

Session 7 Identifying False Assumptions About the Millennium

I. REVIEW: THE 1,000-YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS

- A. The Millennium is the 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule this world in righteousness.
*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)*
- B. At that time the kingdom will be openly manifested worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, educational, media, arts, technology, etc.; Ps. 2:6-9; 110:1-7; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; Acts 1:6; 3:21). The result will be 1,000 years of great 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).
- C. 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 Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).
¹¹Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)
- D. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12).
- E. 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. The earth speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression. Heaven speaks of the spiritual realm, where God’s power and presence are openly manifest.
⁹...having 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)
- F. When Jesus rules the earth, the *natural processes* will not be suspended, but significantly enhanced by the *supernatural dimension* of the Spirit. Aspects of the natural and supernatural dimensions operated together when Jesus appeared to 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)
*³⁹“Behold My hands and feet...handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones...”
⁴²They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³He took and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:39-43)*
- G. There will be three types of people on earth when Jesus appears in the sky to rapture the Church.
1. The *redeemed* will be raptured at the time of Jesus’ royal procession across the sky (Rev. 1:7).
2. The *reprobate*, who took the mark of the Beast, will be gathered, judged, and killed.
3. The *resisters* are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. They are referred to as “*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).

II. IDENTIFYING COMMON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM

- A. In seeking to understand what the Scripture says about the Millennium, it is important to identify *false assumptions* about it, then replace them with *biblical principles*.
- B. At the second coming, Jesus will return to earth to accomplish a long-term mission of filling the earth with glory of God and bringing the earth under His Father’s authority (Mt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 15:28). He is coming *to stay permanently* to establish a kingdom with an international government.
⁹*The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9)*
²¹*...truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD... (Num. 14:21)*
- C. **Premise:** I assume that Jesus will use many of the same principles in His leadership over people (with natural bodies) on earth *after* His second coming that He used at His first coming. Some assume that He will lead people on earth in a radically different way after He returns.

III. FALSE ASSUMPTION #1: NATURAL PROCESSES WILL BE SUSPENDED

- A. A common false assumption is that the natural processes of life will be completely suspended by Jesus’ supernatural activity. For example, that He might just “wave His hand” to instantly establish the infrastructures needed to support life and government on earth using only His supernatural power without human involvement and natural processes.
- B. **Biblical principle:** Jesus will rule the earth without suspending natural human processes, yet will significantly enhance them by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit. 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).
- C. The saints from all throughout history will sit on thrones, or occupy the top positions of authority over society (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; 2 Tim. 2:12; Dan. 7:22, 25-27).
- D. Jesus will rule in partnership with two types of human leaders—those with resurrected bodies who live in the New Jerusalem and those with natural bodies who live on earth. Resurrected saints will occupy the *highest positions* of government over the earth in the Millennium. This will be parallel to the position of angels in the government of the nations in this age. John made reference both to leaders or kings with natural bodies (Rev. 1:5) and to kings with resurrected bodies (Rev. 1:6).
⁵*...Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth...⁶has made us kings and priests to His God and Father... (Rev. 1:5-6)*
- E. Together they will establish infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city in every nation. The infrastructure will include *life support systems* (water, electricity, etc.), *building projects* (homes, office buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), *economic systems* (currencies, banking, etc.), *spiritual life* (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), *education* (from elementary to university), *law enforcement*; *agriculture* (farming), media, arts, technology, social institutions, etc.

