

The Saints ruling in the Millennial Kingdom

I. JESUS WILL BE THE KING OVER ALL OTHER KINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM

He has...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:16)

Jesus is King of kings (Rev. 19:16; 17:14; 15:3) who will rule the kings of the Millennial earth.

- A. Jesus as King of Kings, will personally govern a worldwide Kingdom from Jerusalem in partnership with resurrected saints who rule with Him in establishing a biblically based, social order (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. (Rev. 3:21)

The saint's roles in the Millennium are as priests (intercessory worship) and kings (ruling). In Revelation, the saints are called 'kings' who reign on the earth (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 22:5) and priests (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6; Isa. 61:6).

Has made us kings and priests to His God and Father... (Rev. 1:6)

Have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

They shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:5)

I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...they lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000-years...6 they shall be priests of God...shall reign with Him 1,000-years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

- B. Priests will worship, intercede and mediate the knowledge of God to others (non- resurrected people on the Millennial earth, to saints and angels in the New Jerusalem, etc.)
- C. Kings will reign (rule) with judicial responsibility and authority. This role involves authority to evaluate the past (judging) and to determine action plans for the future for the people and areas that they are entrusted with. This involves the ruling saints appointing people into positions within the Kingdom of God infrastructure which includes training and managing those people and judging angels (1 Cor. 6:2).
- D. The saints will rule with a rod of iron and will conduct war tribunals, judge, and administrate punishments on sinners. The rod of severity against sin will be used by Jesus with His saints (Rev. 2:27; 19:15; 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Isa. 11:4; Jer. 30:21; Is. 24:23, 32:1; Ezek 45:8-9; Mt. 19:28).

He who overcomes...to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father; (Rev. 2:26-27)

II. THE PROGRESSIVE INCREASE OF JESUS' GOVERNMENT

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)

- A. Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5). It may take decades for all healing of the land and the governments of the earth.

Social improvements or the healing of the nations will be progressive not instantaneous after Jesus' coming. There will be a progressive improvement in all areas of life.

Tree of life...the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)

But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out and grow fat like stall-fed calves. (Mal. 4:2)

Learning and applying what is learned is a key emphasis in Millennial passages. As wisdom is gained and applied, then many areas of life improve progressively (vegetation, economy, longevity of life, relationship with animals).

All will not automatically be converted and obey God and all nations will not automatically be disciplined. It will take time to establish this. There is a dynamic relationship to the environment of a geographic area and the righteousness of those who live in that region. Righteousness is learned through God's judgments (Isa. 26:9). It is a false assumption to think that all areas of life and all people will be instantly healed and perfected at Jesus' coming.

- B. The process of healing people physically will be accelerated in the Millennium (Isa. 35:5-6).

III. MORE SCRIPTURES ON SAINTS RULING IN THE AGE TO COME

The saints will judge the world...3 Do you not know that we shall judge angels?... (1 Cor. 6:2-3)

If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. (2 Tim. 2:12)

...heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him... (Rom 8:17)

Jesus said... "...in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Matt. 19:28)

I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:29-30)

He (nobleman in the parable) said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' 19 Likewise..., 'You also be over five cities.' (Lk. 19:17-19)

