

# CONCERNING THE WAY

September 15, 2009

## LESSON 74: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



### **The Millennial Reign of Christ**

This is such a big subject that whole books have been written on this topic alone, and we barely touched on it in the last lesson on Revelation 20. In this lesson we will look at some of the main teachings of God's Word about the Kingdom. Thanks to Arnold Fructenbaum, Andy Woods, and Tony Garland for much of the background for this lesson.

### **The Basis for the Belief in the Messianic Kingdom**

The concept of an earthly messianic kingdom is not based on speculation or obscure passages of scripture. We believe that it is to come because there are numerous passages in the Old Testament describing the coming of the Messiah who will reign on David's throne and rule over a peaceful kingdom. The massive amount of material describing this kingdom in the OT is our basis for belief.

Another basis for belief in a coming kingdom is the four unconditional, unfulfilled covenants God made with Israel. They rely completely on God for their fulfillment and not on Israel. And they can only be fulfilled in the future, in a messianic kingdom.

### **The Kingdom was PROMISED to the patriarchs – the Abrahamic Covenant**

Abraham was given a promise by God that He would make of Abraham a great nation and give to His descendants the land of Canaan. Never in history has Israel possessed all of the land promised in this covenant. And it is promised to them forever. So, for God to fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, there must be a future kingdom.

The Jews right to the Promised Land is spelled out in this Abrahamic Covenant. The first promise was Genesis 12:1-3, then when Abraham arrived in the land God spoke to him again in verse 7. Further clarification is made in Genesis 13:14-17. The exact boundaries are given in Genesis 15:12-21. It was reconfirmed to Isaac in 26:2-5, and then to Jacob in 28:13-15.

After the regeneration of Israel, God will fully carry out the promises of the Abrahamic covenant (Leviticus 26:40-45). Then God will bless the land by increasing its productivity (Isaiah 30:23-26, 65:21-24, Jeremiah 31:1-6, 11-14, Ezekiel 28:25-26), the deserts of Israel will bloom (Isaiah 35:1-2). They will be safe and secure in their land (Ezekiel 34:25-31, 36:8-15, 28-38). Repossession of the land is also spoken of by the minor prophets in Joel 2:18-27, and the increased productivity in Joel 3:18 and Amos 9:13.

### **The Re-establishment of the Davidic Throne – The Davidic Covenant**

This is based on two passages – 2 Samuel 7:8-17, 24, 29 and 1 Chronicles 17:7-15. In these verses God promises that a descendant of David will rule Israel forever. Jesus will fulfill this promise in the Millennial Kingdom when Israel is restored, reigning from David's throne in Jerusalem. He has not yet come to reestablish the throne and kingdom of David, so there must be a future kingdom for that to be fulfilled.

There are many passages that show that Christ will reign on the promised throne of David during the

Millennial Kingdom – here are a few: Psalms 2:7-9, Isaiah 9:7, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Luke 1:32-33. Matthew 19:28 says:

**Matthew 19:28** And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

This one is interesting because Jesus says His Kingdom is in the future, "in the regeneration". That's speaking of the renovation of the earth after the destruction of the Tribulation in preparation for the Kingdom.

**Matthew 25:31-32** "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (32) "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats;

Note the chronology here – when Jesus comes in His glory, then He will sit on His throne. He is not seated on His throne today, He is sitting at the right hand of the Father on the Father's throne in heaven. Also see Revelation 3:21 for this.

Some have a problem with the idea that Christ only reigns for 1,000 years. But His reign doesn't end there; it transitions into the eternal state. Paul records in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 that Christ rules in the millennium until the Great White Throne Judgment, when death itself is finally vanquished (Revelation 20:14). Then, He places His kingdom under the Father. But His rule continues into the eternal state, where there are new heavens and a new earth (Revelation 21:1) and where the saints will continue to co-rule with Him for eternity (Revelation 22:5).

