

# The Millennial Reign of King Jesus

## Revelation 20

**INTRODUCTION:** We are looking today at the **Millennial Reign of Christ**, that word millennial means 1000 years. By the way that term, “a thousand years” is used 6 times in this chapter. Imagine, for 1000 years Jesus Christ will literally rule and reign upon the Earth as we know it. This is prior to the final Judgement, prior to New Heavens and New Earth, Jesus sitting upon a literal throne in Jerusalem and Governing the Planet.

In a very real sense it could be said, “The bible is mostly about a King and His Kingdom”. It begins with the very first book of the Bible...

### OLD TESTAMENT

- **EDEN** - The Bible begins with the first man and woman created by God and given **dominion (Legal Authority)** over the whole earth. Adam was the first King on Planet Earth. He was accountable to God alone. He had a mandate - he was to take all that was Eden (the capital city) and spread it over the face of the Earth - fill the earth and subdue it. King Adam made a tragic mistake. He chose, as an act of his free will - to reject the authority of God and to submit himself to the WORD of the serpent.
- **God cursed mankind** - but he also made a promise... from the Seed of a woman a man would come who would be another King. This new King would set right everything that Adam got wrong. Genesis 3:15 (ESV) *15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he (so it's a male child born to a woman) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*

THAT WAS THE HOPE, the seed, this male baby to be born of woman...

- With every son born, they must have wondered, “Could this be the One?”

But one after another, they fell short... none could defeat Satan, overcome death, and regain the authority, dominion and kingdom lost by Adam.

- **Able** looked promising... but he was killed by Cain.
- Then **Noah** seemed to be a good candidate - He built the Ark, he trusted God... but then did you see what he did when he got off the ark? I'll tell you this - it isn't in your kid's storybook bible.
- Then Father **Abraham** - the father of the faithful! But did you hear how he lied about his wife and shared her with another man?
- Then came **Moses** - surely this is the Lord's anointed King! But then he murdered a man, and he became angry he sinned in a way that kept him from the promised land.
- Then came **David** - the man after God's own heart, the Giant killer! But he who slew Goliath was slain by his own lust when he saw the wife of Uriah bathing. Nevertheless,

God promised that it would be a descendant of David who would receive the eternal throne.

***So, the entire OT is anticipating the coming King - the Anointed One - the Christ.***

## **THEN WE COME TO THE NEW TESTAMENT**

Chronologically, it was the first thing that happened in the NT. An Angel visits a young woman named, "Mary". Remember - Messiah will come as the male child, the seed of a woman.

### **1. The Angel Gabriel**

**Luke 1:30–33 (ESV) Gabriel appears to Mary...**

<sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

So there it is - the King is coming... He will have a Kingdom. We even know who his mother will be.

*Then the picture fades and comes into focus with John the Baptist preaching...*

**2. John the Baptist** - Someone asked me once, "Do you really think John was a Baptist? I said, "I've never heard him called John the Episcopalian - have you?"

This is the fore-runner to the Messiah - the OT had prophesied one coming in the spirit and power of Elijah - that would be John. Jesus said of John, "Of all men born of women none has arisen greater than John". What do you suppose will be the essences of John's message?

**Matthew 3:1–2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup> "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Repent - means to change your mind, reorient your life... why? Because the Kingdom is here..... reorient your life under the rule and reign of the King.

### **3. Then Jesus**

He begins his preaching ministry in **Matthew 4:17 (ESV)** Matthew summarizes his teachings with verse 17...

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

#### 4. Jesus After the Resurrection -

##### **Acts 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the **kingdom** of God.

#### 5. The Apostles -

##### **Acts 8:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the **kingdom** of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

##### **Acts 19:6–8 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying. <sup>7</sup> There were about twelve men in all. <sup>8</sup> And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the **kingdom** of God.

### ***THE BIBLE IS ABOUT a KING and a KINGDOM***

#### 6. Now we come to REVELATION - The Eschaton - The climax of world history.

##### We have read already in **Revelation 11:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, **“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”**

But, today we see how the King takes His throne and establishes His Kingdom in a very concrete sense.

Remember, Jesus returns at the end of a period of horrible **tribulation**. The population of Planet Earth is greatly reduced. The war of Armageddon is over, the antiChrist and False Prophet are bound.

*The next thing we see is...*

## **1.Satan is Restrained**

##### **Revelation 20:1–3 (ESV)**

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the

bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

**So this Angel holds two things - a Key and a Chain.** We are told the key is to the bottomless pit. The Bottomless pit is sort of a Spiritual Prison. We were told in **9:1** that the bottomless pit was opened and thousands of scorpion-like locusts came forth to torment the wicked.

I believe the demons that follow Satan are also included in this..Remember in the Gospels the demons begged Jesus NOT to throw them into the Abyss before the appointed time?

3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him,

So we see Satan is not sent willingly, but he is thrown. No doubt there was great resistance, perhaps a battle fought.

3b. so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Satan's primary task is to **deceive national leaders**. We see he did that with Pharaoh in **Egypt**, the **Babylonian** and **Persian** kings, he does it today. If you are tempted you are tempted most likely by a demon not Satan himself. He has bigger fish to fry.

We also see that after the 1000 years is complete and Satan is released he goes **directly to the world leaders**. We might assume that currently he is loosed and he is deceiving the Nations, all the more reason to pray for world leaders.

