

“End Times Study: The Millennial Kingdom”

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Scripture

Revelation 20:1-6

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years**; and he threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, **and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**”

Last Week

We looked at the Rapture and the Bible passages most use to discuss our “gathering away to Him”

The Rapture has generated significant debate

The basic questions are important -> We know “Who, Why, What, How, and Where” -> Just not “When”

Looking at Scripture, pre-tribulation seems doubtful to me -> pre-tribulation view didn’t show up until 1800s

Nevertheless, we do not know “When” and we must be good with that and carry on as Jesus commanded us

This Week

Another controversial topic:

The Millennial Kingdom

Literal 1,000 years?

Figurative 1,000 years?

Where are you on this topic?

The Old Testament prophesied a Messianic Reign:

Zechariah 14:8-11

"And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter and the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin's Gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's wine presses. People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security."

The Lord's reign is an earthly one:

Revelation 11:15

"Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."

Christ returns in Revelation 19:

Revelation 19:11-16

"I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and true, and **in righteousness He judges and wages war.** His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and **His name is called The Word of God.**

14And **the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.** From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and **He will rule them with a rod of iron;** and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'"

He will rule them with a rod of iron -> He has a time when He will rule

When has Christ ruled on the Earth in history?

Certainly, not during the Incarnation -> right now, where does He rule?

Colossians 3:15

"**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,** to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."

But our passage for this evening talks about a coming, earthly rule for Jesus:

Revelation 20:1-3

"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years;** and he threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time."

An angel comes down from Heaven to lock up Satan

He is the Dragon from Revelation 12

He is the Serpent from the Garden of Eden

He is the devil who deceives the nations

He is Satan and the angel comes to bind him in the abyss, the pit, so his deception of the nations will end

1,000 years on the earth will NO Satanic influence on the planet

Then:

Revelation 20:4

“Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

There is a ruling on the Earth -> thrones were setup and judgment was given to “them”

Who is the “them”...?

John writes they are:

“the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand”

They were beheaded but God brought them back **“to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”**

Who are these individuals?

There are martyrs under the altar waiting for God to avenge their death:

Revelation 6:9-11

“When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.”

There are also those who are still alive at the end of the Tribulation

The Antichrist will make the people take his mark in order to transact in the world markets

We see this in Revelation 13:

Revelation 13:16-17

“He causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, **to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark**, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

The false prophet influences the world to take the mark of the Antichrist-> or, in essence, die from starvation

But many will not take the mark of the Antichrist

Again, this reinforces that believers will be alive during the Tribulation

The unbelievers, however, will not be raised yet:

Revelation 20:5-6

“The rest of the dead **did not come to life until the thousand years were completed**. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but **they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.**”

The rest of the dead will not come to life

These include believers and unbelievers which will come to life for the Great White Throne judgment

Revelation 20:11-15

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And **I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds**. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Those who reign with Christ will be priests to God

1 Peter 2:4-5, 9

“You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”

“You are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”

So, the believer's function in the Millennial Kingdom is a priestly reign

Differing Views on the Millennial Kingdom

Historic Premillennialism

Traditional Premillennialism posits that Christ's second coming will inaugurate a literal thousand-year earthly kingdom. Christ's return will coincide with a time of great tribulation. At this time, there will be a resurrection of the people of God who have died, and a rapture of the people of God who are still living, and they will meet Christ at his coming. A thousand years of peace will follow, during which Christ will reign and Satan will be imprisoned in the Abyss.

Post Millennialism

Postmillennialism is an interpretation of chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation which sees Christ's second coming as occurring after the "Millennium", a Golden Age in which Christian ethics prosper. The term subsumes several similar views of the end times, and it stands in contrast to premillennialism and, to a lesser extent, amillennialism.

Amillennialism

Amillennialism, in Christian eschatology, involves the rejection of the belief that Jesus will have a literal, thousand-year-long, physical reign on the earth. This rejection contrasts with premillennial and some postmillennial interpretations of chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation.

Who Is on the Earth During the Millennial Kingdom?

This is the great question

If believers will come to life and reign with Jesus

Who will we reign over?

Will resurrected believers reign over each other?

There is also a final rebellion noted at the end of the 1,000 years:

Revelation 20:7-10

“When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, **to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.** And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

So, who does Satan deceive when he is released?

If we're looking at Gog and Magog, we are talking about the great final battle

We must read Ezekiel 38 and 39 for the detail here

Is it Armageddon?

Not if we take Revelation as chronological

Revelation 16:13-16

“And I saw coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs; for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty. ("Behold, I am coming like a thief. Blessed is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.") And **they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.**”

Armageddon is at the end of the Tribulation

The final battle is at the end of the Millennial reign

Revelation depicts two battles

Who will be alive when the Millennial Kingdom begins?

If Armageddon kills all those who oppose Jesus, they must all be believers

So, we have martyrs including Old Testament saints being raised to reign

We have believers coming into the kingdom from the Tribulation period -> both Jews and Gentiles

Which brings us to the final question

What's the Point of the Millennial Kingdom?

Eden was a perfect place, and yet it corrupted by Satan

The Millennial Kingdom will be an earthly period without the influence of Satan, since he is bound

But will the individuals on the earth be without sin?

Are we without sin now even though we have been redeemed?

No, and neither will those in the Kingdom

The 1st generation should be steadfast in their beliefs

The 2nd generation might be less so

The 3rd generation a little less faithful

There might be 30 generations in the Millennial Kingdom

The point?

Even in a godly society with godly leaders, sin will corrupt society

Satan will have several leaders and nations of people to pick from in the rebellion

Prayer

Benediction