

# Millennial Kingdom

Isaiah 65:17-25

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I picked the topic of the Millennial Kingdom to kick off this initial Bible study for what I hope becomes an on-going Bible Discussion Fellowship because this doctrine perfectly illustrates the division between those who don't take the Bible seriously and those who do. This doctrine is also fundamental to understanding Bible prophecy, get this wrong and all your eschatology, or the study of the end times will be messed up.

I envision most of the Bible studies I lead to involve Bible prophecy to some degree because that is what God used to open my heart to Jesus. When I realized that the prophesized globalism explains why the Cold War could end virtually overnight without a shot being fired, I realized that the Bible had to be from God. Because only God can declare "the end from the beginning" (Isaiah 46:10).

There are many reasons why churches shy away from studying Bible prophecy with the most significant being that they are unknowingly fulfilling prophecy per 2 Peter 3:3-4. But by neglecting Bible prophecy, the church today is missing a great opportunity because I am living proof that God uses Bible prophecy to bring people to Him and knowledge of the times we are in gives us a sense of urgency to get on with what God is calling us to do.

Given my special affinity for Bible prophecy, I have focused a lot of my personal study on it. There is a lot we can know about future events that helps us put in proper perspective all of the craziness going on around us in the here and now. The key to properly understand any of the Bible and especially Bible prophecy is to know it is from God and thus is inerrant and then believe what it says. Don't go down the rabbit hole of applying some alternative meaning to a passage just because you are uncomfortable with what it says. Too many have done that and this is why we have so much corrupt doctrine among the churches today.

So with that introduction, let's get into our study today...

## **Where do we get the idea that Jesus will reign on earth for 1000 years?**

Revelation 20...

*Rev 20:6 - 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.*

## **What does it mean that Christ will reign for 1,000 years?**

1,000 years means 1,000 years, not just "a long period of time." This is a clear reference to the Millennial Kingdom because Christ is reigning now over the church and will reign over all in eternity. So, this is a special time when Christ reigns over all on the earth prior to the Eternal State.

## **How do we know this period is separate and distinct from the Eternal State?**

Satan is locked up during it but released to lead a rebellion at the end (Rev 20:7-10). And this precedes the description of the Eternal State in Rev 21 & 22. The book of Revelation is generally in chronological order per Rev 1:19.

## **What makes the doctrine of the Millennial Kingdom controversial?**

Bad hermeneutics. Most Christians do not interpret the Bible with a literal, grammatical, historical understanding of biblical doctrines. They "spiritualize" references to the Millennial Kingdom to just represent the spiritual Kingdom of Christ during the Church Age or the Eternal State. They also think the church has replaced Israel in the promises of God (Replacement Theology, aka supersessionism).

## **Why is literal interpretation of prophecy better than the alternative, an allegorical interpretation?**

- Allegorical interpretations make the error of eisegesis, reading into Scripture what is not there. Exegesis, only considering what the passage actually says is how Scripture should be interpreted.

- Having a personal relationship with Christ means that we should be able to understand a passage ourselves with the help of the Holy Spirit without needing some intermediary to tell us that a passage means something other than what it says.
- Fulfilled prophecies have been literally fulfilled.
- If the plain sense makes sense, seek no other sense or you'll end up with nonsense.

**When did the church begin spiritualizing away the idea that Jesus would physically rule on earth for 1,000 years?**

The practice of allegorizing Scripture began with Origen (circa 200AD), his interpretive approach was embraced by Augustine and applied to eschatology (circa 400AD). Augustine's teachings were incorporated into the Roman Catholic Church doctrine and dogma (500AD – Present). The allegorical approach to eschatology continued through the Protestant Reformation (1517 – Present). However, some Protestants began protesting again against the inherited corrupted form of allegorical hermeneutics at the end of the 1700's and early 1800's returning to a literal, grammatical, and historical understanding of all Biblical doctrines, not just soteriology (the doctrine of salvation).

