



The Millennial Reign
of
Christ

by David E. Stewart

All Scriptures are from the King James Version
of the Bible
unless otherwise noted.

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Introduction

It is an observable aspect of human behavior that we often are dogmatic to the point of arrogance about future unknowables. We are not sure about yesterday but we act as though we know all about the hidden things in the unseeable future. If there is anything that should force humility upon us it would be prophecy.

God graciously tells us about the end of all things in the Bible but our knowledge is limited. He alone reserves the power to know the end from the beginning. God dwells outside of time, which is a part of his creation. Part of the signature of God upon the Holy Scriptures is His writing about the future ahead of time.

When prophetic events transpire, after the fact, we will look back at them and marvel at how everything took place exactly as God had said but never as we have imagined them or have been told by others.

In this short book is how I see the Scriptures concerning the end-time events at this point in my Christian journey. More insight may come and that is very welcome. May we all want Truth more than our own opinions. These writings are temporal and changeable. God's Word, however, is not.

Chapter 1

The Millennial Reign

Expectations of Messiah's Reign

Someone has said that there are more Baptists than there are people. Generally, Baptist doctrine is good. However, there is everything from satanism to fundamentally sound churches with the name “Baptist” over the door.

I have heard that Seventh Day Adventism has a very wide spectrum of teachings within the “denomination”. There does not seem to be a specific, narrow set of beliefs in all the churches that are called Adventist. Some lean more toward Biblical precepts and others are far from the teachings of the Scriptures.

In a similar way the Jewish understanding from the first century of the expected Messianic Kingdom did not have a single unified anticipation. Many expected Messiah to vanquish all oppressors and exalt Israel to world class status. Some had an emphasis on more spiritual things. Messiah would rebuild the temple and eliminate the corruption from the priesthood. Some had expectations of a more economically just system of society.

Since there were not clear Scriptural descriptions of the Messianic Age, people filled in the blanks with whatever seemed to be ideal to them. This varied according to the Rabbis they were exposed to and the various sub-cultures they lived in across the Middle East region and around the world.

Each Jewish sub-culture would seem to devise their own version of Messiah and His kingdom depending on what they felt was most important to them. It sounds very similar to the method of establishing Christian end times eschatology in the present day.

Even today, we do not have a lot of Biblical

texts explaining the Reign of Messiah. This article will try to keep speculation to a minimum and focus on the limited amount of revelation that the Scriptures do give us. My interpretation of Scripture on this topic tends to be a literal reading of the Bible.

What is Messiah?

Very generally, in **Jewish** eschatology, the Messiah is a coming future figure who will be the liberator of the Jews from all oppressors. He is supposed to be a fully human (thus non-deity) descendant of King David. In addition to freeing Israel from all enemies, he is to rebuild the temple and bring the nation to world class status or higher along with universal peace.

The Christian idea is that Jesus of Nazareth has fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament by bringing eternal redemption to all who will believe in Him. This was done through His work on the cross.

What is the Messianic Era?

According to **Jewish** tradition, it will be one of global peace and harmony; an era free of strife and hardship. War and poverty will be eliminated. The global atmosphere will be one of gaining knowledge of God.

Many Christians view it differently. At Jesus' Second Coming He will usher in a literal reign of righteousness. This will be the political, earthly kingdom promised to King David that will be ruled by Christ and/or His proxies for 1,000 years. He will continue His rule into the New Heavens and a New Earth.

What is the **Millennium**? The word itself refers to a one thousand year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth in the future. This would include an administration of the resurrected King David, perhaps a natural descendant of David, the Patriarchs and Apostles and Prophets. Also included would be the faithful among the resurrected Church Age Believers although they might be “part time” since they are ruling from “heavenly places” (Eph 2:6) as well.

It is my opinion that as we read the Scriptures,

we should assume the text to be **literal** unless there is some reason to take the text as an idiom or as allegorical. For example, Jesus said he wanted to gather all Israel as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings (Luke 13:34). The Psalms speak of safety under the feathers of God (Psa 91:4). Is God a giant chicken? When the literal reading is unlikely, then we should seek for a symbolic meaning. Therefore it is assumed that the 1,000 year reign of Christ is to be taken as literal.

These are some of the varied expectations of the Millennial Kingdom, the reign of Messiah. How closely do they match what the actual Kingdom of Messiah is supposed to be?

