

Heaven on Earth: An Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: JESUS' 1,000-YEAR REIGN ON EARTH

- A. This session will give an overview of the Millennium, a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule this world in righteousness. Millennium is from the Latin word *mille*, meaning a thousand.
⁴I saw thrones, and they [saints] sat on them...they reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶They shall be priests of God...and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- B. At this time the kingdom will be openly manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, educational, media, arts, technology, etc.).
- C. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth, as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity, and restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to many of the conditions that were seen in the garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21). This period of blessing will be initiated by Jesus' second coming.
- D. Jesus, the King of kings, will personally govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, worship Jesus, and base their national governments on the Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).
¹⁷Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)
¹¹ Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)
- E. The millennial kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that God's kingdom was being released in a new measure. The New Testament makes it clear that the kingdom is ***already*** here (in a limited way), but is ***not yet*** fully here until Jesus returns.
¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Mt. 6:10)
- F. Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as King over all dominions and spheres of society.
¹³One like the Son of Man [Jesus]...came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him [Jesus] was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...²⁷His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve Him. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)
- G. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (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).
¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)
²⁶He who overcomes and keeps My works...I will give power over the nations... (Rev. 2:26)
²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)

II. CENTERPIECE OF GOD’S PURPOSE: BRINGING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

⁹*Having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will...¹⁰that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

A. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom over all the earth and **join** the heavenly and earthly realms together. God’s purpose has always been for **His people to live together with Him** in this way forever.

³*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)*

B. God created the universe in two distinct realms:
Heaven speaks of the spiritual realm, where God’s power and presence are openly manifest.
Earth speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression.

C. Heaven is the place believers have gone for the last 2,000 years (from the cross to the second coming) as a “temporary holding pattern” before receiving a resurrected body. The saints do not need a resurrected body in heaven to relate to its spiritual environment.

D. We see aspects of the natural and the supernatural dimensions operating together when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body to teach the apostles for forty days (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3).

³*He also presented Himself alive after His suffering...being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)*

³⁹*Behold My hands and feet...handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have...⁴¹He said to them, “Have you any food here?” ⁴²So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³And He took it and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:39-43)*

E. If we do not think rightly of heaven on earth, we end up not thinking of heaven at all.

III. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY

A. The **redeemed** will be raptured at the time of Jesus’ worldwide procession across the sky.

B. The **reprobate**, who took the mark of the Beast, will be judged and then killed (some executed). At this time, there may be 1–3 billion of these people still alive. They will not just disappear.

C. The **resisters** are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. These resisters will stand against evil governments, even without faith in God. For example, in World War II, the French Resistance fought the Nazis. Scripture refers to “those who are left.” They can be saved, then populate the millennial earth (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

IV. GET THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM

- A. When Jesus rules the earth, the natural human processes will not be suspended, but they will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.
- B. As Gentile believers, our most natural perspective is to think of worshiping Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of heaven. The Jewish paradigm is to think of reigning with a human king in the natural conditions of the earth, emphasizing the Messiah's humanity as the Son of David. ***The full truth is only seen when these two paradigms are brought together.***

V. THE NATURAL PROCESSES OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE ON EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS

- A. Jesus will rule the millennial earth that has both natural and supernatural dimensions. The length of life will be restored to what it was in Noah's time. Those who live to be only 100 will be thought to have lived a short life. It will be common for people to live to be over 500 years old.
²⁰No 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. ²¹They shall build houses...they shall plant vineyards...²²As the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people...²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together... (Isa. 65:20-25)
- B. Animosity between animals and between animals and humans will be removed (Rom. 8:20-21).
⁶The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole...⁹For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD... (Isa. 11:6-9)
- C. Jerusalem will be like the garden of Eden (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).
³The Lord will comfort Zion [Jerusalem]...will make her wilderness like Eden... (Isa. 51:3)
- D. Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7). The natural processes of life will continue in establishing the infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city throughout the earth. This infrastructure will include replacing the leaders of the Antichrist's government with new people at every level of public life. This infrastructure will include life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, etc.), spiritual life (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), education, agriculture, media and arts, technology, and social institutions, etc.
⁷Of 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)
³Many 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 [Jesus] will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." Out of Zion shall go forth the law...the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)

VI. HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND EARTHLY JERUSALEM BROUGHT TOGETHER

- A. When the New Jerusalem comes to earth, then heaven will literally be on earth. Heaven and earth come together as the New Jerusalem descends to the millennial Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is the place where resurrected saints will live. The earth will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20).

¹²***"The New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God."*** (Rev. 3:12)

- B. The New Jerusalem will descend and will somehow connect to earthly Jerusalem creating a vast "governmental complex" (Ps. 48:1-5) referred to as Jesus' throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31).
²***"...the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion...the city of the great King...⁴Kings assembled, they passed by...⁵They saw it...they marveled; they were troubled, they hastened away."*** (Ps. 48:2-5)
- C. There are **four reasons** that I believe the New Jerusalem is close to the millennial Jerusalem and accessible to it, yet without being on the earth until after the Millennium. See MikeBickle.org, then go to the section on "End times and Eternity," then go to the section on the "Millennium."

VII. THE SAINTS WILL RULE WITH JESUS AS KINGS AND PRIESTS

- A. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).
¹⁰***"...have made us kings and priests to our God...we shall reign on the earth."*** (Rev. 5:10)
- B. **As priests**, resurrected saints will *worship*, *intercede*, and *communicate* the knowledge of God to others (non-resurrected people on the millennial earth plus the saints in the New Jerusalem).
- C. **As kings**, resurrected saints will *evaluate* the past, determine future *action plans* and *appoint* people who serve in the infrastructure under their authority. This will include *training* and *managing* the people they appoint.
²***"Do you not know that the saints will judge [evaluate] the world?...³Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate] angels?"*** (1 Cor. 6:2-3)
- D. The saints will occupy the highest position of government in the Spirit on the millennial earth. This will be parallel to the relationship of angels in the government of the nations in this age. Governmental authority in the spirit is now carried out by angels who have charge over cities.
- E. Jesus will rule a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: **kings of the earth** (non-resurrected bodies) and **resurrected kings** (saints with resurrected bodies). Together they will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of life in the Millennium.
- F. Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (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).

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