

Session 7

Understanding the Millennial Kingdom

This session covers:

- An overview of the Millennial Kingdom
- The purpose of the Millennial Kingdom
- How the faithful saints will rule with Christ

This session corresponds to:

- *Session 7 of Prophetic Vision for the End Times CDs*

An Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

1. The ultimate prophetic theme in the end times is Jesus' second coming to establish His kingdom on the earth.

- This time of prophetic fulfillment is known as the Messianic Age, the Kingdom Age, or the Millennial Kingdom. It is the time when Jesus will reign as King from Jerusalem for a thousand years (Zech. 14:16; Rev. 20:4).
- It will be a time of unprecedented peace, prosperity, righteousness, and glory (Isa. 60).
- It will be a period when heaven invades earth, all of God's enemies are defeated, Satan and his demons are bound for a thousand years, and Jesus rules the nations with a rod of iron (Ps. 2; Rev. 20).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the world will be transformed into a lush paradise, harmony will be restored between humanity and creation, and worship will fill the planet as the glory of God covers the earth like the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:6-10).
- Notice these Scriptures that describe Jesus as the

King over all the earth:

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne [in Jerusalem]. All the nations will be gathered before Him (Matt. 25:31-32).

And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one (Zech. 14:9).

From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron....And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:15-16).

2. The Millennium is a literal one-thousand year period when Jesus rules the whole world from Jerusalem.

- Millennium is from the Latin "mille," which means a thousand.
- John described Jesus' thousand-year reign when he wrote, "I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them....They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years....They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Rev. 20:4-6).
- During the thousand-year reign of Christ, the kingdom of God will come in fullness to the earth. This will affect every sphere of life, including politics, agriculture, economics, education, law enforcement, family dynamics, media, the arts, technology, athletics, and every social institution.
- The result will be a one-thousand year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity, and restores the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to the conditions similar to the Garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Mt. 5:5; 6:10; 17:11).
- The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. Jesus' core message was that God's kingdom was being released in a new measure on earth. The New Testament makes clear that the kingdom is already here in a limited expression but is not yet fully here until Jesus returns.
- Recall that Jesus taught us to pray, "Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). This prayer will be completely answered when the kingdom of God comes to the earth in fullness during the Millennial Kingdom.

3. Jesus will rule over two types of kings in the Millennial Kingdom.

- Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as the eternal King who would rule over all the earth. He wrote, "One like the Son of Man [Jesus]...came to the Ancient of Days [the Father]....To Him [Jesus]

was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him....His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve Him" (Dan. 7:13-14, 27, NKJV).

- John described Jesus as the "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*" (Rev. 19:16).
- Jesus, as King of kings, will govern a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings:
 1. The kings of the earth with non-resurrected bodies who survived the end-time shakings (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Joel 2:32; Zech. 14:16; Rev. 21:24).
 2. The saints with resurrected bodies who will rule with Christ as kings (Rev. 20:6).
- John described these two types of kings when he wrote, "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth [non-resurrected bodies]. To Him who loved us...and has made us [resurrected saints] kings and priests to His God and Father" (Rev. 1:5-6, NKJV).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the kings of the earth will be saved, will worship Jesus, and will base their national governments on God's Word (Ps. 72:11, 102:15, 138:4; Isa. 62:2).
- Psalm 72:11 states, "All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him" (NKJV).
- Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (Matt. 19:28, 20:21-23, 25:23; Luke 19:17-19, 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).
- John wrote, "He who overcomes...TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON" (Rev. 2:26-27). The overcoming saints, in partnership with Jesus, will rule the nations with a rod of iron.
- These two types of kings, together with Christ, will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of life.

4. In the Millennial Kingdom, the natural processes of life will continue on the earth.

- Ephesians 1:10 says that heaven and earth will be brought together as one in Christ. This will progress to a new level in the Millennial Kingdom.
- Heaven speaks of the glory of God and the unlimited, supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. The earth speaks of the natural processes of life, as we know it today. In the Millennial Kingdom, the natural processes of life will not be discarded—they will be brought to an entirely new level by the glory of God and the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.
- Speaking of the Millennial Kingdom, Isaiah prophesied that the offspring of Christ will "possess nations and will resettle the desolate cities" (Isa. 54:3).
- This will probably involve replacing the governmental leaders from the

Antichrist's worldwide government with new people at every level of public life.

