

“The Millennial Reign of Christ”

How does the Millennial Reign of Christ fall into God’s plan for the ages?

Following the rapture of the Church, God’s wrath is poured out in judgment upon the earth. The antichrist is revealed—and sin is at its peak.

This seven year period of anarchy following the rapture is known as Daniels 70th week, or God’s timetable in dealing with the Jewish people (Daniel 9:24).

Toward the end of the seven year period, the antichrist gathers his forces in the valley of Megiddo against Palestine (Israel) in anticipation of what seems to be certain to be an easy victory. Then the Heavens open!

¹¹And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹²His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but He himself. ¹³And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. . . ²⁰And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone (Rev. 19:11-16; 20).

Many today look at the world situation through rose-colored lens, hoping things will get better. They will, but not before they go through a fiery judgment to feel the sword of the white horse rider (Jesus) as He leads the Saints to victory in the battle of Armageddon.

After the sounds of battle have died down, and the fowls of the air are filled with the flesh of the rebels against God, the millennial reign of Christ on the Earth will come as a calm after a violent storm. The final dispensation—Divine Government will begin:

A. “The beast and his armies defeated” (Revelation 19: 17-19).

The view that God hates tolerates sin and immorality because of His love finds *no place* in His revelation of Himself in His Word; for God hates sin with passion. The supper refers to the battle of Armageddon in Megiddo, located in North-central Palestine. It is the center for the battle of that great day of God almighty. The war will occur near the end of the tribulation and terminate when Christ returns to destroy the wicked.

“**The Supper of the Great God**”: In biblical days grapes were put in a trough and trampled by foot to remove the wine. The treading of grapes was used in the Old Testament as an execution of God’s wrath on the ungodly. At Christ’s return at the end of the Tribulation, all unbelievers on earth will be gathered and judged in the valley of Jehoshaphat.

The destruction of God’s enemies will be so great that it will require a multitude of birds to clean up the battle; for God will provide it for the birds of prey. The scene is one of judgment against terrible cruelty of this world. In preparation for the war, God through demonic forces will gather the nations together near Armageddon (Joel 3:2; Zeph. 3:8; Zech. 14:2-3).

The war will end swiftly with the destruction of antichrist and all the ungodly. God’s judgment includes the entire world (earth). If you remember the Pope’s visit to the USA, then maybe you also realize that he is

likely to be the false prophet on that period when God's judgment abides. John again describes the false prophet and his religion by one characteristic: he deceived many by performing signs, wonders, and miracles (2 Thes. 2:9-10). The end is obvious: in the last days those who seek to persevere in faithfulness to Christ and His commandments must not base their evaluation of truth only on miracles. The Lord Himself solemnly warns, "For there shall rise false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible they would deceive the very elect." (Mat. 24:24).

- B. **"Satan Bound for One Thousand Years into the Bottomless Pit"** (Revelation 20: 1-6). The false prophet and his religion by one characteristic. He deceived many by performing signs wonders and miracles.

Then after chapter 19, Satan (dragon) will be bound for 1,000 years to keep him from deceiving the nations. This implies a full ending point of his influence during that time. After the thousand years, he will be loosed for a short time in order to deceive those who rebel against God's rule. Satan's most characteristic work is to deceive (Gen. 3:13; Mat. 24:24; 2 Thes. 2:9-10). Satan will not deceive the nation's again; the nations that will exist during the reign of Christ on earth will be formed by the believers who are alive at the end of the Tribulation.

Those who sit on thrones are likely the overcomers from all the churches of all time, possibly including the Old Testament Saints (Ezek. 37:11-14; Eph. 2: 14-22; 3:6; Heb. 11:39-40). Those resurrected after Christ's return are said to be those faithful to Him who died during the tribulation. John does not mention the resurrection of the church saints who have died, for this occurred when Christ removed His church from earth and took it to heaven.

"The Great White Throne Judgment" This is the resurrection of all God's people, in contrast to the resurrection of the wicked at the end of the millennium (Rev. 20:11-15; Isa. 26:19-21; Dan. 12:2, 13).

- C. ⁸*He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.*⁹*They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust* (Psalm 72:8-9).
D. *"For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet"* (1 Corinthians 15:25).
E. *"To build The Millennial Temple"* (Zechariah 6:13).
F. *"To divide the land among the twelve tribes"* (Genesis 15:18).
G. *"To evangelize those who survived and come out of the Tribulation Period"* (Isa. 2:2-4; Zech. 8:23).
H. *"To establish the Universal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"* (Revelation 20-22).

So, what exactly, is the Millennium and what is its purpose?

- **It's to destroy all the enemies of Jesus Christ and prepare for our eternity:**

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river (Euphrates) unto the ends of the earth. They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before Him; and His enemies shall lick the dust" (Psalm 72: 8-9).

"For He must reign till He hath put all enemies under His feet" (1 Corinthians 15:25).

