***Session 2 Five Foundational Aspects of the Millennial Kingdom***

1. review: The Millennial Kingdom: Jesus’ 1,000-year reign on earth
	1. The Millennium is a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the world in righteousness. He will govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. At this time God’s kingdom will be openly manifest, affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc.).

4I saw thrones, and they [saints] sat on them…And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years…6They…shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

*The Millennial Kingdom is a 1000-year period in which Jesus will rule the world in righteousness. In Revelation 20:4, John the apostle said, “I saw thrones and they”—the saints—“sat on them. They lived and reigned with Christ.” They lived. They have resurrected bodies is the idea. They reigned with Christ for 1000 years. Verse 6, “They shall reign with Him a thousand years.” It says the phrase, a thousand years, six times in Revelation 20. God’s kingdom will be openly manifest, affecting every sphere of society across the earth for 1000 years.*

* 1. The Father will bring heaven and earth together. God created the universe in two distinct realms, earth and heaven (Gen. 1:1).

9Having made known to us the mystery [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. (Eph. 1:9-10)

19It pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, 20and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself…whether things on earth or things in heaven... (Col. 1:19-20)

* + 1. *Heaven* speaks of the spiritual realm where God’s presence is openly manifest.
		2. *Earth* speaks of the physical realm where human process and physical sensation reach full expression. Jesus will rule the earth, with the *natural human processes not suspended, but significantly enhanced* by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit.

*The Father will bring together heaven and earth. He will bring the earthly realm and the heavenly realm together on the earth. That is one of the key concepts to understanding the Millennial Kingdom. There will be the natural dimension of the earth, and there will be the supernatural, heavenly dimension of heaven coming down to earth.*

*In Ephesians 1:9-10, Paul said, “God made known to us His mysterious plan that He would gather together into one”—into unity—“everything in Christ.” That means all that Jesus redeemed, all that He purchased, both the things that are in heaven and the things on earth. All the things that Jesus has authority over in heaven and earth will be brought together. It will be brought together* ***on the earth****. In Colossians 1:19-20, Paul says the same thing again, “It pleased the Father that in Jesus all the fullness of God would dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things in the earthly realm or things in the heavenly realm.” Everything is reconciled and brought together to Him.*

*The heavenly realm speaks of the supernatural realm where God’s presence is openly manifest. That is in heaven right now. It will be that way on the earth in the days to come. The earthly realm is the physical realm where physical human process and physical sensation come to full expression. When you think of the Millennium—this is the stumbling block right here—Jesus will rule the earth with the natural human processes in full effect. They will not be suspended. People will build cities and plant gardens. There will be national economies. There will be human infrastructure throughout the whole earth. It will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit.*

* 1. Platonism, an ancient Greek philosophy, viewed the spirit realm as good and the material realm as bad. This philosophy continues in the Church today. It leads some to think wrongly about heaven.

*Most of you know the ancient philosopher Plato. He viewed the spirit realm as good and the material realm as bad. This idea or philosophy that the material realm is bad got into the church. It has led some people to think wrongly about heaven. They think of the future as only a spiritual reality because they think that finally we will be delivered from the physical reality, the negative part of the created order.*

*When God created the heavens and the earth in Genesis 1, when He made the spiritual and the physical dimensions, He said, “It is very good.” It is not God’s will that our future be devoid and separated from the natural, physical realm. God likes the physical realm. It is not bad. Bad things happen in it, but the realm itself is good. God has redeemed it by the blood of Jesus. We will live forever in the physical realm on the earth because the New Jerusalem where we will live is coming down to the earth.*

* 1. 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)

* 1. It is necessary for both realms to function together for God’s people to experience and express the *fullness of God—*the fullness of God’s personality, purpose and presence. (Eph. 1:22-23; 3:19; 4:13; Col. 1:19-20; 2:9-10; Jn. 1:16; Rom. 11:12, 15). We experience this in part in this age and in fullness in the age-to-come.

19…to know the love of Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:19)

13…until we all come...to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Eph. 4:13)

*It is necessary for both realms to function together for God’s people to experience the fullness of God. There are many verses that make it clear that we are going to walk in the fullness of God. To walk in the fullness of God requires both realms to come together. The fullness of God cannot be experienced just in the supernatural realm or just in the physical realm. It is the coming together of the two realms.*

* 1. The Father gave all authority to Jesus and gave Jesus as head over all things to the Church (Eph. 1:22). The Church is God’s chosen vehicle to release His fullness throughout the earth for all eternity (Eph. 1:23).

22He [Father] put all things under His [Jesus’] feet, and gave Him to be head over all things
to the church, 23which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph. 1:22-23)

*God gave all authority to Jesus. It says in Ephesians 1:22, “The Father put all things under Jesus’ feet.” Everything in heaven and earth is put under the authority of Jesus. Then He gave Jesus as the head to the church. He said, in essence, “Church, here is the gift. Jesus with His leadership and His authority is a gift to you.” He gave Jesus to the church, which is His body. The body of Christ—this most remarkable description—is called the fullness of Him who fills all in all. In other words, God is going to use the head, Jesus, and the body in unity as the vehicle to express the fullness of God throughout the created order. Beloved, you are the vessel God has chosen. I am talking about the body of Christ through history, the redeemed. You are the vessel, the vehicles, the “you plural,” that God has chosen to join to Jesus under His headship. He gave all authority to Jesus the head. Then He gave this headship, this Man who has all authority, to the church. We are unified by the Spirit. He said that we are going to be the vehicle for which the fullness is manifest throughout the created order forever and forever.*

*Jesus does not just wave His hand and the fullness of God is everywhere. Jesus through the church manifests His power, and the natural realm and the heavenly realm express the fullness of God. It is Jesus’ authority and presence through the church, and of course Jesus is the centerpiece, and all are focused on the supremacy of His worth, His glory, His honor, etc.*

1. God’s original plan: a family of love who rules the earth together

*God’s original plan was to have a family of love. He wanted a family dwelling in love that would rule the earth together. That was His plan from the beginning. He did not want to rule the earth directly. He wanted to rule the earth through His people as they lived under His leadership.*

* 1. The Father’s original plan was to have a family who would rule creation with Him. The Father yearned to have a family who walked in love and unity as sons of God and as the Bride of Christ.

