

Revelation: A Vision of the Coming King

Overview of Revelation 20

Introduction

Long Awaited Kingdom and Moment

We can go all the way back to the prophet Jeremiah who wrote of this day that we come to in **Revelation 20** concerning the Earthly Kingdom reign of Christ. It is interesting that Jeremiah wrote these words in the midst of the crumbling Kingdom of Judah that was under the relentless assault of an evil Babylonian king named Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah was witnessing what happens when God is not the true King of the kingdom. He was living in the midst of the crumbling sinful kingdom of Judah as he writes words of a King who would deal wisely and bring security to the people. This kingdom would come a long time after he wrote them, but they are words we should see as we begin our study of the Millennial Kingdom featured in **Revelation 20**.

Jeremiah 23:5 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’ The fulfillment of this happens in **Revelation 20**.

Revelation 20 by way of Overview

Honestly, there is simply not a tremendous amount of detail with in **Revelation 20** where we are given all of the specifics concerning the Millennial Kingdom, but rather the chapter is more of an overview of things that will happen and take place within these 1,000 years. What I would like to do today is give us an overview of it all with some specifics from other places in scripture and then in the weeks ahead, will fill in more of the details connected to the written text of **Revelation 20** that we find throughout Old and New Testament concerning the Millennial Kingdom of Christ. **Revelation 20** is an overview, so we will embrace this overview today and get specific in the weeks to come.

Characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom

When the Scripture speaks of and uses the phrase “the kingdom of God”, it does so by describing its various ways and forms in each of the depictions. While there may be some nuances with it, like when we are described as the Kingdom of God, regardless of how it is used, God is ultimately recognized as the Sovereign ruler over it.

When speaking of the Millennial Kingdom, it literally describes Christ sitting on an earthly throne. It is more than just a spiritual idea of the Kingdom of Christ, but an actual one where He sits, rules, and reigns as King.

So the Millennial Kingdom will be both a political and spiritual kingdom, as it will

encompass both. In it, Jesus Christ will be Who He truly is - the King of Kings, who will have come to reign and rule over the earth. That means, it will be clearly marked by all things connected and related to Him.

Revelation 20 though, is more than just a spiritual kingdom, but a physical one. Since it is an earthly kingdom with Christ on the throne, it obviously cannot be fulfilled in the present age when Christ is in heaven, therefore He must sit on a throne meaning that He must literally return here to the earth.

The Closing of Revelation 19

As we finished looking at the return of Jesus last week, it was quite graphic in nature as Jesus makes war and judges and kills the army gathered at Armageddon. This final event culminates what has been a devastating period at the end of the Great Tribulation where with the bowl judgments we saw 7 things..

16:2 – Painful sores upon people

16:3 – Sea turns to blood and every living thing dies in it

16:4 – Rivers and Springs turn to blood

16:8 – Sun scorches people with fire with fierce heat and they curse God

16:10 – Kingdom of the beast in plunged into darkness – gnawed their tongues and cursed God.

16:12 – Euphrates dried up to prepare for the battle ; 3 demons released and they go and gather the kings of the earth for battle against the Lamb and .

16:17 – lightning, thunder, great earthquake, cities of the world fall, islands flee away, no mountains are found anymore, great hailstones 100 pounds each will fall on people.

These are just the final 7 judgments of God that will come after the 7 Seals and 7 Trumpets and everything connected with them. When the Bowl Judgments are finally completed, the earth will be a place of chaos and unfathomable destruction worldwide.

Yet, we know that once He returns, the earth will begin to be restored. What the Garden of Eden was before the fall will begin to awaken and be restored again on the earth. What was tragically lost when Adam and Eve sinned, will flourish during the 1,000 yr reign of Christ. It will be a phenomenal time period where so many wonderful things will happen.

So we want in these weeks to really understand the details and significance of these 1,000 years.

1. Return of Jesus - 19:11-21

Revelation 19:11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name

written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule[c] them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave,[d] both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence[e] had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

The Millennial kingdom will be ushered in by Jesus' return and the destruction of His enemies.

Q: What happens first upon His return on the earth?

Q: What happens when His feet touch the ground?

