

Session 1 An Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

I. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: JESUS' 1,000-YEAR REIGN ON EARTH

We are beginning session number one, an overview of the Millennial Kingdom. This subject is really the subject of heaven on earth. Heaven is coming down to the earth. There is going to be a joining of the heavenly realm and the earthly realm on the earth. We will look at that in a moment. In this first session we are giving an overview. We are going to touch eight or ten of the key points related to the Millennial Kingdom. Throughout the course we will develop these points in a far greater way. This is one of the most exciting and relevant topics in the Bible: this subject of the earthly kingdom. The kingdom in fullness on the earth is what I am talking about, that it will be heaven on earth. That is in the Lord's prayer. We pray, "On earth as it is in heaven." That is going to be completely fulfilled one day.

- A. Understanding the biblical perspective of heaven is important, because it affects how we see our future, which affects how we live today. If we do not think *rightly* of heaven, then we end up not thinking of heaven at all. Heaven will come to earth at the time of Jesus' return. He will join the heavenly and earthly realms together when He returns (Eph. 1:10). This truth is a key to understanding many end-time passages, including the saints reigning with Jesus over all nations.

Understanding the biblical perspective of heaven is important because it affects how we view the future, which affects how we live today. If you view the future in a right way, you will live differently today. One man said, "If we do not think rightly about heaven, we will end up not thinking about heaven at all." I think that is a true point. If we do not think rightly about heaven, we will not think about heaven at all. I think it is where most believers live. They think, "Streets of gold, that is going to be really amazing. Yeah, good, got it." There is so much more to what heaven is about than that.

A lot of folks kind of imagine—they have never really locked it in and identified it—that they will be kind of floating on a cloud playing a harp forever. They are mostly going to be just doing worship. They feel a little guilty that they are not excited about heaven because they want to worship, they want to love God, but they think, "Worshiping for billions of years on a cloud with a harp, just floating by our old friends from the earth, 'Hey, awesome, worthy, worthy'?" I am not minimizing the centrality of the glory of the worthiness of the Lamb. That is the central theme of heaven. But there is so much more you are going to be doing besides the great worship gatherings.

There will be times the whole city comes together in these holy convocations. They will all gather and worship. There will also be labor. There will be work. Labor with blessing on it, instead of labor with frustration. We think, "Work, oh no! Not more work." Work is a blessing. God gave Adam and Eve work before there was sin. What is a problem is that the curse of sin causes frustration with our work and toil with our work. When we remove the curse of sin, work is a blessing, to have relevant partnership with God in bringing His kingdom to a greater measure throughout the whole earth. That is a glorious reality. Can you imagine work with no frustration, no weariness in it, no set backs in it at all, no toiling, no hot sun, no weeds to pull, which speaks of the frustration in the midst of our work.

You are not going to be floating on a cloud, playing a harp for billions of years. That is completely the wrong picture. What is happening is that heaven and earth are going to join together on the earth. Without understanding that, you are not going to have a right view about heaven. This truth is a key to understanding the end times and to understanding Jesus' leadership over the earth. If we understand the two realms are coming together, then we can picture what the Bible is talking about. The Bible clearly describes natural

dimensions of Jesus' reign on the earth, as well as supernatural, spiritual dimensions. If you do not know there is a natural part of it, it is harder to figure out what those verses mean. The good part is the verses that seem kind of confusing mean what they say and say what they mean. There will be a natural dimension and there will be a spiritual dimension merged together. The natural realm will not be suspended, but will be enhanced by the supernatural realm of the Holy Spirit. I am getting ahead of myself. We will develop this a little today in this class and later on throughout the course.

- B. There are over 150 chapters in the Bible focused on the end times. They reveal Jesus' power and plans at the time of His second coming, when He returns to take over the leadership of the earth. The Gospels (89 chapters) give us a record of Jesus' power and leadership at His first coming.

There is much information in the Bible focused on the end times or the subject of the kingdom on the earth. When I speak of the end times, I am thinking of those few years leading up to the coming of the Lord and then after the coming of the Lord on the earth. There are over 150 chapters in the Bible about this, a remarkable fact. We had a whole team research and read every chapter of the Bible. We identified well over 150 chapters of which the primary theme was the end times. The reason that is so remarkable is because if you take the four gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—and add those up together, that is eighty-nine chapters. Nearly ninety chapters of the Bible are devoted to Jesus' first coming. Ninety chapters. A hundred and fifty chapters are devoted to the storyline related to His Second Coming and His rule over the earth. It is almost twice as many chapters. The same Bible, the same Jesus, the same Holy Spirit. It is the same storyline, but it is just the full dimension of it. We do not want to ignore those 150 chapters. We do want to really focus on the eighty-nine chapters of the gospel. They are the beginning of the storyline of Jesus' leadership. Then there is a whole lot more information about His leadership over the earth, the negative aspects that will resist Him, the positive aspects, the glory of God, the judgments of God, and the Millennial Kingdom. All of those are contained in those 150 chapters. We want to know those chapters. It is the Jesus storyline. That is what it is about.

- C. This session will give an overview of the Millennium, a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule this world in righteousness. Millennium is from the Latin word *mille*, meaning a thousand.

