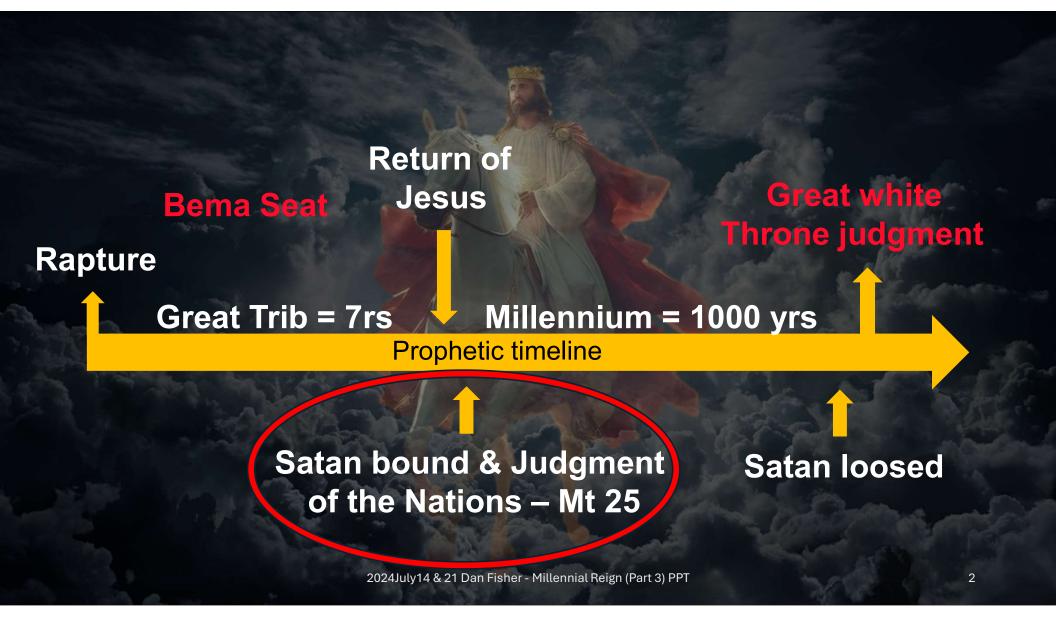
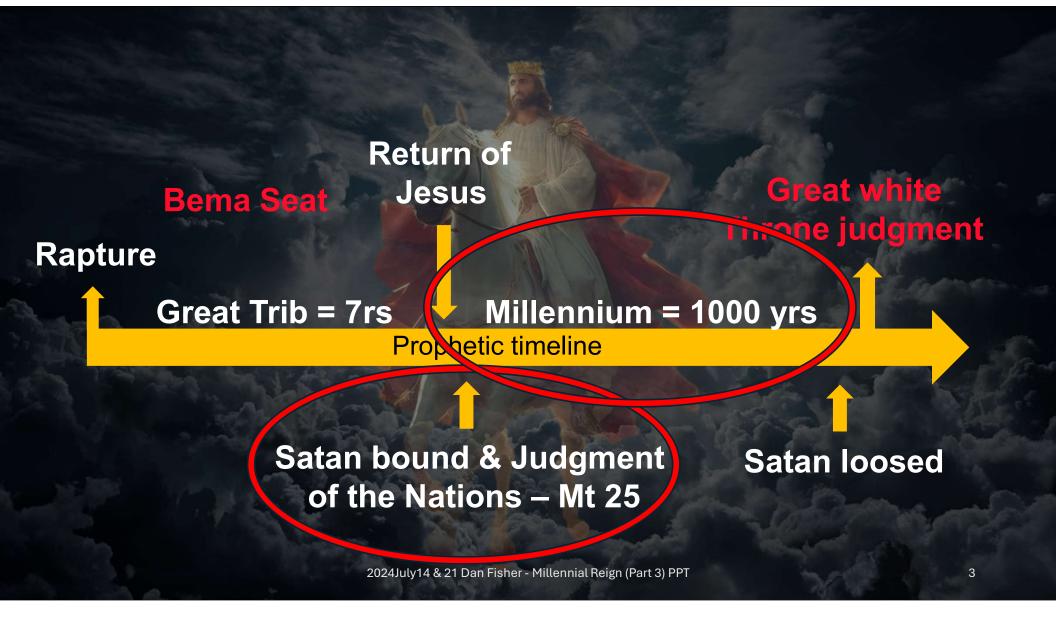
The Millennial Reign of Jesus Part 3: "The Millennium begins"





Mt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

1. There are numerous objections some give for not believing in a "literal" 1000 year kingdom:

Jesus said His kingdom is "not of this world"

Jn 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Jesus was simply saying that the "source" of His kingdom is not "from" this world – He was not saying His kingdom would not be "on" this world.

