



## THE TWO THOUSAND YEAR REIGN OF CHRIST

*"For he (Christ) must reign, until he hath put all enemies under his feet." - 1st Corinthians 15:25*

By Archie Jones

### The World before Jesus Christ

Before the birth of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ there was only the little light that God had given to His people in the Promised Land. The world was mostly covered with the darkness of false religions and false views of the world and of life--of God, men, and things-- created by men in rebellion against God and His Word.

These false religions and philosophies taught false systems of ethics, advocating sinful standards of conduct in rebellion against God and His holy law. These included all forms of sexual immorality: temple prostitution of wives and daughters, homosexuality, pederasty, and licentious orgies. They also included abortion, infanticide-- the murder of twins, females, and deformed babies-- human sacrifice, and cannibalism.

They made oppressive slavery universal and the life of the individual person virtually worthless. For all their achievements, even the Greeks' and Romans' societies were based on ungodly slavery and in principle gave the individual no area of freedom against the total, arbitrary claims of civil government.

### The Advent of Christ

But God is loving and merciful. As He had promised throughout the Old Testament, He sent His Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, to be born of a virgin; to live a perfect life; and to die to save all who believe on Him from their sins.

So the Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, yet died a painful, humiliating death on the cross so that all those who believe on Him would be saved from eternal punishment for their sins.

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Moreover, He rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. Before He did this, Jesus gave His church the Great Commission: to go to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to do all things that He has commanded us to do.

Jesus based the Great Commission on two unalterable facts: all power is given to Him in Heaven and on Earth, and He will be with us always, even to the end of the world.

### The Spreading of Gospel Light and what Christians sacrificed to fulfill the Great Commission

From the days of the early church to the present, Christians have been striving to spread the Gospel and fulfill the Great Commission. Their work has been impeded and set back by the sins of Christians as well as by the sins of those whom they were trying to reach for Christ.

For the sake of the eternal salvation and temporal good of those who would be lost without Christ they have suffered like the prophets of old, who, for their faith, were mocked, afflicted, tormented, tortured, and murdered. (Hebrews 11:32-40)

Christians have suffered cruel persecution for their faith throughout the centuries and particularly in the twentieth century. Countless Christians who have left the safety of their homes to bring the good news of salvation and the blessings of obedience to Christ have knowingly faced not only hardship but also murder.

The murdering of believers has often been done by fiendishly excruciating torture, by the pagan peoples of Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, Oceania, and elsewhere, civilized and uncivilized, in ancient, medieval, and modern times.

More Christians were martyred in the twentieth century than in all previous centuries, and Christians are still being murdered in Moslem lands, communist countries, and elsewhere-- even in these United States!

Yet, as in the days of the early church the Holy Spirit has made the blood of the martyrs the seed of the church and the light of Christ's church has spread and grown. The early church defeated false religions and philosophies and spread Christianity throughout the Roman Empire, to Syria, Armenia, Egypt, Ethiopia, North Africa, and as far east as India and China.

During the medieval period Christianity was spread throughout Europe, to Russia, into parts of the Near East, and to the Far East. During and after the Reformation Christianity was brought to the Americas, the Philippines, Japan, Australia, and parts of Africa and Oceania. In the past two centuries Christian missionary work has been particularly active in India, China, Africa, Japan, Oceania, and among previously unreached peoples in South America, Tibet, Mongolia, and Papua, and New Guinea.

### **Christ's Reign Has Affected Many Areas of Thought and Life**

The coming of Christian faith to the peoples of the ancient, medieval, and modern world did far more than save souls from eternal punishment. Belief in the teachings of the Bible, faith in Christ, and obedience to God's word changed the world-views and lives of individuals, families, and peoples spiritually but also intellectually, morally, and culturally.

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Christianity transformed tribes, nations, and civilizations radically for the better. Out of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire in the West Christianity produced a new and far greater civilization--Western Civilization--and also made the Byzantine Empire a great civilization in the East.

It criticized civilizations, cultures, the state, and the church itself. It gave men a view that time is important and that history is meaningful. It produced written languages; literatures; great works of music, art, and architecture; works and institutions of compassion, mercy, and charity. It affected many other things for the better as well.

### **Respect for the Individual Person**

One of the key fruits of the light of Christianity is respect for the individual person.

There is no foundation for respect for the value of the individual person in the intellectual and moral relativism of ancient and modern man-centered thought. But the Bible teaches that each individual person is created in the image of God, not evolved by chance from primordial matter.