*"[1Cor. 15:24, 28] does not mean the end of our Lord's regal activity, but rather that from here onward in the unity of the Godhead He reigns with the Father as the eternal Son. There are no longer two thrones: one His Messianic throne and the other the Father's throne, as our Lord indicated in Revelation 3:21. In the final Kingdom there is but one throne, and it is "the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Rev. 22:3)." McClain*

Jesus Christ holds three offices: Prophet, Priest, and King. He functioned as a prophet at His first coming. At the present time in heaven He is fulfilling the role of Priest. But at His second coming He will come into His inheritance as King over Israel and the world. This promise is repeated in Psalm 89:3-4, 29, 34-37. These verses stress the fact that this covenant is not based on David or his descendant's performance, but on God's character. Jeremiah 33:17-26 also speaks of this covenant and the fact that it is impossible to break. Amos 9:11-12 tells us that not only will the glory of David's kingdom be restored, but the authority of the throne will extend to all the Gentile nations.

### **The Kingdom was Offered to Israel by Jesus**

John the Baptist announced that the Kingdom of God was near (Mark 1:15). Jesus taught much about the Kingdom of Heaven. It was the theme of His preaching (Matthew 4:17). The Sermon on the Mount explained the principles of the Kingdom (Matthew chapters 5-7). His parables were given to explain various aspects of the Kingdom (Matthew 13). He related His teaching about future things (The Olivet Discourse) to the Kingdom (Matthew chapters 24-25). And He stated during His trial that His Kingdom was "not of this world" (John 18:36-38; 19:19).

Jesus officially presented Himself to the nation of Israel as their Messiah when He made His triumphal

entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19, Matthew 21, Mark 11). But the leaders of the nation rejected Him as the Messiah and crucified Him. Because of this, the coming of the Kingdom was delayed and the Church Age began at Pentecost.

### The Regathering of Israel – The Land Covenant

At the start of the Millennial Kingdom, the surviving Jews will be gathered from all over the world to the land of Israel. This is based on the Palestinian, or Land Covenant in Deuteronomy 29:1-30:20. This covenant is different than the Mosaic covenant (29:1), it is a prophecy of something God says He will do in the future, and this would have to be in the Kingdom.

The final regathering of the Jews to the land is foretold in Isaiah 11:11 – 12:6. This regathering is not just from the nations of the middle east but from all over the world. We don't have time to read all of these verses describing the regathering, but here they are for your further study – Isaiah 27:12-13, 43:5-7, Jeremiah 16:14-15, 23:3-4, 7-8, 31:7-10, Ezekiel 11:14-18, 36:24, Amos 9:14-15, Zephaniah 3:18-20, Zechariah 10:8-12, and Matthew 24:31.

*“Since these covenants are unconditional, then they will be fulfilled or else God’s word would be broken: Another basis for the belief in a coming kingdom rests on the four unconditional, unfulfilled covenants [Abrahamic, Land, Davidic, New] God made with Israel. These covenants are unconditional and so rely solely on God for their fulfillment and not on Israel. They are also unfulfilled and since God is One who keeps His promises, they must be fulfilled in the future. They can only be fulfilled within the framework of a messianic age or a millennial kingdom.” Tim LaHaye*

### The Final Restoration of Israel

**The Regeneration of Israel** – this is a future event spoken clearly of in scripture. The foundation of this is the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:31-34.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** "Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, (32) not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. (33) "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (34) "They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

This is a covenant made with Israel, and it replaces the Mosaic covenant (the covenant which they broke). This covenant will give the Jews the power to keep it (vs. 33). These verses will be ultimately fulfilled in the kingdom, where all Jews will be believers. It will be a national regeneration.

It will begin when Israel, at some point towards the end of the Tribulation, as a nation, confesses their sins and the sins of their fathers (Leviticus 26:40-42, Jeremiah 3:11-18). Before Messiah will return and bring the Kingdom blessings to Israel, they must acknowledge their sin before Jehovah their God. Chapter 13 of Zechariah speaks of the national cleansing of Israel from their sin. Chapter 14 describes the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ and the establishment of the Kingdom. But this is all conditioned on Zechariah 12:10:

**Zechariah 12:10** "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Only when they do this and plead for Him to return will Israel be cleansed and Christ will return. Hosea 5:15 is a related passage:

**Hosea 5:15** I will go away and return to My place Until they acknowledge their guilt and seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

This is an interesting verse because it is God speaking, in the person of Jesus Christ. Before you can return to your place you would have had to first leave it. God's place is heaven. So Christ left heaven, came to earth, was rejected as king by the Jews, and then went away and returned to His place in heaven. He will not return until they acknowledge their guilt for what they did and ask Him to return. What is their sin? You might think it was in killing Him on the cross, but that's not it. Christ had to die for the sins of the world. No, it was because they rejected Him as their Messiah. That is the sin they must acknowledge and confess as a nation. Jesus speaks of this in Matthew 23:

