Session 5 Reigning on Earth in the Age to Come

1. reigning with Christ in the millennial kingdom

*We are on session five of* ***A******Biblical Overview of Eternal Rewards****. Each session I will say it just for those who are visiting here the first time: this is one of the most emphasized topics of the teaching of Jesus—eternal rewards—but it is almost totally ignored by the Body of Christ. Yet it is one of the most, not the most, but one of the most emphasized topics, and the apostles referred to it regularly. I feel like I have a hunger in my heart to understand this area and to see other people rooted in it like the apostolic community was in the book of Acts.*

* 1. The eternal reward that is most emphasized in the Scriptures is reigning with Jesus in the age to come. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28-30; 25:21-23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12). Being involved in leadership in the nations with Jesus gives us a profound sense of relevance for our life.

10…“[You] made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:10)

4I saw thrones, and they [the saints]… reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4)

*The eternal reward most emphasized—we looked at heavenly garments last week—the one most emphasized is reigning with Jesus in the age to come. I will give you a few verses here. Revelation 5:10, “He made us kings and priests.” We all know this verse. We will reign with Him. I do not know how often you think about the implications of that. It is staggering. The implications are vast. The fact that He wants us to reign with Him forever as weak and broken people.*

*What are the implications of reigning? There are so many activities involved in reigning. We will reign with Him in correspondence to how we obeyed Him in this age. A lot of believer do not pay that much attention to the connection, but that is a very important biblical truth. I have said to the Lord for so years, “Lord, shock me now! Do not shock me then. I do not want to stand before You and say, ‘Oh my goodness! I should have paid attention.’” We have a Bible full of information. I want to pay attention now. It is called “watching and waiting.” Jesus used that phrase many times in His teaching.*

*This idea of ruling with Him in the age to come actually gives our life a sense of relevance even now. Because, though we are laboring now, most of us do not see the fruitfulness that we are desiring. We are seeing some, but we all long for more. Jesus is assuring us that every movement of our heart, even the giving of a cup of cold water, He remembers. That, in the age to come, He is going to tell us how He feels about the way we loved Him in this age. That is called eternal rewards. That is Jesus communicating how He feels about the way we loved Him in this age.*

*The apostle Paul said it a number of times. He spoke of the exceeding great reward of what is coming if we continue to press in and obey now. That was a very, very clear motivation for Paul in Romans 8:18. I do not have that on the notes. 2 Corinthians 4:17 is another place where he said that.*

* 1. The Lord desires that we be enthroned at the highest level of authority in the created order (Rev. 3:21). He has planned an indescribable exaltation of His people, as a part of His eternal government. We are destined to live forever as the wealthy ruling class, or aristocracy, of the New Jerusalem.

21“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne…” (Rev. 3:21)

*He desires us to be enthroned at the highest level of the created order. The entire created order of angels and then there are demons, and there are believers, unbelievers, then all the animal kingdom. He wants redeemed humans at the very height of the created order in His government. Look what He says. It is almost too big to grasp. I mean, it* ***is*** *too big to grasp! It is so intense. I challenge you to meditate on this passage. He says, “I will grant to the one that overcomes,” Revelation 3:21, “I grant you to sit with Me on My throne.”*

*Like what? I mean if anybody else would have said that, you would say, “Sit with Jesus? The Genesis 1 God who became a Man? To sit with Him on His throne? Really?” The implications, the honor, the privilege, the joy of that is beyond anything we can grasp. Jesus has planned an indescribable exaltation for His people to be a part of His eternal government.*

*Do not overlook the word to the one who overcomes. Now we know in this context, Revelation 3, He is talking to the Laodiceans. They had to overcome spiritual lukewarmness. He said, “I exhort you to be zealous and repent and overcome lukewarmness. If you do, you will reign with Me.” That is a pretty intense: that the greatest honor I could imagine in terms of a function, reigning with Jesus, is connected to overcoming spiritual passivity in this age. He connected those two. He said, as it were, “I am going to give you the biggest motivation I can give you in terms of function and activity in the kingdom of God.”*

* 1. The positions of authority and work assignments that many saints will receive in the age to come in reigning with Christ will bring them *great joy* in partnering with the One they love.

21…“I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.” (Mt 25:21)

*The position of authority or the work assignment—those are really two ways of saying the same thing—that every believer will have in the age to come will bring them great joy. The reason I say that is because I have taught this subject for well over thirty years, and I have always run into really sincere believers, who are very sincere, and they kind of boast about how they do not care about eternal rewards.*

*I say, “Well, you know Jesus said you will enter into real significant joy in that day. I think you will care more than you understand right now, because we will be partnering with the one we love in a close, dynamic way.” So I encourage folks who imagine they have no interest in this subject because they are “just in it for the Lord and do not really care about that other stuff,” I always urge them to go back to what Jesus said about it and to take His words and not just take their own philosophical kind of thinking about the subject of rewards.*

* 1. We will all have different work assignments with varying measures of authority—some will be least and some greatest in the millennial kingdom (Mt. 5:19; 18:4; 20:25-27; 23:11-12; Mk. 10:42-44; Lk. 9:48; 14:11; 19:17-19). Some will have leadership over a nation as a king (Rev. 1:6; 5:10), some will have authority over ten cities, some over five, etc. (Lk. 19:17-19).

17“…because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.” 18And the second came…19likewise he said to him, “You also be over five cities.” (Lk. 19:17-19)

*All of us will have different work assignments in the age to come, or job descriptions, or positions of authority. Use the term you want; they are all saying the same thing. All of us will have varying degrees of authority. As we have emphasized in the first four sessions, Paul said that “as one star differs from another star in glory, so also will be the resurrection.” Every single believer will be distinct in the measure of the glory of God that is expressed in them and through them, just like all the billions of stars, every one of them different.*

*Now Jesus emphasizes more than anybody—if you look at these verses, they are all from the lips of Jesus—He emphasized that some in the age to come that He is talking about will be called least and some will be called greatest. He said it over and over and over. It is surprising to me that the apostles did not say that because Jesus said it repetitively. He said it! I mean, when you put all the verses together you realize, “Wow! He really meant this.”*

*You see that He said, “When I evaluate lives I will call some lives, their life choices, great. Others I will call their life choices least, though they are in the kingdom.” He was talking about people who are in the kingdom. He taught a parable in Luke 19 that made it clear that some will have authority over ten cities, some will have authority over five cities, and some to whom He entrusted authority will end up with no authority over any cities at all. You can read the parable in Luke 19.*

1. the millennial kingdom: The 1,000-year reign of Jesus
	1. The Millennium is a 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule the whole world in righteousness. Millennium comes from the Latin “mille”—*a thousand*. At this time, the kingdom of God will be openly manifested worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, agricultural, economic, social, spiritual, educational, law enforcement, social institutions, media, families, arts, etc.).

