

Session 8: Roles in the Millennium: Personal Prophecies in Scripture

The Millennial Kingdom in Scripture

Tonight we are continuing on our eighth session on this subject of the millennial kingdom, which is really the subject of heaven on earth. Most of you have heard that several times. It is a subject that is emphasized in the Scripture but neglected in the body of Christ. Whenever what the Scripture emphasizes is neglected by the Church it inevitably leads to a deficiency in our spirit as the Church. The deficiency is a deficiency of resolve, motivation, sacrificial discipline and righteousness. This is because the thing that God determined in His mind by revealing the kingdom of God on earth in the age to come was to supply nutrients to our motivation.

When this doctrine or this truth is absent then there is a great deficiency in the diet of the church. The church automatically falls to its normal default position that is living for this age and finding our identity in what we do in this age now instead of the age to come—it effects our importance, value and our definition of success. We live for the age to come when we strengthen our spirit with the revelation of the age to come, the revelation of heaven on earth—which in the Scripture is most found in the context of the millennial kingdom.

There is a great amount of information in the Scripture about heaven on earth and of the age to come. It is really the introduction to heaven on earth because the millennium is only 1000 years.

There is not that much in the Scripture about the eternal age. We get our door into the age to come by studying the millennial kingdom. It gives us significant nutrients in our spiritual diet and strength in our spirit to live with resolve for righteousness and motivation. One of the reasons that the body of Christ is lacking so much motivation can be traced to this great neglect of this very vital and prominent theme in the Word of God.

You do not know it is a prominent theme until you begin to study it. It is like the people who do not believe in healing—they do not believe in the supernatural dimension of the kingdom of God and they think that it has passed away. When they begin to get touched by the Holy Spirit, they get a new paradigm.

They go, “Healing and signs and wonders, it is everywhere. It is on every page of the Bible.”

Until you put the lens on, you do not see it. It is the same thing with the millennial kingdom. Until you see it, you do not see it. Once you put those glasses on, it is on every other page in the Bible.

It is one of the primary subjects in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation. It supplies a crucial nutrient to our spirit, which results in resolve, and motivation for righteousness. If you have a normal experience in the church in the western world, this is almost a totally foreign subject to you. My point is to stir you up to make a determination in your own heart.

“I am not going to be Biblically illiterate on this vast subject. I am going to get all the nutrients and I am going to get myself trained on this subject.”

Introduction to Personal Prophecies

This eighth session we are going to look at roles in the millennial kingdom —the 1000-year reign on the earth. The millennial kingdom is a window into the eternal age. It is the combining of the natural and the supernatural in a unique way for 1000 years. It is a 1000-year window. Of course, the natural realm continues on into the eternal age as well. There is no sin dimension involved after the millennium is over. In this session, what we are going to look at is the role of individuals in Scripture —personal prophecies.

In the Bible, David for instance, received a surprising number of prophecies. Not just about being a king for forty years in Israel, but also his life for 1000 years in the millennial kingdom as king in Israel. One of my premises that I will get to in a moment, is that David had more information, more prophecy about his assignment in the age to come than he had prophecies (at least recorded in the Bible) about his first assignment on the earth.

What I want to do is to stir up our holy imagination through looking at these prophetic insights, these prophecies given to many individuals, about their role in the age to come.

Of course, it leads us to the conclusion, “If they have a role in the age to come that is prominent enough to be prophesied and recorded in the Bible, this is not an insignificant subject and I must also have a role in the age to come.”

Some guys say, “Hey, let’s go all the way. Lord, give me a prophecy about my role in the age to come.”

I do not know what to do about that. Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us to pursue that.

Hey, if the Lord wants to tell me anything about my role in the age to come, here we are. The point I am making is that it was an important enough subject that these prophecies were recorded and these major leaders laid hold of them and it formed their paradigm.

Paragraph A: for example, Jesus gave prophecies, several of them, to the apostles. The disciples were in their twenties and He prophesied about what they will do in the age to come.

He is saying to them, “You may have a forty year apostleship in this age, but you have a 1000- year assignment coming after the forty year assignment or the fifty year assignment.”

David had far more prophecies about his 1000-year assignment as king in Israel than he had of his forty-year assignment in Israel. He was king from age thirty to age seventy. It says several times in Scripture that he will actually function as king in Israel. He is under the King of kings, Jesus. Jesus is King of every king of every nation.

Paragraph B: it is not only the apostles and David; Jesus has more in the Bible about His second time on the earth than His first time on the earth. There are more prophecies about His second reign than His first reign.

Israel has more prophecy about their time in the age to come than they have positive prophecies during this age. They have more positive prophecies concerning what they will experience as a nation in the age to come.

God has prophecies for all kinds of nations. I have a pretty lengthy study of the prophecies given to nations in the millennium. There are a number of nations that

have their national destinies and identities already announced—in part through prophetic words. The nation that has the most besides Israel would be Egypt. There is more in the Bible about Egypt and Assyria—which would be modern day Iraq—than probably all the other gentile nations. Maybe not all of them added up, but certainly those two lead the list second only to Israel with significant information on national identities, even in the age to come.