18I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters… (2 Cor. 6:18)

7For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

*I want to let you know where we are going. The reason for this session is that I want to give you a bigger picture, the broad strokes of what is going to happen in the Millennial Kingdom and some of the major things God is doing in the Millennial Kingdom.*

*The Father’s original plan was to have a family to rule the created order with Him. The Father yearned for a family. He yearned for a family that would walk in love and unity. They would walk as the sons of God, and they would walk together as the bride of Christ.*

*In 2 Corinthians 6:18, the Lord says, “I will be a Father to you. You will be My sons and daughters.” We will be children of God. We are sons and daughters in the one sense. In another way, male and female, we are the sons of God. That term describes a position of being heirs of God’s power. We have access to His power. Both men and women are the bride of Christ, and as such we have access to His heart. As sons we have access to His power and His throne. As the bride we have access to His heart and His emotions. Men and women are both sons of God and the bride of Christ.*

*The point I am making here is that He wanted His children to be the heirs who live in the family authority and manifest the family name. He also wants us to be Jesus’ eternal companion, His bride.*

* 1. God has given His people an “eternal dominion mandate” to manifest His glory in the created order.

26God said, “Let Us make man in Our image…let them have dominion…over all the earth…” 28God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion…” (Gen. 1:26-28)

3I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars…4what is man that You are mindful of him…? 5You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You put all things under his feet. (Ps. 8:3-6)

21All things are yours 22whether Paul or Apollos…the world or life…or things present or things to come—all are yours. 23You are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s. (1 Cor. 3:21-23)

*God gave His people a dominion mandate. This dominion mandate was not temporary. In Genesis 1:28, He gave the dominion of the earth realm to Adam and Eve. He* ***gave*** *it to them. That was not a temporary stewardship. That was an eternal mandate. He said this to them before they fell into sin.*

*God said, “Let us make man in our image.” Here is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in dialogue. Notice the “Let us.” There is the Trinitarian dialogue going on. “Let them have dominion over all the earth.” That is not a temporary stewardship. That is an eternal one. They would have dominion over all the created physical realm.*

*In Psalm 8, David takes up this theme and elaborates on it. He takes up the Genesis 1 dominion mandate and develops it. He says in Psalm 8:3, “When I consider the heavens, the work of Your fingers, when I consider the moon and the stars, when I look up and see the heavens”—talking about the atmosphere above—I ask myself, “What is man”—what are human beings, that You are so thoughtful—“that You are so mindful of them?” You consider them for such glorious things! You are so thoughtful about them.*

*Then he goes on to say, “You crowned man,” talking about the human race, not man versus woman. That is not his point here. “You have crowned the human race”—talking about the redeemed—“with glory and honor. You made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands.” You put everything under the feet of the redeemed, but that they are human is the idea. Everything has been put under them. This is David, about 3000 years* ***after*** *Adam fell into sin. Genesis 1 was before Adam sinned. Psalm 8 is after Adam sinned. God is still saying, “Yes, I have given dominion of all the earth to the human race.”*

*Paul the apostle comes along about 1000 years after David, and he says in 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 that all things, all things belong to the body of Christ. Everything. Whether Paul or Apollos, the world or life, present things or things to come, everything belongs to the body of Christ. In other words, God made it, created it, and prepared the kingdom thinking of us.*

* 1. The Father prepared the kingdom *for His family* from the foundations of the world (Mt. 25:34).

34“Come…inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” (Mt. 25:34)

*In Matthew 25:34, this is what Jesus said, “Come and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.” This is Jesus saying that the Father prepared this whole plan—the whole created order—and He prepared it thinking of you. You were on His mind when He thought of this. He was thinking of crowing His people with glory and honor and how they would be close to Him in deep union. It would be through the body of Christ that the fullness of God would be released throughout all of the created order.*

*What a remarkable reality as to who we are in Christ, what our destiny is, the glory and honor God has prepared for the saints! All of this is happening in part in this age. This is not something we wait until the Millennium to believe and walk in. We walk in it in part in this age, and we walk in it in fullness in the age to come. We are walking in that dominion now every time we pray for the sick and someone gets healed. Whenever we see God’s blessing on finances. Whenever we see His favor on relationships. That is part of the dominion mandate where God’s kingdom is being released now through His people.*

1. Overview of five foundational aspects of the Millennial Kingdom
	1. I will detail five aspects of the millennial kingdom that are necessary for God’s people to experience His fullness on the earth (Eph. 3:19). They bring a supernatural, physical, political, spiritual, and relational dimension to the Father’s eternal plan for His people on the earth.