Chapter 2

The Golden Age

The theme behind the Messianic Millennial Kingdom is that of a golden age of peace and prosperity. It will be a literal 1,000 year age of a near perfect environment – in nature, geographically, and politically.

Some see the history of the world as 6 millennia of human government. These have been at least 6,000 years of failed experiments in human leadership. With the strengths and weaknesses of human governments, one of them is ideal. That one is a Dictatorship – a benevolent dictatorship. With Jesus of Nazareth, the Prince of Peace, governing the planet, the earth will finally see an almost perfect world. It will run the way earth is intended to operate.

When I say an *almost* perfect world that is because natural humans will still have the free will to choose. Some will choose evil but most will be outwardly compliant. This will factor in at the end of the Millennium as we will eventually see. A thousand years, though, is a long time. We will see the world run as God intended it as the world's population grows into the multiple billions.

An Old Testament passage that describes the world condition during the Millennium is Isaiah 2:4.

*And he shall judge among the nations,
and shall rebuke many people: and they
shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruninghooks:
nation shall not lift up sword against
nation, neither shall they learn war any
more.*

We learn here that Messiah's reign will be one without war. Small conflicts will be settled by the Lord's judging and wisdom – by force if

necessary. Another famous passage found in the book of Isaiah:

The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isa 11:6-9)

The animal kingdom will be at peace. Right now lions hunt and thirst for blood because they are forced to. They do not want to. Their instincts drive them to do what they do not want to. The entire creation groans waiting for the day when all will be set right. In the Millennium all animals will be as they were intended.

Weather will be normal and ideal.
Sickness will be removed. Death will be rare.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.
(Isa 65:20)

If a child dies less than 100 years old it will be an unusual tragedy. If a man does not live out his near one thousand years, it will be a scandal.

They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
(Isa 65:22)

Some trees can live for centuries. The prophet did not say "like Days of Dirt" or "Days of a

Mountain" but like "days of a tree". This is not eternal life but long lifetimes, like the days of Noah, before the Flood. People will be able to plant orchards and live long enough to see the trees produce fruit. They themselves will be able to see it, not only a far future generation. A man will build a house and the stones will wear out before his life does.

The Millennial Kingdom will be a prelude to the New Heavens and the New Earth. It will be a true paradise...almost. That is the problem: **almost**. In a near perfect environment, there will still be natural persons. People with the principle of sin not dealt with. Today many think that if we could just eliminate poverty that all social ills would disappear. Just because poverty will be entirely done away with does not mean that there is no trouble in paradise. Evil is smoldering beneath the surface. God has a plan to deal with that as we will see.



Chapter 3

The Judgment of the Nations

Before the one thousand year reign of Messiah on earth begins there is a period of

preparation. An angel said to the prophet Daniel (~540 BC),

Seventy weeks (sevens) are determined upon thy people ... (Dan 9:24)

And he hath strengthened a covenant with many—one week (seven), and in the midst of the week he causeth sacrifice and present to cease, and by the wing of abominations he is making desolate, even till the consummation, and that which is determined is poured on the desolate one. (Dan 9:27)

This one set of seven (years) is a time in the last days of focus on Israel. The Church has been the focus of God's attention for the last 2,000 years as God is calling out a people for himself from among the nations of the world.

A time of **unprecedented** persecution will be allowed against God's people. This Great Persecution (Matt 24:21) against the Jews is

called The Time of Jacob's Trouble.

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.
(Jer 30:7)

Two-thirds of the Jewish people will die...again. Two-thirds of the European Jews died in the years of World War II. This time is so terrible that the Jews as a whole will be willing to consider if maybe the hated Jesus of Nazareth might be able to help them. That's the whole point of all of this intense persecution or tribulation.

Is the Church going through this great persecution? There is great debate about this issue because we don't want that to be true. Whether it is true or not does not depend on our voting on it. It depends on what the Word says about it. We will not see general understanding in the Body of Christ until we want Truth more than we want our opinions. Or maybe until the fact and reality of the issue

forces itself upon us.

At the last minute and at the most dramatic moment, the one-third remnant of Israel living through unimaginable horrors, the Rescuer will appear. It will be Someone they already know (about).