When Jesus returns to the earth and His feet touch ground, we learn from the prophet Zechariah that this happens in Jerusalem and Israel...

Zechariah 14:4 On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. 5 And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. 6 On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. 7 And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. 8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

He will carve a valley from the Mediterranean toward the Dead Sea and a new river flowing through that period, or that location will turn the desert into a blossoming place.

2. Repetitive Theme of Scripture - the Kingdom

Upon a real close examination of the scripture, the theme of the earthly Kingdom of God literally permeates both the Old and New Testaments.

You can find writing on it in these books:

- **2 Samuel 7**
- **Psalms 2**

- Isaiah 2, 11, 35, 40-48
- Jeremiah 23, 33
- Ezekiel 34
- Daniel 2:7
- Hosea 3
- Joel 3
- Zephaniah 3
- Zechariah 14

Some of the passages of the Old Testament have still not fully seen their fulfillment yet, so they are still to come.

It is one of the most, if not the most frequented subject in the Bible as God has been since the fall of man moving the world to the intended purpose of the Kingdom reign of Christ.

Honestly if we were to stop and think it through, much of the longing in our hearts in regard to our world and its sinful mess is connected to our longing for His Kingdom come His will be done on the earth as it is in heaven.

Also, ever since the Garden, everything has been moving toward the future reign of Jesus.

John closes Revelation with these sentences:

Revelation 22:20 He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! **21** The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

The Disciples View of the Coming Kingdom

Matthew 24:1-3

Matthew 24:3 As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” They understood He would come again.

Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7** He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. They had an understanding about a future Kingdom.

3. Revelation’s Chronology

Revelation’s Chronological Sequence

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. Church Age - | Revelation 1-3 |
| 2. Tribulation – | Revelation 6-19:10 |
| 3. Return of Jesus – | Revelation 19:11-16 |
| 4. Battle of Armageddon – “Day of the Lord” | Revelation 19:17-21 |
| 5. Sets up & Reigns in the Millennial Kingdom - | Revelation 20 |

6. Eternal State – New Heaven and Earth - **Revelation 21**

- Includes prior to it the destruction of the current earth to make way for the new heaven and earth.

The latin word Millennium is a word that means one thousand.

With that in mind, it is clear that everything leading up to **Revelation 20** happens before the Millennial Kingdom, and this view is called the Premillennial View of the Second Coming of Jesus.

Everything we have walked through so far until **Revelation 20** has been before – church age, the Tribulation, Armageddon & return of Jesus. Then there is Revelation 20 and then the book takes us to **Revelation 21:1** which describes a new heaven and a new earth.

Q: What does that mean? It means that our eternal state begins in **Revelation 21**. So everything in **Revelation 21-22** is postmillennial.

3 Main Views Concerning the Millennium

1. Premillennial View – Return of Jesus, then He sets up His kingdom

- It is a literal return
- Things get worse leading up to the 2nd Coming.
- He sets up the kingdom
- Literal 1,000 years

2. Postmillennial View – Jesus returns at the end of the time period

Christ will return after the 1,000 years, which represent a golden age of unspecified duration, not an actual 1,000 yrs. This age is ushered in by the triumph of the gospel as the world converts, in large part, to Christianity through the efforts of the church.

- Literal return
- Things get better leading up to Christ's return & then the Kingdom just appears as things get better and better
- The church is the key to establishing the Kingdom
- Not a literal 1,000 yrs
- Then He comes

This is a western church mindset. John MacArthur says this view greatly diminishes each time there has been a war in the 20th and 21st centuries. Since things are supposed to get better, a world war greatly impacts this view.

3. Amillennialist View – Don't believe in a Millennium

- There is no literal reign of Christ over an earthly kingdom.
- Christ is presently reigning over a spiritual kingdom in either: (1) the hearts of men; (2) heaven, or (3) the church.
- The 1,000 years is a symbol representing an extended period of time.
- Believe that Christ is here already in the spiritual sense and that in time in the fullness of the kingdom he will just take us to heaven.

4. Reign of King Jesus - Various texts

As we come to **Revelation 20**, I will preach from the Premillennialist view, which again briefly is that the Kingdom take place after the literal return of Jesus that so I believe there will be a literal 1,000 yr. reign of Jesus on the earth.