⁴I saw thrones, and they [saints] sat on them...they reigned with Christ for a thousand years...

⁶They shall be priests of God...and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

In this session we are going to look at the 1000-year reign. Jesus will literally rule this earth and this world in righteousness for 1000 years. There is only one place in the Bible that lets us know the length of the Millennial Kingdom, and that is in Revelation 20:4-6. It says it very clearly. It is 1000 years. If you did not have this passage, you would know that the Son of David, Jesus, would be ruling on the earth. We just would not know how long it would be. We would know it would be generations, but we just did not have the time frame until the angel told John in Revelation 20. The Millennial Kingdom is described throughout the whole Old Testament, but without identifying the specific time frame.

Here John saw it. He said, "I saw thrones and they [the saints] sat on them. They reigned with Christ for 1000 years." Verse 6, "They will be priests of God." We are talking about saints with resurrected bodies who will reign for 1000 years on the earth. Then after that come the new heavens and the new earth.

For 1000 years there is going to be an overlap of people having natural bodies and people with resurrected bodies interacting together on the earth. The kingdom will fill the entire world. The Father's throne comes to the earth after that. For 1000 years Jesus comes and prepares the earth for the Father to come to the earth. Can you imagine the Father coming to the earth? That is the ultimate reality to which God's plan is going.

- D. At that time the kingdom will be openly manifested worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, educational, media, arts, technology, etc.; Rev. 20:1-6; cf. Deut. 8; 28; Ps. 2:6-12; 110:1-7; Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; Acts 1:6; 3:21). This period will be initiated by Jesus' coming. The result will be 1,000 years of unprecedented blessing as Jesus restores the agriculture and animal life to many of the conditions seen in the **garden of Eden** (Isa. 35:1-8; 51:3; Ezek. 34:29; 36:35; 47:6-12).

After the Second Coming, for 1000 years Jesus' kingdom will be openly manifested and will affect every sphere of society. Jesus' kingdom, the kingdom of God, will be openly displayed. The kingdom of God is on the earth right now. The challenge now is that it is a small percentage of what is impacting the governments of the earth. It is impacting the earth right now. The kingdom is going forward strongly, and the kingdom is increasing. I do not know what the percent is, but a small percent of the earth is being governed by people inspired by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. The day is coming when the whole earth will be filled with the glory of God. Jesus' leadership will be openly manifested in every sphere of society in a complete and full way.

The result of this will be 1000 years of unprecedented blessing on the earth. Jesus will restore the agricultural and animal life to full blessing, and the conditions of the garden of Eden will be restored across the whole earth over that 1000-year period. The conditions that Adam and Eve had in the garden of Eden, God's intention was that those conditions were to fill the whole earth. We know Adam and Eve sinned. It put a pause on that purpose of the garden of Eden, the glory of God filling the earth, and the Father's throne coming down to the earth. That is what the storyline was originally. That is the same storyline that is in God the Father's heart. There was the problem of sin, so then Jesus came as the second Adam, the last Adam. He comes and restores what the first Adam messed up. The whole purpose from Eden is going to be reestablished, and it is going to spread across the whole earth.

- E. Jesus, the King of kings, will personally govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, will worship Jesus, and base their national governments on Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).

¹¹Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)

At that time all the kings of the earth will worship Jesus. They will base their national government on the Scriptures. Psalm 72:11—though there are six passages that says this quite clearly—says that all the kings of the earth will be born again. I am talking about kings who will have natural bodies.

You will have a resurrected body. You will live in the New Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem is coming down to the earth. You will live in the New Jerusalem, though you will serve on the earth. It will be an instant access between the New Jerusalem and whatever part of the earth you are ruling and reigning. You will live in the city, and you will work on the earth amongst people who have natural bodies, much like the angels do now. It is a similar reality that the angels are involved in. The problem is there is a veil. The angels are here. We just do not see them. If the veil was lifted—and it will be lifted at the Second Coming—if it was lifted right now, we would see the angels all around. They are actively participating, being used by the Holy Spirit and inspiring people in conjunction with the Holy Spirit, doing acts of service, doing the works of God, aiding the saints. That is all happening now. After the Lord returns, it will be resurrected believers in that premier role of influencing people who have natural bodies, who are living and even having children, and life is going on in the Millennial Kingdom that will continue for 1000 years.

- F. The millennial kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. It pertains to God's destiny for the earth and His people living on the earth. Jesus' core message was that God's kingdom is to be released on earth as it is in heaven (Mt. 6:10). The New Testament makes it clear that the kingdom is **already here** (in a limited way), but is **not yet fully here** until Jesus returns.
- G. Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as king over all dominions and spheres of society.
¹³**One like the Son of Man [Jesus]...came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him [Jesus] was given...a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...²⁷The kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)**

Daniel saw the heavenly coronation of Jesus as a King, but ruling over the earth. Not ruling in heaven, but ruling on the earth as the Son of David. He saw the Son of Man; the Son of David is the same Man. The Ancient of Days is the Father. That is a title for the Father, denoting His eternal glory and His eternal nature. The Father named the Ancient of Days gave a Man authority over all the nations of the earth. All the kings of the earth will be submitted to Him.