6…they shall be priests of God…and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:6)

*The Millennial Kingdom is a familiar theme. As a matter of fact, it is a prominent theme in the Bible–the earthly kingdom of Jesus in the age to come. The term, the millennial kingdom, is a very, very common term. It means the thousand-year reign. You do not have to use the term, millennial. Millennial just means 1,000, as most of you are aware of. The theme of Jesus’ earthly kingdom after He returns, His kingdom on the earth reigning with saints from this age is a very prominent theme in the Bible.*

*Revelation 20:6, “They shall be priests and will reign with Him for 1,000 years.” The phrase 1,000 years, is mentioned six times in Revelation 20, the emphasis of 1,000 years. Then after that there is the new heavens and the new earth, but the Kingdom is still on the earth, and it goes on forever and forever. We assume it has the same principles of kingdom and authority and a lot of the same realities which continue in even a greater dimension of glory. During that kingdom reign of 1,000 years and then forever and forever beyond that, the kingdom will openly be manifested worldwide, affecting every area of life: the political, social, agricultural, economic, spiritual. Every single facet of human life will come under the lordship of Jesus which will be manifested on the earth in a global way.*

* 1. The result will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing for the whole earth as Jesus establishes righteousness and prosperity. He will restore the agriculture, atmosphere, and animal life to the conditions seen in the garden of Eden (Rev. 20:1-6; cf. Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Ps. 2:6-12; 110; Deut. 8; 28; Mt. 6:10; 17:11; 19:28; 28:19; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

*This will be a 1,000-year period of unprecedented blessing on the earth. Jesus will establish righteousness in every sphere of life: in academics, in economics, in politics, in legislation, in education. Every sphere will have righteousness and justice all the way through it. He will restore the agriculture, the atmosphere, the animal kingdom back to the conditions of the garden of Eden and I am assuming even beyond.*

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

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

*At that time, all the kings of the earth will worship Him. There will be kings on the earth with natural, physical bodies, and all of them will worship Him. It says that six times as well, that all the kings of the earth will be born-again believers radically committed to Jesus and His Word and His government.*

1. centerpiece of God’s purpose: bringing heaven and earth together
	1. The centerpiece of God’s eternal 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 spiritual realm where God’s presence is openly manifested and ***earth*** speaks of the physical realm where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression.

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

*One preacher said—I quote this regularly, and I have heard it from different preachers, so I do not know who originated it—that if we do not think rightly about heaven, we will not think about heaven. I think that is really true because many people think wrongly of heaven, and so they do not think about it. They think of heaven as floating on a cloud, playing a harp, and that is about it. They say, “There are streets of gold somewhere, but we are floating mostly, but there are streets of gold. We cannot put it together.”*

*I want to bring just a very, very simple snapshot of the millennial kingdom. I have more on the notes than I am going to cover. I have a series on the internet. I do not know; it is maybe twelve sessions, maybe more. I did it a couple years ago, breaking down what the Bible says about the 1,000-year reign. There is a tremendous amount of information in the Bible on this glorious subject.*

*One of the centerpiece ideas is in Ephesians 1:9-10. Look what it says. Paul is speaking. It is an amazing revelation that Paul makes known. It has never been made known before, not until after the resurrection of Jesus. Paul gets to make known the mystery which is the hidden plan that had been in God’s heart from ages past. He said, “Here is what He is going to do,” verse 10. “He is going to gather together into one reality everything in the heavenly and the earthly realm.” He is going to bring them all together, all the good things. Heaven and earth, those realms are going to be joined together on the earth. The heavenly realm speaks of the supernatural realm of God’s presence and power being openly manifested, the heavenly realm, the supernatural dimension, the resurrected bodies, all the angelic activity. The earthly realm obviously is the physical where human process and physical sensation and human dynamics come to full expression. So what Jesus is going to do when He returns, the New Jerusalem is coming down to the earth with Him. The saints will live in the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be in proximity to the earth. They will live in the New Jerusalem with a physical resurrected body, a physical body.*

*I like to say, “With an elbow.” I mean, you will not hug each other and kind of pass through because you are just spirit beings. You will have flesh and bones, as Jesus said, in Luke 24. It will be supernatural, but it will be substantive, it will be physical. You will eat physical food like He did in the resurrection. He ate the fish, then passed through the wall. Did the fish go through the wall? We have to figure that out some other time.*

* 1. God’s purpose has always been for His people to live together with Him in this way. This is the interpretive key to understanding many end-time passages. In the Millennium, the natural human processes will not be suspended, but will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit. We see aspects of the natural and the supernatural dimensions operating together when Jesus appeared with His resurrected body to teach the apostles for forty days (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3).

*God’s purpose has always been that heaven would come down to the earth and God would live together with His people, with the full dimension of the physical realm and the full dimension of the supernatural realm joined together, with no veil between them. That was always His intention, always. Even in the garden of Eden that was where it was going, and then sin created an interruption to that, but only a temporary interruption.*

*Now, in the millennial kingdom, natural processes—catch this—will not be suspended, but they will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Holy Spirit. There will still be learning. There will still be traveling. There will still be interaction on the earth. Gardens will be planted and houses will be built by people with natural bodies because there will be people still on the earth who were not raptured when Jesus returned. They did not say yes to the Antichrist, but they resisted Him. They did not say yes to Jesus, so they were not part of the rapture. They will still have physical bodies, non-resurrected bodies. There will be hundreds of millions or billions of them after the Great Tribulation. I do not know, as it is hard to know the number. It will be a massive number.*

*Those with resurrected bodies will live in the New Jerusalem, but they will reign on the earth. There will be instant transportation from the New Jerusalem to any place on the earth, just like angels can move back and forth between the realms effortlessly. The veil will be lifted between the realms.*