The Names of this Kingdom in Scripture

• The Regeneration

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world,[b] when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (b) **Matthew 19:28 Greek in the regeneration** **This verse speaks against the Amillennialist perspective for Jesus says He will sit on a throne.

- **The Times of Refreshing**

Acts 3:19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, 20 that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus,

- **The Times of Restoring**

Acts 3:21 whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. They wrote of a literal coming Kingdom.

- **The Fullness of Times**

Ephesians 1:9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

The Bible is full of language in regard to the Kingdom of God in varying ways and in each, God is pictured as the one who rules and reigns as the Sovereign King and Lord. In looking at the millennial kingdom, it is clear that it is a political & spiritual kingdom, where Jesus reigns over the nations of the entire earth.

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

As an earthly kingdom with Christ on David's throne in Jerusalem, it should be clear to us that it is not a kingdom that will be fulfilled during the church age. We know that Christ is in heaven until He returns, so this Kingdom in **Revelation 20** will not be established until His 2nd return. Now, though we live in the church age, we are definitely a part of the Kingdom as Christ-followers, but it is mainly in the spiritual sense.

When He comes He will be....

King Over Israel

In His relationship to Israel as her king, He will finally be embraced by her as her true King. The scripture says of this role...

- **He was born to rule over the Nation – Luke 1:32-33**

Luke 1:31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

- **The people of Israel rejected Him as their king – Mark 15:12 ; Luke 19:14**

Mark 15:2 And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you

call the King of the Jews?” 13 And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” 14 And Pilate said to them, “Why? What evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.”

Luke 19:14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ (From Parable of Ten Minas)

- In His death it was posted on the cross that He died as a king –
Matthew 27:37

Matthew 27:37 And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”

- It is in keeping with this that when He comes again, He comes as the King who will fulfill prophecies of His ruling over the Davidic kingdom – **Revelation 3:7**

Revelation 3:7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’”

The Throne of David

In this Kingdom, He will take and have His rightful place as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in the millennial kingdom and will fulfill the promises that He will sit on David’s throne over the house of Israel (2 Sam. 7:16; Ps. 89:20-37; Isa. 11:1-16; Jer. 33:19-21). He will sit on the throne of David in the city of Jerusalem, that great city from which He will rule the world.

**BTW – King David will also be on the earth during this kingdom so it must be fascinating for him to see the promise made to him about the forever king coming from him reigning in Jerusalem. There are some interesting things to ponder with the Millennial Kingdom.

King Over the Nations

In addition to reigning over Israel as the Son of David, Christ will also be the King of Kings over the entire earth, and this includes, of course, the Gentile world.

Psalms 72:8 May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!

The fact that Christ will reign over the entire world is taught by many Scriptures as seen in **Isaiah 2:1-4 ; 9:6-7 ; 11:1-10 ; 16:5 ; 24:23 ; 32:1 ; 40:1-11 ; 42:3-4 ; 52:7-15 ; 55:4 ; Daniel 2:44 ; 7:27 ; Micah 4:1-8 ; 5:2-5 ; Zechariah 9:9 ; 14:16-17.**

In each of those verses, a literal earthly kingdom and reign is clearly communicated.

Being King over the nations will also fulfill the Messianic Promise from the Father in...

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

The reality of this type of reign will be wholly opposite

of how satan operated his kingdom while he ruled the world in its rebellion against the glory of God.

This world so often is a picture of satan, but in the Millenium, everything will reflect the glory of Christ.

Next, we to ask this question...

5. The Reality of Life in the Millennium - Various

Q: What will life be like in the Millennial Kingdom?

The Spiritual Life in the Millennium

Though the millennial kingdom will be a political kingdom, it will also be a place where there will be a tremendous Christ focused spiritual experience. As Christ-followers, the reign and kingdom of Christ is reigning in our hearts right now, but it will be more than that in the Millennial Kingdom as it will also be both global and visible.

Visible Kingdom

An important part of this is the fact that Christ will be visibly present and the world will be able to see His glory as we see in...

Matthew 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 30 Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will

gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

These words from Jesus reveal that His return will be visible and when the angels go out and gather the elect (remaining Christ-followers who survive the Tribulation), they will be brought together where they will also see Jesus. They will be gathered to Him.

