

Session 2 Five Foundational Aspects of the Millennial Kingdom

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

- A. The Millennium is a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the world in righteousness. He will govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. At this time God's kingdom will be openly manifest affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.).
⁴I saw thrones, and they [saints] sat on them...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶They...shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- B. The Father will bring heaven and earth together. God created the universe in two distinct realms, earth and heaven (Gen. 1:1).
⁹Having made known to us the mystery [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. (Eph. 1:9-10)
¹⁹It pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself...whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:19-20)
 1. *Heaven* speaks of the spiritual realm where God's presence is openly manifest.
 2. *Earth* speaks of the physical realm where human process and physical sensation reach full expression. Jesus will rule the earth with the *natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced* by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.
- C. Platonism, an ancient Greek philosophy, viewed the spirit realm as good and the material realm as bad. This philosophy continues in the Church today. It leads some to think wrongly about heaven.
- D. God's purpose has always been to live with His people on earth. The earth will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; cf. 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)
- E. It is necessary for both realms to function together for God's people to experience and express the *fullness of God*—the fullness of God's personality, purpose and presence. (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10; Jn. 1:16; Rom. 11:12, 15). We experience this in part in this age and in fullness in the age-to-come.
¹⁹...to know the love of Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:19)
¹³...until we all come...to the measure of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:13)
- F. The Father gave all authority to Jesus and gave Jesus as head over all things to the Church (Eph. 1:22). The Church is God's chosen vehicle to release His fullness throughout the earth for all eternity (Eph. 1:23).
²²He [Father] put all things under His [Jesus'] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23)

II. GOD’S ORIGINAL PLAN: A FAMILY OF LOVE WHO RULES THE EARTH TOGETHER

- A. The Father’s original plan was to have a family who would rule creation with Him. The Father yearned to have a family who walked in love and unity as sons of God and as the Bride of Christ.

¹⁸*I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters... (2 Cor. 6:18)*

⁷*For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*

- B. God has given His people an “eternal dominion mandate” to manifest His glory in the created order.

²⁶*God said, “Let Us make man in Our image...let them have dominion...over all the earth...”*

²⁸*God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion...” (Gen. 1:26-28)*

³*I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars...⁴*what is man that You are mindful of him...? ⁵You have crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You put all things under his feet. (Ps. 8:3-6)**

²¹*All things are yours ²²*whether Paul or Apollos...the world or life...or things present or things to come—all are yours. ²³You are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)**

- C. The Father prepared the kingdom *for His family* from the foundations of the world (Mt. 25:34).

³⁴*“Come...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 25:34)*

III. OVERVIEW OF FIVE FOUNDATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. I will detail five aspects of the millennial kingdom that are necessary for God’s people to experience His fullness on the earth (Eph. 3:19). They bring a supernatural, physical, political, spiritual, and relational dimension to the Father’s eternal plan for His people on the earth.
- B. The *New Jerusalem* will come down to earth, bringing a *supernatural, eternal* dimension to the millennial kingdom. It will include the supernatural aspects of our resurrected bodies.
- C. The *garden of Eden* will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) including physical pleasures.
- D. The *kingdom of David* will bring a *political and social* aspect to the Millennium. This will include governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as the government of every nation on earth is brought under Jesus’ authority.
- E. The *house of prayer* will bring a *spiritual* dimension to the kingdom. The millennial temple will be a global worship center from which Jesus will lead the nations in prayer. He will call His people worldwide to encounter God and to rule with Him from a place of worship and prayer (Isa. 56:7).
- F. The *family of God* will bring a *relational community* dimension as the saints live as sons of God and the Bride of Christ and as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26).