- This return to proper Bible interpretation is also a fulfillment of Bible prophecy...
  - Daniel 12:9 - *Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end*
- Unfortunately, most of Christendom holds onto the allegorical interpretation of Bible prophecy and that is a factor contributing to the apostasy of the end-times Laodicean church which is also a fulfillment of prophecy.

**For those who expect there to be a literal, physical kingdom of Christ on earth, how do we get there? What happens between now and then?**

This is beyond the scope of our study today but to put the Millennial Kingdom in perspective as background...

- The Church Age ends (Rapture)
- The 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel (The Tribulation)
- Jesus returns in glory to the earth with the resurrected church (Armageddon)
- The nations are judged
- Faithful survivors begin re-populating the earth

**What will the resurrected church be doing during the Millennial Kingdom?**

Ruling with Jesus...

Rev 5:9-10 - *For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth*

Sure, this could be talking about the Eternal State but the context here implies that our ruling with Christ will be during the "next Age" which is the Millennial Kingdom. Of course, if you don't expect there to be a literal Millennial Kingdom then you have to assume this is only a reference to the Eternal State.

Alright, with that background, let's take a close look at the passage that most distinguishes the Millennial Kingdom from the Eternal State...

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

<sup>17</sup> "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.  
<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *as* a rejoicing, And her people a joy.  
<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying.  
<sup>20</sup> "No more shall an infant from there *live but a few days*, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.  
<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they *shall be* the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them.  
<sup>24</sup> "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear.  
<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the Lord.

**So why can't this passage be referring to the Eternal State?**

Verse 20 talks about people dying. We'll take a closer look at verse 20 shortly but let's see what other nuggets about the Millennial Kingdom we can glean from this passage...

### **Verse 17 – What makes us think this passage might be referring to the Eternal State?**

Because there will be new heavens and a new earth.

### **Has there been any other times that God has re-created the earth?**

Let's not forget that our current earth was new in Noah's day. Scripture teaches us that prior to the flood, conditions on earth were very different than what we have today. For example, it didn't rain prior to the flood and there are many other important differences beyond that.

### **What will be different about the earth during the Millennial Kingdom from what it is now?**

The earth during the Millennial Kingdom will not be the same earth as during the Eternal State but it will foreshadow it in many ways because much, but not all of the Curse will be removed. There will be such an improvement in the Millennial Kingdom earth that our current earth will be forgotten as a bad memory.

### **What do you think will be different about heaven during the Millennial Kingdom from what it is today?**

One thing new about the spiritual domain is that all the rebellious angels who followed Satan will be barred from it. Not only will Christ bring peace to the earth during the Millennial Kingdom but there will be peace in the heavens as well. No more will Michael and his angels be engaged in spiritual warfare with Satan and his angels.

### **Verse 18 – What will the Millennial Kingdom mean for the Jews?**

Jerusalem will rejoice. The Messiah will be ruling from Jerusalem and Israel will be the most preeminent nation on earth...

*Isaiah 2:2-3 – Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it. <sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

Mountains in Scripture are often symbolic of kingdoms. The Kingdom of Christ will be over all kingdoms and He will rule from Jerusalem. This

makes Jerusalem a pretty important place and explains why those inspired by doctrines of demons have such a problem with Israel occupying it.

### **Verses 19-20 – What are the similarities and differences of the Millennial Kingdom to the Eternal State?**

These verses sound a lot like the Eternal State as described in Revelation with one key difference...

*Revelation 21:4 - "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

There will be people who die during the Millennial Kingdom.

### **What does it mean only the "accursed" will die?**

- Notice that it is only the "accursed" who die and they will be 100 years old. There will be no infant, or child, or young adult mortality and childbirth will be painless. So the population of earth will grow rapidly during the 1,000 years of the Millennial Kingdom.
- God in His grace will give people born during the Millennial Kingdom 100 years to embrace Jesus as their Savior. Those who are so set in their ways of rejecting Christ by the time they are 100 years old have made their mind up about Him. So God gives them their wish and separates them from Christ's rule for eternity.

