

SESSION 3: *The Millennial Kingdom of Jesus*

I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: JESUS' 1,000-YEAR REIGN ON EARTH

I saw thrones, and they (the saints) sat on them, and judgment (authority) was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those beheaded for their witness to Jesus (end-time martyrs)...they lived and reigned with Christ for a 1,000 years. 6 they...shall reign with Him a 1,000 years. (Rev. 20:4, 6)

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)

- A. The Millennium is a term that speaks of a *literal* 1,000 year period in which Jesus rules the earth (millennium is from the Latin "mille" meaning "a thousand" and "annus" meaning "a year").

At this time the Kingdom of God is openly manifested worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.)

- B. This period of worldwide blessing will be initiated by Jesus' *Second Coming*.

The result will be a 1,000-year period of peace, righteousness, prosperity, and unprecedented blessing as parts of the earth will be restored to the conditions seen in the Garden of Eden.

In the latter days...the LORD's house shall be established... all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people (nations) shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD...He (Jesus) will teach us His ways..." For out of Zion (Jerusalem) shall go forth the law and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 4 He (Jesus) shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people... (Is. 2:1-4)

- C. The Church needs a deeper revelation of Jesus as the *human* King of kings on the earth.

When the Son of Man comes in His glory...then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him... (Matt. 25:31-32)

The LORD shall be King over all the earth. (Zech. 14:9)

That...He should strike the nations...He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron...16 He has on His robe...: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:15-16)

- D. Daniel saw the coronation of a Jewish man before the court of the Almighty God.

I was watching in the night visions...behold, One like the Son of Man (Jesus)...came to the Ancient of Days (Father)...14 To Him (Jesus) was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...27 His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)

- E. The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture and is the *ultimate theme* in the End Times.

Jesus will sit on a Throne as King and rule over all other kings. This will be the first time that all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Is. 62:2; Rev. 21:24) and base their national governments on God's Word.

II. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE ARE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY

- A. The *redeemed* will be raptured during Jesus' worldwide procession across the sky.

- B. The *reprobate* who took the mark of the Beast will be judged and then killed (some executed).
- C. The *resistors* are the unsaved survivors (Jews and Gentiles) of the Great Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist.

We see resistors who courageously stood against an evil government without regard to having faith in God. For example, in World War II, many in the French Resistance army died as they fought the Nazis. They simply refused to submit to Hitler.

The Scripture refers to them as “those who are left” or “who remain.” These will have an opportunity to be converted after Jesus returns and then populate the millennial earth (Is. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Dan. 12:1; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

III. THE *PROGRESSIVE* INCREASE OF JESUS' GOVERNMENT

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end ...over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever.
(Is. 9:7)

- A. Jesus' *government* will progressively spread to all nations (Is. 9:7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5).

It may take many decades before we see full healing in all the lands and the governments of the earth. Many of the cities of the earth will be desolate and in need of being rebuilt. We can see this in the war torn cities of Europe and Asia after World War II. Even years after the war was over, many cities continued to lie in ruins. It will take 1,000 years to spread, mature and test the righteousness in every area of every nation.

- B. The natural processes of life will continue in many ways especially in establishing the necessary *infrastructure* for every sphere of life in every city and village throughout the entire earth.

Jesus is coming to earth with hands-on governmental leadership. Jesus will definitely use supernatural dimensions in His government and ministry, but this will not negate all natural processes.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion...and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze...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...for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD... (Is. 11:6-9)

"I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing...19...the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her...20 No more shall an infant from there live but a few days...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. 25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox...,” Says the LORD. (Is. 65:17-25)

- C. This infrastructure must include:
- Replacing the people in the Antichrist's worldwide government with new people in Jesus' new government (at every level of public life in every city of the earth)
 - Life support systems (food, water, electricity)
 - Rebuilding projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.)
 - Economic systems (currencies, banking, investments, etc.)
 - Spiritual life (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.)
 - Education (elementary to university levels, etc.)
 - Law enforcement
 - Agriculture (equipment, distribution, etc.)
 - Media and arts
 - Technology
 - Environment
 - Social institutions, etc.

- D. A process will be involved in war tribunals (court of justice to judge crimes) to judge the *kings* of the earth and then execute many of them (as in the Nuremberg trials in 1945-46) (Matt. 25:31-32; Is. 2:4; 24:21-22; Ps. 110:6).

Notice the *growth* of the kingdom (Is. 9:7; Mal. 4:2-3). Jesus will set up training institutions to teach all nations His ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, social institutions, etc.) (Is. 2:3)

- E. There will be a progressive *improvement* in all areas of life.

