

TITLE DEED TO THE EARTH REVELATION 4-5

INNOCENCE

1

Paradise Lost

- Adam is overcome by Satan and loses his rule over the earth (Gen 3:1-6; 1 John 5:19).
 - *result*: sin (Gen 3:6), poverty (Rev 3:17), debt (Col 2:14), sold to Satan (Rom 7:14), purchased by Satan, enslaved to sin and to Satan (Acts 26:18; Rom 6:20; 7:24; 8:2, 21), earth "handed over" to Satan (Luke 4:6), and death (Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12).
- all creation awaits a kinsman redeemer to purchase it for God (Rom 8:19-23).



JEWISH AGE

2

Redemption Of Land In Israel

- land could not be sold permanently because it belonged to God (Lev 25:23).
- redemption (*ga'al*) must be provided for every piece of land sold in Israel (Lev 25:24).
- a man can buy back his own land if he recovers financially (Lev 25:26-27).
- if he can't, nearest of kin was responsible to buy it back for his relative: he is a kinsman redeemer (*go'el*, Lev 25:25).
- land remains in the hands of the buyer until the redemption price is paid or until the next jubilee, when it must be restored to its rightful owner (Lev 25:28).
- this law is unique among the nations of antiquity.
- every time a piece of land was sold in Israel it foreshadowed the future redemption of the earth by Jesus Christ.



Session on the
FATHER'S THRONE
(Ps 110:1; Rev 3:21)



ASCENSION



CHURCH AGE AND TRIBULATION

3

Inheritance, Invasion, And Conquest Of The Earth

- Jesus receives the title deed to the earth in heaven at the start of the Tribulation (Rev 5:7).
- this is a signed, sealed, and witnessed legal contract called "a scroll of purchase" (Jer 32:6-16).
- after searching the universe, only Jesus is found worthy to receive this deed (Rev 5:2-5).
- opening the seals unleashes a series of seven judgments on the earth (Rev 6).
- the seal, trumpet, and bowl judgments are aerial bombardments to "soften up" Jesus' enemies before the Invasion of Planet Earth; each judgment points to a Power much greater than the Antichrist, False Prophet, and Satan since they cannot stop or lighten these judgments.
- Jesus and his armies invade the earth to take possession of what is rightfully his—by force (Rev 17:14; 19:11-21).
- Jesus overcomes the Beast (Antichrist), False Prophet, and Satan at Armageddon.



SECOND COMING



Seated
on
DAVID'S
THRONE
(Rev 3:21)

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

4

Redemption Of The Earth In The Millennium

- earth belongs to God by right of creation (Psa 24:1).
- God gave the earth to man (Adam) to populate, subdue, and rule—not to possess (Gen 1:28).
- sin left Adam poor, indebted to God, and unworthy; physical and spiritual death made it impossible for Adam to rule the earth forever; so, since he had no relatives or kinsman redeemer, God "handed over" the earth to Satan to rule temporarily (Luke 4:6) until a kinsman redeemer who is rich and worthy (Jesus) pays the redemption price (blood, physical and spiritual death) to redeem the earth.
- at the cross Jesus purchased, bought back, or redeemed both the earth and men from Satan for God (2 Pet 2:1; Rev 5:9).

ETERNAL KINGDOM

5

Creation Of A New Earth

- the new earth is also a part of Jesus' inheritance (Rev 11:15).
- Jesus and his Father rule on it (Rev 22:1).
- rights to the new earth are probably included in the seven-sealed scroll.
- life begins anew and the Kingdom of God continues without interruption forever.



God's Throne Room (Rev 4): this chapter describes the place or setting where the title deed to the earth is given to Jesus. The most important event in chapters 4-5 is this: God gives a seven-sealed scroll to his Son (Rev 5:7).

Scroll with Seven Seals (Rev 5): what is this scroll? Unfortunately nothing in chapter 5 tells us, nor what's written on the inside or outside. So we must ask, What are the options or possibilities? What kind of scrolls (documents) were sealed with clay bullae in the ancient world? Four options: (1) a royal letter (1 Kings 21:8), (2) a royal decree (Esth 8:8), (3) a will, or (4) a title deed to land or property (Jer 32:44). In 1960 twenty-three tied deeds without seals were found in the Cave of Letters near the Dead Sea (Yadin, *Bar-Kokhba*, 228-231). To decide which of these four is most probable, we need to look at chapters 6-20 to see what taking possession of and opening the scroll is preparatory to. Opening the seals unleashes God's anger on the earth. The seven seals are followed by two more volleys of seven judgments. These judgments destroy people (Rev 6:8; 8:11; 9:15; 16:21), cities (16:19), land, trees, and water (6:14; 8:7; 10-11; 16:4), sea life (8:8-9; 16:3), and the infrastructure, commerce, and economy of the earth (11:13; 16:18-19; 18:8-19). They systematically weaken the opposition in preparation for the return of Jesus. They are also evangelistic in nature: God's hand is clearly understood to be the cause of such powerful catastrophes (6:16-17). They encourage God's enemies to switch sides at any cost; the cost for most will be the loss of their lives and the lives of their loved ones by martyrdom. All of this judgment leads up to the second coming of Christ, where he kills his enemies at Armageddon (19:19-21), imprisons the Beast, False Prophet, unbelievers, fallen angels, and Satan (Matt 13:41-42; Rev 19:20; 20:1-3), takes possession of and renovates the earth (Acts 3:21), and sets up his millennial Kingdom (Rev 19:14-16). So, it appears that the seven-sealed scroll is (1) a title deed (in chapter 5 God gives possession of the earth to his Son) or (2) a will that bequeaths all things, including the earth, to Jesus (in this case chapter 5 describes the day Jesus receives his inheritance from his Father; cf. Psa 2:7-8; Heb 1:2). *Note:* after this we will receive our inheritance at the Judgment Seat of Christ (Col 3:24; 1 Pet 1:4). Search is made far and wide to find another worthy to open the scroll, but no one is found (Rev 5:2-5). And in the process all assent that Jesus alone is worthy. He is worthy because he overcame the world (John 6:33; 12:31) and the ruler of this world in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11). After receiving his inheritance, the earth is bombarded, invaded, conquered, possessed, and rebuilt. Possession of the scroll gives Jesus the right to do with the earth as he wishes; and his wish is to begin the Conquest of Planet Earth (antitype of the Conquest of Canaan under Joshua). **Redemption of the Earth:** redemption is the restoration of all that was lost by Adam's sin: his soul, body, and rule over the earth. The result of sin is threefold, so redemption must also be threefold. Redemption is a process that begins at the cross (redemption of the soul or salvation, Eph 1:7; Heb 9:15), continues with the first resurrection (redemption of the body or resurrection, Rom 8:23; Eph 4:30), and is completed at the second coming of Christ (redemption of the earth). The purchase price is his blood (Rev 5:9). **Paradise Regained:** by a sinless kinsman redeemer who pays the debt (Eph 1:7; 1 Pet 1:18-19; Rev 5:9), purchases or redeems men and the earth (Acts 20:28 1 Cor 6:20; 7:23; 2 Pet 2:1; Rev 5:9), gives freedom (Acts 13:39; Rom 6:18, 22; 8:21; Gal 5:1, 13; 1 Pet 2:16), riches (2 Cor 8:9), eternal life (John 5:21, 29, 51; 6:40; 10:28; 11:25; Rom 8:11), and possession of the earth to man again (Rev 5:10, 13; 11:5).