

## Why There Must Be a Millennium

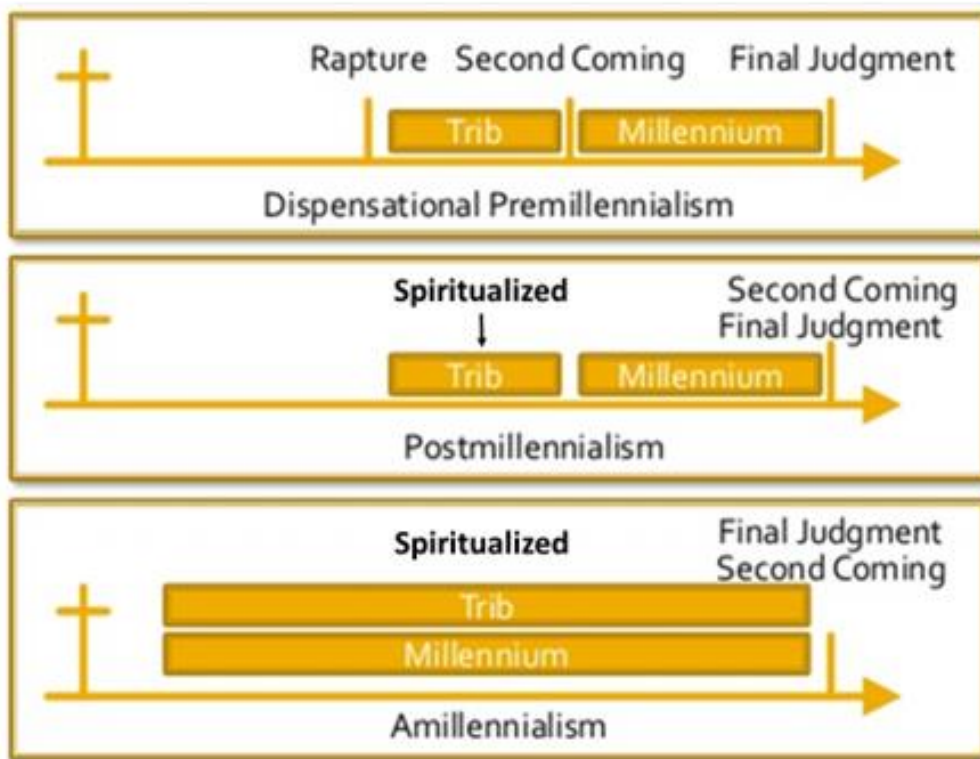
Pastor Kelly Sensenig

A Christian woman was once talking to a servant of Christ about the assurance of her safety in the Savior and said, "I have taken a single ticket to Glory and do not intend to come back." Whereupon the man of God replied: "You are going to miss a lot. I have taken a return ticket, for I am not only going to meet Christ in Glory, but I am coming back with him in power and great glory to reign upon the earth." This is what the Bible teaches and as God's saints we have the hope of someday returning with Christ to earth to rule and reign with Him over the earth (Revelation 19:11-15).

Revelation 5:10 prophetically anticipates this:

"And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on (over) the earth."

The Bible teaches that a literal Millennium (1,000 years) will be established and must be inaugurated over the earth (Rev. 20:1-6) to fulfill the covenant promises given to Israel.



These three views of the Millennial have been promoted throughout the years.

- In the premillennial view, Christ comes *before* the millennium.
- In the postmillennial view, Christ comes *after* the millennium.
- In the amillennial view, Christ also comes after the millennium, but it is called amillennial or nonmillennial because it says that there *is no special millennium* different from what we are already in. This view says that we are *already* living in the time span that Revelation 20 is describing.

What is Premillennialism? Premillennialism is actually a prophetic stance that simply believes Jesus Christ is going to return to the earth after the seven-year Tribulation Period in order to establish His Millennial Age for 1000 years. The term pre-millennialism, communicates that Jesus is coming back to earth **BEFORE** the millennial reign (1000 years) as revealed in Revelation 20:1-6.

Dispensational premillennialism teaches that Christ will come **BEFORE** a seven-year period of intense tribulation to take His church (living and dead) into Heaven (John 14:1-3; Rev. 3:10). After this period of fulfillment of God's divine wrath, He shall then return to earth to rule from the holy city (Jerusalem) exercising His Kingship over the earthly nations for one thousand years. Dispensational premillennialism holds that after a seven-year Tribulation Period (foreseen in Daniel 9:27) a thousand-year period of Christ's reign emerges (Revelation 20:1-6), during which time, Christ will reign on the throne of David (Luke 1:32; Isa. 2:3).



Premillennialism teaches that Christ will return to establish a literal earthly kingdom. A strictly literal hermeneutic is foundational to the dispensational premillennialist viewpoint. Interpreting Scripture in this manner (literally) will in fact demand such perspectives unique to dispensationalism as:

- an earthly kingdom of God from which Christ will reign
- a future redemptive plan for national Israel
- a seven-year period of Tribulation Period
- the rejection of prophetic allegorizing.

The word Millennium comes from a Latin word meaning “thousand years” and refers to the 1,000-year reign of the Messiah on Earth. You would think what is taught in the Bible regarding the Millennium would be universally accepted as being true by Christians. But this is not the case. I am not going to take you through an intricate study of what some have called “The Millennial Maze” but let me give you some helpful information. Premillennialism is set in contrast to Postmillennialism which believes Christ will return to rule in the Millennium after the Church brings in the Kingdom by transforming society and people through the Gospel, and a growing righteousness has been established on earth. This is called Postmillennialism because this teaching concludes that Christ will return after the Millennium has been established by the church through Christ living in the hearts of His people and transforming society.

Postmillennialism claims the millennium of Revelation 20 will be fulfilled between the two comings of Christ as Jesus’ kingdom starts small and eventually permeates all areas of society, Christianizing the world. During this allegorized millennial era, Satan is restrained in his ability to deceive the nations but he is still active. When the Gospel has triumphed over all areas of society then Jesus will return; hence, postmillennialism. Then there will be one general resurrection and judgment for both believers and unbelievers and then the Eternal State will begin.

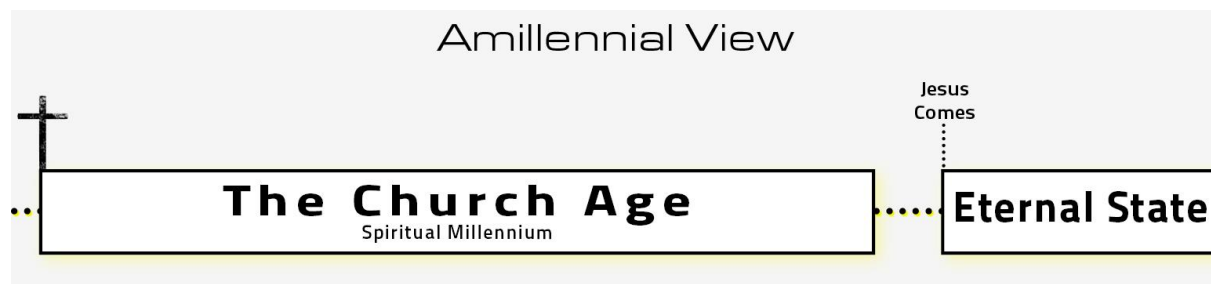
To the postmillennialist, the kingdom is present right now, as it occurs in the hearts of people, and as the Church continues to overtake a sinful society, save souls through the preaching of the Gospel and the Spirit’s work in the hearts of people, the spiritual kingdom will eventually turn into the earthly and physical kingdom of peace. As Christ rules in the hearts of people the promise of the kingdom spreads over the earth gradually. The postmillennialist believes that the Millennium is a long era of time (not a literal thousand years) during which Christ will reign over the earth, not from a literal and earthly throne, but through the gradual increase of the Gospel and its power to change lives, as Christ rules in the hearts of humanity. After this gradual Christianization of the world, Christ will

return and immediately usher the church into their eternal state after judging the wicked.



Some Postmillennial viewpoints see the Tribulation Period as a past event that happened in the first century encompassing the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 as well as the persecutions under Nero. This viewpoint would interpret the Matthew 24 reference specifically as referring to the destruction of Jerusalem. Others simply see the Tribulation Period as a figurative expression of the struggles and trials that we face today.

Premillennialism is also set in contrast to amillennialism which teaches that there is no literal Millennium established on earth but only a rule of Christ in the hearts of people today which eventually will turn into the Eternal State. In other words, a literal Millennium is bypassed and replaced with God's spiritual rule in one's heart instead of Christ literally ruling on planet earth for 1,000 years. Instead of Christ being King over the earth, He is King in our hearts and this is the Millennium. They also view the Tribulation Period as being historically fulfilled in AD 70 (moderate preterism) and the Roman judgment against Israel. Some amillennialists teach that the Second Coming has already occurred in AD 70 and that today we are in some sense already living in the eternal state (full-blown preterism). Others still view the Tribulation Period as only a metaphorical expression of the trials and hardships we face in life today.



Amillennialism (Greek: a - "no" + millennialism) asserts that there is no literal Millennium and the Millennium of Revelation 20 is only a spiritual or allegorical Millennial being fulfilled now (some call themselves a "now millennialist") between the two comings of Jesus Christ. Christ is reigning in his Millennial now as He reigns in the hearts of His people. Variations exist concerning where and how this reign occurs. Some have held that the church is the kingdom on earth as Christ reins in the hearts of His Church (popular view), while other amillennialists have claimed that the Millennium is the reign of Jesus and the saints in Heaven during this age (a less popular view). Also, according to Amillennialism, Satan is currently restrained in his ability to deceive the nations but he is still active. While Christ's kingdom is in operation this world will continue to deteriorate until Jesus comes again. The Millennium will end with Jesus' Second Coming. Then there will be one general resurrection and judgment for believers and unbelievers and then the Eternal State will begin.

Amillennialism affirms that the Millennium is occurring right now in relation to its timing and it's spiritual in nature. This millennial or messianic/Davidic reign is normally allegorized to mean Christ's reign today in the hearts of His Church. This contrasts with the premillennial view that Jesus' Millennial Kingdom is future and earthly. Amillennialism is also based on the belief that this present age is the culmination of God's kingdom and covenant programs before the Eternal State. Jesus' kingdom is in full operation now as Jesus reigns in the hearts of people or with the saints in Heaven.

Michael Vlach summarizes:

"Both amillennialism and postmillennialism believe that the millennium occurs in this present age between the two comings of Jesus and that the second coming of Jesus brings an end to the millennium and ushers in the Eternal State. The millennium is not a kingdom that comes as a result of Jesus' second coming, but it is a kingdom reign that occurs between His two comings. Where postmillennialists and amillennialists differ concerns the nature of the present kingdom. Amillennialists hold that world conditions will deteriorate until the coming of Jesus. Postmillennialists, on the other hand, believe that the gospel will transform the world in all ways before the return of Jesus. When Jesus returns, He comes back to a world that has been won over by the Gospel."

George Eldon Ladd (1911–82) supports the allegorized view of the Millennium: “The Old Testament must be interpreted by the New Testament. In principle it is quite possible that the prophecies addressed originally to literal Israel describing physical blessings have their fulfillment exclusively in the spiritual blessings enjoyed by the church. It is also possible that the Old Testament expectation of a kingdom on earth could be reinterpreted by the New Testament altogether of blessings in the spiritual realm.”

To have a proper understanding of Scripture, one must first interpret the text literally before providing spiritual application. Amillennialists spiritualize or allegorize Scriptures that refer to a literal, physical, reign of Jesus on earth and teach that these Scriptures are referring to God’s spiritual kingdom (His rule in the hearts of people - not to His physical Kingdom on the earth. The amillennialist position applies a faulty hermeneutic (Bible principle of interpretation) when interpreting Biblical texts spiritually or symbolically, and not literally, especially unfulfilled prophetic texts about the Millennium. Thus, their teaching lacks credibility on the subject. To have a proper understanding of Scripture, one must first interpret the text literally before providing spiritual application. By literal is meant to study the text in its grammatical, historical, and cultural setting within the context of the passage in order to understand what it is teaching.

We must remember that the view of Premillennialism is not solely dependent on refuting alternative views; it is dependent on the clear revelation of Scripture. We don’t preach views; we preach the Bible. Over the years, there has developed three main views of the Millennium.

Dispensational Premillennialism teaches that Christ is coming back to earth AFTER the literal Tribulation Period and BEFORE the literal Kingdom is established. It teaches that a literal, earthly theocracy or God-rule will occur on planet earth for 1,000 years, prior to the Eternal State. In fact, the Millennium will merge into the Eternal State. The Bible teaches that the Tribulation Period is a literal time of future judgment on planet earth (Dan. 9:27) and that it will be followed by a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ over the earth.

Dispensational/futuristic premillennialists believe that Israel is restored as a nation during the Millennium with a functional role of leadership and service to other nations during this time (Isa 2:2–4). It affirms that all covenant aspects and

promises in the Bible must be fulfilled, including physical promises and national promises to Israel. This understanding of Bible prophecy (eschatology) is rooted in a literal (face-value/plain/normal) interpretation and understanding of the Scriptures regarding the Biblical covenant promises.

The unconditional Abrahamic Covenant promised an earthly inheritance for the people of Israel which would be experienced in the full blessings and original dimensions of the land promised to Israel. Furthermore, Israel will possess the land permanently (Gen, 15:18-21; Gen. 13:15; 17:8). This will occur in the Millennium.

The unconditional Davidic Covenant promised that one of David's descendants would be King over the nation of Israel forever (II Sam. 7:12-17; Ps. 89:33-37; Jer. 33:15-17). This King, coming from Judah's tribe would reign eternally and in perfect righteousness from Jerusalem over a united Israel. His reign would bring perpetual peace and righteousness to God's chosen people Israel. Through the Davidic Covenant the "Seed" of the woman promised to Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15) and the "Seed" of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was known as the Seed (or Son) of David. His Second Coming would mark the Golden Age of Messiah's Kingdom and a total and complete fulfillment of both the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants.

The unconditional New Covenant promised forgiveness of Israel's sins, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, a new heart, a complete and eternal inheritance of all the land promised to Abraham with the Second Coming of the "Davidic" Messiah/King reigning from the city of Jerusalem (Ezek. 36-37; Jer. 30-33; Luke 1:32-33). We will look at these covenants later.

Here is something easy to discern from Scripture. The kingdom comes when Jesus comes! It's not present today in the hearts of people or with the saints ruling in Heaven. Premillennialism is the view that there will be an intermediate kingdom of one thousand years after this present Church Age, but before the Eternal State. The Second Coming occurs in Revelation 19, the Millennium is then presented chronologically in Revelation 20, which is followed by the Eternal State in Revelation 21-22.

Revelation 20:1-6 introduces the Millennium:

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more (**Satan incarcerated during the Millennium**), till the thousand years should be fulfilled (**the length of the Millennium**): and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: (**Church Age saints ruling during the Millennium** – Rev. 19:16) and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years (**Tribulation martyrs resurrected and ruling during the Millennium**). But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished (**the resurrection of unsaved people at Great White Throne Judgment which follows the Millennium** – Rev. 20:11-15).

This is the first resurrection (the resurrection of the Tribulation martyrs at the Second Coming and their entrance into the Millennium). Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power (the second resurrection and death that occurs after the Millennium), but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (the promise of the Tribulation saints ruling during the Millennium).

The thousand years is mentioned six times in verses 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. This must be an important number to God. All the numbers in the Book of Revelation should be taken literally unless John alludes to them as an infinite number that is deemed countless (Rev. 5:11). Otherwise, numbers in the Book of Revelation should be taken literally and we should believe what God says literally. There will be a Millennium – a period of 1,000 years when Christ rules on planet earth. Jesus taught it (Matt. 19:28), the apostles believed it (Acts 1:6), the early church believed it (Acts 28:31; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21; 2 Thess. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1; Heb. 12:28; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev. 5:10), and pockets of Bible-believing Christians have continued to believe and teach this down through the centuries. We will study Revelation 20:1-6 in more detail later. For now, we use it as an introductory verse to our study. It informs us that there will be an earthly Millennium.



In this study, we will also see that the covenant promises given to the Jewish people of God and the prophecies of the Old Testament prophets envision a time when the Messiah would rule over His people on planet earth. The promise of a Kingdom was given in olden days and will come to pass in the future. This rule is primarily portrayed as an eternal Kingdom in the prophets and promises of the Old Testament, but through progressive or ongoing revelation in the New Testament document, we discover there will be a prelude to the Eternal State and Kingdom. It will be a time period of 1,000 years, when Christ will take back the world from Satan, and return the earth to a theocracy once again, where God rules instead of Satan.

In order for God to keep His promises to Israel and His covenant with David (2 Samuel 7:8-16, 23:5; Psalm 89:3-4), there must be a literal, physical kingdom on this earth. To doubt this is to call into question God's desire and/or ability to keep His promises, and this opens up a host of other theological problems. For example, if God would renege on His promises to Israel after proclaiming those promises to be "everlasting," how could we be sure of anything He promises, including the promises of salvation to believers in the Lord Jesus? The only solution is to take Him at His word and understand that His promises will be literally fulfilled.

Clear Biblical indications reveal that the Millennium will be a literal, earthly kingdom.

- 1) Christ's feet will actually touch the Mount of Olives prior to the establishment of His Millennial kingdom (Zechariah 14:4, 9).
- 2) During the Millennial Kingdom, the Messiah will execute justice and judgment on the earth (Jeremiah 23:5-8).
- 3) The Millennial Kingdom is described as being under heaven (Daniel 7:13-14, 27).
- 4) The prophets foretold of dramatic earthly changes during the Millennial 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 Millennial Kingdom prior to the conclusion of world history (Revelation 19-20).

Premillennialism is rooted in the Old Testament and stated in a New Testament book (Revelation) that is explicitly prophetic in its genre and which gives chronological details concerning things to come. Therefore, the correct and Biblical view of the Millennium is that of premillennialism. In summary, the term “premillennialism” refers to how the thousand-year reign of Jesus relates to the timing of His Second Coming. The prefix “pre-” means “before” and indicates that Jesus will come before the Millennium and establish a literal reign over the earth as a result of His Second Coming. Premillennialism is the Biblical view that the thousand-year kingdom mentioned in Revelation 20 follows Jesus’ Second Coming to earth. For premillennialists, this thousand-year reign of Jesus the Messiah comes between two events - the second coming of Jesus and the Eternal State. This premillennial kingdom is an “intermediate kingdom” since it is a period of time that comes before the Eternal State. As we will see in this study, God’s future kingdom, therefore, has a Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20) phase that will merge and turn into an eternal kingdom phase. We cannot get to the eternal phase of God’s kingdom without the intermediate phase.

Even Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834–92) once declared:

“It is also certain that the Jews, as a people, will yet own Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of David, as their King, and that they will return to their own land. This is in connection with a coming earthly millennial reign when Jesus ‘will reign amongst his ancients gloriously, and . . . there will be a thousand years of joy and peace such as were never known on this earth before’” (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, *The Harvest and the Vintage*, in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, 50:553–54).

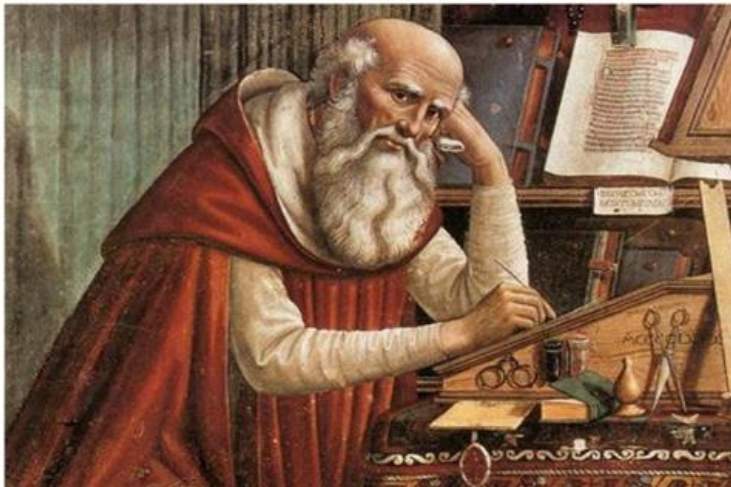
In spite of all this evidence, the Reformed teaching (teaching that stems from the Reformation and not always from the Bible) actually denies that there is going to be a literal Millennium over the earth someday. It looks at the 1,000 years as a symbolic number and a spiritual rule of Christ today in the hearts of God’s people instead of a literal premillennial rule over planet earth.

Michael Vlach gives this helpful summary:

“Premillennialism, not amillennialism, was the predominant view in the first two hundred years of church history. However, the early church did evidence hints of what later would become amillennialism. For example, Origen (A.D. 185–254) popularized the allegorical approach to interpreting Scripture, and in doing so, laid a hermeneutical basis for amillennialism and its view that the promised kingdom of Christ was spiritual and not earthly in nature. Eusebius (270–340), an associate of the emperor Constantine the Great (272–337), viewed Constantine’s reign as the messianic banquet and held to anti-premillennial views. Tyconius, an African Donatist of the fourth century, was one of the earliest theologians to challenge premillennialism. He rejected the futuristic view of Revelation 20. He also viewed the first resurrection of Rev 20:4 as a spiritual resurrection which was the new birth. Augustine of Hippo (354–430), who is often referred to as the “Father of Amillennialism,” popularized the views of Tyconius.”

The Reformers followed the Augustinian interpretation of the Millennium and taught that we were living in the Millennium right now, only in the sense that Christ rules our hearts and lives as the King.

Augustine (354-430 AD)



Augustine’s influence (354-430 AD), the Bishop of Hippo in North Africa, a Roman Catholic theologian and philosopher, shaped not only the Middle Ages but some of the doctrinal developments we still see here today in our own Western Christianity. This is because his writings influenced the Reformers who constantly referred to his teaching in their own debates. However, as a

Bible believing Christian, I don’t go back to Augustine or the Reformation for my theology, I go to the Bible. When someone’s teachings cross the Bible – I side with Scripture. Always!

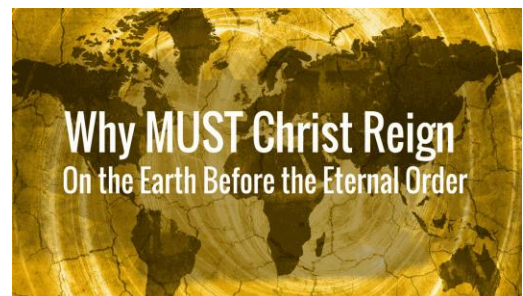
By the way, did you know that the original Augustine actually believed, as the early Church believed and taught, that there would be a literal Millennium over the earth? It may shock some to realize that Augustine was not only premillennial in his early eschatology but he was also dispensational. Augustine held to a traditional seven-age (dispensational) model which coordinated periods in Biblical history with humanity's spiritual progress toward redemption. His early writing will verify this.

It was not until later that he changed his belief system to Amillennialism, which is a system of interpretation that does not believe in a literal reign of Christ over the earth. This was due to the influence of Platonic teaching, in response to those who taught that the Millennium would be a time of carnal debauchery, and seeing the rise of Roman Catholicism, as a world power, seemed to dismiss the notion that the Millennium was going to be literally fulfilled at a later time. Augustine identified the church in his day as the visible and spiritual form of the kingdom of God. According to Augustine, the millennial rule of Christ was taking place in and through the church. His book, "City of God," was significant in the promotion and acceptance of amillennialism.

Augustine's amillennialism quickly became the accepted view of the church. Amillennialism soon became the prevailing doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church and is still held by many today. Reformed denominations of today, including Roman Catholicism and other liberal-based denominations, as well as some conservative reformed churches, follow the writings of Augustine and therefore disbelieve in a literal Millennium.

So much for Augustine, the Reformers, Roman Catholicism, and the allegorical interpretation of Scripture. The Bible does teach that a literal 1,000 years will be established upon planet earth someday. It teaches that the covenant people of Israel will receive the promise of a literal earthly Kingdom over which Jesus Christ will rule on the throne of David in Jerusalem.

I want to pose a question before you. Why must there be a Millennium? Why must Christ reign in the Millennial Kingdom for 1,000 years before the Eternal State begins? Is there a reason that God must bind Satan for 1,000 years? Why the Millennium?



There are four reasons why the Millennium must be established on earth.

**I. Because God is not a loser.**

God started human history by creating human beings in a literal Paradise (Gen.1-2) and gave them the authority to rule as His vice-regents or someone who acts in the name of another. It was kind of like being a deputy for God on the earth. However, both of these conditions (an earthly Paradise and authority to rule or govern as God's vice-regents) were lost as a result of sin and Satan, who by leading man into sin usurped the God-given theocracy (the earth ruled by God through man), changing it into a Satanocracy which now means the world would be run by the evil and darkness (Eph. 6:12).

But we need not fear. God will not lose His theocracy in the end. The Bible reveals that by a literal reign of Christ on earth, such as the Millennium (the 1,000 years), God's original theocracy and paradise over the earth will be restored. There MUST be a Millennium for the simple reason that God must take back planet earth from Satan and rule it once again as theocracy through Jesus Christ. God will win in the end and get His theocracy and Paradise back at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom. This is God's plan and the New Testament clearly reveals that this will occur during a time when Jesus Christ rules the earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6).

**a. God will not lose His theocracy over the earth.**

Let's investigate this further. The Bible reveals that the earth was to be ruled by man, who was to rule the earth as God's agent or vice-regent.

