

# THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

## INTRODUCTION:

- **The appearance of Christ in the air and the rapture of the saints**
- **Followed by 7 yrs of tribulation**
- **During which the antichrist shall rule the earth**
- **Culminating in the Battle of Armageddon**
- **The millennial reign of Christ over the earth**
- **Eternity in the new heaven and the new earth**

After believers have been suddenly snatched from the face of the earth by the Lord and taken home with Him,

After the earth endures 7 years of suffering and trial worse than it has ever known, and during which over ½ of the earth shall die,

After the antichrist has been the instrument of Satan to do his wicked worst in the hearts and lives of people,

And after King Jesus has come back on a white horse, leading the armies of heaven to the Battle of Armageddon, and cast the antichrist into the Lake of Fire,

And after the Judgment of the Nations which I will tell you about in tonight's sermon,

Then Christ Himself will set up His throne upon the earth and will physically rule over this planet for one thousand years. This is called "the Millennial Kingdom." It is described for us in Revelation 20. The whole chapter speaks of this time, but we will only have time to chew on the first six verses.

Revelation 20:1-6 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> 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.

## I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM IS A REAL, EARTHLY KINGDOM.

A. Remember Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue.

God told Daniel that the statue represented 6 kingdoms:

STATUE	INTERPRETATION	HISTORICAL MEANING
Head of gold	Kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar	Babylon
Chest of silver	Inferior kingdom to follow	Medo-Persia
Midsection of bronze	Third kingdom to rule the earth	Greece
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 Revived Roman Empire
Stone that grows into a mountain and crushes the kingdom of iron and clay	A kingdom established by God which shall replace all human kingdoms	The Millennial Kingdom of Christ

The first 4 of these kingdoms were literal and are now historical. The fifth kingdom is described in Revelation as literal and in the future, historical. Why would the 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. Christ's physical rule over the whole earth was prophesied in the Psalms.

1. Psalm 72:8,11 "He shall have dominion ... to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup> "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 forever.

C. Christ's physical rule over the whole earth was prophesied in the Prophets.

1. Jeremiah said that in the days when the Lord reigns as king on the earth, Israel will dwell in safety in their own land.

Jeremiah 23:5-8 "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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> "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,' <sup>8</sup> 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. Ezekiel, who lived during the days of the divided kingdom and hundreds of years after David had died, says that David shall rule over a united Israel.

Ezekiel 37:21-25 “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; <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> “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. <sup>25</sup> 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.

#### **D. The New Testament also predicts the physical reign of Christ over all the earth.**

1. Lk. 1:31-33 Gabriel promised Mary that Jesus would reign on David's throne 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 reign over the tribes of Israel.
3. Paul writes to Timothy of the kingdom and assures him that believers will reign with Christ. (2 Tim. 4:1, 2:12)
4. Rev. 20 offers the fulfillment of all of these yet unfulfilled promises in Christ's reign on earth of 1000 years, the Millennial Kingdom; but this is just the vestibule to the eternal Kingdom of Christ which shall be forever!

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

### **A. There will be topological changes to the earth.**

1. Just prior to Christ's coming at Armageddon, a world-wide earthquake will level 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 river will flow from Jerusalem to both the Mediterranean and Dead Sea. (Zech. 14:3-9)
3. Deserts will be transformed into gardens; 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 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; <sup>2</sup> It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and

Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, The excellency of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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 animal kingdom. (Isa. 11:6-9)**

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

Isaiah 11:6-9 "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. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> 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**

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

#### **B. ITS GOVERNMENT**

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

#### **C. ITS ACTIVITY**

1. Peace replaces war (Micah 4:3)
2. Swift and righteous justice (Isa. 11:4)
  - a. Sin is still possible 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 rod of iron.

### 3. Industry and development

- a. After terrible tribulation and Armageddon, much rebuilding will need to be done.
- b. There will be time to do the things you have wanted: other careers, exploring, developing relationships.
- c. A renewed earth will more than adequately provide for the population.

### 4. Worship

- a. A new millennial temple will be built (Ezek. 40-46)
- b. Animal 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. Every covenant promise to Israel and to believers will be fulfilled during these days.

CONCLUSION: Knowing the truth about what God has in store for us in the Millennial Kingdom excites me about what is ahead. I am looking forward to the rapture. I am glad I will miss the terrible days of tribulation. But I am flat out excited about the Millennium. We will not just be like little renaissance cherubs, sitting on clouds, playing a harp. Those who are in Christ will live as we have never lived before. We will know more completely than we have ever known what it means to have an abundant life such as has been promised by Christ. Justice will reign; righteousness will prevail; truth will be honored; Christ will be exalted. And all who have trusted in Christ shall be there.

Will you?