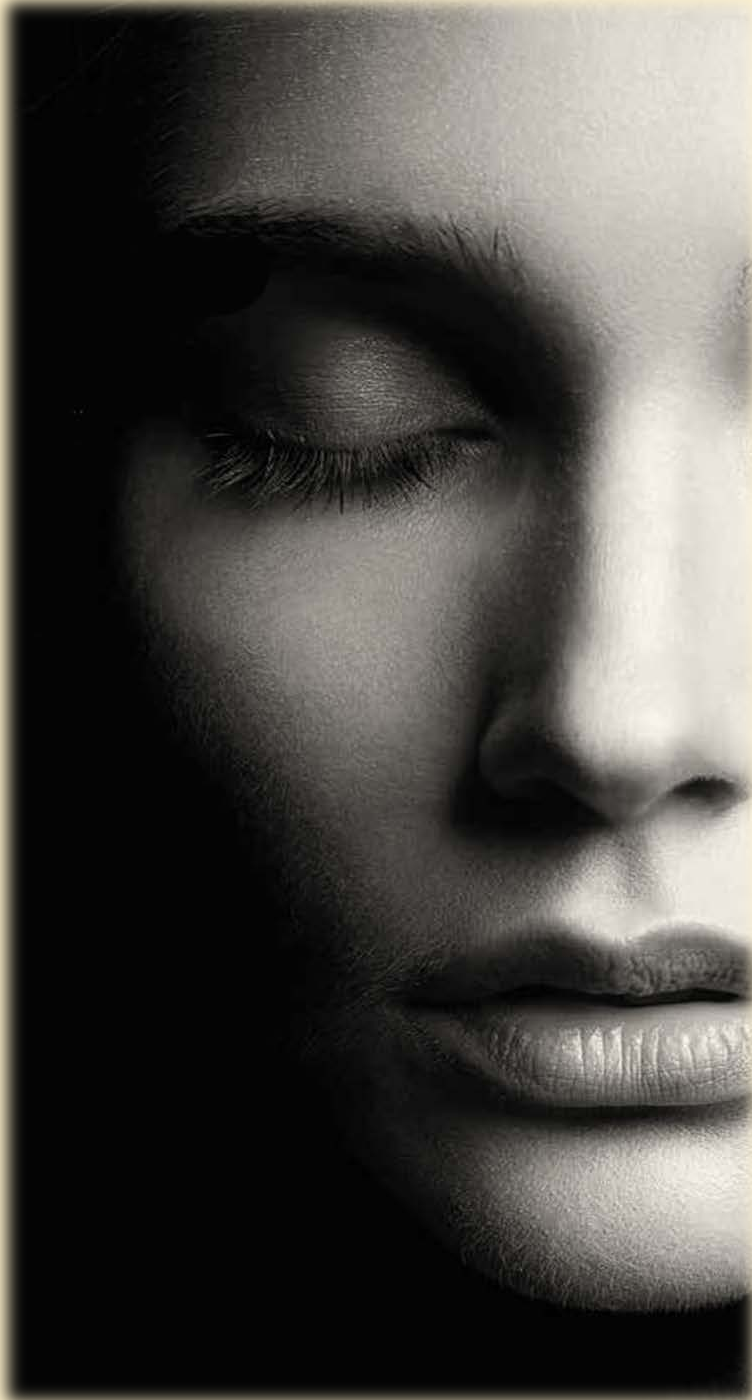
**** REV.20:11, 12, 14** *And I saw a great white throne... And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works... And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

The Bible has a lot more to say about the Kingdom of God on earth. It's very beautiful! It's almost unbelievably beautiful, so marvelous! The Bible is full of descriptions of that beautiful millennial period! It says almost more about THAT than it does about the FIRST Coming of Christ!

It says more about the SECOND Coming of Christ, His rule and reign on the Earth as its King, its Messiah, than it does even about the First Coming! Because this is the purpose of it all! This is the marvelous Happy Ending of it all! This is our reward for loving Him, receiving Him, believing in Him, telling others about Him, and spreading the Good News of His Love.



