

# Revealing The Soon-Coming All-Powerful Sovereign World Ruler

## [Part 11]

We are today experiencing a great new wave of interest in spiritism and devil worship.

**Revelation 12:12** [NIV] *“Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”*

Satan knows that his time of rule is soon coming to an end so his work to destroy all humanity is intensifying.

Although we can see that Satan is very powerful, by the condition of planet earth which is at this moment under his rule, he is always under the control of the Creator God.

One of the reasons that God allows Satan to continue his evil work of deception and temptation to sin, is to weed out all professing followers of Jesus Christ from true believers.

**James 4:7** [NIV] *“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

This is how we should respond to these attacks of Satan.

**1 Peter 5:6-10** [NIV] *“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*

It is our total faith in what God has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ that can empower us to resist Satan.

**Revelation 9:1-12** [NIV] *“The fifth angel sounded his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from the sky to the earth. The star was given the key to the shaft of the Abyss. When he opened the Abyss, smoke rose from it like the smoke from a gigantic furnace. The sun and sky were darkened by the smoke from the Abyss. And out of the smoke locusts came down upon the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth. They were told not to harm the grass of the earth or any plant or tree, but only those people who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. They were not given power to kill them, but only to torture them for five months. And the agony they suffered was like that of the sting of a scorpion when it strikes a man. During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them. The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. They had tails and stings like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months. They had as king over them the angel of the Abyss, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in Greek, Apollyon. The first woe is past; two other woes are yet to come.”*

This passage of scripture is full of symbols that are **not** clearly defined in scripture.

But this does **not** distract from the sheer horror of such an event which will come on planet earth.

This is a sombre and disturbing portrayal of judgement.

This is a prophecy of destruction and desolation that cannot be anything but revolting to humans who deny that the Sovereign Creator God has any right to judge and punish the rebellion of humans whom He has created, given life, and sustained in spite of their hostility to Him.

**Humans, deceived by Satan and charmed by their own pride and abilities, deny that our world is a rebellious province of God's universe.**

Worst of all rebellious humans deny that they will be obliged to give account to their Creator God at a time of His choosing.

These final events of judgement are supernatural, they **cannot** be put down to "climate change" or any other natural occurring events in our world.

Once the trumpets have sounded, sinful humans will have **no** recourse to God.

Neither will they have any doubt as to the origin of the judgement that has come upon them.

All will know that they have come to the time of God's judgement throughout the world.

**Matthew 24:14** [NIV] *"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."*

Jesus Christ's prophetic words confirm what has been stated above.

**Revelation 9:13-15, 20** [NIV] *"The sixth angel sounded his trumpet, and I heard a voice coming from the horns of the golden altar that is before God. It said to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, 'Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates.' And the four angels who had been kept ready for this very hour and day and month and year were released to kill a third of mankind." ... "The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands; they did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood, idols that cannot see or hear or walk."*

Again the symbols and the specific details of these events are **not** clear so I am **not** going to comment on them.

I know that there are many people, some of them committed Christians, who do **not** believe that these judgements and torments will actually happen.

They may discount the revelation, arguing that the imagery is impossible to interpret.

But such people must **not** discount the very words and warnings of their Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Matthew 24:4-30** [NIV] *"Jesus answered: 'Watch out that no-one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains. 'Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 'So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation', spoken of through the prophet Daniel, let the reader understand, then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let no-one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house. Let no-one in the field go back to get his cloak. How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! Pray*

*that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now, and never to be equalled again. If those days had not been cut short, no-one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect, if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time. "So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the desert,' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. "Immediately after the distress of those days "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."*

**If you believe the promises of Jesus as to your salvation, you must also believe these words of warning.**

Many Old Testament prophets and the writing of the New Testament apostles foresaw and proclaimed God's coming day of judgement.

God intends to restore unity of His creation.

God will sort out good from bad.

God will halt the infection of evil.

God will balance the scales of justice.

Jesus Christ revealed to John the broad outline of God's wrathful judgement, we do **not** need to know the details.

**What we can know is that God is going to use every means to shake loose the rebellious forces that have laid claim to His planet earth.**

I would like to believe that this judgement will bring all unbelievers to God, but this is **not** the case. [read **Revelation 9:20**]

All humans are morally obligated to repent and to ask God for forgiveness.

Failing to do this, as our study will show us, they will perish.

When repentance is real and faith is genuine, the atoning death of Jesus Christ is effective for pardon.

**But, sad to say, the lesson we find in scripture is very plain.**

**Sinful rebellious humans can never be forced to repent.**

Death is **not** the worst thing that can happen to a human being.

**Philippians 1:20-24** [NIV] *"I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body."*

These are the thoughts and the desires of a dedicated disciple and servant of Jesus Christ.

There is another side to death and eternal life after physical death.