*There will be a supernatural dimension, but the people of natural bodies will have all the natural realities of life. Those with resurrected bodies will be interacting with them and actually have the government and the leadership over them. We see aspects of this natural and supernatural realm together. We see a brief window of this, just a snapshot, for forty days when Jesus came back in His resurrected body. He was teaching them. They were overwhelmed and excited. He was eating with them, eating their food. He was hugging them. He was laughing with them. He was appearing and disappearing. He was sitting with them, hours at a time, teaching them. They were learning. So, for that forty days, there is a brief snapshot of some of the conditions that will be when those with resurrected bodies will be interacting with those with non-resurrected bodies, physical bodies in the millennial kingdom.*

* 1. There will be three types of people are on earth when Jesus appears in the sky. The ***redeemed*** will be raptured at the time of Jesus’ return. The ***reprobate*** who took the mark of the Beast will be judged. The ***resisters***, the unsaved survivors of the tribulation who resisted the Antichrist, will need to be saved and will populate the millennial earth (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

*I have already said this, but I will say it again so you can grasp the context of who is on earth at this time. Some of you may be thinking, “Now who is on the earth? Where? How does this work?” There will be three types of people on the earth when Jesus appears in the sky at the second coming.*

*There will be the redeemed. When He appears, they will be raptured, and they will get resurrected bodies. There will be the reprobate. They took the mark of the beast, and they would not repent. They end up under judgment. There is this third category. There is a significant number of references to this third category. They do not use the word I use, but they describe this category. It is what I call the resisters, the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation. They resisted the Antichrist. They never said yes to him, but they never said yes to Jesus.*

*Somebody might ask, “Well, how could that be?” The analogy I like to look to is from World War II. In France, there was a resistance movement against Hitler. They resisted Hitler even unto death, not because they loved Jesus, but because they loved France and they hated Hitler. It was not about Jesus. It was about hating Hitler and loving their country. There will be people who will resist the Antichrist, but who will not say yes to Jesus’ leadership in the great revival. They will still be there, thorough all these remarkable events–the rapture, the coming of the Lord, the New Jerusalem coming to the earth.*

*They will be looking around and saying, “Man, that was one intense couple of weeks here! What is going on?” The veil will be lifted between the two realms. The cities will be destroyed. The agriculture will be greatly in upheaval. I do not mean every city, but many, many of the cities will be. There will be disruption everywhere. Read in the book of Revelation of the judgments of God as well as the attack and oppression of the Antichrist.*

*You know, I think of the cities of Europe after World War II, and you get that picture of desolation. I believe what is coming on a global level will have parallels to it. I mean you look at some of the tremendous amount of work that needed to be done to rebuild cities and nations. Well, that natural reality will still be in place.*

*People with resurrected bodies will actually be involved in the restoration process. That is part of ruling and reigning on the earth. There are many dimensions involved in ruling and reigning. Maybe do an internet study on everything involved in reigning, every degree, from the smallest to the most significant activities. I think it would surprise you how many activities are involved in ruling a nation. I mean there are massive amounts, from very small to very, very big decisions and activities.*

* 1. The New Jerusalem will come down to the earth (Rev. 3:12; 21:2, 10).

12The New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. (Rev. 3:12)

*I have mentioned that the New Jerusalem is coming down to the earth. That is declared three times in the book of Revelation. Three times it is emphasized that the heavenly city is coming down to the natural realm. It really is. It is going to bring the two realms together. At that time it will be true that heaven will be really truly on the earth. You know Jesus said to pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth like it is in heaven.” That is happening in part right now, just in this hour of history. There will be a dramatic increase of this happening when the New Jerusalem comes and the veil lifts.*

1. The natural processes of life will continue on earth for 1,000 years
	1. The millennial earth will have both natural and supernatural dimensions operating together.

*There will be natural processes of life still happening on the earth. The reason I am explaining this—and some of you already understand it; it is kind of “Millennial Kingdom 101” that I am covering tonight—reigning and ruling on the earth are connected to understanding this, because if you do not understand what is happening on the earth, and you have never thought through the dynamics of reigning and ruling to the minutia of small things to big things, then reigning and ruling is just a term that does not really mean anything to you. It does not conjure up any thoughts or emotions to think you might be involved in that process.*

*When you see what the details of reigning and ruling are in real life, then you see how much activity is going to happen in the millennial kingdom. Then you see the saints are the ones in the top leadership positions over it. You start connecting the dots and saying, “This is going to be a real ministry.” This is going to be real. This is not floating on a cloud, playing a harp, and just hoping the cities of the earth get restored. You are going to be involved. I do not know how you will be personally, but the saints will. I do not know who will have what role, but the saints will be deeply involved in the whole process of bringing the glory of God to the whole earth. They will, and with physical resurrected bodies.*

*You will look like you look now, but in perfection. I know some of you are almost there, but there is still perfection to be added! You will be you with your personality, your DNA, your physical appearance, but brought to fullness and protection with no diminishing because of darkness and the attack of the enemy or weakness at all. It will really be you, and you will really know each other. You will really have physical bodies. You will really eat dinner together. You will really teach each other things. You will really teach people on the earth things. You will set in order, you will establish, and you will rule and reign. Again, there are many types of activities involved in ruling and reigning in a nation.*

*I have in the notes here that in the American infrastructure, just in America, there are twenty-two million people right now who are employed by the federal, local, or state governments. There are twenty-two million in the governmental infrastructure of America. That gives you kind of an idea of how many levels there might be or how many types of activities involved in ruling and reigning over a nation. It is not just the president or the senators. The ruling and reigning aspect goes all the way through to the local level, to the people who run the school board. It is every part of society that is a part of ruling and reigning.*

*So when the Lord says, “You will reign with Me,” He does not mean several billion believers sitting on one throne. We do not really know how many there will be, but some say there has been a billion up to now. I do not know if that is true, you know, that throughout history there are a billion believers now. If so, that will be two billion with a billion coming in the great harvest. I do not know if that is true, but it is probably several billion, you know some number like that. It is a big number.*

*There are only two hundred nations in the earth right now. When the Lord returns, He is probably going to rearrange the map a bit. There are not going to be a billion nations. There may be 300, or maybe 100. I do not know. So a couple billion people will not all be kings. A king is over a nation. There will be a couple hundred nations, maybe more, maybe less. A couple hundred kings, maybe more, maybe less, leaving a couple billion people who are not kings.*

*There will be people ruling and reigning at very many, many diverse levels involved in the infrastructure of bringing the glory of God. Habakkuk 2:14—I do not have that in the notes but you know it well—where the glory of God will cover the whole earth as the waters cover the sea. That glory of God, it is a little bit now. His glory is increasing, but it is going to be fully manifested in every sphere of life. It is actually going to take the 1,000 years to bring righteousness and fullness and the healing of the land to fullness, fullness of maturity. It is going to really take the 1,000 years for it to happen because Jesus is not going to wave His hand and everything pops up righteous, with justice. He is going to do it, line by line, with people making choices to obey Him. The devil will be thrown in prison with all the demons, so they will not be here. There will still be a process. The glory of God will cover the earth just line by line, just area by area.*

* 1. The natural processes of life will continue. There will be a need to establish infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city and village throughout the earth.