*I want to shift gears and look at five foundational aspects of the Millennial Kingdom. When we look at these five, it gives us a broad picture of what God is after. Then in the classes coming up we will look at them in a lot more detail. We are still in the broad picture part of this course here. I will mention five aspects of the kingdom that are necessary for God’s people to experience the fullness of God that is our destiny. The fullness of God meaning His full purpose. The fullness of God means the full power. The fullness of God means His presence. The fullness of His purpose, power, and presence is released through human beings to human beings and through them as they are joined to Christ. It is in context to the heavenly realm and the earthly realm coming together in the age to come. That is the context for the fullness.*

*These are five foundational aspects, not that there are not more that we could put on the list. We could make a list and probably add a few more to this. These give you a nice snapshot of what God is after. These five foundational aspects bring a supernatural, physical, political, spiritual, relational dimension to God’s plan for His people.*

*When He was planning this from the foundation of the earth, God wanted the supernatural realm to be fully involved. Therefore the New Jerusalem is coming down. He wanted a physical realm. He wants the garden of Eden reality. He wants the political realm. He wants the Kingdom of David and the throne of David being manifest. He wants the spiritual realm, the house of prayer. You are called the house of prayer for all nations. That is identity of the redeemed forever. There is a relational dimension. We are the family of God as well. Not just that we are sons of God and the bride of Christ. We are brothers and sisters dwelling together, enjoying one another in love as we enjoy our family relationship to the Godhead. God wants this New Jerusalem, garden of Eden, Kingdom of David, house of prayer, family of God dynamic all flowing together on the earth in fullness. Beloved, that is your destiny.*

* 1. The ***New Jerusalem*** will come down to earth, bringing a *supernatural, eternal* dimension to the millennial kingdom. It will include the supernatural aspects of our resurrected bodies.
	2. The ***garden of Eden*** will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) including physical pleasures.
	3. The ***kingdom of David*** will bring a *political and social* aspect to the Millennium. This will include governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as the government of every nation on earth is brought under Jesus’ authority.
	4. The ***house of prayer*** will bring a *spiritual* dimension to the kingdom. The millennial temple will be a global worship center from which Jesus will lead the nations in prayer. He will call His people worldwide to encounter God and to rule with Him from a place of worship and prayer (Isa. 56:7).
	5. The ***family of God*** will bring a *relational community* dimension as the saints live as sons of God and the Bride of Christ and as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26).
1. New Jerusalem: supernatural eternal aspects of the Kingdom
	1. The New Jerusalem will come down to earth, bringing a supernatural, eternal dimension to the millennial kingdom. This will release a greater measure of resurrection life on the earth. The New Jerusalem is the place where resurrected saints will live.

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

*There is a supernatural aspect to the kingdom and an eternal aspect. It is not only supernatural. It is eternal. It never ever will end. Revelation 3:12 says the New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven. It comes down to the earth is the idea. Three times in the book of Revelation the fact of the New Jerusalem descending from heaven to the earth is mentioned. Three times. That is a lot of mention when you consider the brevity of very important subjects in the book of Revelation. They get a phrase or two. This is emphasized three times.*

*When the New Jerusalem comes down, it will release a greater measure of resurrection life on the earth. There is resurrection life already operating because the saints are here. When you pray for the sick, that is resurrection life. When you walk in victory over anger or lust, that is resurrection life. Resurrection power is in us right now, operating in us. There will be a whole different dimension. We are talking about this 1500-mile-high city coming down to the earth with the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb and in all the dimensions of the supernatural realm, the veil being lifted entirely from the physical realm. The two realms come together. Wow!*

* 1. The heavenly Jerusalem will descend to earthly Jerusalem, connecting the two Jerusalems. When the New Jerusalem comes to the earth, then heaven will literally be on earth. The veil between the natural and heavenly realms will be lifted when Jesus’ throne is established on earth.

*The heavenly Jerusalem will descend to the earthly Jerusalem. There will be the connection of the two Jerusalems. The Jerusalem that is on the earth now will be the same Jerusalem, and Jesus will rule from there. His throne will be in that city. Out of that city the glory of God will progressively spread throughout the earth, from the city of Jerusalem, from the throne of Jesus. The New Jerusalem is coming down and connecting to the earthly realm. There is going to be this dynamic connection of the two Jerusalems together.*

*When the New Jerusalem comes to the earth, then heaven will literally be on the earth. Jesus said, “Pray ‘on earth as it is in heaven.’” Heaven will be on earth in a literal sense. The veil between the two realms will be lifted. Right now there is a veil between the natural realm and the supernatural realm, the heavenly realm. If the veil were lifted right now, we would see angels all over this room. If the veil were lifted right now, we would see realities of the whole heavenly realm. The veil is there right now. One day that veil will be lifted. There will be no hindrance between the two realms. The angels are not hindered by any veil. They see the earthly realm and the heavenly realm perfectly clearly. That is going to be happening to the human race in the days to come on the earth. Wow! That wow was for me. I kind of enjoyed that.*

* 1. God walked with Adam in face-to-face fellowship with unity between these two realms (Gen. 2-3). A veil was created between them when Adam sinned. This veil will be lifted at Jesus’ coming.

*God walked with Adam in face-to-face fellowship. Before Adam sinned in Genesis 2-3, there was face-to-face interaction with God. There was unity between the two realms. Then Adam sinned, and a veil was created between or released between the two realms. When Jesus comes—the last Adam, the second Man—when Jesus comes as the second Adam, that veil is going to be lifted. Just like it was back before the first Adam sinned when there was no veil. Jesus, when He returns, is going to remove that veil.*

* 1. In my opinion, 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. Note that many see Revelation 21:9-22:5 as a parenthetical section that describes what happens on earth *during* the Millennium.

