

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 affects 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 earth at the time of Jesus' second coming. Jesus will join the heavenly and earthly realms together when He returns (Eph. 1:10). This truth is a key to understanding the end times and, thus, to understanding Jesus' leadership over the earth.
- B. There are over 150 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. The gospels (89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' power and leadership at His first coming.
- C. 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)
- D. At that 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).
- E. 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).
¹¹Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)
- F. The millennial kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that 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.
- G. 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. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)
- H. 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).
¹⁰...and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

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

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)*

- 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.
- 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).

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

God created the universe in two distinct realms (Gen. 1:1). **Earth**: This speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression.

Heaven: This speaks of the spiritual realm, where God’s power and presence are openly manifest. Heaven is where believers have gone when they die for the last 2,000 years since Jesus’ resurrection—as a “temporary holding pattern” before receiving a resurrected body.

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

³*He 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 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)*

III. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE WILL BE 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).
⁷*Behold, 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 gathered, judged, and then killed. There may be 1–3 billion such people still alive when Jesus returns. 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 being 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).
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)
- B. Animosity between animals and between animals and humans will be removed (Rom. 8:20-21).
⁶“The 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...” (Isa. 11:6-7)
- C. Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7). The natural processes of life will continue in ordering and establishing the infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city. 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.
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. 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)
- E. Four aspects of God's kingdom are necessary for His people to experience His fullness on the earth for all eternity (Eph. 3:19). These aspects will converge in the Millennium.
- F. The *New Jerusalem* coming down to earth will bring the *supernatural, eternal* dimension to the millennial kingdom. It will include the supernatural aspects of our resurrected bodies.
- G. The *garden of Eden* being restored will bring a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) with physical pleasures.
- H. The *kingdom of David* will bring the *political and social* dimension (governmental, economic, social institutions, educational, family, arts, etc.). Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as every national government on earth is brought under Jesus' authority.
- I. The *house of prayer* will bring a *spiritual and relational* dimension, in that the millennial temple will be a worship center for the nations. We will experience the fullness of intimacy with God, as we encounter and partner with Him in ruling the earth (based on worship and intercession).

V. HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND EARTHLY JERUSALEM BROUGHT TOGETHER

- A. The New Jerusalem will descend to earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10). When this happens, 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. Jesus’ throne is both in the millennial temple in Jerusalem and in the heavenly New Jerusalem. It is **one throne** with two expressions (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13; Rev. 22:3).
- ³The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem]. (Rev. 22:3)
- C. 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)
- D. 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 for further teaching; go to the section on “End Times and Eternity,” then the category called “Millennium and New Jerusalem.”

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 will be on the millennial earth with the saints).
 2. As kings, resurrected saints will judge, or evaluate, the past as part of ruling with Jesus.
- 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 position or role 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 the “few things” in this age leads to receiving “many things” in the age to come. I compare life now to a 70-year internship, which prepares us for our ministry assignment on earth in the age to come.
- ¹⁷“You were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” (Lk. 19:17)

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