**Matthew 23:37-39** "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. (38) "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! (39) "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" is a Messianic greeting. It will mean their acceptance of Jesus as their Messiah. We may actually have their future confession in Isaiah 53:1-9. When they confess their sin and acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah, then Romans 11:25-27 will be fulfilled:

**Romans 11:25-27** For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; (26) and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB." (27) "THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

Other passages which describe the regeneration of Israel include Isaiah 30:18-22, 44:1-5, 21-23, 45:17, Jeremiah 24:7, 50:19-20, Ezekiel 11:19-20, 36:25-27, Hosea 1:10- 2:1, 14:4-8, Micah 7:18-20, and Zephaniah 3:9-13.

## Features of the Kingdom

There are several major passages that describe what the Kingdom will be like. Isaiah 32:16-20 talks about the righteousness and peace that will exist then. Isaiah 35:5-10 emphasizes the holiness, peace, security, and joy of that time. Joy and gladness is also stressed in Isaiah 51:3, the joy and peace in nature are spoken of in Isaiah 55:12-13.

## Geography

The second coming of Christ, when the Lord stands upon the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4), will come

with a huge worldwide earthquake so that "the cities of the nations fell and every island flees away." The topography of the land of Israel and the rest of the Earth will be drastically changed. The literal meaning of Isaiah 40:4 will come true. Jerusalem will rise to become the capital of the Earth (Zechariah 14:9-11).

## Ecology

Starting with the Millennium, the Curse upon the earth will be much reduced which began with Adam's fall and continues to this day (Romans 8:18-23).

The Earth, and especially the Land of Israel will become "like the Garden of Eden" (Ezekiel 36:35).

The Desert will rejoice and blossom as the rose (Isaiah 35:1), and the parched ground will become a pool (Isaiah 35:7).

The Trees...shall clap their hands, and instead of thorns there will be trees (Isaiah 55:12-13).

The earth will be fruitful, and there will be no famine (Ezekiel 34:27-29).

Animals will once again be friendly to each another and to humans. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, and the leopard with the baby goats. Little children will be able to play near snakes without fear (Isaiah 11:6-8). Wolves and lambs will feed together, and even the Lions will eat straw like the ox (Isaiah 65:25).

## Health

People who live during the Millennium will not die young. A person one hundred years old will be considered a child, since, apparently a person could live throughout the 1000 years in the restored environment (Isaiah 65:20-23).

Sickness will not be a problem because "The sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in its wings" (Malachi 4:2). Isaiah 35:5, 6 also speaks of healing of physical problems in the Kingdom.

## Politics

Jesus Christ will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and of the increase of His government there will be no end (Revelation 19:16; Isaiah 9:6-7).

Jerusalem will be the capital of the World, and all nations will come to Jerusalem. It will be considered the center of the nations (Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 5:5).

David will reign as king over Israel, and presumably, each nation will also have its godly king who will answer to Jesus Christ, the King of Kings (Ezekiel 34:23-24; 37:24-25).

The church will share with her Lord the rule over the Gentile nations (Revelation 4:4, 10-11; 20:4, 6).

No sin or rebellion will be allowed, because the Lord will withhold rain and send plagues on any who would rebel (Zechariah 14:16-19).

Jesus Christ will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 12:5; 19:15 - Greek: "shepherdize"). This means a strong central rule to bring prompt justice and quick control over unruly nations and individuals who revolt against God.

There will be peace everywhere. People will "beat their swords into plowshares" and there will be no more war (Isaiah 2:2-4).

**The Gentile Branch of Government** – Revelation 4:4, 10-11, 20:4-6 – both the Church and Tribulation saints will reign with Christ. Fructenbaum says the chain of command will be Christ to the Church and Tribulation Saints to the kings of the Gentile nations, who will most likely be in their natural bodies.

The Gentiles who survive the Tribulation and the Sheep and Goat Judgment will enter and populate the nations in the Millennial Kingdom.

**The Jewish Branch of Government** – Directly under Christ in ruling Israel will be the resurrected David. He will be a king because he will rule Israel, but also a prince because he will be under the authority of Christ (Jeremiah 30:9, Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24-25, Hosea 3:5).