There will be a progressive healing of millennial nations (Rev. 22:2). The process of healing will be related to the river from the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem (Ezek. 47:2-12). The process of healing people physically will be accelerated in the Millennium (Is. 35:5-6). Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations. (Is. 9:7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5).

All will not automatically obey God, and all nations will not automatically be discipled. People living on the millennial earth will voluntarily *choose* to accept Jesus. All will not be converted instantly and automatically. It will take time to convert people individually and then disciple the nations.

- F. SOME CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN:

- Worldwide justice (Is. 9:7; 11:3-5; 10:22; 28:17; 32:16; 42:1-4)
- Peace (Is. 2:4; 9:4-7; 11:6-9; 32:17-18; 33:5-6; 65:25)
- Fullness of joy (Is. 9:3-4; 12:3-6; 14:7-8; 25:8-9; 61:7, 10)
- Removal of the curse with effects progressively undone (Is. 11:6-9; 35:7-9; 65:25; Rom. 8:19-23)
- Satan bound (Rev. 20:1-7)
- Healing (Is. 29:17-19; 35:3-6; 61:1-2; Jer. 31:8; Mic. 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19)
- Longevity of life (Is. 65:20, 22)
- Population growth (Is. 65:20; Jer. 30:20; Ezek. 47:22; Zech. 10:8)
- Labor (Is. 62:8-9; 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 48:18-19)

- Rebuilt cities (Is. 61:4-6; Ezek. 36:36-38)
- Economic prosperity (Is. 4:1; 35:1-2; 30:23-25; 62:8-9; 60:1-14; 65:21-23)
- One world government (Zech. 14:9; Ezek. 37:13-28, Rev. 19:16)
- Judges and governors (Jer. 30:21; Is. 24:23, 32:1; Ezek 45:8-9; Matt. 19:28; Lk 22:30; Luke 19:12-28)
- Sin punished (Ps. 2:9, 72:9-11; Is. 11:4; Zech. 14:16-19; Is. 66:20, 24)
- Israel exalted above all nations (Is. 2:1-4; 14:1-2; 49:22-23; 60:14-17).

IV. CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S PURPOSE: BRINGING *HEAVEN* AND *EARTH TOGETHER*

Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)

- A. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His Kingdom over all the earth as He *joins* the heavenly and earthly realms together.

God's purpose has always been for His people to live together with Him in this way. This is the interpretive key to understanding the End Times. Without this foundational revelation, confusion is inevitable.

- B. God purposefully created the universe in *two* distinct realms.

Heaven speaks of the supernatural spirit realm where God's power and presence is openly manifest.

Earth speaks of the physical realm where human processes, emotions and physical sensations reach their fullest expression. The earthly realm requires that the saints have a resurrected body to fully relate to it.

- C. Heaven is the place believers have gone for the last 2,000 years (from the time of the Cross to the Second Coming) as a “*temporary holding pattern*” for our spirits before we receive our resurrected bodies.

The saints do not have a resurrected body in Heaven because they do not need one to relate to the spiritual environment of heaven. However, when they come to the earth, all will need a resurrected body to be able to relate to the physical environment of the earth.

Jesus ate in His resurrected body to settle this issue that the resurrection was both a spiritual and material body. God planned a material body and a material earth so we could live with Him forever.

- D. The millennial earth, then the New Earth will consist of *concrete* reality.

In other words, it will have material substance (wood, steel, cement, food, animals, etc.). We will live in context of a concrete reality along with supernatural splendor (New Jerusalem) as we are filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, the “fountain of youth” dream is more than a reality in Christ.

- E. Garden of Eden – material paradise of pleasure expressed on the millennial earth and in the New Jerusalem (with the Tree of Life and the River of Life fully restored).

V. **HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND EARTHLY JERUSALEM
BROUGHT TOGETHER**

The city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. (Rev. 3:12)

- A. Jesus brings the fullness of Heaven and earth together as the New Jerusalem descends to the millennial Jerusalem and connects the two Jerusalems creating a vast *governmental* complex as the center of the *government* of heaven, earth and the universe.

The two Jerusalems come together as the “*resurrection of the earth occurs*” (Rom. 8:17-23; 11:15; Is. 11:6-9; 35:1-8; 65:17-25). Both Jerusalems have gates that never shut (Rev. 21:25; Is. 60:11-12; Ps. 24:8).

At that time (Millennial Jerusalem) Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. (Jer. 3:17)

The Throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it (New Jerusalem). (Rev. 22:3)

- B. The Battle of Armageddon is over Jerusalem as the place Jesus returns to *rule* the earth.

The focus of spiritual warfare is on this battle. This is why so much terrorism is focused on Israel. The Throne that sentences Satan to prison (Rev. 20:1-10) is ruled by a human in Jerusalem.