*When will the New Jerusalem descend to the earth? I believe it will descend twice. This is my opinion, but there are a number of biblical reasons why I believe this is true. I believe the New Jerusalem will descend to the earth and will be connected to the earthly Jerusalem at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. Then 1000 years later after Satan is released out of prison and then is banished to the lake of fire, and after God rinses the earth—I believe He rinses and cleanses the earth with fire—then the New Jerusalem is, I believe, on this present earth. I believe the new heaven and the new earth is actually this earth renovated to fullness.*

*There are two different views held by theologians. There are a lot of them on both sides. There are verses in the Bible, and there are about ten or fifteen on each side of the argument. I think there are more, though, on the side that I am going to emphasize. One position is that the earth is annihilated after the Millennial Kingdom. The other position, which I think is the right one, is that the earth is going to be renovated after the Millennium. Not annihilated.*

*I do not think it overly matters which position you take. The earth will be here. When God created the heavens and the earth in Genesis 1, He said, “It is very good.” I believe it is so good that the devil cannot ruin it. Jesus reversed the curse and all the work of death and darkness that sin brought. I believe it has been fully redeemed. I do not believe the earth is thrown away. I believe the earth is fully renovated. Then the New Jerusalem does not come and rest in proximity above the earthly Jerusalem like it does at the second coming of Christ. The New Jerusalem will actually sit on the earth in a proper way.*

*I believe at the coming of Christ, during the Millennial Kingdom, the New Jerusalem is above the earthly Jerusalem, but in dynamic connection with it. We do not know exactly what that connection looks like. It has close proximity to the earthly Jerusalem and a dynamic connection to the earthly Jerusalem. Though not on the earth proper, at the end of the Millennium it will actually rest on the earth. That is my opinion as to what the Scripture says is going to happen. You do not have to make that a major point of doctrine, but we are trying to get a clear picture formed by the Bible of what this might look like because it inspires us. It strengthens our hope the more clearly we can get in line with the unity of Scripture.*

* 1. Jesus’ throne will be *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).

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

6I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [millennial temple]...7He said, “This is the place of My throne…, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” (Ezek. 43:6-7)

*The throne of Jesus will be both in the millennial temple in Jerusalem and in the New Jerusalem, the heavenly Jerusalem. Someone asks, “Does Jesus have one throne or two?” It is clear that Jesus’ throne is in the millennial temple on the earth. Clearly. There are many passages that back that up. And, His throne is still in the heavenly Jerusalem. People ask, “Is it one or two?”*

*I always say, “Yes.” It is one throne in two expressions. Because I think the New Jerusalem is coming down and because the throne of Jesus in the heavenly Jerusalem, the throne of Jesus in the earthly Jerusalem will have a dynamic connection with it. It will not be two thrones. It will be one throne in two expressions in a dynamic connection together. I believe the New Jerusalem will be over the earthly Jerusalem. The heavenly Jerusalem will be over the earthly one, dynamically connected to it.*

*Revelation 22:3 says that the throne of God and the throne of the Lamb will be in it. In context, that means in the New Jerusalem. Ezekiel 43:6 says something different. Ezekiel said, “I heard Him.” Ezekiel had a vision. Jesus appeared to him. Jesus was speaking to him and revealing to him the millennial temple, the temple that is going to be on the earth, in the earthly Jerusalem in the Millennium. Jesus was speaking to him. He was sitting in that temple, or standing in it. Jesus said to him, “This is the place of My throne.” He is pointing to the millennial temple in earthly Jerusalem, saying, “This temple, this is where My throne will be.” Then He went on to say, “This is the place where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” Not just 1000 years. He will live here forever. On the earth, right there. So I believe it is one throne in two expressions.*

* 1. Jesus’ *throne of glory* (Mt. 19:28; 25:31; Rev. 4) with an expression in both Jerusalems: I suggest that it will be a vast “governmental complex” since it will include the large millennial temple structure on earth (Ezek. 43) and the vast throne room of the Father and Son in heaven (Rev. 4).
	I imagine a governmental complex with the “north end” of it extending into the New Jerusalem and the “south end” of it based in the millennial temple in Jerusalem on earth.

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

*Jesus used the term, “the throne of glory.” He used it twice. He talked about the throne of glory coming to the earth. I believe the throne of glory is not a little ten-foot throne that He sits on. I think it is a glorious throne. I believe it is vast and supernatural and dynamic and glorious in a way beyond anything we can fully grasp in our minds. Although there are indications in the Scripture that give us a little bit of idea about this throne of glory, I suggest—this is again not a doctrine, but it is a suggestion—that there will be a vast governmental complex. There will be the earthly throne in the earthly Jerusalem and the heavenly throne in the heavenly Jerusalem connected as one throne. It will include the large millennial temple structure. Jesus’ throne is in the millennial temple structure.*

*If you have been downtown—I am kind of throwing this out here; it is kind of a random, not perfectly accurate analogy—if you have been down to the Kansas City Convention Center, there is the Municipal Auditorium and the Kansas City Convention Center. All of it is connected together, a vast structure. The millennial temple will be far bigger than all of that. It will be glorious. It will be a whole network of buildings and structures. It is the throne complex on the earth. Then there is the heavenly throne connected to it. I think of it as this vast, glorious governmental complex. That is not a perfect term. It is the best thing I can come up with right now.*

*At the north end of the complex or the upper end is the heavenly Jerusalem. The south end or the bottom end is the millennial temple. It is all one reality. The saints are serving in it. The angels are serving in it. It is this vast palace/throne room complex where Jesus’ throne is. He said it very simple, “The throne of glory.” I can imagine Him stopping and saying, “You guys have no idea the dimension of glory that will be on this throne.” I believe it will be a complex that is so vast.*

*One of the passages we will look at in another session is in Psalm 48. I will just give you one sentence on it as we are talking about the New Jerusalem and the throne of God on the earth in the millennial Jerusalem and how they are connected together. It says the kings of the earth will come in procession to see this great city. It says that they will be overwhelmed with awe, terror, and fear at the very sight of the city. I believe they are seeing the vast throne of glory. It says these kings are trembling in terror when they are having their kingly meeting where Jesus is King of all kings. “Come on over to My throne.” The first time, or maybe every time, they are filled with trembling when they approach that city with Him in it. That is how glorious and vast this throne dimension is in this context for God’s throne.*

* 1. A “tidal wave” of God’s glory will spread to all nations from Jerusalem.