IV. RIGHT VIEW OF AUTHORITY IN THE MILLENNIAL GOVERNMENT

- A. Our view of authority dynamically shapes our view of seeking rewards in ruling the nations with Jesus after His Second Coming. If we see authority mostly as the way to establish our personal honor before people and the way to secure our comfort then we may draw back from seeking rewards. Many are content to view their eternity without caring about reward if it mostly means secure more personal honor and comfort. ***However, if we view authority as the way to close partnership with Jesus in establishing on earth what is dear to His heart,*** then we will want the fullness of authority that God has invited us to walk in during the Millennial Kingdom.
- B. The paradigm of Millennial authority based on “desiring our personal honor and comfort by being over people” is the common paradigm that originated with Satan.
The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and...exercise authority over them. 26 Yet it shall not be so among you... (Mt. 20:25-28)
- C. Jesus’ view of authority (ruling) in the Millennial Kingdom is to walk in the delight of intimate partnership with the Father and His people so as to serve and enrich all.
- D. The Father gave Jesus the nations as His reward because of the Father’s profound respect, trust and affection for Him. Therefore, the Father entrusted to Jesus what was precious to Him. Thus, He mandated that Jesus disciple the nations to bring them to the fullness of blessing under the Father’s authority. Jesus enjoys each step of the process of working with the Father.
- E. In the same way that Jesus cherishes ruling with His Father, so we will have joy (enjoyment) in ruling in the nations with Jesus.
Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy (enjoyment) of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)
- F. We will enjoy each step of the process of working with Jesus to bring the earth under the Father’s authority. This involves working through specific plans in intimate partnership with the One we love. Jesus rewards us with authority or the privilege of close partnership with Him, in response to His respect of our life choices to love Him and to serve others in meekness.
- G. Jesus entrusts what is dear to Him (the mandate from the Father to disciple the nations) to us. We will enjoy a mutual delight with Him in working to impart the Father’s ways and values to the people that God loves and to the people that we will know and cherish.
- H. ***Summary:*** the paradigm of pride in authority and reward is one that seeks self glory in ruling over people. The Bridal paradigm of authority and reward is to cherish working closely with the One we love and to enjoy laboring with in the details of discipling the nations to bring them to fullness of blessing under the Father’s authority. ***Premise:*** Personal rewards in the Millennial Kingdom are a foundational dimension in our lives in fulfilling our full prophetic destiny.

LIVING IN THE NEW JERUSALEM WHILE REIGNING ON EARTH

We will reign on earth while living in resurrected bodies in the New Jerusalem. In other words, our residence will be in the New Jerusalem as our governmental responsibilities will be on earth. I liken this to senators who live in their home state with a government office in Wash., DC.

Resurrected saints will not fully co-mingling with those in natural bodies. Inhabitants on the Millennial earth (with non-resurrected bodies) will work closely with saints with resurrected bodies. Marriage will continue among those in non-resurrected bodies. Those with resurrected bodies who live in the New Jerusalem will not be given to marriage.

I. The apostles talked to Moses and Elijah on the mount of Transfiguration and then Jesus for forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3).

J. Even now, sometimes spirit beings (demons and angels) appear in the natural realm to interact with people in natural bodies.

V. NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL GOVERNMENT

The resurrected saints will occupy the highest positions of government in the Spirit in the Millennial earth. This will be parallel yet superior to the relationship of angels to demonic principalities at this present time (Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:12-13). Saints will rule over angels (who will have a support role) (1 Cor. 6:2; Heb. 1:14).

A. Michael the archangel warred against demon principalities over Persia making an impact that influenced political leaders in that day (Dan. 10:12-13).

B. Governmental authority in the spirit is now carried out by angels who have charge over cities.

Then He called out...., "Let those (angels) who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand." 2 Suddenly six men (angels) came from the direction...which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. (Ezek. 9:1-2)

VI. JESUS AS KING OF TWO TYPES OF KINGS

A. John saw Jesus as the ruler over two sets of kings. The Millennial kings of the earth with natural bodies and the resurrected saints who were made kings.

Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us...6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. (Rev. 1:5-6)

B. Jesus will rule over the Millennial kings who have non-resurrected bodies (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 60:10-11, 62:2; Rev. 12:5; 15:4; 21:24). Jesus will rule over saints who have become kings with resurrected bodies (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30).

VII. JESUS' PERSONAL PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. Scripture has more prophecies about Jesus' role in the Millennium than His first coming!
- B. Several prominent OT men had significant personal prophecies recorded in Scripture concerning their role in the Millennial Kingdom. Thus, they had more prophecies in Scripture about their Millennial function than they had about their ministry during their life time.
- C. **Premise:** the complete fulfillment of some prophetic words concerning the saints now may be in the Millennium as was true in the example of several OT saints.
- D. Jesus had far more prophecies about His role in the Millennial reign after His Second Coming than His role at His first coming!
- He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end. (Lk. 1:32-33)*
- Therefore I will divide Him (Jesus) a portion with the great (in the Millennium), and He shall divide the spoil with the strong (in the Millennium), because He poured out His soul unto death...and made intercession for the transgressors. (Isaiah 53:12)*
- E. The nation of Israel has more prophecies about their role in the Millennium than before it. The Millennial reign of Jesus is the first time in history in which **all Israel will be saved** and brought to fullness (maturity; Rom. 11:12) resulting in life from the dead (Rom. 11:15) for the whole world. All Israel being saved means that literally 100% of the Jewish people who survive the Great Tribulation will be born again believers in Jesus.

