

Mystery of the Millennium Part 2

This is the second in a series on the Mystery of the Millennium. But I would like to digress off topic just slightly and it's been my observation over the years that when God's brothers and sisters get together at a feast or holyday one area that is always of considerable interest to everyone is to discuss our calling and how it is we got to where we currently are at.

The stories are as unique as the personalities that experience them. They share a commonality and they share differences, but the change that came about in our lives is transformational and I would never personally in a million years have believed when I was 18. If someone would have told me what would come down the pipe in the years ahead where I am at now I would have said unequivocally, that their elevator had stopped well short of its destination.

I think many of us can feel pretty much the same thing. This most certainly isn't about me, but we all had events that shaped us along the way and it might be applicable here to give you the kind of Coles notes of my life. And I'll try and be brief.

With the varying array of choices to what one might do with their lives, I headed off to university taking a basic arts degree because I really wasn't sure whether I wanted to follow into the geological engineering field or the medical field actually.

So I started off in the heavy science orientated arts course and after the first year I headed out to Vancouver Island, basically to go and make some money so I could put myself through school. That was still a possibility at those times and the company that you come into in a logging camp, isn't exactly what you might be used to and somehow copious amounts of beer and electric lettuce in abundance were there and it just made no sense to me personally.

So back to Saskatchewan I went and headed down to the manpower office looking for summer work. They thought all students had been placed, jobs were plentiful at that time but a company named Elkpoint Drilling needed a rig hand. Test drilling program. I had never seen a drilling rig in my life so hay, I gotta make some money so I can go back to school so away we went.

As it turned out we were working with a couple of PHD Geologists who were really the fathers in many way of Saskatchewan geology, particular the southern part of the Province. Very, very capable men, they were involved in exploration drilling and making wells. It was physically demanding and often a thankless task, a mud puppy if you will. And the strangest thing of all is I loved it. The puzzle solving exploration stuff the best.

I completed a Geology degree and went on to become a journeyman water well driller and well site consultant for Gulf Oil until I left that business to become a financial advisor up until retirement in 2015.

The geology of our area is an ancient system covered up by younger deposits from the ice age and likely the flood although my pay grade doesn't allow me to differentiate. In those ancient channels and the newer ones above them were the sand and gravel deposits that formed the aquifers that farmers and towns alike in our area relied upon for a water supply.

With us being as dependent as we are on water in this physical life, water is all at once so incredibly necessary and so very underappreciated and taken for granted in our society. It isn't and wasn't always so.

I had a good friend that lived out east of town about 15 miles, and yes there are hills in Saskatchewan. We live in an area called the Parkland which is rolling hills and trees and if I go 40 miles north of where I live it is solid bush and woodlands. And if I go 50 or 60 miles south I could go and watch my dog run away from home for three days.

We are in that nice mushy area between the two and it is really quite pleasant here. And this friend of mine lived on a hill and he had a fabulous valley overlooking the Saskatchewan river valley and the farms of the area. It's really a gorgeous place to have a farm. But he lived on the top of the hill and the hill was a lateral moraine. And that's geology talk for, if any of you have seen a caterpillar or bulldozer move along a blade as they push things out of the way there is a pile that is built up on each side of the blade. Well, we could call that our moraine.

And when the ice went through this area in the last glaciations it bulldozed up a big pile of hills, one of which my friend lived on and one which is, oh probably 15 miles south of that so we are talking a fairly big ice sheet here. And the water that he had in it was comprised of stuff from the zones in that hill and it was nasty enough that it ate up copper pipes in your house, had dishwashers for dinner and washers for lunch. And it was really quite nasty stuff.

And so one day when we were discussing things I asked him, I had retired from drilling at the time, I said you know David before I get too old we really want to see what's down there and if you might have some decent water at depth this is what we have to do.

That was about 2004; well he finely capitulated in 2006 and said, "Let's do that." Looking at the map it was apparent that he lived very possibly on the edge of an underground river channel that used to be in this area.

So I told him that I was going to load up every piece of drill pipe that I could beg, borrow or steal and drill until I was happy that I knew where we were.

