



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES

Week 79: The Millennial Kingdom, Part 2

February 25, 2024

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Review:

- A. Last week, we began the first of a two-part series on The Millennial Kingdom (TMK). However, after preparing this week's lesson, I think that's going to be a three part series.
- B. I was planning on a single lesson about The Great White Throne Judgement, but we'll incorporate that element into next week's lesson, so we're still on schedule.
- C. Our operative text is **Revelation Ch. 20**. We looked at multiple passages to help us understand this thrilling future time of "1000 years" when Jesus Christ physically reigns on the Earth.
- D. We reviewed a series of things we are told about TMK in the Bible, for example:
 1. TMK is a time of peace, and Jesus Christ's reign will be headquartered in Jerusalem.
 2. It is a time of joy, comfort, and holiness.
 3. We learned only believers will enter into TMK, and as we will learn next week, it's not going to be all believers at the end of that 1000 years.
 4. It will be a time of elevating the truth about God instead of suppressing it
 5. TMK will be a time when Israel will have back ALL the territory promised to her back in **Genesis 15** and **Joshua 1**. The land of Israel in TMK will be approximately 30X larger than what Israel is presently.
 6. TMK will be a time when the world will be returned to near Eden-like conditions.

NOTE: This week, we'll continue to unpack some of the events and issues that define this wonderful period of 1000 years which begins after Jesus Christ physically returns a Second Time. To do that, let's step through the chronology / timeline of TMK. We'll begin by looking at **Revelation 20:1-3**:

I. The start of TMK:

- A. It begins with Satan being bound. Let's review the main points of this key event.
 1. John sees an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the Abyss. He has seen this sort of thing before. For example:
 - a. He saw a mighty angel come down from heaven in **Revelation 10:2**. That angel stood upon the sea and land and declared God's dominion in retaking the earth.
 - b. He also saw an angel with great authority come down from heaven to declare the destruction of Babylon in **Revelation 18:1**.
 - c. Here John, once more, sees another angel. We can also assume a 'mighty angel' even though the text does not designate that, and this angel has a key to the Abyss.

- d. This is the same Abyss, or ‘*bottomless pit,*’ mentioned back in **Revelation Ch. 9**. In that prior chapter, the ‘*key to the Abyss*’ was also mentioned. However, in **Revelation Ch. 9**, the Abyss was opened to let demonic hordes out.
 - e. Here, instead, the Abyss is locked to incarcerate Satan. We learned in our previous lessons that the Greek term for the Abyss here describes a very deep gulf or chasm in the lowest parts of the earth.
 - f. By all scholarly assessments, the Abyss is a physical location here within our present planet, but it has supernatural capacities. It is able to trap and hold those dark entities which God wishes to imprison.
2. The angel coming down from heaven with a key is also noted to have “*in his hand a great chain.*”
- a. This is obviously what John is recording within his abilities to understand. It’s not a literal chain because it is used to bind up Satan, and so we know the chain reference is symbolic.
 - b. No ordinary chain can bind Satan, so this chain that John sees is some sort of agent that is able to constrict Satan while he is incarcerated. There will be no degree of freedom for Satan.
 - c. Again, there is a precedent here. We are told in **2 Peter 2:4** that “*God did not spare the angels who sinned, but...[He] delivered them into chains of darkness.*”
 - d. This is also mentioned in **Jude 1:6**, and we learned from previous lessons that these incarcerated angels are the “*sons of God*” mentioned in **Genesis 6:1-4**. They cohabited with human women and produced the hybrid Nephilim. (NOTE: All these lessons are online and can be reviewed there).
3. This angel coming down from heaven seizes Satan – also called “*the dragon, that ancient serpent*” here in this text.
- a. For those people that wish to argue that these different terms describe different entities throughout Scripture, in **Revelation 20:2**, the case is clearly made that they are all one and the same.
- B. We are told in **vss 2 and 3** of the timing and purpose of Satan’s incarceration.
- 1. The timing will be for a literal 1,000 years. This is the duration of TMK.
 - a. This is one of several places in the Bible where we are given this specific duration of TMK. As we learned last week, in these matters, 1,000 years is equivalent to the phrase “*as one day*” in God’s prophetic timeline.
 - b. The purpose of Satan’s incarceration will be: “*to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the 1,000 years have ended.*”

- c. After this point, Satan will be released for a short time. We will see a bit later that he's not been rehabilitated. He will deceive the nations once more.

C. There is a great deal of misinformation about Satan within the church today.

NOTE: Various myopic worship songs and shallow sermons about Satan presently being defeated, bound, crushed, and overcome all stem from an irresponsible handling of Biblical truth.