And I have poured on the house of David, And on the inhabitant of Jerusalem, A spirit of grace and supplications, And they have looked unto Me whom they pierced, And they have mourned over it, Like a mourning over the only one, And they have been in bitterness for it, Like a bitterness over the first-born. (Zec 12:10 YLT)

They will recognize or realize Who their Savior is by marks in His hands (Zec 13:6). All Israel that survives and is alive at that time will be saved. They will know that Jesus of Nazareth is the Redeemer and Messiah chosen by and sent by God.

One of the next most important things that will occur is found in Mathew chapter 25. Here, Jesus gives 2 parables. In the first, The parable of the Ten Virgins, He starts by saying “Then the kingdom of heaven will be compared to ten virgins...” (v. 1). In The Parable of the Talents, Jesus starts by saying, “For it is just like...” (v. 14). Lastly, He gives a prophecy about a coming judgment (v. 31-46). He does not call this a parable or use comparative language.

This section of the New Testament causes great concern and confusion because, once again, we are trying to understand Church Age doctrine by reading Kingdom of Heaven language.

To the average Western Christian it sounds as if Jesus is talking about social issues. In this teaching Jesus appears to make a person's entire eternal destination dependent upon whether they ministered to the poor or ignored them. In fact, this very passage in Matthew was the basis for the **Social Justice** philosophy in the United States that started in

1870.

Ministry to the poor was important to Jesus. He began His public ministry by claiming that He was the One spoken of in Isaiah 61 who would “...preach the gospel to the poor...”. When Judas left early and quickly from the Last Supper, the other disciples assumed he was ordered to give something to the poor (John 13:29). This apparently was Jesus' manner – to consider the poor. When Paul was meeting with the apostles in Jerusalem, they had one request of him as he left to go out as the Apostle to the Gentiles. They wanted Paul to “remember the poor” (Gal 2:10). Jesus' priorities had rubbed off on them. Paul also was “eager to do” that anyway, without their request.

But Jesus is not talking about general social issues here in Matthew 25. In chapter 24 He has just given details about His Appearing. From the rest of scripture we could understand this to include the events of the very end times. General persecution (John 16:33), then Great Persecution (Matt 24:21), and **The** Great Tribulation (Rev 7:14). The Resurrection/

Rapture follows. The **Appearance** and the **Coming** of the Lord happen before the Millennial Kingdom is initiated.

Then...

In Matthew 25 Jesus begins by saying “**Then** the kingdom of heaven will be compared...”. The context of Jesus' talking about ministry to distressed people in verses 31 through 46 is The Judgment of the Nations.

In this strange worldwide evaluation there are really two judgments. First, there is a judgment of character or nature. The “goats” are placed on the left. The “sheep” are placed on the right. This is the first judgment. Then something else is brought up. The nations or peoples of the earth are commended or condemned according to their treatment of the Persecuted just previous to this. Did they **help** or did they **ignore** the plight of the Jews and Christians who were targeted by the Antichrist? As far as we can tell from this teaching that Jesus prophesied, the eternal fate of every person remaining on earth after the wrath of God is determined by this.

Those who were favorable to the Jewish and Christian Believers are granted entrance to the Millennial Kingdom. Those who were not are sent away into eternal punishment. It is *that* personally important to the Lord. Those who have been compliant with or even indifferent to the Antichrist's reign of terror are considered by the Lord to be guilty of the supreme crime – cooperating with the man of sin. Those who ignore the plight of the Persecution victims are considered personal enemies of Jesus Himself.

That is more than enough. They are cast in the eternal fire without any other trial or ceremony. The Day of Grace is over. No more Mr. Nice Guy. The Church Age will be seen to be an anomaly in human history. Grace is not normal or usual. We today are living in a very special historic bubble. The Super Old Testament Days are back. **Severe** Law is back but this time with the obvious reality of Jesus as the Messiah chosen and sent by God.

To use a theological hammer to try to force this “square peg” of the Millennial Kingdom in to the “round hole” of the Church Age

causes all kinds of confusion. This is the Day of Grace for a little while longer. Be ready to meet the Lord at His soon appearing.

Chapter 4

Ezekiel's Temple

In Ezekiel chapter 40 the prophet is in exile in Babylonia (died in about 570 BC). In a vision he is taken back to the land of Israel and is shown a magnificent structure. He is instructed to pay attention to all the details he is going to be shown and to declare everything to the house of Israel. In remarkable detail he is shown the building while a special spiritual being measures everything. He is shown, not only the building, but he is given instructions for the purpose and function of many things pertaining to this temple.