That was one of the rules that we learned in the drilling programs is you drill until you knew where you are, and you don't quit drilling until you do. So it becomes important to drill down to, in our area, it was the base of ground water exploration. And what we had to find was to get through this big pile of garbage that was full of gypsum and anhydrite and dolomite and limestone and it's what made the water so dreadful that hopefully at the base of that we would find something like a solid clay or shale that would separate us from all that horrible water and that there would be a sand below that that we could develop into a well.

And so we drilled and we drilled and we drilled, and of course he is writing the check for this, and I wasn't about to stop any time soon until I knew where we were.

At approximately 540 feet we had a lithology change in which we went from a glacial till. We had already encountered that boundary level below the big hill and went into 60 feet of sand and gravel and I turned to my friend and I said, "Dave, it's here. The valley is here"

Well what many of you may not know is that when you drill a hole you look at the samples as there coming up as you are penetrating the different layers so that you get an idea of what is there and you make a recording of that.

But when you are done you pull all your pipes out of the hole and your drill bit and you run a geophysical tool down the hole and you pass an electrical current basically from the tool back to a ground probe on surface. And it draws you a picture of all the layers in the ground.

So not only do you have a lithology log of what you actually penetrated, you end up with a picture, if you will, take a picture of what you encountered and so you compare the two to see where you are at.

Long story short is we ended up making a well that would supply the city of North Battleford. At close to 600 feet the water quality was wonderful, it was easily treatable and on the world stage it wasn't a big victory but it was an enormous victory for my friend.

He could stay on the farm and not have to fight constant problems with water and that was a big deal for him. There was a great deal of personal satisfaction in doing that and that is something that was a huge blessing to be able to participate in that solving the geological riddle and making

something that was tremendous value for my friend and that was special. I miss that, it was a blessing to be able to participate in that.

As it turned out since we had no idea what we had really encountered, when we took that picture, if you will of the formation, there was a 60 foot thick layer of sand. But 26 feet into that sand was a very pronounced silt layer.

That would be nothing if you hadn't drilled a lot in the area but the signature of that marker was unmistakable. We had made wells 25 miles away in that same channel sand with exactly the same silt marker exactly 26 feet into the gravel accumulation.

When I saw that signature I knew exactly what it was. It was not the valley that we thought it might be; it was another valley coming in from the north all pre-glacial, none of this you could see and it was flowing in to the other channel that I thought we would find, but once we saw that marker we knew exactly what it was. We expected good water quality and we expected oceans of supply and that's the way it all turned out.

That marker bed is key to our thinking and what we have been called to do.

For nearly 20 years I functioned as a speaker in a COG (Church of God) but I had never been to minister school like I had for Geology and then Financial Adviser. Although I had attended leadership worksites or courses from time to time. Those left a feeling of unease with me, but I didn't know why. Nothing passed the feeling that couldn't be quantified in any way.

And recently I came across someone who had been to ministerial school and in correspondence were told what they were actually taught. I thought, well that's interesting as I am a bit of an information sponge and I really had no idea, it was not part of my experience, though I had pretty much functioned as one of those for the better part of two decades.

I am going to give you in bullet point form; this is what they were taught in ministerial school. I am not going say what school it was, I am just going to lay this out and let you think about where this would come from.

Would you describe it as God's church with a capital "G" or would you describe it God's church with a little "g"?

And take the bullet points down, write them down as we go through them and compare it to what we are told in scripture and perhaps come to a conclusion about that.

The bullet points were this and there's seven. What they were taught in minister school

The person speaking is the authority.

Bullet point 2:

They are the authority whether they know what they are talking about or not.

Three:

Admitting that they might be wrong about anything would compromise the integrity of their authority regardless of how small or insignificant that was.

Anyone with differing thoughts were laughed at, mocked, scorned, made fun of, etc.

Ministers and lay people must respect the authority of the church organization and accept the fact that God does not work with individuals.

Point Six:

If you have thoughts differing from the office of the minister, you are to keep them to yourself and respect the office.

And Seven:

Ministers should never tip their hand to anything that they might not understand as that would undermine their authority.

So if you have walked through these and you have written them down see if they are supported by scripture or the opposite. What do you think? Or do you think?