Knowledge of God

Another unique piece of the Millennium will be a knowledge of Christ that will permeate the earth. Everyone will know of Jesus! We see this in...

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. What we long for will be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom. The whole earth knows of Him.

With the Law of Moses was instituted it was written in stone, and then with the coming of Christ, through faith millions have come to faith and will continue to know Him. We know this to be true about the 1,000 yr. reign of Jesus – The fullness of Jeremiah's text will be fully true...

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Time of Great Righteousness

Psalms 72:5 May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations! 6 May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth! 7 In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

Time of Great Peace

The nations will no longer find themselves at war with one another for the period of 1,000 yrs. for it will be a time of never before seen peace.

Isaiah 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and 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.

Ezekiel 37:26 I will make a covenant of peace with them. It shall be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will set them in their land and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in their midst forevermore.

Time of Great Joy

When righteousness and peace are greatly present, the inevitable outcome of that is great joy. This aspect of the Millennium is seen in...

Isaiah 12:3 With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. 5 "Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. 6 Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

The Holy Spirit in the Millennium

The Holy Spirit will be active in the Millennium and will continue to do the great ministry work that He does as God. The millennial kingdom will manifest a high level of spiritual life unequaled in any previous dispensation.

Isaiah 32:14 For the palace is forsaken, the populous city deserted; the hill and the watchtower will become dens forever, a joy of wild donkeys, a pasture of flocks; 15 until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness becomes a fruitful field, and the fruitful field is deemed a forest. 16 Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. 17 And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. 18 My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Isaiah 44:3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. 5 This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,' and name himself by the name of Israel."

Joel 2:28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female

servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. 30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. 32 And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the Lord has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the Lord calls.

Repopulation of the Earth

The earth will be repopulated during the Millennium, but the question that needs to be answered - **who is it that enters the Millennial Kingdom to produce the children which Scripture records will be born?**

During the Great Tribulation, not only will there be a great purging of the earth, but on a massive worldwide scale will human death reach unknown numbers. With all of the plagues and the martyrdom of the Saints by the Antichrist, the earth's population will greatly be reduced.

Isaiah 65:20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

Q: So, who are the parents of these infants? Let's attempt to answer this question.

So in the Millennium, both the Resurrected and glorified saints will return with Jesus and they will rule. Remaining on the earth when they return will be two human groups that we are still alive. Some of them, even though they do not know Jesus as Savior were not killed in Armageddon for they were not gathered there with the enemies armies and the other group of humans are those who are living on the earth and they are saved Christ-followers. We can see both of these listed in **Matthew 25** and they can fall under the category of the “Brotherhood of Jesus”. Let's read the text so that we can see it for ourselves...

Matthew 25:31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. This is very clear as to what happens

after He comes, for He will sit on “**HIS glorious throne**” (my emphasis).

Here is what happens next...

32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

These “**brothers**” are living humans, not glorified saints, who are from the nations who are Christ-followers & have survived the Tribulation. According to Jesus, as King He will say to them **25:34** “**Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world**”. They enter the Kingdom there!

This brotherhood will include two groups who will repopulate...

(1) Jewish remnant in Revelation 12

These have saving faith in Jesus as the Messiah, Savior, & Lord.

They will have survived the Tribulation and we find this remnant in **Revelation 12**.

Revelation 12:6 and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be nourished for 1,260 days.

Revelation 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time, and times, and half a time. 15 The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 Then the dragon became furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the sand of the sea. Christ-following Remnant Jews who are protected.

(2) The Sheep of Matthew 25

These are Christ-following Gentiles who survive the Tribulation and therefore enter into the Millennium and they along with the remnant of Jews will populate the earth again. They will have children who will be born to them after they have entered the kingdom in their natural bodies.

Isaiah 65:20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred

years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord, and their descendants with them. 24 Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Daniel 12:1 At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

At the Second Coming of Christ there are three types of people at first: (1) believers who have glorified bodies (Saints which includes the Church) (2) Unbelievers who remain in their natural bodies (3) Christ-followers who will have survived the Tribulation (they have not been to heaven in death).