The Bible seems to describe 4 temples besides the tabernacle of Moses. The one that King Solomon built (957 – 586 BC). The second temple that existed in the time of Jesus,

commonly called Herod's temple (538 BC – 70 AD). Many have theorized a third temple in the “Tribulation Week” and a fourth in the Millennial Reign of Christ. There is no temple in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth at the end of all revealed things.

Many theologians have debated which of these temples, if any, Ezekiel is describing. This argument has lasted for centuries. I am not able to count myself among these scholars and so I am only presenting another opinion.

Although this is a vision of a structure that did not actually exist in Ezekiel's day, he is given strict and precise measurements of it. I do not think that a vision of symbolic items can be measured with the detail that Ezekiel's temple was. It must be a literal building made of real construction materials yet it did not exist at the time Ezekiel saw it.

Ezekiel was instructed to describe this temple with all its regulations to the nation of Israel (40:4, 43:10, 11, 19, 44:6). At this point, the nation of Israel had no temple. It is almost like a repeat of Moses establishing the priesthood,

blood sacrifices, and Old Covenant ordinances.

Second

He is not describing the first temple (Solomon's). That one was already destroyed in 586 BC. It was not the second temple in that the measurements were larger and much more grandiose than what was finally built.

The Second temple was pitiful compared to the one that Ezeiel saw. It was started after the Jews returned to the land of Israel after the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Even before the Second Temple's foundation was laid, an altar was set up to offer the required animal sacrifices (586 BC). King Herod's update and remodel (20 BC) on the Second Temple in Jerusalem took 46 years to complete, being finished about the time of Christ, the Messiah.

Third

Many are waiting for a third temple to be rebuilt on the Temple Mount in order for “The” tribulation to start. A stone temple may

be totally unnecessary. It is possible that before a 3rd temple could be constructed that some sort of sacrifice accommodation will be built. This could be at the Dome of the Rock or at a tabernacle set up for the purpose.

What is required is an altar for animal sacrifices to start and be halted. The other Biblical requirement is not a temple complex but a Most Holy Place. Once prepared this modular arrangement can be set up in an afternoon, not decades.

Our assumptions are lulling us to sleep.

Fourth

In Revelation 11, John the Apostle is also given a vision of a temple. The first temple (Solomon's) was destroyed before either of two men's (Ezekiel and John) ministry. The Second Temple was future to Ezekiel and current to the early days of John. It was destroyed in 70 AD so it was probably already past at the time of John's vision. A 3rd and 4th temple would be future to John. The 2nd, 3rd,

and 4th would be future to Ezekiel. I speculate that the vision of the temple that Ezekiel saw was a composite of a 2nd and a 4th future temple. John's would probably be the 3rd temple.

Which temple was Ezekiel seeing? As many prophecies, it had a dual or a multiple aspect. Perhaps like 2 transparencies (from the 70s and 80s). Two distinct items are overlaid on each other, yet it appears as one thing.

What Ezekiel saw and was told to describe to the nation of Israel was a Messianic Temple, in a sense. A temple had to be built to replace Solomon's Temple but animal sacrifices had to be reinstated because the Messiah Jesus was not going to come on the scene for another **500** years. And yet, it was supposed to be the Golden Age Messianic Temple because the Messiah (Jesus) would be there at the time (about 28 AD). What we call The Second Temple would still be standing in the time of Christ. Ezekiel's temple was to be the Messianic Temple because the Messiah was to be there (30 AD).

The historic reality, however, was that the second temple was a pitiful structure in **comparison** with Solomon's Temple. In fact, old men cried when they saw the Second Temple started. Perhaps it was for joy. Perhaps it was because it could not compare with the glory of the first one they had seen as children. Therefore, of course, it did not compare to the large and magnificent structure that Ezekiel described. Animal sacrifices had to continue for another 500 years until Christ would come. When He did arrive the first time, He offered the Golden Age Kingdom to Israel which they rejected because they rejected their King. The Second Temple could have been, should have been the Messianic Temple because Messiah **was** there.

Therefore, Ezekiel's temple vision seems to be a reinforcement of the Law of Moses, while in the same vision it was the Messianic Temple. His detailed description fits with a Second Temple because of the reinstatement of blood sacrifices. It does **not** fit the Second Temple in that it was a glorified dog house *compared*

with the glorious size and description that Ezekiel gave to Israel. He even saw the glory of God come into this temple, like the glory cloud of God over the tabernacle of Moses and in Solomon's Temple. There was no glory that came into the actual Second Temple. Jesus was at that one but it still was not filled with visible glory.