Genesis 1:26

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

God originally created man in His image which means that He had a specific task for man to do since none of other animals were created to bear God's image. This

specific task was to rule and subdue the earth in the place of God since they were people bearing the likeness of God.

Genesis 1:28 goes on to explain:

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue (conquer) it: and have dominion (rule) over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

This command is not merely giving man permission to rule over the animal kingdom but reveals that God put man in charge over the earth as His personal vice-regent or official administrator to rule the earth in His place (Ps. 8:5).

The translation “have dominion” is synonymous with “rule.” God made man in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:26) so that man would rule over and subjugate it, not only the creatures upon the earth, but the very earth itself. So the implication of man conquering and ruling points to this administrative work to rule the earth in the place of God, as God’s superintendent or vice-regent. This was a wonderful gift given to man. But man tossed it aside when Satan deceive him and stole the theocracy from God.

There was a wonderful time of pristine conditions when man ruled the earth for God. However, when Satan caused man to sin, He usurped this position of God’s rulership (man ruling the earth in a theocracy) and turned the earth into a Satanocracy (John 12:31; 14:30). Therefore, it is paramount that the earth is once again restored to a theocracy (a God rule), but this can only be done through Jesus Christ, the returning King (Rev. 19:11-15), who will subdue Satan and all rebellion (Rev. 20:1-3; Ps. 2:8-9), take back this world for God, and rule for God and as God.

If the earthly theocracy that was lost is never regained and restored, then eventually God is the loser and Satan is the winner. But God is not a loser. Therefore, Jesus Christ, as the King, will someday reestablish the theocracy and rule as a vice-regent of God over all the earth. This will occur during the Millennial Kingdom or the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ over the earth. This is the ordained time when God will take back control and authority over the earth.

Premillennialism (Christ establishing a literal kingdom over the earth after His Second Coming) is consistent with the storyline of the Bible that the Last Adam

must have a successful reign over the earth since the first Adam failed and lost the God-given theocracy.

Zechariah 14:9 gives us this wonderful future promise:

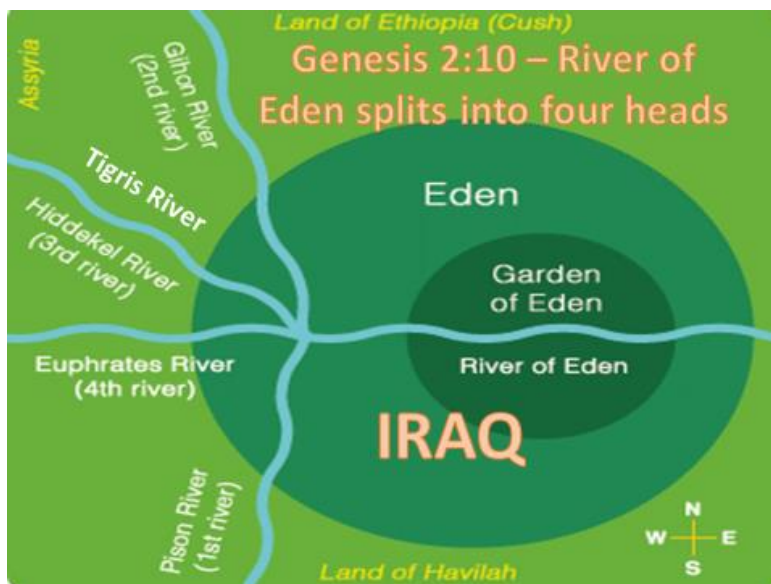
“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”

### b. God will not lose His paradise on earth.

Let’s think about this from another perspective. God started human history by creating human beings in a literal Paradise (Gen.1-2). This paradise had trees, plants, animals, and rivers (Gen. 2:8, 10, 14). It had a specific geographical location on earth, by the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, which is the area of modern-day Iraq. This was the location of the Garden of Eden. Believe you me; it will take a lot of changing to bring back the lost paradise!

Genesis 2:10-14

“And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. The name of the first *is* Pison: that *is* it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where *there is* gold; And the gold of that land *is* good: there *is* bdellium and the onyx stone. And the name of the second river *is* Gihon (Gheehohn): the same *is* it that compasseth the whole land of Ethiopia. And the name of the third river *is* Hiddekel: that *is* it which goeth toward the east of Assyria. And the fourth river *is* Euphrates.”



In this paradise there was no sin, evil, or suffering, and no oil fields or pollution. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in a perfect, pristine physical environment. But this Paradise was lost by sin. Being tempted by the Devil, Adam ate the forbidden fruit (Gen. 2:16-17). As a result, Adam brought pain, suffering, and death on

themselves (Gen. 3:14-19) and on all mankind (Rom. 5:12; Rom. 8:18-25). Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden which was sealed off and guarded by an angel.

Genesis 3:24

“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

Man was driven out of the Garden but God is going to someday bring us back into the Garden, when, through Jesus Christ, He restores the earth to its original paradise and purpose (man ruling the world as God’s agents). In one sense, the Tempter (the devil) won the first battle. He brought death, its results, and its fear on mankind (Heb. 2:14). But Jesus is going to win the next battle and restore the earth to its original theocracy when Satan is banished from the earth during the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-3) and Jesus Christ rules with a rod of iron (Rev. 12:5; 19:15), along with His beloved saints (Rev. 2:27). If the earthly Paradise that was lost is never regained, then eventually God is the loser and Satan is the winner.

For instance, if physical death is not reversed by physical resurrection as Jesus taught (Jn. 5:28-29; 11:25), then Satan gains the ultimate victory over death by keeping men in the realm of death (Heb. 2:14). And if a literal Paradise on earth is not restored, then God lost what He first created. But God is omnipotent (Rev. 19:6) and cannot ultimately lose. Therefore, there MUST be a literal Paradise regained on the earth and this is seen in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ over planet earth. It is God’s allotted time to take back the earth for Himself and restore the original theocracy over planet earth.

God owns planet earth by creation rights. Everything ultimately belongs to Him.

Psalms 24:1-2

“The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.”

This is more than just a statement on God’s sovereignty over the earth. It’s a statement of divine ownership and of God’s full right to reign on the earth. There can be no question but that the King of Glory is the Lord of the earth. He has the



title deed (Revelation 5:1-11). This means that God will one day take back what He created and this will occur during the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus returns as God's Vice-Regent. In fact, the saints will also reign over the nations during the millennial era (Rev 2:26; 20:4) as they share in Christ's reign over the earth.

It's interesting to note that the conditions of the Millennium are primarily outlined in the Old Testament while the length of the Millennium is given in the New Testament. The prophets of old revealed the what the earthly conditions of the Millennium will be like while the New Testament unveils to us the actual length of Christ's reign (Rev. 20:1-7).

Introduction:

Nearly three hundred years ago Isaac Watts wrote a hymn based on Psalm 98, the title of which is Joy to the World. It has become world famous as a Christmas hymn celebrating the first coming of Christ into the world, but Watts did not have Bethlehem and the manger in mind when writing this hymn. He had Jerusalem and the kingly throne of Christ in his thinking. This is because the subject of his hymn was the Second Coming and not Christ's first coming as the words make clear.

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King” (verse 1)

“Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns (verse 2)  
No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground” (verse 3)

“He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness” (verse 4)

We often take the hymn as referring to His first coming and then jumping into the scene of His Second Coming and Kingdom. But it seems to really focus on the Second Coming. In our own time, the dawning of a new millennium in the year 2,000 and beyond has raised hopes of a brighter tomorrow for this world. But man's millennium is full of empty promises and impossible dreams. But there is a Millennium to come, Christ's Millennium, at the consummation of history, which will bring the utopia that mankind had longed for. But this utopia will come on God's terms.

The Old Testament prophecies envision a time of a paradise restored to planet earth. Isaiah 11:1-9 reveals this glorious period of time when the millennial theocracy and paradise will be restored to the earth and Jesus Christ will reign. Isaiah 11 is one of the greatest passages on the Millennium in either the Old and New Testaments. In one of the quick transitions, so frequently seen in the prophets, we are carried forward to the Second Coming of Christ.

There are several prophetic revelations given in this passage about the King and the Millennial Kingdom which point to the restored theocracy and paradise of the Millennial Kingdom which will one day be established over planet earth.

### a. The origin of the King

Isaiah 11:1

“And there shall come forth a rod (twig) out of the stem (trunk or stump) of Jesse, and a Branch (a live shoot or sprout – something of striking color) shall grow out of his roots.”

The imagery of the prophet Isaiah is that of a fallen tree and out of the stump a twig would sprout and from its roots a Branch (shoot) would flourish again. This means that Jesus Christ would be genealogically tied to Jesse (David’s father – 1 Sam. 17:2). This would mean that Christ would ultimately stem from David’s loins and be heir to the Davidic throne in Jerusalem in answer to God’s covenant program made to David.



Isaiah 4:2

“In that day (the Millennial Kingdom) shall the branch of the LORD (the Messiah who stemmed from David’s father Jesse) be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *shall be* excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.”

Someday the Branch (the Messiah) will come back to reign over the earth in fulfillment of David's covenant. And His reign will be beautiful and glorious! The beautiful old German carol, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," captured Isaiah's thought very well. Poetically the author chose a rose as the plant which will grow from Jesse's roots. David's dynasty was ready to end, but out of his family the Messiah would come (Rom. 1:3; Rev. 5:5). A godly remnant of Jews kept the nation alive so that the Messiah could be born.

### **b. The power of the King**

Isaiah 11:2

"And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

Jesus Christ will rule in the power of the Holy Spirit throughout the Millennium. What was seen in Christ's earthly ministry (Isa. 61:1) will be seen on spectacular display during the Millennium or the 1,000-year reign of Christ. He will rule as the omnipotent King. His power, wisdom, and knowledge to rule during the Millennium will be the result of the Holy Spirit working together with Christ. The Godhead works together to fulfill God's purposes in the universe and on earth.

### **c. The rule of the King**

Isaiah 11:3-5

"And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth (equal and righteous justice for everyone): and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked (those who try and rebel during the Millennium). And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (the character of Christ's rule).

Imagine a world dominated by righteousness and goodness, a world where there is no injustice, where no court ever renders an unjust verdict, and where everyone is treated fairly. Imagine a world where truth and justice marks every

aspect of life, including interpersonal relations, commerce, education, and in government. Imagine a world where there is complete and total enforcement of the King's righteous law, where there is permanent peace, and where joy abounds and good health prevails, so much so that people live for the duration of the Millennium.

Imagine a world ruled by a perfect, glorious Ruler, who instantly and firmly deals with sin. Humanly speaking, that description may seem far-fetched, a utopian fantasy that could never be reality. And yet, it accurately describes conditions during the future earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. The restored and radically reconstructed earth of the Millennial Kingdom will constitute a paradise that has been regained.

#### **d. The world of the King**

Isaiah 11:6-9

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid (young goat); and the calf and the young lion and the fatling (tame farm animal) together; and a little child shall lead them (put a rope around their neck and play with them!) And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down



together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp (a venomous snake), and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' (a poisonous vipers) den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

I was watching an animal program on TV and a man lived in Africa for several years filming wild carnivorous animals such a lions and hyenas. As I watched the

killing I could not help but think how the animal world is cursed along with the human race. The animal kingdom has suffered because of sin. The man who was a professional photographer became distressed and distraught when he saw the killing among the animals for two years. At one point he filmed two younger lions eat their own mother. The man, who was a secular humanist, expressed these words after his filming expedition: "I can't believe what I have seen these past two years in the animal kingdom. What I have witnessed is disheartening. The animals have only one thing on their minds – killing and death. They will revert to anything to fulfill their obligation. It seems like something is radically wrong."

Something is wrong with creation. Creation is cursed by God but one day it's going to be freed from its curse. Even wild animals will submit to Messiah's rule someday, making it possible for a nursing child to play with the snakes. Little children will be able to safely play with lions, bears, cobras, and other poisonous vipers and not be harmed by them. What a day this will be when the children will say, "Let's go out and play with the lions!" No animals will hurt anything or anyone throughout the regions of Jerusalem and the restored millennial earth ("They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" – vs. 9).

Imagine a world where the curse is removed, where peace reigns even in the animal kingdom, as Isaiah records in his writings. This refers to the Millennial Kingdom. It's when paradise is restored on earth.

The story is told of a Russian zookeeper who made this boast, "In our zoo here in Moscow, the wolf dwells with the lamb in the same cage, something which you Americans do not have." But he failed to mention that a new lamb had to be put in the cage every day! It will not be this way during the Millennium.

In the coming Millennial Kingdom, the flesh eating animals will lie down peaceably with those animals which were once their prey. The lion and meat eating carnivorous animals will return to eating straw like the ox ("the lion shall eat straw like the ox" - vs. 7). Today you won't go to the zoo and find the zoo keepers feeding straw to the lions! During the Millennium the animals will lose their ferocity and become like all nonviolent domestic animals and evidently become harmless to humans and other animals ("They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" – Isa. 11:9). Today the only way the wolf can dwell with the lamb is when the lamb is dwelling inside the wolf's stomach!

Isaiah 65:25 echoes similar words:

“The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.”

Isaiah 65:25 tells us that the curse conditions will be largely reversed during the Millennial Kingdom but not totally. It also reveals that snakes will be an exception. Unlike the rest of the animal kingdom, snakes will not return to their pre-Fall condition but will continue to “eat dust.” Perhaps this snake status is meant to be a perpetual reminder about the terrible nature of evil and its disastrous consequences that came as a result of Satan taking over the body of a snake and plunging the human race into sin.

The amillennialists (people who do not believe in the literal 1,000 years) insist that these statements about the animal kingdom being restored to a peaceful coexistent state do not literally apply to the animal kingdom. Rather, they apply to the Church today in a figurative way since the Church has inherited the promises of Israel and has become the new Israel (the one people and one purpose of God concept). They read the New Testament back into the Old Testament. John Calvin viewed them as a descriptions of human nature: "By these images, the Prophet indicates that among the people of Christ there will be no disposition for injuring one another, nor any ferocity or inhumanity."

Some amillennialists write off Isaiah chapter eleven and other passages in the Old Testament from being literal since they are said to be written in poetry. It's interesting that Reformed theologians will accept the non-ferocious nature of animals in the creation account but reject it in the prophecies. This shows their amillennial bias and failure to be consistent in their interpretation. This is because their amillennial view comes from using one method of interpretation for unfulfilled prophecy and another method for non-prophetic Scripture and fulfilled prophecy.

According to the amillennial position, the non-prophetic Scripture and fulfilled prophecy are to be interpreted literally or normally. But the unfulfilled prophecy is to be interpreted spiritually, or non-literally. Those who hold to amillennialism believe that a “spiritual” reading of unfulfilled prophecy is the normal reading of the texts. This is called using a dual hermeneutic but it should also be called a

double standard. Hermeneutics is the study of the principles of Bible interpretation. The amillennialist assumes that most, or all, unfulfilled prophecy is written in symbolic, figurative, spiritual language, which means it should not be taken literally. Therefore, the amillennialist will assign different meanings to those parts of Scripture instead of the normal, contextual meanings of those words.

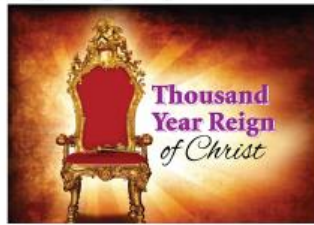
**Jesus' first coming → prophecies were literally fulfilled.**

**(Isaiah 9:6)**



**Jesus' Second Coming → prophecies will be literally fulfilled**

**(Isaiah 9:7)**



The fact that fulfilled prophecy was fulfilled literally is the best reason of all for assuming that unfulfilled prophecy will also be literally fulfilled. The prophecies concerning Christ's first coming were all fulfilled literally. Therefore, prophecies concerning Christ's second coming should also be expected to be fulfilled literally. For these reasons, an allegorical interpretation of unfulfilled prophecy should be

rejected and a literal or normal interpretation of unfulfilled prophecy should be adopted. Amillennialism fails in that it uses inconsistent hermeneutics. It interprets unfulfilled prophecy differently from fulfilled prophecy.

Now back to the animals during the Millennium. There are some amillennialists who look at the overwhelming evidence and suggest that the expressions of tame animals eating straw, who were once ferocious beasts, are literal, but that they are only descriptive of the eternal kingdom, or the Eternal State and not the 1,000-year reign of the Millennium. They overlook the Millennium claiming that any descriptions of a kingdom in the Old Testament must be referring to the eternal kingdom and Eternal State and not the Millennial Kingdom of 1,000 years. This conclusion allows them to bypass the promises given to Israel and transfer them to the church in a spiritual kingdom for today.

The amillennialist maintains that God is finished with Israel and Israel's covenant promises and must apply Isaiah 65 and other passages in the Old Testament to the Eternal State. But they fail to see that the prophecies speak of Christ ruling over enemies and death occurring during his reign (Isa. 65:20). They speak of

Christ judging the sinners (Isa. 11:4; 66:14; Ps. 2:9). This is hardly a description of the Eternal State (Revelation 21-22). There will be no death, sinners, and rebellion during the Eternal State.

Beloved, if these verses in Isaiah, which reference a restored animal kingdom, do not mean what they mean, then we must change the meaning and sense of Scripture. If we believe in the historical, literal, and grammatical interpretation of Scripture, then we must see this as being literally fulfilled in the future. When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense! Someday God's Paradise will be restored and regained over the earth. This will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

Dwight Pentecost was correct when he said:

"A large body of prophetic material is devoted to the subject of the Millennium, developing its character and condition, than any other one subject."

There MUST be a Millennium so God can begin to reverse the curse, gain the victory over Satan and the wreckage he has caused on planet earth, and bring the earth back under His rule. There must be a Millennium so God can bring the fallen human race back to the original theocracy which He intended to exist on the earth. Jesus Christ will regain the Paradise that was lost in Eden. He will do this by a literal resurrection (1 Cor. 15:12-19; Luke 24:39-43) and by His literal reign over the earth as the Last Adam.

Only by a literal reign of Christ on earth, such as the Millennium, will the true Paradise and theocracy be restored. God will win in the end and get His paradise back. This is God's plan and the New Testament clearly reveals that this will occur during a time when Jesus Christ rules the earth for 1,000 years.

The prophets, Isaiah specifically, not only predict about an eternal Kingdom over which God rules; they also predicted there would be an interim time period, prior to the Eternal State, where sinners would die at one hundred years of age.

Technology is advancing the theory that longevity of life will soon be expanded far beyond the imagination of man. Many are predicting there may be no need in going to an assisted living home as one ages because most people will not die from a major disease. What they will die from is an accident. Because of advances

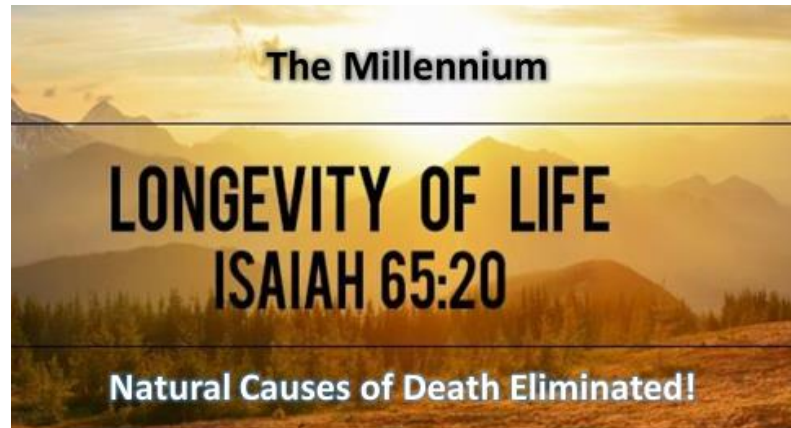


in medical technology, it is predicted by some that people will live 100-120 years of age or even longer. This remains to be seen, but the Bible does predict longevity of life in the future (Isa. 65:20). This will occur during the Millennium.

Isaiah 65:17-20

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth (**the RADICAL difference during the Millennium - the Millennium is described in this way for the drastic changes that occur on earth and in Heaven so that it becomes a prelude of the Eternal State**): and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind (*the earthly Kingdom will be so different that the former condition of the earth shall not be remembered*).

But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days (**The REASSURANCE of longevity in the Millennium - infants, which include babies and young children, will not die at birth, nor will they die in their youth, but live to maturity**), nor an old man that hath not filled his days: (*adults will not be prematurely taken in death but likely live for the duration of the Millennium – Rev. 20:8*) for the child shall die an hundred years old (**The REALITY of death during the Millennium - a person who rebels during the Millennium will die at age 100 and is identified as a child, not an old person, because of the longevity in Millennium**); but the sinner (literally “the sinner”) being an hundred years old shall be accursed” (**the REASON for death in the Millennium – those who die at 100 will be due to penal or legalized deaths in accordance with the King’s law of judgment, but there will be no natural causes of death during the Millennium**).



**No more infant deaths**  
**No more deaths related to old age**  
**Death for rebelling against the laws of the King**

This is something wonderful! The Millennium will be a time when there are no more infant deaths and no more deaths related to old age, since longevity of life will be restored and people will live out their lives throughout the course of the

1,000 years. What this is teaching is that infant mortality and premature death will be eradicated. Death by natural causes will not occur. One thing is certain, there will be no more abortions during the Millennium!

Although death will still be present during the Millennial Kingdom, for penal reasons (those who attempt to break the laws of the Kingdom), life spans will be extended for the duration of the Millennium. The Millennium will be a time when people will have the potential of living for a thousand years; hence, anyone who shall die at a hundred shall be looked upon as a mere child. This seems to describe a return to conditions before the Flood, when people lived hundreds of years (Gen. 5). People will live into old age, most likely throughout the entire Millennial Kingdom, and not become ill or die. The elderly of today will be considered young. During the Antediluvian Age (pre-Flood period), longevity of life was experienced and man lived for hundreds of years. For example: Adam lived 930 years (Genesis 5:5); Noah lived 950 years (Gen. 9:29), and Methuselah lived 969 years (Gen. 5:27). There is no Biblical evidence that these years should not be interpreted literally.

Some reformed theologians, including Anthony Hoekema, who in his book, "The Bible and the Future," believes the language of Isaiah 65:20 is figurative. He claims we should see this as the Eternal State and that Isaiah is saying "If someone died at 100 they would be thought a mere youth, and if they failed to reach a 100 they would be considered accursed." Hoekema is not saying they will actually die, but life is so long, eternally long during the Eternal State, that death at any age would be unthinkable during this time. In other words, Hoekema sees this longevity statement as a way to express how long eternity will be during the Eternal State. He does not take the death as something which could actually happen. Again, this defies the literal understanding of these words and rejects the clear revelation of God's Word. The death is literal even as the ferocious animals eating straw is literal.

In these verses, Isaiah is clearly describing the Millennial Kingdom, but at the same time he seems to identify the Millennium with the Eternal State that we read about in Revelation 21-22. However, in the Book of Revelation, the new heavens and new earth (Rev. 21:1) follow the Millennium or 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4). We must remember that Isaiah did not know the timing of the Millennium (1,000 years) nor did he try and distinguish between these two aspects of God's

rule (Millennium and Eternal State). Instead, Isaiah blended them together as one. This is because Isaiah and the prophets did not have the added revelation that we do about the Millennium. The New Testament reveals that there will be a 1,000-year time duration, is identified as being an introductory period or phase to the Eternal State. The progressive revelation of Scripture reveals to us in Revelation 20 that there will be a thousand years that will elapse before the Eternal State actually begins.

The Book of Revelation and the revelation of the Millennium compliments many Old Testament prophecies by filling in the gap of time (1,000 years) as the time allotted by God for the Millennium, which Isaiah's prophecies and the prophets point to and find their fulfillment in. Of course, the Millennium eventually merges into the Eternal State.



When Isaiah looks forward and is describing the new earth, he stops short of the Eternal State and is actually portraying the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial Kingdom can be viewed as a bridge leading into the Eternal State since sin, suffering and death will be greatly reduced, yet still exist. It is a period of time that merges into the Eternal State. The Millennium is an appropriate transition or gateway to the Eternal State.

During the Millennium the curse will be greatly reduced but not totally eliminated since death will still be in the world. People will be punished for their uprising against the King. This would explain why death still happens even though the world is a far better place during the Millennium. It's still not perfect. We know there is still sinners that exist during the earthly Kingdom because there will be rebellion at the end of the Millennial Kingdom and the destruction of the rebels as mentioned in Revelation 20. The curse still exists during the Millennium until God brings to end this present earth and fashions the New Heavens and New Earth which is spoken of in Revelation 21-22.

As stated above, Isaiah's prophecies may be portraying the millennial reign of Christ over the earth as the initial stage or the prelude to the Christ's eternal rule when he relates the millennial age to the "new heavens and a new earth." But Isaiah's prophecies could not be referring to the actual Eternal State, since there will be people who die on earth, as a result of the King's strict policies ("the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed" - Isaiah 65:20). This cannot be the same new heaven and new earth referred to by John for during this time there will be no more death (Rev. 21:4).

Some unbelievers living on the new earth of the Millennium in Isaiah 65:20 will still experience death because they are under the King's curse and judgment for disobeying the laws of the Kingdom. Again, Isaiah is apparently prophesying about the Millennial Kingdom as being similar to a "new heavens and a new earth" because of the drastic changes that will occur on earth and in heaven during the 1,000 years, but this time is certainly distinct and different than the Eternal State that John spoke of in Revelation 21-22. The Millennium can only be viewed as the prelude to what things will be like during the Eternal State.

