

Session 4 Millennial Kingdom: Identifying False Assumptions

I. REVIEW: THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM (JESUS' 1,000 YEAR REIGN ON EARTH)

- A. The Millennium is a literal 1,000 year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world from Jerusalem in righteousness and peace. The Kingdom of God will be openly manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, family, media, arts, technology, athletics, environment, social institutions, etc).
- ⁴ I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness...they reigned with Christ for 1000 years... 6 They shall be priest...and shall reign with Him 1000 years. (Rev. 20:4-6)***
- B. The centerpiece of God's purpose is for Jesus to establish His Kingdom over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. God created the universe in two realms. ***Heaven*** speaks of the realm where God's power and presence is openly manifest. ***Earth*** speaks of the physical realm where human process, emotions and physical sensation reach their fullest expression. There will be a combination of supernatural power with natural processes as Jesus progressively affects every sphere of life. This increase will grow in capacity, quality and size.
- ⁹ Having made known to us the mystery of His will...10 that He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)***
- C. Some only view the End-Times through the paradigm of heaven without emphasizing the earthly dimension of the Kingdom. The fullness of God is found when both dimensions come together. The Millennial earth will have material substance (wood, steel, cement, food, animals, etc.).
- D. There will be three types of people when Jesus appears in the sky: the ***redeemed*** will be raptured; the ***reprobate*** who took the mark of the Beast will be killed; the ***resisters*** or the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist will repopulate the earth.

II. IDENTIFYING COMMON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- A. It is important to identify the ***false assumptions*** that we have about the Millennium and then replace them with ***true principles*** that help us clearly understand many related Scriptures. The challenge in understanding the Second Coming is in getting right paradigms for the End-Times. We all naturally have false assumptions that point us in the wrong direction.
- B. We must carefully review the details that Scripture gives about the End-Times. As we prayerfully read them over and over the truth eventually comes into focus. We must be committed to not hold to any traditional views without making sure that they agree with the testimony of Scripture.
- C. ***A primary premise:*** God will use the same principles in His leadership of life on planet earth at the Second Coming of Christ that He used at His first coming. The burden of proof is on those who propose that God will ***order life in an essentially different way*** with people (without resurrected bodies) at His Second Coming than He did during His first coming.

III. FALSE ASSUMPTION #1: JESUS' SECOND COMING IS THE SAME AS THE RAPTURE

- A. The common false assumption is that Jesus will just temporarily appear in the sky to rapture the saints without actually coming to earth in a permanent way to set up an earthly government.
- B. **True principle:** Jesus' Second Coming and the Rapture occur in the same time frame. The Second Coming describes what Jesus does when He "comes to earth" permanently. The Rapture describes what happens to the saints at that time as they meet Jesus in the air (1 Thes. 4:14-17).
- C. Jesus is coming back to earth a second time to accomplish a long term mission of bringing the entire earth under His Father's authority (Mt. 24:27-31; 25:31-32; 28:19-20). Jesus is coming to earth (Mt. 10:23; 16:27; 23:39; 24:27; 25:31; Acts 1:6-13; 1 Cor. 4:5; 1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Thes. 1:10).
- D. In what sense is Jesus coming? He is not merely making a ***temporary appearance*** in the sky, but He is literally coming to earth ***to stay permanently*** to establish an earthly government to run His Kingdom. It is a common mistake to conclude that Jesus is only "appearing" in the sky to catch up the saints without "coming to earth" to accomplish a long-term mission. The definition of a "coming," points to a long term coming to earth not merely a momentary appearing in the sky.

IV. FALSE ASSUMPTION #2: THE NATURAL PROCESSES WILL BE SUSPENDED

- A. The common false assumption is that the natural processes of life will be suspended by Jesus' supernatural activity and that Jesus will "wave His hand" to instantly establish the infrastructures needed to support life and government on earth by ONLY using His supernatural power without human involvement and natural processes.
- B. **True principle:** Jesus will rule the earth with the natural human processes not suspended, yet significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit especially with Jesus and the saints having resurrected bodies. We see aspects of the natural and the supernatural dimensions operating together when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1).
- C. Jesus will rule with hands-on governmental leadership to establish infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city and village in every nation. This infrastructure will include replacing the governmental leaders from the Antichrist's worldwide government with new people at every level of public life in every city. This infrastructure will include life support systems (food, water, electricity), building projects (buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), economic systems (currencies, banking, investments, etc.), spiritual life (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), education (from elementary to university levels), law enforcement; agriculture (equipment, distribution), media and arts, technology, environment, social institutions, etc.
- D. Jesus will set new people (those on earth in natural bodies as well as saints with resurrected bodies) into every level of government in the social infrastructure. The saints from throughout history will sit on thrones (positions of authority; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12; Dan. 7:22, 25-27).