The twelve apostles will be in authority over the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28, Luke 22:28-30). They will also have the privilege of eating and drinking at His table during the Kingdom.

There will also be princes who will be in positions of authority (Isaiah 32:1, 45:8), and judges and counselors (Isaiah 1:26).

If the nation of Israel will be completely restored in the Kingdom, as we believe from many passages that it will be, then all of God's conditional promises will also be fulfilled. That includes passages in Deuteronomy like 15:6 and 28:1 that promise that Israel will be set above the Gentile nations of the earth. Isaiah 14:1-2 also speaks of Israel taking their captors captive and ruling over their oppressors. Also see Isaiah 49:22-23 and 61:6-7.

### **Worship and Belief**

Messiah will build a new (fourth) temple, the great temple described in the final Chapters of Ezekiel. This Temple will be used for animal sacrifices again (Ezekiel 40:39-43).

Salvation during the Millennium will still be by grace through faith in Jesus Christ because there is "No other name given...whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10; Philippians 2:9-10; Revelation 22:4).

The Lord will put a new Spirit within believers whose home is on earth (Ezekiel 11:19).

Israel as a nation will be brought into the New Covenant which Jesus put into effect at the Last Supper. This covenant, promised to Israel by the prophets, has been graciously shared with the church during the interim period of Israel's Diaspora and unbelief.

Everything will be considered sanctified or "holy." Even the bells and pots will be holy to the Lord (Zechariah 14:20-21).

Unfortunately, some, even with this perfect environment, and the opportunity to see Christ in person reigning over the Earth, will still fail to believe in Him and will rebel at the end. They will follow Satan when he is released for a little while at the end of the Millennium. They will all be destroyed (Revelation 20:7-10).

### **The Millennial Mountain**

When Christ returns and establishes His Kingdom the land will go through some tremendous geographical changes. One thing that is prophesied is that the land where the city of Jerusalem exists will rise into a huge mountain (Isaiah 2:2-4). It will be the highest and most exalted mountain in the world, and that's where Jerusalem and the Millennial temple will be. In Isaiah 27:13 we're told that this high mountain will become the center of Jewish worship. But it won't be just Jewish worship, but it will be a place of prayer for all peoples (Isaiah 56:6-8). Micah 4:1-2 also speaks of this great mountain.

**Micah 4:1-2** And it will come about in the last days That the mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, And the peoples will stream to it. (2) Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

But Ezekiel is the prophet that reveals the most about the holy mountain. Ezekiel 20:40-41 says that after the Jews are gathered from around the world, they will worship the Lord in this high mountain. Then, as we saw in our Ezekiel study, Ezekiel gives us a detailed description of the Millennial temple on top of the holy mountain (Ezekiel 40:1-4, 45:1-8, 48:8-20). There will also be a river that flows from the temple and eventually flows into the Dead Sea, transforming the Dead Sea into a sea of life (Joel 3:18, Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-10, Zechariah 14:8).

### The Millennial Land of Israel

The boundaries of the land of Israel in the Millennium are laid out in Ezekiel 47 and 48. This will be the final fulfillment of God's covenant promises concerning the land (Ezekiel 47:13-14). The northern boundary will be from the Mediterranean Sea, through much of modern day Lebanon and Syria over to the Euphrates River. The Eastern border will go south from the Euphrates, including the Golan Heights and parts of Syria almost to Damascus, south to the Jordan River where it leaves the Sea of Galilee. From there the boundary will run down the Jordan River all the way to the southern end of the Dead Sea, including the Negev and parts of Sinai all the way along the Brook of Egypt (modern Wadi-el-Arish) to the Mediterranean Sea.

### The Millennial Jerusalem

The description of Jerusalem in the Millennium is in Ezekiel 48:30-35. It describes the total size (10 miles square) and the gates. Psalm 48:1-3, 87:1-7, Isaiah 4:3-6, 33:20-24, 52:1-2, and verses 7-10:

**Isaiah 52:7-10** How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, And says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" (8) Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices, They shout joyfully together; For they will see with their own eyes When the LORD restores Zion. (9) Break forth, shout joyfully together, You waste places of Jerusalem; For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem. (10) The LORD has bared His holy arm In the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see The salvation of our God.