- Think about how devastated the world will be after the Tribulation. The earthquakes that will be released before the Lord returns will decimate the infrastructure of many cities. The Antichrist will also turn the whole world into a desolate wilderness as he subdues the nations by the most formidable military power in history (Isa. 14:17).
- When the Bible talks about resettling the desolate cities, it will probably involve rebuilding the infrastructures that were destroyed during the Tribulation. Perhaps this will involve rebuilding highways, bridges, economic systems, educational systems, and law enforcement.
- The resurrected saints, in partnership with the kings of the earth, will work together to fully restore the cities of the earth that were destroyed during the Tribulation.
- Concerning the Millennial Kingdom, Isaiah wrote:

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. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 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. 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....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 (Isa. 65:20-25).

5. Jesus will not instantaneously transform every sphere of life the moment He returns.

- When Jesus returns, He will not just wave His hand, snap His fingers, and magically restore the earth. It will take time for His kingdom to spread and His influence to affect every city in every nation.
- Isaiah wrote, "There will be *no end to the increase of His government or of peace*, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore" (Isa. 9:7). Notice that there will be "no end to the increase of His government."
- Jesus' government will be increasing during the Millennial Kingdom. There will be a progressive increase of Jesus' influence throughout the nations until it penetrates every facet of every institution.
- The survivors of the Tribulation who did not take the mark of the beast or accept Christ will not be instantaneously disciplined. It will take time to convert people individually, disciple them, and lead them into deep worship and adoration of the King of kings. Notice this Scripture, which is in the context of the Millennial Kingdom:

“For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory [the nations will come to see Jesus’ glory in Jerusalem]. I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them [the survivors of Israel] to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Rosh, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations. Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,” says the LORD, “just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,” says the LORD (Isa. 66:18-21).

- This passage of Scripture is such an interesting concept. Notice some key truths in this passage:
 - “The time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory.” The Lord will gather people who survived the Tribulation to Jerusalem to see His glory.
 - “I will...send survivors from them to the nations.” The survivors mentioned here are most likely the Jews who survived the Tribulation. God will send them to the nations as missionaries.
 - “That have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations.” There will be people in the nations during the Millennial Kingdom that have never heard of God’s fame nor seen His glory. To reach these for salvation and to see them become worshipers, God will send the survivors of Israel to the nations in order to make Jesus’ fame known.
 - “Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the Lord...to My holy mountain Jerusalem.” The survivors of Israel will make Jesus’ fame known to the nations and then they will bring these people back to Israel to see Jesus’ glory with their own eyes.
 - “I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites.” Jesus will choose some of these people who gather to Jerusalem from the nations to be His priests. These will minister to Jesus in the Millennial Temple.
- The point in all of this is to illustrate the progressive increase of Jesus’ government in the nations. It will take time to disciple the nations and bring them into full allegiance to the Lord Jesus. That is why both Jesus and the saints will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27; 19:15). The rod of iron will be used to discipline those who disobey God’s laws.

6. It is important to understand the purpose of the Millennial Kingdom.

- The purpose of the millennial reign of Christ is to prepare the nations for the Father coming in the fullness of His glory to the earth (Rev. 21:1-4, 22:3-5).
- Writing about the Millennial Kingdom, Paul stated, "Then comes the end [of the Millennial Kingdom], when He [Jesus] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power [it will take time to do this]. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet" (1 Cor. 15:24-25).
- The purpose of Christ's one-thousand year reign is to abolish "all rule and all authority and power" and to "put all His enemies under His feet."
- Think about this for a minute. If Christ rules for one-thousand years and He also rules until all authority and power and every enemy has been put under His feet, then maybe it takes a thousand years for all of this to happen. Perhaps it takes a thousand years to spread, mature, and test the righteousness in every nation.
- Maybe it takes a thousand years for Jesus' government to increase into every sphere of life and to prepare the nations for the Father's glory and His eternal reign.