Since all the ungodly are purged at the Second Coming through either Armageddon (**Revelation 19:21**) or as goats (**Matthew 25:41-46**), the only ones remaining to enter the Millennial Kingdom would be saints in their glorified bodies and Christ-following humans who survived death when Jesus returns.

We know from Jesus himself that the resurrected saints do not reproduce and we see this in **Mark 12**.

Mark 12:24 Jesus said to them, “Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God? 25 For when they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

So both Jewish and Gentile families will populate the earth during the Kingdom.

The Environment - Reverse of the Curse

After all of the devastation from the Tribulation period that will be done to the environment, it is interesting to note that during Christ’s reign there will be a great awakening of the environment, a restoration. The earth will return to what it was before the fall of man in the Garden of Eden after all of the damage from man and the judgments of the Tribulation period.

Jesus spoke of this reality Himself...

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, [b] when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also

sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

(b) Matthew 19:28 Greek in the regeneration

Jesus says there will be a regeneration of the earth, and in this regeneration much of what was lost will be regained. Here are some examples...

The Animal Kingdom

Isaiah 11:6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

People nor animals will fear one another and animals will be vegetarians. If you've ever wanted to pet a lion, tiger, crocodile or hippo – no problem at all.

Age of People

Isaiah 65:20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

Wow! People will live to be much older and if someone dies at that 100, it is seen as a rare thing and a tragedy.

Zechariah 8:4 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age. 5 And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. 6 Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts? 7 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, 8 and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.”

Water that Breathes Life Wherever it Touches

Ezekiel 37:6 And he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river. 7 As I went back, I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other. 8 And he said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh. 9 And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. 10 Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea. 11 But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt. 12 And on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for

food, and their leaves for healing.”

Living waters will flow from beneath the sanctuary of the Temple and they will bring life wherever they flow.

Zechariah 14:8 On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.

I will just briefly touch on these now and in the weeks to come we will look at them in detail in regard to Revelation 20.

6. The Restriction of the Dragon – Revelation 20:1-3

20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. **2** And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Angels Coming Down in Revelation

Revelation 10:1 ; 18:1 ; 20:1 – this is the 3rd time John has seen an angel coming down from heaven for a specific God ordained mission and this mission is of great significance.

He comes down to lock up satan and in this action, his deception is finished for the next 1,000 yrs.

Satan will be bound in the abyss and demons will be imprisoned in the regions of Babylon, Edom, and possibly, the abyss.

7. The Reign of the Saints – Revelation 20:4-6

20:4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

The twelve apostles also will have part in the reign of Christ on earth and will judge the twelve tribes of Israel as we see in **Matthew 19:28** Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1st Resurrection – Revelation 20:5

Revelation 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

These seated on thrones are from two major resurrection events, both of which are part of the category known as the first resurrection and they consist of two groups resurrected:

(1) OT Saints - Those who came to faith and died prior to the baptizing work of the Spirit which began on the Day of Pentecost. These are the OT saints, many of whom are Jews, and who were resurrected after Jacob’s Trouble and the Great Tribulation as we see in Daniel 12:2 and Isaiah 26:19.

(2) Church Saints - Those who came to faith and lived beyond the Day of Pentecost to be baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ, the Church. These were resurrected or translated at the Rapture of the Church as seen in John 14:3 ; 1 Corinthians 15:51 ; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Three Groups are mentioned Who Reign in 20:4

This representative reign alongside Christ will consist of 3 groups:

Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule in justice.

Authority to Judge Israel

1. Twelve Apostles – Matthew 19:28

The twelve apostles will represent Christ ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel.

Authority to Judge the Gentile Nations (2 Groups)

2. Church Age

“Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God”.

3. Tribulation saints

and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

Additional Verses Supporting this:

Daniel 7:17 ‘These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’

Daniel 7:21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

Luke 22:28 “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 3:21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Revelation 5:9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed

people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

8. The Release of Satan – Revelation 20:3c ; 20:7-8

Revelation 20:7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.

9. The Rebellion of Nations – Revelation 20:9

20:9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

10. The Removal of satan to Hell – Revelation 20:10

11. The Resurrection of Lost sinners – Revelation 20:11-15