*The natural processes of life will continue. There will be a need to establish infrastructure in every sphere of every city, of every village, throughout the whole earth. It will be established by people with natural bodies. Just like now, if you lifted the veil, there are undoubtedly angels working at the side of people in every sphere of society. They do not see the angels, but if the veil were lifted now, I think we would be surprised how many angels were in this room right now. We might be surprised how many demons were in this room, surprised by the war going on over the lives of people. In that day the veil will be lifted. Though the infrastructure will be done by people with natural bodies, it will not be the angels helping in the same way, I do not think. I think it is going to be the saints ruling and reigning, but in relationship with them. Training and teaching, managing, overseeing, planning, evaluating, all the many things that are involved in reigning and ruling.*

* 1. 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*, *media and arts*, *technology*, *environment*, *social institutions*, etc. Jesus will rule a global kingdom that includes two types of kings (Rev. 1:5-6)—***kings of the earth*** (non-resurrected bodies) and ***resurrected kings*** (saints with resurrected bodies).

5Jesus Christ, the faithful witness…ruler over the kings of the earth [non-resurrected bodies].
To Him who loved us…6and made us kings [resurrected saints] and priests to God. (Rev. 1:5-6)

*I have listed a few things that are involved in the infrastructure right here. There will be life support systems, building projects, economic systems in the millennial kingdom. I am talking, amongst the nations, about the people with natural bodies, who are born in the Millennium, who still need to be saved. They will be doing the labor, but under the leadership of those who have the primary government over the nations which are the saints with the resurrected bodies.*

*Jesus will rule a global kingdom that includes two types of kings. The Bible makes it clear there will be two types of kings. There are kings that will be on the earth with natural bodies, just like there are kings right now–presidents, prime ministers, etc. There will be kings with resurrected bodies. There will be both types of kings interacting with each other. Together they will establish a godly social order that will bring transformation to the world. Again, it is step by step, line by line.*

*It is not Jesus returning, waving over the earth, and everything is done, saying, “You know, saints, I could have used you, but I did not really need you. So I just blew on the earth—whew—and everything is now perfect.” He could actually do that. He is powerful enough, but He does not want to. He wants to do it in relationship with us. He wants to do it through us and with us, which is remarkable.*

*That is not just the Jesus of the future. He is the same Man right now! He has the same personality. He really wants to use us right now, even in this age. There is continuity between what we do now and what we do then. We think after the break of our physical death everything will be different. It is the same you, but the darkness is removed. Your deeds follow you into the age to come. Everything you have done, even giving a cup of cold water, that has been done in obedience to the Lord is recorded in His books.*

*Again, rewards are Jesus revealing how He feels about the way you loved Him. Rewards are not about strutting in front of people, but about the Lord saying, “Here, here are the garments. Here are the crowns. Here are the thrones. Come, dine with Me. Here is how you are going to interface with Me because of the way you loved Me on the earth.” It is not about earning it, because, though we take a step of obedience, He gives us a mile of blessing. It is far beyond anything anybody could earn. We covered all that in the first four sessions a number of times.*

1. physical proximity to Jesus
	1. Jesus’ physical body in the age to come will be *in* *only one place at a time*. By the Spirit we will all have communication with Him, feel His presence, and know His heart. The Hypostatic Union speaks of Jesus having two natures, being fully human and fully divine. Omnipresent in His deity, He is always with us. As a Man, Jesus can only be in one place at a time in His physical body.

*I love this subject of physical proximity to Jesus. It is a subject that I do not hear much about in sermons, books, or in conversation. There is not that much in the Bible on it, but there are clear indicators of it. This is an area that I really care about when I think of the indicators in the Scripture of it. I want you to pay attention to and make special note of the promises in the age to come where Jesus uses the phrase, “with Me…You will sit with Me. You will walk with Me. You will dine with Me.” Those “with Me” promises really have my attention. I say, “Whoa!”*

*Now, I am not thinking a couple billion saints all walking in the park holding hands with Jesus at the same time. I am thinking He is thinking something far more specific than a couple billion people all at one really long banqueting table. From six million miles on the end of it, you say, “Hey Jesus, good to eat with you, Bro.” No, it is not going to be like that. It is going to be far more dynamic.*

*Remember—or maybe this is a new thought for you—Jesus’ physical body will only be in one place at one time. He became a man. Now, He is still God, so by the Spirit He can communicate with His people everywhere. He is with us and can communicate with us by the Holy Spirit now and will forever, forever, and forever. We will always have access to His presence, to communication with Him, and to His heart. When He became a Man, He committed to becoming human and to living in a physical body for billions and billions and billions of years, forever. That is a most radical commitment, but He had to do that to redeem us. He had to live in a human body forever and be limited to it in terms of His physical presence. Now, by the Holy Spirit, because He is God, He can communicate with us by the Spirit.*

* 1. I believe that our work assignment will affect the closeness of our physical proximity to Jesus. Some work assignments in the age to come will bring some of God’s people into closer physical proximity to Jesus as they work more closely with Him as part of His “global leadership team.”