IV. NEW JERUSALEM: SUPERNATURAL ETERNAL ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The New Jerusalem will come down to earth, bringing a supernatural, eternal dimension to the millennial kingdom. This will release a greater measure of resurrection life on the earth. The New Jerusalem is the place where resurrected saints will live.
¹²“...*the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.*” (Rev. 3:12)
- B. The heavenly Jerusalem will descend to earthly Jerusalem, connecting the two Jerusalems. When the New Jerusalem comes to the earth, then heaven will literally be on earth. The veil between the natural and heavenly realms will be lifted when Jesus’ throne is established on earth.
- C. God walked with Adam in face-to-face fellowship with unity between these two realms (Gen. 2-3). A veil was created between them when Adam sinned. This veil will be lifted at Jesus’ coming.
- D. In my opinion, the New Jerusalem will descend to earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10), *both* at the beginning (Rev. 21:10) *and* at the end (Rev. 21:2) of the Millennium. Note that many see Revelation 21:9-22:5 as a parenthetical section that describes what happens on earth *during* the Millennium.
- E. Jesus’ throne will be *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).
³*The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem].* (Rev. 22:3)
⁶*I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [millennial temple]...⁷He said, “This is the place of My throne..., where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.”* (Ezek. 43:6-7)
- F. Jesus’ *throne of glory* (Mt. 19:28; 25:31; Rev. 4) with an expression in both Jerusalems: I suggest that it will be a vast “governmental complex” since it will include the large millennial temple structure on earth (Ezek. 43) and the vast throne room of the Father and Son in heaven (Rev. 4). I imagine a governmental complex with the “north end” of it extending into the New Jerusalem and the “south end” of it based in the millennial temple in Jerusalem on earth.
³¹*“When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the throne of His glory.”* (Mt. 25:31)
- G. A “tidal wave” of God’s glory will spread to all nations from Jerusalem.
¹⁴*The earth will be filled with the...glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.* (Hab. 2:14)
- H. In Bethel, about twelve miles north of Jerusalem, Jacob saw a place where a ladder extended from the earth to the gate of heaven. He saw angels ascend and descend between the heavenly and earthly realms. Jacob’s ladder points to the connection of these two realms.
¹²*He dreamed...a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it...¹⁷He said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”* (Gen. 28:12-16)
- I. There are *four reasons* why I believe the New Jerusalem is *close to* earthly Jerusalem and accessible to it, yet not *on the earth* until after the Millennium. Visit mikebickle.org for more; click on the “End Times and Eternity” category (top left), then on “Millennium and New Jerusalem.”

V. THE GARDEN OF EDEN: PHYSICAL PARADISE ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The *garden of Eden* will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) including physical pleasures. We will live in a resurrected, physical body with supernatural capacities to enjoy an earthly paradise that is filled with beauty and pleasure. The food will be delicious with no negative side effects.
- B. God's original intention was to fill the whole earth with conditions of Eden. The sin of the first Adam put a temporary pause on this. Jesus came as the second Adam (1 Cor. 15: 47). Jesus will fulfill God's original purpose of the conditions of Eden spreading across the whole earth.
- C. Jesus will restore 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).

³For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD... (Isa. 51:3)

³⁵They will say, "This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden..." (Ezek. 36:35)

- D. The kingdom of God on earth will fulfill man's utopian dream of a perfect paradise. Seeing the garden of Eden aspect of our eternal salvation is part of seeing the glory of Jesus as our creator.
- E. Scripture begins and ends with God living face-to-face with His people in the garden of Eden. In Genesis 1-2, Adam walked with God in face-to-face fellowship in a garden. In Revelation 21-22, God lives with His people in face-to-face fellowship in a garden. The river of life and the tree of life seen in Genesis 1-2 are also seen in Revelation 21-22. What God originally intended in the first two chapters of the Bible will be fully restored as seen in the last two chapters of the Bible.
- F. The garden of Eden conditions will be established on earth as it is in the New Jerusalem, including the river of life and tree of life. The river and the tree are two manifestations of one grand reality (Ezek. 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-4).

¹There was water flowing from under...the temple...⁸He said to me: "This water flows...when it reaches the sea [Dead Sea], its waters are healed...¹²Along the bank of the river...will grow all kinds of trees used for food...they will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be food, and their leaves for medicine." (Ezek. 47:1-12)

¹And he showed me a pure river of water of life...proceeding from the throne of God...²and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2)

- G. When Adam sinned, all creation was subject to futility or weakness under sin's curse (Rom. 8:21). Jesus reversed this in His salvation. The physical blessing of Abraham will be released on the earth. Harmony will be restored in the animal kingdom and between animals and humans (Isa. 11:6).

¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility...²¹the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom. 8:19-21)

VI. HE KINGDOM OF DAVID: POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The *kingdom of David* will bring a *political and social* aspect to the Millennium. This will include governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as the government of every nation on earth is brought under Jesus' authority.
- B. The kingdom of David speaks the political, social, and Jewish aspect. Jesus will rule as a human, Jewish son of David sitting on the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:13, 16, 23:5; cf. Isa. 9:6-7; 55:3; Ps. 89:3-4; 34-37; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-17, 20-21; Ezek. 37:24-25; Hos. 3:4-5; Amos 9:11).
³²*The Lord God will give Him [Jesus] the throne of His father David. (Lk. 1:32)*
⁷*Of the increase of His government...there will be no end, upon the throne of David... (Isa. 9:7)*
- C. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24). They will base their national governments on God's Word.
¹¹*All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*
- D. Jesus will govern in partnership with resurrected saints who rule with Him (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). This will include varying responsibilities and spheres of authority for each individual.

VII. HOUSE OF PRAYER: INTIMATE SPIRITUAL ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The *house of prayer* will bring a *spiritual* dimension to the kingdom. The millennial temple will be a global worship center from which Jesus will lead the nations in prayer. He will call His people worldwide to encounter God and to rule with Him in context to worship and prayer (Isa. 56:7). Jesus' government of the earth will flow out of worship and intercession (Ps. 2:8).
⁷*“For My house [the temple] shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isa. 56:7)*
- B. The identity of the redeemed forever includes being and functioning as a house of prayer. In other words, God speaks and moves our heart. Then we speak and move His heart in prayer. The result is God's resource being released into the earthly realm.
- C. Jesus' throne will be the temple (house of prayer). The house of prayer will be based in the millennial temple with the Holy of Holies as the center of the global worship and prayer movement.
¹²*The Man...shall build the temple...and shall sit and rule on His throne... (Zech. 6:12-13)*
⁶*I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [millennial temple]...⁷He said, “This is the place of My throne..., where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” (Ezek. 43:6-7)*

VIII. THE FAMILY OF GOD: THE RELATIONAL COMMUNITY ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM

- A. The *family of God* will bring a *relational community* dimension as the saints live as sons of God, as the Bride of Christ, and as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26). God's people will dwell together forever as a vibrant family functioning as kingdom community. God's family will function as a worshipping Bride in deep partnership with the Father and Son.

- B. Paul's prayer points to the Father strengthening the whole family in heaven and earth (Eph. 3:15).
*¹⁴...I bow my knees to the Father...¹⁵from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
¹⁶that He would grant you...to be strengthened with might... ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:14-19)*
- C. Jesus will release His glory in and through His people so that they will flow in the Spirit to bless, serve, and enjoy each other with supernatural unity.
*²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one:
²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You...have loved them as You have loved Me. (Jn. 17:22-23)*

IX. SUMMARY

- A. We need to understand all five aspects to have our hope established firmly in our life. Jesus is both King of the nations and head of the Church as fully God and fully man.
- B. Often Gentile believers only think of worshipping Jesus in the supernatural conditions of heaven, emphasizing His deity as the Son of God. The Jewish paradigm focuses on reigning with the Messiah in the natural conditions of the earth, emphasizing His humanity as the Son of David. Historically, Israel has focused on the earthly dimension of the kingdom without the heavenly. The Church has done the opposite in focusing only on the heavenly dimension without the earthly.
- C. Israel thinks of the Messiah coming to restore the throne of David with its worldwide government coming out of Jerusalem that will reform the whole world and restore it to the garden of Eden. They are not usually thinking of resurrected bodies and angels in heaven.
- D. The Christian concept of a heavenly kingdom in the New Jerusalem walking on streets of gold is very different from the Hebrew view of the Davidic Kingdom. They do not think much about reigning with Jesus on the throne of David over all nations and restoring the earth to the conditions of the garden of Eden.
- E. By seeing Jesus our creator, we see more His beauty and glory in the natural, physical realm.
- F. By seeing the Davidic kingdom restored from Jerusalem to all nations, we see more of Jesus as the King of the nations.