Since during the Eternal State and eternal kingdom there will be no more death (Rev. 21:4), Isaiah was predicting a time when sinners would be judged throughout the earth, prior to the Eternal State, a time when God would rule over the earth through the Messiah, a time when perfect justice would come to pass and people would never die, unless they were judged by the King for breaking the King's laws. This will all happen during the time period of the 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6)

With seven years of God's catastrophic judgment unleashed upon planet earth, coupled with man's ecological irresponsibility of planet earth, the earth will be in ruins. It will need to be refurbished and renewed for the Kingdom Age. This is exactly what will happen, so much so, that Isaiah envisions the Millennium as a "new heavens and a new earth" because of the renovation that has occurred and the new beauty and blessings, the reversal of the Genesis curse, and Israel's blessing that will be experienced upon the earth during the Millennial Kingdom.



Isaiah 35:1-2 teaches there will be an environmental transformation during the Millennium. The earth will be restored to its original Edenic paradise. We will no longer need the environmental nuts or crazy people reporting to Washington since the earth will be transformed and become environmentally friendly and extremely beautiful. "The wilderness and the solitary place

shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God."

Isaiah 35:6

"Then shall the lame man leap as an hart (healing during the Millennium), and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert" (indicating fruitful areas of vegetation and agriculture).



The very first book I purchased at the used Kregel bookstore during my days of college was a devotional book written by Mrs. Charles Cowman entitled, "Streams in the Desert." It was a book that spoke of blessing and refreshment in the midst of the difficulties of life. Of course, the book's title was taken from this verse as a way of application but not literal interpretation. When taken literally, as it should be, the Bible is teaching that during the Millennium Kingdom (1,000 years) the parched land will become a rich agricultural land.

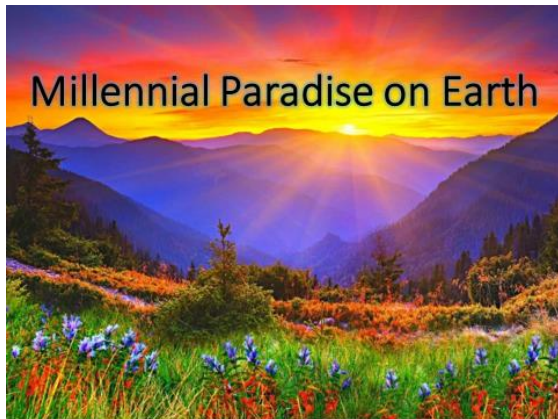


The dry areas or desert regions of world will become fertile and blossom abundantly. Apparently God will bring about climate changes that will result in more rain in those areas. Places like Lebanon, Carmel, and Sharon, which were becoming barren, will once again become fruitful areas of agriculture. During the Millennial reign of Christ, the deserts are going to be rejuvenated and become more like a garden (“for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert” – Isa. 35:6).

Isaiah 35:7 goes on to say:

“And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes.”

The land of Palestine and the entire millennial earth will change from dryness to a well-watered environmental place. Water will be plentiful and grass, reeds, and papyrus will grow, all of which require much water. Though some interpreters take these statements as figurative of spiritual blessings, we should take them as literal statements especially in view of the Palestinian covenant promises given to Israel (Deut. 28:1-14). What God promised in this covenant will come to pass in a literal fashion.



Isaiah 41:18-19 adds:

“I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together.”

Streams and trees in the desert! Yes, God is going to restore His original theocracy and paradise on planet earth. We have discovered that God will not be a loser. Jesus Christ will take back this earth someday, which Satan has usurped from God, and the man Christ Jesus (the Messiah) will reign over the earth with righteousness and justice for 1,000 years. The theocracy and paradise, which was once lost, will be restored during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. Christ will

rule as God's vice-regent and Christ will restore the world to an Edenic Paradise. God will rule over the earth and there will be paradise on earth once again. God cannot lose and will not lose! During the Millennium, He will bring this earth back to its intended goals.

If God is not a loser, then neither are we! This is because we have God on our side (Rom. 8:38-39). We can live victoriously today and not be overcome by our problems and the world, the flesh, and the devil. We are not in the Millennium nor is the Millennium in our hearts, but we can certainly have God's peace ruling in our hearts and lives today (Col. 3:15).

Legend has it that some seminary students once asked their professor for his view of the Millennium. Was he a premillennialist, an amillennialist, or a postmillennialist? "None of them," he replied, "I'm panmillennial." The students were confused since they had never heard of such a view. "What's that?" they asked. "Everything will pan out in the end," he declared.

This story continues to bring a smile to those who are aware of the ongoing debates concerning what the Millennium is and the timing of the Millennium. But what started as a joke has gained some traction. But the "panmillennial" approach, whether it's held formally or informally, is sad. It gives the impression that the details of God's plans to restore all things are not that important, at least the millennial phase of it.

But the events to come are necessary to our Christian worldview. We should be interested in these matters. Think about this. Would you enjoy a good book but then refuse to read the final chapters? Would you watch a play without seeing the last scene? Would you watch a football game that is tied, with one minute left in it, and then turn off the TV and not see who wins? These questions seem silly since the ending matters a lot. The same is true regarding future things as they relate to the Millennium. The ending is very important in relation to God's program. God wants to finish His business and He will do this by bringing in a literal 1,000-year Millennium over planet earth. But some Christians are willing to forget about God's future plans as they related to the earthly Millennial Kingdom. They are short-sighted on their study and understanding of the Millennium.

As previously mentioned, there are four reasons why the Millennium must be established on earth. We have recognized first of all that there must be a Millennium because God is not a loser. He will bring back His original theocracy (God rule) and paradise to planet earth and restore His rule over the earth through the Messiah King. But there is another reason.

## **II. Because earth's history must come to a climax.**

This point builds on the previous point and will help us to see the big picture. A second reason why there must be a Millennium is because earth's history needs to reach its intended goal or climax. The history of the earth must end where it began. This is why there must be a literal Millennium over planet earth. What was lost must be regained. The entire planet is moving toward God's climax or end. To deny this is to deny Biblical revelation and truth.

The Millennium is the climax and ending of God's story for the earth.

This is seen in four ways.

### **a. There must be a successful reign of the Last Adam (Jesus) on earth where God decreed the first Adam to rule.**

The storyline of the Bible is that the Last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45) must have a successful reign over the earth where the first Adam failed. The kingdom mandate of Gen 1:26–28, ruling the earth in a theocracy (a God rule), will be literally fulfilled when Jesus Christ rules planet earth during the Millennium.

Jesus is called the "last Adam" in 1 Corinthians 15:45: "And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam *was made* a quickening spirit."



**Adam → tasked to rule from and over the earth = FAILURE**

**Jesus (Last Adam) → tasked to rule from and over the earth = SUCCESS**



Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychiatry, wrote:

“And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has yet been found, nor probably ever will be.”

Christians have victory in death and over death! Why? It’s because of the victory of Jesus Christ in His own resurrection. Jesus said, “Because I live, ye shall also” (John 14:19).

1 Corinthians 15:50

“Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.”

Jesus, the Last Adam, came to save us and transform our bodies so we are suited to enter the Millennium. Here we see once again that since the kingdom is a future inheritance for the saints, then the Church cannot be equated with the kingdom as most amillennialists maintain.

It’s interesting that Jesus is identified as the “last Adam” in the same chapter where He subdues the earth during the Millennium (1 Cor. 15:24-25; 28). We will return to these verses several more time in this study since they are a direct reference to the intermediate reign of Christ on earth before the eternal reign or Eternal State begins. For now, we must see the connection of the Last Adam with the first Adam and how one day Jesus Christ, as the Last Adam, will overtake this world during the Millennium and rule it for God, since the first Adam failed to do this.

Adam was to subdue the creation on God’s behalf and for God’s glory. In other words, he was rule in God’s place. However, through Satan’s temptation and the fall of man, the theocracy or privilege to rule the earth in God’s place was stolen from Adam and usurped by Satan, who became the prince of this world (John 14:30; 16:11) and the power of air (Eph. 2:2). Satan replaced a theocracy with a Satanocracy. Man’s sin also meant failure of the kingdom mandate to rule the earth for God (Gen 1:26–28). In fact, man cannot fulfill his destiny while he is severed from his Creator. Instead of ruling the earth successfully, man himself dies and returns to the dust (Gen 3:19). In fact, the Tower of Babel indicates that man actually wants to establish a kingdom and name for himself and not for God (Gen 11:1–9).

Eschatology (the study of the last things) fits perfectly with protology (the study of the first things or origins). Premillennialism is when Christ establishes His Kingdom after His Second Coming and before the Eternal State. This future reign best coincides with the first task God gave man to do, which was to successfully rule the earth. In Genesis 1:26–28 we discover that God made man in His image and was called to exercise authority over the earth and function as God’s mediator and representative king over it. But Adam failed this task when he disobeyed God. When this happened mankind as a whole failed since Adam acted as our representative (Rom 5:12). But Paul speaks of Jesus as another representative of mankind, a “Last Adam” (1 Cor. 15:45) who succeeds where the first Adam failed (Rom 5:17).

Sung Wook Chung accurately connects the kingdom role of Jesus as the Last Adam with a rule over the earth: “Therefore by establishing the millennial kingdom, Jesus Christ, as the last Adam, will restore and fulfill not only the spiritual/priestly dimension but also the physical/institutional dimension of the first Adam’s kingdom.”

Premillennialism is the only view of the Millennium that places Jesus’ messianic and millennial reign literally and directly on earth and which envisions Jesus completing what was expected of Adam. As we have seen, other millennial perspectives (Amillennialism) place the center of Jesus’ reign in Heaven, but Heaven is not where God placed Adam to rule. Adam was given the privilege to rule over the earth.

Psalm 115:16

“The heaven, *even* the heavens, *are* the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.”

Amillennialism makes Jesus’ messianic and millennial reign a spiritual kingdom right now as He rules in their hearts of the church while they live on earth (the common view), or as the saint’s rule in Heaven with Christ with all the other deceased saints (Rev. 20). But this does not fit with the Biblical storyline and the earthly reign of the Last Adam. God did not originally create man (Adam) to rule from Heaven over a spiritual kingdom. He put him on the earth to reign – not in Heaven. In the coming kingdom day (Millennium), Jesus Christ will once again be God’s mediator and reign on earth as the Last Adam in the realm where the first

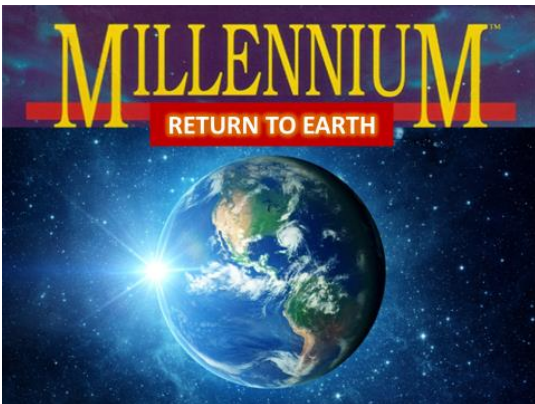
Adam failed. The destiny of the Last Adam is to rule on planet earth. Premillennialism is the only millennial view that has Jesus succeeding in the realm where the first Adam failed.

Chung puts it well:

The first Adam's priest-kingly activity, which was thwarted by the fall, will be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom. Therefore the millennial kingdom will be a restoration and fulfillment of the Edenic kingdom on the earth."

The Bible teaches that the earth is moving toward a climax and ending point which is the Millennium. Without a Millennium, or a specific duration of time when God rules, earth's history would have no real ending. We know that history is moving forward toward a final goal. History is said to be "His-story" since God in His sovereignty planned the course and destiny of the earth, and since He is moving planet earth to intended goal, purpose, and end which is the Millennium.

**B. There must be a sustained and visible reign of Christ in the realm where He was rejected.**



The Christ who was once rejected in this world will in the future reign over the world. Jesus will be vindicated when He returns as King. Since the fall of man in Genesis 3, God has begun a plan to bring this rebel planet back into conformity with His will through the coming seed (Genesis 3:15). Through the prophecies of the Old and New Testaments the Bible presents Jesus as the One who will bring salvation to God's people and the One who will also reign as King over this world. It paints the complete picture of Christ from His cross to His kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Today, the nations, as represented by Armageddon's armies and leaders in the future, are still in active rebellion against God's "Anointed One" or the Messiah. They rejected Him in His first coming and are still in defiance against Him and His ways. But this will all change with Christ's Second Coming and the establishment

of the Millennium over the earth. Christ will return and reign in the same realm where He was rejected.

Psalm 2:1-2

“Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed ...”

We see that the mankind on a large scale is raging against God and is defiantly waging a war against God and His ways. This is seen in the great multitudes of false religions and philosophies along with acts of rebellion that characterize what Paul called “this present evil world” or age (Gal 1:4).

The church has accomplished much during its two-thousand-year history, but its existence on earth has not led to a worldwide or global recognition of Jesus. Even geographical areas once permeated with a Gospel witness and awareness, such as Europe during the Reformation, and the American Northeast with the Great Awakening, are today far removed from worship of the true God. Northern Africa, once a center for Christianity, is now essentially barren of Christian witness. Some of the most anti-Christian areas today are those that once had much exposure to the Gospel.

Contrary to the claims of Postmillennialism (Dominion Theology), there is no evidence from Scripture or what we experience or see occurring in the world today that the Church will overtake the earth and bring in the Kingdom, which will result in worldwide honor to Jesus before His Second Coming to earth. This is a fanciful dream.

2 Timothy 3:13

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.”

We are not gradually bringing in the Millennial Kingdom and Jesus Christ is not being honored in this world on a worldwide scale. In fact, the world is going in the opposite direction. It is defying Christ’s rule in every way possible. But the King is going to return and reign over the earth that once rejected Him. There must be a

time when the wrong is made right and Jesus vindicates Himself through reigning over the earth.

Psalm 2:7-9

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee (the Davidic Covenant and the Millennium). Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession (the scope of the Millennium). Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel” (the rule of Christ during the Millennium).

ADOPTION (Psalm, 2:7): Based upon the promise and adoption practice associated with Davidic Covenant, Psalm 2:7 is an enthronement psalm related to the Millennial Kingdom in which God in an official and ceremonial sense “adopts” the Davidic King as His “Son” who will rule in the Millennium. The eternal nature of the Son and Father’s relationship provides the backdrop of Christ fulfilling the messianic credentials of the Davidic Covenant. In Psalm 2:7, the statement “Thou *art* my Son; I have begotten You” is directed from God the Father to God the Son. The decree “thou art my son” refers to the Davidic Covenant in which God declared that He would be Father to king David, and how David as the king would be His son (2 Samuel 7:14 – “I will be his father, and he shall be my son”). So when David became king, God described their relationship as a Father-son relationship. Since Christ was in David’s lineage, the expression “son” took on the meaning of a messianic title and pointed to the coming Messiah who was Christ (Dan. 7:13-14).

The expression “thou art my son” described the father-son relationship that David would have with God and the rest of the kings that would succeed him, including the Messiah, who would be the Son of God. This relationship communicated to David his legitimate right to rule over Israel.

It’s interesting that each time a legitimate son of David was crowned king as the successor to his father in the city of Jerusalem, these words could be used of him. The new king was adopted by God as his “son” and he would look to God as his “Father” (2 Sam. 7:5, 14). This formula of adoption was announced in a solemn ceremony of coronation attended by priests and prophets, with pomp and celebratory worship toward God.

This ceremonial practice and day of coronation is now applied to Christ (the Messiah and the Son of God) when the Bible declares: "Thou art my son." Again this is a quote from the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:14) and is appropriately described in this way since it shows Christ's legitimate right to rule as the King because He stems from David's loins. From the original giving of the Davidic Covenant and onward, the term "son" was used for the Davidic kings and this eventually became a messianic title for Christ.

The words "this day" (today) would refer to the specific coronation day (inauguration day) when Jesus inherits the earthly Kingdom (the Millennium) and the expression "I have begotten thee" does not refer to Christ's physical creation or birth but is an expression of His supremacy, dignity, and authority as the King, who will rule planet earth as the only begotten Son, and who in every sense shares God's being and existence (Ps. 89:26-27; John 3:16; Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5).

The statement "I have begotten Thee," which is a statement directed from God the Father to God the Son, cannot signify the Creation of Christ as the Son (since all three persons of the Godhead are uncreated and eternal – John 1:1), but rather is the Father's DECLARATION of the Messiah's Sonship at the time of the Millennial Kingdom.

This declaration of Christ's Sonship was announced by Gabriel at Christ's birth (Luke 1:32), reiterated at Jesus' baptism (Luke 3:22), and confirmed by His resurrection (Acts 13:33; Romans 1:4) and ascension or enthronement in Heaven (Heb. 1:5). The same will be true at the commencement of the Millennial Kingdom (Psalm 2:7).

Some take the word "today" (Psalm 2:7) to mean the "day" of God's eternal decree, when Christ was declared to be the Son of God and begotten (John Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord* [Moody Press], p. 41). The "begotten" or begetting is then viewed as an "eternal generation." But it seems much better and more understandable to view the "today" as a specific time in which Messiah is exalted, as God's Son, the Messiah, who shares in God's eternal identity and who will rule planet earth during the Millennium. The term "begotten" is actually a title of Christ which connotes His authority, preeminence, superiority, dignity, and honor as the Messiah, and relates specifically to Christ being the Creator (Col.

1:15-16), the Victor in His resurrection (Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 1:5) and ascension (Heb. 1:5) and the King during the Millennium (Psalm 2).

Psalm 2 is definitely messianic and millennial. It presents Jesus risen from the dead and exalted at the Father's right hand, so that He can reign in the Millennial Kingdom as the promised Messiah (God's Son). Within the Millennial context of Psalm 2, the theme of the risen and exalted Christ looks forward to the day when, as the officially recognized Messiah, and with much celebration and fanfare, Christ comes back to earth to rule and reign from David's throne in Jerusalem (Luke 1:32-33). This specific day and time of the Millennium is presented with the Davidic overtones of an adoption celebration ("Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee").

Jesus is God's Son in the fullest sense of the word for He shares God's very nature and will one-day rule the world as David's greater Son (Jesus Christ) in the coming Kingdom day. This is because He possesses the official messianic title ("Son") and eternal relationship with God the Father, which was to be true of the individual who fulfills the eternal nature of the Davidic Covenant. Jesus is the eternal Son (John 1:1, 14; 5:18; 17:5); Heb. 12; 13:8) sharing the eternal nature of the Father and He will reign eternally in fulfillment of the David Covenant promise.

**INHERITANCE (Psalm 2:8):** As a son inherits from his father, so the King (Jesus Christ) inherits the earthly Kingdom from his "Father" and will one-day rule over planet earth which is in the same realm that He was rejected and ridiculed ("I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance" – Ps. 2:8). Of course, this will begin to occur when the Messianic King returns to earth and overtakes the heathen on planet earth and then reigns throughout the Millennium. In other words, God the Father has promised universal dominion to His Son. All the earth will submit to His authority, and His rule will extend from shore to shore.

**RULING (Psalm 2:9):** In a descriptive way, this rule is described as the Messiah smashing (breaking to pieces) all the rebellious people (Ps. 2:9) as He establishes his reign and continues to rule throughout the millennial earth. Before going to battle, ancient eastern kings participated in a ritual of breaking clay jars that symbolized the enemy armies defeat. Rebellion will not be tolerated by the King. His iron rule will encompass the ends of the earth. People living in the millennial nations, throughout the 1,000 years, which include the rebellious nations, will be

subjugated or brought under control by the Lord's Anointed which is the Messiah. Jesus is God, Jesus is King, and Jesus is the great Conqueror! 1 Corinthians 15:28 envisions this same truth:

### **1 Corinthians 15:28**

**“And when all things shall be subdued unto him (during the Millennium – the 1,000-year reign of Christ), then (after the Millennium) shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (Eternal Kingdom or Eternal State)**

We are reminded that earth cannot get into the Eternal State unless it passes through the Millennium, the specific time when God's purposes are recognized throughout the earth. God's original intention was that the world be ruled by Adam as he represented God on earth. But since the Genesis Fall, this theocracy is no longer realized. So, during the Millennium, Jesus will once again subdue the earth, as originally planned in the Genesis chapter one, prior to the Fall, and reclaim planet earth for God and His rule.

### **1 Corinthians 15:24**

**“Then (after the Millennium) cometh the end (the end of the resurrection program), when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; (the Millennium is the intermediate reign that occurs before the eternal reign) when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power” (a specific intermediate time - the Millennium or earthly theocracy which occurs prior to the Eternal State)**



It is the Father's will that His Son rule the nations and that all be subjected to Him. But in this "present evil age" not all things are subject to Jesus. Also, the Bible tells us that Jesus will one day hand His kingdom (the Millennium) over to God the Father.

The literal and common sense understanding of this passage cannot be undermined without doing a great injustice to the Bible, prophecy, and Christ Himself. The Bible is teaching that the Millennium will precede the Eternal State and act as an intermediate, separate, and distinct rule of Christ that fulfills God's purposes in the world and paves the way for eternity to begin.

So the question is this. When does Jesus the Messiah rule in His kingdom and receive the glory and honor in this world that He richly deserves and the Scripture promises? It is not today but it will be at His Second Coming and the establishment of the Millennium when "he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Cor. 15:24), "till he put all enemies under his feet" (1 Cor. 15:25, 27), and "when all things shall be subdued unto him" (1 Cor. 15:28). This can only occur during the literal reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years, a necessary intermediate reign until the Eternal State commences.

Some amillennials (those who disbelieve in a literal Millennium) claim that Jesus' current session in Heaven fulfills the idea of His sustained reign over His deceased saints (the Millennium) and that is what the Bible is predicting here in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 and other passages (2 Tim. 4:18; Rev. 3:21). In other words, Jesus is reigning today with His saints in Heaven and Revelation 20 is used to prove this theory.

Sam Storms tries to explain this view, as he comments on Revelation 2:26-29, where he claims the saints are being ruled by Christ in Heaven: "My point is that this co-regency with Christ is fulfilled now, in heaven, that is to say, in the so-called 'intermediate state' where the dead in Christ live in conscious, intimate fellowship with the Savior. This co-regency, as I have called it, is therefore the same as the coming to life and "reigning" with Christ described in Revelation 20:4 and 20:6. The "millennium" or thousand-year rule is currently in session, as Christ, together with the 'overcomers' or 'conquerors', rules with authority over the nations of the earth. To put it simply and to the point: The 'conquerors' / 'overcomers' are not merely those over whom Christ will rule but those with whom Christ now rules."

This position that Christ is ruling deceased saints today in Heaven and this is the fulfillment of the Millennium is not satisfactory. This is because it does not give proper justice to Jesus' kingdom reign which must occur, where He fulfills His role as the Last Adam, who regains what the first Adam lost. Although Jesus' exaltation to the right hand of the Father is a powerful display of His glory in Heaven and to evil spiritual forces (Eph. 1:21–23), Heaven was not the realm where God decreed Adam and mankind to rule. It was upon earth. God placed Adam on earth and it is from earth that the Last Adam needs to reign. In other words, Jesus must have a sustained reign in the area where Adam failed which is on earth (Gen. 1:26, 28; 1 Cor. 15:45).

Of course, many other Amillennialists and Postmillennialists see Christ ruling in the hearts of the Church as fulfillment of the Millennium. But the world continues to escalate in its rebellion against God and does not recognize Jesus as Lord and Messiah. To be blunt, we cannot conceive of this present age as the manifestation of Christ's kingdom where so much evil and wickedness abounds. We cannot hold to a spiritual and allegorized messianic reign of Christ where the vast majority of the world is not aware of it and is openly defiant against God. The Millennium is not currently present through Christ reigning inside the hearts of His people. If this were the case, then the world would be moving toward utopia. Folks, this is not the case.

Zechariah 14:9

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day (not today but during the future Millennium) shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”

When Jesus the Messiah rules on the earth, there will be no other religions or false worship systems. To put it in simpler terms, when Jesus is ruling, all will know it. Everyone will recognize it. His rule with a rod of iron will be respected (Ps. 2:9; Rev 19:15).

Hebrews 10:12–13 states that Jesus is at the right hand of God waiting for His enemies to be subjected to Him: “But this man (Jesus Christ), after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever (Christ's substitutionary sacrifice), sat down on the right hand of God (Christ's resurrection and ascension); From henceforth expecting (waiting) till his enemies be made his footstool” (Christ's Millennial Kingdom).

You will notice that Christ is not ruling and overtaking His enemies today while He is in Heaven. This is why Postmillennialism, which believes the Church is bringing in the Kingdom as Christ reigns in the hearts of His people, does not compute with God's Word. This reign will not occur until He returns from Heaven to establish the Millennium. As the ascended and victorious Lord, He is waiting in Heaven for the time when He will return and take control of the earth, defeating and subduing his enemies, putting them under His feet.

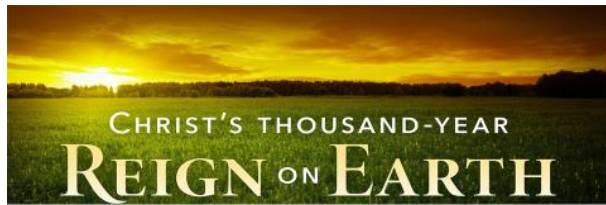
Hebrews 10:12-13 is taken from Psalm 110:1-2 which states: TURN  
"The LORD (God the Father) said unto my Lord (God the Son – the Messiah), Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool (the future Millennium). The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies" (His rule during the Millennium).