According to the title, this psalm is a prayer of Solomon as Israel's king, that his reign will be characterized by justice, righteousness, peace, the destruction of evil, and deliverance of the oppressed and needy. It also points to the reign of Jesus Christ over the world (Revelation 20-22), since several of its verses apply fully only to Him. Psalm 72:11 says, *"Yea, all kings shall fall down before Him: all nations;"*

And verse 17 strongly adds:

"His name shall endure for ever: His name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him blessed."

- **It's to build the Millennial Temple (Zechariah 6:13):** *“Even He shall build the temple of the Lord; and He shall be a priest upon His throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”*

“The Lord commanded Zechariah to make crowns of silver and gold and set them on the head of Joshua the high priest. The crowning of Joshua foreshadows the crowning and reign of Jesus, who is the “branch,” The Messiah (Isaiah 11:1; Jer. 33:15).

“Even he shall build the temple of the Lord, and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon His throne; and He shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” (Zechariah 6:13).

- **It's to divide the land among the 12 tribes** (Genesis 15:18): *“In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abraham, saying, “Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the River Euphrates.”* The making of this covenant is described in verses 9-17. It consisted in taking slaughtered animals, cutting them in half, and the halves separated and placed opposite each other (vs. 10).

After this the 2 parties entering into the agreement would walk between the two halves of the slain animal, symbolizing that if they did not keep the promises of the covenant, they would perish just like the slain animals (Vs. 17; Jeremiah 34:18). The smoking furnace, and a burning lamp represented God's presence. We should take note that although a covenant usually established responsibilities for both parties (17:19-14) responsibilities for each party. In this manner, only God passed between the pieces of the animal. He alone established the promises and obligations of the covenant. Abram had only to accept them in obedience. Then, in Genesis 17:2, The Lord said, *“And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.”*

- **It's to evangelize those who come out of the Tribulation** (Isa. 2:2-4; and Zechariah 8:23). *“And shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more* (Isaiah 2:2-4).

The Lord's House should be established: Isaiah prophesies of a time when God's rule will be established over all the earth. All evil, injustice, and rebellion directed against God and His law will be put down, and righteousness will reign. All nations, Jews and Gentiles will worship and serve the Lord. This prophecy reflects God's final purpose for Israel and the human race; it is fulfilled in Jesus Christ Himself, who executes justice and righteousness upon the earth. Here, the New Testament describes last days as the period of time between the 1st and 2nd comings of Christ (see Acts 2:17). What Isaiah describes in vv. 1-5 will reach its fulfillment at Christ's second coming, when He establishes the kingdom of God on the earth.

“Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zechariah 8:23).

- **To establish the universal Kingdom of our Lord:** *“And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night”* (Revelation 12:10).

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The **kingdoms** of this world are become the **kingdoms** of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. (Rev. 11:15).

The sounding of the 7th Trumpet brings an announcement that the world has become the kingdom of Christ, and He will reign forever (see 20:4). In other words the 7th trumpet involves events extending to Christ's return, including therefore the judgments of the 7 bowls (beginning in chapter 16). The sound of the 7th trumpet is followed by a parenthetical passage that reveals some events related to the tribulation period (Rev. 11:15).

- **The Characteristics of the Millennial Reign.**

- A. A Theocracy. United Church and Government. The Temple will be One Mile square, on the site of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. With Christ as King, it will become the seat of spiritual and civil Government (Dan.7:18-27; Hosea 3: 4-5; Ezek. 37: 24-28; Micah 4:3-7; 1 Cor. 15:25; 2Tim. 2:12).
- B. The Holy Spirit will be Present in His Fullness (Joel 2:28; Ezekiel 36: 25-27).
- C. A Universal knowledge of the Lord will be presented (Isaiah 11:9; Zechariah 8:22, 23).
- D. There will be no poverty at all (Isa. 65:21-23), and no more war (Isa. 2:4; 9:6-7; 25:65).
- E. A universal finance system.
- F. Long life will rule (Isaiah 65:20; Zechariah 8:4).
- G. No sickness forever (Isaiah 35: 5-6), and light will be 7 times brighter (Isaiah 30:26; 60:18-22; 60:1).
- H. Animals will have mild natures (Isaiah 11:6-8; 65:17-25).
- I. The Land will be beautiful once again. No briars, thorns (Isa. 32:15; 35:1-10; 55:13; Joel 3: 17-21).
- J. Missionary efforts will be effective (Zechariah 8:23; Jeremiah 3:19).
- K. Magnificent revivals (Zechariah 13:1 "...shall be a fountain opened unto the house of David for sin and uncleanness (Isaiah 51:11).
- L. Jerusalem is capitol city (Joel 3:17; Ezekiel 27:32)
- M. Men will worship in Jerusalem (Jeremiah 3:16-17; the Lord Himself (Zech. 14:16). Jerusalem is Capitol city (Joel 3:17; Ezek. 37:22))
- N. Sin will remain intact (Mic. 4:2; Isa. 66:18; Zech. 13:2; Jere. 16: 20-21; Psa. 96:10; Isa. 19: 21-25).

Blessed be the Lord God forever. Amen and Amen.