14The earth will be filled with the…glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Hab. 2:14)

*It says in Isaiah 2:1-4 that from Jerusalem the word of God will go forth to the ends of the earth. There is this progression. It starts in Jerusalem with Jesus’ throne in the city. He comes down and establishes His throne there. He calls down the New Jerusalem in this dynamic connection to the earthly Jerusalem, this throne of glory that is terrifying in its splendor and glory. Then the word of the Lord goes out of Jerusalem with the presence of God. I believe it progressively fills the whole earth until over the course of 1000 years the earth is filled with the glory of God. I do not believe the Lord comes, waves His hand on the first day, and everything in the millennial earth is restored and brought to fullness and the glory of God is everywhere. I believe it progressively spreads out over the whole earth under Jesus’ leadership. The garden of Eden conditions are spreading out progressively across the earth. The glory of God fills the earth. Then it comes to mature righteousness as the earth is brought to the fullness of the glory of God in that time.*

* 1. In Bethel, about twelve miles north of Jerusalem, Jacob saw a place where a ladder extended from the earth to the gate of heaven. He saw angels ascend and descend between the heavenly and earthly realms. Jacob’s ladder points to the connection of these two realms.

12He dreamed…a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it…17He said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!” (Gen. 28:12-16)

*I think that Jacob’s experience at Bethel in Genesis 28 gives just a hint of what might be happening. Again, this is just a suggestion here. Bethel is only about ten or twelve miles from Jerusalem. In the millennial context, Bethel is right there in the sphere of the whole Jerusalem area. It was in Bethel where Jacob dreamed and saw a ladder. This ladder went from the earth to the heavens. The angels went up and down on it. This ladder touched the very gate of heaven, the gateway of heaven.*

*In verse 17, Jacob said in this dream, “How awesome is this place.” This place meaning Bethel. From the millennial point of view, Bethel is in context to the city boundary lines near to the city of Jerusalem. It is in context to that. Jacob said, “How awesome is this place”—again, just next door to Jerusalem—“It is none other than the house of God. This is the gate of heaven.” I believe that this area of Jerusalem will be the gate or portal from which the glory of God spreads progressively to the whole millennial earth. The saints will be involved in that spreading forth of the glory, the ways of God, and the righteousness of God. He will not just wave His hand and take care of it. There will be human natural process, though with a supernatural dimension to it in a most glorious way.*

* 1. 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*](http://www.mikebickle.org) for more; click on the “End Times and Eternity” category (top left), then on “Millennium and New Jerusalem.”

*There are four reasons why I believe the New Jerusalem is close to the earthly Jerusalem and accessible to it, but not yet resting on the earth. There are four reasons why I think the New Jerusalem, the heavenly Jerusalem, which is the same as the New Jerusalem, comes down. It is near the earthly Jerusalem, and there is access from the earthly to the heavenly Jerusalem, because the kings of the earth from all around the millennial kingdom go into the city. They go in and out of that city. That city has to be close enough for the kings of the earth to actually come and go at appointed times into the city to interface with Jesus and bring the glory of the nations and present them to Him there. It is not resting on the earth at that time. After the millennial kingdom, the New Jerusalem, I believe, will be resting on the earth.*

1. the garden of Eden: physical paradise aspects of the Kingdom
	1. The *garden of Eden* will be restored, bringing a *physical paradise* aspect to the Millennium, with a fully renewed environment (agriculture, animals, atmosphere, etc.) including physical pleasures. We will live in a resurrected, physical body with supernatural capacities to enjoy an earthly paradise that is filled with beauty and pleasure. The food will be delicious with no negative side effects.

*There is more than the New Jerusalem dimension. There is the garden of Eden dimension as well. There is a physical paradise aspect of the kingdom. The garden of Eden will be restored. It will bring physical paradise to the millennial kingdom. The environment will be fully restored and renewed. The agriculture will have the glory of God touching it, the full blessing of God. No hindrance. All the demons will be down in prison. They will be out of the way. There will be no devil and no demons on the earth. The veil will be lifted. The animal kingdom will be restored to harmony. The animals will not devour each other, and they will not have hostility towards humans. The atmosphere will be the perfect condition like it was before Adam sinned back in Genesis 1-3. The garden of Eden also highlights the physical pleasure dimension of the age to come.*

*You will live in a resurrected physical body. As I like to say, you will have an elbow. You will have bones. You will have flesh and bones. Jesus said in Luke 24, when He was raised from the dead, “Touch Me. Go ahead, touch Me.” I can imagine them being hesitant. He said, “Do I not have flesh and bones?” He had supernatural flesh. I think that is different than natural flesh. He had bones, but He had this glorified flesh that is different than our corruptible, natural flesh that does not inherit the kingdom of God.*

*It will be not only a physical paradise. It will be a beautiful paradise filled with beauty and filled with pleasure. As I said last week—you liked it so much that I will say it again—the food will be delicious with no negative side effects. Eat whatever you want, and you will just feel healthier and feel anointed. You will not feel tired, you will not feel guilty, and you will not get sick. You will feel healthy, energized, and anointed when you eat, and you will love it.*

* 1. God’s original intention was to fill the whole earth with conditions of Eden. The sin of the first Adam put a temporary pause on this. Jesus came as the second Adam (1 Cor. 15: 47). Jesus will fulfill God’s original purpose of the conditions of Eden spreading across the whole earth.
	2. Jesus will restore 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).

