THE RETURN OF CHRIST -
The Doctrine of the 1000 Year Reign

Intro:
A. The weekend of May 21st 2011 marked a critical point in the lives of many - with the teaching of Harrold Camping that Christ is going to return May 21st 2011, and now the doomsday “prophet” is at it one again with October 21st end of the world as we know it - it gives us less than 5 days if this teaching is true and the scriptures do reveal the date and time of Christ’s return to earth.
1. In a study of the “Return of Christ we could look at just the facts that the Scriptures present with regard to this subject.
2. And study the false doctrine of the Rapture and the simplicity of the Scriptures on the subject.
   a. Since most of us all still here this morning I would once again affirm that I with assurance from the Scriptures - do not believe that I nor you are one of the “Left Behind” because the Rapture has taken place and the un-righteous are left here to face the Great Tribulation.
3. And answer the question: Should We Be Looking For A Future “GREAT Tribulation” On Earth?
4. But, in this lesson we want to consider the question “Will Christ Reign On Earth For 1000 Years?”

B. The Basic Elements of this theory are:
1. Kingdom is yet to be established
2. Kingdom will be a literal, material kingdom.
3. Christ will come back and reign on a literal throne in Jerusalem.
4. 1000 year reign & bliss
5. Jews return to Palestine

C. Will Christ Reign On Earth For 1000 Years?
1. It Is Not In The Bible
2. The Kingdom Has Been Established
3. Christ Is On David’s Throne In Heaven NOW
4. The Second Coming Ends Christ’s Reign
5. Revelation 20 Does Not Teach It
6. Consequences
   a. The answer is a resounding NO!

II. It Is Not In The Bible
A. Must Teach & Believe Only What Is Found In The Bible - 2 Cor. 4:13; 1 Pet. 4:11
1. 2 Corinthians 4:13 ---- 13 And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak,
2. 1 Peter 4:11 ---- 11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

B. Must Always Check what we are taught by the Bible - Acts 17:11; 1 Jno. 4:1,6
1. Acts 17:11 ---- 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.
2. 1 John 4:1,6 ---- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.
   a. Vrs 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us.
By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

C. **Must Harmonize All of The Bible** – *Jn 18:36; 1 Cor 15:23ff*
   1. **John 18:36** ---- 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”
   2. **1 Corinthians 15:23** ---- 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.

D. **Revelation 20** doesn’t teach it! – (Later!!)

III. **The Kingdom Has Been Established**

   A. **The kingdom to be established during the Roman Empire** – *Daniel 2:44*
      1. **Daniel 2:44** ---- 44 “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

   B. **Some in the time of Christ would live to see the kingdom** - *Mark 9:1; Mt. 16:28*
      1. **Mark 9:1** ---- And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”
      2. **Matthew 16:28** ---- 28 “Assuredly, I say to you, there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

   C. **Paul wrote to people in the kingdom** – *Col. 1:13*
      1. **Colossians 1:13** ---- 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

   D. **John and other Christians were in the kingdom** – *Rev. 1:6; 5:10*
      1. **Revelation 1:6** ---- 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
      2. **Revelation 5:10** ---- 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”
      3. **Matthew 16:18-19** (NKJV) ---- 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

   E. **The Church and the Kingdom are one and the Same.**

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IV. Christ Is On David’s Throne In Heaven

A. In Heaven -
1. Dan. 7:13-14 – received kingdom when ascends to Ancient of Days
   a. Daniel 7:13-14 ---- 13 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him;14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom. That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

2. Zech 6:12-13 – King & Priest on throne - (If on earth – couldn’t be priest- Heb. 8:4)
   a. Zechariah 6:12-13 ---- 12 “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: 1 “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” ’
   b. Hebrews 8:4 ---- 4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

3. Psa. 89:35-37 – Throne in the sky
   a. Psalm 89:35-37 ---- 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: 36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me;37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even like the faithful witness in the sky.” Selah

B. On Throne Now
1. Zech 6:12-13 – King & Priest on throne
   a. Zechariah 6:12-13 ---- 12 “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: 1 “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD;13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” ’

2. (Priest now – Heb. 4:14-15; 8:1-4)
   a. Hebrews 4:14-15 ---- 14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
   b. Hebrews 8:1-4 ---- Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,2 a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.3 For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.4 For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law;

3. Acts 2:30-36 – now at right hand of God
   a. Acts 2:30-36 ---- 30 “Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,31 “he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.32 “This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.33 “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit. He poured out this which you now see and hear.34 “For David did not ascend into the heavens,
but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, 35 Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.” ’36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

C. **Luke 1:32** (NKJV) ---- He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

1. **Acts 2:29-32** (NKJV) ---- “. . . [30] Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, [31] he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. [32] This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. .