To any human being who in total rebellion will **not** submit to his Creator, eternal life would be a living hell.

God has an answer for such people so that they will **not** pollute His eternal family.

Every chance will be given to such humans to repent, as we will see in our future studies of the book of Revelation.

My prayer is that those humans who continue to cling to the nature of Satan, who refused in their pride to submit to God, will be very few in number.

**Revelation 10:1-7** [NIV] *“Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from heaven. He was robed in a cloud, with a rainbow above his head; his face was like the sun, and his legs were like fiery pillars. He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke. And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, “Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down.” Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, **“There will be no more delay!** But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”*

The key words in this passage of scripture are *“there will be no more delay”*, nothing now could stop the work of God to cleanse this planet earth of all evil.

As I have mentioned before, don't be frightened by the symbolism we find in the Holy scriptures.

**God reveals all we need to know for our salvation.**

To be put off reading the Word of God because of symbolism is one of the neatest tricks Satan has.

**My advice and experience is that as long as we continue to study God's Word, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us all we need to understand from the scriptures themselves.**

## **Are you ready to face Christ's return?**

As far as I am concerned it is a fact that Jesus is going to return to planet earth, this time with total power and authority.

When The Bible tells me that God is calling a special group of people out of the nations to bear His name, I believe it.

**The question is, are we as Christians prepared for Jesus Christ's return?**

Many Christians have been taught that to be *“born again”* is all that is needed to be prepared for Christ's return.

**John 3:3** [NIV] *“In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”*

Many read this as stating that to be *“born again”* is like a pass to the Kingdom of God.

But is that actually what it said?

No!

**What it really says that it is one event or changed attitude of mind that is the starting place of our journey into the kingdom, or created family, of God.**

This scripture **cannot** be taken in isolation.

Let us read a few of the many other scriptures that must be part of our journey into God's Kingdom.

**Revelation 3:11-13** [NIV] *"I am coming soon. **Hold on to what you have, so that no-one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will he leave it. I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on him my new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**"*

Jesus Christ warns the church of Philadelphia that some could lose out on entry to the Kingdom of God and their reward.

**2 Peter 3:11-18** [NIV] *"**Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote to you with the wisdom that God gave him. He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever! Amen.**"*

This scripture tells us that we need to be in serious pursuit of godliness to be ready for Christ's return.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that **each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.**"*

This scripture tells us that there are certain things we have to do that are essential for us to confidently face Jesus Christ on that day of judgement.

**Ephesians 2:8-10** [NIV] *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no-one can boast. **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**"*

Yes we are saved by faith in what Jesus Christ has done for us, but don't forget it was done for us to do good works that God has prepared in advance for us to perform.

The logical outcome of this scripture must be if we do **not** do these works our salvation may be in question!

**1 Peter 1:22-23** [NIV] *"**Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.**"*

In the context of being born again is learning to express love to other human beings.

**1 Peter 2:1-3** [NIV] *“Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”*

Having received free forgiveness from God through Christ’s sacrifice are we like newborn babies craving for spiritual milk, that is the Word of God, the Christian Bible?

**Revelation 10:8-10** [NIV] *“Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me once more: “Go, take the scroll that lies open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land.” So I went to the angel and asked him to give me **the little scroll**. He said to me, “**Take it and eat it**. It will turn your stomach sour, but in your mouth it will be as sweet as honey.” **I took the little scroll from the angel’s hand and ate it. It tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach turned sour.**”*

We are invited to eat and digest God’s Word.

Very often, even when meditation on God’s Word has become a delight, we find it very bitter when digested.

What we have just been studying is an example of this.

**The most joyous thought of our Saviour returning to this planet earth becomes bitter when we read what happens as a prelude to His arrival.**

**John 6:35, 48-56** [NIV] *“Then Jesus declared, “**I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.**” ... “I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. **I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**” Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. **Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him.**”*

Jesus is the Word of God personified, it is His words and His life that we must digest and make a part of ourselves, just as we do with physical food to live a physical life.

**John 6:60-63** [NIV] *“On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “**This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?**” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! **The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.**”*

Not everyone can accept this, even at that time, Jesus’ disciples had doubts.

**Revelation 10:11** [King James] *“And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again **before** many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.”*

I feel that the King James translation is nearer the original Greek.

The preposition used in this scripture is “*ἐπι*” indicating the object or motive of what has been stated.

**What we are being told by Jesus through John is that the motive and end goal of our digesting God’s Word is to make it available to all nations, languages and to all human leaders.**

We are living in a time of “*soft Christianity*.”

The church pews are filled with nice affable Christians weekly “*nibbling*” around the edges of the Word of God.

Congregations listen to outlines from the Christian Bible purporting to be sermons, but fail to absorb and to digest the Word so that it becomes their controlling interest, that demands that they share it with others.

