

Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

[Part 7]

Have you ever thought about the actual ownership of the planet earth?

It has always been a valuable property, and down through the centuries individuals and nations have tried to stake out their diverse claims to it.

The book of Revelation gives us the answer to this question of ownership.

Revelation 5:1-4 [NIV] *“Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?” But no-one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no-one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.”*

John is still gazing through the door standing open into heaven and God’s throne.

John sees an important document in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne, a scroll securely sealed with seven seals.

John then hears the voice of a mighty angel asking the entire universe if anyone is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll.

I believe, with scriptural reasoning, that this scroll represents the actual title deed to the created earth.

Our belief is that God owns and controls all things in His created universe, including planet earth.

Satan and all his followers, both spirit beings and human beings have long challenged God’s right and God’s control of planet earth.

Matthew 4:8-10 [NIV] *“Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*

Note that Jesus Christ did **not** challenge the implied claim Satan made concerning the kingdoms of this planet earth.

Jesus Christ’s reply was **not** to worship Satan but only God the Father.

Was this claim of Satan justified?

To understand this we need to review the scriptural background of creation of human beings and their fall from favour in God’s eyes.

Genesis 1:26-30 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the*

birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground, everything that has the breath of life in it, I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.”

In effect God was giving Adam and Eve the title deeds to the planet earth to rule over everything in it.

There was one condition that came with this title deed.

Genesis 2:15-17 [NIV] *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”*

Humanity was **not** to decide of their own intellect what was good and evil, but to rely totally on God’s Word.

Genesis 3:1-6 [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

Eve and then Adam succumbed to Satan’s proposition in the garden, and disobeyed their Creator.

Humanity have in general followed their example ever since.

What was the end result?

Genesis 3:22-24 [NIV] *“And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever.” So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

Adam and Eve forfeited their right to rule under God’s supervision.

This allowed Satan to become a squatter on planet earth.

An alien usurper of dominion throughout the earth even though he did **not** hold the title deeds.

2 Corinthians 4:4 [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

This is Satan being called the ruler of planet earth.

1 John 5:19 [NIV] *“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.”*

All humanity under the control of Satan.

Revelation 12:7-9 [NIV] *“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.”*

Satan who has deceived all humanity as to their reason for existence, has been limited to planet earth as his present domain.

How has Satan deceived all humanity?

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 [NIV] *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

Satan has influenced all humans, mainly through false religious leaders, who make out they are ministers of the Creator God but who are not.

Ephesians 2:1-3 [NIV] *“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.”*

“Ruler of the kingdom of the air” in modern days, I believe, near the end of man’s rule under Satan, this scripture has specific meaning.

How about TV, radio, the internet!

Satan and his followers have made these a powerful influence for evil among all humans.

How can the planet earth ever be redeemed from the evil squatter and be given back to humanity to rule, under the direction of our Creator God?

There must of necessity be a second Adam, who will **not** give into the temptations of Satan as Adam and Eve did.

Matthew 4:1-11 [NIV] *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.”*

Also this second Adam, because death had entered humanity through sin, has to taste death and emerge its victor.

1 Corinthians 15:45-50 [NIV] *“So it is written: ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness*

of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

Only in this way can humanity win back all that was lost by Adam and Eve, followed by all humans since.

Humans have lost their worldly inheritance.

Humans have continued to be deceived by Satan.

Humans have lost their intimate relationship with their Creator.

Who does really own the planet earth?

Revelation 5:5 [NIV] *“Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”*

Jesus Christ the Son of Man and Son of God is the only one who is worthy to take over future rulership of planet earth.

Revelation 5:6-14 [NIV] *“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. **He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.** And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song: **“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”** Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: **“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!”** Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: **“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!”** The four living creatures said, **“Amen”**, and the elders fell down and worshipped.”*

Spectacular rejoicing in heaven, with rapturous praise and worship of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ.

I think the apostle John carried the grief of the human race in his heart.

If you meditate on his writings I think you will agree with me.

This is why God chose John to receive the revelation from Jesus Christ.

God always blesses humans who have concern enough in their hearts for humanity to bring tears of love and compassion to their eyes.

Ezekiel 9:3-4 [Living Bible] *“And the glory of the God of Israel rose from the cherubim where it had rested and stood at the entrance to the temple. And the Lord called to the man with a writer’s case and said to him, ‘Walk through the streets of Jerusalem and **put a mark on the foreheads of all of the men who weep and sigh because of all the sins they see around them.**’”*

John turned in expectation to see the lion of Judah, but instead the one who took the seal was Jesus Christ the Lamb of God, who still had the marks of His crucifixion on His body.

Let us understand this truth.

On earth, the lion is stronger than the lamb.

But in the Kingdom of God and before the throne of God, the Lamb is stronger, and He is victor!

Isaiah 55:8 [NIV] *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.”*

God’s ways and ours as humans are **not** the same.

In the kingdoms on earth the spirit of the lion dominates.

In the Kingdom of God the Lamb rules.

The redemption of the world **cannot** be in the hands of humans.

This is one thing that humans will **not** be allowed to make a mess of.

The power in redemption is God’s power.

God redeemed lost humanity **not** by the strong fists of Jesus but by His nail-pierced hands.

We recognise our Saviour by His pierced hands.

John 20:24-29 [NIV] *“Now **Thomas** (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “**Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.**” A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, **Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!”** Then he said to **Thomas**, “**Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.**” Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; **blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.**”*

Thomas, like many of us, had doubts about Jesus being his Saviour.

Thomas was convinced by the print of the nails and the flesh torn apart by the spear.

There is nothing within God’s means of redemption that can bring glory or credit to us.

1 John 3:16 [NIV] *“**This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.**”*

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was an act of unconditional love.

The Greek word used here is “*agapé*”, a spontaneous love, irrespective of the rights or response of the person receiving this love, a sacrificial love where the desires are sacrificed in order to show this love to others.

Luke 23:32-34 [NIV] *“Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, **there they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.”*

A perfect example of loving your enemies.

Our redemption is brought about **not** by the sword, but by sacrificial love.

Our redemption is **not** wrought by vengeance, but by forgiveness.

We are Christians because Jesus destroyed His enemies by dying for them.

Jesus conquered death by letting death conquer Him and then He burst forth from the tomb as victor over death.

This is the way things are done in heaven.

Whatever Christ will do as the lion in bringing the world into submission, He will do because of what He has already done as the Lamb of God.

Please keep this in the forefront of your mind as we study the predicted events that the book of Revelation reveals to us.

The judgements of God's wrath are **not** pleasant subjects.

Many people in the church do **not** want to even think about what is revealed in the book of Revelation.

Unless we accept what we are about to study as God's righteous wrath against sin, **not** the sinners, we will be among those whom Satan has deceived.

When the cup of iniquity is full, God cannot withhold judgement any longer.

John saw the angels of God preparing to execute the judgements that must come upon this planet.

For the sake of the Holy Kingdom of God, and the future created children of God, sin must be purged throughout the planet earth.