Would such a set of rules enhance or hold down deeper understanding? Would it lead to spiritual stagnation or spiritual renewal? Led by the spirit or lead by a church? What church in fact has these requirements in place? And who or what would be the enemy of such a mental disposition?

When moving ahead in spiritual understandings of all things God it requires that we put God and what he reveals and says ahead of all else, or we break the first commandment, and we don't even get out of the gate.

There is a dynamic occurring amongst God's people today that is revealed to us today in Matthew 11, verse 27. Matthew 11, verse 27. Christ speaking:

²⁷All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father.

And of course we all know the scripture where Christ said, "No one comes to the true Christ unless the Father draws him. The Father shows the individual the true Christ because he is the only one that knows him. Going on it says:

Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son,

So the identity of the true God has been hidden from the world or hidden from us. No one knows the Father except the son,

and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

So the Father reveals the son and then the son reveals the Father to those people whom he so chooses to do; and we need to consider that. I believe that is happening right now.

The revelation of the Father about the Father comes from the Spirit of Christ in us and his deciding to reveal the Father to us. And we see that in *Galatians 4:6* where we see that the spirit of God, or the Spirit of Christ rather, is given to us by the Father for the express purpose of revealing the father. *Galatians 4:6* says:

⁶And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

It lets us know that it is the Father who sends Christ's Spirit to us to do exactly that.

Christ identified that his brothers and sisters are those who do the will of the Father, putting Him first, and moving down the road willingly to live by his every word. How can that happen if we don't put him first? How can that happen if we do not believe what he says? Logic would tell us we can't!

If we understand this dynamic we can now make sense of the passages little talked about in the COG (Church of God). The reason for which seems quite clear. It's a common passage, it's in *Mat 24*, verses 29-44 and it says:

²⁹Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Now that's a pretty powerful marker just like my two foot sill bed, don't you think? Everybody and their dog will see that. This passage and its implications have been avoided because of the whole "rapture thing" in the Protestant world.

Notice what follows next, what's under the marker bed if you will.

³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

But notice this happens after the heavenly signs. So if we go back up in the passage and see false Christs appearing, Oh, He's in the desert or no, He's here in my back

yard is all false because we know from the scriptures a marker bed is the Son of man does not come until after the heavenly signs have been given.

Well he is coming, what is he doing?

³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

So he is going to gather his elect at this coming. We can walk through this thing to where we go down to verse 37

³⁷... as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

³⁸For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

So it will be pretty much normal stuff and all of a sudden these signs will show up and this will happen.

⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

This is in the context of Christ's gathering his elect.

⁴²Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.

⁴³But know this; that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched

Well, yah think! The bible is holistic, when Christ comes in this episode he comes to gather God's elect. That is an identifiable event that we see in scripture. This event follows a very clear sign. If one is alive and even has a pulse they will recognize it.

It is the timing of the first resurrection. His elect, Christ's elect are those whom he has revealed the Father to. The angels will be dispersed to gather them. It's his elect he has chosen them. And what does he do with them?

Well, we find the answer to that in *Revelation 14: 1-5*, it says:

¹ Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb (The one who has shown up in the clouds to gather the elect) standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

²And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

³They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth.

Well, same guys:

⁴These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb.

⁵And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

This becomes a problem; the elect are gathered and they are before the throne of God.

We are told in *Revelation 15:2* that they are standing before the sea of glass, or on the sea of glass before God's throne and they are there while the plagues are poured out.

Well if your theology is that on the Feast of Trumpets Christ returns, gathers the elect, immediately comes back, turn around and ends up on the Mount of Olives and the Saints are with him that presents a problem because it doesn't fit. When church teachings don't match the biblical text; this dog don't hunt. And those pancakes don't stack. The puzzle pieces do not fit.

Christ's activities in Matthew 24 the purpose for it isn't difficult to grasp. He comes to gather the elect.

In *Matthew 25*, just a little bit further over. If we go to verse 31 we see another event described. It says:

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, (Well there he is again!) and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

So this time he shows up it is to sit on his throne of his glory. Can it possibly be the same event that we read about in Matthew 24? Well of course it could be, but the activities that follow those things are completely different. It should be obvious that they are different events. They occur at a different time and Christ fulfills a different role in each case.