Jerusalem will become the center of world-wide Gentile attention:

**Isaiah 60:10-14** "Foreigners will build up your walls, And their kings will minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, And in My favor I have had compassion on you. (11)

**"Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession. (12) "For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined. (13) "The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious. (14) "The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.**

So Gentiles will be used to build up the city of Jerusalem, and the nations will bring their tribute through the gates which are always open. The descendants of those Gentiles who persecuted the city in the past will now bow to Jerusalem. A more detailed description is in Isaiah 62:1-12. Jerusalem in the Millennium is also spoken of in Jeremiah 31:38-40, 33:9-11, Joel 3:17, Micah 4:6-8, and Zephaniah 3:14-17. The prophet Zechariah had the most to say about this:

**Zechariah 1:14-17** So the angel who was speaking with me said to me, "Proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I am exceedingly jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. (15) "But I am very angry with the nations who are at ease; for while I was only a little angry, they furthered the disaster." (16) "Therefore thus says the LORD, "I will return to Jerusalem with compassion; My house will be built in it," declares the LORD of hosts, "and a measuring line will be stretched over Jerusalem.'" (17) "Again, proclaim, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "My cities will again overflow with prosperity, and the LORD will again comfort Zion and again choose Jerusalem.'"

Also Zechariah 2:1-5, 10-12, 8:1-8, 20-22, 14:9-11, and 20-21 .

### **Desolate Places?**

There will be two desolate places in the Kingdom. One will be Babylon, as we studied in Revelation 18. It will be a desolate waste, a place of continual smoke and burning, and a place of confinement for demons (Isaiah 13:20-22, Jeremiah 50:39-40, 51:41-43, Revelation 18:1-2, 19:3). The other place is Edom, which is in modern day Jordan. It will also be a place of continual burning and smoke and a haunt for demons (Isaiah 34:8-15, Jeremiah 49:17-18). The reason for this destruction is because Edom rejoiced when Israel and Judah fell and desired to take the land for themselves (Ezekiel 35:10-15). While the whole earth is renovated and beautified, Edom will be desolate (also Joel 3:19). Egypt will also be made desolate, but that will only last for 40 years (Ezekiel 29:1-16).

## **The Significance of the Millennium**

Why do we have to have a 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth? Why is it necessary? We can't we just skip right from the return of Christ to the eternal state?

1. God calls our attention to it. The first ten verses of Revelation 20 make it clear there is a thousand year period. John clearly marks the beginning of this period as the return of Christ and the end of the period as the Great White Throne judgment. Most today do not take the number 1,000 as literal, but there are valid reasons why we should.
  - a. John knows how to tell us about an indefinite amount of time. If it was indefinite, he could have easily said that Satan would be bound for a short time, or a long time, or whatever. But instead he gives us a specific number.
  - b. Whenever you have, in the original Greek, a specific number followed by "years" in the New



Testament it always refers to a literal period of time. If the 1,000 years is not literal, what do you do with the other periods of time in Revelation? (2 witnesses, 4 angels, seven angels, 144,000 people, 12,000 from each tribe, 24 elders, 42 months, 1,260 days). It would cast suspicion on every other number.

- c. Revelation contains symbols, but not everything is a symbol! Generally when the author wants us to understand something symbolically, he tells us. For example, we don't take the woman in chapter 17 literally, because we are told specifically later on that the woman is a city. We don't have to guess. There is no clue in the text anywhere telling us that this is anything but a literal number.
2. It represents a time period when God's authority over the world is vindicated. In Genesis 3 God lost His authority over the world. Satan became the god of this age. Much of the Bible is about how this authority is regained. It is regained in the Millennial Kingdom, because it takes place on the earth. It would be meaningless if the reign was only a heavenly one.
- a. Revelation 5:10 says clearly that the Kingdom will be on the earth. It is not some ethereal celestial concept, it is EARTHLY. When it is established, God is vindicating His authority that He lost in Genesis 3. Adam was given the authority over the earth, and lost it to Satan.
  - b. Didn't God gain the victory over Satan at the cross of Christ? Yes, of course He did. But that didn't finish the story, the complete victory isn't played out until the Kingdom. *"He must be triumphant in the same arena where He was (seemingly) defeated. His rejection by the rulers of this world was on this earth. His exaltation must be on this earth. And so it shall be when He comes to rule this world in righteousness. He has waited long for His inheritance; soon He shall receive it."* Charles Ryrie Why can't the eternal state fulfill this exaltation? The eternal state is all about a new earth and new heavens. God must wrap up His business with this earth first before He creates a new one.
3. So that Old Testament prophecies can be fulfilled. There are prophecies that have not been fulfilled in the past, cannot be fulfilled today, and cannot be fulfilled in the eternal state. The only place they could be fulfilled is in the Millennial reign of Christ. There are dozens of these prophecies.
- a. Isaiah 65:17-25 looks like it's speaking of the eternal state, because it talks of a new heavens and new earth. But then as you read about this time period it's predicting, you see that death will still be a reality then. So this cannot be the eternal state, because Revelation 21:4 specifically says there will be no more death in the eternal state – death, in fact, will have been thrown into the lake of fire by then. So this has to be the Millennial Kingdom. It is a unique time. The Curse is curtailed, but not totally repealed. Here's some differences between the Millennium and the eternal state:

Millennium	Eternal State
Sin is restrained	Sin is removed
The Curse is restrained	The Curse is removed
Death is an ongoing reality	There is no death
Mortals and resurrected people live amongst one another	There are only resurrected people
Eternal destinies of some are undecided. Evangelism will still be necessary	Everyone's destiny is sealed
The earth will be renovated	The earth will be recreated
Temporary – only last 1000 years	Eternal
Transitional – transitions into the eternal state	Non-transitional

If you were to tear out Revelation 20 from your Bible, you would have no logical place in time to put all the prophecies like Isaiah 65:17-25.

4. It is necessary to fulfill God's purposes for the city of Jerusalem. The Bible speaks of a time where Jerusalem is a leader among the nations, a time when God will mediate His blessings to the world through the city of Jerusalem. The capital city of the world in the Millennium will be Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:2-4, Zechariah 14:17). When will these be fulfilled? It has to be the Millennial Kingdom. This is why when Satan is released what is his prime objective? Jerusalem.
5. It is necessary to complete God's resurrection program. When a person dies, the part of them designed to live forever separates from their body (Matthew 27:50, Acts 7:59). The opposite of death is resurrection. That's where the part of a person that's designed to live forever reunites with a new body. The Bible teaches that at the end of time there will be two resurrections. The first one is a resurrection unto life for the believer, the second is a resurrection unto judgment for the unbeliever (Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15).
  - a. Paul tells us that the resurrection of the believer will take place in different phases – he analogizes it to the different phases of Israel's harvest cycle. They harvested in waves. You had the "firstfruits", then the general harvest, then the "gleanings". The firstfruits of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection is Christ's resurrection. The general harvest is our resurrection, the Rapture of the Church. The last one is the gleanings, which is the resurrection for the Old Testament saints and Tribulation martyrs, which takes place at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Then, at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, there will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection, the resurrection unto judgment (Revelation 20:5).
  - b. So, without the Millennial Kingdom, the final part of the 1<sup>st</sup> resurrection, the gleanings, could not take place. Revelation says clearly that this resurrection and the 2<sup>nd</sup> resurrection to judgment will bookend the 1,000 year reign of Christ.
6. To demonstrate that only Christ's rule over fallen creation can last, and bring lasting peace, and can result in utopia. There will be peace for a thousand years until God allows Satan to be released from prison. The lesson is only the direct government of God can lead to lasting peace. Human governments will always fail! Man's systems and man's philosophies will NEVER bring utopia. Why can't God make this point in the eternal state? Because there will be no sin there, no fallen people or angels to rule over, and no Satan. God wants to make this point on earth.
7. To demonstrate that man's real problem is his nature, rather than his environment. That contradicts most philosophies of today. They say if we could give everyone a college education, and a decent standard of living, then the crime rate would disappear. This is a complete falsehood, a pipe dream.
  - a. Let me just throw a few names out – O. J. Simpson, Martha Stewart, (names of the ceo's and leaders of the latest corporate financial fiasco); and I could go on and on and on. The Bible teaches that Man does bad things, not because of his environment, but because he inherited a sin nature from Adam (Romans 5:12, Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:20-23). Our greatest need as people is not to have our environment changed but to have a new nature, which is what we receive when we trust Christ as Saviour (2 Peter 1:4, Romans 8:9). We need an internal transformation.
  - b. The Millennium illustrates this. In that 1,000 year period people will be living in a perfect environment. Jesus is ruling the world, Satan is bound, the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord. No human need is unmet. But what happens at the end of the Millennium? Revelation 20:7-9 – Satan is released and he immediately gathers a vast number of people who are very willing to rebel against God. This teaches us that despite a perfect environment, man still has a propensity for evil. This point could only be made in the Millennial Kingdom.