There is information on personal mandates and national mandates in the age to come. How important is this subject? This subject is very, very important. You are supposed to take it personal. You are supposed to see that information and say, “Hey, this is a vital subject.”

Paragraph C: premise number one. Some of the lives of the leaders depicted in the Scriptures were consciously preparing for their next assignment in the age to come. It was consciously on their mind and it was not just a distant thought. This was a major reality to king David. It was a major reality to Peter, James, John, and Paul—their assignment in the age to come. They spoke about it often. You have to have the right paradigm to catch the language of what they are saying. They knew that their next assignment on the earth far surpassed their first assignment on the earth. You have another assignment on the earth besides the one you have now for seventy years or whatever the time frame you have. You have a seventy-year assignment, but you have a 1000-year assignment coming after this one. Are you getting ready? Are you thinking about it?

Premise number two: our primary ministry assignment actually is our second one. Our first one in the general sense is for seventy years on the earth, but our primary ministry assignment is actually the next one in the age to come.

Premise number three: this is kind of be a stretch for some of you—maybe a new thought. Some of the prophecies that you receive from people that are true. Lots of people prophecy and it is not always true—I am locking into the true spirit of prophecy. Some of those truths, some of those prophecies will have their major fulfillment in the age to come, just like the apostles and just like a number of key leaders in the Scriptures. The Lord will say something and it is true. If you do not have any grid for it whatsoever, then everything that God says must be about our first assignment, our assignment right now. That is not a Biblical lens for prophecy. Some of the prophecies that the Lord is giving—I do not know which

ones obviously—will have their primary fulfillment in the age to come. This is true of the apostles, king David, and many others as well.

This is what this teaching is: a shifting of your paradigm because for some of you this is a new idea.

Overview of the Millennial Kingdom

Paragraph F: the millennial kingdom is the time that the saints reign on the earth with Jesus for 1000 years, affecting every sphere of society.

Paragraph G: Jesus will rule the whole earth as He establishes a worldwide kingdom and He will be in partnership with two sets of kings. There will be kings with resurrected bodies, the saints through history. There will also be kings on the earth that have natural bodies. There will be kings with natural bodies and kings with resurrected bodies. Together they will form a godly social infrastructure, affecting every sphere of life.

Paragraph I: Jesus will rule during the millennial kingdom—this is very important—with the natural processes not suspended, but significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit. The reason I say this is that when many people think of heaven, they think of heaven far away. Heaven is coming to earth at the time of the second coming. We are only far away in heaven with a disembodied spirit for a moment of time—from the cross to the second coming. For 2000 years, the saints are in a temporary holding pattern in heaven, in paradise, but the New Jerusalem is coming to the earth. We are getting resurrected bodies, the natural realm and the supernatural realm are coming together, and Jesus is establishing His kingdom on the earth. Heaven will be on the earth forever, never to leave the earth again.

When many of us think of heaven we picture ourselves floating on a white cloud somewhere forever playing a harp. We may feel bad about admitting that to us, heaven is kind of a boring concept. No, you are going to be on the earth, the physical material body ruling and reigning with a ministry, training and teaching and working. You will not have any sin in your experience, but there will be people on the earth. They will be those that were not raptured or killed at the time of the second coming with the entire crisis involved. They are what I call the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation period. They did not take the mark of the beast and they did not believe in Jesus. There might be millions of them. They get

saved in all the transitional events that take place and they continue living on into the millennial kingdom. They will have children for the 1000 years. People with resurrected bodies, the saints now, after the rapture, will interact with those with natural bodies.

Top of page two. Again, this is such a prominent Biblical concept. Most of the body of Christ is almost completely illiterate of this very important subject. One preacher said it rightly, “If you do not think rightly about heaven, you will not think about heaven at all.” It is true. If you do not think rightly about heaven, if you think about heaven as far away on some fleecy white cloud, and an ethereal experience, you will not think of it much.

You must think about heaven accurately—coming down to the earth, the joining of the natural and spiritual together, and you being literally on the earth with a physical material body. Resurrected with the full properties of the Holy Spirit, eating physical food, touching each other, interacting with each other, training, discipling nations—when you think of it that way, it has a whole new dimension of motivation and an urgency to get prepared for your assignment.

Personal Assignments

What we do in this age, depending even on our experience, will determine the measure of the closeness and the glory we will experience in our relationship with Jesus, even in the age to come. It is dependent on the way we respond to Him in this age. Every believer will have access to God’s heart, we will all have resurrected bodies, we will all be in the eternal city, and we will have the Holy Spirit. We will all have different degrees and different measures of experience with the Lord—they will not all be the same. There will be different assignments and different roles.