40“…but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not Mine to grant…” (Mk. 10:40)

4You have a few…in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy…20If anyone…opens the door, I will…dine with him, and he with Me. 21To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne… (Rev. 3:4, 20-21)

*I believe that our work assignment will affect the closeness of our physical proximity to Him, not our spiritual proximity, because, again, I believe that by the Holy Spirit we can connect with Him now, and then forever, all billion or two or three saints or whatever the real number is. I am talking about walking with Him. I am talking about sitting in a room with Him, with His physical person. I believe that our work assignment will affect the closeness of our physical proximity.*

*Some people’s work assignment will bring them into a place of working more closely with Him because of the nature of their assignment and because He is the governor, the King of all the kings. He is administrating the whole earth but He is doing it by the Spirit through His people. He is communicating with many, many, many people. It goes on for years and years and years, face to face as well as by the Holy Spirit.*

*Look what He said. Here are some indications of this. When they were arguing who would sit at the right and the left, Mark 10, Jesus did not deny the reality that somebody would sit at His right and His left. What He told them is that it was for whom it was prepared. He did not say, “Hey, James and John”—that was who was arguing about it—He did not say, “No, you got it all wrong.” No, they had it right. There will be somebody sitting at His right and His left. I do not think it will be two people for billions of years, and I think in many situations there will be somebody different, in many, many, many different situations. Like a king over a nation depending on the occasion will have somebody at the right and somebody at the left. That is just a guess.*

*When He says the three “with Me” promises, I love and really pay attention to these. He said, Revelation 3:4, “You have a few believers in Sardis who have not defiled their garments.” That means they have not yielded to compromise. Now a number of the believers—He is talking about the believers—had yielded to compromise. It does not mean they were not saved, but they had yielded. Their garments, figuratively speaking, were defiled, their lifestyle. They were ensnared and caught in something. Jesus said, “A few of you have resisted the compromise.” Look what He says, “These few, they will walk with Me.” I think this is literal. I think meaning there is a “with Me” that is not just by the Spirit with a couple billion people. I think there is something more there. I do not know; I do not want to guess what it is. I like that “with Me.” It says because they are worthy, not because they earned it. That is not what He is saying, because nobody can earn that by anything they do down here. They have responded in a way that is appropriate to have this kind of level of involvement with Him in the government of the earth.*

*See what the Lord is doing? He wants us to love Him now, when we do not see Him, as the genuineness of our love so that when we do see Him face to face in that day forever, He is going to say, “You are one of the ones who loved Me when you could not even see Me. That is the testimony of your love.” When He says, “worthy,” I think He means, “It is appropriate that you would be in a position working closely with Me bringing My love to the nations, because it is who you really were when you could not feel Me, things were not going well, people were not treating you right, the money was not right, your physical body was weak, people were not understanding you, but you loved Me. That is the kind of people I want walking with Me in My world government, bringing the love of God to the nations. You were in it for real when it seemed remote and far away, but you would not back away from it.” That is what I think He means by you were “worthy.”*

*Then He goes on verse 20, and now He is talking to the group, the Laodiceans, whose big area of compromise was just passivity. He goes on and says, “I am going to knock on the door. If you will open, you are going to dine with Me and I am going to dine with you.” I believe it has a spiritual connotation in this world, in this age. I believe we open to the Lord and we will feast on the Lord more, in that spiritual sense, in this age. I do not believe it is limited to this age. Jesus is constantly thinking of the billion-year picture, not only fifty-year picture. Most of His teaching had a billion-year picture paradigm in it or whatever; you know eternity is what I am really saying.*

*Then in verse 21 He makes it really specific. He speaks to the person who overcomes passivity, just spiritual passivity. You know why we get into passivity? The promises we are believing in keep being delayed. It is more mundane and routine that we thought it would be. We thought we would feel more power, we would have more presence, more favor, more impact, more energy, more money, more comfort than we do. We think, “Ugh. I think I am just going to chill out and coast.”*

*The Lord says, “Do not. Do not.”*

*He says in the verse before, verse 19, “Be zealous and repent… If you do, you will sit with Me on My throne. It will be worth it. Press through the disappointment, the delayed promises, the bitterness of people not treating you right. Press through it. Do it with Me and for Me. Do something bigger than relating to people how they relate to you. Do not relate to them based on how they relate to you. Relate to them based on how I relate to you. If you do that, you will sit with Me.”*

*I look at that and I say, “It is inconceivable how big this is.” I say, “Yes, yes, Lord. Show me. Show me. Show me. Put my name on this. I want my name on this.” I do not want to be over you. I want to be sitting with Him! Some folks say they do not want eternal rewards because they do not want to be over people. I say, “Forget being over people. I am talking about wanting to be in leadership meetings with Him when He is talking about whatever sphere I am involved in.*

*“Mike, come in the room. What are you doing over there? Ah, well, give me a little report.” You know, you got the Holy Spirit. you have got a resurrected body. We have met several times face to face. “How is it going?”*

*“Well, we are doing it, Lord.” I mean, I do not know how it will be. It probably will not be like that.*

*There are really going to be interactions, real ones. Again, He is not going to be meeting with a billion people every day, all day, walking in a park with them. I remember when I told one lady that, and it broke her heart. She had said, “Oh, I cannot wait until I die.”*

*I asked, “Why?” I mean, I understand wanting to get a resurrected body. That is pretty cool.*

*She said, “I just want to be with Jesus, all day, just me and Him at a park.”*

*I said, “You really think a couple billion people are going to be waiting for you guys having a picnic, every day, while He is governing the entire earth?”*

*She said, “Well, I mean am I not His beloved?”*

*I said, “Yeah, you are, but there are other implications involved.” She was really heartbroken. She really did not like that at all. I said, “Are we just going to wait? Are you going to have long lunches or short ones with Him every single day, all day?”*

*She said, “Well, I have never really thought about it.”*

*I said, “That is my point.” This is going to be real! He is a real Man in a real kingdom in a real world, transforming it, and we will be interacting with Him with resurrected power. This is glorious beyond measure. Again, to many believers it is just a faint thought that crosses their mind every couple of years for a moment.*

* 1. We see this principle employed in the way He interacted with people in different ways during His earthly ministry. For example, He related differently to the 3, the 12, the 70, the 120, and the multitudes. He only took Peter, James, and John with Him in prayer in the garden (Mt. 26:36-38).