The Bible also teaches that God gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to save His people, those individuals who trust in His work on the cross to save them from their sins. God's law, revealed in the Bible, protects the individual against murder, covetousness, theft, false witness, adultery, and many other wrongs.

The Great Commission requires Christians to witness to individuals of all nations, peoples, and faiths. All of these teach respect for the individual person-- man, woman, child, or unborn baby, regardless of race, color, creed, nationality, economic or social status, and the like.

All these teachings came with Christianity to the peoples to whom the Gospel was brought. Consequently, Christianity brought ethical and legal protection to the individual person and elevated the status of women, children, the poor, slaves, servants, and common people.



When we consider the power of evil in the fallen heart of man and the disastrous effects of sin on the actions and institutions of men, it is obvious that the reign of Christ has wrought tremendous changes in the institutions of men as well as in the lives of individuals. The blessings of Christ's reign have indeed brought great light to the lives of many men, peoples, and nations.

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The 2000 year reign of our Lord Jesus Christ has brought salvation to His people and the light of many practical benefits to the peoples influenced by Christianity and to mankind.

### **Education for the Learning and Application of God's Word**

Education is not the least of these blessings. Christianity based on the Book of Books - the Bible, the revealed word of God - speaks authoritatively to all areas of thought and life. The Great Commission requires Christians to teach the nations about God and to teach them all things which Christ - God - has told us to do.

Consequently, where it has been true to its own principles Christianity has emphasized the

teaching of God's word and how it applies to all areas of thought and life. This is true education. Hence Christianity gave us not only Christian schools but also, during the medieval period, the university, a vigorous intellectual life, and specialized schools of medicine and law. Moreover, Christianity has sought to provide education for the common people, not just for the elite or the wealthy.

### **Science, Technology, and Economic Life**

Contrary to much anti-Christian propaganda, it was the Biblical faith of Christianity which gave the world modern self-sustaining science, which developed in the West - and not under any other civilization or culture.

Men of other civilizations had scientific insights, but no other civilization was able to create self-sustaining science because none other was undergirded by a view of the world and of life which made the universe rational or comprehensible.

The Bible's teachings that God is a God of order who created all things out of nothing and sustains and directs all things made the world comprehensible.

Its teaching that God created man in His image with the duty to rule over the earth and its creatures under Him made man see that he has the ability and the duty to comprehend much about the world, and that he can glorify God through that understanding. Since Christ commanded man to love his neighbor as himself and to do unto

others as he would have them do unto him, Christians saw applied science as a means of alleviating human suffering and bettering the material life of man.

Consequently, the foundation of modern self-sustaining science was established in the late medieval period and great advances in science were made during the Protestant Reformation.

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Among these were the development of a balanced system of animal and cereal crops; the three-field system of crop rotation; the heavy plow; the horseshoe, which enabled horses to work more efficiently; the horsecollar, which enabled horse to replace oxen to work fields and pull heavy loads, improving both agriculture and transportation.

The many improvements in transportation, roads, navigational instruments, ships, accounting and insurance helped create a commercial revolution in the West. Improved transportation and agriculture bettered the health and wealth of the peoples of the West.



In the later medieval period men in the West developed far more diverse sources of power than had been available to any previous civilization, creating a revolution in machine design which enabled them to use the power of wind, moving water, weights, springs, and expanding gases far more fully than had been done before.

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Key medieval technological inventions or design improvements were: waterwheels; tidal mills, weight-or spring-driven clocks; rotary grindstones, flywheels, looms, and lathes; pipe organs, spring-operated saws and lathes; spinning wheels; the cam, the crank and connecting rod; the carpenter's bit and brace; and the windlass.

Moreover, eyeglasses enabled men to read longer and be more productive. And, building on much of medieval developments, Gutenberg's printing press produced a revolution in itself.

### Law, Order and Liberty

The greater liberty of men in the medieval and Reformation West enabled them to innovate and to develop new techniques and technologies to better the material lives of men.

This was not the fruit of chance but of the Bible's influence on the thoughts and actions of men. The Christianization of the peoples of the West made Jesus Christ the example which princes and kings were taught to follow: for the Bible teaches that civil government is a ministry of God and that Christ is the King of Kings.

God's word and law - revealed to man in the universally valid, unchanging standards of a Christian interpretation of "Natural Law" and even more clearly and comprehensively in the Bible - became the standard by which kings and all civil government rulers are to govern.

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Under the influence of the church and of Christian advisors to kings, Christian standards were made basic to civil government and law.