Rev 20 is the only place Scripture mentions a "1000 years"

Rev 20:2-7 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.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. 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. ⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

- Actually, Rev 20 is not the only place in the N.T. that the Millennium is mentioned
 - Jesus calls it "the regeneration" in Mt 19:28
 - It is called "the times of refreshing" in Acts 3:19
 - It is called "the period of restoration of all things" in Acts 3:21
 - It is called "the dispensation of the fullness of the times" in Eph 1:10

Eric Sauer, German Theologian, *The Triumph* of the Crucified, an earthly millennial kingdom:

1. Is the only adequate confirmation of the truthfulness and reliability of God's promises.

2. Is the only consistent interpretation of Messianic prophecy.

3. Is the only explanation of the end times that corresponds to Jesus' teaching in the gospels.



4. Is the best possible way for Jesus Christ to demonstrate that He is the supreme ruler over His creation.

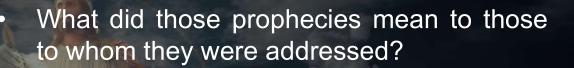
5. Is the only and necessary bridge from human history to eternal glory.



John MacArthur raises 3 problems with not interpreting the kingdom as a literal kingdom:

1. If the literal sense of a passage is rejected, who is to determine what the nonliteral or spiritual sense is, since the normal rules of interpretation do not apply?

2. Adopting a nonliteral view of the O.T. kingdom prophecies brings up difficult questions:



- If prophecies seemingly addressed to Israel really apply to the church, did God give revelation that failed to reveal?
- If those prophecies were meant to apply symbolically to the church, why were they addressed to Israel?

3. Spiritualizing those prophecies leads to some glaring inconsistencies. (Prophecies about Jesus' 1st coming were literal, so why not the kingdom prophecies?)

2. Verses prophesying a kingdom make little to no sense if it is not a literal kingdom:

Rom 11:15,25-27,29 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ... ²⁵ ... blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." ... ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Ps 72:8-11 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. ⁹ Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, and His enemies will lick the dust. ¹⁰ The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; the kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts. ¹¹ Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. Is 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. 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.

Is 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Is 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. ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist. ⁶ "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.

Jer 23:5-8 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ⁸ but, 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land." Jer 31:33-34,38 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴ No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." ... ³⁸ "Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, that the city shall be built for the Lord from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. ³⁹ The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. ⁴⁰ And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the Lord. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever."

Ezk 20:34-38 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. ³⁵ And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. ³⁶ Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord God. ³⁷ "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; ³⁸ I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the Lord.

Dan 7:13-14 "I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed. Dan 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy. Lk 1:32-33 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. 33 And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Jn 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

1 Cor 15:24-28 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. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

3. After the "Judgment of the Nations" is complete, Jesus will lock up the Devil

Rev 20:2-7 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

• Who is the angel?

- He is not Jesus – Jesus created the angels

- He must be a high-ranking angel – maybe Michael

What is the bottomless pit? (abyss/tartarus)

- It is not the final destination for demons

Mt 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

- It is a prison for demons

1 Pet 3:19-20 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

- The demons fear being sent there

Lk 8:31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

- Many of these demons will be released during the Grt Trib to torment the wicked (Rev 9:1-12)

Are the key and chain literal?

No. This is a perfect example of where the reference is obviously not literal.

Literal chains cannot bind a demon.

Mk 5:1-5 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

Satan is "sealed" in the bottomless pit

Eph 1:13 ... in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise

Rev 3:7 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens":

Why is he locked up?

Rev 20:3 ... so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.