

# He Shall Reign Forever

## The Millennial Reign of Christ

As we begin the Christmas season, I want to draw your attention to the announcement given to Mary by the Angel concerning the birth of her Son

Luke 1:30-33

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

- It is very popular today for couples to use creative ways to reveal that they are expecting or to reveal the gender of their child
- This might be the greatest of all reveals

An Angelic Messenger arrives declaring...

- You will have a Son
- He will be called Jesus
- He will be great
- He will be the Son of God
- He will Sit upon the throne of David to reign over a kingdom that will have no end

Jesus is announced as Israel’s long awaited Messiah King

In fact, the Bible writers declare that not only is Jesus a King but He is actually the King of all kings

1 Timothy 6:15

“... He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords”

Potentate - -an autocratic ruler or a ruler with absolute power

## It is that Kingdom that I want to discuss this morning

- This Kingdom was the anticipation of the Old Testament Saints and Prophets

When David wanted to build the Temple (a house for God) he was forbidden. Instead God promised to build him an enduring house;

2 Samuel 7:12-13

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

- The Seed of David will sit upon a throne and rule the Kingdom of God
- This Kingdom will have no end
- This Kingdom would bring in a glorious age upon the earth where righteousness reigns and war is no more

The Prophets spoke of this as being an earthly reign like no other time in human history.

A time when the world would be restored to its original Eden like state

Isaiah 2:2-4

Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
That the mountain of the LORD'S house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it.  
Many 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 will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.  
He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Zechariah adds that people will travel worldwide to come to Jerusalem to worship Jesus

Zechariah 14:16

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

Isaiah 11:4-9

But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,  
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,  
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,  
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.  
“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;

And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.  
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea.

- The people in Jesus' day anticipated a literal Kingdom where the Messiah would reign

Luke 2:25-26

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Mark 11:9-10

Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

“Hosanna!

‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David

That comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!”

This was true of the people and the religious leaders alike

Mark 15:43

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

This view was so prominent among the people that Luke wrote

Luke 19:11

Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

John explains that on one occasion the people actually attempted to forcibly make Jesus king

John 6:15

Therefore, when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

And this was the expectation of the disciples who asked

Acts 1:6

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

At the time of Christ, based upon the Teachings of the prophets and the ministry of Jesus Himself the people expected that the Messiah would vanquish the enemies of God and establish an earthly kingdom of righteousness and peace

People claiming themselves or others to be the one to usher in this kingdom filled the land

- Some thought the Maccabees would usher the kingdom
- Others looked to various leaders who claimed to be the one

Acts 5:36-37

For some time ago Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody. A number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was slain, and all who obeyed him were scattered and came to nothing. After this man, Judas of Galilee rose up in the days of the census, and drew away many people after him. He also perished, and all who obeyed him were dispersed.

- But in our text Heaven speaks declaring Christ alone to be the King who will usher in God's eternal kingdom

- The Kingdom of God was the Primary subject of the teaching ministry of Jesus

He spoke of entrance into this Kingdom

Matthew 5:20

For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

Self-achieved righteousness is not enough to provide entrance to this Kingdom

John 3:3

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

In other words, conversion is necessary to become a citizens of this Kingdom

Matthew 18:3

and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

He spoke of the way of life of the citizens of this Kingdom

The main subject of His teaching was to explain how His followers would live in this world as citizens of a heavenly kingdom

He put the highest value on things like

- Servanthood
- Humility
- Mercy
- Forgiveness
- Love for all
- Turning the other cheek
- Going the extra mile
- Doing things for others with no expectation of a return

He modeled what that Kingdom would be like

He sent His followers into the world to invite all to make Aliya or become citizens of His Eternal Kingdom

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Acts 28:30-31

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.

And promised them they would have tremendous impact upon the world

Matthew 13:31-32

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

- **This Kingdom can be experienced now**

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

Observation - cannot be detected with visible signs because this Kingdom is within you

That does not mean that there will no physical Kingdom but that we can experience much of the truths of that Kingdom now

Christ can reign in your life

He can institute a rule of love, peace and righteousness

He can transform your life and the life of those around you

- But Jesus also anticipated a time when He would be reunited with His followers in a literal Kingdom

Luke 22:15-16

Then He said to them, "With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Luke 13:29

They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.

- This Kingdom will ultimately be realized when Jesus returns

And when He comes, He will come in glory

- Isaiah pleaded

Isaiah 64:1

Oh, that You would rend the heavens!

That You would come down!

That the mountains might shake at Your presence—

- Jesus promised

Matthew 25:31

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Revelation 1:7

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. Even so, Amen.

The prophets spoke of the time when Messiah would come and set up this kingdom

Zechariah 14:4

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.



And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,  
From east to west,  
Making a very large valley;  
Half of the mountain shall move toward the north  
And half of it toward the south.

And establishes His throne in Jerusalem

Zechariah 14:16

And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

It is then and only then that the world will be restored to the Eden like state God designed it to be in before man rebelled against God

Isaiah 2:4

They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 11

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

- **Revelation 19-20 describe the return of Christ and the establishing of His earthly reign**

Revelation 19:11-16

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is

called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

- **According to Revelation 20 this reign will last 1,000 years before**

6 times in Revelation 20 we read the duration of this reign will last 1,000 years

Some question this 1,000-year reign because it is only mentioned here. They do so by failing to realize that the book of Revelation is the consummation of all things. Things that were shown in part to earlier prophets are made clearer as John watches them unfold.

Clearly the prophets spoke of a physical reign of Christ on the earth from Jerusalem. The book of Revelation gives us the duration of that reign before the new heaven and earth are created

- **We do not know the timing of when this will transpire so the Bible writers urge us to be ready**

Jesus Himself said,

Luke 21:31

So, you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

- **The world is in need of a new King**
- The great expectation of the child of God is that Christ will return to reign and make all things right.

But we do not have to wait until then to see Jesus transform our lives.