IV. FALSE ASSUMPTION #2: SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE INSTANTANEOUS

- A. A common false assumption is that social improvements or the healing of the nations will be *instantaneous* at Jesus' coming without it requiring a lengthy process of time.
- B. ***Biblical principle:*** There will be progressive social improvement in every area of life. This is referred to as *the healing of the nations*. This will take much time to accomplish. People with natural bodies will need to learn, then apply what they learned involving human processes.
- C. Jesus will rule the millennial earth, which will have natural and supernatural dimensions. The *supernatural element* will be seen in the length of human life being restored to that of Noah's day (Isa. 65:20, 22) and animals no longer preying on each other (Isa. 65:25). The *natural element* will be evident in people continuing to sin (Isa. 65:20), build, and plant (Isa. 65:21).
²⁰"For 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)
- D. Jesus' rule will progressively increase until all the institutions of all the nations are fully disciplined by His teachings (Isa. 16:5; 60:3; Jer. 23:5; cf. Ps. 89:4; 132:17-18). Jesus will "order and establish" His kingdom with necessary infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city. The infrastructure He establishes through the saints who rule with Him will increase in capacity, quality, and size as the leaders (with natural bodies) grow in understanding and skill.
⁷Of the increase [expansion] of His [Jesus'] government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)
- E. Jesus will set up training institutions to teach all the nations His ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, etc.) Many people will come to Jerusalem to learn of God's ways from Jesus. As wisdom is applied, society will progressively improve.
³Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He [Jesus] will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." Out of Zion shall go forth the law...the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)
- F. The healing process of nations will be aided by the river from the millennial temple in Jerusalem. The water from the temple shall heal the desert as physical healing accelerates (Isa. 35:1-6)
*¹...there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the [millennial] temple...⁸This water flows...when it reaches the sea [Dead Sea], its waters are healed. ⁹It shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes... ¹⁰...fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many...
¹²Along the bank of the river...will grow all kinds of trees...and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine." (Ezek. 47:1, 8-12)*

- G. The tree of life in the New Jerusalem will be received by the kings of the nations in a way that brings healing to their nation. It will take time to heal the land and the governments of the earth.

²⁴The kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it [New Jerusalem]...^{22:2}The tree of life ...the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 21:24-22:2)

- H. Natural processes will be involved in building cities, planting crops, etc. It may take many decades before all the destroyed cities of the earth are completely restored (Ezek. 36:36-38).

⁴And they shall rebuild the old ruins...and they shall repair the ruined cities...⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and...be your plowmen and your vinedressers. (Isa. 61:4-5)

- I. Natural processes will be involved in judging war crimes that occurred in during the Tribulation (Isa. 24:21-22).

⁶He [Jesus] shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies; He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:6)

⁴He [Jesus] shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people... (Isa. 2:4)

V. FALSE ASSUMPTION #3: RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISHED IN THIS AGE WON'T LAST

- A. One false assumption is that the righteousness established in this age will be disregarded when Jesus returns. Thus many fail to see the *continuity* between our work in this age and the age to come.

- B. ***Biblical principle:*** There is continuity between the righteousness established in society now and what Jesus will need to establish in society in the millennial kingdom.

²⁶Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven. ²⁷Now this, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made [established by the flesh], that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. (Heb. 12:26-27)

- C. All that is unrighteous will be shaken, dismantled, and removed. Righteous laws in society at the time of Jesus’ return will remain. God’s people can establish infrastructure now that will continue to be useful in the Millennium and will last beyond the shaking of the Tribulation judgments.

¹⁷Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. (Ps. 90:17)

- D. There are various expressions of the how the saints enter into the labors of those who lived before them. In other words, the past labors continue to impact future generations.

³⁸Others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. (Jn. 4:38)

- E. There is a dynamic continuity of our present works including our growth in love and humility, ministry to others, and societal justice. There is fruit that *remains* from this life (Jn. 15:16).