I want to be ready for my next assignment and I want to do well on this one. The real key of this one is not that my assignment in this age is big but rather that it is humble, established in purity, love and a revelation of the Scripture. If you will do that then the Lord will take care of how big it is. A lot of folks are fixated on how big their sphere is right now. No, fix your attention on how deep your life is in God. Your sphere will be big in your next assignment. Do not worry about how big your sphere is right now. Worry about how deep your heart is right now. Yes, we want to touch people. I want to touch people right now, but my primary teaching ministry is not IHOP-KC in this age.

It is my teaching ministry in the age to come that will go on for 1000 years. I am getting ready for it. I am in an internship right now and you are in one of my internship classes. I am an intern. You are an intern and I am practicing my teaching ministry. I do not mean practicing like it does not matter, but I am working my spirit on the Word of God. You are getting touched and I am getting touched and the Lord is training me for my teaching ministry and for my intercessory ministry in the age to come.

He goes, “Mike, IHOP-KC would be a good place to train you as an intercessor for when I return.”

My intercessory ministry will be far more significant than it is right now. I want to get ready for it and be effective right now. I am not going to throw away my inheritance in the age to come by being fixated on how big my ministry is right now. I want to be focused on how deep my heart is.

You will always reach effectiveness in your ministry if you get a depth in your spiritual life with God. If you get closer to God, you will not become more detached from ministry. The closer you get to God, the more in line you will be with His will in ministry.

Some people say, “If you get really deep, you will just forget everybody else.”

No, if you are getting deep, you are running into a Man. A resurrected Jewish Man. His name is Jesus. He really loves the people. If you get close to Him, you will be far more effective with the people.

Preparation for the Age to Come

Roman numeral two: life on earth is a seventy-year internship. Moses said seventy years in Psalm 90:10, eighty due to strength. Some of us get more, and some of us get less. Number one, it is a preparatory assignment. It is important, it counts, and it is real. This is not a practice game. This age is for real, but it is preparation for another assignment. Our primary assignment on the earth in a physical body on the earth is in the age to come.

Paragraph B: in our seventy-year internship, there are two major issues to determine.

Issue number one: do you want to be in God's family?

Issue number two: do you want to be in God's government? Right now we are deciding we want to be in God's family. We say yes, we are born again, and we commit ourselves to Jesus.

The Lord says, "Now there is a second subject we need to talk about. Do you want to be in the government in the age to come?"

Not to be over people, but to be close to Jesus in the thing that is near and dear to His heart —the bringing of His glory to all nations.

"I want to be close to you. I want to work as close to you as possible."

He says, "Then grow in love, humility and revelation in this age."

Our assignment in the age to come has nothing to do with how big our influence was down here. It has to do with how deep our heart is in humility, love, and revelation.

Paragraph C: being faithful to Jesus right now in times of difficulty; prepares us for our greater calling. Paul said it in 2 Corinthians 4:17, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment" —our seventy years on the earth— "is working for us a far more exceeding weight of glory."

The affliction he is talking about is persecution right here—the affliction is self-denial. I am just talking about saying no to pride and yes to humility. It is afflicting to the human spirit to say no to pride. Our spirit craves pride and lust. When we humble ourselves in secret and we get no attention from anyone, when we are doing it by faith and are under God's eyes; there is something violent that happens in us.

We could say, "Ah, I did not get credit for it."

But the Lord says, "Yes you did, it is just a time delay answer."

There is an element of affliction even in righteousness. I am not talking about the old medieval affliction of beating yourself with whips. I am just talking about good old-fashioned discipline and humility in secret. Giving money in secret. Bearing

with our enemies in secret by blessing them and not even whispering to our friends how much we are blessing them. It is purely in secret. Paul said, “This momentary light affliction is working in us a far more exceeding weight of glory.”

Our experience in the age to come includes our function, role, and relationship to the Lord. These are all affected by our decisions in this age.

Paul said it again in Romans 8:18, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” In both passages he is talking primarily about persecution. Beloved, it is not only about persecution. It is about humility, righteousness, and discipline also. There will be a measure of glory that will increase in proportion to the way that we handle the difficulty that comes, as we are faithful to the Lord in this age. We are going to look at David because he is the premier example—the man after God’s own heart.

Millennial Promises in Scripture

Paragraph A: David had more personal prophecies in the Bible about his 1000-year assignment as king over Israel than he had his forty-year assignment. He had three prophecies about his forty-year kingship and he had five to ten (depending on which ones you count) about his kingship and his sphere of authority in the age to come. It starts off in paragraph B, just a hint. This is only a hint about his future role, but I am starting with this verse because it gives us insight into God’s heart and the way that God gives us roles in the age to come.

It is Samuel’s prophecy to David. Samuel said this to Saul — but he is actually prophesying about David. David gets the prophecy later. Saul, the jealous king, gets it first. Undoubtedly David was very familiar with this prophecy, as he became friends with the prophet Samuel. Samuel said to the jealous king Saul in 1 Samuel 13:13-14 (paraphrased), “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord. The Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. Saul, it was in God’s heart to give you a role, not just you personally, but even your offspring, but not just your offspring, you personally.” What an incredible statement. When Saul, and later David, was told that their kingship would endure, it involved their offspring, but it also involved their personal lives. It is both. It is not either/or.

