

The Millennium

Today we look at the Millennium, which is a Latin term meaning a 1,000 years. It's only mentioned by name (1000 years) in Revelation 20, though there is much to say about the Millennium throughout the Word of God. The term '1000 years' is used 6 times in the first 7 verses of Revelation 20.

1. The Process of the Millennium

There are three major views regarding this event:

- 1) **Postmillennialism** – This view holds that this will be a period ushered in by the church on the earth. The church will advance the gospel, and the world will become more and more kingdom ready until we are actually living in the kingdom. Christ's second coming will come following these 1,000 years. This view began to lose momentum as the world became more and more troubled through wars and advanced weapons and violence. This view is also called Kingdom Theology or Dominionism.
- 2) **Amillennialism** – Means no millennium. This view believes that the reign of Christ is happening presently on earth. It is a symbolic act as also the whole book of Revelation is spiritualized. They believe Satan is presently chained up, but just has a long chain. "Most amillennialists fit the Millennium into the present age, and all the events recorded in Revelation are somehow fitted into the facts of history like pieces are fitted into a crazy quilt. Frankly, I think that the results of this viewpoint are about the same: you come up with a crazy quilt." (J. Vernon McGee)
 - Adherents to this view fit the promises of the O.T. made to Israel as now referring to the church.
- 3) **Premillennialism** – This view holds to the literal interpretation of Revelation, which make it clear that the Lord is going to come back to the earth at the close of the tribulation and usher in His kingdom – the Millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Christ.
 - Now for you students of the Bible, you know that in Daniel 12:11-12 there is a reference to 1290 days from the midpoint of the tribulation. And then it says there is a blessing for those who come to the 1335 days. Yet in Revelation 12:6 it speaks of there being 1260 days from the midpoint of the tribulation. Why is there an extra 75 days given in Daniel? It seems it's 1260 days (3 ½ years) from the abomination of desolation to the end of the Tribulation and the Second Coming of Jesus. But these 75 days

brings into account the regathering of Israel, Millennial Temple preparations, the sheep and goat judgment (Matthew 25:34), etc.

There is much written regarding the Millennium in the Old Testament. This is the one thing that the Prophets were really waiting for. This is where many of the promises given to Israel would be fulfilled. In fact, the prophets wrote more about this period of time than any other.

*Millennial passages: Psalm 2; 24; 72:1-20; Isaiah 2:2-5; 9:6-7; 11-12; 63:1-6; 65:18-25; 66:19-24; Jeremiah 23:5-6; 31:12-14, 31-37; Ezekiel 34:25-29; 37:1-6; 47:1-12; Daniel 2:35; 7:13-14; Hosea 3:4-5; Joel 2:21-27; Amos 9:13-14; Micah 4:1-13; Zephaniah 3:8-20; Zechariah 8:3; 14:8-11; 14:16-21; Matthew 5:1-20; 19:27-30; Luke 22:28-30.

2. The Place of the Millennium

This is all going to go down on planet earth. The earth has been under a curse since Genesis 3 and the fall of man, but in the Millennium, we'll get to see what things would have been like if we obeyed God. All of creation is going to be restored.

Romans 8:19–22, *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."*

The earth is going to be renewed. We read of a spring of living water opening up in Jerusalem and flowing down into the Dead Sea. Check this out:

Zechariah 14:8–9, *"And in that day it shall be— That living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, Half of them toward the eastern sea And half of them toward the western sea; In both summer and winter it shall occur. ⁹ And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be "The Lord is one," And His name one."*

Ezekiel 47:8–10, *"Then he said to me: "This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. ⁹ And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live*

wherever the river goes. ¹⁰ It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many."

- This is remarkable because the Dead Sea is the lowest place on earth. Nothing lives here. Yet in that day it's going to be filled with fish. Everything restored. You fishermen out there, notice, there's going to be fishing in the Millennium!! I'll be able to go these individuals and say, *'Back in the day when I used to come here, all you could do is float in here, not a fish to be found!'*
- Exciting stuff.

So the Millennium is taking place on a renewed earth, and not just Jerusalem, it will encompass the whole earth. Greta Thunberg will finally be happy. Let's pray she'll get to see this. With that, let's talk about the people of the Millennium.

3. The People of the Millennium

Revelation 20:4–6, *"And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."*

To begin with, we the church have accompanied Jesus at His Second Coming. We're going to be reigning and ruling with Christ in the Millennium.

At this time the Old Testament saints will be given a resurrected body along with those who became believers in the tribulation and were killed. This completes the period of time known as the first resurrection. It began with Jesus and is completed before the Millennium begins. The first resurrection is more an order of resurrection than an event. It's taking over 2000 years in the process.

But then Matthew 25:31-46 explains the judgment of the nations, or the judgment of the sheep and the goats. After the tribulation there will be some survivors who will stand before Jesus. Those who lived with faith in Him will be brought into the kingdom (**Matthew 25:34**, *"Then the King will say to those on His right hand,*

'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:'). But those who didn't put their faith in Jesus will be sent to everlasting punishment. The second resurrection (the resurrection of the dead/unbelievers) will take place after the Millennium.

