

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST

Revelation 20 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 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. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

INTRODUCTION: Six times in Revelation 20, the text refers to a thousand years. This thousand year period has been named the millennium. How this millennium is viewed is of such importance that one's interpretation of Revelation and of the end times in general is described in terms related to the millennium. Interpretations are often called premillennial, post millennial, or _____.

A post millennial view holds that Christ returns _____ the millennium. This interpretation implies that that Christ's rule increases in the hearts and lives of men so that He rules the world by proxy through believers, and then He bodily returns to the earth to initiate the Eternal Kingdom.

An amillennial view holds that the millennium is _____, not a literal thousand years. Christ does not _____ rule on earth, but this passage symbolizes the eternal state of believers with Christ in heaven for eternity.

The interpretation offered in this study has been premillennial. This view holds that Christ returns to the earth before the millennium begins and after seven years of _____ on the earth are completed. The first part of today's study offers reasons from the Bible that the thousand year reign of Christ should be taken literally, and why it should be viewed as coming after the tribulation.

I. PROPHECIES OF A LITERAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST ON THE EARTH

A. Remember Nebuchadnezzar's dream of 6 kingdoms:

STATUE	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Head of gold	Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar	_____
Chest of silver	Inferior kingdom to follow	Medo-Persia
Midsection of bronze	Third kingdom to rule the earth	_____
Legs of iron	Strong fourth kingdom that crushes; eventually divided	Rome
Feet of iron mixed with clay	Another kingdom arising out of the fourth, a mixture of strength and weakness	The future _____
Stone that grows into a mountain and crushes the kingdom of iron and clay	An Eternal Kingdom established by God which shall replace all human kingdoms	The Millennial Kingdom of Christ

The first four of these kingdoms were literal and are now _____.
 Why would the fifth and sixth not be literal and historical?

Daniel 2:44 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. Daniel's vision of 6 kingdoms in Dan. 7 (esp. vv. 13-14, 27)

1. The fourth kingdom of this vision was the _____ empire.
2. It was transformed by the changing of its horns, which as we saw in lesson 3, represented the rise of antichrist over the revived Roman empire.

Daniel 7:21-22 21 "I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made *in favor* of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.

The horn (king antichrist) makes war against the _____ and then God causes the saints to gain control of the kingdom!

3. The next several verses offer even more detail:

Daniel 7:23-27 23 "Thus he said: 'The fourth beast shall be A fourth kingdom on earth, Which shall be different from all *other* kingdoms, And shall devour the whole earth, Trample it and break it in pieces. 24 The ten horns *are* ten kings *Who* shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first *ones*, And shall subdue three kings. 25 He shall speak *pompous* words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then *the saints* shall be given into his hand For a time and times and half a time. 26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy *it* forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

Again, the antichrist controls the world, holding complete power for _____. Then God decrees that his time is up and the saints of the Most High God are given control of the kingdom. God and His people rule over all other dominions.

The first four of these kingdoms and the fifth which arises out of the fourth are clearly literal, historical, _____ kingdoms. Why would the kingdom of the saints (the Millennial Kingdom) not also be an earthly kingdom?

C. Psalms of the Kingdom

1. Psalm 72:8, 11 "He shall have dominion ... to the ends of the earth. 11 "Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him.
2. Psalm 89:20-37 - God promises that in spite of the sin of David's descendants, He will establish David's throne _____.

D. The Prophets

1. Jer. 23:5-8 says that in the days when the Lord reigns as king on the earth, Israel will _____ in their own land.

Jeremiah 23:5-8 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be

saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. 7 “Therefore, behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “that they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ 8 but, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.’ And they shall dwell in their own land.”

2. Ezek. 37:21-25 says that (resurrected) _____ shall rule over a united Israel.

Ezekiel 37:21-25 21 “Then say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone, and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; 22 and I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again. 23 They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. 24 **“David My servant shall be king over them,** and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. 25 Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and **My servant David shall be their prince forever.**”

3. Other prophets echo the same theme:

Joel 3:20 But Judah shall abide forever, And Jerusalem from generation to generation.

Amos 9:13-15 13 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. 14 I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. 15 I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God.

Micah 5:4 (“He” is the coming Messiah) And He shall stand and feed His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God; And they shall abide, For now He shall be great To the ends of the earth;

E. New Testament Predictions

1. Luke 1:31-33 Gabriel promised Mary that Jesus would reign on David's _____ over a kingdom that would never end.
2. Matt. 19:28 Jesus promised the disciples that when He sat on His throne, they also would be given thrones and would _____ over the tribes of Israel.
3. Paul writes to Timothy of the kingdom and assures him that believers will reign with _____. (2 Tim. 4:1, 2:12)

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

4. Rev. 20:1-7 tells us of Christ's reign on earth of 1000 years, the Millennial Kingdom; but this is just the vestibule to the _____ Kingdom of Christ which shall be forever!

II. DURING THE MILLENNIUM THE EARTH WILL UNDERGO MANY PHYSICAL CHANGES.

A. There will be _____ changes to the earth.

1. Just prior to Christ's coming at Armageddon, a worldwide _____ leveled every city and mountain on the face of the earth. (Rev. 16:18-20)
2. Jerusalem will be changed with new mountains and valleys. A _____ will flow from Jerusalem to both the Mediterranean and Dead Sea. (Zech. 14:3-9)
3. Deserts will be transformed into _____; the territory of Israel will be transformed into a place of remarkable beauty reflecting the glory of the residence of the Lord.

Isaiah 35:1-7 1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellency of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

B. There will be changes to the _____ kingdom. (Isa. 11:6-9)

1. The _____ between animals and between animals and man will be removed.
2. Animals will all become _____.
3. Even snakes will be harmless to man.

Isaiah 11:6-9 6 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.

III. LIFE IN THE MILLENNIUM**A. Its Population will live in their _____ bodies.**

1. The _____ of Israel that was saved (Zech. 12:10, 13:1)
2. The righteous ones from the Judgment of the _____ (Mt. 25: 31-46)
3. People _____ in the millennium (Like the children of Isa. 11:8)
4. _____ of life will return as in the early years on the earth. (Isa. 65:20)

B. Its Government by people in their _____ and glorified bodies.

1. Christ will rule from His throne in _____. (Isa. 9:6-7)
2. David shall rule over Israel, the _____ of the nations. (Ezek. 37:24)
3. Apostles shall be _____ of the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:28)
4. _____ shall rule and reign with Christ. (Rev. 20: 4:6)

C. Its Activity

1. Peace replaces war. (Micah 4:3)
2. _____ and righteous justice (Isa. 11:4)
 - a. Sin is still _____ for the natural men in the millennium,
 - b. But it is not as prominent because Satan is bound.

- c. Sin will be dealt with swiftly as Christ rules with a _____ of iron.
 - d. Satan is loosed for a little while at end of millennium so that a final opportunity for choice for natural residents will be clear and unforced. Christ will defeat him and all who follow him and this time will cast the devil into the lake of fire which was built specifically to contain him. (Rev. 20:1-7)
3. Industry and _____
- a. After terrible tribulation and Armageddon, much _____ will need to be done.
 - b. There will be time to do the things you have wanted: other careers, _____, developing relationships.
 - c. A _____ earth will more than adequately provide for the population.
4. Worship
- a. A new millennial _____ will be built. (Ezek. 40-46)
 - b. _____ sacrifices will remind everyone of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God upon the cross.
 - c. **Isaiah 11:9 "...the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.**
5. Decision concerning Christ - A person will have _____ years to decide to trust Christ. (Isa. 65:20)
6. The fulfillment of every covenant promise to Israel and to believers will take place during these days.