¹⁶I chose you that you...bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain... (Jn. 15:16)

- F. Fruit that remains includes the continuity of our labors in our *intercession* (it will continue to impact nations in the age-to-come), *character development* (eternal rewards), *relationships* (friendships), *legislation* (righteous laws, etc.), *natural accomplishments* (buildings, highways, scientific and technological developments), *life support systems* (food, water, electricity), etc.
- G. Some businesses and financial resources will survive the shaking of the end time (Isa. 60:1-14). There is wealth at the beginning of the Millennium that will not be destroyed.
²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you [Jerusalem]...⁵the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you...⁹And the ships of Tarshish will come...their silver and their gold with them...He has glorified you [Jerusalem]...¹¹Your gates shall be open continually....that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles... (Isa. 60:2-11)
- H. We cannot interpret the full significance of our labors by only seeing their impact in this age.
¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)
- I. There is continuity between what we do in this life and the glory we will possess in the next life. Our function in the Millennium is determined by how we live now. Mary's life impacted her future.
⁴²Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her. (Lk. 10:42)
- J. An expression of continuity is in righteous deeds in this life being rewarded after Jesus' coming.
¹⁰For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Heb. 6:10)
²²Sell all that you have...you will have treasure in heaven. (Lk. 18:22)
- K. Our resurrected body has continuity with the DNA of our natural body.
- L. Another expression of continuity will be seen in the fact that evil leaders will be judged after the second coming related to their behavior in their government in this age.

VI. FALSE ASSUMPTION #4: ALL ARE CONVERTED INSTANTLY & AUTOMATICALLY

- A. A common false assumption is that all unbelievers will be converted instantly and automatically.
- B. ***Biblical principle:*** it will take time for all the individuals in the nations to be converted.
¹⁸I will gather all nations...and they shall come and see My glory ¹⁹...Among them who escape I will send to the nations...who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. ²⁰Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...says the LORD. (Isa. 66:18-20)

VII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #5: ALL WILL AUTOMATICALLY AND FULLY OBEY GOD

- A. A common false assumption is that all people will automatically obey God, all the nations will automatically be disciplined, and only the righteous will live on the millennial earth.
- B. **Biblical principle:** People living on the millennial earth must voluntarily *choose* to accept Jesus. Sin and even some who prophesy falsely will continue in the Millennium (Zech. 13:3).
³***It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother... will say to him, "You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD."*** (Zech. 13:3)
- C. There will be a righteous legal system that will punish criminals in the Millennium described as a being like a "rod of iron" (Ps. 2:9, 72:9-11; Isa. 11:4; 66:20, 24; Zech. 13:2-4; 14:16-19).
⁹***"You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces."*** (Ps. 2:9)

VIII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #6: GOD WILL RELEASE HIS AUTHORITY WITHOUT PRAYER

- A. A common false assumption is that God will release His power without continual prayer.
- B. **Biblical principle:** The redeemed will continue to function as the "house of prayer" (Isa. 56:7). Jesus intercedes forever and takes possession of the nations even in the Millennium by intercession (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; Ps. 2:7-8). Prayers in this age will have impact in the Millennium.
⁷***I [Jesus] will declare the decree: The LORD [the Father] has said to Me, "You are My Son... Ask of Me [intercession], and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance..."*** (Ps. 2:7-8)

IX. FALSE ASSUMPTION #7: ALL SAINTS WILL HAVE THE SAME MEASURE OF GLORY

- A. A common false assumption is that all saints will have the "same measure" of glory in our resurrected bodies and in our positions of authority in the Millennium.
- B. **Biblical principle:** All believers will differ in the measure of God's glory that they experience—in their resurrected bodies, clothing, dwelling, position of responsibility and relationship with God. Our rewards in eternity will greatly differ from one another. There will be a vast range of degrees of glory and greatness in God's Kingdom including those who are called the least and the greatest.
⁴¹***There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴²So also is the resurrection of the dead.*** (1 Cor. 15:41-42)
¹⁹***Whoever...breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom...but whoever does and teaches them, shall be called great in the kingdom...*** (Mt. 5:19)
- C. Being faithful now in "a few things" will lead to ruling over "many things" in the age to come. I compare life to a 70-year internship, preparing us for our assignment on earth in the age to come.
²¹***"You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things."*** (Mt. 25:21)
¹⁷***"You were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities."*** (Lk. 19:17)