He said, “God would have established your kingdom forever over Israel.” Can you imagine? But the Lord is now going to revoke that. Did you know that people can lose that which would have been theirs in the age to come?

That is a main theme. You run into it many times in the Scriptures—“now your kingdom shall not continue.” The prophet Samuel is talking about more than the kingdom of Israel because the kingdom of Israel is going to go on forever but Saul’s personal sphere of influence and authority will be cut off.

When Samuel says, “Saul, your kingdom would have endured, but now it will not.”

He does not mean the kingdom of Israel; he means something far more personal. It was only in context to Saul’s role in Israel, not Israel itself.

He said, “Saul, you and your offering would have had an impact of blessing forever. The kingdom of Israel is going to do fine, but now you are not going to have a role in it.”

Saul’s ‘kingdom’ meant his own personal sphere in this age and the age to come, his offspring, and how it interfaced with God’s purpose to the nation of Israel.

Samuel says to Saul, “That is over now and I am going to give that calling to another man.”

He says, “From now on, your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for a man after His own heart and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over the people.”

When God commanded David to be commander, we find out through other prophecies, that the command went beyond David’s first assignment on the earth. It went beyond his forty years of king of Israel and it reached on into the age to come.

Paragraph D: God commanded that David’s kingdom would last forever. Nathan the prophet in 2 Samuel 7:16 is giving the prophecy to David (not Samuel now). He says (paraphrased), “Your house and your kingdom, and your throne.” There are three distinct words. Your house and your kingdom will be established forever. Your throne will be established forever. There are several things going on here.

David's house was his own personal inheritance—his own personally as a man. I am talking about in the resurrection he will live for billions, billions, billions, and billions of years in a resurrected body. His inheritance is not over when he dies. It has barely begun. He is talking about the man David, his offspring (family line), and the corporate blessing on the nation of Israel. Those three ideas are brought together—your house, your kingdom, your throne. All of them will have blessing forever and ever. Can you fathom a true prophet of God talking about your role forever? Not even the 1000 years. It would go on beyond 1000 years into the Eternal Age. Beyond the Millennial Kingdom. David is like, "Yes, I am in." Beloved, what is not to be encouraged by?

This is so dynamic, but I believe that through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God, God will anchor our souls—in a more substantial way—in these truths if we would feed our spirit on them. We will find out in a little while that David fed his spirit on this reality. David is what I call the first 'millennial theologian' in the Bible. He was the first prophet and teacher that developed the doctrine and the reality of the millennium.

Moses touched it and David developed it. As a prophet David saw visions of it. As a teacher he broke it down line by line. I do not think it is an accident that this prophet of the millennial kingdom and this teacher also had personal insight about his own role in it. I think that David lived with that picture in his mind, that vision in his mind.

When his son Absalom came and troubled him at the end of his life—they brought the ark of the covenant to David and said, "David will bring the ark of the covenant back into Jerusalem."

David was running and he was in flight when they brought the ark of the covenant.

They said, "Here, let's go to war against your son Absalom."

David said, "Bring the ark back."

"David, no, with the ark we can beat your son."

“Bring the ark back. God will do what He does. My big thing is not even to be king. Trust me. I am living in another space. I am happy to be king once. I already know where I am going. I am not going to trouble everything to make sure I get my money and honor right now. I am not going there.”

His soul was anchored in this. It is not an accident that he was the first prophet. Moses touched it a little bit, but David saw it clearly and prophetically. As a teacher he broke it down.

It is not an accident that David had his own personal sense of identity in the age to come. Let’s look at the top of page three. Look at this—it is one of the most outrageous statements (in a good way. In a sense, if a guy got up and said this, we would not know how to respond to him. What David is about to say here is in a public assembly and he is at the end of his life. He dies at age seventy. He is basically setting his son Solomon to take his place. David is probably about sixty-nine years old and he is at the very final months. What he does is he gathers all the leaders of Israel together. 1 Chronicles 28:1 (paraphrased), “David assembled at Jerusalem, all the leaders of Israel. All the mighty men of valor”—war generals. All the political and economic leaders, but then he also assembles the military leaders. They are all there. There are thousands of them. He stands up. His son Solomon is going to be featured and highlighted. David is going to announce the plans to build the temple and how much money he is giving to it.

He is really saying, “Hey, I am going to put a lot of time and energy in the temple. My son is the new leader. I want to make it clear.” Then David says a little bit about himself. This is his farewell speech so to speak. It is his final time that he speaks to the nation. He says the most surprising thing. 1 Chronicles 28:2: “Here me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord.” He ends up giving 100 million dollars. 1 Chronicles 22:14: “Indeed I have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the Lord one hundred thousand talents of gold and one million talents of silver and bronze and iron beyond measure.” If you add it up—the gold and the silver alone—it is 100 million dollars of his own personal money. He had a lot of wars and made a lot of money from the spoils of war.