*Not only is Satan Restrained...*

## **2. Jesus is Reigning**

Notice, He begins by restoring **authority**. Notice what it says,

### **Revelation 20:4 (ESV)**

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.

I find it fascinating that even Jesus delegates authority, he raises up, trains others, and give them authority to lead. Good delegation is the key to great leadership.

### **We see at Least 4 Groups Ruling with Christ:**

1. **The Old Testament Saints** - This will include Abraham, Moses, David, and a whole host of other unnamed people saved in ancient times who will join in the rule with Christ during the millennial kingdom. I expect that Enoch who walked with God before the flood will also be raised to enter the kingdom.

2. **The Apostles of Christ - Matthew 19:27–28 (ESV)** 28 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
3. **Tribulation Martyrs - 4b.** Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.
4. **We will Reign with Him - 2 Timothy 2:12 (ESV)** <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with him...

So some, in a resurrected body, imperishable, will rule over millions who have a perishable body. All human, some glorified, some mortal.

Remember after His resurrection, Jesus was able to interact with His disciples, and although in a glorified body, He ate fish with them (Luke 24:40–43; John 21:11–13).

That’s how it will be - some of us will walk the earth in our glorified bodies and administer the government of Christ.

THEN - We see that all of the things that you saw during the earthly ministry of Jesus in the Gospels were only snap shots of the Millennial Reign.

- He can provide supernaturally and eradicate poverty
- He has power over natural disasters and storms.
- He has authority over the work of demons.

**During this Millennial Dispensation** - Jesus will literally, Physically rule and reign from Jerusalem and the curse of sin will be ***partially lifted*** for 1000 years. This will launch the reconstruction phase of planet earth. Jesus must restore and rebuild all that has been decimated in the 3rd great war.

In the Old Testament there are many chapters devoted to the idea of a utopia where God’s Messiah rules, and we have descriptions of a kingdom, the likes of which we have never seen.

**Isaiah 11:3–6 (ESV)** 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

So the **Justice systems** will be perfected under Christ’s rule. No more abuse, no more cover ups, no more bullying, no more high dollar attorney getting the guilty off, no more school shootings.

4b. and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Those who are bent on evil are dealt with swiftly and completely.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. 6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

We love pets at our house. We have a cat, a dog, and a parrot. But we have to govern them appropriately... why? The dog wants to eat the cat, and the cat wants to eat the bird. Not in the Millennium. Provision will be so abundant and wonderful, that people will not have to turn against each other to survive. Ethnic and Racial disharmony will be gone, wars and rumors of wars will cease.

Think of it - our best minds are making bombs, lasers, ammo, instruments of warfare. Imagine if they were making transportation devices, medical equipment, there will be sudden and dramatic improvements in the quality of life.

**Isaiah 65:20 (ESV)** shows us how the curse of sin remains, but it's effects are diminished under Christ's rule...

20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days

So the infant mortality rate plummets under Christ's new world order.

20b, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

So we see babies continue to be born... that can't be talking about heaven because that doesn't happen in heaven. People aren't married and given in marriage.

We also see that a 100 year old man will be considered young.

Today we get 70 years and if by strength 80... but not when Christ reigns.

In that day if you die at 100 you will be considered cursed. This will be the effect of Jesus presence and rule on the planet.

**Isaiah 2:2-4 (ESV)** 4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The Naval Station at Mayport will be retooled... perhaps we will take cruises on submarines. No need to have weapons of war at that point.

**ILLUSTRATION:** I read where one guy said it's going to be like church camp, no phones, no ipads, no internet, Just JESUS. Well nothing is wrong with that, but I don't

see that at all in scripture. We were commanded to make technological advances.. that is what was meant by the command to fill the earth... **and SUBDUE it.**

The reason you drove here in a car is because Henry Ford subdued metal.

Technology is a good thing. Don't imagine that it will go away in the Millennial, but image that it will be better than ever.

Formulas that stumped Einstein will be solved by grade school children. Von Brahn's wildest dreams will become a reality.

**A.Technology Released** - StarWars will look Amish.

**B.The Arts will be Released** - Van Gogh will look like Paint by Number.

**C.Literature Released** - Shakespeare will read like Dr. Seuss.

Architecture, Government, Family all become new.

For 1,000 years we will see what life could be like if everyone lived under the rule and reign of Jesus Christ.

**DOES THAT SOUND NICE? Well I have good news! You can live under his Authority today!**

There is nothing to cause you to have to wait for Jesus to Literally return before you start living under his rule and authority. As a matter of fact the Christian life is simply by faith bringing every area of your life under the rule and reign of Jesus.

- Is Jesus Lord of your home? Dad do you seek His face that you might lead your family in a way that is pleasing to Him?
- Is Jesus Lord of your relationships? Do you seek to evangelize the lost, fellowship with the saved? Do you avoid being the companion of a fool?
- Is Jesus the Lord of your Finances? We will see in a few minutes. Do you do all you do to the Glory of God? When you do art is it for Jesus' glory? Music? Literature?
- Is Jesus Lord of what you watch? read?
- Is Jesus Lord over your technology? hobbies?

**CONCLUSION/INVITATION:** IMAGINE THAT FIRST CHRISTMAS WHEN JESUS REIGNS:

The whole world sings in harmony...."Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King."

Oh and that third verse describes the Millennial reign perfectly... *"No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground."*

Verse four includes, "He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonder of His love."