Look what it says in Daniel 7:27, that when Jesus, the Son of Man, the Son of David, receives the kingdom, He will give the kingdom to the people, to the saints, who will have resurrected bodies. He will give the leadership of the nations to His own people. To people like you with a resurrected body. All the governments of the earth are going to be replaced one day. Some of you will be in very surprising positions undoubtedly of government.

There will be many levels of government, just like there are now, over the nations of the earth. There are not only kings, but in our context senators, governors, houses of representatives, local authorities. Many, many levels of government. There will be in that day too. Everybody will not be a king, but everybody has access to rule and reign with Jesus in various measures in various spheres of authority when the Lord returns and we get our resurrected bodies.

- H. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12).
¹⁰**...and have made us kings and priests...and we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)**

II. CENTERPIECE OF GOD'S PURPOSE: BRINGING HEAVEN AND EARTH TOGETHER

⁹**...having made known to us the mystery [hidden plan] of His will...¹⁰that He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him. (Eph. 1:9-10)**

Paul talked about this in Ephesians 1:9-10. He said, "Having made known to us the mystery of God's will." Let's read this. It is a very important verse, Ephesians 1:9, "God made known to us the mystery of His will," which means the hidden plan. God had a plan. He did not tell anybody. He kept it secret, hidden in His heart, until His Son became human and paid the price for sin and was raised from the dead as a Man. Then the plan was revealed to the apostles. Until His Son took upon humanity, paid the debt for humanity, was raised from the dead, enthroned at the Father's right hand, until that happened, the Father kept the plan secret. He gave hints of it, but He did not make it clear. After the resurrection of Jesus the apostles were the first to see it with clarity. Here is the plan in verse 10. Here is the mystery God had in His heart from long ago, "He is going to gather together into one"—He is going to bring into perfect unity—"all things in Christ." Both the things in the heavenly realm and the earthly realm are going to be brought together under the leadership of Jesus, by the power and redemption of Jesus.

- A. The centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom over all the earth and **join** the heavenly and earthly realms together.

When Jesus returns, He joins the two realms together. This is the centerpiece of God’s eternal purpose. He joins them together on the earth. This is the interpretive key to understanding the end times. If you do not understand this dimension of the earthly and the heavenly realm joined together, many of the passages will not make any sense. We will look at some of those passages in a moment and many more throughout the course. When you see the two realms come together, you understand, “Oh, that is why the lion can lay down with the lamb and why all these different dimensions are taking place,” because there is really a natural dimension.

Some of the Bible teachers who do not see this simple interpretive key make all the natural things in these end-time passages symbolic. There is not really a lion, there is not really a lamb, there is not really a cobra, there is not really a child playing with a cobra. All of that is symbolic. There are the strangest theories of what that symbolism means. It really just means a lion, a lamb, a baby, and a cobra. It means exactly what it says. If you only think you are going to be in heaven floating on a cloud and never back on the earth, none of that stuff makes any sense. When you see what Paul saw, you understand it. He said the same thing in Colossians 1: that Jesus is going to bring together the two realms. You find that in Colossians 1 as well.

- B. God’s purpose has always been to live with His people on earth. The earth will continue forever (Ps. 37:29; 78:69; 104:5; 105:10-11; 125:1-2; cf. 1 Chr. 23:25; 28:8; Isa. 60:21; Ezek. 37:25; Joel 3:20).

³Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them. (Rev. 21:3)

This has always been God the Father’s heart. It was always in His plan to bring the two realms together. God always had it in His heart to live on the earth with His people. He always wanted to have His throne on the earth with His people as the Father of His family. We know the passage well in Revelation 21:3, “Behold the tabernacle of God”—that is God the Father—“is with men, and He will dwell with them.” This is not talking about God dwelling with humans in heaven. He is already dwelling with humans in heaven. It is talking about God dwelling with humans on earth. God dwelling with man. His tabernacle is on the earth amongst human beings. The glory of God is open with no veil between the Father’s throne and the earth.

Can you imagine the dynamics of what your future life is going to be like? You will be there. You will be having the time of your life. This is after the 1000-year reign. The 1000-year reign is going to be really amazing. You will have a resurrected physical body with natural properties, not all of them, but you will have natural properties that you have in your body right now, with supernatural abilities as well, living on the earth. That is your future. That is where you are going. It is not like we are enduring this difficult time and then we are done with the earth. Boy, we are done with that! No.

This is our internship. We have seventy years on the earth. It is our internship where we are making decisions about the way we want to live before God. Those choices are going to be reflected in our roles and our functions even in the age to come on the earth. You are all interns. You may think, “Well, I am a six-month intern.” No, no. You are a seventy-years intern. Billy Graham is ninety-five years old. He is still in his internship. He has talked to multitudes of full stadiums of people. He is still an intern right now. His major role on the earth is when he is in a resurrected body, serving on the earth forever. That is his bigger role, not the role he has functioned in the last sixty or seventy years of preaching the gospel.

- C. God created the universe in two distinct realms, earth and heaven (Gen. 1:1). **Earth**: this speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression. **Heaven**: This speaks of the spiritual realm, where God’s power and presence are openly manifest. Heaven is the place to which believers have gone when they die for the last 2,000 years since Jesus’ resurrection; it is a “temporary holding place” before they receive a resurrected body.