36Jesus came with them to…Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” 37And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee…38He said to them,
“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” (Mt. 26:36-38)

*Jesus related to different people in His earthly ministry very differently. He had the Three, the Twelve, the Seventy, the 120 in the upper room, the 500 He appeared to in the resurrection, and the multitudes.*

*Look at this verse. This is a very tender look into His relational dynamics among the twelve. Verse 36, Jesus goes to Gethsemane, and all the disciples are there. He tells the disciples, nine of them minus Judas, so there are eight, “You guys, sit here.” This is the night before His death. He knows it is going to happen tomorrow. They have not figured it out. They are still a little bit confused. He says, “You guys, sit here. Peter, James, and John, you come with Me.” So He tells those guys, as it were, “You guys stay there. I love you. I am really with you. As a matter of fact, your names are going to be on the New Jerusalem, on the foundations. You are good. I want those guys over here with Me.”*

*Then He brings the three over there because He wanted to share His sorrow in a different way, His extreme sorrow. Then He asked them, “Stay here with Me.” I mean this is a very tender insight, just a glimpse into the Man Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, and how He will interact with people. I believe there will be these dynamics that are recorded in the Word. I do not know the details of how that will happen, but I believe there will be all kind of diversity and differences.*

1. The function of the resurrected saints
	1. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are as priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).

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

*The function of the resurrected saints. I think there probably will be many functions, but the two functions that are emphasized the most are that we will function as priests and kings. Now being priests and kings both relate to reigning. Reigning is not only the king of a nation. Again, in America there are twenty-two million people in the governmental infrastructure. Those are all facets of reigning and ruling, from the small, microscopic kind of levels to the macro levels of being over the whole nation. Reigning includes many, many activities, not just the king declaring an edict over the nation and they go obey it. Reigning is the whole gamut of activities.*

* 1. ***Priests***: Resurrected saints will *worship*, *intercede,* and *communicate* the knowledge of God to others—to non-resurrected people on the millennial earth, and to saints and angels who will live in the New Jerusalem. OT priests taught God’s word (Lev. 10:11; Deut. 24:8; 33:10; Mal. 2:7).

11“…that you may teach…all the statutes which the Lord has spoken…” (Lev. 10:11)

* + 1. The government of the millennial earth will be associated with intercession and worship (Ps. 2:8-9; 72:15; 96:1, 9; 98:1-9; 102:15-22; 149:6-9; Isa. 19:22; 30:18-20; 35:10; 51:11; 52:8; 56:6-8; 62:6-7; Ezek. 36:37; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 14:16-18; Mal. 1:11).

*Priests. As resurrected saints we will worship, and there will be the glory of God and our own enjoyment and revelation and enhancement in it. I believe worship will also release the power of God. There will be intercession in the age to come. God will still release His power through the prayers of the saints.*

* + 1. God’s wisdom is made known to angels by the church (1 Cor. 6:3; Eph. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:12).

10…the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (Eph. 3:10)

3Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate]angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)

*There will be the teaching of the Word. There will be the communicating of the knowledge of God. Well, to whom are we going to communicate? Who are the saints going to communicate with? They are going to communicate and teach the Word to people on the earth who have natural bodies. There will be hundreds of millions, eventually billions of them. They need to be taught. Well, they will teach each other. Just like now in glimpses, we get little glimpses of this, an angel will appear here and there and aid somebody and even give someone instruction. Just a glimpse, once or twice in a life that might happen or maybe it will not happen once or twice in a life, but it is very rare. The idea is there is an interaction that we can have, though we cannot imagine it because it is happening very little right now, at least our grasping of it.*

*I believe we, meaning the saints with a resurrected body, will teach people on the earth, and I believe the saints will teach the saints. When you get a resurrected body, you do not get a chip of omniscience. You know, like a resurrected body, you step across the line, and now you know everything. I think the day you get a resurrected body you do not know anything more than you already knew. You will learn really fast, but I think it is still you. You are thinking, “Okay, wow!” You are learning really fast. Your mind will have a supernatural ability, but you will not have omniscience. You will still learn line by line. You will just remember really well. You will understand really deeply, but you will still, for billions of years, be learning, and you will be teaching.*

*You will be communicating to the angels. 1 Peter 1:12, I do not have it on the notes, says that the angels look at the saints to get instruction right now. Ephesians 3:10 says the same thing. I like that one. I do not have these in the notes; I am just thinking of them. Then 1 Corinthians 6:3 says in the age to come we are going to be judging the angels. I do not think just teaching them, but judging them, because you are not only always going to be a newcomer. Right now you are a newcomer; you have only been in the game for less than 100 years, everyone in this room. The angels in this room have been around maybe billions of years, I do not know. Eventually you are not going to just be newcomers, but you are going to be profound in your understanding. I do not even know where all that is going, but it is glorious.*

* 1. ***Kings***: Resurrected saints will reign with judicial responsibility and authority. This includes the authority to *evaluate* the past (judging) and to determine *action plans* for the areas they are over. This involves *selecting*, *training*, and *managing* people in the infrastructure under their authority.

*Then there are kings. I think kings is the ultimate, but I think that “kings” also implies or infers the lesser spheres of reigning, over which the king is the top in terms of scope of authority. Kings reign with judicial responsibility. Their responsibility is to establish a godly social order. That will include evaluating past events; that is what judging is. You know, when it talks about judging the world, judging angels, it does not mean punishing; it means evaluating. It is evaluating, I am assuming, to improve things. So when you see “judge,” do not think “punish,” think “evaluate.” Then I think you will be more in the right line of thinking about what it means when the saints will judge.*

*Because, John 5 says, the Father gave all punishment to the Son. He will be over all judgment, the evaluation, the rewarding, and the punishing. He will be over all of it. I believe that the saints will be involved in determining action plans. That is what ruling and reigning means. You get together and see what the divine opportunities are. You train, rally, recruit, select, manage, and employ, and things grow. That is how it happens in this age and I believe in the age to come, because the natural realm will not be suspended; it will continue. It will be enhanced by the supernatural realm. There will be many, many, many dimensions of reigning.*

* 1. We will make real decisions that will impact the quality of life for others and express unique aspects of our personality. Reigning will be relational and not automated like robots that simply implement decisions sent from headquarters. Jesus has the ability to rule without us because He has infinite power, wisdom, and time. Yet He involves us because He delights in relating to His people.