We need to look at those events to see what the skinny is. We see him showing up again but for an entirely different reason involving completely different events, and let's look at that.

Where we saw in Matthew 24 it's to gather the Saints, well what goes on in *Matthew 25:31*? He comes in his glory, all the holy angels are with him, he sits on his throne so he is now ruling.

³²All the nations will be gathered before Him,

Well that's not possible unless they have already been made his footstool.

and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

There is no way that you can possibly misconstrue the fact that those are not two separate events. And if we follow that through we see that he shows up to give eternal life to the blessed of the Lord when he sits on his throne and to consign the cursed to the lake of fire.

We add layers of activity, the idea that somehow it is a similar event or related in any way, it's just not possible. Matthew 25:31 gives us a snapshot or the snapshot of the beginning of this millennial time, the thousand years.

Matthew 24, verse 31 gives us the timing of the first resurrection and events following that.

Well what happens in between?

Sometime ago it was stated in a sermon that all the Christian world; Catholics, Protestants and the COGs (Churches of God) for that matter, all understand that the foot of *Zechariah 14*, verses 3 and 4, and lets read that since it is not a particular long passage. *Zechariah 14*, verses 3-4 says:

³Then Yahovah will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle.

⁴And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

And everybody knows that that is Jesus Christ; that's his foot. Well, Revelation 12, verse 9 tells us that Satan deceives the whole world and when the whole world believes something that should at least raise a red flag.

In the sermon that I listened to, they stated emphatically that that was not the foot of Jesus Christ, that that was the Father.

And it was a message that was very well received in all circles as you can imagine as I'm trying to get my tongue out of my cheek while I talk about that. Anybody that listened to it thought it was complete heresy, that can't possibly be right. Well, there is such a thing as if you can't be right at least be consistent and that's a phrase we should all remember.

If that's Christ in *Zechariah 14* verses 3-4, then the Millennium, when Christ is reigning, which has been taught automatically flows from that. The problem is that if we look at the events it does not. If the foot of *Zechariah 14:4* is the Father and not Christ, then in all other places in *Zechariah 14* it is also still the Father, and not Christ.

And this is not the millennium in the balance of Zechariah 14. There is no mention here of the lake of fire, folks being turned into spirit, the first resurrection being ruling over all cities; It's not there. It is simply not in the text.

What we do see in verse 9:

⁹and Yahweh shall be King over all the earth.

Well, how does that rack up when you look at a similar event, a similar marker if you will in Revelation 11? In 15 it says

¹⁵Then the seventh angel sounded: ... there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He (The Father) shall reign forever and ever!"

Verse 17

¹⁷... "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was and who is to come, because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

Who is reigning? The Father! Hum! If we are going to be consistent, if Christ is not the foot of Zachariah 14, then we need to look at whether the balance of Zachariah 14 is the millennium or not. And we know from Matthew 25's passage that when that millennium starts there is a granting of spirit life and folks go into the lake of fire. Or do we read anything of that at all in Zechariah 14? And I would submit to you, there is nothing of that in Zechariah 14.

After the rumble that we read about up in verses 12, 13 and 14 verse 16.

¹⁶And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, Jehovah of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Well all of a sudden these people who survive are going up to keep the feast to worship the king. Have they been called? Of course! Why else would they even do that?

¹⁷And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, on them there will be no rain.

They will get an attitude adjustment to help them along the way. Is the Father here putting them down making them the enemies of God as Christ's footstool? Answer, Yup sure is! And has everybody been called at this time? Sure sounds like it to me.

Turn with me to the book of Joel. That layout does not compute with what we have historically understood. If we go to the book of Joel, chapter 2, verses 27-32. And

keep in mind we have our marker bed and we read in Matthew 24 verse 29 where it clearly shows that Christ coming to gather the Saints happens after the heavenly signs. So let's take a look in Joel and see if we can find a similar event and what that tells us. Remember, the bible is holistic, it doesn't contradict, doesn't lie.

Verse 28

28“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;

This is God the Father talking. You can go to Acts 2:33 and see that the Holy Spirit flows from the Father to whoever he chooses, he can give it to Christ to extend to all, but it did not come from Christ, it came from the Father. I will pour out my Spirit.

