

Millennial Kingdom

Isaiah 65:17-25

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Isaiah 65:17-25 – Glorious New Creation (NIV)

¹⁷ “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. ²⁰ “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord.

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. God’s holy angels will no longer be tempted to follow Satan.

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. ³ 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. See also:

Zechariah 14:16 – And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations that came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the Feast of the Tabernacles.

v19-20 – 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... no more physical pain and no more financial pain. It will be as perfect an environment and mortal people can possibly have.

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 resurrected saints, it will be much closer because Jesus is still God and thus 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.*

Verse 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.

So what? What should we take away from this study of the Millennial Kingdom?

- God has a plan for the ages and we are getting close to the end of the Church Age... a new age, the Millennial Kingdom is coming soon.
- Therefore, it is not a good time to be complacent about your relationship with Christ; embrace His provision for salvation, and get on with whatever He is calling us to do.