

THE BOOK OF REVELATION
Week 9 – The Millennial Kingdom
March 13, 2018

The OT has substantial passages on the Millennial Kingdom when the Messiah will reign. More prophetic material in the OT is devoted to the subject of the Millennium than to any other topic. The following is a list of ten of the most important OT passages on the coming Kingdom:

Isa. 2:1-5
Isa. 11:1-16
Isa. 32:1-20
Isa. 35:1-10
Isa. 60:1-22
Jer. 31:1-40
Jer. 33:1-26
Eze. 37:14-28
Amos 9:11-15
Zech. 14:6-21

Seven key titles of the Millennium:

- The Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 3:2; 8:11)
- The Kingdom of God (Mark 1:15)
- The Kingdom (Matt. 16:28)
- The world to come (Heb. 2:5)
- Times of refreshing (Acts 3:19 NASB)
- The period of restoration of all things (Acts 3:21)
- A Kingdom that cannot be shaken (Heb. 12:28)

The word *millennium* comes from the Latin word, *mille*, meaning “one thousand,” and *annum* mean “year(s)”. The Greek word *chilias* means “one thousand.” *Chilias* is the word that appears in the Greek manuscript of Revelation 20 six times...defining the duration of Jesus’ kingdom after the seven year Tribulation.

Three views regarding the Millennium:

- Amillennialism means “no millennium” – there will be no literal kingdom on earth. Those who espouse this view believe that prophecies concerning the millennium cannot be considered literal...so those prophecies would need to be fulfilled in non-literal ways!!!!? Many Amillennialists believe that Jesus is now sitting on the throne of David and that this present church age is the kingdom over which Christ reigns.

Clear biblical indications that the kingdom will be a literal, earthly kingdom are:

- 1) Christ's feet will actually touch the Mount of Olives prior to the establishment of His kingdom (Zechariah 14:4, 9).
- 2) During the kingdom, the Messiah will execute justice and judgment on the earth (Jeremiah 23:5-8).
- 3) The kingdom is described as being under heaven (Daniel 7:13-14, 27).
- 4) The prophets foretold of dramatic earthly changes during the kingdom (Acts 3:21;

Isaiah 35:1-2, 11:6-9, 29:18, 65:20-22; Ezekiel 47:1-12; Amos 9:11-15).

5) The chronological order of events in Revelation indicates the existence of an earthly kingdom prior to the conclusion of world history (Revelation 20). (Cleansing of the earth)

The promised earthly Kingdom of God, in Jesus day', was the long-anticipated rule and reign of the Messiah.

- Postmillennialism teaches that the return of Christ will come after the millennium because Christians will make the world better.

- Some may have come up with this view from Matt. 24:14 - *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.* Matt. 24 is speaking of what will be transpiring during the Tribulation. We know from our study that the gospel of the kingdom will be preached by the 144,000, by the two witnesses, by the angels' proclamations – fear God, don't take the mark of the beast... God extends grace throughout the Tribulation. And the Church isn't on earth during the Tribulation.

- This postmillennial view lost popularity when WWI hit when it no longer appeared that conditions in the world would improve.

- Premillennialism teaches that Jesus will return in His physical Second Coming and will then establish His kingdom ON EARTH.

We have seen this from the flow of the book of Revelation.

Jesus Himself, in teaching the disciples what to pray, said, "Our Father Who are in heaven, hallowed (holy) be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, ON EARTH as it is in heaven..." The Messiah's kingdom is the stone that we read about in Daniel 2:31-38, 44 that will come out of the mountain and crush all the previous kingdoms having existed ON EARTH; and as chaff, those EARTHLY Gentile kingdoms will be destroyed. The hope of Israel was the kingdom of God ON EARTH!

We were introduced to the scroll in Rev. 5 which appears to be the title deed to the EARTH. That scroll will be opened after the 7th bowl of judgment has been poured out upon the rebellious earth. By opening of the scroll, the Lamb takes as His inheritance the earth which has been cleansed. The earth that has been RESTORED (the curse having been reversed). Jesus' inheritance includes an enduring kingdom and the title deed to the earth (Psa. 2:6-8).

The entire earth will be restored!

Dan. 7:27 - *Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*

THE PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

To give Jesus His inheritance:

Psa. 2:7-9 - *I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance and the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Psa. 110:1-2 - *The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."* ² *The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!* (See the nations raging against the LORD and His anointed in Psa. 2:1-2)

Heb. 1:2 – Jesus is God the Son, *whom He has appointed heir of all things.* In its broad sense, “inheritance” means an estate received by a child from his parents. God the Son is the natural “heir” of God the Father.

To redeem the creation:

○ Without a literal Millennium under the reign of Jesus, God’s purpose for this world can never be fully realized. The curse will be reversed and God will fulfill His original purpose for the earth. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God pronounced a series of five curses. These five curses were given against the serpent, Satan, the woman, the man and nature (Gen. 3:14-19).

- There will be harmony within the animal kingdom and animals will revert to becoming plant eaters as they were originally in creation (Gen. 1:30).
- The earth will become productive (Isa. 35:1-7).
- Man will be given dominion over creation.

