

The Golden Age

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For Discussion: Violence, Immorality, And War: Are We Living In A ‘Golden Age’?

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<https://harbingersdaily.com/violence-immorality-and-war-are-we-living-in-a-golden-age/>

Will President Trump produce a “Golden Age” for America?

Certainly, his down-to-earth, common-sense policies are going to be good for our nation. But a “Golden Age”? Unlikely during these times of the Gentiles.

What are the times of the Gentiles?

Luke 21:24 – *Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled*

Daniel’s series of visions deals with Gentile world powers and their role in God’s plan for the earth.

Nebuchadnezzar’s image of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay (Daniel 2:31–45) represents successive Gentile kingdoms that will dominate until Christ returns and establishes His reign.

- There will be no peace between the nations until the Prince of Peace reigns during the Millennial Kingdom.

What is the biblical “Golden Age” that is promised?

Isaiah 2:2–4 – *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...*

He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The Millennial Kingdom... When Jesus returns to this earth to reign over the whole world from Jerusalem as King of kings and Lord of lords (Zechariah 14:1–9).

From where do we get the 1,000 years of the Millennial Kingdom?

Revelation 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.*

There are 6 references to the Lord reigning on earth for 1,000 years in Revelation 20.

- The first resurrection begins at the rapture of the church and includes the resurrection of Tribulation saints and Old Testament saints at the end of the Tribulation.

What will characterize the true Golden Age?

Habakkuk 2:14 – *the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.*

The reign of Jesus will produce peace, righteousness, and justice for the entire world.

- homelessness and hunger will cease. Wars will come to an end. All the money currently being spent on weapons of war will be spent instead on agricultural production.

- Holiness will replace worldliness. Perfect justice will be available to all, regardless of skin color or wealth.
- All positions of power will be occupied by glorified saints in immortal bodies with the mind of Christ

Micah 4:2 – *Many nations 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 the law shall go forth, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

What will become of the curse during the Millennial Kingdom?

Isaiah 11:6–9 – *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the young goat... the lion shall eat straw like the ox... the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain*

Nature will be reconciled to itself and to Mankind. Poison plants will disappear. All animals will become herbivores. The wolf will dwell with the lamb. Children will play with lions and cobras.

Will the curse be totally removed for the Millennial Kingdom?

Isaiah 65:20 – *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.*

No, there will still be death for those who reject recognizing Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. But out of the Lord's mercy, everyone will be given 100 years to respond to God's provision for eternal life.

Isaiah 6:22 – *For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people*

Those who become children of God will live the whole time of the Millennial Kingdom.

What will life be like for mortals during the Millennial Kingdom?

Isaiah 35:5-6 – *the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 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.*

Sickness and human afflictions will be abated. There will not be droughts

Isaiah 65:21-23 – *They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat... My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble;*

The "thorns and thistles" of the curse will be removed so that people will be able to build their own houses and grow their own food. Even the pain of child birth will be abated.

Zechariah 14:20-21 – *In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the Lord of hosts.*

An atmosphere of holiness will prevail everywhere, and people will live with an attitude of gratitude and joy (Isaiah 35:10).

Revelation 20:1-2 – *I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years*

Satan and his demonic helpers will not even be around to tempt people. It will be obvious from the Millennial Kingdom that people are able to be tempted all on their own without a demonic influence.

What ends the Millennial Kingdom?

Satan will be released to incite the unbelievers to revolt which God ends with fire from heaven (Revelation 20:7-10). The Eternal State follows with God re-creating the heavens and the earth.

Revelation 21:5 – *Behold, I make all things new*
I take it that is when the Millennial Kingdom saints receive their eternal resurrected bodies thus concluding the first resurrection. Those who rejected God's provision for eternal life will be resurrected next...

Revelation 20:13 – *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.*

Everyone in this second resurrection will fall short of earning salvation on the basis of their works and end up in the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:10 – *he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God*

Our eternal home will be in the New Jerusalem on a new earth where God resides with us. It will be huge, 1500 miles by 1500 miles and 1500 miles high.

- This is just our home base... it will have 12 gates that are never shut through which we will come and go to explore the rest of the Lord's creation.

Who besides President Trump has a false concept of the "Golden Age"?

The majority of churches today teach that we are currently living in the "Golden Age" promised in the Bible! They claim the Millennium began with the establishment of the Church in about 33 AD, and that it will continue until the Lord returns.

- They believe the 1,000-year reign of Revelation 20 just means a "long time."
- This is a classic example of spiritualization: applying allegory when it should be taken literally.

What is it called to believe the Millennial Kingdom is just the spiritual kingdom of the Church Age?

Amillennialism. In the Greek language, a noun or adjective can be negated by beginning it with the letter "A." So, Amillennial means "no millennium."

- They believe the Church is the fulfillment of all the millennial promises and that Jesus is reigning over this spiritual millennium from Heaven right now.
- David Reagan: "if we are in the Millennium today, then Jesus is doing a very poor job of reigning! Where is the peace, righteousness, and justice? Where is the peace in nature? Why is the Earth so afflicted with violence, immorality, injustice, and war?"

Why don't more Christians take the Bible literally?

- Most seminaries have become corrupted and don't prepare leaders as they should.
- Scholarly arrogance loves the idea of allegorizing Scripture... that puts them in the position of the people being dependent on them for the interpretation.
- We are living in the times of apostasy and scoffers.

From where did the idea of allegorical interpretation of the Bible?

Allegorical interpretation has been going on for a long time...

- Origen (A.D. 185 – c. 254) applied the allegorical interpretation of ancient Greece to the Bible.
- Origen's methods influenced St. Augustine of Hippo (A.D. 354-430) who popularized it.
- Martin Luther and the reformers brought back a literal, grammatical, historical interpretation of Scripture (1517) but they retained it for "apocalyptic passages."

Why is a literal, grammatical, historical interpretation of Bible prophecy a relatively recent development?

Progressive illumination...

Daniel 12:4 – *But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.*

Christians have discovered that Bible prophecy makes more sense to explain what is actually happening if taken literally.

- They have also recognized simple logic: if the prophecies of the Lord's first coming were fulfilled literally, why wouldn't His return?

The Prophet Sir Isaac Newton: "About the times of the End, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies, and insist upon their literal interpretation, in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

What applications do we see from this discussion?

- The Golden Age will not come through human effort but only when Jesus returns.
- Most of the curse will be removed when Jesus rules on earth, truly a Golden Age.
- Amillennialists irrationally believe we are in a Golden Age now.
- Allegorical interpretation keeps Christians dumbed-down.
- The rise of applying literal interpretation to Bible prophecy is a sign of the times.