VIII. THE APOSTLES RECEIVED PROPHECIES FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. Jesus gave "personal prophecies" to the apostles related to their governmental roles in the Millennium to motivate them to walk worthy during their earthly life. Some personal prophecies have their greatest fulfillment in the Millennium (Mt. 19:27-29; Lk. 22:29-30).
- B. Jesus spoke to the apostles of having thrones (Millennial positions of authority) related to their earthly obedience, sacrifice and servanthood (Mt. 19:27-29; 25:14-46; Lk. 22:24-30; 19:11-27).
- Peter said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 Jesus said, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on 12 thrones, judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Matt. 19:26-28)*
- You are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29 I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." (Lk. 22:28-30)*

IX. DAVID'S PERSONAL PROPHECIES FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. King David had more personal prophecies in Scripture about his 1,000-year role in the Millennial Kingdom in Jerusalem than his 40-year kingship in Jerusalem during his life.

On three occasions David was promised to rule Israel during his earthly life (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:1-13) yet on five other prophetic occasions David's rule over Israel in the Millennial Kingdom was referenced (Ezek. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Isa. 55:3-4; Jer. 30:9; Hos. 3:4-5; then possibly in Am. 9:11-12 and in a double fulfillment in 1 Sam. 13:14).

Samuel's first prophecy to David was to reveal that God commanded David to be commander over Israel. This was partially fulfilled in David's 40 year reign as king during his lifetime.

The LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people.... (1 Sam. 13:14)

- B. Isaiah repeated Samuel's prophecy, approximately 300 years after David died.

The sure mercies of David. 4 Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. (Isa. 55:3-4)

- C. God spoke to this Solomon after David's death.

I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there; and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel. (2 Chr. 6:6)

- D. Just before David died, he spoke of his role on earth after his life time.

David assembled at Jerusalem all the leaders of Israel...and all the mighty men of valor. 2 Then King David rose to his feet and said, 'Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark... 4 The LORD God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler...and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel...6 He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house...7 I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments...' (1 Chr. 28:1-7)

- E. Nathan revealed God's desire for David's house, kingdom and throne to continue forever.

Your (David's) house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you (David). Your throne shall be established forever. (2 Sam. 7:16)

- F. Ezekiel's prophecy about David's Millennial role.

David My servant shall be king over them...they shall also walk in My judgments...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. (Ezek. 37:24-25)

I will establish one shepherd over them...My servant David...24 I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. (Ezek. 34:23-24)

G. There are other references to David's future rule.

Should you not know that the LORD God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons...? (2 Chr. 13:5)

Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days. (Hosea 3:5)

They shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. (Jer. 30:9)

H. Scriptures speak of Jesus sitting on the throne of David calling Him the Son of David. However, the title "My servant, David" in the Old Testament is used only for the actual man David and not Jesus. Jesus is never actually called David in the Scriptures. Zechariah spoke of the Messiah as the Branch unto David (Jer. 23:5), Jesus is referred to as Son of David (15 times), the Seed of David (John 7:42; Rom. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:8), Root of David (Rev. 5:5), and Root and Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16), but Jesus is not once referred to as David.

I. In Isa. 55:4; Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 37:21-25; 34:24; Hos. 3:5, God is distinguished from the historical king David. The literal interpretation of these prophecies point to the historical King David who receives a resurrected body at the Second Coming. Only King David could sit as king under Jesus as King of kings in the Millennial Kingdom without violating prophecies of the Davidic reign. King David will be appointed as a regent over Israel ruling under Jesus.

David was the first "Millennial theologian" in the Scripture. He understood that only the meek enter their complete inheritance (combination of their role in this age and the age to come).