7. The Millennial Kingdom is a one-thousand year transitional period between this current age and eternity.

- When the thousand-year reign of Christ is complete and His influence has spread into every sphere of society in all nations, Satan will be released from prison to test the nations' obedience to the Word of God (Rev. 20:7-8).
- John said that the number of those deceived by Satan will be "like the sand of the seashore" (Rev. 20:8).
- To prepare the nations for the fullness of the Father's glory, Satan will be allowed to test the nations' obedience so that every form of unrighteousness can be purged from the earth.
- Following Satan's unsuccessful bid to recapture the earth, God will judge the dead according to their works (Rev. 20:11-13). This is known as the Great White Throne Judgment.
- Then comes eternity, when unbelievers are cast into the lake of fire, the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to earth, and the saints enjoy the fullness of God's glory forever (Rev. 20:14-15, 21:1-22:5).

8. Notice some characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom.

- Worldwide justice (Is. 9:7, 11:3-5, 28:17, 32:16, 42:1-4);
- Unprecedented peace (Is. 2:4, 9:4-7, 11:6-9, 32:17-18, 65:25);
- Fullness of joy (Is. 9:3-4, 12:3-6, 14:7-8, 25:8-9, 61:7, 10);
- Satan bound (Rev. 20:1-7);
- Healing (Is. 29:17-19, 35:3-6, 61:1-2; Jer. 31:8; Mic. 4:6-7; Zeph. 3:19);
- Longevity of life (Is. 65:20, 22);

- Labor (Is. 62:8-9, 65:21-23; Jer. 31:5; Ezek. 48:18-19);
- Rebuilt cities (Isa. 61:4-6; Ezek. 36:36-38);
- Economic prosperity (Is. 4:1, 30:23-25, 60:1-14; Zech. 14:14);
- A one-world government (Zech. 14:9; Ezek. 37:15-28; Rev. 19:16);
- Judges and governors (Jer. 30:21; Is. 24:23, 32:1; Ezek. 45:8-9; Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:30, 19:12-28);
- Sin punished (Ps. 2:9; Is. 11:4, 66:24; Zech. 14:16-19; Rev. 20:7-10);
- Israel exalted above all nations (Is. 2:1-4, 14:1-2, 49:22-23, 60:14-17).

The Faithful Saints Ruling with Christ

1. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will share His power and authority with the faithful saints throughout history.

- The Bible says that Jesus “has made us kings and priests to His God and Father” and “we shall reign on the earth” (Rev. 1:5-6, 5:10, NKJV).
- As kings, the saints will rule and reign with judicial responsibility and kingdom authority. This involves bringing justice and righteousness into their sphere of authority.
- Paul said that “the saints will judge the world” and that “we will judge angels” (1 Cor. 6:2).
- In the Millennial Kingdom, the overcoming saints will rule the nations with a rod of iron, establish justice in their jurisdiction, and administer punishment on sinners.
- Jesus promised the overcomers that they would have “authority over the nations” and that they would “rule them with a rod of iron” (Rev. 2:26-27).
- Jesus told the lukewarm Laodiceans, “He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne” (Rev. 3:21). The throne represents not only a place of intimacy but also authority.

2. Ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom is not automatic—it is a reward for the overcomers.

- Many people think that ruling and reigning with Christ is an automatic blessing of the New Covenant. They think that we can live however we want, and because of God’s grace, He will let us rule the nations in the Millennial Kingdom. However, nothing is further from the truth.
- Jesus said that the believers in Thyatira had to overcome the works of Jezebel, which included idolatry, sensuality, immorality, impurity, and witchcraft, in order to have authority over the nations and rule them with a rod of iron in the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 2:25-29).
- Jesus said that the lukewarm believers at Laodicea had to overcome spiritual complacency, apathy, pride, and self-satisfaction in order to sit down with Jesus on His throne (Rev. 3:21).