Influential Christian political and legal thinkers of the medieval period - followed by those of the Reformation - taught that civil governments and their rulers are under God's authority and law, and that a king may make no laws which contradict God's law. This is the basis of the rule of law verses the arbitrary rule of men. The war between these ideas has only increased in our day.

These Reformed thinkers also taught, long before the vaunted 18th century - that the people, led by their lesser civil government officials, have a right, even a duty, to resist injustice done or commanded by the king, and to take up arms to overthrow a king who would rule tyrannically.

During these Christian centuries, too, institutions were developed which could and often did resist the power of a tyrannical monarch. The church resisted, as well as nobility based on feudal covenants. Those in representative government, a division of power among diverse governments, and independent courts all resisted by placing the rule of law above the desires of the king.

All of these developments worked to provide liberty within a framework of order, based upon universally valid Biblical principles of conduct.

In addition, the church and Christian legal theorists sought to mitigate the severity and destructiveness of warfare. They distinguished between just and unjust wars, developed a chivalric code of conduct for warriors, exempted noncombatants from hostilities, and sought to bring about peaceful resolution of conflicts.

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All of these things and many more have been the results of the 2000 year reign of Jesus Christ.



Yes, there have been many sins and setbacks, but He has raised up Christian critics of civilization, culture, the state, and the church, and under His rule lost territory can be reconquered and wrongs righted. The blessings of His example and rule in history are incalculable!

### Christ Still Reigns!

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that He will build His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. He has been building His church throughout the past 2000 years, and the light of God's glory has increased throughout His world.

He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is still King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He still rules history, and He will continue to build His church and bless His people through Christians' obedience to the Great Commission's mandate to disciple all nations for Him!



**Note about the author:** Archie P. Jones has a masters degree in American Studies (University of Miami), a Diploma in Collegiate Teaching (University of Miami), and a Ph. D. in Politics (University of Dallas). He has taught Political Science at Texas A&M University and Grove City College, and taught Political Science, American History, Composition, and Literature as a Senior Adjunct Professor for Saint Leo College. He has also worked as a field representative for U.S. Congressman Ron Paul (R., TX), as a librarian and director of research for a Christian school, and as a writer for *The Christian Educator*, a newspaper for homeschoolers. Dr. Jones currently teaches history at Rocky Bayou Christian School, Niceville, FL., and Adjunct Assistant Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. A Marine Corps veteran, Dr. Jones is a Presbyterian. He and his wife, Mary, and their children, Daniel and Jennie, reside in Niceville, Florida - "the center of the universe" - where he enjoys teaching, reading, chopping wood, boating, and fishing. Archie has written eight of the mini-books published by Plymouth Rock Foundation, and serves on its Board of Directors as a consultant and lecturer on America's Christian history.

### SPECIAL NOTES TO THE PLYMOUTH ROCK FOUNDATION FAMILY

**CHRISTIAN COMMITTEES OF CORRESPONDENCE** survey has now been sent out and we are collecting important data from those in the field. If you have not heard from Paul Gocdecke and received the latest *Correspondent* newsletter please notify us.

**NATIONAL JULY 4 ESSAY CONTEST** deadline has been extended to **June 15!** We apologize for the delay in processing the information and applications due to our slow transition, but again our task has been somewhat overwhelming. The **theme** this year is "**LAWFUL RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY**". Please contact us for more details and we will send you the information if you desire to be involved. We have received many essays, and expect many more to come prior to the June 15 deadline. Remember your essay is to be 250 to 500 words, and will be graded for content (focusing on the theme), mechanics (spelling, punctuation, word usage and vocabulary) and care with which it is written. We have three categories again: 1) Home school students, 2) Christian school students, and 3) Christians in the public school. Again, the **deadline** is now **June 15!**

**ANNUAL CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PLYMOUTH!** If you want a fabulous vacation with inspiring instruction on our nation's heritage, this conference is for you! Registration materials will be available soon. We will begin with a banquet on **Thursday, November 9** and end with a Pilgrim Sabbath Church Service on **Sunday morning, November 12**. This conference will feature special lectures, essay contest winners, student orations and updates on various PRF projects, as well as special presentations for *Veterans Day* and *The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church*. You don't want to miss this conference!

**CHRISTIAN HERITAGE WEEK** is once again being promoted for Thanksgiving Week, 2000, November 19-25. Please support local (state) efforts and write to your Congressman! For more information please contact *Bruce Barilla*, Nationwide Promoter, 5025 W. 139th Place, Unit 507, Crestwood, IL 60445; (708-489-2101); [www.achw.org](http://www.achw.org); and you can e-mail him at [barilla@achw.org](mailto:barilla@achw.org).