



## A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 78: The Millennial Kingdom, Part 1

February 18, 2024

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### Review:

- A. For the last two weeks, we've been studying the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
- B. Specific attention was paid to how He returns as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and how He returns as a warrior ruler. We then concluded last week with some analysis of the Battle of Armageddon.
- C. So, putting the whole timeline together, we've spent the last 77 weeks starting with the original prophecy in **Genesis 3:15** that sets the tone and template for everything which followed from that point.
- D. We've worked our way through human history past, present, and future, and now we stand on the threshold of that future time known as The Millennial Kingdom.

**NOTE:** From a textual standpoint, we'll operate from **Revelation Ch. 20**, as this continues the chronology we've already been in rhythm with. However, as we study the Millennial Kingdom today and next week, we'll be looking at multiple Bible passages which review this important part of the future.

### I. STARTING WITH SOME BACKGROUND

- A. Human history, to date, is about 6,000 years.
  1. The Bible teaches that God works through dispensations, or specific periods of time within the course of human history.
    - a. Depending on what scholar you want to study, or what framework you are most drawn to, you might see people present three dispensations so far, each lasting 2000 years.
    - b. You might see folks presenting a total of seven dispensations, each lasting 1000 years, the last of which is still to come.
    - c. Whether you go with the first approach or the second approach, it does not much matter to our present issue. Either way we are close to beginning that final block of 1000 years.
    - d. This last block of 1000 years is known as The Millennial Kingdom.
- B. With human history in view, it's important to understand that seven is the number of perfection and completion.
  2. God created the heavens and the earth in six days, and on the seventh day He rested.
  3. There was the command for animals to be at least seven days old before being used for sacrifice (**Cf. Exodus 22:30**).
  4. Joshua and the Israelites had to march around Jericho for seven days (and on the seventh day to make seven such marches) in **Joshua 6:3-4**.

5. In these instances, the number 7 signifies a completion of some kind: a divine mandate or plan is fulfilled.

C. And so, the Bible also seems to make the case that the whole of human history will last one week: that is, seven days or 7,000 years.

1. This recalls **2 Peter 3:8** which reads:

*“But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.”*

2. Throughout the Bible, we see this analogy of one day equating to 1000 years.
3. In this framework of understanding, The Millennial Kingdom of 1,000 years is analogous to the seventh day of rest during the Creation Week.
4. Since the seventh day is still to come, and since it will commence with Jesus Christ’s physical Second Coming, and since human history is already about 6000 years, then by all Scriptural assessments: the Lord must return soon.

D. **Important:** The Millennial Kingdom is Israel-centric (that is to say, Israel and the Jews are at the core of TMK).

1. It is about Jesus physically reigning from Jerusalem over the entire world, and it is about Israel finally experiencing all the promises and blessings given to her over the course of human history.
2. Many prophecies in the Old Testament concern The Millennial Kingdom, and the Jewish people have been obsessed with this subject. That’s easy to understand.
3. The Jews were and are so infatuated with the matter of The Millennial Kingdom that they failed to see the coming of their Messiah, Jesus Christ.
  - a. They were sure He was going to be a political and military genius who would lead them into all their promises associated with The Millennial Kingdom.
  - b. As a result, they failed to recognize all the prophecies which spoke to Jesus as FIRST coming in the form of a suffering servant, a humble figure of perfection and divinity who would be sacrificed for the sins of the whole world.
  - c. Even after the cross, when Jesus was with His disciples one last time before He ascended to heaven, his disciples were still obsessing over the arrival of The Millennial Kingdom. They asked Jesus in **Acts 1:6**; *“Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”*
  - d. They didn’t understand at that point that there was still 2000 years (“two days”) of human history to work through.
  - e. It is that part of history we are in now, and are quickly wrapping up. This is known as “the church age,” and it began roughly 33AD (NOTE: 2000 years later is 2033).