God created the universe with two distinct realms. There is an earthly realm. That is the physical realm where human process and physical expression and sensation reach their full expression. In the earthly realm you can feel. You can have pleasure. There is human process. We build and labor. Cities are built, and gardens are planted and cultivated. There is a human process, and there is physical interaction. There is physical pleasure. These are all aspects of the human dimension. God created the earth realm. After He created it in Genesis 1, He said, “It is good. It is very good.” This realm is really a good realm. God is not finished with the earth realm. He will never be finished with it. The earth realm is going to last forever and forever. The natural realm.

The heavenly realm is the supernatural realm where God’s power and glory is openly manifest. When we think about heaven right now, heaven is the place where a believer goes when he dies. It is a temporary place where a believer goes. A believer who dies any time between the cross of Jesus and the Second Coming—that 2000 years plus, whatever the amount is—in that 2000+ year period, when a believer dies, their body goes to the ground and decays. Their spirit goes to heaven. They do not have a physical body in heaven.

We get our physical body at the second coming of Christ, when the trumpet blasts and the dead are raised. We get our physical body then. Every believer who has died in all of history, their spirit is in heaven, but they do not have a physical body. They have a spirit body, but not a physical body. The reason they do not have one is because they do not need one. There is not a physical environment. There is not an earthly environment up there. When Jesus comes back at the second coming, when He brings all the saints with Him, He will give them resurrected bodies because they need a resurrected body to relate to the physical earth and to interact with it. They will need a resurrected physical body at that time.

The only person with a resurrected physical body in heaven—a glorious, eternal, perfect body—is Jesus. He is the firstfruits of the resurrection. He is the only one with a glorified, resurrected body right now. At the second coming all the saints of history will get one. The heavenly realm will come down to the earthly realm. You will need a physical resurrected body at that time to relate to the environment of the earth. Right now for 2000+ years they are all up there. It is like a holding pattern, a holding place. That is not the ultimate. It is glorious, but the ultimate is when the heavenly joins together with the earthly realm. That is the ultimate.

- D. When Jesus rules the earth, the natural human processes will not be suspended, but will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.

When Jesus returns, the human process will not be suspended. When Jesus returns, there will be human natural process continuing on the earth. It will not be suspended, but will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit. We get a short, brief window into what this is like. For forty days we have a brief window into what it is going to be like in the age to come during the Millennial Kingdom. In those forty days, Jesus appeared with His resurrected body, and He interacted with men and women who had physical bodies, not resurrected bodies. We see One with a resurrected body that had all the supernatural properties. He is interacting, fellowshiping, and eating with people with natural bodies. For forty days we get a glimpse. It is like a sneak preview of what it is going to be like.

- E. We see an aspect of the natural and the supernatural dimensions operating together when Jesus appeared in His resurrected body to teach the apostles for forty days (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3).

³***He also presented Himself alive after His suffering...being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. (Acts 1:3)***

³⁹***“Behold My hands and feet...handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have...”***⁴¹***He said to them, “Have you any food here?”***⁴²***So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³ And He took it and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:39-43)***

In Luke 24:39, Jesus is with the disciples. He has a resurrected body. He said, “Behold My hands and My feet,” because there were scars in them was the idea. He said, “Examine them, behold them, touch Me.”

They looked at Him kind of thinking, “Hmmm. That is a real hole in your hand. The nail holes are in your feet.”

He says, “Handle Me. Touch Me. I have an elbow. I have a kneecap. I am a real, physical Man with real flesh and bones.” When you get your resurrected body, your body will be as physical as it is now, but with all the supernatural properties, without the working of death or any of the negativity of the physical realm.

When you greet each other in the age to come, when you hug each other, it is not like you are going to go to hug them and say, “Whoa,” as you kind of pass through the other guy because you are spirit. “Whoa, give me another shot. Come here. Go slower.” No, you will bump into each other. You will have an elbow, and you will have bones, and you will have supernatural flesh. It will not be corrupted, mortal flesh. It will be supernatural flesh. It will be a glorious flesh. You will not just be bones like a skeleton. You will have beautiful, glorious, supernatural flesh.

Jesus said, “Touch Me. Handle Me.”

I can imagine them, “Wow! He has teeth. He has toenails. This is remarkable. How does this work?”

Jesus said, “Okay, I know you are curious.” Verse 41, “Does anybody have any food?” Not heavenly food, natural food.

They do. “Yeah, we have fish.” He took their fish from their own sea where they went fishing, and He ate it. He ate natural food, and then later He walked through the wall.

Allen Hood always says, “Did the fish go through the wall with Him? How did that work?” Allen said, “I have to figure that out.” If you get insight on how he ate that natural fish and then walked through the wall, did the fish that was in His stomach go through the wall? Do not think too much on that, okay, and really do not tell Allen if you get an insight. He is just having fun with it.