The saddest words ever spoken in the eternal realm are “*I failed to take God at His Word.*”

Jeremiah was given the difficult task of bearing the news of God’s impending judgement to Judah and Jerusalem.

It was an unwelcome message to those for whom it was destined.

**Jeremiah 15:5-6** [NIV] “*Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem? Who will mourn for you? Who will stop to ask how you are? **You have rejected me,**” declares the LORD. “**You keep on backsliding.** So I will lay hands on you and destroy you; I can no longer show compassion.”*

Jeremiah was a willing messenger, but he was under **no** illusion concerning the response from the people who heard it.

**Jeremiah 15:15** [NIV] “*You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering, do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.*”

After this statement Jeremiah added an interesting remark, similar to that of Jesus and John.

**Jeremiah 15:16** [NIV] “*When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty.*”

Ezekiel had the same problem when God commissioned him to prophecy to rebellious Israel.

**Ezekiel 2:1-5, 9-10** [NIV] “*He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. He said: “Son of man, **I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their fathers have been in revolt against me to this very day. The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn.** Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says.’ And whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are a rebellious house, they will know that a prophet has been among them.” ... “Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.”*

**Ezekiel 3:1-4** [NIV] “*And he said to me, “Son of man, eat what is before you, eat this scroll; then go and speak to the house of Israel.” So I opened my mouth, and he gave me the scroll to eat. Then he said to me, “Son of man, eat this scroll I am giving you and fill your stomach with it.” **So I ate it, and it tasted as sweet as honey in my mouth.** He then said to me: “Son of man, go now to the house of Israel and speak my words to them.”*

In the world of commercial business and entertainment success is dependent on giving the people what they want.

Ezekiel however was called to give a message from God to the people, whether they would “*buy it*” by listening and using it or not.

**The measure of Ezekiel’s success and ours today is how well God’s purpose for our calling and life are fulfilled.**

God will **not** judge us as to how many respond to our preaching of the truth by our lives perhaps more than our words.

**God will judge us on how faithful we have been to our commission, and how well we have used the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to fulfil that commission.**

To both Jeremiah and Ezekiel the message was without the bitter reaction in their stomach, at that moment.

John's message turned into a pain in his inner being.

Perhaps we lost this pain in our inner being in the "*happy-happy-happy*" church congregations who insist that God's Word can never be anything but like sweet honey.

**As we digest and absorb the Word of God it is a delight, but when we try to share it with non-believers we experience bitterness, hostility and even enmity.**

This was the experience of John, Jeremiah and Ezekiel also experienced this very soon after they gave the message to their people.

Our human nature is prone to measure the benefits when we determine if anything is worth the effort involved.

**Have we "*eaten the book*"?**

The question we need to ask ourselves is what are we allowing the Word of God to say to us, and what is our reaction to those words?

Are we consuming and digesting the Book?

Have we absorbed the Word of God into our lives?

Or are we among those content to be part of a Christian congregation where there are **no** extreme demands on us, where fellowship is constantly pleasant and there is **no** demanding responsibilities to reach the non-believing world with the Good News that our Saviour Jesus Christ brought.

The act of committal to Jesus Christ in salvation releases us from the penalty of sin.

But it does **not** release any of us from the obligation to obey the words of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Humanity as a whole have **not** heeded God's Word.

In Revelation we have noted that God has been faithfully warning humanity again and again that the end of the "*Adamic age*" [age of human rule] will come and with it the judgement of our Creator God, and the Emmanuel age [God with us.]

In the vision given to John, it appears that the people of the last days have taken their own safety for granted.

They are **not** disturbed about their future.

**Matthew 24:36-39** [NIV] "*No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.*"



The prophetic words of Jesus Christ reflect this attitude of mind.

As a result most people will be totally unprepared for death, judgement and eternity.

The Old Testament prophets consistently warned Israel about false security.

Israel supposed that because the nation was especially chosen by God, everything would fall into place, is this the attitude of Christians today?

The Messiah would come, set up His rule on earth and everything would be pleasant and sweet.

The Messiah did come, and they did **not** recognise Him!

Their own religious leaders conspired to have Him crucified.

We are God's people for our day and generation.

God's people are called to be something different.

**God expects a certain kind of heroism from His redeemed people, are not Christians likened to brave soldiers, with spiritual armour to battle with our spiritual enemy?**

**Ephesians 6:10-19 [NIV]** *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,**”*

This armour is to protect us from the hostility we will face as we boldly preach the gospel with our lives of outgoing love and our words and actions of compassion.

Our call is **not** to a life of ease, but a life that is willing to be sacrificed for God and the spreading of the good news of salvation but also the warning of the coming judgement.

**Romans 12:1-2 [NIV]** *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**May this be the goal and motivation in your whole life.**