4I saw thrones, and they [the saints] sat on them, and judgment [decision-making] was committed to them…and they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4)

2Do you not know that the saints will judge [evaluate] the world? ...3Do you not know that we shall judge [evaluate]angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)

*I love this passage, Revelation 20:4, “And I saw thrones and the saints sat on them.” Here it is, “judgment was given to them.” Again He is not talking about punishment. He is talking about decision-making which involves evaluating, selecting, making plans. “Judgment was committed to them, and they reigned.” He went on to say, in 1 Corinthians 6, that the saints will evaluate the world; they will judge it. Again, I do not believe he means punish it. They will judge angels in the age to come.*

*Now reigning—here is the key point—will be relational. It will not be automated like robots. Some people have this idea reigning is robotic. We go there, get the information from headquarters, simply implement it, come back, get more information.*

*No judgment is committed to the saints. The Lord might say, “I want your involvement. I want your personality. I want your ideas. There is more than one way to do it that I will bless, just like now.” There are many choices we all make. The Lord will bless many of those choices, but some of them He will not. There is not always just one choice that is right. He wants us fully engaged.*

*I can imagine when we are planning a ministry outreach, and we are asking the Lord, “How about this? How about that?” and I can imagine the Lord saying in this age and in the age to come, “Well, what do you think?”*

*“Well, Lord, I would like to do it this way.”*

*He says, “Let’s do it that way. I can do that. Yeah, that is good.” I believe that is how He worked with the apostles when He sent them out. They came back, and they told their stories, and He said, “Yeah, that works.” They all did it a little bit differently.*

*I think we will make real decisions that will have a real impact, a quality impact on people. They will bring improvement to other people’s lives. They will express our own unique personalities in the will of God. There will not just be a right and wrong answer, just like it is now. Now sometimes there is a right and wrong answer really clearly, but in many situations of going forward in growing a ministry and righteousness the Lord would say, “There are a number of ways to go forward that I will bless.”*

*Now, the Lord does not need any of us. Again, He could, at the second coming, wave His hand over the earth, whew! blow His breath, and everything be restored. Like in Genesis 1, when He just said, “Let there be light,” boom! He could do that again, no problem, but He wants to involve us because He delights in His people.*

1. two levels of government: natural and supernatural
	1. Jesus will rule a kingdom that includes two types of kings—***the*** ***kings of the earth*** (those with
	non-resurrected bodies) and ***resurrected kings*** (saints with resurrected bodies). Together they will establish a godly social order that will transform every sphere of society in the Millennium. Jesus reigns now at God’s right hand over the kings of the earth, but His leadership over the kings of the earth in this age is not fully manifested in the way it will be in the Millennium.

*Well, we are coming to the last few minutes here, so I am just going to give you what is on these pages and you can take a peek at it at your own time if you want. I believe there will be two levels of government. There will be the people with natural bodies and there will be the people with the resurrected bodies. Right now, in the government of the nations, there are men and women with natural bodies and there are angels over the city. There are angels given charge over every city, every country. There are demons that have been assigned to every city, every country, every leader. So the humans are in charge at one level. The angelic authorities are in charge at another level. I believe in the age to come it will be natural believers and resurrected believers. I think that will be the order that is coming.*

* 1. In the Millennium, resurrected saints will reign with authority over the leaders with non-resurrected bodies living on earth. This is parallel to angels being over leaders who live on earth in this age.
	2. Currently, angels have charge over cities “in the spirit” (Ezek. 9:1-2).

1“Let those [angels] who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon.” (Ezek. 9:1)

* 1. Human leaders are influenced by angels and demons. The prince of Persia (demonic power over Persia) influenced the human king of Persia. Michael the prince is an archangel (Dan. 10:20-21).

20“Now I [a mighty angel] must return to fight with the [demonic] prince of Persia; and when
I have gone forth, indeed the [demonic] prince of Greece will come. 21…No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince [the archangel assigned to Israel].” (Dan. 10:20-21)

* 1. Michael the archangel stands guard over the nation of Israel (Dan. 12:1). An angel protected Israel in her exodus from Egypt (Ex. 14:18-19), killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers besieging Jerusalem
	(2 Kgs. 19:35), and killed King Herod Agrippa who was persecuting the church (Acts 12:23).
	2. In the Millennium, the nations will not be subject to angels, but to resurrected leaders (Heb. 2:5). The saints will even judge, or evaluate, angels in the age to come (1 Cor. 6:3).

5For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. (Heb. 2:5)

*It says it clearly, Hebrews 2:5, “He is not going to subject the world to come to angels.” He is subjecting it to you. So the resurrected saints will be over the people with natural bodies. They will interface with them. Again, just like now you might be blessed to have an angelic encounter once in your life or maybe more or maybe you do not even have one, but the angels do appear here and there, very minimally. They give aid, and they give instruction. I can imagine something far more dynamic than that happening in the age to come.*

1. The progressive increase of the kingdom into every area of life
	1. Jesus’ government will progressively increase (Isa. 9:7). Social improvements, or the healing of the nations, will be progressive, not instantaneous. The infrastructure to govern each sphere of society will gradually increase in capacity, quality, and impact as leaders grow in wisdom and skill development. It will take 1,000 years for righteousness to spread and mature in every nation.

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

*There will be a progressive increase. Look at Isaiah 9:7. “Of the increase,” it is talking about the Messiah, “of His government there will be no end.” One thousand years, a million years, His influence and sphere will get bigger and bigger and bigger. Forever and forever it will keep progressively growing on. What happens when we cover the earth? When the earth is full of the glory of God? I am assuming He says, “Look up.” There are billions and billions and billions of stars. I mean, who knows where it is going over trillions of years? I do not know. I do not care. I do not have to think about that right now. I know that His government will never end; it will always progressively grow.*

* 1. The dominion mandate given to Adam in the garden of Eden is eternal (Gen. 1:26-28). The saints will work together with the Lord, enriching the created order for billions and billions of years.

26God said, “Let Us make man in Our image…let them have dominion over…all the earth… 28God said…, “Be fruitful and multiply…have dominion over…every living thing…on earth.” (Gen. 1:26-28)

*When the Lord gave Adam the mandate of dominion over the nations, He said, “Adam, Adam and Eve, you and your sons and daughters and all the generations, exercise dominion in My name.” He never took that mandate back, ever. We still have it. He gave it to humans to be the vessels to bring the glory of God to the earth. In the millennial kingdom, it will go to a whole other level. Then it will go on beyond that in the age after the millennial kingdom, in the new heavens and the new earth. I do not know the details of it, but I am assuming it will have parallel principles to the Millennium, at least to some degree.*

* 1. Jesus will establish “training institutions” so that the nations may systematically learn of His ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, technology, etc.). As Jesus’ wisdom is gained and applied, society will progressively improve across the earth.