The point is you will have a body like that. You will eat natural food. There are supernatural dimensions to it as well, I am sure. You will have friends. You will meet new friends. Meaning, when you have a resurrected body, you do not get an omniscience chip. Like you get a resurrected body, and now you know all things. You will only know as much as you knew the day before you were resurrected. You will learn everything you learn line-by-line just like you do now. You will meet new friends. You will introduce old friends to new friends. You will have tasks to do. The difference is your mind will have supernatural abilities. So your learning ability and your capacity will be remarkable, supernatural, but you will still learn things. You will learn the Bible and teach the Bible. You will have friends. You will serve and bless one another like you do now, but in an entirely supernatural environment forever and forever. Your life will be so remarkable.

People say—and I understand it—sometimes you get all discouraged and you think, “It is not worth it.”

I say, “I promise you it is. I promise you it is worth it. Obeying Jesus is really worth it.” Where this is going is so much more powerful and glorious than the true struggle we are having right now.

III. THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE WILL BE ON EARTH WHEN JESUS APPEARS IN THE SKY

- A. The *redeemed* will be raptured at the time of Jesus' royal procession across the sky (Rev. 1:7).

¹⁶The Lord Himself will descend from heaven...and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up [raptured] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thes. 4:16-17)

There will be three types of people on the earth when Jesus appears in the sky at the blowing of the trumpet when He comes to rapture the church. Number one will be the redeemed. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, "The Lord will descend from heaven. The dead in Christ,"—that means all the believers for the last 2000 years and even all the way back to Adam—are going to get the resurrected bodies first. Verse 17, believers "who are alive on the earth at that time will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air." The redeemed will be caught up. The word "caught up" in the Latin is the word "raptured." That is where we get the word, rapture. It is from this verb right here, caught up. It is the Latin word, the rapture. That is where we get that term. Everybody who is born again, when Jesus comes back, they are caught up to meet the Lord in the air. They get a resurrected body.

- B. The *reprobate*, who took the mark of the Beast, will be gathered, judged, and killed. There may be millions or even billions such people still alive when Jesus returns. They will not just disappear.

There are the reprobate. The reprobate are those who are permanently determined and set in their heart never to repent. They do not want to repent. They do not want Jesus' leadership. Their conscience is defiled. They have taken the mark of the beast, the mark of the Antichrist. They have covenanted to worship the Antichrist and to obey his leadership. They will not be recovered. They cannot be saved because, one reason, they do not want to be saved. They do not want Jesus' leadership. They are reprobate. Their conscience is defiled and seared.

- C. The *resisters* are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. They can be saved, and then populate the millennial earth. Resisters will stand against evil governments, even without faith in God, like some in the French Resistance who fought the Nazis in World War II. Scripture refers to "those who are left." (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

For the third group that is very clear in the Scripture I will use the term the resisters. That is just my term, though other people use it as well. It is not a biblical term, but it is a biblical idea. The resisters are often called those who are left. That is the term that is used a number of times in the Scripture, "And those who are left." They are not the redeemed; those are raptured.

They are not the reprobate. The reprobate who took the mark of the beast get killed. When Jesus comes, He does not just wave His hand and all the people—it could be a billion or two. We do not know the number. A lot of people. It is more than a few. Maybe a billion or two or three. Nobody knows—Jesus does not wave His hand and they all disappear. They are actually rounded up and are executed like the criminals against humanity. Like in the Nuremburg Trial with Adolf Hitler. There are war crimes. It is that kind of spirit. Then they are killed. If they are not killed in the judgments of God in the coming of the Lord, they will be rounded up, executed, and removed from the earth. There are several passages on this that are quite straightforward, actually.

There is another group. They are not born again, and they did not take the mark of the beast. Nobody knows how many. I am just guessing—do not take my number to heart. I am just giving you a sense—it could probably be a couple hundred million people. Meaning it is not five or ten thousand. It is many people, but it is not billions either. Nobody knows the number. A lot of people are taking the mark of the beast. There is a great

revival. A billion or two get swept into the kingdom. There might be another billion, who knows, more or less. Again that is just completely a conjecture.

These resisters, they resist the Antichrist, but they do not get saved. You think, “Why would they not get saved?” They do not believe in Jesus, but they do not like the Antichrist either. A good example of this is the French Resistance in WWII in Europe. When the Nazis under Adolf Hitler came and took over France in 1940, a lot of the French people said, “We are not submitting to Adolf Hitler.” They went into hiding. They had guns, and they resisted Hitler to the end. It was called the French Resistance. They did not resist Hitler because they loved Jesus. They resisted Hitler because they hated Hitler. There will be a lot of people who say, “That man is trying to oppress us. We are not going to obey him. It is just not going to happen.” They are resisters, but they are not born again yet either. They are patriots, and they just think the Antichrist is a bad guy. They think, “No way.”

I always make a joke about this. I think of the image of the redneck guy down in Texas. He has his truck. He has his gun. He has his dog. He says, “I ain’t worshipping no guy from Europe. It ain’t gonna happen.” He has his gun. He says, “You tell him if he wants to talk to me, he knows where to find me.” I am saying that in jest, you know, stereotypes. There are people who will be resisters. They are not going to worship that man over in the Middle East, whoever he is. “I am not worshipping him.” You can picture that redneck guy, can’t you? He is proud of it, too. There is nothing wrong with a truck, a shotgun, and a dog, either. I am not putting down those guys.