To fulfill the Biblical Covenants:

- The Abrahamic Covenant is an unconditional agreement that God made with Abraham and his descendants. God has unconditionally obligated Himself to bring to pass/to fulfill His promises for Israel. The Abrahamic Covenant is also a unilateral covenant; it’s one-sided as God has obligated Himself (Heb. 6:13). Through the Abrahamic Covenant, God promised Israel land, seed, and blessing. The Land Covenant expands upon the land promise. The Davidic Covenant expands upon the seed promise. The New Covenant expands upon the blessing promise.

- The Land Covenant – God promised Israel land (Gen. 12:1; Gen. 15:18-21 (boundaries); Gen. 17:1-8). Has Israel ever realized all the land God promised? No! God will fulfill this land promise for national Israel in the Millennial Kingdom (Deut. 30:1-10; Eze. 47:13-23; Eze. 48).

- The Davidic Covenant – God promised Israel a “collective” seed – many descendants. The seed promise also focuses on The Seed Who is the Messiah. Jesus will sit on David’s throne during the Millennial Kingdom and fulfill this seed promise. II Sam. 7:12-16 - ... *your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you, Your throne shall be established forever.* Psa. 2:6-9 - *Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.* ⁷ *“I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸ Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron; Luke 1:31-33 - And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² 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.”*

- The New Covenant – Israel broke the Mosaic Covenant; God promised to make a New Covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah (Jer. 31:31-32). While this promise is recorded in the OT, the New Covenant is based on Jesus' shed blood! Luke 22:20 - *This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.* We, as believers, individually, are grafted into the blessing aspect of the Abrahamic Covenant when we come to faith in Jesus. God had promised the nation of Israel a new heart and His Spirit within them. This will be fulfilled when Israel is restored at the end of the Tribulation, going into the Millennial Kingdom (Eze. 36:24-27).

- Mal. 3:3 - *That they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.* God will purge Israel which will allow them to offer an offering in righteous (not like in OT times) during the Millennial Kingdom.

- Fulfillment of these promises/these covenants in the Millennial Kingdom will bring about God's purposes on earth for mankind!! When Israel is restored it will be life from the dead for the world (Rom. 11:15). God promised the nations of the world that they would live in peace with Jesus as their ruler (Dan. 7:11-14). God promised creation that the curse would be lifted (Rom. 8:18-23). God promised that animals and the earth would be restored to peace and prosperity (Isa. 11:6-9; Isa. 32:13-15).

God will bless Israel and restore the world!

Who will be living in the Millennial Kingdom?

There will be two distinct groups occupying the earth: those with glorified bodies and those with natural earthly bodies. Those with glorified bodies: the Church (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-53; Rev. 19:11), the OT saints (Dan. 12:1-2, 6, 13), Tribulation saints resurrected after Jesus returns to earth (Jews and Gentiles – Rev. 20:4- *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*). Those with natural earthly bodies: both Jews and Gentiles (re: Jews – 144,000; one-third saved at end of Trib.; re: Gentiles: Matt. 25:31-40).

Who will not be living in the Millennial Kingdom?

Revelation 20:1-3 - *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

Satan will be bound for one thousand years! The binding of Satan is evidence that the Millennial reign of Christ is yet future. Do we comprehend that Satan will not simply be restricted...he will be totally inactive during the Millennium! Satan is currently working to defeat the purpose and program of God. Has been doing so since Lucifer fell (Isa. 14). Though Satan is not bound in this present age, he is under the sovereign restraints of God. This is evidenced by Satan's dealings with God concerning Job (Job 1:6-22). During the Millennial Kingdom, with Satan bound, God will manifest

His perfect righteousness and also give man an ideal state in which to live and worship Jesus. All outward sources of temptation must be removed so that those in their natural bodies giving birth to children with natural bodies will demonstrate what they are apart from Satanic influence. Because they will still be “natural,” they will be subject to the weaknesses of a mortal body, and will still be prone to sin.

The central focus of the Millennium is not Satan; it is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is His time of revelation. Jesus, in all His glory, will sit enthroned over a rule of righteousness and peace.

Millennial conditions

The Millennium will be a time of both political and spiritual rule. GOD will be reigning. His rule will be over the whole earth (Dan. 2:35), it will be authoritative (Psa. 2:9; Isa. 11:4), and it will be characterized by righteousness and justice,

Isa. 9:6-7 - For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Other conditions include: peace (Isa. 2:4; Isa. 9:6-7); joy (Isa. 9:3-4); glory (Isa. 24:23); instruction and learning (Isa. 2:2-3); reversal of the curse on the earth (Isa. 11:6-9); longevity of life (Isa. 65:20); harmony in the animal kingdom (Isa. 11:6-9; Isa. 65:25).

Hab. 2:14 – the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God.

The Millennial Temple

Eze. 40:1 through 46:24 addresses the Millennial Temple.