He said, “I have planned for this.”

So he talks about that and then in 1 Chronicles 28:4 he says, “the Lord God of Israel chose me above all the house of my father to be king over Israel forever, for He has chosen Judah to be the ruler. And of the house of Judah, the house of my father, and among the sons of my father, He was pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.”

They are thinking, “You are sixty-nine.”

They do not know he is going to die within the year, but he is setting his son in place.

You would think that David would say, “God is calling me to be king of Israel. It has been a great forty years. I am laying hands on my son.”

Instead David says, “God is calling me to be king of Israel forever.”

They are going, “Did he say forever?”

“Yea, I think he said forever.”

“Is he not putting his son in place?”

“I think he is.”

In the next couple verses he does.

They are scratching their heads going, “How can he be king of Israel forever then if he is putting his son in place.”

Undoubtedly, those that were closest to him, who were familiar with his values, knew exactly what he was saying. He makes it clear in the Psalms what he thinks about the eternal kingdom. Can you imagine a king of a nation, in the final year of his life standing up, “God has chosen me to be king over this nation forever”? I just cannot imagine this announcement. I wonder if he made it earlier than this. It is the first time it is recorded in the Bible. I think his inner core, his team, knew exactly what he meant.

He moves right on.

When I first saw that I went, “What?”

I got out the concordance, in the Hebrew forever means forever.

“Forever? What?”

I am thinking of a leader.

If I got up and said, “I am going to lead IHOP-KC forever, thus says the Lord.”

They would say, “He stepped over the line. He is confused.”

No, he stepped into revelation is what happened.

Solomon’s Millennial Promise

David says, “The Lord has chosen me to be king forever among all the sons of my fathers. He is pleased with me to make me king over all Israel.”

In 1 Chronicles 28:6-7 he says, “Now he said to me, ‘It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. Moreover I will establish his kingdom forever, if he is steadfast to observe My commandments and My judgments, as it is this day.’”

God said that He would establish Solomon’s kingdom forever as well but with a condition—he has to obey—which he didn’t. This is a negative thing in the big picture.

In that day, Solomon was just wowed and saying, “Wow, I could not have imagined.”

God was offering Solomon what he offered his father David. It is not just that the king of Israel would continue forever, this was something personal. It was something that had conditions. If Solomon did not obey, this would not happen. Solomon did not obey. He fell away from the Lord, but God’s purpose to Israel stayed steady. God’s promise to Solomon is what was cut off. It was nullified. This is the very thing God gave to king Saul. “I will make your kingdom go on forever, but you have to obey me.” King Saul did not obey Him.

Eli’s Millennial Promise

The same tragedy happened with Eli the priest in 1 Samuel 2:29-30 (paraphrased). To Eli the priest, God said, “I would have made you priest forever. You personally would have functioned as a priest, even in the resurrection. You and your sons and daughters would have been in the down line of this forever—your entire family line. But because of your disobedience, you are now not going to have that.” It did not say that Eli was not saved, but he would not have that role. It was taken from him. That was tragic.

It was said to Eli, “It was taken from you.”

It was said to Saul, “It was taken from you. An eternal promise.”

To Solomon, the promise was offered and we just know by deduction that Solomon lost his relationship with God for many years. We do not know how it landed. Maybe he repented in the final years. We do not know. We trust he did but there is no record in Scripture.

Paragraph F: the Lord appeared to Solomon six or seven years later, and backed up the very thing that David his father had prophesied. The Lord appears to Solomon, and says in 1 Kings 9:3-4 (paraphrased), “What your dad prophesied to you at the national assembly seven years ago, I am backing it up right now. If you will walk before me as your father did in integrity.

If you keep my commandments, my statutes, then I will give you a throne forever. Your father said it right back in 1 Chronicles 8:6.” Again, that was about six to seven years previously.

The Lord appears and says, “I am backing up the prophecy I gave your father at the national assembly to give to you. I promised you.”

Solomon is going to have a personal application to this promise and a family line application as well as a national application. Meaning, Israel would get the good of this as a nation. Solomon the man, Solomon the family line, and Israel the nation would all have an application to this promise.

Solomon is the big loser and some of his down line are losers of this as well. Israel still wins because we find out later that Solomon does not walk with the Lord.

I look at these truths and I say, “Lord, this is real stuff” —because God never changes. If He talks to men and women that way in the Word of God and we know He never changes then we know that this is still how He thinks towards His people.

He has never changed one degree of His personality. He is exactly the same. If He talked like that then, He thinks and talks like that now.

I say, “Here I am Lord—whatever You have said to me, it can be nullified if I do not follow through” —in terms of different personal promises even in the age to come.