This is dialogue between deity, a dialogue taking place within the Godhead. The Bible teaches that there will be a session at the right hand of the Father by the Messiah which precedes His kingdom reign upon the earth.

The Millennium awaits the return of the messianic King, who will destroy the evil structures of this age and institute a righteous rule over the earth for the first time in human history. To summarize, Jesus must be honored with a kingdom reign that is visible to all. God's intent is for His Son, Jesus the Messiah, to rule the nations, including His enemies, from Jerusalem. Before the perfect Eternal State comes, Jesus must rule over this planet that has rejected God since the Fall and also rule over the world that rejected Him at His first coming. He will rule with righteousness (Isa. 32:11) but also with a rod of iron over His enemies (Ps. 2:9; 12:5; 19:15).

While Jesus is currently at the right hand of God in Heaven possessing all authority, the nations are still currently in rebellion against God. At His second coming Jesus will then sit on His glorious throne on earth (Matt 19:28 and 25:31), and He will rule over this world to the glory of God. The Scriptures clearly teach that He does in the Millennial Kingdom after He returns to earth. When this intermediate and interim phase of the kingdom program is over, the Son will hand the kingdom over to God the Father and the Millennial Kingdom will merge into the universal kingdom (1 Cor. 15:24–28; Rev 22:1). Today, Jesus Christ and His righteousness is rejected on a large scale throughout this world, but at His Second

Coming, He will begin to reign in righteousness and vindicate (exonerate) Himself and reign.



**Jesus' first coming → Rejection of Jesus on earth**

**Jesus' Second Coming → Reign and Vindication of Jesus on earth**

Jesus must sustain and visible reign in the same realm (the earth) where He has been rejected. There is coming a time when the world that rejected Christ will be reigned by Jesus Christ. Christ will vindicate Himself when He takes control of planet earth and reigns for 1,000 years.

The Bible clearly teaches that this visible and universal reign will occur during the literal Millennial Kingdom that is established over planet earth to fulfill His purposes for a theocracy, where the man Christ Jesus rules over planet earth and also fulfills His unconditional covenant promises to Israel.

Isaiah 45:23 prophetically declares:

“I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth (during the Millennium) *in* righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.”

Isaiah is the millennial prophet and is prophesying of what will occur during the Millennial Kingdom. This prophecy will find its fulfillment in the Millennium. He invites the Gentiles living throughout the millennial earth to come to Him for salvation and decrees that during this time every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue confess that He is the Messiah and God who ruling over the earth.

Philippians 2:9-11 envisions this same time that Isaiah prophesied about:

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him (the ascension of Christ at the Father’s right hand which give Him the authority to rule planet earth), and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow (this will occur when Jesus inaugurates the earthly Millennial Kingdom), of *things* in heaven (the saints and angels), and *things* in earth (those entering the Millennium), and *things* under the earth (bound demons, the devil

himself, and the unsaved in hades); And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Although this submission will occur throughout the Millennium (the 1,000 years), Paul may actually be envisioning a specific time when all of the universe will bow the knee to the King (Jesus Christ) as the official inauguration of the Millennial Kingdom. What does all of this mean? It is telling us that there will be an intermediate millennial kingdom before the Eternal State begins. It is the time when Christ’s glory will once again overtake human history on a grand scale and His righteousness and significance will be recognized throughout the earth.

There is a story told to the effect that a Jew, being in the company of a Christian, picked up a New Testament and opened it to Luke 1:32-33: "The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever." Turning to his Christian friend the Jew asked, "How do you understand that Scripture?"

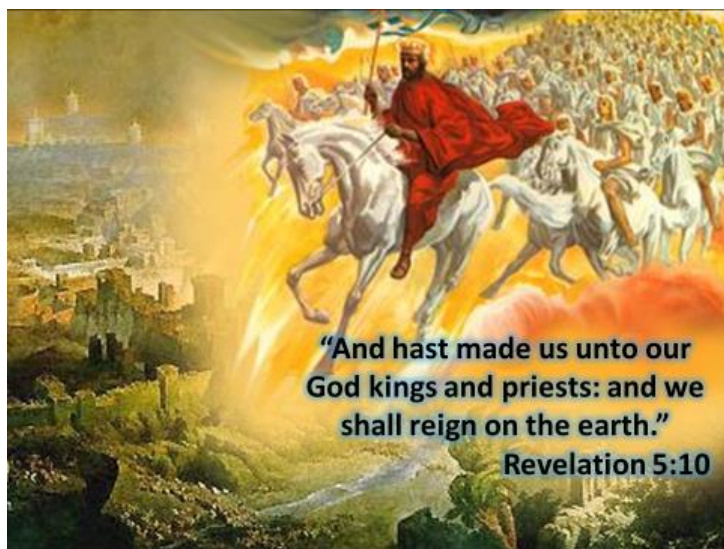
The Christian answered, "Oh, it's figurative language, descriptive of Christ's spiritual reign over the church." "Then you do not take it literally?" asked the Jew. "Certainly not," replied the Christian. The Jew made this further remark, "Then why should you expect me to take literally what precedes, Luke 1:23, where the Scriptures teach that the Son of David shall be born of a virgin? "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Do you believe this to be literally true?" "Surely," answered the Christian. The Jew then continued, "Why do you accept Luke 1:23 as literal, but explain verses 32 and 33 as figurative?" "Because," answered the Christian, "verse 23 has become a fact—Jesus was so born. It is indisputable evidence."

"Ah," said the Jew, "I see! You believe the Scriptures when you see them fulfilled. I believe them because they are the Word of God." The Jewish man made a good point. Those who must see prophecy fulfilled to believe it, do not possess real faith in God’s Word. Today there are many in this camp. They call themselves amillennial and postmillennial who both embrace an allegorical or symbolical Millennium - Christ reigns in the hearts of the church today but not on the throne of David in the future.

In this study, we have seen that the Millennium is a literal 1,000-year reign over the earth. The Millennium is not a figurative expression of Christ's rule which is occurring today in the hearts of the Church. We do not allegorize or spiritualize the Millennium. It is a literal time period on earth when Jesus will rule from David's throne in Jerusalem.

There must be a Millennium since earth's history must come to a climax.

**C. There must be a vindication and reign of the saints in the realm where they were persecuted.**



The Bible reveals that the period before the Messiah's kingdom (pre-Messianic Age) is one of persecution and opposition for the saints from both the world and Satan. The blood of the martyrs throughout history and the abuse of God's people in many lands confirms this fact. The Millennial Kingdom of the Messiah is presented as a reversal of the saint's persecuted

condition on earth to the saint's reigning over the earth. Not only does the Millennium relate to Jesus Christ, but also His saints. There is not only the climax of Christ's rule but the saints who rule along with Christ. Their reigning on earth will be a time of vindication or revenge for the centuries of persecution that they have received from the unsaved. How can this be? It's because they will rule over the wicked and sinners who are born during the Millennial Kingdom.

The Millennium will be a time when God's saints reign in the realm where they were previously persecuted. During the the Millennium there will be a reversal of roles. God turns the tables on His enemies who persecute His people and flips the experience of His saints ruling the earth as kings and priests.

Revelation 17:6

“And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

The harlot woman of false religious profession has historically persecuted God’s saints since the days of Babel and will also prophetically persecute the saints during the coming Tribulation Period as is the focus in Revelation 17. The history of false religions which was spawned at Babylon has not been a friend to the saints. But someday during the Millennial Kingdom the tables will be turned for the saints will actually reign over the earth and judge those who oppose God and His ways.

There are several examples of how the circumstances for the saints will be reversed from persecution of Christ’s enemies to ruling over Christ’s enemies during the Millennium.

Three types of persecuted saints will be vindicated or avenged during the Millennium.

### 1. Church Age Saints (Gentiles and Jews in Body of Christ)

**REWARD of Church Age saints (2 Corinthians 5:10) will turn into REIGNING privileges of the saints (Revelation 2:26-27)**



Revelation 2:26-27 speaks of Church saints ruling during the Millennium: “And he (Church Age saints) that overcometh (positional victory in Christ, as seen in 1 John 5:4-5, that guarantees entrance and ruling privilege in the Millennium), and keepeth my works unto the end (perseverance that guarantees levels of rulership during the Millennium), to him will I give power (personal

authority) over the nations: And he (the saints who rule with Christ) shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.”

Paul is quoting Psalm 2:9 which refers to Christ reigning and applies it to the saints reigning with Christ. He reminds Church Age saints that they will co-reign with Christ over the earth. The overcomers, who possess a positional victory in Christ (1 John 5:4-5) guarantees that they will not only enter the Millennial Kingdom but also reign with Christ during the Millennium. But these reigning privileges will occur in relation to the degree of the saint's perseverance in righteous living and commitment to Christ's cause ("and keepeth my works unto the end"). All of God's saint do preserve in varying degrees of godly living (Phil. 2:13) but how much they rule and reign with Christ will be in direct proportion to how they have lived out their lives on earth. This is why we should focus on putting Christ first in our lives and living for Him consistently, sacrificially, and faithfully. Apparently the amount of reward that a Christian receives (2 Cor. 5:10) will result in a similar level of reigning responsibilities during the Millennium (Rev. 2:26-27).

Jesus states that when His kingdom reign begins He will share and delegate His authority with those who are part of His Church. In an ironic reversal of circumstances, the persecuted ones will one day become those who rule. So when the Messiah rules, those who belong to Him also participate in this rule. The kingdom is future and the saint's participation in this kingdom reign is also future. In another place, Jesus also promises a future kingdom rule as a result of the saint's positional identity in Christ as an overcomer.

Revelation 3:21 declares:

"To him that overcometh (positionally through faith in Christ and our union with Him – 1 John 5:4-5) will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

The overcomer is the Christian who "will" (future tense) sit down with Jesus on His throne which is a reference to the millennial throne. Christ's throne is placed in contrast with the throne upon which He sits today in Heaven with the Father ("even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne"). When Christ promises that the overcomer will "sit with me in my throne" it is a descriptive way that describes the saint's privilege to reign with Christ. The Church Age saint's spirituality identity with Christ leads to a future kingdom reign with Christ.



Revelation 5:10 gives the saint this wonderful promise and privilege:

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

There must be a Millennium so God can finish His purpose related to the saints. He has planned that they rule over the earth as judges to vindicate themselves for the persecution they have experienced at the hands of evil men.

1 Corinthians 6:2

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”

When will the saints judge the world? It will happen during the Millennium. This is the time Church Age saints will be given capacities to rule and bring judgment upon those who are living during the millennial age. The word “judge” means to decide, distinguish, condemn, punish and connotes that part of our reigning responsibilities during the Millennium (the 1,000 years) will be to sentence judgment upon those who are defying the laws of the Kingdom.

Yes, everyone in the Church will reign with Christ but not in equal proportion since we have discovered that our reigning will be in direct proportion to our perseverance in righteous living (“and keepeth my works unto the end” - Rev. 2:26-27). It pays to be faithful to God and what He has called you to do and how to live. It is worth it all today and it will be worth it all in the coming future day when we reign with Christ.

Jesus taught elsewhere that how God’s saints live out their present-day lives on earth will result in greater reigning privileges during the Millennial Kingdom.

Matthew 25:21 is a case in point:

“His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: (delegated ruling privileges during the Millennial Kingdom) enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (the joy and blessing of the Millennial Kingdom).

Matthew 25:23 confirms this once again:

“His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things (delegated ruling

during the Millennial Kingdom): enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (the joy and blessing of the Millennial Kingdom).

Being faithful to God will bring reward in the end! You can be sure of this. When he was appointed as the pastor a church in Cambridge, England, in 1783 Charles Simeon was delighted. The people of the church did not share his joy. Many of the prominent members of the church opposed his convictions on reaching the lost with the Gospel. To show their displeasure they locked their pew boxes during the service and left them empty so that those who came to hear Simeon preach had to stand or sit in the aisles. These pews were particularly popular in England and America for a time. This was an embarrassing part of the church’s history. But in spite of those locked pews, eventually God began to work, and Simeon’s ministry had a powerful influence on the nation of England and the world through his efforts to encourage missionary work.

During the dark days of opposition Simeon wrote: “In this state of things I saw no remedy but faith and patience.... It was painful indeed to see the church, with the exception of the aisles, almost forsaken; but I thought that if God would only give a double blessing to the congregation that did attend, there would on the whole be as much good done as if the congregation were doubled and the blessing limited to only half the amount. This comforted me many, many times, when without such a reflection, I should have sunk under my burden.”

We are reminded that opposition does not mean that we are doing things wrong. Instead, it often it is evidence that we are doing things right. If we allow ourselves to be deterred from doing God’s will for our lives, it is certain that we will never accomplish anything of value. Rather than being discouraged by opposition, we should take comfort that living faithfully will result in reward and ruling privileges in the coming earthly Millennial Kingdom. This is what Jesus is teaching to the overcomers. The level of our reward will be followed by a similar level of reigning with Christ. To what extent we reign with Christ will be in direct proportion to how we have lived and served in this life.

## **2. Martyred Tribulation Saints (Jews and Gentiles)**

In Revelation 6:10-11 we hear the Tribulation martyrs crying for God’s righteous revenge: “And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and

true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they *were*, should be fulfilled.”

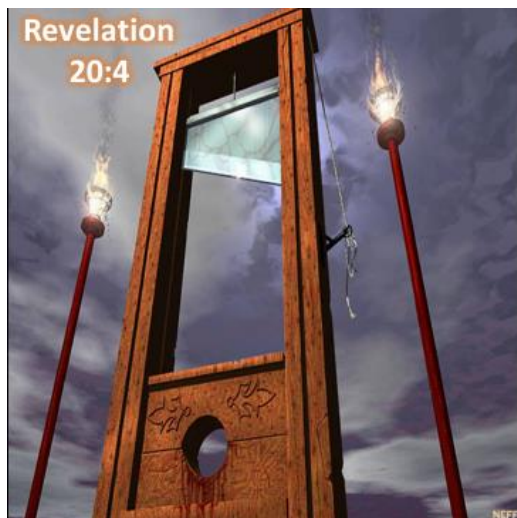
These are obviously martyrs of the Tribulation Period, mentioned in more detail in Revelation 7. This makes it clear that souls will be saved in the Great Tribulation, but many of them will be martyred. These martyrs are seen in Heaven, awaiting the end of the seven years and anticipating the Second Coming of Christ to earth, the time when the King will return to judge the wicked and when they will begin to reign with the King.

Note that the souls of the martyrs who appear in Heaven in Revelation 6:9–11 are not vindicated or reigning in any sense while they are in Heaven, but they are told to “rest yet for a little season” (for a little while longer) until God’s vengeance takes care of their enemies at His Second Coming, which is the time when they will be resurrected and reign with Christ. The vindication of these martyrs occurs in the millennium of Revelation 20:4, where we are told that those martyred during this future period of the execution of Christians came back to life “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

The martyred saints who were persecuted on earth would later become the resurrected and rewarded saints reigning on earth. The vindication of the saints occurs in conjunction with the Second Coming of Jesus and the kingdom He brings.

Revelation 20:4 prophetically anticipates the martyred Tribulation saints being resurrected and ruling during the Millennium: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them (ruling of the Church Age saints during the Millennial Kingdom): and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus (other saints who lived during the days of the Tribulation Period), and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they (Tribulation martyrs) lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” (resurrection and reign of the Tribulation saints during the Millennial Kingdom).

John apparently was not told the identity of the individuals seated on the thrones. But Christ had previously predicted in Luke 22:30 that the 12 disciples would “eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” This means that the disciples were also a part of the Church Age, the body of Christ, and it would be natural for them to sit on these thrones with great anticipation. From John’s viewpoint and understanding, he was probably revealing the fact that Church Age saints were destined for the Millennium. But the real emphasis in this section of God’s Word is the beheading of the Tribulation martyrs and their resurrection to rule with Christ during the Millennium.



Revelation 20:4 is a scene of terror but at the same time a beautiful depiction of the coming reversal of circumstances for the saints of God. These saints are resurrected and on thrones with the delegated authority to rule in the earthly kingdom. Of course, no such circumstances have occurred today but they will when Jesus comes again to earth.

There will come a time when the Tribulation martyrs move from the realm of persecution to the prominent place of ruling with Christ during the Millennium. The tables are turned. There must be a Millennium so God’s purposes for His saints can come to pass. In the end of the story, at the climax of earthly history, there must be a time when God’s saints are given the privilege to rule with Christ over the earth. This means that earth’s history cannot abruptly end as Amillennialism teaches. There must be time for the saints to reign over the earth and vindicate themselves.

Imagine what it was like for the Christians in Smyrna as they watched their beloved and aged pastor, Polycarp (a personal disciple of the Apostle John), burn to death in public - just because he was a Christian.

The proconsul tried to get Polycarp to recant his faith in Jesus Christ: "Then do this, old man. Just swear by the genius of the emperor and that will be sufficient." The "genius" was sort of the "spirit" of the emperor. To do this would be a recognition of the pagan gods and religion.

Polycarp replied: "If you imagine for a moment that I would do that, then I think you pretend that you don't know who I am. Hear it plainly. I am a Christian."

He went on to say:

"You threaten me with fire which burns for an hour, and is then extinguished, but you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment, reserved for the ungodly. Why are you waiting? Bring on whatever you want."

He also proclaimed:

"86 years have I have served him and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

At this point they bound him with his hands behind him like a ram chosen from a great flock for sacrifice. At this point, Polycarp looked up to heaven, and said, "O Lord God Almighty, the Father of your beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of you, the God of angels, powers and every creature, and of all the righteous who live before you, I give you thanks that you count me worthy to be numbered among your martyrs, sharing the cup of Christ and the resurrection to eternal life, both of soul and body, through the immortality of the Holy Spirit. May I be received this day as an acceptable sacrifice, as you, the true God, have predestined, revealed to me, and now fulfilled. I praise you for all these things, I bless you and glorify you, along with the everlasting Jesus Christ, your beloved Son. To you, with him, through the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and forever. Amen."

### **3. Surviving Jewish and Gentile saints of the Tribulation Period.**

Daniel's seventh chapter prophetically speaks of the Jewish and Gentile saints, who survive the Tribulation Period, ruling during the Millennial Kingdom and on into the eternal kingdom. The prophetic Scriptures of Daniel clearly point to an earthly Millennium where these saints rule over the earth in revenge of those who have sought to persecute and destroy them. Daniel envisions the time when the saints come marching in! His prophecies envision the saints who survive the Tribulation Period and the time when these saints will be given the earthly theocracy. Apparently a large company of both saved Jews and Gentiles will

survive the seven-year Tribulation Period and be given the privilege to rule in some measure throughout the Millennium.

Saved Jews who enter the Millennium are specifically said to have the privilege of ruling with Christ as Jesus taught in the kingdom parables (Matt. 25:21, 23). As people are born during the Millennium, untold millions, both the Jewish and Gentile saints who survive the Tribulation Period will rule over them throughout the 1,000 years. In fact, all the saints will rule with Christ through the Millennium.



Daniel 7:13-14 begins with Christ's rule: "I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man (the Messiah – God's Son) came with the clouds of heaven (prophetic vision of the Second Coming), and came to the Ancient of days (God the Father), and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages,

should serve him (the Millennium or 1,000 years): his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed" (the Millennium or 1,000 years of Revelation 20 merges into the Eternal State).

This section in Daniel's prophecies tells of the messianic figure called "the Son of man" (Jesus) who is presented before the "Ancient of days" (the Father) and granted dominion, glory, and a kingdom. Of course, this is a clear prophecy of the 1,000 years predicted by John in Revelation 20. It's the time when the earth is reclaimed by Christ and ruled directly by Him with a rod of iron.

We have seen already in this study that at the expiration of the 1,000 years of Messiah's millennial reign, He will surrender the kingdom to God to the Father, after which Christ will be appointed as Ruler over God's eternal kingdom forever (1 Cor. 15:24–28). Daniel is envisioning the time when the Messiah will put His enemies under His feet during the Millennial Kingdom. The 1,000 years merges

into the eternal reign of Christ. Remember that Daniel and Isaiah, and other Old Testament prophets, wrote without knowing the time element of the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-7). They only saw an eternal kingdom from their perspective but New Testament revelation reveals there would be a Millennial Kingdom of 1,000 years that merges into the eternal kingdom.

## Millennium in Old Testament

**The 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-6) is part of the Old Testament promise of an eternal reign.**

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**Isaiah and Daniel did not have the knowledge and timing of the 1,000 years so both the Millennium and eternal Kingdom were merged together in the prophecies.**

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**The Millennium is the intermediate period of time when Christ takes back the theocracy and rules with a rod of iron (1 Cor. 15:24-28).**

Daniel 7:18 goes on to explain how the saints will receive and rule during the Millennium: “But the saints of the most High shall take (receive) the kingdom, and possess the kingdom (which includes the saints ruling during the Millennium) for ever, even for ever and ever (the merging of the Millennium into the Eternal State).

Daniel 7:21-22 continues:

“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them (Tribulation Period); Until the Ancient of days came (God the Father came and gives the Millennium to the Son and He begins His rule), and judgment was given to the saints of the most High (judgment was given on their behalf or executed for them); and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom” (which includes the saints ruling during the Millennium and Eternal State).

You will notice that these Jewish and Tribulation saints do not bring in the Millennium (Postmillennialism) but that they are given the kingdom and the right to rule in it. Only the King can bring in or inaugurate the Messianic Kingdom on earth.

Daniels 7:27 concludes:

And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven (the extent of the Millennium), shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High (premillennial nature of the Millennium – Christ comes before the Kingdom and establishes the Millennium for His saints – 1 Cor. 15:24-

28), whose kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

Once again, we see that the earthly kingdom “shall be given to the people of the saints” (the surviving Jews and Gentiles of the Tribulation Period). This pops the bubble of Postmillennialism which espouses the theory that the saints bring in the earthly kingdom. But the main point we are contemplating is that during this Millennium we once again see a reversal of the previous conditions upon earth, when the saints were persecuted by the Antichrist. In Daniel’s prophecies, we are told of the evil ministry of a “horn” who is a world leader (the Antichrist) rising from the midst of ten other leaders (“horns” - Dan 7:8, 20). This “horn” (the Antichrist) offers great boasts and persecutes the saints of God. But this persecution is only for a time until God intervenes.

The enemy of God’s people (the Antichrist) prevails for a while. He is seen as overpowering them, but God intervenes on the behalf of the Jewish and Gentile saints living during the Tribulation Period by bringing in the Kingdom and allowing them to be vindicated. When God does this judgment will be passed in favor of the saints for the Bible says they take possession of the kingdom. This is a dramatic reversal of the circumstances that will occur during the Tribulation Period. We are reminded that persecution leads to vindication.

Michael Vlach puts it like this:

“To use a boxing analogy, just when the people of God seemed on the ropes and then out for the count, a knockout of the enemy occurs and God’s people are the victors with hands raised in victory.”

Notice that the saints were not reigning when the “horn” was waging war against them on earth. But when God intervenes with judgment and His kingdom comes, the roles are reversed and the enemy is defeated, and God’s people are the ones in charge! This is an ironic reversal of power.

The Old Testament Jewish saints of God will also have an active role in this Millennial Kingdom. The major point is that God’s people are persecuted for a time, but when Messiah’s Kingdom comes, reward and vindication come with it and the enemy is destroyed. By the way, this is not occurring now in this age (Postmillennialism) but it will in the coming Millennial Kingdom. Also, there is no



indication that this reign of the saints is occurring in Heaven (Amillennialism). The saints were persecuted on earth and their reign will be upon the earth as well.

Dave Mathewson summarizes what we have studied:

“The period of the church age is one in which the kingdom of God and the saints is contested by Satan and his kingdom.”

Mathewson then goes on to describe the Tribulation Period and the Millennium: “The authority of the beast is acknowledged worldwide (13:3–4) and God’s people appear defeated (chaps. 11, 13). Moreover, the beast has apparently survived a fatal blow (13:3–4). However, the millennium reverses this situation by providing a counterpart to the beast’s earthly sovereignty and ostensible invincibility. The dragon, Satan, is bound and the dragon and beast are thrown into the lake of fire (19:20; 20:1–3, 7–11). Now the saints triumph and they reign and rule, and for a comparably much longer period of time, one thousand years.”

In summary, the thousand-year Kingdom portrays the complete victory and vindication of the saints at the Second Coming of Christ to earth. This time will be the dawning of a great and wonderful day! It will be the start of the Millennial Kingdom. Dreams and hopes of all the ages are awaiting His return and the commencement of the earthly Kingdom, the climax to the world’s history.