- f. It would be during this church age that God would scatter the Jews because of their rebellion and their sins, and they would be reviled throughout the world according to the prescriptions of passages like **Deuteronomy 28:64-65**. In this passage, Moses warned the Israelites:

*“Then, the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods—gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.”*

- g. We’ve seen this exact dynamic play out over the past 2000 years. The Jews have been dispersed as a people group and as a culture for their sins. They’ve known no rest, only persecution and trouble.
- h. But even during this anxious and despairing period of history for the Jews, the Bible prophecies that things will change. The Bible prophecies that a time is coming, The Millennial Kingdom, in which the Jews will be greatly blessed (**Cf. Hosea 6:2**):

*“After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.”*

- i. This is where we need to remind ourselves of the passage in **2 Peter 3:8** which we looked at earlier. The “days” mentioned here in **Hosea 6:2** can be equated to two 1000-year blocks of time.
- j. Therefore, the prophecy of **Hosea 6:2** is saying is this:

“God is going to take the Jews through a time of trouble for about 2000 years. This is the church age we are in, and we are winding it up right now. There is not much time left there. After that is another 1000 years when the Jews will be mightily blessed, and they will physically live in the presence of God Himself. This is The Millennial Kingdom.”

## II. WHAT ABOUT AMILLENIALISM?

NOTE: We hear all the time about ‘amillennialism. When someone says they believe in amillennialism. What does that mean?

- A. The amillennial view began to gain prominence in the 4th century when Augustine, a prominent figure in the church of that time, settled on the amillennial view as his understanding.
  - 1. He heavily influenced Luther, who in turn heavily influenced Calvin, and so on.
  - 2. The Reformed movement finds its origins here.
- B. An amillennialist sees the prophecies concerning the 1000-year Millennial Kingdom as spiritual and non-literal, as opposed to being physical and literal.
- C. Typically, the prefix *a-* in front of a word would signify a negation of that word (ex: atypical [not typical or normal], asynchronous [without pattern or congruency],

amoral [without principles]) so here we have “a”-millennial, or negating or doing away with The Millennial Kingdom as a literal event.

D. However, the standard amillennialist has a bigger problem than that. Many of these folks see The Millennial Kingdom as “already realized,” or better explained as “millennium now.”

1. Putting it bluntly, the traditional amillennialism position sees the First Coming of Jesus Christ as the inauguration of His spiritual kingdom, and His Second Coming as the consummation of that kingdom.
2. There are SO MANY problems with this position. Where does one start?
  - a. The core problem with amillennialists is they have chosen to interpret Scripture symbolically. They do not take a literal interpretation.
  - b. This lets every person’s opinion be as good as the next person’s. Who’s to say who’s right when there is no consistent standard?
  - c. This symbolic stance has led to heresies such as Dominion Theology where such folks believe we are in the Millennial Kingdom now. We are making things on earth better, and this positive and Christ-like trend is all going to continue until: the church has saved the whole world, we’ve achieved a Christian utopia, and we can roll out the red carpet for Jesus’ return.
    - This premise doesn’t even hold up to basic common sense. Look around! Are things getting better and better?
    - These folks have their heads in the sand – they are Biblically off-base on so many fundamentals.
  - d. A major problem with amillennialists in general is they are, to various degrees, antisemitic.
    - They see no Biblical significance to the nation of Israel. Therefore, they tend to look down on Israel, support BDS, support a two-state solution, and so on.
    - Augustine’s views, as I mentioned earlier, heavily influenced Martin Luther. Both were profoundly and publicly antisemitic.
    - Martin Luther’s writings against the Jews were a big inspiration to Hitler, and we all know how that turned out.
    - Today, amillennialists tend to be infatuated with the church and The Church Age, and so most of their rhetoric is geared towards those themes.
    - They don’t like the Old Testament very much since it has a lot to do with Israel and with prophecies about Israel.
    - In fact, they really don’t care for Bible prophecy at all since it confronts their: wishes, their choices, and their views. As a result, amillennialists tend to look down on those themes and on those people who interpret Bible prophecy literally.
    - Because they see no significance for the Jews and for Israel, they cannot subscribe to the Biblical truth of a future literal

1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on David's throne, in Jerusalem, and in Israel.

- Therefore, they choose instead to see all such matters as being about a spiritual kingdom, something inside of us, and so on.
- Unfortunately, the last few things I have said describe many churches today, especially among the Reformed movement, and this is both tragic and very WRONG!