- C. When the New Jerusalem comes to earth, then heaven is *literally* on earth. This is the place of our residence.

Thus, our rewards are in heaven, since we live in the New Jerusalem forever.

The earth (as the place of our inheritance) will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Is. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20).

- D. The connecting point of earth and heaven is *humanity*. The point that God chose for heaven and earth to come together is humanity in His image and filled with His Spirit.
- E. The New Jerusalem descends to a place *above* millennial Jerusalem (especially the temple on millennial Mt. Zion).

In other words, Jesus' Throne of glory or His vast governmental complex includes the Millennial Temple and the New Jerusalem joined by a "Corridor of Glory."

- F. Paul spoke often about the *fullness* of God (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10).

Redeemed humans are the only part of creation that can experience this, but only as the spirit realm and the material realm fully come together and as we voluntarily choose love and righteousness. Only as these conditions are sustained forever can we express the fullness of God's personality and purposes.

He (Father) put all things under His (Jesus') feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fullness of Him (God) who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23)

Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. (Rev. 21:3)

VI. GET THE RIGHT *PERSPECTIVE* (PARADIGM) ABOUT THE END TIMES

- A. The challenge in understanding the Second Coming and the Millennial Kingdom is in getting the right paradigm.

The necessary paradigm sees Jesus ruling the earth with the natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit. We see aspects of this when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body (John 20-21; Acts 1).

- B. As Gentile believers, our most natural paradigm is to think of worshipping Jesus *as God* in the supernatural conditions of heaven. We emphasize Jesus' *deity* as the Son of God.

Whereas the Jewish paradigm thinks of reigning with the Messianic King as a man in the natural conditions of the earth. They emphasize the Messiah's humanity as the Son of David.

The *full truth* is only seen when these two paradigms are brought together.

VII. JESUS SHARES HIS *POWER AND AUTHORITY* WITH HIS CO-HEIRS.

- A. John saw Jesus as the ruler over *two sets* of *kings*, the millennial earthly kings who have natural non-resurrected bodies and the resurrected saints who were made kings that operate by virtue of their priesthood.

Each will have specific spheres of dominion and will work closely together.

Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us...6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. (Rev. 1:5-6)

- B. As kings, the saints will reign (rule) with judicial responsibility and authority.

This role involves authority to *evaluate* the past (judging) and to determine *action plans* for the future for the people and areas that they are entrusted with.

The ruling saints will *appoint* people to positions in the infrastructure that are within their sphere of Kingdom responsibility.

This will include *training* and *managing* the people who are appointed. The saints will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:2).

- C. The saints will rule with a *rod of iron* and will judge the nations (Matt. 25:31), and administrate punishments on sinners (1 Cor. 6:2-3).

Jesus and the saints use the rod of severity against sin (Rev. 2:27; 19:15; 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Is. 11:4; 24:23, 32:1; Jer. 30:21; Ezek 45:8-9; Matt. 19:28).

*He who overcomes...to him I will give power over the nations—
27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed
to pieces like the potter's vessels'... (Rev. 2:26-27)*

To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)

They (saints) shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 22:5)

VIII. MOTIVATED TO RIGHTEOUSNESS NOW BY RULING IN THE AGE TO COME

- A. Jesus gave one of the greatest promises to one of the most *carnal* Churches (Laodiceans) in the first century. Jesus sought to motivate them to resist compromise and lethargy by offering them a place of government in the Millennial Kingdom. This is the same way that He sought to motivate Peter, John and the other apostles when they gave up all to follow Him (Matt. 19:27-28).

*To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne,
as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
(Rev. 3:21)*

Peter said, "We have left all and followed You. What shall we have?" 28 Jesus said, "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." (Matt. 19:27-28)

I bestow upon you a kingdom...30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:29-30)

- B. The saints will rule *with* Jesus.

(Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Matt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Luke 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom. 8:17-18; Dan. 7:22, 25-27).

The saints will judge the world...3 Do you not know we shall judge angels?... (1 Cor. 6:2-3)

He (nobleman in the parable) said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' 19 Likewise..., 'You also be over five cities.' (Luke 19:17-19)

"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.'" (Matt. 25:23)

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. (Matt. 5:5)

If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. (2 Tim. 2:12)

IX. KINGDOM PARADIGM: ETERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES INSTEAD OF TEMPORAL ONES

- A. Premise: life on earth in this age can be likened to a 70-year *internship* (Ps. 90:10) which prepares us for our life on earth in the age to come.

Our next stage of life in the age to come starts in the Millennial Kingdom which is the time when our *main ministry calling* begins. This primary ministry assignment lasts for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4-6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 22:5).