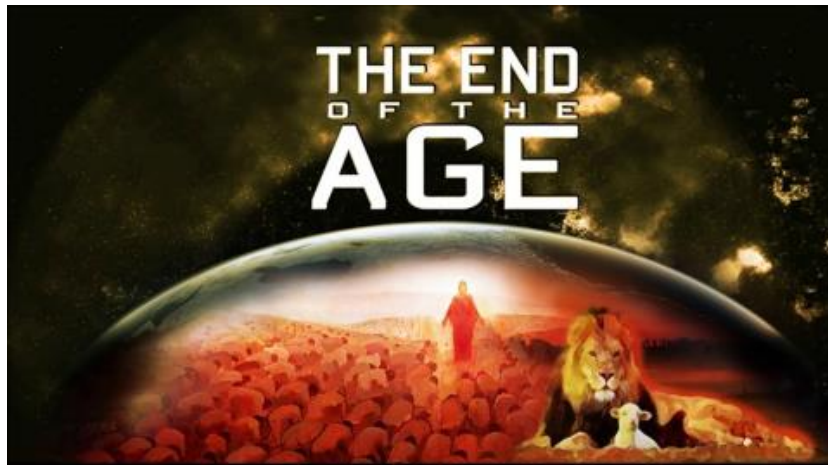
A teacher at Dallas seminary one day came into class and said, “I have become an amillennialist.” The students were shocked since Dallas Seminary, with its founder Lewis Sperry Chafer, had faithfully taught that there would be a literal Millennium and the covenant promises to Israel were still going to be literally fulfilled in the Millennium. The professor went on to explain his position. He said, “The other night I was reading in the paper about all the terrible things that are going on in the world and I said to myself, “Aaah, millennium.”

No, he was not imbibing the errant teaching of Amillennialism (there is no future, literal reign of Christ over the earth). Instead, he was resting in the fact that someday all will be made right that is wrong in the world. This is why there must be a Millennium. There must be an ending to all the wrongs of this world ecologically, socially, and morally.

There must be an intermediate reign of Christ, which occurs prior to the Eternal State, so that God's purposes can come to pass regarding Christ putting under His feet all rebellion against Him, and establishing a theocracy over planet earth. As we will see in our continuing study, all God's covenant programs with Israel must also be literally fulfilled in the Millennium.

Again, there must be a Millennium for the Millennium is the climax and ending of God's story for the earth.

**D. There needs to be a time in history when all aspects of God's promises and prophecies are literally fulfilled.**



The Ending of the Pre-Messianic Age is Followed by the Messianic Age (the Millennium – when Christ Rules)

The Bible teaches that there is an "age to come" (Heb. 2:5; 6:5) which is the Millennium - the ending or climax of all God's plans and purposes for planet earth. The Millennium can be viewed as the Messianic Age or the time when Jesus rules over the earth. Jesus taught that the present age would end (Matthew 13:49;

24:3; 28:20) which covers all the previous dispensations, including the close of Church Age with the judgments of the Tribulation Period (the Pre-Messianic Age or era of time that precedes the Millennium). The age before Messiah rules is the time in which we live today. But we are headed toward the end of this age which will eventually turn into the millennial age.

We will study this in more detail in our last two points, but the Bible indicates that there are major aspects of prophecy that still need to be literally fulfilled. For instance, God's unconditional covenant programs must be literally fulfilled and this will occur during the Millennium. God must fulfil His program and promises that are related to His national people Israel.

In Acts 1:6-7 the Jewish disciples asked Jesus this question:

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.”

We learn several things from this question. First, the apostles expected a literal fulfillment of the covenant promises given to David. Second, they were looking for a literal, earthly kingdom to be established in Jerusalem by the Messiah. The apostles did not view Israel’s promised restoration as having occurred yet. This is why they asked the Lord when it would occur. We should not think that the Millennium is somehow occurring today. Christ’s own disciples did not believe that the earthly kingdom was occurring in their own day and it certainly is not occurring today. Third, we discover that they could not know when the earthly kingdom comes to planet earth until the later revelation of the “times and seasons” which would reveal the exact timing when Christ’s kingdom would come to earth. Later revelation reveals that Jesus would return to earth after the Church Age has expired with the closing judgments of the Tribulation Period.

Now think of this. All of God’s unconditional covenant program and promises must be fulfilled. For instance, Jesus must reign in Jerusalem in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (Luke 1:32-33). The dimensions of Israel’s land boundaries described in the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 15:18–21) still need to be fulfilled. The restoration of the city of Jerusalem has not happened yet (Isa. 2:1-5; Jer. 31:38–40; Ps. 48:2). Harmony among nations needs to occur (Isa 2:4; Joel 3:10; Mica 4:3). Restoration of the animal kingdom in Messiah’s kingdom needs to be realized (Isaiah 11). In summary, many of the covenant, national and physical promises of the Bible are currently unfulfilled. This means that unfulfilled covenant promises and unfulfilled prophecy is a major reason why there must be a Millennium. The Millennium is the time period when unfulfilled prophecies and promises will be fulfilled. It’s a time when God finalizes what He promised to do hundreds and thousands of years ago and will be the time when He brings earth’s history and goals to a climax.

The New Testament explains that many Old Testament prophecies still need to occur, such as the Day of the Lord (2 Pet 3:10) and the appearance of the Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:3–4). If these prophecies were already fulfilled, then why do the New Testament writers view these prophecies as still awaiting fulfillment?

Jesus himself referred to many prophecies that still needed to be fulfilled, even after His first earthly ministry was completed. In the Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24–25; Luke 21), Jesus predicted many things that still needed to happen, such as the abomination of desolation, cosmic signs, the gathering of His people, and the judgment of the nations. All of these will be fulfilled literally even as the earthly kingdom prophecies will be fulfilled literally.

Nowhere does the Bible teach that these prophetic events are somehow allegorically or historically fulfilled during the first century. Many Amillennialists and Postmillennialists will attempt to find fulfillment of prophecy through the hermeneutical practice of allegorizing (assigning spiritual meanings to them for the Church today) or somehow forcing their fulfillment in history, or in the Eternal State, in an attempt to bypass Messiah's earthly Kingdom. We should not be inconsistent when studying how God fulfills His promises and prophecies. Just as previous prophecies were fulfilled literally, so will prophecies that relate to the future Tribulation and Kingdom. God fulfills all of His promises and prophecies literally. This means there will be a Millennial Kingdom that the Messiah establishes over the earth in which Israel's covenant promises and all unfulfilled prophecies related to the Millennium will be literally fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 1:20 states:

“For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”

Jesus will do all that was promised. But the real issue is “how” and “when” does Christ fulfill these promises and prophecies. Are they somehow absorbed into the Church and fulfilled spiritually or allegorically in the life of the Church today as Christ rules in the hearts of His people? This cannot be when we understand that unfulfilled prophecies need to be literally fulfilled even as all previous prophecies were literally fulfilled. The clear and unmistakable answer is that all of God's promises and prophecies are fulfilled literally in relation to Christ's Second Coming and the establishment of the earthly Millennium.



Ephesians 1:10 declares: “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.”

A “dispensation” (oikonomia) is an arrangement or administration between God and man. A dispensation is simply the way God chooses to work. In the

future, God will bring His earthly purposes and intended goals to pass during “the fullness of times” which is the time when His Son finally takes back this world from Satan, as predicted in Revelation 20.

The dispensation mentioned in Ephesians 1:10 is undoubtedly a reference to the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial Kingdom is the time when all of God’s original purposes for planet earth will be fulfilled. The “fulness of times” refers to God’s plan of the ages coming to pass during the earthly reign of Christ. Paul reference to “the times” (set time or epoch and season of time) is referring to the time when God’s earthly purposes will be completed (fulfilled), a time when all things both spiritual and material will be brought under Christ and His rule (1 Cor. 15:27; Col. 1:20). It is the time of the restoration or “restitution of all things” (Acts 3:21). The times of restoration of all things points forward to the Millennium when Christ will reign in righteousness as King over all the earth. During this season of time all things will be fulfilled regarding Israel’s blessings. Everyone was looking forward to a literal kingdom to be established over the earth.

After Christ’s resurrection, the disciples wanted to know whether or not the earthly kingdom would be restored to Israel (Acts 1:6) but Jesus said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power” (Acts 1:7). Later or further revelation would reveal the prophetic season of timing regarding the establishment of the earthly Kingdom and other details of Bible prophecy (1 Thess. 5:1). It’s interesting that Jesus identified these “times and seasons” as a reference to the specific time when His earthly theocracy

or the Millennial Kingdom, even as Paul does in Ephesians 1:10, when viewing the Millennium as “the times” when all of earth’s goals would be brought together.

During the Millennium the earth will be restored to its original paradise and all things will be brought together under Christ, the one Head and Leader over planet earth. Of course, this does not suggest that everyone will be saved during the entire course and length of the 1,000 years (Rev. 20:7-8); however, sin’s disorder will be removed and universal peace will be established during this time (Isa. 2:2-4; 11:1-10).

Tom Constable concludes:

“Even though in one sense everything is under Christ’s authority now, Jesus Christ will be the head of all things in a more direct way in the messianic kingdom. Everyone and everything will acknowledge and respond to His authority then (Isa. 2:2-4; 11:1-10).”

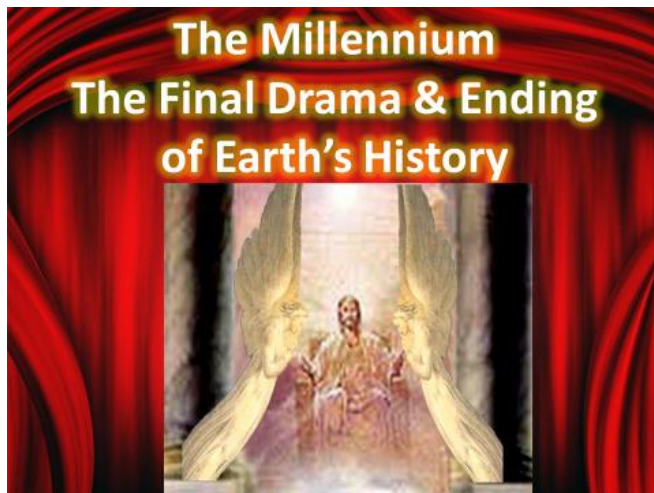
God has a special economy or plan of administration for the final era of human history. He will wrap up His intended goal and purpose, which is to bring the earth back to a theocracy (God’s rulership), through the Messiah, and create a world where the conditions of paradise are once again restored. What a coming time and era this will be! None of the conditions mentioned previously in this study can be experienced on earth unless Jesus comes back as the King to inaugurate His Kingdom. Therefore, without a literal Millennium over the earth, there is no real end to history, as we know it. The story cannot be finished. God’s purpose cannot come to pass. His goal cannot be reached. There must be a Millennium to bring earth to its climax and end.

I remember riding the Super Dooper Looper at Hershey Park years ago. They still have the ride. What I remember is that we would move high up in the sky and then come down at a fast speed to loop around the circle and go upside down in the process. Something else I remember. When the ride was finished, it came to an abrupt stop. The brakes were good and we were all finished. Some people believe that this is the way earth’s history is going to end. It will come to an abrupt halt and the Eternal State will begin. But the Bible does not teach this. God has specific purposes that He must complete before the present earth’s history comes ends.

According to a traditional Augustinian-amillennial view (there is no literal Millennium), human history merely stops abruptly, but it never really comes to a climax. It simply ends and then the eternal state begins. However, in the Biblical teaching of premillennialism, Jesus Christ literally comes back to officially end human history and win the battle over death, Satan, and evil. There must be an official ending of God's purposes with mankind. The last Adam (1 Cor. 15:45) returns to earth to restore what the first Adam lost!

The Millennium or 1,000 years is not the first chapter of eternity; it is the last chapter of earth's history in relationship to the fulfillment of time. It is the time when, through Christ's reign, sin, suffering, and death will be finally overcome. It ends the battle of the ages and ushers in a new dawning day and brings a climax to earth's history by defeating Satan, overcoming the curse, and finishing what God intended the earth to be like when He created it.

Once again, the Millennium is the climax and ending of God's story for the earth. Someday the curtain will go up and behind the curtain will be the last or final drama and scene of earth's history.



If we could peek behind the curtain, we would see Jesus Christ ruling on the throne of David during the Millennial Kingdom. Without a literal Millennium there is no real end to history. The Millennium is the solution to all that's wrong in the world. There must be an official ending to earth's history that brings together all the promises and purposes of God on earth. Only when the Millennium is established on

earth will earth's history, as we now know it, reach its intended goal and climax, when God is in charge once again and when His original paradise is restored. As we will see from Scripture, only after the earth has reached this intended goal or climax, will the Eternal State begin (1 Cor. 15:24-25). Therefore, a Millennium of 1,000 years MUST be established over the earth in order for earth's goals to be finished and pave the way for the Eternal State to begin.

### **III. Because the Old Testament predicted it.**

There must also be a Millennium since the Old Testament predicted it through God's covenant programs. The Bible predicts that Jesus Christ will return to earth someday to rule over His Jewish people from the throne of David, in Palestine, in answer to the covenant programs of God, which are clearly revealed in the Old Testament.

The New Testament Scriptures view the covenant promises given to Israel as remaining intact and ready to be literally fulfilled in the future. Let's begin by establishing the fact that the Bible clearly and unmistakably predicts that Jesus Christ will someday rule over the tribes of national Israel in the land of Palestine.

Matthew 19:28

"And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

The "regeneration" or "renewal" of all things refers to the Millennium, when the earth will be ecologically, socially, politically, and morally renewed. Jesus envisioned the time when the disciples would possess the of millennial judges over Israel who would return to the land of Israel for the Millennium (the 1,000 years of Revelation 20:1-6). The aspect of "judging" refers to their ruling privileges the disciples will have over their own Jewish people during the Messianic Age of the Millennium. There will be a hierarchy of ruling privileges granted to many saints during this future age. All of God's saints who enter the Millennium will rule in some measure, but special privileges will be given to the disciples to rule over Israel during this time which would include all the future generations of Jews that will be born during the Millennium.

Those who deny a literal reign of Jesus Christ on earth, a future time when His ancient Jewish people would be given the land of Palestine, do so at the expense of clear, Biblical revelation. There is no honest exegesis of this verse and many others, which could ever deny premillennialism. This prophetic promise of the disciples ruling over the twelve tribes of national Israel was based upon the covenant programs of God given to the Jews. Therefore, there must be a Millennium that fulfills these promises.



Romans 9:4 reveals that God has not forgotten His unconditional covenant promises which He gave Israel: “Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants (including the Abrahamic, Palestinian, Davidic, and New Covenants), and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.”

In Romans 11:1, Paul gives strong evidence that Israel’s covenant program remains intact and awaits future fulfillment: “I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”

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Romans 11:1



Paul identifies Himself as an Israelite who stems from the seed of Abraham and a specific tribe. It’s these same people, national and ethnic Israel, who will never be cast away from God. In other words, God’s covenant purposes and promises given to Israel will come to pass. God has not abandoned His ancient Jewish people. God forbid! So much for Replacement Theology! The Church does not replace Israel in the plan and purpose of God. There is no spiritual or allegorical fulfillment of these promises. To come to this conclusion is to deny the literal understanding of Scripture and the promises God gave to Israel.

Paul declared in Acts 26:6-8:

“And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers (the Jewish fathers or ancestors like Abraham and David): Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?”

Paul believed in a literal fulfillment of the Jewish covenants and promises contained in these covenants. This was not a “pie in the sky” religion but the reality of God fulfilling His promises to His ancient people. Was Paul mistaken in

his eschatology or were the fallible men like Augustine, Calvin, and Luther mistaken, who eventually despised the Jews. These fallible men claimed that the Church has replaced Israel in the plan of God. They allegorized the physical blessings of Israel and transferred them to the Church by making them into spiritual blessings. Their teachings eventually morphed into Amillennialism, Postmillennialism, Preterism, and the rejection of future prophecies being literally fulfilled.

I'll choose apostolic authority over Augustine and allegorical philosophy! Paul and his Jewish brethren looked forward with great anticipation and hope that all the future covenant promises given to Israel would be literally fulfilled someday.

Again, the disciples asked in Acts 1:6:

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

The disciples also anticipated the literal fulfillment of God's covenant program, where Christ would rule over His ancient people, the Jews, in the land of Palestine, while sitting upon the throne of David in Jerusalem. During Christ's earthly ministry they were looking for the literal fulfillment of Christ ruling in Jerusalem on David's throne. God's purposes and promises related to Israel were viewed as something which would be literally fulfilled – not allegorically fulfilled as Augustine and the Reformers taught.

The Old Testament predicted the Jews entering the Millennium and experiencing the fulfillment of their covenant programs. In looking at these covenant promises, we can arrive at the conclusion that there must be a Millennium when all of these promises are literally fulfilled.

- a. Without a Millennium, God would break the unconditional promises given to Abraham.**

## THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

**Genesis 12:2-3 – “And I will make of thee a great nation (a PEOPLE promise – a Jewish posterity), and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, (a BLESSING promise) and curse him that curseth thee (a JUDGMENT promise on those who persecute and turn their backs on the Jews): and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (a MESSIANIC promise of Christ’s death on the cross – Gen. 22:18).**

– a Jewish posterity), and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing (a blessing promise): And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee (a judgment promise on those who persecute and turn their backs on the Jews): and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (a Messianic promise of Christ’s death on the cross).

In God’s original revelation to Abraham, we discover that Abraham was given many promises. If we believe in the literal fulfillment of these promises, we should expect that they will all be fulfilled literally. There would be a Jewish posterity that would live in the land of Israel forever. The Abrahamic Covenant is also stated in Genesis 15:18-21: “In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.”

These are the original dimensions of the land promised to Abraham’s descendants. They are much larger than what Israel possesses today. To ensure that there is no doubt about the land’s boundaries, the Lord also indicated the different groups of people that occupy different areas of the Promised Land that was given to Abraham and his descendants. We know that these groups of different peoples lived in what is today Egypt, Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, part of Asian Turkey, and of course all of Israel, including Gaza and the West Bank.

Genesis 12:1-3 reveals the original promises given to Abraham: “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee (a land promise – ultimately fulfilled during the Millennium): And I will make of thee a great nation (a people promise

## Biblical Boundaries of the Land of Israel



I wonder if the politicians have looked at Israel's title deed to these areas of land! So the Lord has given to Abram's descendants land that is currently being occupied by other nations! The only way Israel will enter into these covenant dimensions of the land is for Christ to return as the King and give them to Israel. During the Millennium Israel will once again occupy the full

dimensions of the land promised to Abraham. To this day Israel has never occupied the entirety of the land promised to her by God. More on this later.

The covenant is reiterated in Genesis 17:8:

“And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession (the Millennium which merges into the Eternal State); and I will be their God.”

Genesis 13:15 also declares:

“For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever” (the Millennium which merges into the Eternal State).

We discover from the Old Testament that God's love and promises to Israel were unconditional just like marital love. This land promise was unconditional since God sealed it by passing through the split sacrifice, while Abram slept (Genesis 15:9-18). God made this covenant and man had nothing to do with it. Abram was asleep at the time the covenant was made!

There are some practical lessons we learn from the Abrahamic Covenant. First, God always keeps His promises! We can count on Him and His wonderful promises that He has given to us. Second, God is faithful. We must rely on His faithfulness as Abraham did regarding the fulfillment of His covenant promises and blessings. Third, God does many things without our help and intervention. Abraham could not bargain with God or promise God anything for he was asleep when the covenant was made. This reminds me that when God works, He does not need our

help. Sometimes we think we can do it but then God puts us to sleep and He does it for us! What seems impossible to us is possible and absolutely certain with God for He is the One who will ultimately bring about His ordained purpose for our lives. We should not doubt God and His ability to accomplish what He has purposed for us. God will always be with us and remain faithful to us like He was with Abraham and as He will be with Abraham's future descendants (the Jews).

A strong sense of God's abiding presence and faithfulness is a great comfort to the trusting Christian. The trusting heart to Jesus clings! We may be deserted by friends and relatives and lose all our earthly possessions, but the Lord is always with us to sustain, strengthen, and provide. The following poem by James Danson Smith underscores this wonderful reality:

“When from my life the old-time joys have vanished—  
Treasures, once mine, I may no longer claim,  
This truth may feed my hungry heart, and famished—Lord,  
THOU REMAINEST! Thou art still the same!

When streams have dried, those streams of glad refreshing—  
Friendships so blest, so pure, so rich, so free;  
When sun-kissed skies give place to clouds depressing—  
Lord, THOU REMAINEST! Still my heart hath Thee.

When strength hath failed, and feet, newborn and weary,  
On gladsome errands may no longer go,  
Why should I sigh, or let the days be dreary'  
Lord, THOU REMAINEST! Couldst Thou more bestow'

Thus through life's days, who'er or what may fail me,  
Friends, friendships, joys, in small or great degree,  
Songs may be mine—no sadness need assail me,  
Since THOU REMAINEST, and my heart hath Thee.”

Life is filled with uncertainty. Human relationships often do disappoint us. And tragedy can destroy in a moment all the material securities of life. But if we know Christ as our Savior, we can still say, “Lord, THOU REMAINEST.” Yes, He is always there! God is faithful to us and He will fulfill His will and purpose for our lives even

as He gave promise to Abraham. And remember, we must rely on God's faithfulness to meet our needs, provide for us, and show us the right way.

A man shared this story: Back in the 80s, I worked for a kind-hearted man who owned a small sign shop. He was far from the most successful businessman I'd ever met, but he treated his customers with respect and fairness. I remember how downhearted he was when he told me his pickup had been stolen. A couple of months later, the truck was returned but in a very unusual way. The story, which made national news, was featured by Paul Harvey.

Here's how it appeared in the local paper: DEWITT, Mich. (UPI) -- Kelly Terrell says the person who stole his 1975 Chevrolet pickup truck can take it again "any time he wants to." That's because Terrell, whose truck was taken from a shopping mall in December, got the vehicle back Sunday--with a fresh coat of paint and a number of other repairs. Terrell told police Monday he had received a call from a stranger who lectured him about his truck's poor condition. The stranger then told Terrell he could find the pickup in the parking lot where it had been stolen.

When Terrell arrived at the lot, he found his truck and a three-page list of repairs made by the thief. In addition to sanding and painting the pickup, the thief performed bodywork and made a number of mechanical repairs. 'It is not a practical joke,' Terrell said. 'I have no idea who the man is. It is all very strange, but that man can steal my vehicle any time he wants to.'

Well, we have seen in our ongoing study that Satan stole planet earth from man back in Genesis 3 but Jesus Christ as the King of Kings is going to bring it back to its original condition and rule it as God's Vice-regent, restoring the theocracy to planet earth. This will occur in the Millennium.

**b. Without a Millennium, God would break an unconditional throne promise given to David.**

Once again, those who embrace Reformed Theology, an interpretive system that denies a literal Millennium, where Jesus Christ rules over His ancient Jewish ancestry in Jerusalem, do so at the expense of clear Scriptural revelation.

God also promised to David that he and one of his Jewish descendants would reign on a throne in Israel forever. The Davidic Covenant envisions the promise of the Millennium.



2 Samuel 7:12-16

“And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels (Solomon), and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten

2 Samuel 7:16 - “And thine house (a seed forever) and thy kingdom (an earthly theocracy forever) shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne (a king forever) shall be established for ever.”

him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.”

Israel never experienced these promises “for ever” and therefore there must be a future fulfillment of them in the Millennium. This reminds me that when God chooses to do something, He will get it done! We can be sure about this. We do not have to doubt God’s ability and work. What God has promised to David will take place. It will be fully and finally fulfilled during the Millennium and Eternal State.

Here is a practical note.

- Maybe you have been doubting God’s provision in some way?
- Perhaps you have been questioning God’s power and ability to accomplish something, which according to your way of thinking, seems impossible.
- Have you forgotten that God can get the job done?
- Have you lost the wonder of God’s amazing intervention and that He can work in ways you could never imagine?



"God moves in mysterious ways;  
His wonders to perform;  
He plans His footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm."

Romans 11:33

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

Don't tell God what you cannot do, find out what God can do!

Now let's reflect on the promises of the Davidic Covenant. David, through Solomon, was given the promise that a descendant of David would sit upon the throne in Jerusalem forever in the land of Israel. The promise of an enduring land of their own was based on earlier commitments and promises of the Lord. The seed of Abraham, God said, would be given Canaan as a home forever (Gen. 13:15; 15:18; 17:8; Deut. 34:4). This promise is now reinforced once again in the promise of the Davidic King (the seed of the Messiah) ruling on David's throne in the land of Israel.

There are three major promises that make up the Davidic Covenant:

**1. An eternal *seed* ("thine house ... for ever" - 2 Samuel 7:16). This speaks of a seed forever (David's posterity).**

It refers to a continuing Jewish seed or physical posterity of people that will be able to produce the royal king that would be in the Jewish line. There is a present promise related to this (Israel will always exist as a people). There is also a prophetic promise (Israel as God's people will eventually produce the seed and they will rule with Christ eternally or forever).

**2. An eternal *kingdom* ("thy kingdom ... for ever" - 2 Samuel 7:16). This speaks of a kingdom forever (a political kingdom over Israel).**

There is a present promise (the kingdom will always have the *potential* to be restored) and a prophetic promise (it will last forever when it is restored).



### **3. An eternal *throne* (“thy throne ... for ever” - 2 Samuel 7:16). This speaks of a king forever (royal descent to reign).**

There is a present promise (Israel will always have a royal descendent - 2 Chron. 6:16) and a prophetic promise (a royal descendent will rule eternally or forever in a kingdom). During the reign of the eternal King (Jesus Christ), Israel will then experience the literal and eternal fulfillment of her Davidic covenant promises. The covenant can be summed up in this way. There would be an eternal seed that would always exist. This seed would eventually produce an heir, who would become an eternal Davidic King, which would rule on an eternal throne in Jerusalem, and in a Kingdom forever.