IV. THE NATURAL PROCESSES OF LIFE WILL CONTINUE ON EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS

- A. Jesus will rule the millennial earth, which will have natural and supernatural dimensions. The **supernatural element** will be seen in the length of human life being restored to that of Noah’s day (Isa. 65:20, 22) and animals no longer preying on each other (Isa. 65:25). The **natural element** will be evident in people continuing to sin (Isa. 65:20) and in building and planting (Isa. 65:21).

²⁰“For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses...and they shall plant vineyards...²²As the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people...²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together.” (Isa. 65:20-25)

Here are some of the passages, just a few, where the natural processes will continue. The natural realm will continue for 1000 years. Look at Isaiah 65:20-25. This is after Jesus returns. It is during the 1000 years. “For a child shall die at one hundred years old. The sinner being one hundred years old will be thought to be accursed.” The lifespan of the average person will be like it was in the days of Noah. People lived to be four and five hundred years old in the days of Noah. After the flood, the life expectancy went from four or five hundred—whatever it was. Hundreds of years, it was different for some than others—after the flood it went down to 120 years. Later the life expectancy went down to seventy or eighty years.

When the Lord returns, and the devil is thrown into prison, and all the demons are in prison, and there is an anointed environment and the blessing of God, life expectancy will reverse and go back to how it was before the days of Noah. People will live four, five, or six hundred years like they did before Noah. If a child dies at one hundred, they will say, “Little Jimmy, what happened to him?”

“He died.”

“Oh man, he was only one hundred. Poor little guy. What happened to him?” That will be a cutting short of their lives. There is a supernatural dimension of lifespan restored to hundreds of years, but people are still dying. You will not die. You will have a resurrected body. Again, I am making up the number, a couple hundred

million, could be a lot more or a lot less than that, and they will have children and populate and continue to fill the earth with people with natural bodies.

It goes on to say in verse 20, “The sinner who died at age one hundred.” There will still be sinners. People will still have a sin nature. They will need to be born again. The whole population of the earth will openly acknowledge Jesus’ leadership, but they will need to be born again. They will still have the capacity to sin, and they will sin. Sin will be held in check compared to in this age, but there will still be sin happening on the earth for 1000 years. Not with people with resurrected bodies, but the people who have natural bodies.

Verse 21, they will build houses. They will plant vineyards. That is in the natural realm. There will be building and planting going on. Fields will be cultivated. Verse 22, “As the days of a tree”—meaning hundreds of years old—“so will be the days of My people.” A tree can live three, four, five, six hundred years, some longer. That will be the average lifespan of people with natural bodies. They will still die. They still need to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus will be ruling in Jerusalem. He will be there for people to see Him, just like King David ruled in Jerusalem. This is the greater Son of David. He will be ruling on a throne in Jerusalem. The kings of the earth will come and visit Jesus as the King of all kings. They will pattern their governments according to His words and His laws.

B. Harmony will be restored in the animal kingdom, and between animals and humans (Rom. 8:20-21).

6“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7The cow and the bear shall graze...” (Isa. 11:6-7)

The animosity between the animals and humans will be removed. After the fall of man, after Adam sinned, there was animosity established between humans and the animal kingdom and between animals with one another. Verse 6, “The wolf shall lie down with the lamb.” Instead of eating the lamb, they will be friends, or whatever. They will lie down together at least. I do not want to add to the passage. The calf and the young lion, instead of the lion eating the calf, they will graze together. There will be no animosity. The little child will lead them. Now you do not want little Billy leading a lion around. Like if the lion is out of the zoo, “Billy get into the house. Quick!” Then he will lead the lion around and pet him. There will be no animosity whatsoever. The cow and the bear will graze together.

This passage in Isaiah 11 gives more details than the passage we looked at in Isaiah 65. There are other passages that develop this reality. This is not symbolic. This is actual. The lamb means a lamb. It means exactly what it says. There are many believers who think the Millennial Kingdom is all symbolic, that heaven does not come to the earth and this does not really happen. When you ask them what these verses mean, they answer, “Well, no one really knows.”

You want to be humble, and you want to be tender, but say, “Yeah, it means just that. It means what it says. It is just that straightforward.”

C. Jesus’ government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7). The natural processes of life will continue as Jesus orders and establishes His kingdom, with the necessary infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city. Normally infrastructures include life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, etc.), education, agriculture, media and arts, technology, and social institutions, etc.

7Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...His kingdom to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)

Jesus' government will spread progressively across the nations. We will look at each one of these principles or themes and develop them throughout the course. Isaiah 9:7 says, "Of the increase of Jesus' government there will be no end." There will never be a time when His government will not continue to increase. His government will increase and increase and increase. He will order government and establish it with judgment and justice. Meaning, when Jesus comes, He does not just wave His hand and there is righteousness in every sphere of society. No. Righteousness is going to be established. The governments will be ordered and established line-by-line, issue-by-issue. It will actually take 1000 years for righteousness to fill every sphere of society, and not just to be put in place, but to be tested, to be tried, to come to maturity, and for the glory of God to come to the earth. It would only be under Jesus' leadership that this could happen, on a global dimension, where the glory of God will fill the whole earth. Jesus will see to it. In doing this He is preparing the way for His Father to come down to the earth.