### **Why, with the almost perfect environment and Jesus Christ ruling from Jerusalem will people still reject Him during the Millennial Kingdom?**

They will not be able to blame their bad circumstances as people do for their bad behavior today. It will only be their own selfish pride that keeps them from entering into the relationship that Jesus made it possible for us to have.

### **Verses 21-22 - Notice that people who yield to Christ during the Millennial Kingdom will live as long as a tree. Now how long does a tree live?**

- Methuselah, a bristlecone pine tree from California's White Mountains, is thought to be almost 5,000 years old—and the oldest tree in the world.
- We have many Sequoia trees also in California that have been around since Christ first walked the earth.

This means that people embracing Christ as their Savior during the Millennial Kingdom will not die, they will be translated into their resurrected, glorified bodies at the beginning of the Eternal State when God recreates heaven and earth for the final time.

### **What key elements of the Curse that resulted from Adam and Eve's original sin will be removed for the Millennial Kingdom?**

Gone will be the thorns and thistles that make our work burdensome. The work of people during the Millennial Kingdom will be so productive that they will not need specialists to work for them, they can do it their selves and even grow their own food. I understand that some Terlingua residents are doing this already. That is great, the more we can live like people will during the Millennial Kingdom, the better off we'll be.

### **Verse 23 – What facet of the Curse is removed here?**

The pain of childbirth as one more element of the Curse will be removed. You can imagine what this will mean for the population of the earth.

### **How do we know this has to be talking about mortal people during the Millennial Kingdom and not resurrected saints during the Eternal State?**

Because we will not be procreating with our resurrected, glorified bodies.

*Matthew 22:30 - For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.*

We know that angels of heaven do not procreate because they don't have physical bodies. Also, angels are called sons of God in the Old Testament which refers to them being direct creations of God.

### **Who are the blessed of the Lord?**

These will be the original people who trusted in Christ and survived the Tribulation to begin repopulating the earth during the Millennial Kingdom. We know that most Tribulation believers will become martyrs so the surviving believers will be few in number but made up of representatives from all the nations.

### **Verse 24 – What kind of relationship will people have with Jesus during the Millennial Kingdom?**

- It sounds like people will have a special relationship with the Lord during the Millennial Kingdom. But the only difference will be the physical presence of Jesus on earth. I agree that

this is a big difference but not as much from a relationship perspective as we enjoy now during the Church Age. God hears and is answering our prayers today.

- Now for us resurrect saints, it will be much closer because Jesus is still God and this will not be limited to His physical body...

*1 Cor 13:12 - For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

### **V. 25 – What aspect of the Curse is removed here?**

- Carnivores will become herbivores and dangerous animals will no longer cause harm. I've already seen the lion eating straw like an ox foreshadowed by our cats eating grass. I'm sure they are anxious for the Millennial Kingdom as well.
- The Millennial Kingdom will fulfill what Paul prophesied about the creation...

*Romans 8:19-21 - "For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God."*

### **Why is there a Millennial Kingdom? What purpose does God have for it?**

The Millennial Kingdom fulfills promises God the Father made to Israel, the Church, the nations, creation, and His Son. It is a special dispensation that reveals people will still reject their Creator even when Satan and his demons are not around to tempt them. No one will be able to use the Flip Wilson defense, "the devil made me do it." The new earth of the Millennial Kingdom will be as close to what it will be during the Eternal State as mankind has seen since the Garden of Eden.

### **If the Millennial Kingdom is so amazing, how could the Eternal State be any better?**

As wonderful as the Millennial Kingdom is, the Eternal State will be even better. The Millennial Kingdom foreshadows the glories of the Eternal State. Even the good in the world as we know it today provides a preview of the Eternal State as well albeit to a somewhat lesser extent. The good things of this world will be present in eternity but significantly enhanced.