*"It is to be regretted, however, that the word "millennium" ever supplanted the Biblical word "kingdom." For we are not dependent on the twentieth chapter of Revelation for our understanding of the kingdom age. It is mentioned and described so many times by the Hebrew prophets that the Bible would not*

*make sense unless there is a literal kingdom. In fact, if there is no kingdom, God's word cannot be trusted, and many of the promises of God to both Israel and the Gentile nations would go unfulfilled. That is impossible. . . . The kingdom is guaranteed if for no other reason than Jesus promised He would return and set it up and permit His twelve disciples to rule on thrones [Mtt. 19:28; Luke 22:30] and as we shall see, so will His "saints." Clarence Larkin*

*"Due to the superficial knowledge of so many in our day . . . they have not recognized . . . in their study of the Scriptures . . . 'the 1000 years' of John are found in the Old Testament prophets, but still keep harping on the old and tuneless string that 'the Millennium is found in only one passage of the Bible, and that in a very obscure book called the Apocalypse!" Nathaniel West*

**Isaiah 65:17-25** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind. (18) "But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. (19) "I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. (20) "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. (21) "They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) "They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. (23) "They will not labor in vain, Or bear children for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them. (24) "It will also 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 will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

As we said above, this sounds a lot like the eternal state – new heavens and new earth, etc. But there are at least two things Isaiah describes during this time that we know will not exist during the eternal state – death and sin. We know this situation has never occurred in the past, and we know it can't be the eternal state, so it can only be the 1,000 year reign of Christ – the Kingdom.

### **Summary of the Millennial Kingdom**

*"Imagine a world dominated by righteousness and goodness, a world where there is no injustice, where no court ever renders an unjust verdict, and where everyone is treated fairly. Imagine a world where what is true, right, and noble marks every aspect of life, including interpersonal relations, commerce, education, and government. Imagine a world where there is complete, total, enforced, and permanent peace, where joy abounds and good health prevails, so much so that people live for hundreds of years.*

*Imagine a world where the curse is removed, where the environment is restored to the pristine purity of the Garden of Eden, where peace reigns even in the animal kingdom, so that "the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them" (Isa. 11:6). Imagine a world ruled by a perfect, glorious Ruler, who instantly and firmly deals with sin. Humanly speaking, that description may seem farfetched, a utopian fantasy that could never be reality. Yet it accurately describes conditions during*

*the future earthly kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.” John MacArthur*