Paragraph G: I have four more words here but we are not going to go into detail. I am just noting them to you. These are 500 years later. Three of them are about 500 years later. One of them is about 300 years later. The one Hosea is about 300 years after David. The other ones are about 500, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. What is going on here is that they are 300-500 years later giving prophecies about David’s role. Some commentators will make David just be symbolic of Jesus. I do not believe it, if you are careful with these passages—meaning you are paying attention to all the details of the prophecies. The servant David is in contrast to the Lord Himself.

There is the Lord and then there is the king David who is called king and prince. I do not believe that David and the Lord are the same. When you put all the details together, it is crystal clear that it is talking about the man David, not Jesus.

Jesus is the son of David. He is called that fifteen times in Scripture. There are a number of titles. Jesus has the throne of David, the continuity of David’s throne. That is true, but Jesus is never in the Bible one time called David. David is always called David. Jesus has other titles, but He is never given the title of another man. Even though Moses was a picture of Him and David was a picture of Him, Jesus is never called David in the Scripture. This is actually talking about a fallen man in 1000 BC, 3000 years ago who gets forgiven, and God says, “I have a plan for you in the age to come. By the way body of Christ, I have a plan for you too because I do not change. If I had one for David, I have one for you.”

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth

David is the first millennial theologian in Scripture. He is a prophet. He sees the Millennium as a prophet and he breaks it down as a teacher. I believe he has this dynamic connectedness to it because he sees it in his own destiny related to it. This was not a small subject to him. I encourage you to go deep in Psalm 37. This is one of his most comprehensive statements on the millennial kingdom. He brings it up many times. In Psalm 37:9-11, “Those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth...the meek shall inherit the earth.”

This is the very verse that Jesus quotes. Jesus takes it right from David. Of course Jesus gave it to David on the front end. Jesus is quoting Psalm 37 when He says, “The meek will inherit the earth.”

Psalm 37:18 (paraphrased), “The inheritance is forever.” The meek inheriting the earth does not mean they have more influence in this age. It means that a little bit but I am sure you have noticed that the meek are not ruling the earth right now. They never have. Right now, though a few guys might be born again in big positions, mostly they are not operating in meekness. The leaders in the economic, political, military, media, whatever, all the different sciences, most of them are not meek men and women. Some of them are born again. That is not the same thing as being meek. Meek people are normally pushed out of the way by selfish people. Though there is a little element of which the meek are inheriting. We have a little bit of influence right now. That will increase between now and the second coming. What David meant was literally the whole earth will be inherited. It will be under the leadership of people who have authority from God because of their meekness in this age.

There are people in this room, undoubtedly because of your meekness in this age, who will have authority over the earth in the age to come. He is talking in verse 18 of the eternal inheritance of inheriting the earth.

Psalm 37:28-9 (paraphrased), “Those that are blessed by God will inherit the earth. The righteous shall inherit the land. They will inherit it and dwell in it forever.” To inherit it means that they will have authority over it. That is happening a little right now.

In Matthew 5:5 Jesus said, “The meek will inherit the earth.”

Mostly selfish ungodly people inherit the earth —meaning they are in the positions of influence in the earth. Maybe one or two percent of the earth is under the leadership of meek and righteous people. Probably ninety-eight or ninety-nine percent of the earth is not. So did David miss it? Did Jesus miss it? No. It has an application in part in this age, but it has a full application in the age to come. Meekness in this age will result in inheriting the earth in the full complete sense of the word.

Apostles Prophecies for the Millennial Kingdom

Roman numeral five: now the apostles are going to receive prophecies for the age to come. These are twenty-year old young men. A lot of scholars estimate they were late teens to early twenties. Here are these young guys, and here is Jesus.

He says, “I want you to know, you are going to sit on thrones in the age to come.”

What intense information—for any human being. These young guys in their twenties, they are going, “Wow.” It does not puff them up in pride. It has the exact opposite affect. It makes them resolve to be pure and humble. It had the impact Jesus wanted it to have in them. There was one it did not impact rightly, Judas. It motivated the others into deep resolve for righteousness and meekness.

They thought, “If we have a guaranteed victory, we can lose everything in the court of man right now because it cannot go wrong.”

It was not just that they have the Lord. That is enough. In the sense of having an assignment, their assignment is also secure, not just their relationship with God. In theory, the Lord is enough. In practicality, people really care about their assignment too. Our assignment in the age to come is secure and it just so happens that our assignment in the age to come brings us into greater experience with the Lord. It is not like we have to choose one or the other.

Peter says in Matthew 19:27 (paraphrased), “We have left everything, what shall we have?” What a bold question. “We have left everything.”

Jesus answers in Matthew 19:28 (paraphrased), “Peter, you want to be soft when you are talking to One who is fully God who left the courts of heaven. You do not want to say in His presence, ‘We left everything.’”

Jesus could have winked at him and said, “Peter, sort of, sort of. I could tell you about leaving everything, but we will do that a couple hundred years. We will have a real serious talk about who left everything. You do not get it right now, but that is okay.”

Jesus was very kind. When you are talking to Jesus with zeal about what you left, you hesitate when you get a little bit of understanding.

“What shall we get in return?”