2. **Acts 2:33-35** (NKJV) ----“...[33] Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. [34] For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: "The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, [35] Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.""

3. **Acts 2:36** (NKJV) ---- "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

a. [30] . . . God had sworn with an oath . . . He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, b. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lord NOW!

c. **John 18:36** ---- 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

V. **The Second Coming Ends Christ’s Reign - Jesus Is Reigning “TILL” The Last Enemy Is Destroyed**

A. **1 Cor. 15:23-28** (NKJV) ---- But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. [24] Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

1. **The resurrection & LAST Trump!!** – **John 5:28; 1 Cor. 15:23, 50-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-17**
   a. **John 5:28** ---- 28 “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice
   b. **1 Corinthians 15:23,50-55** ---- 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.

   (1) **vrs 50** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”

2. **Jesus Is Reigning “TILL” The Last Enemy Is Destroyed**

B. **Vrs 24** ---- Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

1. Then comes the END, NOT the beginning of His kingdom!!

C. **1 Cor. 15:23-28** (NKJV) ---- . . . [25] For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. [26] The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. [27] For "He has put all things under His feet."
But when He says "all things are put under Him," . . .

1. When Jesus returns – all who are in the grave will hear his voice – John 5:28; Mat. 25:31-46; 2 Thes 1:7-9; 2 Pet 3:10-13!!
   a. John 5:28 ---- 28 “Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice
   b. Matthew 25:31-46 ---- 31 “When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 “All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 “And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 ‘I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 ‘When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 ‘Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 “And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: 42 ‘for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 ‘I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 “Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
   c. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ---- 7 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
   d. 2 Peter 3:10-13 ---- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

VI. Revelation 20 Does Not Teach It
A. Problems of Interpretation -
   1. Must be consistent with the theme of the book
   2. Must properly recognize and understand the figurative language used
   3. Must realize symbols do not symbolize themselves
   4. Must NOT contradict other passages
B. **Revelation 1:1** (NKJV) ---- 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

1. **Sent and signified** (esēmanen aposteilas). "Having sent (first aorist active participle of apostellō, Matthew 10:16 and again in Rev. 22:6 of God sending his angel) signified" (first aorist active indicative of sēmainō, from sēma, sign or token, for which see John 12:33; Acts 11:28). See Rev. 12:1 for sēmeion, though sēmainō (only here in the Apocalypse) suits admirably the symbolic character of the book.—Word Pictures in the New Testament

2. **Signified** (érioμαι) - From erō a sign. Hence, literally, give a sign or token. The verb occurs outside of John's writings only in Acts 11:28; 25:27. See John 12:33; 18:32; 21:19. This is its only occurrence in Revelation. The word is appropriate to the symbolic character of the revelation, and so in John 12:33, where Christ predicts the mode of His death in a figure. Compare sign, Revelation 12:1. —Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament

C. **Revelation 1:3** (NKJV) ---- 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

D. **Revelation 1:19** (NKJV) ---- 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

E. **Revelation 22:6** (NKJV) ---- 6 Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

F. **Revelation 22:10** (NKJV) ---- 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand.

G. **Book of Revelation is:**

1. Written PRIMARILY to encourage Christians living at that time.
2. Written largely in symbolic language, . . . interpretation MUST agree with the context of the book and the rest of the Bible!
3. Uses Old Testament terminology . . .over 400 allusions to the Old Testament are made in Revelation.
4. Visions are not necessarily chronological – but often recapitulations of previous visions – (different pictures of same event)
5. Must seek to grasp the vision or series of visions as a whole without pressing the details of each symbol.
6. Understand the difficult passages in the light of clearer passages. Make all interpretations consistent with the teaching of the whole Bible.

H. **Revelation 20:1-10** (ASV) ---- 1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time.

1. **Satan bound In Different Ways**
   b. Strong man bound . . .Mat. 12:29;
   d. Cross despoiled the principalities and powers - Col. 2:15
   e. Rev. 20:1-3 —Satan bound “so he can deceive the nations no more.”