### III. SO NOW, LET'S GET DOWN TO UNDERSTANDING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

NOTE: This is a quick review of the basics, and some of the Scriptures that support them.

- A. First, The Millennial Kingdom is 1000 years in duration (**Cf. Revelation 20:2 and 3, etc.**)
- B. Second, The Millennial Kingdom is that time after Jesus Christ returns to the earth at His Second Coming. He will establish Himself as king in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (**Luke 1:32–33**):

*“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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”*

- C. The Millennial Kingdom will commence after Israel is supernaturally re-gathered from all the nations (**Cf. Matthew 24:31**): NOTE: We looked at this in the last couple of lessons:

*“And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”*

- D. The Jews which are supernaturally regathered this way will be believing Jews who will be restored to the land of their ancestors and will properly recognize Jesus Christ as their Messiah (**Cf. Zechariah 12:10–14**):

*“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land shall mourn each family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; etc....”*

- E. The Millennial Kingdom is mentioned in the Bible as being a time of peace and headquartered in Jerusalem (**Cf. Micah 4:2-3**):

*“Many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Then He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares*

*and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor will they train anymore for war....”*

F. The Millennial Kingdom is a time of joy **(Cf. Isaiah 61:7)**:

*“Instead of your shame you will receive a double portion, and instead of disgrace you will rejoice in your inheritance. And so you will inherit a double portion in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours.”*

G. The Millennial Kingdom will be an era of comfort for the Jewish people with benefits that exceed the distress they have endured up to that point **(Cf. Isaiah 40:1–2)**.

*“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her forced labor has been completed; her iniquity has been pardoned. For she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.”*

H. The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter The Millennial Kingdom. It won't end up that way at the conclusion of the 1000 years, as we will see, but it starts that way. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience **(Cf. Jeremiah 31:33)**:

*“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”*

I. It will be a time of holiness, and this holiness will be memorialized **(Cf. Isaiah 35:8)**:

*“And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.”*

J. The Millennial Kingdom will be all about elevating the truth of God. That will be the standard by which all positions and decisions are advanced **(Cf. Isaiah 65:16)**:

*“Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the one true God; whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by the one true God. For the past troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my eyes.”*

K. The Millennial Kingdom will be a time when the knowledge of God will be widespread **(Cf. Habakkuk 2:14)**.

*“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.”*

- L. Jerusalem will be the political center of the world, and the place of Jesus Christ's residence (**Cf. Zechariah 8:3**):

*"This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called The Holy Mountain."*

- M. The land of Israel will be much larger than it now is during The Millennial Kingdom (politically incorrect to say it, but it's true).

(NOTE: According to **Genesis 15:18** and **Joshua 1:4**; the land God gave to Israel included everything from the Nile River in Egypt to Lebanon (That's the south to north axis) and everything from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. (That's the west to east axis).

1. On today's map, the land that God has stated which belongs to Israel includes everything modern-day Israel possesses, plus ALL of the territory occupied by the Palestinians (the West Bank and Gaza), plus some of Egypt and Syria, plus all of Jordan, plus some of Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
2. Right now, Israel only possesses a fraction of the land God has promised to her. While I believe Israel will annex some of these territories in conflicts that are pending, the totality of that land promise awaits the return of Jesus Christ.

- N. The Millennial Kingdom is going to be a time where the world is restored to near-Eden-like conditions (**Cf. 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."*

(NOTE: More specifically, human superiority over animals will continue in TMK, and it will be even greater. Even small children— as we see in that previous verse, who would ordinarily be at risk from wild beasts—will not only be safe from these predatory creatures but will have control over them. (**Cf. Isaiah 65:25**):

*"The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD."*

- O. All this said, The Millennial Kingdom will not be a perfect place or time:

1. Yes, Satan will be bound (**Cf. Revelation 20:1-3**)
2. But, Jesus will still need to render justice and He will rule with a rod of iron (as we've learned in prior lessons). Sin is still present, and His justice will be swift and righteous.
3. And so, despite Satan being bound during The Millennial Kingdom, we will see that one final rebellion still awaits at the very end of The Millennial Kingdom.