This covenant was also an unconditional promise given to David and his descendants. Dwight Pentecost concludes: “The only way it can be called eternal is that it is unconditional and rests upon the faithfulness of God for its execution.” It also amplifies the seed promise of the Abrahamic Covenant which was also unconditional. Lastly, this covenant was reaffirmed after repeated acts of disobedience on the part of the nation. Even Christ offered the Davidic Covenant to the people after generations of apostasy. These reaffirmations of the covenant would not have been made if the covenant was conditioned upon the response of the nation. This means that the Davidic Covenant will come to pass in spite of Israel’s present-day apostasy and lost blessing. The covenant will eventually be fulfilled literally and forever. God will see to it. Of course, Israel’s obedience brings them into the blessings of this covenant but the basis of this covenant is built upon God’s faithfulness.

God declared in Psalm 89:28-37:

“My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant (Davidic Covenant) shall stand fast with him. His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven (*a kingly ancestor of David ruling on David’s throne has not yet been fulfilled but it will be during the Millennium and beyond*). If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne (*David’s*

*throne) as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon (a kingly ancestor of David ruling on the throne of David forever has not yet been fulfilled but will come to pass during the Millennium and Eternal State), and as a faithful witness in heaven. Selah."*

Although the Lord Jesus is a descendant of David, He is not the physically a descendant of Solomon but of another son of David, Nathan (Luke 3:31). The throne promise came through Solomon but the lineage promise came through Nathan (Luke 3:31). We know that no descendent of David has been reigning on the throne in Jerusalem forever, as promised in the Covenant. But God promised that Christ, a descendent of David, would do so in the future. This Davidic descendent would be the Messiah, Jesus Christ, who stems from David's loins.

The unconditional and everlasting promise of this covenant, based upon God's faithfulness and promise, has not yet been eternally fulfilled. But it will be finally and forever fulfilled someday when Jesus returns as the King to establish the Millennium, which is a specific period of time when Christ will defeat earth's foes and prepares the earth for the Eternal State. The 1,000 years will eventually usher in the eternal reign and Kingdom, which was a promise given to David.

Psalm 132:11-12 gives this very clear promise:

"The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy (David's) throne. If thy children will keep My covenant and My testimony that I shall teach them, their children (future kings) shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore."

The Davidic Covenant was unconditional as far as God was concerned since it promised David a throne forevermore and a descendant to sit upon it forever. God is saying, "It will happen in this way. You can bank on it." The Davidic Covenant is unconditional because God does not place any conditions of obedience upon its fulfillment. But in order to receive and enjoy the blessings of this covenant, Israel must be obedient. Of course, historically Israel has failed God repeatedly, but someday God will give them a new heart (Ezek. 11:19; 36:26) so they can experience the blessings of the unconditional promises of the Davidic Covenant which God gave to David long ago.

In a very practical way, God in His faithfulness also promises to give us an abundant life (John 10:10). But we must tap into this blessing if we want to experience it. The same was true for Israel. To experience the blessings of the Davidic Covenant, God's people must be obedient. This spiritual principle has never changed. Blessings flow into our lives when we obey God and put first things first. If we want to really know God's true blessing, then keep your life in spiritual order and you can be sure that you will have God's true blessing.

Here is the point. God is faithful to His promises and someone from the Davidic dynasty will sit on the throne of Israel forever and this will be Jesus Christ (the Son of David). God had promised perpetual seed in the line of David ("thine house ... for ever" - 2 Samuel 7:16). God promised David that He would raise up a dynasty of David's descendants that would follow him on Israel's throne ("thy throne ... for ever"). In fact, the promise of kings coming out of Abraham's seed is thus being fulfilled in David's dynasty.

Genesis 17:6

"And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee."

We know that the Lord Jesus was born "of the house and lineage of David" (Luke 2:4). Christ bears the unique right to sit upon the throne of David, and during His one-thousand-year reign upon this earth, He will do just this. The aspects of preserving a seed to reign on the throne and the fact that Christ will reign on David's throne someday is based upon God's faithful covenant promise. But again, if the children of Israel wanted to receive the blessings of this covenant during their times, they needed to remain faithful to God's law. If they were faithful to the Lord, He would give them an unbroken succession of kings reigning on the throne. But many of the kings in David's line did not fulfill this condition (obedience to God) and at one point it appeared that the line of David would be obliterated (2 Chronicles 22:10). Yet, the line of David's dynasty was preserved, through the miraculous grace of God. This is because God is faithful to His promise (Gen. 3:15; 2 Sam. 7:16) even though God's people were not faithful to Him.

Matthew 1:1 records:

“The book of the generation (genealogy) of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

Zechariah and Isaiah also envisioned a day when Jesus as the King would fulfill the Davidic Covenant and sit upon the throne of David and when Jerusalem and the Jews would be the centerpiece of the world one again.

Zechariah 8:23

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days (the days of the Millennium) *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations (all the different countries of the earth), even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you (to Jerusalem to worship the King): for we have heard *that God is with you.*”

We have heard that God is with you! What do people hear about you and this church? Do they realize that God is with us by our attitudes, our Christlikeness, and our Gospel witness? Do they see a difference in our lives? The entire millennial earth will realize that God is with saved Israel during the 1,000 years.

This speaks of the prominence and respect that the Jewish people will have during the coming Millennial Kingdom. The Jewish people will be raised to a level of universal or worldwide respect during the Millennium. During the Millennium, the Jews will be the channel of blessing to the world. This verse and others reveal that many nations will come to Jerusalem to worship during the Millennium and embrace the Jewish King who is Jesus (Zech. 14:16–19; Isa. 2:3).

Maryville, Tennessee, boasts of a house built "to last a thousand years." The house was built of marble, stone and concrete by Mr. and Mrs. William Nichols. It took nine years to build. There are no nails in any part of the house. Except for doors, door facings, and parts of the windows, there is no wood. Even the bathtub is concrete. Some walls are five feet thick. The owners built the house to last through the Millennium, which they believe will come through the reign of Christ.

Do you believe in the literal Millennium? We should because the Scriptures do not allegorize the future prophecy regarding David sitting on the throne in Jerusalem during the Millennium.

Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of the literal fulfillment of David's covenant during the Millennium and the Eternal State: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given (*Christmas and Christ's first coming*): and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (*Millennium and Christ's Second Coming*). Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be no end*, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice (*this envisions the Millennium*) from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

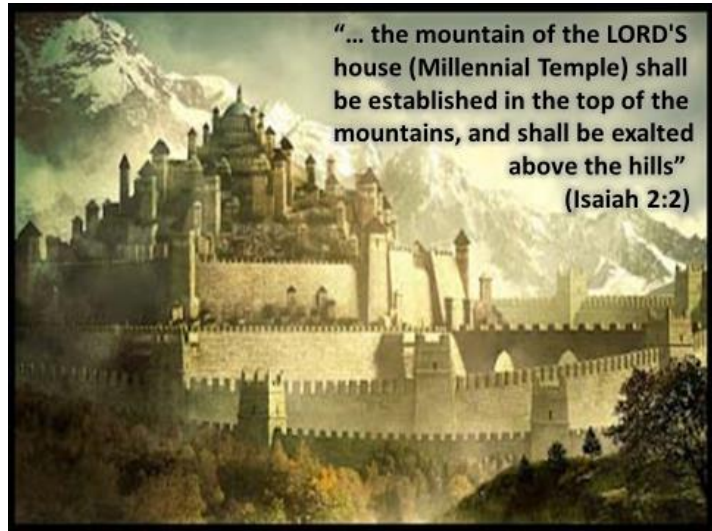


Christ did not reign upon the throne of David during His first coming but the prophecy jumps from the first coming to the Second Coming and envisions Christ ruling on David's throne in Jerusalem. We know that Isaiah is talking about the time of the Millennium in this verse for Revelations 20 reveals that there will be 1,000 years established on earth prior to the Eternal State. So, when

Isaiah says that there will be "no end" to Christ's reign his prophecy would by necessity include the Millennium (the initial phase of the Eternal State) and then merge into the Eternal State.

Isaiah is the great millennial prophet. Isaiah and Old Testament prophets with their predictions did not have the information regarding the timing of the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-6) and so their predictions would necessarily include the Millennium which would then merge into the Eternal State. The New Testament reveals the 1,000 years that will be established over the earth which is the time when Jesus will take back the Satanocracy and establish the rule of God over the earth. Isaiah certainly envisioned this time when Israel will be living during the Millennium and enjoying God's covenant blessings.

Isaiah 2:1-4 anticipates the Jews and Jerusalem as the center of the millennial earth in fulfillment of God's covenant program with David: "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem (Israel in Jerusalem during Millennium). And it shall come to pass in the last days (the days related to Israel's blessing in the Kingdom), that the mountain of the LORD'S



house (Millennial Temple) shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills (Jerusalem will be literally lifted up due to topography changes - Zech. 14:10); and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion (Jerusalem which sits on Zion's hill) shall go forth the law (the kingdom law of the Millennium), and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations (existing during the Millennium), and shall rebuke many people (for any wrongdoing): and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (peace will be restored for 1,000 years during the Millennium).

It seems that Jerusalem's elevation could be taken literally due the topography changes that occur one earth during the close of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 16:18-20).

Zechariah 14:10

"All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and *from* the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses."

I tend to agree with this literal analogy. But the Bible also teaches that the Biblical imagery for mountains can also refer to kingdoms and there is support for this

(Dan.2:35; Rev. 17:9-10). Many premillennial scholars feel this could also be a reference to Israel ruling over the kingdoms of the millennial earth. Therefore, the Bible is teaching that Jerusalem will be established in “the top of the mountains” (the larger kingdoms of this world) and “exalted above the hills” (smaller kingdoms). However, it seems that the mountain and kingdom analogy is not present in these verses. There is nothing in the texts that would reveal that there is a figurative understanding of these mountains. Therefore, I believe that the literal elevated city of Jerusalem (Zech. 14:10) which is called “the mountain of the Lord’s house” will also become a symbol of the ruling power of the entire earth during the Millennial Kingdom. Jerusalem has a prophetic destiny that cannot be denied.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem!  
Hark! How the Angels sing,  
Hosanna in the highest,  
Hosanna to your King!"

It is very clear that these predictions can only be fulfilled in the Millennium, Christ’s 1,000-year reign on the earth. Because of God’s covenant promises to Abraham and David, Isaiah knew that Israel will again be in the land and will again have a superior position among the nations. During the Millennium Jerusalem will be the religious and political capital of the world. The Gentile nations will make pilgrimages to Zion for worship the King and for instruction. The King will rule the earth with a rod of iron and maintain peace within the entire world. No rebellion will be tolerated and will be dealt with immediately. The King’s laws or righteousness will be worldwide in scope and implementation.

Psalm 48:1-2 prophetically anticipates this same thing:

“Great *is* the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God (Jesus as the ruling Messiah and King in Jerusalem), *in* the mountain of his holiness (this speaks of elevation). Beautiful for situation (elevation), the joy of the whole earth, *is* mount Zion (a synonym for Jerusalem, Mount Zion being a hill in Jerusalem, located just outside the walls of the Old City), *on* the sides of the north, the city of the great King.”

There can be no doubt that Jerusalem will be the city of King Jesus during the Millennium. The prophecies are clear about this. Jerusalem will be elevated in its topography above all other nations and kingdoms (Isa. 2:1-2; Zech. 14:10; Ps.

48:1-2) as a result of the catastrophic earthquake that will occur on planet earth at the close of the Tribulation Period (Rev. 16:19).

In the Old Testament, Zion refers to Jerusalem, the city that David conquered and made a capital of the united kingdom of Israel (1 Chron. 11:5; Ps. 2:6; Isa. 2:3). In a prophetic sense, Zion has reference to Jerusalem as the future capital city of the nation Israel in the Kingdom age (Isa. 1:27; 2:3; 4:1–6; Joel 3:16; Zech. 1:16–17; 8:3–8; Rom. 11:26), a city that Jesus Christ will rebuild and which will become the capital city and envy of the Millennial earth.

One of the things that intrigued me when I was younger was building model airplanes, cars, and trucks. You would get hundreds of pieces in a box and glue and snap them together. I don't know if they are popular today. I remember how sometimes I would get real excited about building a particular model but then the excitement would wear off and the model airplane would sit unfinished for a very long time. Sometimes I never would finish them. Well, it won't be like this when it comes to rebuilding the structure of Jerusalem and its surrounding walls during the Millennium.

Psalm 51:18 prophetically states:

“Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.”

Psalm 102:16 envisions the same thing:

“When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.”

Psalm 147:2 also states:

“The Lord doth build up Jerusalem: he gathereth together the outcasts of Israel.”

The Messiah will rebuild the walls and the city of Jerusalem into a glorious edifice for the Millennial Kingdom. Ezekiel envisions this in his prophetic writings when speaking of the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the future millennial temple (Ezekiel 40-48) which follows the temples of Solomon, Zerubbabel, Herod. Ezekiel's temple description is not a description of a temple that was built before but is one that will be built in Jerusalem during the perfect spiritual and political conditions to prevail during the Kingdom Age (Isa. 11; 35; 60; Zech. 14:8–20).



The old spiritual is taken from these millennial verses. I was involved with a Gospel singing group back in 1983 and we actually sang this song throw-out our entire summer travels.

Great day!  
Great day, the righteous marching  
Great day!  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
  
Chariot rode on the mountain top  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
My God spoke and the chariot stop  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
This is the day of jubilee  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
  
The Lord has set His people free  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
We want no cowards in our band  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
We call for valiant hearted men  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
  
Going to take my breast-plate, sword and shield  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
And march boldly in the field  
God's going to build up Zion's walls.  
Great day, Great day the righteous marching,  
Great day, God's going to build up Zion's wall."

Yes, what a great day it's going to be! The walls of Jerusalem will be rebuilt and the city of Jerusalem will become a place of beauty and magnificence during the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. All of this will occur in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant.



The "Wailing Wall" is an ancient limestone wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. This small segment of the western wall is believed to be what was left of Solomon's original Temple after its destruction. The Western Wall is considered holy due to its connection to the Temple Mount. Hundreds of prayers are put into the cracks of the wall. There is even a place you can send your prayer and they will put it in the

wall for you. Someday Jesus as the King is going to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and turn Jerusalem into a place of beauty. There will be no cracks in the wall in this coming day! It's from this place (Jerusalem) that Jesus will rule and promote peace throughout the earth. Jerusalem will no longer be a place of wailing but tremendous joy and blessing for the Jewish people and the whole millennial earth.

David's throne will be established in Jerusalem and a new millennial temple will be rebuilt. Psalm 46:4 prophetically anticipates the rebuilt city of Jerusalem with the Jewish people enjoying their covenant promises:



“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.” This is the earthly place of Zion, the city of Jerusalem. It is the place where the King is going to reign (“the tabernacles of the most High”). A millennial river (not portrayed in any of the previous earthly temples) will flow out of

Jerusalem during the Millennium. It will make Jerusalem glad and full of rejoicing. The Bible prophetically teaches that there will be a life-giving river flowing from the temple during the Millennial Kingdom. This has never occurred historically but it will occur prophetically during the day of the Millennium.

Ezekiel 47:1-12 gives an amazing prophecy:

“Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house (the rebuilt millennial temple); and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house *stood toward* the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south *side* of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side (this will be an actual geographical river).

“And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits (1,750 feet), and he brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the ankles (ankle deep). Again he measured a thousand (1,750 feet), and brought me through the waters; the waters *were* to the knees (knee deep). Again he measured a thousand (1,750 feet), and brought me through; the waters *were* to the loins (waist deep). Afterward he measured a thousand (1,750 feet); *and it was* a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over (at one point the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in a river that no one could walk across). And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen *this*?

Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink (bank) of the river. Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river *were* very many trees on the one side and on the other. Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea (Dead Sea): *which being* brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed (the Dead Sea will be healed of its salty condition and be made into a salt-free fresh water source) And it shall come to pass (prophecy), *that* every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish (the once lifeless body of water will support life), because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, *that* the fishers shall stand

upon it from Engedi (a place about half way down the shore of the Dead Sea) even unto Eneglaim (unknown place near the Dead Sea); they shall be a *place* to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many.

The Dead Sea gets its name because it is a sea without life. There are no plants, fish, or any other visible life in the sea. Its salt concentration is a staggering 33.7%, 8.6 times saltier than ocean water, which is only about 3.5% salt. As a result, the Sea is famous for its body buoyancy properties, as people who take an exploratory dip generally find themselves riding high on its waters.

## Everything will Live Wherever the Stream Goes!



As this new river enters the Dead Sea, the water there will become fresh. The Dead Sea, now some six times saltier than the ocean, will become completely salt-free when these living waters from God's millennial temple run into it. This is truly a miracle of God! This now-lifeless body of water will then support life so that where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will crowd the shores to catch many kinds of fish there.

Ezekiel 47:11 continues with this amazing prophecy:

But the miry places (swamps) thereof and the marishes (marshes around the lowlands of the Dead Sea) thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt (so the people can obtain salt to help meet the people's needs since salt is essential to life, and the Dead Sea area is Israel's chief source of salt. God will provide for all of Israel's needs). And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat (yield fruit for eating), whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed (since it will grow in such abundance): it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat (eating purposes), and the leaf thereof for medicine (medical healing).

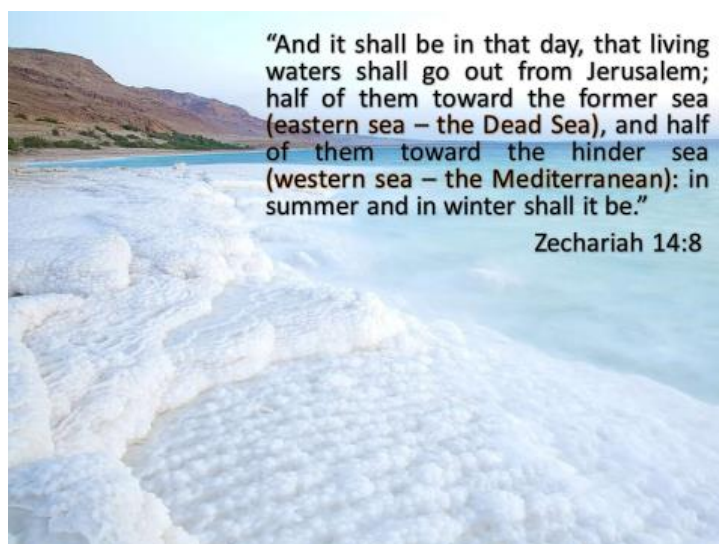
How healing will come from the leaves is not clear, but sickness will be eliminated during the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 35:6). It's clear that God will use these trees to meet people's physical needs.

Of course, nothing like this has ever happened during Israel's history. All of this speaks of a fantastic future for national Israel. These statements cannot be allegorized to speak of general blessings of God and His presence among the people. We must believe what the Bible says. There is no reason to not take this temple prophecy literally unless you are biased in your eschatology, rejecting the Millennium and God's future plan for Israel.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary says this:

"One feature in the Millennium will be a life-giving river flowing from the temple. Many think this refers only symbolically to the blessings that flow from God's presence. But nothing in the passage suggests that Ezekiel had anything in mind other than a literal river. The inclusion of details such as the fishermen (v. 10) and the salty swamps and marshes (v. 11) lend a touch of realism to the passage. These details become meaningless if the passage is only symbolic of spiritual blessing. Joel had mentioned this river before Ezekiel's time (cf. Joel 3:18), and Zechariah spoke of it after Israel returned from the Babylonian Captivity (cf. Zech. 14:8). In the Millennium this river will be another visible reminder of God's presence and blessing."

Zechariah recorded that the water flowing from Jerusalem will divide, with half flowing east toward the Dead Sea and half flowing west toward the Mediterranean.





Ezekiel followed only the branch that went toward the east but Zechariah says another branch of the millennial river will run west into the Mediterranean.



Joel 3:18 also prophesied of this future Millennial River coming out of the Jerusalem's temple: "And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim."

Here is the point. Jerusalem will be rebuilt, restored, and revitalized in every way during the Millennium.

Isaiah 12:6

"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion (Jerusalem): for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."

Isaiah 24:23

"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously."

Yes, Jesus will rule in the earthly Zion (Jerusalem) in answer to the Davidic Covenant. This will occur during the Millennium.

Jeremiah 3:17

“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.”

Ezekiel 48:35

“It was round about eighteen thousand measures: and the name of the city from that day shall be, The Lord is there.”

Zephaniah 3:14-17

“Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord hath taken away thy judgments (judgments related to the Tribulation Period), he hath cast out thine enemy (the beast of Antichrist): the king of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: and to Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.”

Israel will be filled with joy during the Millennial Kingdom because she will have been rescued from the Great Tribulation judgments and their enemy of foe (the Antichrist). When King Jesus sits upon the Davidic throne in Jerusalem, God will once again be in the midst of the nation. God is described as the One who delivers the Jews from all their enemies and their sins, who rejoices over His people, who loves the Jews, and who finds great delight or joy in His people. Like a bridegroom, the Messiah will take joy in His people Israel, and they will rest quietly in the security of His love for them as His bride. Yahweh will shout with joy over His beloved Israel!

Micah 4:7

“... and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.”

Psalm 99:1-2 also anticipates Christ's reign in Jerusalem:

"The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all the people."

No person reading these straightforward statements of the prophetic Scriptures could ever deny that Jesus is coming back as King and is going to sit upon the throne of His ancestor David in the capital city of Jerusalem, which in this coming day will be a rebuilt city full of splendor and magnificence. Or can they?

One day Dr. Renald Showers, a well-known premillennialist who is now with the Lord, shared with me how he was teaching on the subject of God blessing Israel in the Millennial Kingdom. He told me that after the service a man walked down the aisle and said that if he ever preached on this subject again, he would personally punch him in the nose! Of course, not every amillennialist takes this approach to those who oppose their eschatology. Thank the Lord.

Let's believe what the Bible says. Someday Israel and the city of Jerusalem are going to experience a wonderful time of prosperity and peace. It will be during the Millennium. It's interesting that the name "Jerusalem" means "city of peace." Today Jerusalem is certainly not a city of peace. It is a city of continuing war, conflict, and bloodshed. But in the coming day it's going to be a city of peace for the Prince of Peace will rule from this rebuilt city and enforce His program of peace, not only in Jerusalem, but throughout the millennial earth. Christ will establish Jerusalem as a place of preeminence politically and spiritually during the Millennial Kingdom.

Here is the point of our study. Without Christ's return and earthly reign over His national people Israel, in the land of Palestine, God would break His unconditional promises given to Israel. But this is impossible for Paul asks, "Hath God cast away his people?" and then answers with these words: "God forbid" (Rom. 11:1). He goes on to say, "For the gifts and the calling of God are without repentance" (Rom. 11:29). God has not abandoned His national people Israel. He will not break His covenant promises to them. Therefore, there must yet be a literal Messianic reign of Christ on earth, where He will rule Israel and give the Jews their land, and this time period is promised in the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-6).



Beloved, believe the Bible! There must be a Millennium over which Jesus Christ will rule His people (national Israel) on the throne of David in Jerusalem. This must come to pass or God's promises to David are meaningless. But all will come to pass just as God promised.

Luke 1:32-33 declares:

"He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David (the Millennium): And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (the merging of Millennium into the Eternal State).

This promise coincides with Isaiah 9:6-7 and echoes the same truth that was taught in the Old Testament regarding Jesus Christ. He will reign on David's throne in the city of Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom and continue to reign throughout the Eternal State. The Millennium is the intermediate reign when Christ restores the theocracy on earth and puts all things under His feet (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Again, all of this is placed in the future ("shall give" and shall reign") as in Revelation 3:21. Christ's reign on the throne of David has not happened historically but it will happen prophetically, when Jesus returns as the King and inaugurates the Millennium, which will eventually lead into the Eternal state. The Millennium (1,000 years) begins the literal fulfillment of the land promises given to Israel which will eventually transfer into the eternal kingdom. This is what Revelation 21-22 teaches which follows the Millennium (Rev. 20:7).

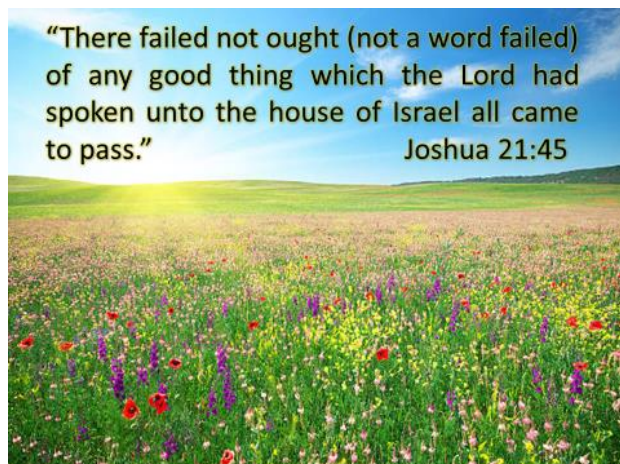
Although in Israeli hands, the temple area is occupied by the Muslim Mosque known as "The Dome of the Rock," otherwise known as the "Mosque of Omar" (since it was built by Omar after his conquest of Palestine in AD 636). This mosque is the second most sacred Mohammedan shrine (Mecca being the first). One thing is certain, when Jesus returns to reign in Jerusalem as the King, there will be no more Muslim mosque in Jerusalem. King Jesus will not allow it!