Ezekiel's vision fits with the idea of a temple that would be built in the Millennium because of the enormous size of the structure, the miraculous river running out of the temple, and the Glory of God filling it. It does **not** fit with the idea of a post-crucifixion system of animal sacrifices. I will attempt to clarify.

After the Babylonian captivity, the Second Temple was constructed. Its animal sacrifices continued until Jesus' time. His final sacrifice on the cross was the point and purpose of all the previous sacrifices. Also, that temple was supposed to be the Messianic temple because the Messiah was there. The leadership rejected Jesus of Nazareth as the true Messiah, therefore God allowed the destruction of the

Second Temple about 40 years later. This eliminated the possibility of animal sacrifices.

If sacrifices are reinstated in the real Messianic Temple, Jesus will be at that one also. Since Jesus will be obviously the true Messiah, in person again, the purpose of any animal sacrifices will be obvious. They will be a memorial of His work on the cross.

Ezekiel's temple has slaughtered animal sacrifices. Even before Jesus' ONE sacrifice forever, the Old Testament sacrifices **NEVER** did take away sins. It was commanded (so future Millennial sacrifices might be commanded also) yet never did take away sins. They only looked forward to Christ. Not that anyone could know of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection in those days. Millennial temple sacrifices would not forgive sins **EITHER**. In the Millennium there are saints and natural/unsaved persons. Perhaps truth about sin is still needed for many.

Therefore, it seems that Ezekiel's vision was like many prophecies in that it was 2 different things appearing as one single item or event.

Two temples appeared to the prophet as one temple because the time/distance between the two was not apparent.

Speculation

Ezekiel's temple is for the Millennium. The weekly sabbath might play a significant part in the Millennium. These shadows can be safely instituted again because Jesus is there. In fact, the name of the city is **The Lord is there** (Eze 48:35) (in the Millenial city **and** in the New Jerusalem). All point to Him, directly.

Chapter 5

Super Old Testament

Satan is bound for 1,000 years at the start of the Millennium. This coincides with all of nature being set right. The animal kingdom is at peace with itself. Serpents do not pose a danger to anyone. Carnivores do not eat other animals. There are no weather extremes. It is an ideal earth.

The Millennial Reign is like Old Testament times with all its shadows, sign, and sacrifices **plus** the final reality, Jesus. In the entire of human history some see six millennia of failed human government. The best form is a benevolent Dictator. Not a “theocracy” led by corrupt clergy but a rule by God.

The groups of people that will enter the Millennium are 1) The resurrected Church, although the saints are not natural persons, 2) The Remnant of Israel (one-third of the nation), 3) The remainder of the nations that did not die in the wrath of God or the final White Throne judgment (Zech 14:16). All of these are “saved” persons. 4) The Billions born to groups 2 & 3 – which is the **point** of the Millennium. The purpose of the Millennium is the salvation of those billions born into the Abrahamic Kingdom.

Ezekiel speaks of blood sacrifices in the Millennium. This would be well after the cross had purchased eternal redemption. Possibly these are done in memorial to the cross. There will be billions of people as the world's population grows without normal death. Each one born to natural parents needs to come to faith in Christ. Many will not because they will see no need to. Everything is perfect. Everything is supplied. There is no poverty or crime to drive them to seek God. The blessings of the Millennium are almost a curse if they impede the person's journey toward seeking God.

The blood sacrifices similar to what is describes in the Old Testament are celebrations and memorials to what was finished on the cross so many centuries earlier.

There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.
(Isa 65:20)

Children less than 100 years old will not be accountable for their actions being too young! People certainly will not reproduce being less than that age, either. If a person is beyond 100 years of age, he will be considered responsible for his actions or crimes. The death penalty for the slightest infractions of the law will be necessary to maintain the overall peace of the world.

*Thou shalt break them with a **rod of iron**; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.* (Psa 2:9)

Not only does Christ rule with an iron fist but He has commanded that His administration act with the same severity.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. (Rev 2)

Chapter 6

Where Is The Church?

The Church Age is an anomaly in the history of the human race. After the Flood of Noah's day and the Tower of Babel incident, the next major event of the ancient world that we are told about in the pages of Scripture is the call of Abram about 2000 BC (Gen 12:1-3).