Don't miss part 2 of this chapter 20: we will go through the books of Isaiah and the Psalms as both the prophet Isaiah and David had a lot to say about the world to come, the Millennium.



You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. The apostle Paul wrote:

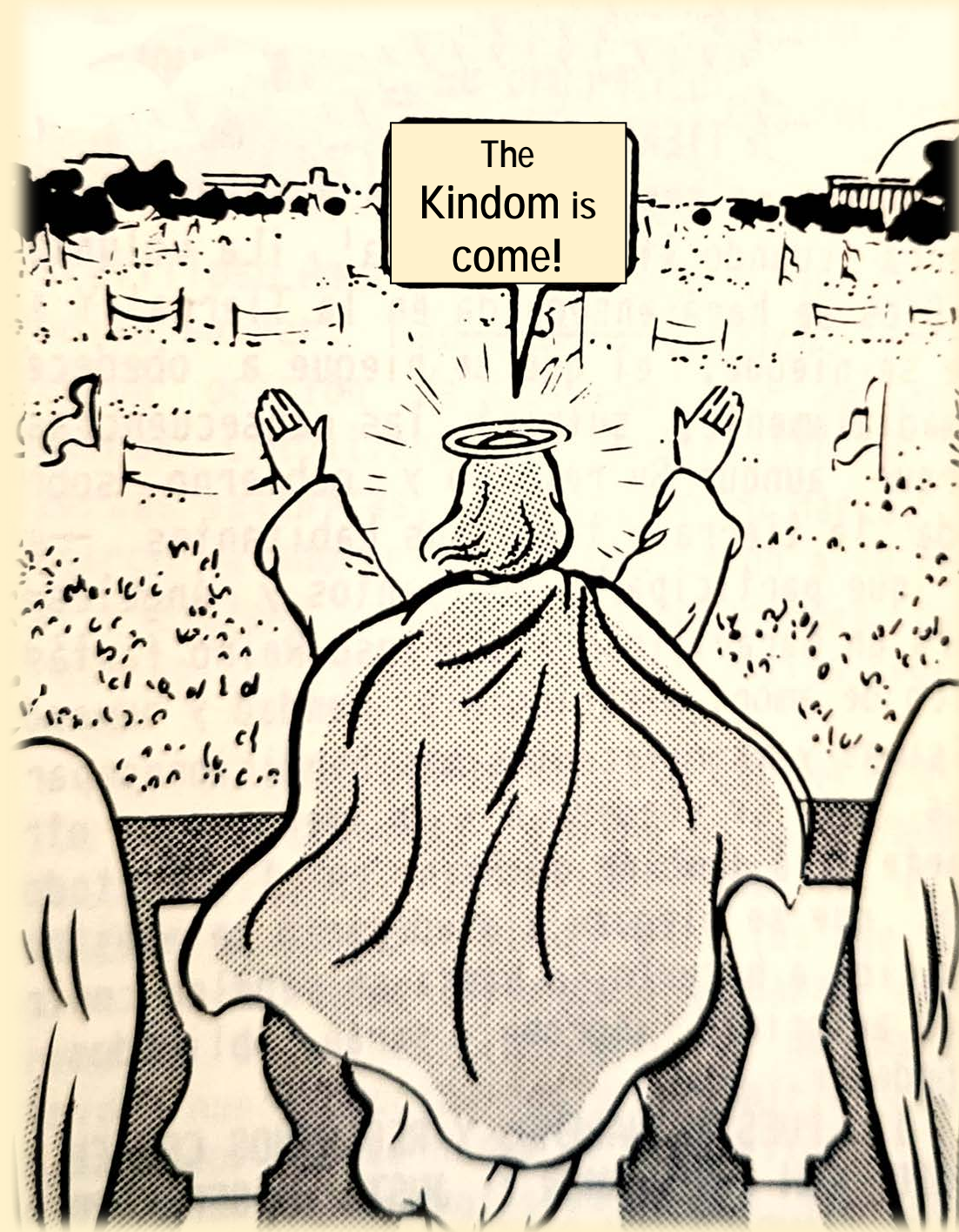
“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Ro.10: 9-10)

If you haven't done it yet, please pray this simple prayer:

"Dear Jesus, I want to know You personally. Please forgive all my faults and sins. I accept that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I receive You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"

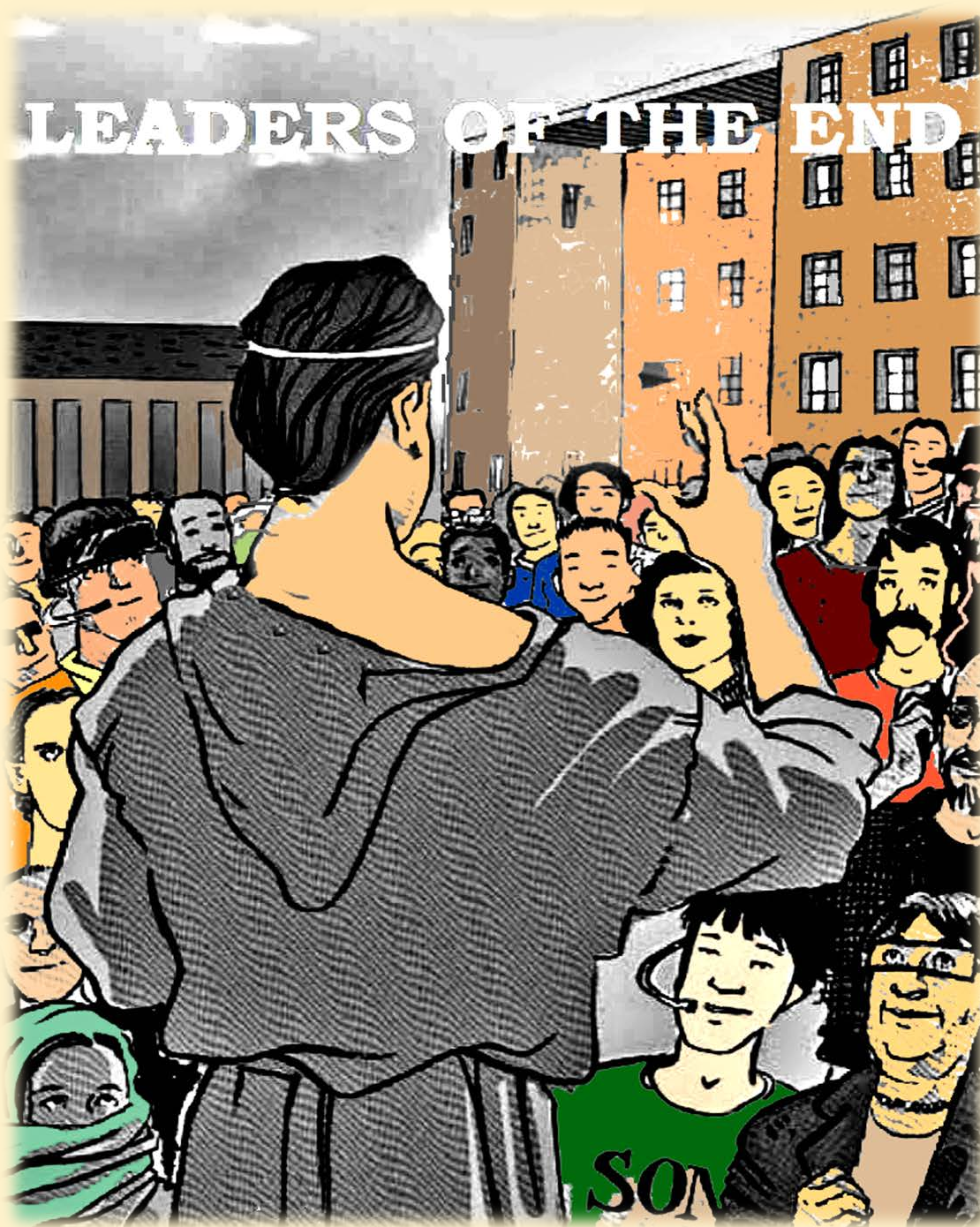
Designed, compiled and edited by Gaetan.

gaetan.goye@gmail.com













...and it
shall stand
for ever!

