



A BIBLICAL VIEW OF THE END TIMES
Week 80: The Millennial Kingdom, Part 3
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Review:

- A. We are presently studying **Revelation Ch. 20**, and the details of The Millennial Kingdom (TMK)
- B. We've been exploring complementary passages in God's Word as we've been examining this future 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth. The Bible has a good deal to say about this period of time.
- C. We learned last week that Satan is bound at the start of The Millennial Kingdom and for its entirety. He's incarcerated in the Abyss, a supernatural holding place that the Bible seems to suggest is located deep within the bowels of this Earth.
- D. The purpose of Satan's imprisonment is so he will not deceive the nations anymore - - this, of course, means for the duration of The Millennial Kingdom, however this does not remove the presence of sin.
- E. It merely removes Satan from his active role as we see him operating in now. We also looked at a series of passages which clearly show Satan is alive and well and very active post-Cross and after Jesus' resurrection.
- F. On that note, we reviewed the various resurrections discussed within Scripture. It is at the start of The Millennial Kingdom that the Old Testament saints, and those martyred during the Tribulation, are resurrected and given their glorified bodies.
- G. As **Revelation 20:5** makes clear, all those resurrections are catalogued under the phrase, "the first resurrection" and the "second resurrection," as we will learn, is about all unbelievers at the end of The Millennial Kingdom.
- H. We then concluded with a quick review of our glorified bodies. It will be those new bodies that believers will have in The Millennial Kingdom.

NOTE: Today, I want to wrap up our study of The Millennial Kingdom by dividing it up into three parts: the start, the duration, and the end. We'll glance at several things we need to understand about each phase.

I. The Start

NOTE: By default, we've addressed this phase in the prior two lessons, so I won't say too much more about it here. We know two basic things about the start of The Millennial Kingdom so far:

- A. First, the Old Testament saints and the Tribulation martyrs are resurrected at this point. (**Cf. vs. 4-6**)
 1. This is the moment where you and Gideon can talk about smashing pottery, where you can see if Samson is still sporting his dreadlocks, and you can ask Adam if he ever had a bellybutton while he was on earth.

2. I think we will be aware of the presence of Old Testament saints before this point - - based on **Revelation 6:9-11**, their souls will be conscious and communicating in heaven. However, I cannot say for sure what that dynamic between them (in that state) and us will be like.
 3. However, we are clearly told in **Daniel 12:2** that it's here, at the start of The Millennial Kingdom, that Old Testament saints and Tribulation martyrs are raised and given their glorified bodies.
- B. Second, this is the point where Satan is bound for the duration of The Millennial Kingdom. Let me just add a couple of additional thoughts to what we've already learned:
1. It's a natural assumption that the fallen angels and the demons will also (somehow) be rendered inoperative during these 1000 years of TMK
 - a. The Bible only mentions Satan as being imprisoned, but if I had to guess, I think that probably means his minions are incarcerated with him.
 - b. The bottom line is Satan will be rendered *completely inoperative* during the coming 1000-year Kingdom of God, and that suggests his allies are kept from their usual roles too.
 2. Another issue that bears mentioning here is this imprisonment of Satan is all about the righteous justice of God.
 - a. This imprisonment of Satan takes away a convenient excuse. Mankind cannot blame the devil for their sinful tendencies. (*"The devil made me do it"*)
 - b. God's plan, in locking Satan away for the duration of The Millennial Kingdom, is to show mankind his complete incapability of faithfulness and obedience to God, even within these ideal conditions, within the context of Jesus Christ's righteous reign, and without the influence of Satan.
 - c. While The Millennial Kingdom starts out with everyone being a believer, it doesn't end that way as we will soon see. People will be born who will still choose to sin.
 - d. Remember what **John 3:19** says, *"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."*
 - e. A key Biblical position on sin is we CHOOSE to sin. It comes from our sinful nature which we are BORN into according to **Romans 5:12**.
 - f. The Millennial Kingdom, while being an environment and a system of rule and justice which is far superior to what we know and experience now, will still permit the expression of sin. That's why Jesus will rule with a *"rod of iron."*
 - g. When God judges non-believers at the very end of The Millennial Kingdom, they'll know they CHOSE to reject God, even without Satan's influence in the equation.

II. The Duration

NOTE: Here, I want to look at a few things that define “life in The Millennial Kingdom.”