3For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord... (Isa. 51:3)

35They will say, “This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden…” (Ezek. 36:35)

*I have several verses here—you can read most of them on your own—where God says He is going to restore the garden of Eden. He says in Isaiah 51, “The Lord will comfort Zion. He will make all of her waste places”—the whole land of Israel, but I believe the whole earth is going to eventually be like this—“He will make her wilderness like Eden.” Meaning the desert area around the land of Israel and the Middle East will be like the garden of the Lord. It will become like Eden. Ezekiel 36:35, “They will say, ‘This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden.’” It will be really desolate through the Tribulation judgments and the hostility. The land of Israel will be very much disrupted at that time. The nations of the earth and their land will be disrupted as well. The land of Israel will be the first one to enter into the garden of Eden dynamics, but I do not believe it will stop there. I believe that garden of Eden dynamics will spread out through the entire millennial earth, and the spread will be progressive.*

* 1. The kingdom of God on earth will fulfill man’s utopian dream of a perfect paradise. Seeing the garden of Eden aspect of our eternal salvation is part of seeing the glory of Jesus as our creator.

*The kingdom of God on earth will fulfill man’s utopian dream of paradise. There is this dream of a utopia where all would be well. That dream has been put in the heart of the human race by God because that is our destiny. That was our beginning back with Adam and Eve, our parents, but that is also our destiny because of Christ Jesus.*

* 1. Scripture begins and ends with God living face to face with His people in the garden of Eden. In Genesis 1-2, Adam walked with God in face-to-face fellowship in a garden. In Revelation 21-22, God lives with His people in face-to-face fellowship in a garden. The river of life and the tree of life seen in Genesis 1-2 are also seen in Revelation 21-22. What God originally intended in the first two chapters of the Bible will be fully restored as seen in the last two chapters of the Bible.

*The Scriptures begin and end with the same scenario: with God living face-to-face with His people in a garden. It starts in Genesis 1-2, the first two chapters, in the garden of Eden in face-to-face fellowship. It ends in Revelation, the final two chapters, in face-to-face fellowship with God in the Garden of Eden. What God originally intended in the beginning of the Bible is fully restored at the end of the Bible.*

* 1. The garden of Eden conditions will be established on earth as it is in the New Jerusalem, including the river of life and tree of life. The river and the tree are two manifestations of one grand reality (Ezek. 47:1-12; Rev. 22:1-4).

1There was water flowing from under…the temple…8He said to me: “This water flows…when it reaches the sea [Dead Sea], its waters are healed…12Along the bank of the river…will grow all kinds of trees used for food…they will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Ezek. 47:1-12)

1And he showed me a pure river of water of life…proceeding from the throne of God…2and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:1-2)

*The garden of Eden conditions will be established on earth just as they are in the New Jerusalem as well. Here is what I mean by that. Ezekiel 47 is talking about that river of life, describing the river of life, the supernatural water flowing from the Jerusalem temple, healing all the waters it touches and healing the land, and the fruit trees coming forth, being inspired by this supernatural water. This water is blessed—I do not know how to describe it—it has a supernatural property in it.*

*Revelation 22 describes the river of life and the tree of life. That river and tree are in the New Jerusalem, but that river and those twelve fruits are also in the earthly Jerusalem. Somebody asks, “Which are they? Is that river up there? Is that river down here?”*

*I say, “I believe it is one river in two expressions.” The fruit tree in heaven and the twelve fruits on the earth, I believe they have a dynamic connection to each other. It is not one or the other. Is it just in the New Jerusalem or is it just in the earthly Jerusalem? I believe it is in both and they are connected together.*

* 1. When Adam sinned, all creation was subject to futility or weakness under sin’s curse (Rom. 8:21). Jesus reversed this in His salvation. The physical blessing of Abraham will be released on the earth. Harmony will be restored in the animal kingdom and between animals and humans (Isa. 11:6).

19For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.
20For the creation was subjected to futility…21the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (Rom. 8:19-21)

1. The kingdom of David: political AND social aspects of the Kingdom
	1. The ***kingdom of David*** will bring a *political and social* aspect to the Millennium. This will include governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life as the government of every nation on earth is brought under Jesus’ authority.

*There is a kingdom of David dimension. Meaning, throughout the Scriptures God promised the Messiah and the people of God the throne of David. There is something very specific about that term, “the throne of David.” Jesus is the son of David sitting on the throne of David. There are political and social aspects to the kingdom. Meaning, it is not just supernatural New Jerusalem, and it is not just a garden with physical delight and paradise. There is a governmental, social aspect to it. It is called the kingdom of David. It will involve governmental, economic, and social institutions. Righteousness and justice will be established all throughout the earth as the fruit of this government.*

* 1. The kingdom of David speaks of the political, social, and Jewish aspect. Jesus will rule as a human, Jewish son of David sitting on the throne of David (2 Sam. 7:13, 16; 23:5; cf. Isa. 9:6-7; 55:3; Ps. 89:3-4, 34-37; Jer. 23:5-6; 30:8-9; 33:14-17, 20-21; Ezek. 37:24-25; Hos. 3:4-5; Amos 9:11).