- E. A process will be involved in war tribunals (court of justice to judge crimes) to judge the kings of the earth and then execute many of them (as in the Nuremburg trials in 1945-46).
- ³¹ *When the Son of Man comes in His glory....then He will sit on the Throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them... (Mt. 25:31-32)*
- ⁶ *He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:6)*
- ²¹ *In that day that the LORD will punish...the kings of the earth. 22 They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished. (Isa. 24:21-22)*
- ⁴ *He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people... (Isa. 2:4)*

V. FALSE ASSUMPTION #3: SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE INSTANTANEOUS

- A. The common false assumption is that social improvements or the healing of the nations will be instantaneous at Jesus' coming without it requiring a lengthy process of time.
- B. **True principle:** there will be progressive social improvements (healing of the nations) in all areas of life. This will take much time to accomplish. Learning and applying what is learned is emphasized in Millennial passages. As wisdom is gained and applied then many areas of life improve progressively (vegetation, economy, longevity of life, relationship with animals, etc.).
- C. Jesus will set up training institutions to teach all nations His ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, etc.)
- ³ *Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the House of the God of Jacob; He (Jesus) will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." Out of Zion shall go forth the law...the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)*
- D. Jesus' rule will progressively increase until all the institutions of the nations are fully discipled by His teachings (Isa. 16:5; 60:3; Jer. 23:5; Ps. 89:4; 132:17-18). The infrastructure He establishes will increase in capacity, quality and size as the leaders grow in skill development. The saints (resurrected) will have a dynamic role in training the leaders (non- resurrected).
- ⁷ *Of the increase (expansion) of His (Jesus') government and peace there will be no end, upon the Throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)*
- E. The Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem will be ministered to the kings of the nations in a way that will help heal their nation. It will take time to heal the land and the governments of the earth.
- ² *Tree of life...the leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)*
- ² *The Sun of Righteousness (Jesus) shall arise with healing in His wings... (Mal. 4:2)*

- F. The healing process will be related to the river from the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem.
⁸ *This water flows...when it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. 9 It shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes...¹² Along the bank of the river...will grow all kinds of trees used for food...they will bear fruit every month...and their leaves for medicine. (Ezek. 47:8-12)*
- G. It may take many decades before all the destroyed cities of the earth are completely restored. After the Great Tribulation, many of the cities of the earth need to be rebuilt (Ezek. 36:36-38). Population growth will take time (Isa. 65:20; Jer. 30:20; Ezek. 47:22; Zech. 10:8).
⁴ *They shall rebuild the old ruins, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. (Isa. 61:4)*
- H. The process of healing people physically will be accelerated in the Millennium.
⁵ *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. (Isa. 35:5-6)*

VI. FALSE ASSUMPTION #4: JUSTICE ESTABLISHED IN THIS AGE WILL NOT LAST

- A. The common false assumption is that the justice we establish now is disregarded when Jesus returns. Thus, many fail to see the continuity between our work in this age and the age-to-come.
- B. **True principle:** a dynamic continuity exists between what we accomplished now in justice and righteousness and what Jesus will need to establish in the Millennial Kingdom. There is continuity from this age to the next wherever the Kingdom of God truly exists.
²⁶ *Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven. 27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made (established by the flesh), that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. (Heb. 12:26-27)*
- C. All that is unrighteous will be dismantled, torn down and re-established in righteousness. Where righteousness currently exists on earth, it will remain, not needing to be replaced. We can establish infrastructure now that will continue to be useful in the Millennium. Works or accomplishments in society that are built on justice and righteousness will last beyond the fires of the Great Tribulation judgments and the Judgment Seat of Christ. An expression of continuity will be seen in the fact that evil leaders will be judged after the Second Coming related to their behavior in their government in this age.
¹⁷ *Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. (Ps. 90:17)*
- D. We must understand the dynamic continuity of our present works (ministry, societal justice) and character development (personal rewards) with our prophetic destiny in the age to come. There is relevance and continued destiny in each person's life who bears fruit that remains (Jn. 15:16).
¹⁶ *I chose you that you...bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain... (Jn. 15:16)*

- E. Continuity of our labors in spiritual warfare (the impact of our intercession will last), character development (eternal rewards), relationships (friendships will be remembered), social impact (righteous legislation and social institutions), natural accomplishments (buildings, highways, scientific and technological developments), life support systems (food, water, electricity) and economic systems (currencies, banking) are part of the destiny of those with fruit that remains. We cannot interpret the full significance of our labors by only seeing their impact in this age. There is continuity of our natural body with our resurrected body (1 Cor. 15:35-46).
- F. There is continuity between what we do in this life and the glory we possess in the next life. Our function in the Millennium is determined by how we live now. Mary's life will impact her future.
⁴² *Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her. (Lk. 10:42)*
- G. Some businesses and their financial resources will survive the shaking of the End-Times (Isa. 60:1-14). God maintains some of our cause (purpose) with some expression in the Millennium.
³⁵ *Then hear from heaven their prayer...and maintain their cause...39 Then hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer...and maintain their cause... (2 Chr. 6:35-39)*
⁵ *O LORD, You are the portion of my inheritance...You maintain my lot. (Ps. 16:5)*
- H. The work of the OT saints was made complete (not disregarded) by the work of the NT saints.
⁴⁰ *God provided... that they should not be made perfect apart from us. (Heb. 11:40)*
³⁸ *Others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. (Jn. 4:38)*

