

The Millennium: A Place For You!

Stand Read Pray

Do you know what it is like to experience being out of place. You know, you have planned that trip to paradise or that cruise you have been waiting for. Or maybe just a trip to the beach. You have planned and waited. You have packed and traveled. You reach your destination and go about your trip only to find in the midst of it all something seems to be missing. As you find yourself in the midst of people you do not know, all of them doing just what you are doing, you still feel isolated and by yourself. Oh, there are times of divine appointments, but I am speaking in general. Some of us have reached the doldrums of life. The everyday routine that that seem hopeless and worthless sometimes. Then, there is the condition of the world around us. The community we live in and then on a global scale. If we spend too much time learning about it, we groan and lament. If you are human, you have to ask where is this all going? For you and me, we are headed somewhere. A place and time just for you. Look around, believe it or not this place is headed to a place made just for you and me!!!

John 15:18-21

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

You are part of a different kingdom that is in opposition from the one we are living in. You are not supposed to be comfortable in it. When you became "Born Again" you got a new identity and a new citizenship.

Philippians 3:20-21

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

That heavenly citizenship comes with an inheritance. It is a place in the Thousand Year Reign of Christ! Last week we saw that this Kingdom is a Promise for Israel, but it is also a Place for You!

Ephesians 3:1-7

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles— 2 if indeed you have heard of the **dispensation of the grace of God** which was given to me for you, 3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), 5 which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: 6 that **the Gentiles should be fellow heirs**, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, 7 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

Let us now pick up where we left off in verse 4...

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Now this is the place where all those that are in heaven and those that were killed during the tribulation period are now entering into this thousand-year reign with Christ. Of course, you have to ask the question, who is this? If the resurrection is at the rapture, who are these people and where do they come from? If we take the scripture literally, as we should, then we only see two groups here.

First, thrones and they that sit on them. Who is this? Some say it is God and His throne and it is He that is judging. Can't be. The throne that God sits on is always in the singular in scripture. This use is in the plural and is only used four times. Twice it is used to describe the thrones of the twenty four elders...

Revelation 4:4

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the **thrones** I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Revelation 11:16

16 And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their **thrones** fell on their faces and worshiped God

In our study of Revelation 4 I talked about who I thought the twenty fours elders were. I believe they are the “Representatives” of the twelve tribes of Israel and the Twelve Apostles. That all believers of all time are saved by the Lamb of God and will only get into heaven one way...through Jesus.

The other place this use of the word for thrones is found in Matthew 19:28...

So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that **in the regeneration**, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve **thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Last time I checked 12 plus 12 equals 24. Unless you are using some kind of common core math this means something. If numbers mean something in the bible, which they do, you cannot discount the use of 24 and the fact the 12 plus 12 equals 24. Why twenty-four elders? He could have just seen a large number of them. He could have just used the word in the plural “Elders and Thrones” but he didn’t. He used twenty-four on purpose! By way of review of those that died in faith before the time of Jesus...

Hebrews 11:13-16

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. 15 And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 11:39-40

39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, **that they should not be made perfect apart from us.**

If this is true, then the writer of Hebrews is saying that we will be “Made Perfect” at the same time as those that died in faith. Who’s that? The Old Testament believers!

Then why do some teach that the Old Testament Saints do rise again until the end of the Tribulation?

In the next two verses we see the mention of the “First Resurrection”. They will then refer to 1 Corinthians 15:20-25

20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

They try to break this into three by using the idea of the firstfruits. The first harvest, the main harvest and the gleanings. That is reading into something that is not there.

Then their proof text is Daniel 12 at the end of the chapter...

9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

11 “And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days. 12 Blessed is he who waits, and comes to the one thousand three hundred and thirty-five days.

13 “But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days.”

They are pointing to the end of the days as being the end of the tribulation period and they are right. But when it says that he will rise it is referring to his inheritance, which is speaking of the Millennial Kingdom. We have to be honest that the resurrection is vague in the Old Testament. That fact that Daniel will be raised when he enters the Kingdom with the nation of Israel is not in question just whether he is already raised seven years before with us. Remember Paul said...

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I tell you a **mystery**: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

We know that it was just a mystery in the Old Testament because Daniel had just been told...

Daniel 12:2

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake,
Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

We know now that there is a thousand years between these two events so why not seven between the rapture and the time that Daniel enters his inheritance? I don't think I am wrong but it's not worth splitting a church over.

So that means those that are on the thrones are those that are already risen again that came back with Jesus on white horses and are now sitting on the thrones of the kingdom. But what about those that died during the tribulation? They are the group that we see mentioned in verse 4. Remember where we have seen them before?

Rev 6:9-11

9 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. 10 And

they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.

Rev 7:9-17

9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom,
Thanksgiving and honor and power and might,
Be to our God forever and ever.
Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"

14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know."

So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to [c]living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

These are now getting their bodies and entering into the kingdom with us! But what does this kingdom look like and what will we be doing?

Remember that we have been called by Jesus to be...

Revelation 1:5-6

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

What are kings and priest to do? They represent God to people! Remember the parable that Jesus said in Matthew 25?

14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**’ 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘**Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.**’

24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew **you to be a hard man**, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’

26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my

coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.

29 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

But what will this kingdom look like?

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Micah 4:1-5

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 peoples shall flow to it.
2 Many nations 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 the law shall go forth,
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
3 He shall judge between many peoples,
And rebuke strong nations afar off;
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,
And their spears into [a]pruning hooks;
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
Neither shall they learn war anymore.
4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree,
And no one shall make them afraid;
For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.
5 For all people walk each in the name of his god,
But we will walk in the name of the Lord our God
Forever and ever.

So, we see a time of peace and prosperity but what about the earth itself? What will it be like for us?

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. 24 **For we were saved in this hope**, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Isaiah 55:12-13

“For you shall go out with joy,
And be led out with peace;
The mountains and the hills
Shall break forth into singing before you,
And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree,
And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;
And it shall be to the Lord for a name,
For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Isaiah 11:6-9

“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.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.
9 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.

Isaiah 65:20-25

20 “No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed.
21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
They shall not plant and another eat;
For as the **days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people,**
And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain,
Nor bring forth children for trouble;
For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord,
And their offspring with them.

24 "It shall come to pass
That before they call, I will answer;
And while they are still speaking, I will hear.

25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
The lion shall eat straw like the ox,
And dust shall be the serpent's food.
They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,"
Says the Lord.

There are many more places like this that tell us of the wonderful inheritance that you and I have. It is a place for you. It is part of the first resurrection...

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

If you not part of this resurrection you will not be part of this kingdom and as you will see next week part of the second death. You do not want that.

You have heard it said "Born once, die twice. Born twice, die once" You must get saved now as time is short and this kingdom is coming. Understand God is waiting for you!

2 Peter 3:8-9

8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

He wants you to be part of His kingdom and He is waiting for you. Will you respond?

Close out and have everyone stand and then pray.