... your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

29And also on My men servants and on My maid servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

What Days? All flesh would include the Gentiles, would it not? And here is where our time marker shows up. So you have this pouring out of God's spirit on all flesh and after that:

30“And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood,

Is that the same event that you see in Matthew 24, verse 29? If it is, the first resurrection has not happened yet and God the Father has poured out his spirit on the entire earth and the people that live on it. Going on, he does that before the heavenly signs which is:

...before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord.

32And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of Yahovah shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as Yahovah has said, among the remnant whom Yahovah calls.

And we understand that it is the Father that calls. Well how can that possibly be? You have a merciful loving Father who is going to bring about the Day of the Lord which won't be a happy time, but before that he hands out his spirit so that you can understand you can have a choice to call on God to be saved. This is before the first resurrection has even taken place.

Would a merciful kind God give everybody a shot so that they don't have to go through what's coming? Does that make sense to you? Well that's what it says. That does not fit our established paradigm in thinking. We need to think about that.

We see physical nations being called to repentance and to worship God and those who decline that, there is a punishment of those who don't. It is entirely consistent with Zechariah 14.

This is a prerequisite to the time when Christ actually rules and the thousand years actually start. Everybody has to be called. When the millennium actually starts we see the sheep and the goats being determined.

In the passage we saw them called. Their response shows whether they are sheep or they are goats. And when Christ sits on his throne the record is already there as to exactly who they are. That's pretty amazing. We see the sheep and goats being determined prior to the time, it is not the millennium yet, so that when the time comes for Christ to separate them it is already in the rear view mirror.

There is more to come in installment number three as we walk down the road and try to put the puzzle pieces together in a logical way that does not disallow what the scriptures actually tell us.

And we can use some of those marker beds; a tool that I was taught and has certainly has a application in this. Listening to Mark's sermon today is exactly what he's doing.

Drill down deep for the truth of God and when you don't know where you are at keep drilling until you do and you bring to bear all of the information you possibly can on this subject. And once you do that the puzzle pieces start to fit and you know where you are at and they make sense and they join.

And you know there is a thought I'd like to leave with you. This is not particularly specific to what I am talking about. There is a principle here, there is a lesson that we all need to consider because we are going into some pretty crazy times.

In II Thessalonians, just leaving this thought with you. II Thessalonians 2, verses 9-11 it says:

⁹The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish,

There is a reason that happens.

...because they did not receive the love of the truth,

We can hear the truth, but do we receive it, do we have a love of the truth. Do we seek it no matter what? Is that something that we do? God is the truth; do we have a love of God? Then we should have a love of his word and what it actually tells us.

Going on in verse 11:

¹¹And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,

Well if the truth is presented to us and we refuse to believe it, what is left? Only lies! We need to consider that. One of the most toxic things that I can think of in the Church of God is that all authority comes from the front. And we are supposed to believe that. If you were going to try to deceive the whole world you want to teach people what to think or would you want to teach them how to think? What would you do if you were going to deceive, or try to deceive the entire world?

Well I think the answer is obvious that you would try and teach people what to think and that would require that whatever was said from the front, whether it was right or wrong, that's the answer.

And we need to be good Bereans, get our nose in the book, see what it says and say, "Hay, does this make sense?" Because there was whole passages in the scriptures and hope it is not the same for you, but there was whole passages in the scriptures that when I read them they didn't make any sense. I had no place to put them.

But when you get the puzzle pieces in the right spot and you look at the events as to when they actually happen. And we will get into a lot more of that in the next message.

We can form a timeline, write it down, so that we can physically see it, because these events logically flow and many of the things that we have just assumed purely by making it up, that is applied to quote unquote, "the millennium" when in fact it was referring to times when the Father was making Christ's enemies his footstool, rather than the handoff.

If you look at Zechariah 14, just as an example, if that is the millennium you should see people going into the lake of fire and being given spirit life at that time. And Folks, it's not there. So we will take a look at this in version 3 and give you some of the tools to look at, to show some of these events that have a very logical story flow, that flow in a meaningful way and give us clarity in understanding of whole passages of scripture that we hitherto, at least I previously had no idea of where they went.