

Heaven on Earth: An Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

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

- A. Understanding the biblical perspective of heaven is important because it affects how we see our future, which will affect how we live today. If we do not think rightly of heaven, then we end up not thinking of heaven at all. Heaven will come to the earth at the time of Jesus' second coming.
- B. This session will give an overview of the Millennium, a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule this world in righteousness. Millennium is from the Latin word *mille*, meaning a thousand.
⁴I saw thrones, and they [saints] sat on them...they reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶They shall be priests of God...and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- C. At this time the kingdom will be openly manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, educational, media, arts, technology, etc.; Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; Acts 1:6; 3:21). This period will be initiated by Jesus' coming. The result will be 1,000-years of unprecedented blessing, as Jesus restores the agriculture and animal life to many of the conditions seen in the *garden of Eden* (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).
³The Lord will comfort Zion [Jerusalem]...will make her wilderness like Eden... (Isa. 51:3)
- D. Jesus, the King of kings, will personally govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, worship Jesus, and base their national governments on the Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).
¹⁷Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)
¹¹ Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)
- E. The millennial kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that the God's kingdom was being released (Mt. 6:10). The New Testament makes it clear that the kingdom is *already here* (in a limited way), but is *not yet fully here* until Jesus returns.
- F. Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as King over all dominions and spheres of society.
¹³One like the Son of Man [Jesus]...came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him [Jesus] was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...²⁷The kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.' (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)
- G. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:17).

¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)

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

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

A. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom over all the earth and **join** the heavenly and earthly realms together. This is an interpretive key to understanding the end times. (Without this, confusion is inevitable when studying the end times).

B. God’s purpose has always been to live with His people on earth. **The earth continues forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20).**

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

C. God created the universe in two distinct realms (Gen. 1:1):

1. **Earth**: This speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression.

2. **Heaven**: This speaks of the spiritual realm, where God’s power and presence are openly manifest. It is the place believers have gone for the last 2,000 years (from the cross to the second coming) as a “temporary holding pattern” before receiving a resurrected body.

D. When Jesus rules the earth, the natural human processes will not be suspended, but they will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.

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

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

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

F. As Gentile believers, our most natural perspective is to think of worshiping Jesus as God in the supernatural conditions of heaven (Son of God). The Jewish paradigm is to think of reigning with a human king in the natural conditions of the earth, emphasizing the Messiah’s humanity (Son of David). The *full truth* is only seen when these two perspectives are brought together.

- G. What the Bible says about the end times reveals Jesus' leadership in that hour of history. The Gospels (89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' power and leadership at His first coming. There are over 100 chapters in the Bible focused on the end times. They reveal Jesus' power and plans at the time of His second coming when He returns to take over the leadership of the earth.

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

- A. The **redeemed** will be raptured at the time of Jesus' royal procession across the sky (Rev. 1:7).
⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:7)
- B. The **reprobate**, who took the mark of the Beast, will be judged and then killed (some executed). At this time, there may be 1–3 billion of these people still alive. They will not just disappear.
- C. The **resisters** are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. They can be saved, then populate the millennial earth. These resisters will stand against evil governments, even without faith in God. For example, in World War II, the French Resistance fought the Nazis. Scripture refers to "those who are left." (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

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

- A. Jesus will rule the millennial earth that has both natural and supernatural dimensions. The *supernatural element* is seen in the length of life be restored to what it was in Noah's time (v. 22) and the animosity between animals being removed (v. 25). The *natural element* is seen in the fact of people sinning (v. 20) and in the activities of building and planting (v. 21).
²⁰For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses...and they shall plant vineyards...²²As the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people...²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together... (Isa. 65:20-25)
- B. Animosity between animals and between animals and humans will be removed (Rom. 8:20-21).
⁶The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox... (Isa. 11:6-7)
- C. Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7). The natural processes of life will continue in establishing the infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city on the earth.
⁷Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...His kingdom to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)

- D. This infrastructure will include life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, etc.), education, agriculture, media and arts, technology, and social institutions, etc.
- E. People from many nations will come to Jerusalem to learn of God’s ways from Jesus.
³Many people [nations] shall...say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD [Jerusalem], to the house of the God of Jacob; He [Jesus] will teach us His ways... (Isa. 2:3)

V. HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND EARTHLY JERUSALEM BROUGHT TOGETHER

- A. The New Jerusalem will descend to the earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10). When this happens then heaven will literally be on the earth. This happens both at the beginning (Rev. 21:10) and at the end of the Millennium (Rev. 21:2). The New Jerusalem is where resurrected saints will live.
¹²"The New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God." (Rev. 3:12)
- B. The New Jerusalem will descend and connect to the millennial Jerusalem creating what I refer to as a vast “governmental complex” referred to as Jesus’ throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31).
³¹When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Mt. 25:31)
- C. There are *four reasons* that I believe the New Jerusalem is close to the millennial Jerusalem and accessible to it, yet without being on the earth until after the Millennium. See MikeBickle.org, then go to the section on “End times and Eternity,” then go to the section on the “Millennium.”

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

- A. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:17).
¹⁰...have made us kings and priests to our God...we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)
 - 1. *As priests*, resurrected saints will *worship, intercede, and communicate* the knowledge of God to others (non-resurrected people on the millennial earth plus the saints).
 - 2. *As kings*, resurrected saints will judge or *evaluate* the past, determine future *action plans* and *appoint* people who serve in the infrastructure under their authority.
²Do you not know that the saints will judge [evaluate] the world?...³Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate] angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)
- B. The saints will occupy the highest position of government in the Spirit on the millennial earth. This will be parallel to the relationship of angels in the government of the nations in this age. Jesus will rule a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: *kings of the earth* with non-resurrected bodies and *resurrected kings* with resurrected bodies (Rev. 1:5-6).

- C. Faithfulness in “few things” leads to receiving “many things.” I compare life now to a 70-year internship, which prepares us for our ministry assignment on earth in the age to come.

²¹You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. (Mt. 25:21)

¹⁷You were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. (Lk. 19:17)

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