A. Our role of reigning and judging (**Cf. vs. 4a**)

1. In **Revelation 4:4**, we saw the 24 elders seated on thrones. This was what John saw when he was transported to heaven in a picture or type of The Rapture, and The 24 Elders represent the church.
2. Here, in **Revelation 20:4**, John records a scene of thrones once more, but this is no longer in heaven; it's on earth.
3. These throne-sitters are resurrected humans (Old Testament saints, church-age saints, and Tribulation saints) who will co-reign and judge with Jesus Christ. (several verses which speak to this):

a. (**Cf. Revelation 2:26-27**) – *“And to the one who overcomes and continues in My work until the end, I will give authority over the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter and shatter them like pottery, just as I have received authority from My Father.”*

➤ Here, the point is made that we will not only have authority over the nations during The Millennial Kingdom, but we will also rule and judge with the same standards as Jesus Christ.

b. (**Cf. Revelation 3:21**) – *“To the one who overcomes, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”*

➤ Again, this is a verse speaking to those within The Church Age. There is given the promise of sitting on thrones, and as we see from **Revelation 20:4**, that right also comes with the responsibility and the authority to judge.

c. (**Cf. Ephesians 2:6**) – *“And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,”*

➤ Here, once more, it is reaffirmed to us that we will be “seated with Him in the heavenly realms” (this is another way of saying we will have the role He has)

d. (**Cf. Luke 19:11-27 - the Parable of the Ten Talents**) - There is some Biblical evidence given in this parable that individuals will be granted authority in The Millennial Kingdom according to how they handled their life, their gifts, and their responsibilities in this present age.

➤ (**Cf. specifically Luke 19:17**) – *“His master replied, ‘Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, you shall have authority over ten cities.’”*

➤ There is an important takeaway here that none of us should overlook: Our present actions, choices, values, conduct, and wisdom are all being assessed for future considerations.

- We need to be “*faithful in all matters*” (large and small), with the understanding that this will directly impact the authority and responsibilities given to us in The Millennial Kingdom.
 - It puts a different twist on our present life, doesn’t it? It encourages us to stay faithful, righteous, and attentive within every aspect of our current circumstances.
 - Largely, it boils down to this: “What are we doing for the Lord while we are here on earth: ” “What are we doing with the time, resources, relationships, and opportunities we have?”
 - Don’t forget. This moment is part of eternity, and the choices we make, the attitudes we keep, and the values we exercise right here right now WILL impact our opportunities in the next life.
4. Physical life during The Millennial Kingdom – (I want to comment on the physical lives of those during this time; **Cf. Isaiah 65:17-25**). First, people will live to an advanced age (**Cf. vs. 20**). Takeaways:
- a. IF the righteous die during this time (doubtful), then it’s when they are very old.
 - b. According to Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, in The Millennial Kingdom, believers never die, but sinners will die at age 100. Death in the millennium will be for unbelievers only.
 - c. NOTE: This could account for the lack of mention of a post-millennium resurrection of the righteous dead, and it’s perhaps why **Revelation 20:5b** draws a line after the first resurrection. There are no more events which comprise the first resurrection after that.
5. Second, certain aspects of life as we know it now will continue in TMK (**Cf. vss. 21-23**). Again, takeaways:
- a. Here, it is primarily making reference to the Jews living in Israel during this time.
 - b. They will build, plant, and engage in “*the works of their hands*”
 - c. They will reap their OWN reward for their OWN efforts. No longer will they build houses that others take over, plant fields and orchards that others possess, etc. (NOTE: This is the dynamic of today).
 - d. Their children will have a promising future and not misfortune (Again, a reversal of what we see today).
6. Third, traditional fasts of mourning will become feasts of celebration (**Cf. Zechariah 8:19**). Takeaways:
- a. NOTE: Each of the fasts mentioned here represent some calamity in the history of the Jews and Israel. (i.e. The fast of the fourth month is when King Nebuchadnezzar ransacked Jerusalem in 586

B.C.). God will turn each of these fasts of mourning into a time of rejoicing.

7. Fourth, many nations and people groups will seek a personal audience with Jesus Christ (**Cf. Zech. 8:20-23**). Takeaways:
 - a. Nations will continue to exist in The Millennial Kingdom. Nations are institutions of God's design. "No borders" is a scheme of Satan; it's globalism.
 - b. Those nations in The Millennial Kingdom will have their own inhabitants, and they will be recognized as powerful in their own right.
 - c. Jews will be esteemed by all languages and people groups. It will be universally recognized that God is blessing the Jews.

III. The Conclusion:

NOTE: These are the events which are associated with the end of the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on Earth (**Cf. Revelation 20:7 to end of chapter**). There are three main events defining this conclusion:

- A. First, there is one final human rebellion against Jesus Christ (**Cf. vss 7-9**)
 1. It begins with Satan being released from the Abyss and he goes out to "deceive," once more, the nations from the four corners of the earth.
 2. Specifically, "Gog and Magog" are mentioned here, as they were in **Ezekiel 38 and 39**. However, these are two very different events (four reasons):
 - a. #1, the **Ezekiel 38 & 39** conflict takes place before The Millennial Kingdom is established on earth; this latter conflict occurs after The Millennial Kingdom
 - b. #2, also, in **Ezekiel 38 & 39**, the invasion comes from the north, but here in **Revelation 20:8** it comes from the 'four corners of the earth.'
 - c. #3, this rebellion of Gog and Magog and their destruction in **Revelation Ch. 20** marks the ushering in of the eternal state, but in **Ezekiel 38 and 39**, the Gog and Magog event there is prior to The Tribulation.
 - d. And #4, the foes of Israel in **Ezekiel 38 & 39** die on the "mountains of Israel" as the result of infighting, plagues, rain, hailstones, burning sulfur, and a great earthquake. In **Revelation 20**, the invading forces surround Jerusalem and are devoured by fire from heaven.
 3. A good way to think about the term "Gog and Magog" here in **Revelation 20:8**, is to liken it to how we use the term "Waterloo" to express a disastrous outcome, rather than just pointing back to the historic origination of the battle term.