The glory of God will return to the temple and make His dwelling place there (Eze. 43:1ff). Ezekiel had seen the glory of God depart from the first temple, Solomon’s temple, in Jerusalem (Eze. 8 through 10). Note: the glory of God did not return to the second temple (under Zerubbabel – when the Jewish people returned to Israel after their exile in Babylon). In Ezekiel’s vision of the Millennial Temple there is no High Priest. There will be a stream of healing waters flowing from the Millennial Temple (Eze. 47). Jesus will reign from the throne of David (Acts 15:15) in Jerusalem (Psa. 132:13-14, 17-18; Isa. 2:2)

Ezekiel saw in his vision a literal building that has not yet been erected.

- There is an immense number of details given concerning the Temple’s dimensions, parts, and contents. If Scripture devotes such detail to this Temple, we can safely assume that it will be as literal as the Tabernacle in the wilderness and as Solomon’s Temple.
- If the Millennial Temple is not to be a reality, how are we to understand the glory of God returning to this Temple? The glory of God departed from Solomon’s Temple (Eze. 8-10). AND, the glory of God returns taking the reverse path He took in His departure from the Temple prior to the Babylonian exile.

The Bible teaches that during the Church Age, believers are the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:19-20). Yet we read of a literal Temple during the Millennium in Jerusalem.

The Millennial Temple will provide a place of worship for Israel and the Gentile nations.

Feasts celebrated in the Millennium: a Feast of the New Year (Eze. 45:18) never before celebrated emphasizing holiness in the Temple (to “cleanse the sanctuary”); the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread (Eze. 45:21-24) – the foundation of God’s plan of Redemption; the Feast of Tabernacles (Eze. 45:25) – “the feast” on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. The Feast of Tabernacles (God dwelling with man) is fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. All nations will be required to appear in Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles. Those that do not travel to Jerusalem for Tabernacles will be denied rain. If Egypt does not appear in Jerusalem for Tabernacles, they will be denied rain and they shall receive the plague – as other nations who do not keep this feast will receive! (Zech. 14:16-18). Yom Kippur/Day of Atonement, Pentecost, and Trumpets will not be celebrated in the Millennial Kingdom.

Animal sacrifices in the Millennial Temple?

“If Jesus’ sacrifice is the once-for-all sacrifice to expiate (pay for) sin (Heb. 9:12), why should animal sacrifices, which could never take away sin (Heb. 10:4), be offered during the Millennium”? Exactly – that’s what we need to note first – the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin in the OT. So, the blood of bulls and goats will not take away sin during the Millennium. Some teach that the Millennial offerings will be memorials – that people living in the Millennial Kingdom will need a reminder of the ugliness of sin – the cost of sin to God. The shedding of blood in the Millennial Temple will visibly remind them that only Christ’s blood can take away sin. However, nothing in the text indicates the sacrifices are memorials. Millennial sacrifices are to make atonement: Eze. 45:15, 17, 20 - *And one lamb shall be given from a flock of two hundred, from the rich pastures of Israel. These shall be for grain offerings, burnt offerings, and peace offerings, to make atonement for them,*” says the Lord GOD....

¹⁷ *Then it shall be the prince’s part to give burnt offerings, grain offerings, and drink offerings, at the feasts, the New Moons, the Sabbaths, and at all the appointed seasons of the house of Israel. He shall prepare the sin offering, the grain offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offerings to make atonement for the house of Israel.*” ... ²⁰ *And so you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the temple.*

Atonement is the Hebrew word, *kippur*, which means “to cover.” Animal sacrifices will be offered in the Millennial Kingdom to cover the worshippers’ ceremonial uncleanness because God will be dwelling on earth in the midst of sinners living in their natural, unresurrected bodies. Without blood sacrifices these impure worshippers will defile God’s holy Temple when they come to worship Him. Atonement wipes away and purges uncleanness (Heb. 9:13). The purging will be required in the Millennial Temple because the presence of God will once again be dwelling in the land.

This was never the purpose of Jesus' sacrifice. His sacrifice dealt with the internal cleansing. Sacrifices in the Millennium will not be a substitute for God's plan of salvation; they will not change the way a person is redeemed. Salvation has always been and will always be by grace through faith in Jesus and in His shed blood on the cross.

Nor will these sacrifices diminish Christ's work on the cross (Heb. 10:10). It is Christ's death, not animal sacrifices that take away sin.

More to consider: though animal sacrifices and priests have no place since Pentecost, this does not mean that they will have no place in Israel after the rapture of the Church. The Scriptures make a clear distinction between Israel and the Church. The fact the Church will have finished its work on earth by the time of the rapture doesn't mean that God will have finished His work of instruction, testing, and sanctification in Israel.

During the Millennial Kingdom God will vindicate Israel before the eyes of all nations (I Sam. 17:46; Isa. 60-61)

Isa. 60:1-3 - Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. ² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Isa. 43:1-5 - Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. ² And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory. ³ It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face. ⁴ And the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east. ⁵ The Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

Questions:

What is your take-away from this lesson?

Any V8 moments?

What will you want to share about the Millennial Kingdom with others?

Any lingering questions?

Strongly Suggested Homework:

Reread the lesson and the Bible references

Share with others

Journal

Read Week 10 when you receive it