1. A time is coming when Satan will be defined by those conditions, but until such point, those Scriptures which were divinely authored AFTER the cross and AFTER Jesus' resurrection teach that Satan is very active right now.
2. Here are just a FEW passages which affirm this fact that Satan is alive and well:
 - a. Paul said Satan is blinding the eyes of nonbelievers in this current age so that they should not receive the gospel (**Cf. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4**).
 - b. Paul also said Satan transforms himself into an angel of light to achieve his deceptions. (**Cf. 2 Corinthians 11:14**).
 - c. Paul himself was given a thorn in the flesh, "a messenger of Satan" to keep him humble, in **2 Corinthians 12:7**.
 - d. In **Ephesians 2:2**, we learn that Satan, the prince of the power of the air, "now works in the sons of disobedience."
 - e. Also, in **Ephesians 6:12**, we are told that we wrestle against "spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
 - f. We learn that Paul was hindered by Satan from visiting the Thessalonian church (**Cf. 1 Thessalonians 2:18**).
 - g. Satan's role in the events of the Tribulation are also quite clear. We are told in **2 Thess. 2:9** that the coming of the antichrist will be "according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs and lying wonders."
 - h. James urges believers to submit to God and "resist the devil." (**Cf. James 4:7**).
 - i. Peter warns believers to be sober and vigilant because "your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." (**Cf. 1 Peter. 5:8**).
 - j. John tells us that "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." (**Cf. 1 John 5:19**).
 - k. We've seen in our study to date that Satan is the source of deception throughout the events of The Tribulation.
 - l. And lastly, just to put an exclamation point on this issue, Paul says to the church in Rome that "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet." That is found in **Romans 16:20**, and it is a reference to a future time, when Satan WILL finally be crushed.

NOTE: All of this to say, Satan is not bound, crushed, defeated, or overcome in any way, shape, or form at this present point in time. Nor will he be for some time yet.

Any so-called “prophetic utterance, deliverance efforts, song, sermon, or any word or activity” that claims these things or seeks to advance this notion in any way, is simply not based in the truth of Scripture.

It is all DECEPTIVE. That, of course, is the key role of Satan in the first place: **deception**.

II. **Now, the saints are resurrected (vss. 4-6a;)**

NOTE: We studied this issue (the issue of the various resurrections) extensively back in earlier lessons, so let me just hit the high points here of what is happening:

A. **NOTE: The Bible teaches that there are a series of resurrections** (We tend to think of just the one that takes place at the time of the Rapture):

1. First, there is the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the trend-setter event, the first one. It's why the resurrection of Jesus Christ is called the 'first fruits' resurrection.
2. Second, there was the resurrection of some of the Old Testament saints during the crucifixion (**Cf. Matthew 27:52-53**).
 - a. The Bible records that a limited number of Old Testament saints were resurrected, and AFTER Christ's resurrection they were seen in Jerusalem.
 - b. This was a limited event, confined to a certain area and to a certain number of people. It is still a corporate event - and so I refer to it as another resurrection event for us to consider.
3. Third, there is the resurrection event we are all waiting for now. That happens within the processes of The Rapture.
 - a. As we've learned, that could happen at any time since no prophetic events need to occur for it to take place.
 - b. This is that glorious event in which church-age saints (starting at the Day of Pentecost in **Acts Ch. 2**) who have died are raised to life and are given glorified bodies.
 - c. They ascend to meet Jesus Christ in the air. Then those saints who are alive and remain on earth, will also receive glorified bodies and ascend to be gathered with the first group in the air.
 - d. As we've learned, The Rapture process is a sequential event. Certain things happen first, then there are other things that happen after that, and so on.
4. Fourth, at the end of The Tribulation and the start of TMK, the next resurrection event takes place. **Revelation Ch. 20**.

- a. This is when the Old Testament saints are resurrected, as well as those who were martyred during The Tribulation.
 - b. NOTE: **Revelation 20:4b** seems to suggest that there will be a common practice for martyrdom during The Tribulation: beheading.
 - c. Because Islam is most known for beheading, many people are convinced Islam will be the chief satanic force of the false religion during the post-Rapture time.
 - d. I think that view is short-sighted since various passages of God's Word make a strong case that Islam, through a series of prophetic wars, will be all but fully eradicated here in the next few years. Furthermore, Catholics have done a lot of beheading as well over the centuries.
 - e. I think it's possible that beheading is the most efficient means of death in The Tribulation, as well as one that spares the bodies for other purposes and intentions (i.e. cannibalism)
 - f. So, it is after The Tribulation, at The Second Coming of Jesus Christ, when the Old Testament saints and the martyred Tribulation saints also get their glorified bodies so they can enter the Millennial Kingdom.
 - g. Presumably, any saints that may die during the course of the Millennial Kingdom will be raised at the end of the Millennial Kingdom, and they will have glorified bodies for eternal glory.
 - h. The Bible is relatively silent on this last point, but it's the only logical conclusion IF one holds to the idea that saints may die during TMK.
 - i. Some feel, and I lean in this direction myself, that if you are a 'saint' going into the Millennial Kingdom, or if you acquire saving faith during the Millennial Kingdom, then you won't die during that timeframe. That appears to be the position of Scripture.
5. Finally, there is the last resurrection event. This takes place at the conclusion of the 1000-year Millennial Kingdom.
 - a. The Bible specifies that this is the time when **unbelievers** from ALL ages are raised to face the Great White Throne judgement.
 - b. As I have mentioned before, we have to be aware that even these people who are receiving judgement for "*everlasting shame and contempt*" (as Daniel puts it), even they receive 'glorified bodies' in a certain sense.
 - c. The point is, they also will live forever, so that is a requirement for a different body.
 - d. However, they will live in eternal punishment and torment. So, they will receive bodies that can endure the unending traumas and anguishes of hell.
- B. Our glorified bodies:** These are the bodies we will have during TMK if we are truly saved now, prior to The Rapture, or if one comes to saving faith during The Tribulation.