Instead of Jesus rebuking him, He says, “That is good. As a matter of fact, I have a good answer for you.”

Beloved, it is the same answer He gives to us. He is not puffing up Peter. He is anchoring Peter in a resolve and a focus. He is anchoring Peter in truth that will keep him steady the rest of his life. This is not the only truth that kept Peter steady, but it was certainly not wasted words on Jesus’ part. This was strategic. It was meaningful. It was like an arrow shot into Peter’s heart. Verse 28, “You will sit on thrones in the age to come.” The regeneration means when the earth is reborn. That is in the millennial kingdom and after that into the Eternal Age.

Luke 22:28-30, this is in a different context and has two different prophecies. Verse 28 (paraphrased), Jesus says it on His own, “You who have continued with Me in My trials, those of you who are bearing the difficulty of standing with Me. It is unpopular. Even believers do not appreciate your stand for the Lord sometimes. You are standing with Me in difficulty.” He was not asked a question. He just brings it up to them here.

Verse 29: “I bestow upon you a kingdom just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” There will be real food. It will not be like airy food. It will be real physical food that you will eat and drink.

Some people think, “It will be like figurative.”

No, it will be real food.

“You will judge. You will be in my government.” He says it twice to them. He wanted to confirm this to them.

Afterwards, He knew that this was established in their spirit. Then, of course most of the apostles are martyred, but John finds out later that his name is on one of the foundation stones.

In Revelation 21:14 he looks at the New Jerusalem stone and says, “Lord, Lord, ouch —like ‘I love you so much it hurts’ ouch. My name is on?”

“Yes John.”

Talk about motivation.

John goes, “Lord, what did I do to receive this kind of honor in your sight?”

“You gave yourself to me.”

The Lord reveals this to John. We do not know how many other people knew this. John receives this at the end of his life. They might have known some of this beforehand. I do not know and I do not have an opinion on that.

Abraham’s Millennial Promises

Roman numeral six: others in Scripture had personal prophecies.

Abraham. His greatest fulfillment of the prophecies he received are in the age to come. Abraham was promised the land and world influence which has its fullness in the age to come. Abraham never got the land. Israel still does not have the land. They have one little portion of it. They will have all the land and it will be related to Abraham too—in a personal way, not just a figurative way.

Zerubbabel’s Millennial Promises

Zerubbabel was the guy who built the house of prayer back in 536 BC when Israel came out of Babylonian captivity. They built the temple when they came out of Babylon captivity. The prophet Haggai speaks and says in Haggai 2:21-23 (paraphrased), “Zerubbabel, here is what the Lord says to you. At the end of the age when God shakes the heavens and the earth, at the end of the age when God overthrows the throne of kingdoms, when God destroys the strength of gentile kingdoms, in that day, Zerubbabel, I will make you my signet ring.” In other words, I will make you a man of authority and a man of government. This is 500 BC.

“‘In that day’, what do you mean?”

We now know from hindsight—2500 years later.

“What do you mean in that day you will make me a signet ring? Will I be alive then?”

“Yea, you will be alive then. You will have a resurrected body, you will be on the earth, and you will be a man of government in my eternal kingdom. This is in the time when all the nations are all overthrown and my Son comes to the earth.”

Haggai says, “What an amazing prophecy.”

Daniel’s Millennial Promises

Daniel gets the same sort of word. The angel is talking to Daniel in Daniel 12:3 (paraphrased), “You shall rest (dying). You are in the end of your life (late eighties). At the end of the age, you will arise and enter your inheritance.” He is talking about in the millennial kingdom. He has an inheritance that he was waiting for. We do not know if Daniel knew the details. He might have? I do not know.

Elijah’s Millennial Promises

Elijah. It was prophesied that he would come back. Elijah was never prophesied to come the first time, but he is prophesied several times to come the second time. Elijah has more in the Bible about the second time that he comes to the earth than his first time.

Melchizedek’s Millennial Promises

Melchizedek will be a priest forever. This is a gentile guy—a gentile king who is honoring the Lord. He is a picture of the Lord, but he is not the Lord. He is a gentile king in Salem that was Jerusalem in that day. He receives Abraham and the Lord prophesies over him, I do not know when, “You will be a priest forever, Melchizedek.”

“Thank you Lord, that moves me.”

“Melchizedek, you have a role forever in the priesthood.”

One sentence from God’s heart like that could set the whole course of your life.

Millennial Promises for Aaron and Phinehas

Aaron. The Lord told Aaron that he would be a priest forever. Phinehas—this is really something. He is in the days of Moses. He is a priest in Moses’ day. He is a young man at the end of Moses’ life. The nation of Israel in Numbers 25 fell into sin, immorality and idolatry with the Midianites. The Lord spoke to Moses because Phinehas was very disturbed. He dealt with the sin and confronted it. The Lord

spoke to Moses in Numbers 25:11 (paraphrased), “Go tell Phinehas, because he was zealous with my zeal, say this to him. I am going to give him a covenant of peace. It will be to him and his descendents an everlasting priesthood because he was stirred up to obey me at an unusual level. Go tell Phinehas Moses, go give him the news. I just told you face to face. That act of obedience will have an eternal effect on his offspring and his role as well.”