D. Many people will come to Jerusalem to learn of God's ways from Jesus.

³***Many people shall...say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD [Jerusalem], to the house of the God of Jacob; He [Jesus] will teach us His ways." (Isa. 2:3)***

E. I highlight five aspects of God's kingdom are necessary for His people to experience His fullness on the earth for all eternity (Eph. 3:19). These aspects will converge in the Millennium.

I want to highlight just four aspects of the kingdom of God on the earth that will be necessary for God's people to experience the fullness of God for eternity on the earth. These are not the only four. I just wanted to highlight four to give you a sense. These all work together. They will all converge together. I will just highlight four dimensions as the family of God functions under the Father as a family.

F. The **New Jerusalem** will come down to earth, bringing the *supernatural, eternal* dimension to the millennial kingdom. It will include the supernatural aspects of our resurrected bodies.

There will be the New Jerusalem dimension coming down to the earth. The New Jerusalem will come down to the earth. That means there will be a supernatural, eternal dimension to the earth. With the New Jerusalem, the veil will be lifted on the whole realm of the glory of God, and Jesus' throne will be established on the earth. His throne is in the New Jerusalem and on the earth at the same time. We will talk about that a little bit later. It is not two thrones. It is one throne. It is one massive governmental complex. Jesus' throne of glory is in the New Jerusalem and it is on the earth simultaneously because those two realms are connected together. There is the supernatural realm of the New Jerusalem in the age to come.

G. The **garden of Eden** will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) and physical pleasures.

There is the garden of Eden dimension of physical paradise, of the renewed environment, the agriculture, the animals, the atmosphere, physical pleasure. The food will be delicious, and there will be no negative side effects to the food at all. You will never have negative side effects to that delicious food. Does that sound cool? Okay, we have the garden of Eden weighed in.

H. The **kingdom of David** will bring the *political and social* dimension (governmental, economic, social institutions, educational, family, arts, etc.). Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as every national government on earth is brought under Jesus' authority.

There will be the kingdom of David dimension. There will be a political and social dimension, with the blessing of Abraham and all the prosperity that God promised Abraham in the social and political arenas with righteousness and justice.

- I. The **house of prayer** will bring a *spiritual* dimension, in that the millennial temple will be a worship center in which people encounter God and partner with Him in ruling based on worship and prayer.

⁷*“For My house [the temple] shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Isa. 56:7)*

There will be the house of prayer or the temple dimension that will have a spiritual dimension where the government of the earth will flow out of worship and intercession. It will not be just worship and intercession. All the governments of the earth will be in complete connection and flow out of worship and intercession. There will be the house of prayer dimension of the people of God.

- J. The **family of God** will bring a *relational* dimension with profound love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26).

The family of God will experience all of these. There will be a vibrant kingdom of God community, a kingdom community. It will be a true kingdom community of the family functioning with the New Jerusalem, garden of Eden, kingdom of David, house of prayer, all those dimensions operating under the kingdom community, the kingdom society.

V. HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AND EARTHLY JERUSALEM BROUGHT TOGETHER

- A. The New Jerusalem will descend to earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10), **both** at the beginning (Rev. 21:10) and at the end (Rev. 21:2) of the Millennium. When this happens, heaven will literally be on the earth, and the resurrected saints will live there, in the New Jerusalem.

¹²*“...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.” (Rev. 3:12)*

I will be brief on this. We will develop it later. I will give you a little snapshot of some of the main ideas of the Millennial Kingdom.

A very exciting dimension in Jerusalem is going to happen. Jerusalem is the chief city as Revelation 3:12 says, “The New Jerusalem will come out of heaven from God.” It says “come out of heaven” three times in the book of Revelation. The New Jerusalem is either coming out of heaven or the New Jerusalem is descending to the earth. “Coming out of heaven,” meaning coming out of heaven to the earth is the clear implication and the clear meaning of this passage. Three times the Bible is clear that the New Jerusalem is descending from the realm it is in now, coming down from heaven to the earth, coming out of the supernatural realm of heaven and bringing the heavenly dimension down to the earth. This happens twice, two times. It happens at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom when Jesus comes, because His throne is clearly on the earth and His throne is clearly in the New Jerusalem forever. This also happens at the very end of the Millennium. That is a bigger subject than we can cover in two minutes here right now.

The New Jerusalem is the place where the saints—where you—will live. You will live in that 1500-mile, approximately 1500-mile, city. Streets of gold and all the food and the river and the throne of God there. Again, you will work and reign on the earth. As quickly as angels can go from around the throne of God to earth, so will you. Gabriel the archangel is before the throne of God, and then Gabriel the archangel is talking to Mary. The travel time, I am assuming, was very, very easy and very short, because going between those two realms for the angels is effortless and is not a lengthy time. It may take a moment or two; I am not sure how long it takes. I am sure it is very quick and effortless. You will have that same dimension. You will live in the New Jerusalem, and effortlessly and very quickly you will be wherever your assignment is upon the earth. You will be

interfacing with people on the earth much like Jesus with a resurrected body was interfacing with the disciples who did not have a resurrected body and teaching them the things of the kingdom.