God promised Abram a son, Isaac. His grandson Jacob had 12 sons. Their families went to Egypt and became a nation over many generations. The rest of the Bible is the account of this large family. Through it, Jesus was born and His work produced eternal redemption for everyone who trusts in Him.

After the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, God began to turn His focus to

obtaining a people out of the nations for Himself. This was and still is in our day a pause in the story of Abraham's family. It is a 2,000 year parenthesis in human history. It may seem like it is all that has ever happened to humans but it is actually an abnormal pause in world events. The Church Age is a temporary focus on the nations as God is calling for Himself a certain number of Gentiles out of the world.

When this special parenthesis is completed (and we do not know what that number may be) God will again return to His original focus of dealing with Abraham's family. The Church Age will close with the last Gentile being saved and the Church being caught up to the heavenlies according to Jesus' promise (John 14:3).

Paul write several verses about the Church in heavenly places. It seems that the spiritual Kingdom of **God** is for the Church while the earthly Kingdom of **Heaven** is for Israel.

*And hast made us unto our God kings
and priests: and we (or they) shall reign*

on (or over) the earth. (Rev 5:10)

At this point the Church is in Heaven but “someone” reigns on the earth. Who? In some translations it is the four throne creatures and the 24 elders who say that *they* reign on the earth. Many assume it is the Church.

I think a clue is in the fact that we receive resurrection bodies. What do we receive a new special “earth-suit” for if we never visit the earth?

Permit a speculation. The new Sons of God replace the fallen original sons of God. Maybe even on the very same day. The Bible seems to put the Rapture of the Believers at the same event as the conclusion of war in heaven and the casting down of Satan and his angels (Rev 6:13). One group is caught **up** while another group is being thrown **down**.

Perhaps the faithful among the Believers are permitted to travel to earth occasionally as their work determines. This involves “traveling” between dimensions, the natural earth and the heavenly spiritual realm. Jesus

received a resurrection body before He ascended into heaven where He has been for 2,000 years. I'm not sure that an earth suit (a body of flesh and bones) is required for residence in heaven but it **is** required to function on the earth.

The Church saints will be operating mainly in heaven but they are thoroughly equipped to function on the earth. I suspect that they are inter-dimensional travelers replacing similar functioning beings today.

Chapter 7

Final Testing of Humanity

Now we finally come to one the main purposes of the Millennium. In an environment where death is rare and with extended lifespans, the world's population has grown. In less than one thousand years the human race has recovered from a relatively few to several hundreds of billions. The few that started out at the beginning of the Millennium have now grown into a number that would not have been possible in the old order of things.

The natural humans capable of having children are, at this time, the one-third of Israel that were saved at the end of the wrath of God. In addition to them are those of all the nations that were not cast into the fire. In other words, everyone that began the Millennium are

humans who do not have a resurrection body but that do live in an environment that will allow them to live for a thousand years, barring no fatal accidents or capital punishment. No one will be a casualty of war. There will be no war. No one will be killed by wild animals because the entire animal kingdom is at peace with the rest of creation including humans.

Unhindered by a short lifespan or disease, their descendants will be almost innumerable. While their original parents were possessors of faith in Christ, none of their successive generations will necessarily be. This is the problem. Will the lack of poverty produce a human population that is reformed or righteous? Even without any blatant outward sign of evil, will people become pure in heart? As Jesus said to Nicodemus “you must be born again” (John 3:7).

Why would anyone, living in a near perfect world, see any need for salvation from **what** they are? I have known several men who sought God immediately after a painful divorce. But why bother in an earth that is

practically without problems?

For many years into the Millennial Reign things will be wonderful. Every radio station will be a Christian radio station. Everyone will smile and claim outward obedience to the ruling powers. Of course, they have to. The smallest infraction of the rules get met with the most severe consequences. People get tired of this rigorous centuries-long routine of compliance. There is actually trouble brewing in Paradise. No one says it for a long time but there is great resentment smoldering beneath the surface.

After a few centuries the quiet unspoken feelings start to secretly meet in small groups to vocalize their dissatisfaction with the King and with His administration.

Why would anyone rebel against a perfect Ruler? Because they are human. That's the point. The unregenerate cannot have eternal life.