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5, NKJV). In this passage, the Lord is talking about inheriting the earth in the Millennial Kingdom. Only the meek will return with Christ and rule with Him.
- What does it mean to be meek? It means that we no longer do things in our own power, strength, and wisdom and that we do not strive against God. Meekness is total and complete reliance upon God for everything. Meekness is the antithesis of pride, rebellion, independence, and stubbornness.
- If we want to inherit the earth in the Millennial Kingdom and rule with Christ, then we must submit to the Holy Spirit now and let Him break us, mold us, and develop meekness within us.
- Jesus used the rewards of ruling and reigning with Him in the Millennial Kingdom to motivate us to righteousness now. By offering us a place of government in the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus inspires us to resist compromise, lethargy, worldliness, pride, independence, and rebellion.
- Having a vision of the Millennial Kingdom and the rewards promised to the overcomers inspires us to live wholeheartedly for God now.
- This is how Jesus motivated Peter, John, and the other apostles to give up everything and follow Him. He said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration [the Millennial Kingdom] when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne [in Jerusalem], you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matt. 19:27-30).
- In the parable of the minas, Jesus told the servant who made ten minas, "Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:16-17). These cities are not something spiritual or symbolic. They are literal cities in the Millennial Kingdom. As we are faithful in the very small things that God has entrusted to us, we will receive authority to rule and reign with Christ in the Millennium.

3. How we live now determines our position in the Millennial Kingdom and for all eternity.

- The Bible says that our life is a "vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away" (James 4:14).
- Psalm 90:10 says, "As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years...for soon it is gone and we fly away." If we are blessed, we have seventy to eighty years to prepare for eternity.
- Our role in the next life is based upon how we live during our few short years on earth.
- Talking about this concept, Mike Bickle said:

Life on earth in this age can be likened to a 70 year internship (Ps. 90:10) which prepares us for our life on earth in the age to come. Our next stage of life in the age to come starts in the Millennial Kingdom which is the time when our first main minis-

try calling begins. This primary ministry assignment lasts for 1,000-years....The choices we make in our 70 year internship determine where and how we will function in our 1,000-year ministry assignment. Few believers will be in government.¹

- Our "70 year internship" will be evaluated according to the condition of our heart and if we were faithful with the resources God entrusted to us. Did we make Jesus our first love? Did we overcome spiritual apathy, complacency, or pride? Did we develop meekness, humility, and Christ-likeness? Were we faithful with the resources that were entrusted to us? How did we manage our time, money, and talents?

The way we live today determines our eternal destiny and our role in Jesus' Millennial government. With such an awesome future, don't settle for anything less than God's highest and best. Make a decision today to live for eternity, to overcome everything that hinders you, and to press on toward the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Notes

1. Mike Bickle, *Omega Leader's Guide* (Kansas City, MO: Forerunner Books), p. 52-53.

Review Questions

True or False

- _____ 1. The Millennium is a literal one-thousand year period when Jesus rules the whole world from Jerusalem.
- _____ 2. In the Millennial Kingdom, the natural processes of life will continue on the earth.
- _____ 3. When Jesus returns, the nations will be instantly transformed.
- _____ 4. The purpose of the Millennial Kingdom is to bind Satan for a thousand years.
- _____ 5. Ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennial Kingdom is an automatic reward for every born-again believer.
- _____ 6. Israel will be exalted above all the nations in the Millennial Kingdom.
- _____ 7. How we live our life will determine our position in the Millennial Kingdom.
- _____ 8. The New Testament makes clear that the kingdom is already here in fullness.
- _____ 9. Millennium is from the Latin "mille," which means a thousand.

Fill in the Blanks

10. Ephesians 1:10 says that _____ and _____ will be brought together as _____ in Christ.
11. Jesus' government will be _____ during the Millennial Kingdom.
12. In the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus will share His _____ and _____ with the faithful saints throughout history.
13. Jesus used the _____ of ruling and reigning with Him in the Millennial Kingdom to _____ us to _____ now.
14. The _____ _____ in partnership with the _____ of the earth will work together to fully restore the cities of the earth that were destroyed during the _____.
15. The purpose of the millennial reign of Christ is to _____ the nations for the

Father coming in the _____ of His _____ to the earth.

Match the Scripture verse(s) on the left that best describe(s) the characteristic of the Millennial Kingdom on the right.

_____ 16. Revelation 2:26-27

_____ 17. Ephesians 1:10

_____ 18. Revelation 20:1-2

_____ 19. Zechariah 14:9

_____ 20. Isaiah 65:20

Possible Matches for 16-20

- a. Satan bound
- b. Longevity of life
- c. Heaven and earth brought together
- d. Fullness of joy
- e. Saints ruling with Christ
- f. Healing
- g. King Jesus ruling the earth
- h. The increase of Jesus' government
- i. Rebuilt cities