

MAIN THEMES OF THE MILLENNIUM

SESSION 14 - INTRO TO BIBLE PROPHECY TEACHING SERIES

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I. INTRODUCTION TO THE 1,000 YEAR KINGDOM

- A. What we believe about the future deeply affects how we feel and live today. Jesus and the New Testament authors consistently encouraged believers to be filled with hope and live holy by referencing the millennial kingdom's promises. The promises of the future personally fueled Jesus and Paul's sacrificial labors.
- B. The Millennium is a 1,000-year time span where Jesus reigns physically as King in Jerusalem. We are teaching from the perspective that the 1,000-year reign of Jesus is literal and future and will begin after His return to the earth.
- C. Another perspective is called Amillennialism, which states the 1,000-year kingdom is spiritual and was initiated at Jesus' ascension to heaven. The negative to this perspective is that it spiritualizes Bible prophecies, assumes the Great Tribulation was in 70AD, and removes Israel's significance in God's eternal plans.
- D. The Millennium's purpose is to initiate Jesus' kingship over the earth and disciple the nations under His direct leadership. He will heal and transform the earth in preparation for the Father and heaven to fully join the natural realm (Ephesians 1:10; 1 Cor 15:23-28). During the 1,000 years, Jesus will naturally and progressively transform the earth in partnership with humans.
- E. Most of the Bible's prophecies about the Messiah are about His physical and global kingdom. He is on a throne in heaven now, and He will be on a throne on earth in the future. ***We study Jesus' 1,000 year kingdom because it is part of the gospel of the kingdom message.***

II. HEAVEN AND EARTH CONNECTED

That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth - in Him. (Ephesians 1:10)

And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:20)

- A. The full gospel message is that God reconciled heaven and earth through the cross. The Father desires the full union of the two realms. The fullness of God being reconciled to

humanity is God fully dwelling with humanity. The gospel promises is face to face friendship with God with the earthly and heavenly realms fully joined together.

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. (Revelation 21:10)

- B. Jesus will begin the merger between the two realms during the millennium. It seems that the New Jerusalem will partly descend and rest over Jerusalem and the Middle East. It will join the earth fully when the Father comes to dwell on the earth after the Millennium (Revelation 21:1-8).
- C. Revelation 19:11-21:8 is one timeline prophecy that covers Jesus' appearing, the 1,000 years, the final judgment seat, and heaven fully joining the earth. In his writing, John makes a shift in Revelation 20:9 and takes us back to the beginning of the millennium time frame.

(Heavenly Jerusalem) And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. (Revelation 21:24-26)

(Earthly Jerusalem) "Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles. And their kings in procession, for the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined." (Isaiah 60:11-12)

- D. The New Jerusalem (Heaven) will be connected to the earthly Jerusalem. Jesus will be king in both cities. Heaven will be His throne and Jerusalem His footstool (extension).
- E. At times, the kings of the earth will enter into heaven through the earthly Jerusalem to worship and bring offerings to Jesus. The Light of the New Jerusalem will shine on the nations that worship Jesus. Leaves from the tree of life will be taken to the nations for healing (Rev 22:2).

II. JERUSALEM - JESUS' THRONE

- A. Jesus' earthly headquarters will be in Jerusalem. Why Jerusalem? Many believe Jerusalem is the original place of the Garden of Eden. It is the place that God has desired to live with His people since Adam and Eve sinned, and the first place He will restore the Garden of Eden qualities (agriculture, face to face with Jesus, manifest glory).

For the LORD will comfort Zion (Jerusalem). He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. (Isaiah 51:3)

“So they will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate, and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited.’ (Ezekiel 36:35)

- B. Jerusalem will be restored as the Garden of Eden, and the garden will extend into the nations as God purposed in the beginning with Adam and Eve (Ezekiel 47).
- C. Every Jewish person that survives the Great Tribulation will be radically saved (Romans 11:26).

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. 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. (Isaiah 2:2-3)

- D. Jerusalem will be elevated and become the highest mountain on earth, and all nations will come to Jesus to receive His teachings. Psalm 48 is entirely focused on the glory of Jerusalem during the millennium.
- E. Jesus’ earthly throne will be inside of His 24/7 House of Prayer. The Old Testament temples represented God’s throne room on the earth, and Jesus’ will express that in fullness (Zechariah 6:12-13; Isaiah 56:7).
- F. Satan’s rage will be released on this city in the Great Tribulation because of its eternal purpose in God’s kingdom.

III. ALL NATIONS WILL WORSHIP JESUS

“Peoples shall yet come, inhabitants of many cities; the inhabitants of one city shall go to another saying, ‘Let us continue to go and pray before the LORD, and seek the LORD of hosts. I myself will go also.’ Yes, many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD.” (Zechariah 8:20-22)

Yes all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him....And men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed. (Psalm 72:11, 17)

- A. All the nations will worship Jesus in Jerusalem. Zech 8:21-23, 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. (Zechariah 14:16)

- B. There will be Sabbath celebrations and global worship celebrations in honor of the Old Testament Feasts (Isaiah 56).

IV. SAINTS REIGNING WITH JESUS

***And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.* (Revelation 2:25)**

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)

- A. Jesus will resurrect and reward the saints in the first resurrection at His return. This allows the saints to be dynamically involved in helping Jesus transform the earth. Ruling and reigning with Jesus is part of the reward of the saints' faithfulness in their life.
- B. Resurrected saints will live in the New Jerusalem and "commute" to the earth to lead non-resurrected kings and officials to transform their nations.
- C. Our 70-80 years on the earth are a training ground or internship for our full leadership position in the millennium.

***But they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.* (Revelation 20:6)**

***"And have made us kings and priests to our God, and we shall reign on the earth."
(Revelation 5:10)***

- D. The saints will primarily govern through prayer and worship. His people are called "Priests" because they will minister to Him as priests as their way of governing. Jesus will be a "Priest on His throne." (Zechariah 6:13) Prayer and worship are eternal functions in God's kingdom.

V. EVERY NATION & SPHERE DISCIPLED

***"He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels"* (Revelation 2:27)**

- A. Jesus' kingdom will manifest in every nation and in every sphere of society (political/governmental, economic, spiritual life, educational, law enforcement, agricultural, family, media, social institutions, etc). Jesus will "dash" ungodly systems and government in order to build new foundations.
- B. Godly systems from this age transfer into the millennial kingdom.

Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.