32“The Lord God will give Him [Jesus] the throne of His father David.” (Lk. 1:32)

7Of the increase of His government...there will be no end, upon the throne of David… (Isa. 9:7)

*This term, the kingdom of David, also relates to another dimension. It relates to the fact that the Messiah, the King, will be a human. Obviously we know that, but way back then I do not know for sure if they understood that whole dynamic. Who is this personage who is going to govern the whole earth with supernatural power? This King is human, number one. Number two, He is Jewish. He is Jewish forever. That is going to be a shock to a lot of men when they stand before the King of all history and find out that He is Jewish. Some of them are going to think, “Oh no, this is really not good!” because of their whole attitude and their ways against the Jewish people.*

*He is not only human and Jewish. More than that, He is from one line, one Jewish lineage, the tribe of David. Of all the Jewish families, He is from one. He is the son of David, from that physical lineage. He will sit on the throne that was promised to David. Because when the Lord promised David a throne forever, He was promising it to David’s special son, his special heir, the Messiah, Jesus. That was the ultimate fulfillment of the throne of David. The throne of David also has this dimension that the One who will sit on it is a human King who is Jewish from the line of David. From the lineage of David. That has many implications as well.*

* 1. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24). They will base their national governments on God’s Word.

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

*All the kings of the earth will bow down before this one King. This one King, Jesus, will unify all the kings of the earth. The kings of the earth through history have had conflicts with one another. They go to war with one another, but under Jesus’ leadership all the kings of the earth will be in unity based in love. I mean it is remarkable.*

*It is not only that the kingdom of David that will have human kings with natural bodies on the earth under Him. We, the resurrected saints, will rule and reign with Him forever as well. We are part of that “kingdom of David” rule as well. There will be human beings with natural bodies during the Millennium who have governmental responsibilities. There will be those like you with resurrected bodies, the saints through history, and they will also be a part of that government of the kingdom of David. The point of the kingdom of David dimension is that there is a social, political dimension, not just a garden paradise dimension, and not just an eternal, supernatural dimension of the New Jerusalem.*

* 1. Jesus will govern in partnership with resurrected saints who rule with Him (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). This will include varying responsibilities and spheres of authority for each individual.
1. House of prayer: spiritual aspects of the Kingdom
	1. The ***house of prayer*** will bring a *spiritual* dimension to the kingdom. The millennial temple will be a global worship center from which Jesus will lead the nations in prayer. He will call His people worldwide to encounter God and to rule with Him through worship and prayer (Isa. 56:7). Jesus’ government of the earth will flow out of worship and intercession (Ps. 2:8).

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

*There is a house of prayer dimension, a spiritual aspect. I am using the word “spiritual” a little differently than “supernatural.” Certainly they overlap. The idea is that He says, “My house is called the house of prayer.” That is, the identity of My people is that they will be the house of prayer forever. What that means is that we will govern and rule with Jesus through worship and intercession. Not only worship and intercession, but that will be the basis of the government. The government over the whole world will come out of that temple, and that temple is a house of prayer. It will be a place where Jesus is interceding before the Father, and He is leading a global worship and prayer movement that is ruling through intercession. Not limited to intercession, but the government will flow out of intercession forever. That is a most remarkable thing that we are called to do. I do not mean IHOPKC. I am talking about the whole body of Christ in history. We are called to participate in worship and intercession, even in this age. It is a part of Jesus’ leadership going forth in this age, but in the age to come that dynamic is going to continue.*

* 1. The identity of the redeemed forever includes being and functioning as a house of prayer. In other words, God speaks and moves our heart; then we speak and move His heart in prayer, resulting in God’s resource being released into the earthly realm.

*When God calls us the house of prayer, He says, “You will be called the house of prayer.” He will call His people the house of prayer. His family will be called the house of prayer. Not just the temple, but His entire family.*

*In what sense or how do we function as the house of prayer? What I believe that means in the simplest description that I can come up with, I believe it means something as simple as this: God speaks and moves the heart of His people. He speaks and moves our heart. Then we speak it right back to Him, and it moves His heart. Then He releases His resources into the earth.*

*Let me go through this again. God speaks. He says something like, “I am going to send revival to your city.”*

*It moves us, “Wow, revival is coming to our city.”*

*He says, “Now speak it back.”*

*“Lord, You said revival is coming.”*

*It moves His heart. He opens His hand and releases His resource. His resource is not just money by the way. It is supernatural power. It is divine wisdom. It is creative ideas. It is motivation for righteousness. God’s resource is far beyond just money. It is divine ideas. His favor in relationships.*

*Here is the point. God speaks and moves our heart in this age. We speak and move His heart. He releases blessing. Beloved, with a resurrected body you will still relate to God that way. You will have a resurrected perfect body. You will still be speaking the word back to God to release His power on the earth. Intercession is one of those dimensions of the kingdom that we will never, ever graduate from, never, ever. We will rule through intercession. There is this spiritual dimension that is not just human wisdom, and it is not just resource is released, but it is a dynamic interaction of all the governmental people with the throne of God and the person of God. There is a dynamic spiritual interaction between the government and the King Himself.*

* 1. Jesus’ throne will be the temple (house of prayer). The house of prayer will be based in the millennial temple with the Holy of Holies as the center of the global worship and prayer movement.

12The Man…shall build the temple…and shall sit and rule on His throne. (Zech. 6:12-13)

6I heard Him speaking to me from the temple [millennial temple]...7He said, “This is the place of My throne…where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever.” (Ezek. 43:6-7)

1. The family of God: the relational community aspects of the kingdom
	1. The *family of God*will bring a *relational community* dimension as the saints live as sons of God, as the Bride of Christ, and as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity (Jn. 17:21-26). God’s people will dwell together forever as a vibrant family functioning as kingdom community. God’s family will function as a worshiping Bride in deep partnership with the Father and Son.