The Scriptures are very clear on this matter. Christ is going to someday reign on David's throne so Israel can experience all of her covenant promises in total fulfillment. This will occur during the Millennium and in eternity. But in spite of all the clearly revealed evidence, avowed amillennialists, who disbelieve in a literal Jewish Millennium, where Christ rules over Israel, will sometimes use several verses in the Old Testament to prove that Jewish covenant promises have already

been fulfilled in Israel's past. For this reason, they claim that God has no future obligation with Israel. He is finished with Israel's covenant program and these historically fulfilled covenants are essentially irrelevant today. This means the Church (the new spiritual Israel) has therefore replaced Israel in the plan and purpose of God.

Joshua 21:43-45 is a passage often misconstrued by amillennialists:

“And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land which he sware to give unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and dwelt therein. And the Lord gave them rest round about, according to all that he sware unto their fathers: and there stood not a man of all their enemies before them; the Lord delivered all their enemies into their hand. There failed not ought of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass.”



These verses in Joshua 21:43-45 have sometimes been misinterpreted by those who reject premillennialism, a literal Millennium that Christ establishes after His Second Coming, a time when Christ will rule from Jerusalem over His national people Israel. They will use these verses as proof texts that Israel in the past (historically) has come into her promised covenant blessings and

therefore, since her rebellion against God, He is no longer obligated to bless Israel in the future.

Hank Hanegraaff states:

“All the promises to Israel have already been fulfilled according to Joshua 21:43-45.”

These specific verses are misconstrued by anti-Zionists and amillennialists to mean that Israel has already experienced her full covenant promises and that these promises have been historically fulfilled, while Israel ruled in the land of Palestine, during olden days. But this cannot be true for several reasons.

- a. Israel did not possess all of the land (Judges 1:19, 21, 27-36; 2:1-3).
- b. Israel did not possess it forever (Gen. 13:15; 17:7-8; 2 Sam. 7:16).

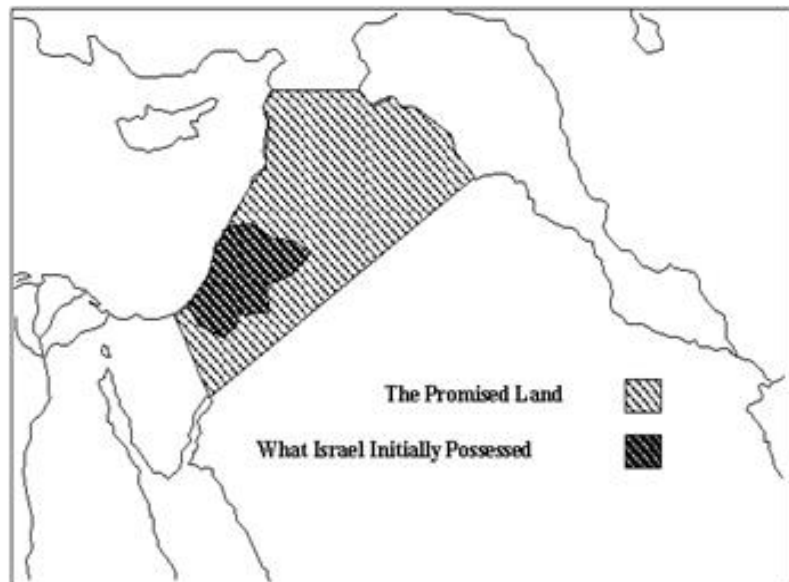
Now let's consider Joshua 21:43 with some running commentary:

“And the Lord gave unto Israel all the land (*this means all the land that they had acquired up to this point of time, even though it was not a total and permanent indwelling within the land*) which he swore to give unto their fathers (*this is referring to God's original promise which was the basis for the land that they did acquire*); and they possessed it (*Israel's status in that day – their partial possession of the land which they had conquered*), and dwelt therein.”

Joshua 21:45 adds:

“There failed not ought (not a word failed) of any good thing which the Lord had spoken unto the house of Israel (God's original promise to Israel that they would inherit the Promised Land); all came to pass” (everything that God ordained to come to pass for Israel at this particular time and phase in Jewish history, which was entering the land and partially conquering and possessing the land).

God's original promise to Abraham was certainly true in relationship to the way He chose to bless Israel *historically* when they originally entered the land (Numbers 34), but it was not true *prophetically* (Isa. 9:6). This is because there will be a final, full, and eternal blessing that Israel would receive someday in the land of Palestine. This verse never once suggests that Israel possessed all of the land, nor could it mean that Israel experienced the eternal promise of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. Nevertheless, some theologians still insist that the statement in Joshua 21:43 means that the promises related to these covenants were fulfilled during Joshua's day. However, Joshua 21:43 obviously refers to a *partial possession* of the land but



not to the *permanent* and *prophetic* possession of the land, as it will be in the messianic kingdom (Gen. 15:18-21). During this particular era and phase of Israel's history, they did not reach the extent originally promised to Abraham. The chart gives us the partial possession of the land that Israel initially experienced historically in the days of Joshua.

It should be noted that long after Joshua's day and time, the Bible gives additional predictions about Israel possessing the land, indicating that Israel did not possess all the land that God promised and fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant promises.

Some amillennialists also suggest that the covenant of David was fulfilled historically during Solomon's temple and his reign.

They base this on 1 Kings 4:21:

"And Solomon reigned over all kingdoms (but did not possess them) from the river unto the land of the Philistines, and unto the border of Egypt: they brought presents (paid tribute), and served Solomon all the days of his life."

1 Kings 4:24 adds:

"For he had dominion (but did not possess) over all *the region* on this side the river, from Tiphseh even to Azzah, over all the kings on this side the river: and he had peace on all sides round about him."

It is quite clear that there was not a permanent possession of the land as promised to Abraham (Gen. 13:15) during Solomon's reign nor was it an eternal reign as promised in the Davidic Covenant (2 Sam. 7:16). In fact, hundreds of years after Solomon's time the Scriptures still abound in promises concerning future possession of the land.

In addition, Solomon's domain stretched from the Euphrates River (1 Kings 4:24) on the east and north to the land of the Philistines on the west and Egypt to the southwest. This does not mean that the Abrahamic and Palestinian Covenants were fulfilled in Solomon's day (Gen. 15:18-21). First, the "river of Egypt" (Gen. 15:18) and "border of Egypt" (1 Kings 4:21) are not the same. Second, it's very clear that not all the territory mentioned in 1 Kings 4:21 was incorporated into the geographic boundaries of Israel. Many of the kingdoms subject under Solomon retained their national identity and territory but paid taxes (tribute) to Solomon.

Israel's own geographic limits were "from Dan to Beersheba" (1 Kings 4:25). All of this means that Solomon's reign did not fully and finally fulfill the Abrahamic, Palestinian, or Davidic Covenant promises. There was partial but not complete fulfillment as promised in the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants.

The Covenant promises dealt with Israel possessing the full measure of the Promised Land and possessing it forever. These statements in Joshua and 1 Kings have not exhausted the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant. In Joshua 23:5, Joshua indicated that there was more land that the Israelites needed to possess. In Joshua 24:1–28 he urged the people to commit themselves anew to the Mosaic Covenant, so they might experience further blessings that God had promised their forefathers. These passages confirm that Joshua did not mean by his statement that Israel had already possessed all that God had promised his forefathers. However, there is coming a day and time when Israel will possess all the land forever and this begins during the Millennium (1,000-year reign) and merges into the Eternal State.

Isaiah 60:20-21

"Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended. Thy people also shall be all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified."

Amos 9:14-15

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God."

Even when God judged Israel by scattering her among the nations, it was only a temporary loss of occupancy, not a termination of ownership for Israel. God has future plans for this nation. The prophets, long after Joshua's day, foretold that in the future a redeemed group of Jews (Israel) would inherit the land of Palestine forever (Isaiah 11:11-16; 14:1-3; 27:12-13; 43:5-7; 48:8-16; 60:20-21; 66:20-22; Jer. 3:17-18; 16:14-16; 23:5-8; 30:3, 10-11; 31:8, 31-37; Ezek. 11:17-21; 20:33-38; 34:11-16; 37:1-4; 13-14, 21, 24-25; 39:25-29; Hosea 1:10-11; 3:4-5; Joel 3:17-21;

Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:4-7; 7:20; Zeph. 3:14-20; Zech. 8:4-8; Matt. 24:31; Rom. 11:25-26).

In February 1896, Theodore Herzl, a brilliant Austrian journalist, published a pamphlet called "The Jewish State." It swept through the Jewish world like a tornado. Within a few months, Zionist groups were springing up in Jewish communities everywhere. The pamphlet advocated a Jewish nation in a Jewish national land. It stated: "We shall live at last as free men on our own soil."

Someday Israel will be saved as a nation (Romans 11:26-27), be given a new heart (Ezekiel 36:26), as promised by the New Covenant, and enter into the eternal blessing of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants. They will experience the full dimensions of the land promised by the Abrahamic Covenant and be eternally blessed by God. We must never forget that God promised Israel and David that the throne would be established "forever" (2 Sam 7:12-16) in Jerusalem, which, though destroyed (Dan. 9:26; Matt 24:2; Luke 21:6), would one day be restored and become a place of prominence in the world (Isa. 2:1-5; Jer. 31:38-40; Ezek. 37:26-28; Zech. 14:11-16). Again, it's very clear that none of these prophecies and promises were fulfilled in Joshua's day, since Jerusalem did not yet belong to Israel.

While a covenant may be ratified, signed and sealed at a specific point of time, this does not mean that every provision immediately goes into effect. Some go into effect immediately, others in the near future, and others in the distant future. God is going to bring the Jews into an eternal and everlasting possession of their land someday. The Bible is unmistakably clear on this.

Isaiah 51:11

"Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return (return to Palestine after the long dispersion among the Gentile nations), and come with singing unto Zion (to the newly rebuilt Jerusalem); and everlasting joy *shall be* upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; *and* sorrow and mourning shall flee away."

There are hundreds of other promises to Israel contained in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel, which were not given until centuries after Joshua's day. Furthermore, many of these promises involve a future for Israel, as a national

people, in the land of Palestine, receiving the eternal blessing of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants.

Psalm 48:2

"Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King."

These prophetic predictions can only mean that the land promises of the Abrahamic Covenant and throne promises of the Davidic Covenant were never completely fulfilled historically during Joshua's day. That all of Israel's land promises have forever been fulfilled in Joshua's day does not make common sense or Biblical sense.

John Calvin himself, an avowed amillennialist, says,

"How then can these two things be reconciled, that God, as he had promised, gave possession of the land to the people, and yet they were excluded from some portion by the power or obstinate resistance of the enemy?"

Calvin himself does not see this fulfilling God's land obligations to Israel. The astonishing claim that all of God's promises to Israel had already been fulfilled in Joshua's day reveals the depths of the delusion that grips those who insist that Israel no longer has any significance in God's purposes.

In the museum in Cairo there is a stone about ten feet high by six feet wide... Of black granite, it has an inscription on one side. It was made in the days of the son of Rameses the Second. That carries us back about fourteen hundred years B.C. On the stone Pharaoh, in a very proud way, and in poetical phrases, relates his victories. The inscription ends with these words. "Israel is annihilated; Israel will have no posterity." But that proud Pharaoh did not know Jehovah, and did not know that the everlasting plan of Jehovah was that He would never allow His people to be annihilated but continue to exist and one day be ruled by the Messiah in their own homeland.

Without the literal and national fulfillment of Israel's covenant promises, during the Millennium, when the Messiah rules over Israel in the land of Palestine, God would break His unconditional covenant promises, which is impossible for Him to

do. In the New Testament, the writer of Hebrews confirms the future fulfillment of God's Abrahamic Covenant promise on the basis that God is true and not a liar!

Hebrews 6:17-18

"Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise (the messianic salvation promise - Gen. 22:18) the immutability of his counsel (the Abrahamic Covenant), confirmed (guaranteed) *it* by an oath: That by two immutable things (God's oath and His word), in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."

The Bible declares in Romans 11:29:

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

These gifts and calling relate to Israel and her God-given calling and her special privileges received from God through her covenant program (Rom. 9:4-5). This means that what God has ordained is irrevocable. It cannot and will not be rescinded. God has not changed His mind about His plans and purposes with Israel. Once God has made an unconditional promise, He never goes back on it. We must believe that God will do what He set out to do and finish what He promised to do for His ancient people Israel. There must be a Millennium or else God is a liar and will not fulfill His unconditional promises given to Israel in the land of Palestine. Yes, there will be a Millennium where saved Israel enjoys her eternal New Covenant salvation promises and her Abrahamic Covenant land promises.

Romans 11:26-27

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob (leaving only a saved remnant of Jews). For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

The whole idea of anti-Zionist, Reformed, Replacement Theology, which concludes that God has given up on Israel and that the Church of today has replaced Israel forever, is an absolute travesty on God's covenant program, His unalterable Word, and His own unchanging character. God is not finished with His national people Israel. The Church has not replaced Israel in the plan and purpose of God.



Romans 11:1 is worth repeating:

“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.”

Here are some important application notes that we can take home with us after studying about God’s covenant program with Israel.

- If God cannot be trusted to carry out His covenant program with Israel, then how can we trust God to keep His promises to us?
- Have you been doubting God’s promises which He has given to you?
- Why should you cast doubt upon God when you see that He is always faithful to His promises?
- Since God is always true to His promises, why don’t you claim the specific promise you need today for your life?

Malachi 3:6 says, “For I *am* the LORD, I change not ...” This means that God cannot lie, He is always faithful to His promises, and you can depend upon Him today.

Thomas Obediah Chisholm was born in a log cabin in Franklin, Kentucky in 1866. He received his education in a little country schoolhouse, and at age 16 began teaching there. He was saved at age 27, and with no college or seminary training was ordained to the Methodist ministry at age 36. He served as a Methodist minister for a year, but ill health made it impossible for him to continue. He moved to Vineland, New Jersey, where he opened an insurance office.

Always interested in poetry, Chisholm wrote hundreds of poems during his lifetime. Lamentations 3:22-23 inspired him to write the text for “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” These verses read, “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”

Chisholm experienced God’s faithfulness. He suffered ill health most of his adult life, and never made much money, but he said, “God has given me many wonderful displays of His providing care which have filled me with astonishing gratefulness.”

Why must there be a Millennium? There is a final reason why the Millennium must be established on earth.

#### **IV. Because the New Testament teaches it.**

There must be a Millennium, since the New Testament Scriptures clearly teach that there will be a specific time, when Messiah rules over the earth, prior to the Eternal State. There are two extended prophetic teachings about the Millennium in the New Testament. The process of prophetic revelation reveals more truth to New Testament saints about the timing and length of the King's rule.

There are two specific New Testament passages (Revelation 20:1-6 and 1 Corinthians 15:24-28) that help us to understand that the fulfillment of the covenant promises (Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, New) will come to pass in part during an earthly Millennium, a 1,000-year reign of Christ over the earth, which is the time when Christ changes the earth from a Satanocracy to a theocracy once again. Only an amillennialist with an axe to grind could miss the clear and literal teaching of these Bible texts that we are about to study in more detail.

The TEACHING about the Millennium occurs in the Old Testament but the TIME designation of the Millennium is given in the New Testament. This is called progressive revelation. God does not reveal all of His truth at once or at the same time. Therefore, in Revelation 20:1-6, a genre dealing specifically with prophetic writings, we discover for the very first time a time element that is associated with the prophesied Kingdom. The initial phase of God's future kingdom program, which leads into the eternal Kingdom, will last 1,000 years. This is why Christ's earthly reign has been historically called a Millennium.

Douglas Bookman has correctly observed:

"Clearly, the 1,000-year Kingdom of Revelation 20 must be understood as the initial stage of the everlasting Kingdom to be ruled over by Messiah Jesus. ... God's Word clearly reveals an initial stage."

There are important teachings about the Millennium in various New Testament prophetic texts.

## I. The Revelation 20 millennial passage

In this text we see two specific events associated with the Millennium.

### A. The rule of Satan ends (Revelation 20:1-3)

We are not “one-text” and “one stop” premillennialists as some suggest. We have seen how many Old and New Testament passages support Premillennialism (Christ returning to establish a literal earthly kingdom). Revelation is another text among many others, which promotes this Biblical truth. In Revelation 20, the time element is emphasized, which adds new revelation to what was previously revealed and promised concerning the Millennium.

Revelation 20:1-3

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”



In these verses, we discover that during the literal 1,000 year-reign of Jesus Christ, Satan will be bound in the abyss and will no longer be free to exercise his diabolical schemes over the earth. The “angel” who has a key to the bottomless pit is seen locking the devil into this compartment. The binding of Satan in the abyss is described as a time when God will “chain” (confine Satan) “shut him up”

(imprisonment), and “set a seal upon him.” God will put a lid on Satan! What a great day this will be! The threefold description of chaining, imprisonment, and sealing all indicate the confining of Satan throughout the Millennium. These expressions guarantee that Satan won’t be released to do any devilish deeds for

1,000 years. What a glorious time this will be. No devil! The earth will be devil proof!

The bottomless pit (abyss) is a literal place where Satan will be literally bound. To interpret it allegorically is to disbelieve what the Bible is actually teaching about Satan's future incarceration. The Bible reveals elsewhere that the angels, who committed the crime in Genesis chapter 6, are bound in chains, which is obviously the same place where Satan will someday be bound (Jude vs. 6). The Bible also declares in the Old Testament that the devil and demons will not be allowed to roam on earth during the Millennial Kingdom. They will be bound in the abyss.

Zechariah 13:2 prophetically states:

“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”

These verses teach that the bottomless pit is a literal place where Satan will someday be incarcerated or bound along with other angelic demon spirits. Somewhere deep in the center of the earth a prison cell has been reserved for a special prisoner. The Bible clearly teaches that Satan and his demons will be incarcerated in the future in this specific location. However, those who follow Augustine instead of John's teaching, conclude otherwise. Reformed Theology rejects the Biblical truth of a literal Millennium over the earth and therefore claims that this is not a future binding of Satan that John is speaking about but a present binding of Satan. They claim that this is a binding that occurred when Christ won the victory over Satan at the cross and a binding that is being seen today, as Christ is presently winning the victory over Satan and his evil kingdom, and since Satan cannot stop the Gospel from advancing.

This is an unscriptural conclusion. First, John is clearly revealing prophetic truth, not historical truth. Second, although Jesus Christ defeated Satan at the Cross (Luke 10:18; John 12:31; 16:11), He did not bind him at the cross, nor will He bind him until the beginning of the Millennium. Presently Satan has considerable freedom to attack God's people and to oppose His work and keep the Gospel from penetrating the hearts of lost people (Rev. 2:13; 3:9; Eph. 2:2; 6:10–18; 1 Cor. 16:9; 2. Cor. 4:4; 1 Pet. 5:8; 1 John 5:19). Satan is a defeated foe, but he is still a very active foe, and does great havoc to God's cause and work. A cursory glance at

the above verses reveals that Satan is not bound today in any sense of the imagination.

We can look forward to the time when Satan will be literally cast into the bottomless pit and when the earth will be truly devil proof. A futurist interpretation and End Time understanding of the Book of Revelation reveals that Satan will be literally bound in the abyss. The Book of Revelation was not given to simply teach the struggle between good and evil today (idealism). It was given to inform us of the prophetic path that lies ahead and clearly reveals what is going to take place on planet earth prior to the King's return and after the King's return.

The Millennium occurs in conjunction with Christ's Second Coming (Rev. 19:11-16). Since Christ's Second Coming to earth is literal, then it is logically and Biblically accurate to conclude that Christ's reign over the earth during a Millennium is also literal. Here is something novel. Both Revelation chapter 19 and 20 are literal! In perfect order and sequence, we discover that when the King returns, He will establish a Millennium over the earth. These are events dealing with the future – not with today! To deny the one (the Millennium) should lead a person to logically deny the other (The Second Coming). Let us remember that the burden of proof is always on the one who claims that a certain part of the Bible does not mean what it says!

### **B. The ruling of believers begins (Revelation 20:4-6)**

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them (Church Age saints reigning during the Millennium as previously discussed and understood– Rev. 5:10): and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus (Tribulation saints), and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived (physically) and reigned (physically) with Christ a thousand years (Tribulation saints reigning during the Millennium). But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished (Great White Throne Judgment – Rev. 20:11-15). This is the first resurrection (looking back to the resurrection of Tribulation saints). Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection (a physical resurrection unto life with God): on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

The ruling of believers is also seen in this prophetic text of the Millennium. This Bible text clearly says this physical resurrection results in physically reigning with Christ. The Bible teaches that the saints will be raised from the realm of death to reign and rule with Jesus Christ during the one thousand years. Those who are physically martyred during the coming Tribulation Period are given the promise of being raised physically at Christ's Second Coming to enter the earthly theocracy or Millennium, so they can reign with Jesus Christ over the earth. This same promise is given to Church Age saints earlier (Rev. 2:26).

Revelation 5:10

“And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”

It's interesting that those who reject a literal Millennial Kingdom reign over the earth must allegorize the first resurrection in Revelation 20, by turning it into, what they term, a spiritual resurrection of the soul, allegedly descriptive of regeneration. Amillennialists and Reformed Theology attempt to make the first resurrection a picture of regenerated people (spiritual life – not physical resurrection) in order to escape the reality of literal resurrected people ruling in a literal Millennium over the earth in answer to a literal fulfillment of Israel's covenant program. However, the exegesis and meaning of bodily and physical resurrection cannot be denied without destroying the obvious meaning and intent of this text. If somebody dies physically in the first part of Revelation 20:4, how can it be said in the next line that these same people were raised spiritually? This is exegetical fraud! It is voodoo exegesis. The people died and were raised in the same manner that they died. They died physically and were raised physically.

Alva McClain has observed:

“If the people involved were beheaded physically (Rev. 20:4a), and then lived again (Rev. 20:4b), common sense would suggest that they received back the same category of life that had been lost” (physical life).

In other words, these verses are speaking of resurrection life – not regeneration life. In addition, it must be noted that these martyred people were already God's saints. This means they did not need regenerating life. They already possessed spiritual life before they died, since they were martyred for the cause of Christ.

Once again, in order to escape a literal Millennium, Reformed Theology must get rid of a literal “first” resurrection, so they can get rid of resurrected people ruling in a literal Millennium that occurs in connection with Christ’s Second Coming to earth. One blunder leads to another. Reformed and Augustinian Theology then views the 1,000 years as some kind of symbolic number and a spiritual rule of Christ today in the hearts of God’s people instead of a literal rule over planet earth. Or they sometimes will view this as a reference to Christ ruling His deceased Church in Heaven. Of course, this kind of allegorical interpretation loses the intended meaning and sense that the Spirit wanted to convey when giving this prophecy to John. When believing the simplicity of God’s Word, we discover that the Tribulation saints will be raised bodily and then reign with Christ during the Millennial Kingdom (1,000 years). This is the blessing what lies ahead for these resurrected believers and all believers who have been saved by the Messiah.

## II. The 1 Corinthians 15:23-28 millennial passage

The next passage we want to examine in more detail is very important. It specifically mentions a time on planet earth when the Messiah will overtake all His enemies and foes and place them under His feet. This is the specific intermediate reign of Christ time known as the Millennium, which precedes the Eternal State.

### A. The purpose of the Millennium (1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

Let’s read this set of verses for the first time while emphasizing the purpose for the Millennium which is to restore the earth to a theocracy. This will be highlighted in the running commentary.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28

“Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom (the Millennium) to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet (until Christ officially restores a theocracy on planet earth for 1,000 years). The last enemy *that* shall be

“till he hath put all things under his feet”  
and “put all things under him”  
1 Cor. 15:24-28



destroyed *is* death. For he hath put all things under his feet (the time of the Millennium when God's rule is universally established on earth). But when he saith all things are put under him (the Millennium when all rule and authority is placed under Christ), *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all."

The purpose of Christ's millennial reign is spelled out clearly as a time "when he shall have put down all rule and authority" (vs. 24b); "for he must reign till he put all enemies under his feet" (vs. 25) and "For he must put all things under his feet" (vs. 27a). This is a reign that envisions Jesus Christ taking back the earth for God. During the Millennium, Jesus will suppress all rebellious acts and demonstrate that God is once again in complete control over the earth, in a direct and specific way, through a ruling King. Christ will reign during the 1,000 years in order to place all the bad guys under His heels! In other words, He will reign to demonstrate that He is "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:16).

Psalm 2:8-9 prophetically declares:

"Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

This is not happening today but will happen in the future when the King rules over the earth. Today the police are chasing the bad guys and the bad guys are often winning. Drug lords, communism, and the spread of evil atrocities abound, but it won't be this way during the Millennium (Isa. 2:4). In the future Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will place every enemy on earth under His subjugation and authority and rule as God. This is why there must be a Millennium. There must a specified time period on earth, when this world is restored to a theocracy and returns to the way God intended it to be in the original creation.

Christ's victory over death and Satan results in His present session in Heaven where all things are said to be under Christ's feet (Eph. 1:22). This speaks of Christ possessing total authority over death, hell, the grave, and every spiritual being in the universe. His heavenly position also conveys how Christ transfers His victory to Church Age saints today (Eph. 1:3). But Christ's heavenly authority is not the same



as the earthly authority He will bring to earth during the Millennium. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 speaks of the time (the Millennium) when Christ actually establishes His authority over the earth. It's the time when Christ's authority is brought to earth in a powerful iron rule of righteousness and justice (Psalm 2:9; Isaiah 11:4-6).

**Under His Feet!**



**Authority Delegated:** Christ's Present Session in Heaven results in "all things under his feet" (Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:8a) = *Spiritual blessings* received by the Church (Eph. 1:3; 1:21-22) – our living connection with Christ!