- B. The choices we make in our 70-year internship determine *where* and *how* we will function in our 1,000-year *ministry assignment*.

Few believers will be in government (Luke 19:17; 16:10-12; Matt. 25:21, 23; 19:30; 20:16, 26-27). Most will be in support roles.

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. (Matt. 25:21)

Well done...because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over 10 cities. (Luke 19:17)

- C. Premise: our *calling* in the age to come is far more important than our *circumstances* now.

Our calling is determined by the growth of our heart now. Our assignment in this temporal life (our internship) is to be focused on the development of our inner man so that during our primary assignment (age to come) our circumstances and ministry impact can be far greater.

X. **HAVING A RIGHT VIEW OF AUTHORITY IN THE MILLENNIAL GOVERNMENT**

- A. The secular paradigm of authority and reward is one that seeks *self glory* in ruling so as to dominate others. This is driven by pride.

The Bridal Paradigm of authority and reward is to be with Jesus where He is and doing what He is doing.

- B. We will cherish and enjoy working closely with the One we love in the details of discipling the nations to bring people we love to the fullness of blessing under the Father's authority.

This paradigm is established on love.

Premise: Personal rewards in the Millennial Kingdom are a foundational dimension of our lives in fulfilling our prophetic destiny.

- C. Jesus *enjoys* each step of the process of working with the Father.

Jesus' view of authority (ruling) in the Millennial Kingdom is to walk in the delight of intimate partnership with the Father and His people so as to serve and enrich all. *If we view authority as the way to close partnership with Jesus in establishing on earth what is dear to His heart*, then we will want the fullness of authority that God has invited us to walk in during the Millennial Kingdom.

- D. The Father gave Jesus the nations as His reward because of the Father's profound respect, trust and affection for Jesus.

Therefore, the Father entrusted to Jesus what was precious to Him. He mandated that Jesus disciple the nations to bring them to the fullness of blessing under the Father's authority. Think of the person you most love, enjoy and admire. You would want to work closely with that person to glorify God and enrich people's lives.

XI. THE APOSTLES RECEIVED *PROPHECIES* FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. Several prominent Old Testament men had significant personal prophecies recorded in Scripture concerning their *role* in the Millennial Kingdom.

Jesus spoke to the apostles of having thrones (Millennial positions of authority) related to their earthly obedience, sacrifice and servanthood (Matt. 19:27-29; 25:14-46; Luke 22:24-30; 19:11-27).

- B. Jesus had far more prophecies about His role in the millennial reign after His Second Coming than His role at His first coming!

- C. King David had more personal prophecies in Scripture about his *1,000-year role* in the Millennial Kingdom in Jerusalem than his 40-year kingship in Jerusalem during his life.

On three occasions David was promised to rule Israel during his earthly life (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28; 16:1-13) yet on five other prophetic occasions David's rule over Israel in the Millennial Kingdom was referenced (Ezek. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Is. 55:3-4; Jer. 30:9; Hos. 3:4-5).

XII. A FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE OF SCRIPTURE: THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH

- A. The essential message of Jesus and the apostles was concerning the Kingdom of God.

The core message of the Kingdom is that Jesus is King of kings and will rule every sphere of society worldwide. We proclaim that a "King is coming to the earth to establish His Kingdom and that anyone can participate in this Kingdom now and have fruit that impacts our destiny in ruling on earth in the future when He returns.

We can participate in this Kingdom now by receiving His free forgiveness and living worthy (holiness) of His Kingdom (2 Thess. 1:5-12; Lk 21:34-36; 20:35-36; Col. 1:9-10 Matt. 10:37-38; 22:8; Rev. 3:4-5; 1 Thess. 2:12).

- B. Forgiveness is "*the door*" into the Kingdom but not the *essence* of the Kingdom message.
- C. To preach the whole counsel of God includes covering the three-fold message which includes forgiveness, repentance and Jesus' earthly Kingdom.

Evangelism is the glorious and necessary first step in preaching the Kingdom of God but it is not Jesus' complete message.

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:27)

- D. We must not reduce the gospel to forgiveness and morality rather than building the Kingdom.

Session 3 Study Guide Questions

- Is the idea of Jesus as a human King on earth new to me? How does it change my paradigm and concept of who Jesus is?
- What is the centerpiece of God's purpose in the Millennial Reign? As a believer, what role will I have in the millennial kingdom?
- If life is a seventy-year internship, what are the most important lessons for me to learn? Do I have a clear vision to be great in God?
- Have I reduced the message of the Kingdom to forgiveness only? How can I increase my understanding of the Kingdom of God to include Christ's establishment as King?