*There will be a family of God dimension. Not only do we have this social order with righteousness and justice and political order, and not only do we have a spiritual dimension where all the government is in dynamic interaction with the King Himself and with His throne, but there is also a deep relational connection. There will be a family of God dimension. There will be this relational community aspect, that as the family of God, as the saints, we will live as the sons of God and the bride of Christ. Also we will dwell together. All the saints through history will dwell together as brothers and sisters in the fullness of love and unity. We will function as a vibrant family, as a kingdom community forever and forever.*

* 1. Paul’s prayer points to the Father strengthening the whole family in heaven and earth (Eph. 3:15).

14I bow my knees to the Father…15from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16that He would grant you…to be strengthened with might…19to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:14-19)

* 1. Jesus will release His glory in and through His people so that they will flow in the Spirit to bless, serve, and enjoy each other with supernatural unity.

22“And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You…have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:22-23)

*Jesus will release His glory through His people so they will flow in the Spirit. They will bless, serve, and enjoy each other with a supernatural unity in the glory of God. That is what Jesus talked about in John 17. We know this famous prayer of Jesus, and it is released in part in this age. The John 17 prayer is not over after the second coming. There are dimensions of the John 17 prayer in verse 21-26 that happen in fullness in the age to come. It happens in part in this age. We are believing for it now. In verse 22 Jesus said, “The glory which You gave Me Father I have given to them”—we have it now—“that they may be one as we are one.”*

*We think, “Well, we are not exactly unified at the level the Father and the Son are unified. That seems a little intense.”*

*By the Spirit we will have a far greater unity before the Lord returns. I mean His body worldwide. There is a unity that is going to be beyond anything we can imagine. Forever we will dwell together as the family of God. We will be, verse 23, made perfect in one. I mean that the saints will have, by the Spirit of God and by the glory of God, a level of perfected unity. They will function as the family in the whole communal, relational dimension. This happens in part now. The world–the nations–will see. When they look at the saints and the glory of God on them and how the saints interact with the saints, they will say, “God loves the saints like God loves Jesus. There is no difference in the way of the intensity of the love.” That will be openly displayed. The world–the nations–will see this. It will not be something people believe by faith. It will be on open display. The love the Father has for the Son will be seen as the same love that the Father has for the saints. It will be seen in the way the saints dwell together. It will be on open display for the nations to see. Not just something they get a little bit of insight into when somebody acts godly and they say, “That is kind of like the life of God operating in them.” I am talking about a massive, global display of this.*

1. Summary
	1. We need to understand all five aspects to have our hope established firmly in our life. Jesus, fully God and fully man, is both King of the nations and head of the Church.

*We need to understand all five aspects of this. Not that it is limited to these five. Jesus is both King of the nations and head of the church. It is one reality. He is the political King, but He is also the head of the family.*

* 1. Often, Gentile believers think of worshiping Jesus only in the supernatural conditions of heaven, emphasizing His deity as the Son of God. The Jewish paradigm focuses on reigning with the Messiah in the natural conditions of the earth, emphasizing His humanity as the Son of David. Historically, Israel has focused on the earthly dimension of the kingdom without the heavenly.
	The Church has done the opposite in focusing only on the heavenly dimension without the earthly.

*I want you to get a snapshot of this. I am really saying the same thing in different ways. Here is what Gentile believers usually think about the age to come. Often as Gentile believers we think of worshiping Jesus in the supernatural conditions of heaven. We emphasize His deity as the Son of God. That is good. That is good doctrine. We will worship in the supernatural conditions of heaven, we will go to heaven one day, He is God, and He is the Son of God.*

*Here is what the Jewish paradigm focuses on. They are not thinking of worshiping Jesus. They are thinking of reigning with the Messiah. They are not thinking of the supernatural conditions of heaven. They are thinking of the earth. They emphasize the humanity of the Messiah as the Son of David. When you tell them the Messiah is the Son of God, they go, “What are you talking about? He is the Son of David.” They see the human, earthly dimension.*

*The truth is in both of these. Historically Israel has focused on the earthly dimension of the kingdom. They do not think much about the heavenly dimension. The church is opposite. They think of the heavenly dimension. They do not think much of the earthly dimension.*

* 1. Israel thinks of the Messiah coming to restore the throne of David, with its worldwide government coming out of Jerusalem that will reform the whole world and restore it to the garden of Eden. They are not usually thinking of resurrected bodies and angels in heaven.

*Israel thinks of the Messiah as restoring the throne of David with worldwide government coming out of Jerusalem that will reform the whole world and restore the garden of Eden. They do not think that often about resurrected bodies and angels and streets of gold. The Church thinks the opposite.*

* 1. The Christian concept of a heavenly kingdom in the New Jerusalem, walking on streets of gold, is very different from the Hebrew view of the Davidic kingdom. Christians do not think much about reigning with Jesus on the throne of David over all nations and restoring the earth to the conditions of the garden of Eden.

*We think about the kingdom of heaven, walking on streets of gold. We do not think about the earthly kingdom of David very much. We do not think about reigning with David on the throne of David over the nations, restoring the garden of Eden on the earth. God wants to bring both of those understandings together. That is the hope of the body of Christ. It is both of these realms brought together. Though what I just described is a bit of a stereotype, there are some who would say, “Wait, I am not limited to that.” I am giving a broad stereotype. I am saying there is a big picture, and we are all in it together. Amen and amen.*

* 1. By seeing Jesus as our creator, we see more of His beauty and glory in the natural, physical realm.
	2. When we see and understand that the Davidic kingdom will be restored from Jerusalem to all the nations, we see more of Jesus as King of the nations.