**Authority DELAYED:** "Not yet all things put under him" (Heb. 2:8b) "Until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Ps. 110:1; Heb. 1:13; 10:13)



**Authority DISPLAYED:** Christ's Future Reign on Earth - "all things under his feet" (1 Cor. 15:25, 27; Ps. 2:8) = *Physical reign* on earth during Millennium (the restored theocracy)

It's important that we do not mix Christ's present session in Heaven with His earthly and millennial rule on earth. Certain amillennial authors equate the Millennium in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 with Ephesians 1:22 and arrive at the conclusion that Christ is only ruling His deceased saints in Heaven today (the Millennium) but He will not rule on earth for 1,000 years. Others, such as Progressive Dispensationalists try and inaugurate the Davidic Throne with Christ's reign in Heaven today. Of course, these are errant positions for many reasons. Mainly, these positions create an allegorical reign of Christ which does not fit the literal, grammatical, and historical understanding of the earthly reign. It also fails to make a distinction between Christ's present and future authority. The Bible clearly reveals that there are two distinct thrones where Christ rules – one in Heaven and one on earth during the Millennium (Rev. 3:21). There are also two realms of authority - one in Heaven (Eph. 1:22) and one on earth during the Millennium (Ps. 2:9; 1 Cor. 15:24-28). The authority Christ's possesses in Heaven today qualifies Him to reign over the earth but this authority will not be fully realized until the Millennium.

Ephesians 1:22 reflects upon Christ's heavenly authority today:

"And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church."

Christ possesses complete and full authority today over all created beings as the risen and ascend Lord. Today the Church receives the spiritual benefits from this position of authority and victory (Eph. 1:3, 22-23) but Christ will not visibly and universally manifest this authority over the created order until the Millennium. Yes, Christ possesses authority "not only in this world (as the ascended and heavenly Christ), but also in that which is to come" (Eph. 1:21). This is the timeframe of the Millennium when Jesus returns to earth as the King. The Millennial Kingdom is the next dispensational age that follows the Church Age. Christ receives His authority to reign over the earth as a result of His ascension and defeat of every foe (Eph. 1:20-21), but will not manifest this full authority until the Millennium, when He will rule all nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2:9; Rev. 19:15).

At the present time Christ possesses authority over every created being in the universe, including Satan. His resurrection and ascension crowns Christ with this authority because He defeated death, hell, and the grave and is right now sitting at the right hand of the Heavenly Father (Heb. 1:3). But the full manifestation and revelation of this authority comes to earth when He returns to earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom. Hebrews 2:8 quotes Psalm 8:4-6 and applies it to Christ's present authority: "Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet (through His resurrection and ascension). For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing *that is* not put under him (through Christ's present session in Heaven). But now we see not yet all things put under him" (since Christ has not yet reigned as King over the earth during the Millennium).

Since Hebrews 2:5 references the inhabited earth under Jesus Christ's reign during the Millennium, the author applies Psalm 8 to Christ and His earthly reign. The "son of man" (Hebrews 2:6) is used as a Messianic title for Christ (Dan. 7:13-14). Therefore, Hebrews 2:8 is presented as a picture of Christ's Messianic authority and rule during the Millennium: But you will note that Christ's heavenly authority over all created beings will not be demonstrated until He established the earthly theocracy ("But now we see not yet all things put under him"). Not until the

Millennium will the earth visibly see and experience the full display of Christ's authority over mankind (Ps. 2:8-9; 59:13; Isa. 65:20).

### Christ Rules in 3 Ways

- **As the SOVEREIGN King – 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Psalm 103:19 = Macrocosmic Kingdom** (universal rule over all things)

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- **As the MILLENNIAL King – Rev. 20:1-6 = Microcosmic and Mediatorial Kingdom** (ruling on earth as God's Mediator)

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- **As the ETERNAL King - Micah 4:7; Luke 1:33; Rev. 11:15 = Eternal Kingdom** (ruling earth and universe in eternal state)

In the 1 Corinthians 15 passage, we discover the main purpose for the Millennium. This set of prophetic verses teach that Jesus Christ will reign for 1,000 years to officially demonstrate that He has put down all enemies and rebels on earth. We have mentioned this previously. The one thousand years will be a specific period of time when Jesus Christ, while reigning on earth, takes back

the earth as a theocracy. He will banish Satan (Rev. 20:1-3), place all of His enemies under His authority, and keep all human uprising in check during the Millennium (Ps. 2:8-9; Isa. 11:4; 65:20) for 1,000 years.

First Corinthians 15:24-28 is not referring to Christ's sovereign reign today but a specific reign of Christ that will take place over the earth someday. The wording is such that one cannot come to any other conclusion. First, the Bible teaches there is the sovereign rein of God in Heaven (1 Chron. 29:11-12; Ps. 103:19; 135:6) which is sometimes called the macrocosmic kingdom. Second, there is also a physical reign of Christ over the earth for 1,000 years, which is the mediatorial and microcosmic kingdom where Christ rules as God's mediator over the earth (Rev. 20:1-6). Third, there is the eternal reign of Christ over the earth (Micah 4:7; Luke 1:33; Rev. 11:15) which is identified as the eternal kingdom.

Our passage in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 is definitely referencing the physical and mediatorial phase of God's rule which is His reign over planet earth during the Millennium. It is a rule that occurs prior to the eternal kingdom.

D. Edmond Hiebert agrees when he states:

"It is not only possible but probable that Paul understood this final triumph to take place during the millennial reign of Christ. To sum up the principal evidence,

Paul's use of *epeita* ('after that') and *eita* ('then') in 1 Corinthians 15:23–24, the syntax of 15:24–25, and the parallel use of Psalms 8 and 110 in 1 Corinthians 15 and Hebrews 1 and 2 all point to the understanding that when Paul mentioned a kingdom and reign in 15:24–25, he referred to the reign of Christ on this earth following His return and prior to the eternal state, a time that Revelation 20:4–6 calls 'the thousand years.'

## B. The timing of Christ's millennial reign (1 Corinthians 15:23-24a)

We will now study these verses and emphasize the time element regarding the Millennium. When will the Millennium occur in God's prophetic timeline? The Bible chronologically teaches that the Millennial Kingdom (the 1,000 years) will occur AFTER the Second Coming (Revelation 19:11-20:1-6) and BEFORE the Eternal State begins.

I have prepared some charts that may help you to see how the Millennium fits into the picture before the end of God's resurrection program occurs and eternity begins.



Paul does not seem to be mixing the two comings (Rapture and Revelation) together when he states about "his coming." He normally differentiates the two throughout his writings (2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Thess. 1:7-9). It is prophetically correct that the Old Testament and Tribulation saints will also be resurrected before the Millennium but Paul is not trying to fill in all the details. Instead, he is making a general observation that Christ was raised from the dead and so will the Church Age saints for they are identified as being "in Christ" (1 Cor. 15:21) and as those

who “are Christ’s (1 Cor. 15:23). Only Church Age saints hold this unique position. So, the Rapture and Church Age saints seem to be in Paul’s view who have their unique standing in Christ (“wherein ye stand” – 1 Cor. 15:1). Those who are a part of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27) will one day follow the lead of their Head (Col. 1:18), but will not do so immediately.

Although many dispensationalists view this passage as referencing both comings (Rapture and Second Advent), which would include the resurrections of the Old Testament and Tribulation saints at the Second Coming, there seems to be more evidence pointing to only the Church’s resurrection since they are termed as being “in Christ” and since Paul is addressing Church Age saints. The sense seems to be this. All will be made alive who are “in Christ” (1 Cor. 15:22) and “they that are Christ’s” (1 Cor. 15:23) at the time of the Rapture. Paul also states elsewhere that “they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh” (Gal. 5:24) and seems to use this phrase exclusively for Church Age saints.

The Church’s resurrection seems to be part of a stand-alone “mystery” resurrection (1 Cor. 15:51-52) that was not revealed in the OT. Therefore, there is no need to mention or include the entire resurrection program of other saints at this point. We must fill in the other details from Scripture regarding the resurrection of OT saints and Tribulation saints who are not part of the body of Christ (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:4). Furthermore, the word “coming” can be used exclusively of the Rapture (1 John 2:28; James 5:17; 1 Thess. 5:23). Now let’s look at our next prophetic gap.

### **Gap of Time Between 1 Cor. 15:23 & 24**

**1. Christ’s Resurrection (“the firstfruits”)**

**2. Church’s Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:23)**

**“they that are Christ’s at his coming” = Rapture**



**A Prophetic Gap of Time Occurs  
Between 1 Corinthians 15:23 and 24  
Tribulation Period (Dan. 9:27; Rev. 6-19)  
+ Millennium (Rev. 20:1-6) = 1,007 years**



**3. End of Resurrection Program (Great White Throne)**

**“Then cometh the end” (1 Cor. 15:24)**

**\*Second Resurrection after Millennium – Rev. 20:5\***

1 Corinthians 15:22-24a states: “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **“But every man in his own order** (a resurrection sequence will occur): **Christ the firstfruits; afterward** (after an intervening period of time which is already about 2,000 years = Church Age) **they that are Christ's at his coming** (resurrection of Church Age saints will occur at Rapture) **Then** (after another period of time intervenes - 1,007 years exists between verse 23 and the beginning of verse 24 which is the seven-year Tribulation Period and Millennium]) **cometh the end** (the end of God’s resurrection program as Paul was speaking about in verse 23 – the resurrection to judgment – Rev. 20:11-15), **when** (looking ahead to what occurs after the End) **he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father** (the 1,000 years and it’s official closing with the handing over of the earthly theocracy to the Father); **when** (looking back to what has occurred prior to the “end” which is the time period of the Millennial Kingdom – the 1,000 years) **he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power”** (when Christ will return the earth into a ruling theocracy or theocratic kingdom governed by God and for God – the 1,000 years). For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (the specific time of the Millennium or 1,000 years).

Some interpreters dispute that an interval of any sort occurs between verses 23 and 24. Instead, they disbelieve in the Rapture and the 1,000-year Millennium and conclude that there is only one coming (the Second Coming) which is the consummation of all things and when the Eternal State begin. In other words, they bypass the Millennium completely. However, those who dismiss the Millennium in these verses cannot satisfactorily explain how everything is placed under Christ’s feet before the Second Coming occurs and why there is a timeframe when Christ is stated to place everything under His feet. Of course, Paul was not bypassing the Millennium but was specifically teaching about it in these verses.

Paul had been teaching about the order of bodily resurrection. Christ would rise first from the dead, but there will be others that follow, who will be raised at their appropriate times. He then refers to the Church-Age believers being raised from the dead at the Rapture, a coming that Jesus foretold to His disciples (John 14:1-3), which involves the translation of living Church-Age saints from the earth and the resurrection of Church Age saints (1 Cor. 15:51-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). Together, we will return with Jesus Christ to Heaven as Jesus promised His disciples in John 14:1-3.



After talking about God's resurrection program for Church-Age saints, Paul immediately takes us to a time when Jesus Christ will reign for 1,000 years over the earth, in relationship to God's prescribed timing and ending of earth's history. The prophetic phrase ("then cometh the end" – vs. 24) probably indicates the end of God's resurrection program which comes to a close following the Millennium, just prior to the Eternal State, with the resurrection of the unsaved at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15). This final resurrection is stated to occur in conjunction with the time "when he shall have delivered up the kingdom" (1 Cor. 15:24). So the ending of the resurrection program occurs after the Millennium expires and in connection with the ending of earth's history as we now know it.

Revelation 20:5 reveals:

*"But the rest of the dead (those who died as unsaved people – a second resurrection) lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection" (looking back to the resurrection of the martyrs of the Tribulation Period).*

So Paul establishes a first resurrection of the saved and a second resurrection of the unsaved. The rest of the dead are the unsaved who will be resurrected and judged in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15). This is the ending of God's resurrection program which is a resurrection that occurs after the Millennium expires (Rev. 20:7). Both the resurrection of the wicked dead and Eternal State (Rev. 21-22) occurs following the Millennium has expired on planet earth (Revelation 20:1-6).

It's interesting that Paul never mentions the time element of how long it would be until the end of God's resurrection program occurs (1 Cor. 15:24 – "then cometh the end"). Paul does not deal with the time element between the Church's resurrection at the Rapture (1 Cor. 15:23) and the end of God's resurrection program at the Great White Throne Judgment (1 Cor. 15:24). However, other Scriptures clearly reveal that there is a prophetic gap of time that exists between the Church's resurrection which takes place at the Rapture and the second resurrection of the unsaved (Rev. 20:5), which occurs after the Millennial Kingdom has expired (Rev. 20:7, 17), just prior to the end of the world and beginning of the Eternal State (Revelation 21).

This means that there is 1,007 years between the resurrection of the Church-Age saints (1 Cor. 15:23) and the closing of God's resurrection program which occurs

after the Millennium (1 Cor. 15:24). This prophetic gap of time, when Jesus will reign, is the length of the Millennium and becomes the allotted time when Christ rules over the earth to restore a theocracy (a rule for God). Dispensationalism clearly teaches that an entire Millennium (1,000 years) and the Tribulation Period (seven years) occurs between 1 Corinthians 15:23 (the resurrection of Church Age Saints at Rapture) and 1 Corinthians 15:24 (end of the resurrection program that follows the Millennium). There is a prophetic gap or time that consists of at least 1,007 years (the time of the Tribulation Period and Millennium) before we arrive at the end of the resurrection program. Of course, Paul is focusing on the Millennium in these Scriptures, but as we study the Scriptures chronologically and dispensationally, we can conclude that the entire Millennium exists between verses 23 and 24.

Below are two more charts that give us a Biblical visual of what Paul is teaching in 1 Corinthians 15:23-24. These give us a better visual of the gap of time that exists between Christ's resurrection and the Church's resurrection and the Church's resurrection and final resurrection of the unsaved.



In God's resurrection program, there is a gap of time that exists between Christ's resurrection and the Church's resurrection indicated by the adverb "Afterward" (after the Church Age has expired). There is also another gap of time that occurs between the Church's resurrection and what Paul calls the end ("then cometh the end" - which is the final resurrection at the Great White Throne Judgment of Rev. 20:11-15).

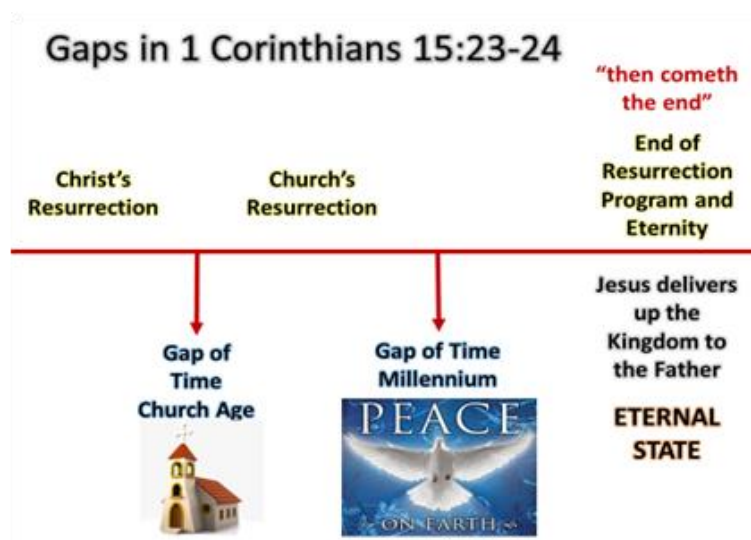


This gap of time is the Millennium which is identified as the time “when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power” (1 Cor. 15:24) and the time “he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (1 Cor. 15:25). It’s very clear that today Jesus Christ is not putting all of His enemies under His feet. If that were the case, there would be no more war, no more crime, and no more terrible open acts of sin taking place on planet earth. Therefore, this is not referring to Christ’s sovereign rule over the earth today but a specific rule in the future that consists of an exact time period which is the Millennium (“till he put all enemies under his feet” - vs. 25).

In addition, this cannot be referring to the Eternal State, as some Reformed teachers stress, since during the Eternal State there will be no more enemies of God on earth to crush under His feet, and no more sinners wanting to rebel against God (Rev. 21:8). The Eternal State (Rev. 21:1) will come later, following the Millennium, which will be the allotted time of 1,000 years and culminates in the official handing of the earthly kingdom over to the Father, “when he shall have delivered the kingdom up to God” (1 Cor. 15:24a).

It’s during this time (the Millennium) the time that “he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (1 Cor. 15:25) that Jesus Christ will officially usurp the earth from Satan (Rev. 20:1-2) and create an earthly theocracy (a God rule). So, this is a very important reference to the specific time period of the Millennial Kingdom. Christ’s 1,000-year reign is an intermediate reign which occurs prior to the Eternal State. Jesus will rule over the earth for 1,000 years in order to return the earth to a theocracy and only after 1,000 years will God’s resurrection program end and the eternal kingdom or eternal state begin, when Christ hands over the earthly kingdom to the Father (Rev. 20:7-15).

Here is a final chart that may help you to visualize what the Scriptures are teaching.



### **C. The end of Christ's millennial reign (1 Corinthians 15:26-28).**

1 Corinthians 15:26-28

“The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death (a reference to the Second Death of unbelievers which occurs after the Millennium – Rev. 20:11-15) For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, all things are put under him (the period of the Millennium – the 1,000 years), it is manifest that he is excepted (the only exception is Christ will not be put under the Father's feet during the Millennium), which did put all things under him (during the 1,000 years). And when all things shall be subdued unto him (the time period of the Millennium – the 1,000 years), then (during the Eternal State – when the Son turns over the kingdom to the Father – vs. 24) shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (Jesus Christ will officially subject Himself to the Father as the God-Man who is the Leader of the resurrected saints of all ages).

Verse 28 states, “When all things are subjected to Him [Jesus], then the Son himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.” In other words, a time is coming when Jesus will officially hand His kingdom over to the Father. This does not mean Jesus ceases to reign, but His messianic kingdom will transition to the universal kingdom of the Father.

Robert Gromacki states:

When earth's history has concluded and eternity begins, even the incarnate Son of God will be in subjection to the Father (15:28). Although the Son is equal to the Father in divine essence, the former will continue to manifest His identification with the human race throughout eternity.<sup>14</sup>

After the Millennium has expired, there are some dramatic events that will occur. These events demonstrate that the Millennium has come to an official close and eternity is about to begin.

There are four events associated with the close of the Millennium.

#### **1. A devious rebellion will be permitted (Revelation 20:7-9).**

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

Satan’s release from the abyss will produce a worldwide rebellion against the millennial reign of Christ, which God allows to happen in order to fulfill His purposes. The devil will recruit an army of ungodly rebels, who were born during the Millennium (Isa. 65:20), but kept in check by the King. The devil’s recruits will march against Jerusalem with the intent to destroy Israel, rebel against the King, and take back the earth from His leadership. However, fire will fall from Heaven and destroy the ungodly invaders. The multitudes that follow Satan are evidently those who have never been born again during the Millennial Kingdom. This time of rebellion is obviously allowed to demonstrate the utter depravity of man’s heart (Rom. 3:10-18) and to prove once and for all that Jesus Christ will judge sinners in righteousness as they appear before the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11-15). Their rebellious natures against the King and His salvation reveal that they are worthy candidates suited for the eternal judgment of the Lake of Fire.

Think of this for a moment. A person can live in the presence of the King for 1,000 years and still not want Jesus Christ to rule over his life. The revolt that takes place after the Millennium gives final proof that the heart of man is desperately wicked (Jer. 17:9). The millennium proves that humans cannot blame their sinfulness on their environment or circumstances. Imagine the tragedy of this revolt. These people were living in a perfect environment, under the perfect government of God’s Son, but they will finally admit the truth that they hate Jesus Christ and rebel against the King. A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart. The heart can only be changed by God’s grace.

## **2. The devil will be judged (Revelation 20:10).**

“And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

The time of rebellion following the Millennium will be the devil's last hurrah before he is cast into the Lake of Fire. God will cast Satan, the deceiver, into the Lake of Fire, which is place that God had previously prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41). The fact that the beast and the false prophet are still there shows that this is a place of conscious and eternal torment, not annihilation (Rev. 19:20). The Bible says Satan will be judged "day and night for ever and ever" (day and night is used as an expression of time). This will be Satan's final and eternal abode and this judgment will constitute the ultimate bruising or crushing of his head (Gen. 3:15).

### **3. The death of many will occur (1 Corinthians 15:26).**

"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." This is a clear reference to the Great White Throne Judgment of all the unsaved dead of earth's history, who are resurrected to be cast into the Lake of Fire. This also occurs after the Millennium has expired (Rev. 20:7) and directly follows the devil's judgment in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

Revelation 20:14-15 reveals these final solemn words:

"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

The second resurrection occurs after the Millennium (Rev. 20:5). At this time "death" (referring to the body that went to the grave) and "hell" (referring to the spirit that went to hades) will be reunited and the entire person (body and spirit) will be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer the eternal wrath and judgment of God. The unsaved will experience a second death that is actually a final separation from God's presence forever. The first separation from God occurred at their physical death (Heb. 9:27) but this second death, or separation from God's presence, occurs at the time of the second resurrection and becomes the unbeliever's final separation from God in the eternal Lake of Fire.

This is the time when the last enemy called death will be destroyed (1 Cor. 15:26). From this point forward, death will never again exist on earth and in the human race. Death itself, including the death of God's saints, will no longer exist in the eternal state. This is because the resurrection program will be finished, the

unsaved will have been judged forever in hell, and there will be no more death for God's saints who are living during the eternal state.

Revelation 21:4 gives this wonderful promise of the Eternal State:

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

What a joyous occasion this will be. What a glorious destiny and eternity awaits God's redeemed! The best days are ahead for planet earth and God's people.

#### **4. The day of eternity will begin (1 Corinthians 15:27-28).**

1 Corinthians 15:27 states, “For he hath put all things under his feet” (the Millennium). But when he saith, all things are put under him (after the 1,000 years are expired), it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him” In other words, the only person that will not be placed under the rule of God's Son during the Millennium, the only exception to His earthly rulership is the Father Himself (“he is excepted”), since both the Son and Father share the same existence within the Godhead, and will rule the earth together as vice-regents for God.

1 Corinthians 15:27 adds these closing words: “And when all things shall be subdued unto him (as demonstrated during the Millennium or 1,000 years), then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him (in subject to the Father to demonstrate the eternal nature of the triune Godhead) that put all things under him (during the Millennium), that God may be all in all (so God will demonstrate that He is the absolute sovereign potentate over the earth and God of eternity).”

In the end, the Millennium will merge into the eternal Kingdom. The one thousand years was designed to finally purge the earth of rebellious sinners, as evidenced in the final revolt, and prepare planet earth for the Eternal State. The Millennium is a necessary reign in the plan of God to finish earth's business and



pave the way for the eternal state to begin. After the Millennium has expired and the climactic End Time events are finally over the Eternal State begins (Revelation 21-22). With the Millennial Kingdom running its course and every foe finally and forever judged, it will be demonstrated that every living creature has been placed under God's rule and that God, through the person of Jesus Christ, will reign as King forever! From the Millennium to the commencement of the Eternal State, it will have been demonstrated that Jesus has taken back the earth for God and will now rule forever as the King of the eternal ages.

Revelation 11:15 declares the victory:

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ (the Millennial Kingdom); and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Eternal Kingdom).

As taught in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, the Millennium merges into the Eternal State. We have been giving reminders all along that the Millennium (the 1,000 years) is the time Christ regains and rules the earth as a theocracy. But the Millennium is designed to merge into the Eternal Kingdom. This is why the eternal nature of the Kingdom is linked to the time of the Millennium (Rev. 20:1-6). The Millennium finishes God's purposes with earth's history and prepares the earth for the Eternal State.

“King of Kings,  
For ever and ever.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
And Lord of Lords,  
For ever and ever.”

Michael Vlach summarizes well:

“If the events of Revelation 20 follow the events of Revelation 19 chronologically, then premillennialism must be true. If the two resurrections of Rev 20:4–5 are physical resurrections (which all admit the second is physical), then premillennialism must be true. If the abyss in which Satan is thrown is a real spiritual prison where he as a person is incarcerated, then premillennialism must be true (Rev 20:1–3). If Jesus assumes His Davidic throne at the time of His second coming as Matt 19:28 and Matt 25:31 indicate, then Jesus' kingdom is future from our standpoint and premillennialism must be true. If the successful reign of the

Last Adam and mankind must take place from and over the realm where God originally placed and tasked the first Adam, then premillennialism must be true. If all of the covenants and promises of the Bible must be fulfilled in all their dimensions (spiritual and physical; national and international) under the Messiah before the Eternal State begins, then premillennialism must be true.”



So, it is true! The Millennium is a future period of time consisting of 1,000 years when Jesus will rule on planet earth. It occurs AFTER the Second Coming but BEFORE the Eternal State. It is a phase of God’s kingdom when God reclaims the earth as His own, when Israel’s covenants are fully recognized and fulfilled, and a specific time which merges into the Eternal State.

Yes, there must be a Millennium. God is not a loser! He will get His theocracy and paradise back. There will be an official end to earth’s history which prepares the earth for the Eternal State. The Old Testament predicted the Millennium and the New Testament teaches it. Jesus will rule on earth from the throne of David in Jerusalem over His ancient people in fulfillment of the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants (Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:33). Beloved, believe what the Bible says! There must be a Millennium.