VII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #5: RESURRECTED SAINTS FULLY INTERMINGLE

- A. The assumption is that resurrected saints will fully intermingle with those in natural bodies.
- B. **True principle:** inhabitants on the Millennial earth (with non-resurrected bodies) will work closely with saints with resurrected bodies. The resurrected saints will occupy the highest positions of government in the Spirit on the Millennial earth and will live in the New Jerusalem.
² *In My Father's House are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you. (Jn. 14:2)*
²² *Sell all that you have...you will have treasure in heaven. (Lk. 18:22)*

VIII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #6: ALL ARE CONVERTED INSTANTLY & AUTOMATICALLY

- A. The common false assumption is that all get converted instantly and automatically.
- B. **True principle:** it takes time to convert people individually and then disciple the nations.
¹⁸ *I will gather all nations...and they shall come and see My glory 19...Among them who escape I will send to the nations...who have not heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they*

shall declare My glory among the Gentiles. 20 Then they shall bring all your brethren for an offering to the LORD out of all nations...says the LORD. (Isa. 66:18-20)

IX. FALSE ASSUMPTION #7: ALL WILL AUTOMATICALLY AND FULLY OBEY GOD

- A. The common false assumption is that all will automatically obey God and all nations will automatically be disciplined and that only the righteous will live on the Millennial earth without any unbelievers to convert and disciple.
- B. **True principle:** people living on the Millennial earth must voluntarily choose to accept Jesus.
² **The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! 3 Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power. (Ps. 110:2-3)**
- C. Sin and even false prophets will continue in the Millennium. They will be punished (Ps. 2:9, 72:9-11; Isa. 11:4; 66:20, 24; Zech. 13:2-4; 14:16-19).
³ **It shall come to pass that if anyone still prophesies, then his father and mother... will say to him, 'You shall not live, because you have spoken lies in the name of the LORD.'** (Zech. 13:3)

X. FALSE ASSUMPTION #8: GOD WILL RELEASE HIS AUTHORITY WITHOUT PRAYER

- A. The false assumption is that God will release His authority without night and day prayer.
- B. **True principle:** our prayers have a continuation of impact into the Millennial reign. The primary government of the universe will continue to be in the prayer room. The highest impact and authority of prayer will be seen in the Millennium. The elders fall down before the Lamb, each having a harp and golden bowls full of the prayers of the saints from history (Rev. 5:8; 8:3).

XI. FALSE ASSUMPTION #9: JESUS WILL APPEAR EVERYWHERE SIMULTANEOUSLY

- A. The assumption is that at Jesus' return, He will appear everywhere worldwide simultaneously. Some mistake the instantaneous nature of the individual transformation at the resurrection with Jesus appearing to all the people in all nations of the earth in the exact same moment thus, concluding that the "Rapture event" will be over instantaneously.
- B. **True principle:** Jesus will return and then will lead a global procession that will take time.
⁷ **He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. (Rev. 1:7)**
³⁰ **The sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven... (Mt. 24:30)**

XII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #10: ALL WILL SEE JESUS ON HIS THRONE CONTINUALLY

- A. The assumption is that as Jesus sits on His Throne in Jerusalem that all the saints with resurrected bodies will be able to drop in and spend personal time with Jesus any time they want.
- B. **True principle:** we will occasionally see Jesus face to face corporately and rarely individually.

XIII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #11: ALL SAINTS WILL HAVE THE SAME MEASURE OF GLORY

- A. The assumption is that all saints will have the “same measure” of glory in our resurrected bodies and in our positions of authority.
- B. **True principle:** we will all differ in the measure of God’s glory that we will have in our resurrected bodies, clothing, dwelling, position of responsibility and relationship with God.
- C. There will be a vast range of degrees of glory and greatness in God’s Kingdom including those who are called the least and the greatest. Our rewards in eternity greatly differ from one another. (The largest star known is the Pistol Star, which has a mass about 100-150 times that of the Sun, and is about 10 million times brighter).

⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun...and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. ⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:41-42)

XIV. FALSE ASSUMPTION #12: THE NEW JERUSALEM WILL ONLY DESCEND ONCE

- A. The false assumption is that the New Jerusalem will only descend once (after the Millennium).
- B. **True principle:** there will be two descents of New Jerusalem one at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom and then after it (Rev. 21:2, 10; 3:12).