“Say to God, 'How fearful are Thy works, By the abundance of Thy

*strength, Thine enemies **feign** obedience to Thee.” (Psa 66:3 YLT)*

For the first few centuries of the Millennium many people pretend to be righteous because of the penalty of openly rebelling against the King. Then something happens that no one could dream of.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. (Rev 20)

Satan has been bound all during this time. Why release him now? Because when he goes forth he finds enough rebellion and evil in the hearts of unregenerate men to incite them to war once again.

Satan is able to gather an almost innumerable

army to surround the capital city, Jerusalem. Their purpose is to attack and destroy the city and everyone in it.

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:...
(Rev 20:9)

Imagine the largest army every assembled in the history of the human race prepared for war. This has to be the greatest conflict ever. It certainly looks like it. However, it sounds like the battle does not last for more than a few minutes.

In the Millennium the curse is lifted off the earth and the creation...except for the human heart. That **One Thing** has to be corrected. Creation restored without the new birth is worthless.

...and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. (Rev 20:9)

It is all over. What appeared to be the beginning of the largest war ever on this planet since Adam, done. Not only is the battle over, there is never to be another war in the universe again. The final Kingdom has come. “Holy Father, Thy Kingdom has come!”

Jesus has put down all rebellion all resistance and has handed His Kingdom to the Father.

Chapter 8

The New Heavens and The New Earth

Then the seventh angel sounded; 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 will reign for ever and ever. (Rev 11:15 NASB)

Someday the kingdom of this world will become the promised Kingdom of **Heaven**.

The Kingdom of Heaven will join with the Kingdom of **God** and become the Kingdom of **Christ**.

The Kingdom of Christ will become the Kingdom of the **Father**, as Jesus taught His followers to pray:

*And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Thy kingdom come.** Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. (Luke 11:2)*

This is when Jesus has reigned as Sovereign Dictator for 1,000 years. After He, a resurrected and glorified Man (though also Divine), has put down all rebellion and resistance, will hand His Kingdom over to the Father (1 Cor 15:24). **Then**, will brought to pass the fulfillment to the petition, “Our Father...Thy Kingdom come!”

God has promised to build a New Heaven and a New Earth.

“See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more.” (Isa 65:17-19)

God has also promised to bring a new city to this new earth.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2)

An unusual feature of this city is that there is no temple in it. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. There is a river of life very similar in description to the river that proceeds from the Millennial Temple. It also has the Tree of Life. It gives fruit every month and its leaves are for healing of the natural people living on the earth.

Are there “**the nations**” that need healing in the New Heaven and New Earth? In New Jerusalem (Rev 22;2)? Only those written in the Book are there [no resurrection body but “saved” or in faith toward the Lord Jesus] (Rev 21:27). Nations are outside the New Jerusalem in the entire earth. Leaves of the tree of life are for natural saved persons to be able to live in their state forever. God did not

want that unless the person is in a condition for live forever without change (Gen 3:22-24).

Revelation 21:27 and 22:15 tell us that nothing unclean or evil can enter this city. Some translations say that “outside” are evil people. It sounds as if prostitutes and assassins are peeking around the corner of the gates just waiting for a resident of the New Jerusalem to step outside the gate so they can attack them. I think this exact situation was dealt with in the Millennial Kingdom. That was the final test and removal of evil persons. Here in the New Creation, I believe the Scriptures are saying that **all** evil and **all** rebellion has been put down by the Reign of Jesus. Here, in the Father's Kingdom, there is **no** evil. Even the possibility of it is now completely **outside** the new reality of the New Earth.

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (2 Pet 3:13)

The New Heaven and the New Earth is a universe of righteousness.

When the Millennial Age comes to a completion and the Father's Kingdom begins, who will rule the Kingdom then? "...and **He** will reign for ever and ever." Jesus never stops ruling (Isa 9:7). The end of the One Thousand Years is not so much an event as it is a marker. The end of the Millennium marks the point where God wants to do the next thing on His agenda, **The Father's Kingdom**. This is a universe characterized by **no more** warfare or conflict. This is because Jesus has made it all possible.

As in the Millennial city so also in the New Jerusalem, the name of that city is **The Lord Is There** (Eze 48:35) All things point to Him. Jesus is there.

King of kings forever and ever
And Lord of lords hallelujah hallelujah
And he shall reign forever and ever
King of kings and Lord of lords
King of kings and Lord of lords

And he shall reign forever and ever
Forever and ever and ever and ever
(King of kings and Lord of lords)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah!

(George Frideric Handel 1742)

END

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