For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. 10 For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more; indeed, you will look carefully for his place, but it shall be no more. 11 But the meek shall inherit the earth... (Ps. 37:9-11)

The LORD knows the days of the upright, and their inheritance shall be forever. 22 For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth...those cursed...shall be cut off. (Ps. 37:18, 22)

The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell in it forever. (Ps. 37:29)

Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way...the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger...do not fret--it only causes harm. (Ps. 37:4-8)

When David heard it, he said, "My kingdom and I are guiltless before the LORD forever of the blood of Abner..." (2 Sam. 3:28)

Jesus provided us with an interpretive key to the prophecies in David's life based on meekness.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Mt. 5:5)

X. THOSE WITH PERSONAL PROPHECIES FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. There are others who have more personal prophecies in Scripture about their 1,000-year role in the Millennium than their role during their natural life.
- B. Zerubbabel (Hag. 2:20-23)
The word of the LORD came to Haggai...saying, 21 "Speak to Zerubbabel, governor of Judah, saying: 'I will shake heaven and earth. 22 I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms; I will destroy the strength of the Gentile kingdoms. I will overthrow...the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother (Zech. 14:13). 23 'In that day,' says the LORD of hosts, 'I will take you, Zerubbabel My servant, the son of Shealtiel,' says the LORD, 'and will make you as a signet ring; for I have chosen you,' says the LORD of hosts.'" (Hag. 2:20-23)
- C. Abraham will be honored as a father who lives in Israel forever (Gen. 17:5-8)
Your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations. 6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you...8 Also I give to you and your descendants after you the land in which you are a stranger, all the land of Canaan, as an everlasting possession.... (Gen. 17:5-8)
- D. Daniel will have an inheritance in the Millennial Kingdom (Dan. 12:13)
But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days. (Dan. 12:13)
- E. Elijah will be used in the restoration process in the Millennium probably by turning the hearts of the people to the Lord as He will do just prior to the Millennium (Mal. 4:5-6; Mt. 17:10-11)
Jesus answered, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things." (Mt. 17:11)
I will send you Elijah...before the coming of the....Day of the LORD. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers..." (Mal. 4:5-6)
- F. Aaron was set apart forever to minister to God
Aaron was set apart, he and his sons forever, that he should...burn incense before the LORD, to minister to Him, and to give the blessing in His name forever. (1 Chr. 23:13)
- G. The offspring of the OT priests of Zadok (Ezek. 44:15-16)
"The priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me..." says the Lord GOD. 16 "They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge." (Ezek. 44:15-16)
David said, "No one may carry the ark of God but the Levites, for the LORD has chosen them...to minister before Him forever." (1 Chr. 15:2)

- H. Ezekiel, though a priest in a slave camp he will officiate at the Millennial altar (Ezek. 43:18-19)
He said, "Son of man...these are the ordinances for the altar on the day when it is made...19 You shall give a young bull...to the priests...who are of the seed of Zadok..." (Ezek. 43:18-19)
- I. The End-Time martyrs will have authority in the Millennium (Rev. 20:4-6)
I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus...they lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000-years... (Rev. 20:4).
- J. Jesus prophesies that the saints at Sardis could have their crowns diminished
I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. (Rev. 3:11)
- K. The saints at Thyatira
He who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- 27 He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'-- as I also have received from My Father... (Rev. 2:26-27)
- L. Melchizedek will be a priest in the Millennial Kingdom. Melchizedek was a type of Christ because he did not owe his priesthood to his physical lineage and because he was both a king and a priest in Jerusalem, and because he remains a priest forever.
You (Jesus) are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Heb. 7:17)

XI. THE INVITATION FOR MILLENNIAL BLESSING: BASED ON OBEDIENCE

- A. King David speaks on Solomon's place in the Millennium based on Solomon's obedience.
He said to me (David), 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house...7 I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments...' (1 Chr. 28:6-7)
- B. The Lord spoke to Solomon of Millennial blessings based on his obedience.
The LORD appeared to Solomon...said to him, "... 4 if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart...to do according to all that I have commanded you...5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'" (1 Kings 9:2-5)
- C. The reversal of Millennial blessings on Eli and his house because of disobedience
A man of God came to Eli and said, "Thus says the LORD: 'Did I not clearly reveal Myself to the house of your father when they were in Egypt...28 Did I not choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be My priest...? 29 Why do you kick at My sacrifice and My offering...in My dwelling place, and honor your sons more than Me, to make yourselves fat with the best of all the offerings of Israel My people?' 30 "Therefore the LORD God of Israel says: 'I said indeed that your house and the house of your father would walk before Me forever.' But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed. 31 Behold, the days are coming that I will cut off your arm and the arm of your father's house... (1 Sam. 2:27-31)