HEAVEN ON EARTH
Revelation 20

Have you ever had a day when everything seemed to be perfect? The weather was perfect, everything went smoothly, and the fellowship was great. Perhaps you ever said yourself, “This is like heaven on Earth.”

In a sense, that is exactly what the future holds. God will bring heaven to Earth, as He restores this world to what He intended way back in the Garden of Eden. That is God’s perfect plan (Ephesians 1:10), fulfilled in the millennial reign.

This 1,000-year period is the next step after Christ’s second coming in Revelation 19. Let’s look at what will happen during Christ’s millennial reign, and how we should live in anticipation of it.

PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES

1. There will finally be world peace (Isaiah 2:4). This won’t be the fragile kind of peace where everyone is still armed to the teeth, but agree not to fight for now. This world peace will result in the destruction of weapons and the end of military training. In short, it will be true world peace with no conflicts.

2. There will be joy, happiness, and no more disabilities (Isaiah 35:5-6). All of the body’s imperfections will be corrected: sight and hearing restored, bodily functions restored, and sicknesses healed. That’s reason enough for joy, but this happiness will extend to all people everywhere.

3. The animal kingdom will be subdued (Isaiah 11 6-9). Just as there will be no more wars and fighting among mankind, the animal kingdom will also be at peace. Predators and prey will co-exist with each other.

4. The curse that came upon the world because of sin will be lifted (Romans 8:19-21). When Adam and Eve sinned, it resulted in God’s curse being placed on all mankind (Genesis 3:16-19)—from the pain of childbirth to the struggle to work the land. Christ’s millennial reign will remove that curse, restoring life to the way God intended it to be.

5. There will be universal justice and righteousness (Psalm 72:2-8). With Christ on the throne, there will be no more injustice or unfairness as He judges righteously. He will defend the oppressed, and bring down the oppressor. In a world that often seems so unfair, Christ will come and bring ultimate fairness.

6. We will rule and reign with Jesus Christ (Revelation 20:4). We as believers will govern those who remain on the earth, the survivors of the tribulation period and their descendants. And the good news is that everyone will know of Christ (Isaiah 11:9).
RELEVANT REMINDERS

At the conclusion of the millennial reign, Satan will be released for a short period of time and lead one final rebellion against God before being thrown into the lake of fire for all eternity. At that point, the great white throne judgment will take place in which everyone will be examined and those whose names do not appear in the Book of Life will join Satan in the lake of fire.

Finally, the new heaven and the new earth will appear, replacing the heaven and earth that we know. Time will pass into eternity as heaven and Earth become one.

Given all this, how should we live? Jesus gives a parable in Luke 19 that provides some crucial insight into the correct mindset of Christians as they contemplate eternity.

- **We have all been given the same thing.** Just as all the servants were given the same amount of money to work with, we all have a period of time here on Earth in which to live and work. Scripture tells us that we exist to know God, glorify Him, and to bring forth spiritual fruit, so that’s what we need to be doing.

- **We have been given the sacred trust of delivering the gospel message.** As Christians, we have been entrusted with the Good News of Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 2:4). Our job is to do God’s work until He returns—to declare the gospel and make disciples.

APPLICABLE ACTIONS

Why is it important for us to make the most of our time here on Earth? Because all believers will appear at the judgment seat of Christ, a sort of award ceremony for Christians. At that time, we will be evaluated for what we did with the gifts that God gave us during our time on Earth. Did you live for God, doing His work? Or did you live for yourself, wasting your life?

Let’s make sure that we are living in a way that brings glory to God, doing His work until He returns. May we be able to come to the judgment seat of Christ and hear those wonderful words, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of the Lord.”