So here's what we see, in the Millennium there will be people in their resurrected glorified, immortal bodies, and there will be those in their earthly, natural, mortal bodies. Isn't that wild?! Wait till I play some spikeball with those chumps!

And during the Millennium people will be continuing on with life, children will be born, they will be living long lives and there will be a huge population explosion under these perfect conditions. You read in Genesis some of those genealogies and think of the lifespan of some people living hundreds and hundreds of years. It will be like that again.

Isaiah 65:20, *"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old..."*

It's not emphasizing that a child will die, but rather a person that dies at 100 years old will seem like they've died in their youth!

So it's pretty remarkable to think of these two different types of people living during this time. But we'll all be living for and worshipping Jesus! Remember, it's only believers that come into the Millennium. We'll talk more about some of our activity next in the program of the Millennium.

4. The Program of the Millennium

First of all, this time is going to be a righteous reign of Jesus. Sin is not going to be present. Why? Because the enemy (Satan) will not be present.

Revelation 20:1–3, *"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while."*

The bottomless pit is a place of incarceration for demons that have been bound, now it becomes a prison for Satan.

- Remember in Luke 8:26-31, Jesus went to the country of the Gadarenes where they came upon a man who was demon possessed. The demons begged Jesus not to command them to go out into the abyss. That's this place here that Satan will be bound in.
- And notice, it's not even Jesus that does this to Satan, it's an angel. Satan is not the equal to Jesus. Satan is not worry for God. God is in control and He has who He wants do what He wants.

So while Satan is imprisoned, there's a reign of peace and righteousness. There's no crime in the Millennium, no trouble, no wars.

Isaiah 2:4, *"He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore."*

Isaiah 11:6-10 declares it will be a time of peace and safety:

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

The Millennium is going to be glorious, but what will truly make it glorious is that Jesus will be present, and He will reign on David's throne. This is the time many of the promises that were given to Israel will be fulfilled.

A temple will be present, priestly service will be renewed, sacrifices will take place as memorials of God's faithfulness. The feasts will be observed. People will be worshipping the Lord and walking in full obedience under the New Covenant experiencing the beauty of life as it was meant to be under Jesus' rule.

This makes what we look at next even more absurd:

Revelation 20:7-10, *"Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle,*

whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

Why a final rebellion? It's to reveal the condition of the human heart. The heart of the problem has always been the problem of the heart.

A lot of people say they're just a product of their environment. I would be a good person if this world wasn't so messed up. Or I wouldn't sin if my home life wasn't so bad.

Yet this final rebellion and revolt against God reveals something:

Not even a thousand years of perfection, peace, prosperity can clean your heart. Only one thing can clean your heart – the blood of Jesus! This is why He came to die on a cross and give Himself for us. His sacrifice is the only thing that could eradicate sin and make us new. But He won't force Himself upon you. He gives everyone the freedom to choose. And there must be a choice to exercise our freedom to choose. There will be one final exercise of choice because Jesus wants to have a loving relationship with each of you. Without choice there isn't a loving free relationship. When we choose to follow Him and serve Him, He gives us a new heart to follow Him. Have you chosen to let Jesus rule in your heart today? If so, your life is to be ruled by His righteousness. And we've seen when that is happening, it's a great place to be.

The unconditional covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant promised Israel a land, a posterity and ruler, and a spiritual blessing ([Genesis 12:1–3](#)).

The Palestinian Covenant promised Israel a restoration to the land and occupation of the land ([Deuteronomy 30:1–10](#)). The Davidic Covenant promised Israel a king from David's line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies ([2 Samuel 7:10–13](#)).

At the second coming, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is re-gathered from the nations ([Matthew 24:31](#)), converted ([Zechariah 12:10–14](#)), and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the

conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace ([Micah 4:2–4](#); [Isaiah 32:17–18](#)), joy ([Isaiah 61:7, 10](#)), and comfort ([Isaiah 40:1–2](#)). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience ([Jeremiah 31:33](#)), holiness ([Isaiah 35:8](#)), truth ([Isaiah 65:16](#)), and the knowledge of God ([Isaiah 11:9](#), [Habakkuk 2:14](#)). Christ will rule as king ([Isaiah 9:3–7](#); [11:1–10](#)). Nobles and governors will also rule ([Isaiah 32:1](#); [Matthew 19:28](#)), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world ([Zechariah 8:3](#)).

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/millennium.html>

Other Scriptures:

Amos 9:11-15 shows the blessing Israel will experience:

“On that day I will raise up The tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, And repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, And rebuild it as in the days of old; ¹² That they may possess the remnant of Edom, And all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the Lord who does this thing. ¹³ “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it. ¹⁴ I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them. ¹⁵ I will plant them in their land, And no longer shall they be pulled up From the land I have given them,” Says the Lord your God.”

Ezekiel 37:24-28 shows that David will have a special role and the temple will be established forever:

“David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them. ²⁵ Then they shall dwell in the land that I have given to Jacob My servant, where your fathers dwelt; and they shall dwell there, they, their children, and their children’s children, forever; and My servant David shall be their prince forever. ²⁶ Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; I will establish them and multiply them, and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. ²⁷ My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ²⁸ The nations also will know that I, the Lord, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”