2. **Revelation 20:4** (ASV) ---- 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus,
and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

3. Revelation 20:5-7 (ASV) ---- 5 The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years should be finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. 7 And when the thousand years are finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

4. Revelation 20:8-9 (ASV) ---- 8 and shall come forth to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up over the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down out of heaven, and devoured them

5. Revelation 20:10 (ASV) ---- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

a. Symbols In Revelation 20
   (1) the key
   (2) The abyss
   (3) a great chain
   (4) the dragon
   (5) a thousand years
   (6) thrones
   (7) the beast
   (8) the mark
   (9) the first resurrection
   (10) the four corners of the earth
   (11) the camp of the saints
   (12) the beloved city

b. Things NOT In Revelation 20
   (1) The bodily resurrection of the saved;
   (2) Jesus setting one foot on the earth;
   (3) The duration of Jesus’ reign
   (4) City of Jerusalem / Temple / Throne of David;
   (5) The conversion of Jews;
   (6) US

I. The vindication of those saints martyred and persecuted by Rome-
   1. Satan’s use of Rome will come to an end through the gospel’s power –
   2. Those who die for Christ are the REAL victors which is symbolically indicated by the number for perfect completeness – 2:10; 6:9; 7:13-17; 12:10,11
   3. What we do see in Revelation 20
VII. **Will the Jews Return To Palestine?**

A. **Land Promise to Abraham** - Premill. says yet to be fulfilled - Gen. 13:15; 15:18; 17:7-8

1. **Genesis 13:15** ---- 15 “for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

2. **Genesis 15:18** ---- 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: “To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates—

3. **Genesis 17:7-8** ---- 7 “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.8 “Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.”

B. **Has Been Fulfilled** - Josh 21:43-45; Josh 23:14-16; 1 Kings 4:21; 2 Chron. 9:26

1. **Joshua 21:43-45** ---- 43 So the LORD gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it.44 The LORD gave them rest all around, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers. And not a man of all their enemies stood against them; the LORD delivered all their enemies into their hand.45 Not a word failed of any good thing which the LORD had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass.

2. **Joshua 23:14-16** ---- 14 “Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.15 “Therefore it shall come to pass, that as all the good things have come upon you which the LORD your God promised you, so the LORD will bring upon you all harmful things, until He has destroyed you from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.16 “When you have transgressed the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and have gone and served other gods, and bowed down to them, then the anger of the LORD will burn against you, and you shall perish quickly from the good land which He has given you.”

3. **1 Kings 4:21** ---- 21 So Solomon reigned over all kingdoms from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt. They brought tribute and served Solomon all the days of his life.

4. **2 Chronicles 9:26** ---- 26 So he reigned over all the kings from the River to the land of the Philistines, as far as the border of Egypt.

C. **No Promise in the Bible that the Jews will return or that the land is theirs!**

VIII. **In Conclusion:**

A. **Consequences**

1. Too many literal resurrections - (**John 5:28; 11:24; 1 Cor 15:25, 26**)

2. Jesus’ earthly reign ends in revolt – (**Rev 20:7-10**)

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a. **Revelation 20:7-10** ---- 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

3. **Cannot be born again now** *(John 3:3,5)*
   a. **John 3:3,5** ---- 3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

4. **Cannot observe Lord’s Supper now** *(Lk. 22:29-30)*
   a. **Luke 22:29-30** ---- 29 “And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me,30 “that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

5. **Christ is not priest now** *(Zech. 6:12-13)*
   a. **Zechariah 6:12-13** ---- 12 “Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the L ORD of hosts, saying: 1 “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the L ORD;13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the L ORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” ’

6. **An imperfect system replaces a perfect system** *(Heb 9-10)*

7. **A return to types and shadows** *(temple/worship/etc.)*

B. **To answer the question - Will Christ Reign On Earth For 1000 Years?**
   1. It Is Not In The Bible
   2. The Kingdom Has Been Established
   3. Christ Is On David’s Throne In Heaven NOW
   4. The Second Coming Ends Christ’s Reign
   5. Revelation 20 Does Not Teach It
   6. Consequences
   7. So the answer is NO!