Paragraph H: Zadok was one of Phinehas’ great, great, great grandsons. Zadok had the same spirit that his great, great, great grandfather had. Zadok and his offspring, they have a promise that I will skip.

Eli’s Millennial Promises

Paragraph I: like Saul, Eli was a priest and everything was going well. The favor of God was on him, but Eli would not obey the Lord. The Lord said in 1 Samuel 2:30, “The Lord God of Israel says, ‘I have said indeed to your house Eli and the house of your father that you would walk before Me forever.’” This is like what He told king Saul and Solomon. “You have a forever assignment if you will persevere with me.” They are not talking about salvation right now. They are talking about their role and their function before the throne of God.

1 Samuel 2:30-35 (paraphrased): “But now, far be it from me that I will give you this role. For those who honor me I will honor. If you despise me I will despise you. I will lightly esteem you.

Here is what I am going to do, I am taking the promise back because you did not fulfill the conditions. I will raise up another priest to take your place.”

We find out it is Zadok.

“I am going to give it to him forever instead of you.”

This is a forever assignment. This is not talking about salvation. This is talking about a function or role in their life.

Paul on Millennial Promises

Paul the apostle was focused on millennial promises. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:24, “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain the prize.”

He is not talking about the prize of being born again. He is talking to born again believers that they would obtain the fullness of what God has for them. Not to be born again, but the full measure of reward and the glory. That is what the prize is. “Everyone who competes for the prize is temperate (disciplined) in all things. They do it to win a perishable crown.” The ‘stephanos crown’ was like the gold medal at the Olympics. It was not like the diadem, the crown of a ruler, it was the champion athlete who won a medal. He is talking about winning the crown in the race. I am not racing against you and you are not racing against me. I am racing against encroaching sin and darkness that is trying to take me out of the race. I am racing faithfulness in God’s eyes to withstand the attack of the enemy who is trying to nullify my assignment. That is the race we are running. I am not running against you, and you are not running against me. I do not want to do better than you. I do not want to get more rewarded than you.

The race is my dedication versus my lack of dedication. It is a marathon race. It is not a sprint. It is decades. I have a prize and you have a prize. The Lord has offered every one of us a prize—the fullness of the reward that He has promised us.

1 Peter 2:11 (paraphrased) He is saying: “Mike, I have given you ‘X’ amount of years on the earth as a born again believer, I have a prize, I have something for you. You are on a long race. You are not competing with another man or a person. You are competing with darkness that is encroaching upon you. The Spirit is striving against it. You are in a war in your own soul.”

He says, “The athlete will be disciplined in everything to win a gold medal. We do it to win an imperishable trophy, crown, or stephanos. Therefore I run temperate in every way. My time, my money, my appetite, my words, what I do with my free time. It is all under the lens of running a race for many years (verse 25).”

Verse 26: “I run, not with uncertainty.” Many believers, they have so little focus and so much uncertainty. I ask people, “What is your vision?” Almost always they tell me what their vision is to accomplish in this age, mostly in money or influence.

That is not really what I mean. When I say, “What is your vision?” I do mean that, but I mean, what is your vision? Why are you on the earth? The answer is not mostly about having more money or more influence in this age. Our vision has to

be to have our heart expand fully in the grace of God and to fulfill the fullness of God's call for us to be prepared for the age to come.

That must be our vision. It cannot be about getting bigger and getting more money now. If that is your vision, you are already lost at sea, even if you name the name of Jesus. You are confused. You have the big issue settled, but you are confused about what your life is about. Many believers are running with uncertainty. They do not have any focus after they are born again. They are ambivalent, going around networking, getting a little more money and a little more honor by any opportunity that comes along.

Go deep in God; get vision to go deep in God. Fast and pray and humble yourself, serve in secret, fill yourself with the Word of God. Get ready for your next assignment. You will have plenty of important assignments in this age. They may not be important to men, but they will be to God and He will record them. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:27 (paraphrased), "I do not run with uncertainty. I have total focus where I am going. I discipline my body, I bring it into subjection, lest when I preach to others I am disqualified." He does not mean losing his salvation. He means being disqualified from gaining the full reward.

Beloved, there is a prize. It is the Lord, but it is not only the Lord. It is our interaction and assignment in working with the Lord and the glory of God that we will experience that will cause us to experience the Lord.

I am going for a prize. I have, by the grace of God, focused my soul to go after something. It is not about IHOP-KC being bigger. I appreciate doing well with IHOP-KC but it is not my life vision. My life vision is to get this prize, to enter into my full reward before the Lord. I have a few more years on the earth—maybe it is a year, maybe it is 100 years. It is a moment either way.

You only have a moment. Let's get focused. Let's go after this. Amen.