**Character of the Millennial Kingdom**

Attribute	Description	Scriptures
Duration	One thousand years.	Rev. 20:2-5
Theocratic Rule	God will rule in the person of Jesus Christ on the throne of David. King David reigns as a prince under Christ.	2Sam. 7:16; Ps. 89:20-37; Isa. 24:23; Jer. 30:9; 33:15-17; Eze. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; 45:22; Dan. 7:13-14; Hos. 3:5; Luke 1:30-33.
Representative Rule	The twelve apostles will represent Christ ruling over the twelve tribes. Church-age and Tribulation saints will represent Christ ruling over the Gentiles.	Isa. 32:1; Dan. 7:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mtt. 19:28; Luke 22:30; Rev. :21;5:10.
Universal Rule	Christ’s rule will extend both spiritually <i>and literally</i> over the entire earth.	Ps. 2:6-9; 72:8; Dan. 2:44; 4:34; 7:14, 27; Mic. 4:1-2; Zec. 9:10
Seat of Government	The earthly Jerusalem will be restored, blessed, and greatly expanded to serve as the seat of government and worship.	Isa. 62; Isa. 65:18-19; Eze. 48:15-19; Luke 21:24; Rev. 11:2.
Global Environment	The heavens and earth will be renewed to restore the creation to Eden-like conditions and repair the damage from man’s long reign of abuse and the judgments of the Tribulation period.	Isa. 65:17; Mtt. 19:28
Populace	Resurrected and glorified saints will rule in the midst of Christ’s “brothers” (the faithful Jewish remnant), and the “sheep” (faithful Gentiles) who survive the Tribulation and enter the kingdom to form its initial population. Children will be born to those who enter the kingdom in their natural bodies.	Dan. 12:2; Isa. 26:19; 5:20, 23; Mtt. 25:31; Rev. 20:4
The Curse	Many aspects of the curse (Gen. 3:15-19) will be reversed. People will live to a great age, but death will still occur. As before the flood, animals will revert to vegetarianism and will no longer fear man. Living waters will flow from beneath the sanctuary of the <i>Millennial Temple</i> bringing life to the regions they water	Isa. 11:6-9; 65:20, 25; Eze. 47:8-12; Zec. 8:4; 14:8; (cf. Rev. 21:1-2)
Productivity	The earth will be fruitful and men will enjoy the fruit of their labors.	Ps. 67:6-7; 72:16; Isa. 35:1; 55:13; 65:22; Joel 2:24-26; 3:18; Amos 9:13-14
Mount Zion	The region of Mount Zion will be lifted up to form the Mountain of the Lord’s House.	Isa. 2:2; 56:7; Eze. 20:40; 40:2; Zec. 14:4, 10-11; Mic. 4:1
Israel	Israel will finally inhabit the Promised Land <i>permanently</i> . She will serve as the focal point of the nations because Jesus will reign from Jerusalem.	Gen. 13:15; 17:8; 1Chr. 17:9; Ps. 105:8-11; Isa. 60:21; Jer. 3:18; 7:7; 30:3; 31:8-9; Eze. 37:25; 39:25-29; Amos 9:11-15
Peace	All implements of war will be destroyed in favor of implements of productivity. Nations will no longer go to war. Disagreements between nations will be judged by Christ from Jerusalem.	Ps. 72:3-7; Isa. 2:5; 9:7; Eze. 37:26; Mic. 4:3
Worship	A temple will stand in Jerusalem and all the nations will go up to Jerusalem to the Feast of Tabernacles. Sacrificial offerings will be resumed.	Isa. 2:3; 56:6-7; 66:20-23; Eze. 43:20, 26; 45:15, 17, 20; Jer. 33:18; Dan. 9:24; Joel 3:18; Hag. 2:7-9; Zec. 6:12-15; 8:20-23; 14:16-21; Mal. 3:3-4.
Demonic Realm	Satan will be bound in the abyss and demons will be imprisoned in the regions of Babylon, Edom, and possibly, the abyss.	Isa. 34:8-17; Rev. 18:2; 20:3
Language	The curse of Babel (Gen. 11:7), the introduction of varied languages, will be reversed. All the earth will have one language.	Zep. 3:8-12

One of the criticisms of the premillennial view of a literal earthly Kingdom is that there is only a few verses in Revelation which speak of it. That couldn't be further from the truth! There are dozens of passages about the Kingdom. Keep in mind that these are not about the eternal state, because there will be no death, sin, temple, sea, rebellion, or judgment in that time. (Revelation 21,22). These are only some of many I could give you, my favorites are in bold:

Psalms 2:6-8, 22:27-29, 67:4-7, **72:1-20**

Isaiah **2:2-5**, 9:6-7, **11:1-10**, 16:5, 35:5-10, 49:6-7, 51:3, 55:12-13, **60:1-22** (appears to go from the Millennial Kingdom into the Eternal State), **65:17-25**, 66:19-24

Jeremiah 23:5-6, 33:6-18, chapter 31

Ezekiel 34:25-31, 36:8-15, 28-38, **47:1-12**, and all of chapters 40-48 are about the Millennial Kingdom

Zephaniah **3:8-20**, Micah 4:1-7, Joel 2:18-27, 3:18, Amos 9:11-15

Zechariah **8:3-23**, **14:8-11**, **16-21**, Malachi 1:11

Matthew 19:28, Luke 1:30-33, 22:28-30

There are many others, and I've probably missed some I listed earlier. Next time you're reading one of the Old Testament books of the prophets, make it a point to see how many Kingdom passages you can identify!

I'll close this lesson with what Jesus said:

**Matthew 6:9-10** "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (10) Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.