- B. Jesus' throne is both in the millennial temple in Jerusalem and in the heavenly New Jerusalem. It is **one throne** with two expressions (Jer. 3:17; Ezek. 43:4-7; Zech. 6:12-13; Rev. 22:3).

³***The throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it [New Jerusalem]. (Rev. 22:3)***

The New Jerusalem will descend and connect to the earthly Millennial Jerusalem. The Jerusalem we know now will still be there in the Millennium. The New Jerusalem and heavenly Jerusalem will “connect together.” I am using this quote-unquote. I do not know how to say this. It is the best term I can come up with. It will create a vast governmental complex that Jesus referred to as His throne of glory. He said it two times in Matthew. “I will sit on My throne of glory.” Some people think when He sits on His throne of glory it will be like a little chair with some gold in it and maybe some diamonds, and there is the throne of glory. No. The throne of glory, in my opinion, is a vast governmental complex. Somebody asked, “Is His throne in the New Jerusalem or is His throne on the earth?”

I said, “Yes. Both.”

“Is it one throne or two thrones?”

“Yes.” What I really believe is that it is two extensions of one throne. Jesus does not have two thrones. He has an expression of His throne connected in the New Jerusalem connected to His Millennial throne on the earth that the kings on the earth will come and see. It is something like that. We do not have clarity and final certainty on any details of it, but Jesus does not have multiple thrones. He has one throne, and it is glorious beyond anything we can imagine. The kings of the earth will interface with that throne.

- C. The New Jerusalem will descend and connect to earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium creating what I refer to as a vast “governmental complex,” which is Jesus' throne of glory (Mt. 19:28; 25:31).

³¹***“When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the throne of His glory.” (Mt. 25:31)***

I am going to be ever so brief on this. If you think, “I have to check this out in more detail,” I am not making you wait for a few weeks. There are four reasons why I believe the New Jerusalem is close to the Millennial Jerusalem and is accessible to it, without actually being on the earth. I believe the New Jerusalem will be near the earth and accessible to the earth. The people of the earth, the kings of the earth will bring their glory into the New Jerusalem. So the New Jerusalem will be close enough to the earth for the kings of the earth to bring their glory into it. I have four key reasons why that New Jerusalem will be close to the earth, but not actually on the earth at the coming of Jesus, at the second coming. At the end of the Millennium, 1000 years later, the New Jerusalem will be solidly anchored on the earth forever.

- D. There are **four reasons** why I believe the New Jerusalem is *close to* earthly Jerusalem and accessible to it, yet not *on the earth* until after the Millennium. Visit mikebickle.org for more; click on the “End Times and Eternity” category (top left), then on “Millennium and New Jerusalem.”

VI. THE SAINTS WILL RULE WITH JESUS AS KINGS AND PRIESTS

- A. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are *priests* and *kings* (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). Saints with resurrected bodies will be made kings and/or rulers over different spheres of life (Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12).

¹⁰***“...have made us kings and priests to our God...we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:10)***

1. *As priests*, resurrected saints will *worship, intercede, and communicate* the knowledge of God to others (non-resurrected people will be on earth in the Millennium with the saints).
 2. *As kings*, resurrected saints will judge, or *evaluate*, the past as part of ruling with Jesus.
²*Do you not know that the saints will judge [evaluate] the world?...³Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate] angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)*
- B. The saints will occupy the *highest position* of government in the Spirit on earth in the Millennium. This will be parallel to the position and role of angels in the government of the nations in this age. Jesus will rule a worldwide kingdom in partnership with two types of kings: *kings of the earth* with non-resurrected bodies and *resurrected kings* with resurrected bodies (Rev. 1:5-6).
- C. Being faithful now in “a few things” will lead to ruling over “many things” in the age to come. I compare life to a 70-year internship, preparing us for our assignment on earth in the age to come.
²¹*“You were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.” (Mt. 25:21)*
¹⁷*“You were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” (Lk. 19:17)*

Jesus said, “If you are faithful in a few things in this age, I will make you ruler over many things in the age to come.” This is the point I was making earlier. You are faithful in a few things now. The Lord remembers everything you have done in your seventy years on the earth. Some live longer, some live shorter than that. It is your internship. What you do in your seventy years in this internship, the few things you do in faithfulness determine the role and the function you will have over many things in the age to come, if you are faithful.

You do not earn your access into the family of God. It is freely given to you. You do not earn your place in the city. That is given to you as a free gift of God, but Jesus does say your faithfulness in this age will be expressed in the age to come. You do not earn it because even then our faithfulness is weak, broken, and frail.

Our faithfulness is fragile faithfulness. Through the grace of God, the editing process of the grace of God, He crowns even our weak faithfulness that is frail and fragile with glory and gives us far more than we would ever deserve for our faithfulness. Even that is the grace of God. You have not earned it, but there is a connection between what you do in this age and the function that you have in the age to come.

If you are faithful in very little now, do not be disheartened. Be faithful. Grow in love and humility. Be a servant, regardless if you get attention before the eyes of men because you are before the eyes of Jesus. He will never forget one cup of cold water that you have given to somebody in His name. He will never, ever forget that. He will never forget that. He says, or at least I am saying it this way, you will be surprised, you will be shocked when you see how clearly He remembers and what He will do in response to that faithfulness. Amen and amen.