- And this certainly conforms to what we read about this event at the conclusion of The Millennial Kingdom:
 - There are many adversaries against Jesus Christ. This is proof of how sin has once again entrenched itself after 1000 years. Many people have rejected Jesus Christ.
 - The battle is supernaturally won. Nobody survives.

4. Satan is cast into Hell (*Cf. vs. 10*)

- a. We're not told here how Satan will be restrained and thrown into Hell. This is unlike when he was imprisoned in the Abyss), just that he will be.
- b. The text appears to suggest that just two occupants have been in Hell up to this point: the antichrist and the False Prophet. Presumably all other nonbelievers who have died in human history before this point are in Hades.
- c. Also, we can assume (I do) that the fallen angels and demons are thrown into hell along with Satan at this point. The same way we can assume (I do) that they were imprisoned with Satan for 1000 years during The Millennial Kingdom.
- d. We know that Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels (*Cf. Matthew 25:41*): *"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*
- e. All said, I think it's at this point, at the end of The Millennial Kingdom, when Satan and all his supernatural minions are cast into Hell. There is no better explanation that I am aware of.
- f. NOTE: They are tormented day and night for ever and ever. I believe that Satan, the demons, the fallen angels, etc. etc. ALSO experience a torment that is painful and unending.

5. The Great White Throne Judgment (*Cf. vs. 11-15*)

NOTE: This is not a place you want to appear. It is ominous and outside of the bounds of all human comprehension. It is a terrifying and foreboding occasion.

- a. Daniel records a vision of this same scene in *Daniel 7:9-10*, and he adds a few other details. He writes:

"I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; a fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."

- b. Several visual elements are mentioned:
 - *"Earth and sky fled from His presence and there was no place for them."*

- My takeaway is there is a changing of the order of things. A new heaven and new earth are debuting. Perhaps this is an early indication that what had been will no longer be.
 - Also, the flight of God's own creation from before His presence also implies a significant degree of terror for those who are about to stand before His piercing gaze, His all-knowing eyes of fire.
 - Some commentators describe this scene as the earth and heavens being 'uncreated' they will not be purified or in any way rehabilitated; they will instead be 'sucked back into nothingness.'
 - Perhaps. The bottom line is we can only speculate with great ignorance at the immensity, the gravity, and the fearfulness of this scene that these few lines describe.
- c. Then John records the courtroom scene: (using Daniel's terms here)
- *"Books were opened:"* There is a record kept of everyone's actions, of all their works prior to their death.
 - *"The Book of Life was (also) opened:"* This is a record of their faith, or lack thereof. If one is in the Book of Life, they do not need to fear Hell. If one is not in the Book of Life, then Hell is where they are going.
 - This is where the terrifying account of **Matthew 7:21-23** also comes into play. Note: It's not their works which save them, only a genuine faith in Jesus Christ.
 - Many people will be standing in front of The Great White Throne and they will realize it's too late for them.
 - They will be terrified at how they were deceived, how they had thought they were OK, and how everyone else thought they were OK as well.
 - John records that all the unbelieving dead from ALL ages of human history will appear before The Great White Throne Judgment. The point is nobody is missed ("sea," "death," "Hades,")
- d. Each person was judged: *"...according to what they had done."*
- In other words, the unbelieving dead will get exactly what they have most wanted: they will be judged by their works. That is the attitude of most people today.

- But, their works will be found to be faulty, imperfect, inadequate, and unable to save them.
 - This is true not only in direct application, but also in their *motivation*. The Bible tells us it is impossible for those who lack faith to please God (***Cf. Hebrews 11:6***).
 - Even what the world defines as benevolent or altruistic works are ultimately flawed by selfish and deceptive motivations.
- e. The lake of fire is called “*the second death*.” It’s been mentioned before in ***Revelation***.
- (***Cf. Revelation 2:11***) – This passage says those who overcome by placing their faith in the Overcomer “*shall not be hurt by the second death*”
 - (***Cf. Revelation 20:6***) – This passage, earlier in this same chapter, discusses those who died having had a saving faith. It says, “*...The second death has no power over them.*”
 - Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life (nobody in this crowd is found therein) are thrown into the Lake of Fire (they will have bodies to endure this torment for ever and ever)