NOTE: Again, we've studied this issue at-depth in past lessons, but the matter comes up here again in our study of TMK, so let's do a quick review:

6. The bodies we have now are given various descriptions in Scripture: mortal, corrupt, perishable, and so on.
 - a. We know from the Bible that the human body, in this fallen world, and under the weight of sin, is condemned as a physical structure.
 - b. It gets sick. It acquires diseases. It comes down with viruses, some natural, and some "Made in China."
 - c. Our bodies also age. They start to fall apart. They show signs of wear and tear, and at any moment, they can quit on us entirely.
 - d. We feel pain. We endure aches and weaknesses. We go from young and supple and resilient, to old and frail and fragile.
 - e. Then we die. This is the cycle of life, and no amount of botox, liposuction, tummy tucks, and plastic surgery can change the inevitable.
 - f. (Right now, I'm at that point where my broad mind and narrow waist have exchanged places. I'm not alone; I can see others of you are at the same place.)
 - g. However, the bottom line is, **Hebrews 9:27** tells us we are "appointed to die." It's inescapable. Unless the Lord returns for us in this life while we are still alive, we will die.
 - h. Death is the result of sin, and so death is the curse we live with on planet earth in these bodies.

7. This is a very different situation when it comes to our glorified bodies. These future bodies are much different. It's these glorified bodies we will have in TMK.

NOTE: We need to think of our "glorified bodies" as being like the glorified body of Jesus Christ after His death and resurrection. In **1 John 3:2**, we are told "*we will be like Him when He appears.*" So, the body Jesus had at that point is the body we will have.

8. So, let's look at **Daniel 12:3**: Here we are told "*the wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens...*" (This is a verse that describes the resurrection events at the conclusion of The Tribulation, the ones we are reading about here in **Revelation Ch. 20**).
 - a. This verse in **Daniel** provides us with a point of contrast from those who are degenerate, dark, foolish, and lost.
 - b. However, I also believe it's a description to be taken as literal truth. Jesus also said in **Matthew 13:42-43** that the righteous will "*shine like the sun.*"
 - c. Furthermore, in the transfiguration of Jesus, we are told in **Luke 9:29** that Jesus' face "*was altered and his clothing became dazzling white.*"

- d. Two verses later, in **Luke 9:31**, we read that Moses and Elijah ***“appeared in glorious splendor.”***
 - e. Again, in **1 John 3:2** we are told that we *“will be like Him”* when Jesus appears. It’s a short distance between two dots to conclude that one quality we will have is this shining / illumination-like quality. That’s one aspect of having a glorified body.
 - f. It’s clear from reading other post-resurrection accounts of Jesus Christ that He wasn’t shining all the time. His body was glorified, but apparently it was not bright and lit constantly.
 - g. He showed this quality at the transfiguration, so I can assume it will be similar for us. Maybe it’s a feature we can turn on and off or maybe it will be constant in the New Heaven and New Earth. I don’t exactly know.
9. What other qualities will our glorified bodies have?
- a. Well, by virtue of comparison to our present human bodies which are described in **1 Corinthians 15:42-53** as being “perishable, dishonorable, and weak,” our glorified bodies will be imperishable, honorable, and powerful.
 - b. They will last forever, and they will never experience sickness, pain, or death. They will be perfect.
 - c. We won’t be subject to the natural laws of gravity, time, and space. I believe, as Jesus was able to move supernaturally from one place to another in a split second, so will we. He was able to go through walls, and to instantly appear and disappear. So will we.
 - d. He ate physical food. So will we. I know that’s good news for most of us.
 - e. One question that often gets asked is, “What age will our glorified bodies be?”
 - f. The Bible does not address this question so it is not possible to answer it with any certainty.
 - g. A number of scholars seem to feel that since Jesus ascended to heaven sometime around the age of 33, that this marks a general age point we all will be at. Who knows? It’s an interesting matter to study.
10. However, our glorified bodies will be the ones we have during TMK. That will be different than those who came to saving faith during The Tribulation, who survived The Tribulation, and who enter into it as mortals.
- a. They will not get their glorified bodies till AFTER the end of TMK.