

# Eschatology: Studies Concerning Future Events

7/22/2018

## Lesson 10. The Eternal Kingdom and Millennium

### I. When does the eternal kingdom begin?

#### A. Jesus Christ will establish His kingdom on earth. It will be an everlasting kingdom.

- BOOK *Isaiah 9:7 "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 forever more."*
- BOOK *Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, it will itself endure forever."*
- BOOK *Daniel 7:14 "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."*
- There is only one eternal kingdom, not a 1,000 year reign followed by an eternal kingdom.

#### B. The kingdom will be established after a period of tribulation. The Lord will return to judge the nations, restore His people to their land, and establish righteousness.

- The Day of the Lord sets up the eternal kingdom.  
*Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14*
- BOOK *Joel 3:18-21 "Egypt will become a waste, and Edom will become a desolate wilderness, because of the violence done to the sons of Judah, in whose land they have shed innocent blood. But Judah will be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations."*
- BOOK *Amos 9:15 "I will also plant them in their land, and they will not again be rooted out from their land which I have given them."*
- BOOK *Micah 4:7 "The Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion from now on and forever."*
- BOOK *Zechariah 14:  
:3-5 Return of the Lord  
:9 The Lord will reign. "The Lord will be king over all the earth"  
:10 "the land will be changed"  
:12-15 Israel's enemies defeated  
:16-19 Some will not worship the Lord!*

- ✓ When will His everlasting kingdom begin?

### II. The Millennium: Revelation 20:1-14

- The Millennium refers to the first 1,000 years of the eternal reign of Jesus.
- The only passage of Scripture that speaks of this 1,000 year time is Revelation 20.

#### A. Events surrounding the Millennium

1. The Millennium begins with the return of Christ to reign in His eternal kingdom.  
*Revelation 19:11-16*
2. Satan will be bound for 1,000 years in the abyss.
3. Satan will be released at the end of the 1,000 years for a short time.

4. Tribulation saints who had died will come to life and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years.  
(The rest of the dead do not come to life until the 1,000 years were completed.)  
They will be priests with God and reign with Jesus for 1,000 years.
5. Satan will be released, deceive the nations, and gather them together for war.  
They surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city and are devoured by fire from heaven.
6. The devil will be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever.
7. The Great White Throne judgment will take place.  
Death and Hades are thrown into the Lake of Fire.  
This is the second death, separation from God for all eternity.

➤ The Millennium does not relate to the length of Christ's reign, but to the length of Satan's imprisonment. It is descriptive of Satan's destiny.

#### **B. Views of the Millennium**

- The differing views of the millennium are based upon how interpreters see this time period in relation to the return of Jesus.

1. **Premillennialism:** Jesus will return to the earth before the 1,000 year period begins and will establish His kingdom.
 

Order of Events

  - a. Present Church Age
  - b. Apostasy and tribulation
  - c. Second coming of Jesus
  - d. Millennium (1,000 years)
  - e. Resurrection and judgment of the unsaved (Great White Throne)
2. **Postmillennialism:** Jesus will return to the earth after the millennial period.
 

Order of Events

  - a. Righteousness will increase through the efforts of the church until the millennial kingdom is brought in and continues for 1,000 years.
  - b. The second coming of Jesus is at the end of the 1,000 years of righteousness.
  - c. There will then be a general resurrection and judgment of all persons.
  - d. The saved and lost enter eternity.
3. **Amillennialism:** There is not a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ. It is figurative, referring either to this entire age or the state of the saints in heaven.
 

Order of Events

  - a. Christ is reigning in heaven now.
  - b. Apostasy will occur.
  - c. The second coming of Jesus follows the apostasy.
  - d. There will then be a general resurrection and judgment of all persons.
  - e. The saved and the lost enter eternity.

#### **C. Reason for Premillennialism**

The Premillennial view is the result of a literal interpretation of Scripture rather than an allegorical or spiritualizing approach.

### **III. The New Heaven and the New Earth**

➤ **The New Heaven and New Earth begin with the return and reign of Jesus.**

#### **A. Isaiah 65-66**

The New Heaven and New Earth are associated with the judgment of God's enemies, the restoration of Israel, and the presence of the Lord. This takes place before the Millennium. Note that characteristics found in Isaiah describing the New Heaven and New Earth are often applied to the Millennium!

#### **B. 2 Peter 3:7, 10-13**

1. The New Heaven and New Earth are associated with the coming of Jesus (:4) and the Day of the Lord (:10). It is a time of judgment and destruction of the present world system taking place at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns to reign. Then comes the New Heaven and a New Earth in which righteousness dwells.
2. See the description of the earth's physical devastation in Revelation 16. A restoration (New Heaven and New Earth) will be needed prior to the everlasting kingdom reign of Jesus, and the Millennium.
3. The New Heaven and New Earth occur when Jesus returns "as a thief." This would not be the case if the New Heaven and New Earth are placed at the end of the first 1,000 years of the everlasting kingdom reign of Jesus.

#### **C. Revelation 21**

1. The only reason that some place the New Heaven and New Earth after the Millennium is that it is described in Revelation 21 after the 1,000 years described in chapter 20.
2. The book has several parenthetical passages (Chapters 7, 10, 14, etc.).
3. Revelation 19 and 20 summarize the destiny of Satan and his followers.
  - The Millennial period does not relate to the length of Christ's reign, which is eternal, but to the length of Satan's imprisonment. (Revelation 20:1-7)
4. Revelation 21-22 summarizes the destiny of Christ and His followers.
5. Descriptions found in Revelation 21-22 are found in other passages connected with the return of Jesus and the establishment of His Kingdom.

### **IV. The New Jerusalem: Revelation 21:10-22:5**

#### **A. 21:2-8 Descent of the New Jerusalem**

- God dwelling among His people
- No more tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain (Revelation 7:14-17)
- Drink from the water of life (John 4:10, 13-14; Zechariah 14:4-10)
- He who overcomes will inherit all these things

See 1 John 5:4-5; contrast :8 cf. 21:27; 22:15

#### **B. 21:9-14 General Description of the City**

- "the bride, the wife of the Lamb" – Ephesians 5:22-32; Revelation 19:7-8
- It is generally described as brilliant, having the glory of God.
- Both Israel and the church are represented in the vision.

### **C. 21:15-17 The Size of the City**

The size of Israel is a width of 35 miles in the north and 65 miles in the south, with a length of 120 miles.

The New Jerusalem is 1,500 miles in length, width, and height

(Seattle to San Diego is 1,258 miles)

If shaped like a cube, this would be 3.375 billion cubic miles

### **D. 21:18-21 The Beauty of the City**

### **E. 21:22-27 The Glory of God**

:23 God is light (1 John 1:5-7)

### **F. 22:1-5 The River of Life**

:1 Jesus is on the throne as King of kings, and Lord of lords.

:2 The tree of life (cf. Genesis 3:22, 24; Revelation 2:7)

:4 Face to face communion with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 13:12; 1 John 3:2)

### **Additional notes on the time of the New Heaven and New Earth**

Revelation 21:2 Is the New Jerusalem also delayed until after the 1,000 years? Would we not expect the kingdom to begin with a New Jerusalem?

Revelation 21:3 Is the tabernacle of God, His dwelling among men, delayed for 1,000 years?

Revelation 21:4 “no longer be any death” – When is this true? (or tears, or mourning, or crying)

Revelation 21:8 – For those outside the New Jerusalem, their part will be in the lake of fire. (future!) This is “the second death.” Cf. Revelation 22:14-15; 20:14.

➤ The New Heaven and New Earth precede the Great White Throne judgment (the second death) at the end of the Millennium.