3Many 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 [teaching]…the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:3)

*Catch this! This is the Millennium. Many people, verse 3—that is with natural bodies, hundreds of millions, eventually billions. I do not know the numbers; I am just imagining—in the Millennium after the Tribulation, many people will say, “Let’s go to Jerusalem. Jesus will teach us His ways.” He will not only give just Bible studies on the four Gospels, though undoubtedly, He will do that too. I think it is also His ways of government. He is going to show ways of agricultural, ways of economics. They are going to go back home to their nation with brand new ideas of how to do it better. The nations will constantly be coming to Jerusalem for training.*

*The point is there will be teaching, and the Teacher will be Jesus. I do not think Jesus is the only teacher. It will be a hundred million people who come, and He is standing in front of all of them, doing every seminar. I believe Jesus is responsible, and it is His teaching. It is also those that are under Him, but I think the emphasis in Isaiah is that it is the Lord Himself. He is the ultimate Teacher. I believe it is Jesus and all His teaching in—I put the word, institutions, and that is probably an inadequate word. There will be teaching on technology, agricultural, politics, education. They will go back to their nation.*

* 1. The saints will live in the New Jerusalem but will rule with responsibilities *on earth.* I compare this to a senator who lives in their home state but rules in part from a senatorial seat in Washington DC.
	2. Jesus, as the ultimate “nation-builder,” will establish infrastructure in the nations in partnership with resurrected saints, who will have a dynamic role in overseeing leaders on earth (non-resurrected natural bodies). Resurrected saints will relate to, but probably not fully intermingle with, those in natural bodies. Jesus spoke with His disciples for 40 days in His resurrected body (Acts 1:3).
	In this age, for example, angels sometimes appear to people to instruct or aid them.
	3. Resurrected saints, in partnership with the leaders of the millennial earth, will work together to fully *restore cities* (Isa. 61:4; Ezek. 36:36), *justice in society* (Isa. 9:7; 11:3-5; 28:17; 32:16; 42:1-4),
	*the agriculture*, *the* *atmosphere*, and *animal life* (Deut. 8; 28; Isa. 51:1-8; 60:1-62:12; 65:17-25).

4They shall rebuild the old ruins…repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. (Isa. 61:4)

*Again, there is much on this subject of resurrected saints. They will partner with the leaders of the millennial earth to restore cities, justice, society, agricultural, atmosphere, animal life. Everything will be restored. It will be the saints under Jesus’ leadership impacting other people in the nations.*

* 1. The kings of the earth will enter the New Jerusalem to bring the glory of their nation to the Lord and to bring home the leaves of the tree of life, which will be involved in the process of healing the millennial nations. It may take 1,000 years for the land to be fully healed in every nation.

24The kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it [New Jerusalem]…22:2The tree of life …bore twelve fruits…the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 21:24-22:2)

8“This water flows [from Jesus’ throne in the millennial temple] toward…the sea [the Dead Sea], its waters are healed…9There will be a very great multitude of fish…and everything will live wherever the river goes…12Along the bank of the river…will grow all kinds of trees…because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Ezek. 47:1-12)

*“The kings of the earth,” these are natural kings. They will actually come into the New Jerusalem because the New Jerusalem will be in proximity to the earth. They will have an ability to enter at the King’s will. They will bring the glory of their nation to present to the Lord.*

*Here is what they do—now catch this—they take the leaves from the tree of life in the New Jerusalem, and they bring them back to their nation. What do they do with those leaves? I can only guess. My guess is there are supernatural properties in those leaves that, when mixed with seed or water or whatever, bring healing and purity, and it heals the land in some glorious ways that has many dimensions to it that are far beyond my understanding. I know the leaves are brought back to the nations. The agricultural and water systems and the atmosphere, and maybe the people who eat the food from the gardens that are touched by those leaves or something like that. Again I do not want to give too much detail because I do not have it. We know in Ezekiel 47, when the water comes from the throne, it heals all the bitter waters around the area. The waters are all healed when that living water comes from the throne in the New Jerusalem. Remember the New Jerusalem is in proximity to the earth and is connected to the throne of Jesus.*

1. There will be many different work assignments
	1. There may be several billion saints. They will not all be kings over a nation. There are about 200 nations in the world today. I assume there may be a similar number of nations in the age to come.

*I have already said this, but there are maybe several billion saints. We do not know. Not all of them will be kings over a nation. Again, there are only about 200 nations. There may be more or less, I do not know, but not all will be kings. Some will be over ten cities, some over five cities, some over various parts of a city interacting with the people with natural bodies.*

* 1. I also assume that most saints will reign in some regard, even if over only a small area of society.
	We will all have different work assignments with varying measures of authority and responsibility. Some resurrected saints will be kings over nations. Others will be over ten cities or five cities, and some will be over various parts of the infrastructure in a city. Every job will have a measure of authority and reign, whether it be over a nation or working on a small neighbourhood council.
	2. In the US today, there are about 100 cities with a population of 4 million or more, 5,000 cities with a population of 100,000 or more, and 50,000 cities with a population of 2,500 or more. The US Census Bureau designates a city as having 2,500+ people. There are about 2,000,000 cities, towns, and villages in the earth. Not every saint will reign over a nation, city, town, or village. There are many different roles in the infrastructure of a nation. For example, in 2016 there were over 22 million people in the USA employed in the infrastructure of the country—federal, state, and local.

*Just to give you kind of a snapshot, not that this is the parallel, but just look at the natural realm and see if there are any hints we can get about what global infrastructure might look like. Today, just a casual, quick study, there are about 100 cities in the earth that have about four million people plus. There are 5,000 that have 100,000 people. Total villages, towns, and cities, there are two million in the earth right now. Not that that necessarily is the number in the age to come; I do not know. There are two million in the whole globe right now, two million towns, villages, cities. There might be two billion believers. So not everybody is even over a city. The reason I am saying that is I want people to look at this and make it real and not just poetic or figurative, but think, “This is actually real. This really matters.”*

1. overcomers are promised Power over the nations
	1. The reward for overcoming *immorality,* *idolatry*, and *the* *state* *of* *being* *lukewarm* is to reign with Jesus in the Millennium (Rev. 2:20-27; 3:16-21). The essence of idolatry is covetousness (Col. 3:5).

20“…You allow…Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols…26And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations. (Rev. 2:20-26)

16“…you are lukewarm…21To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne… (Rev. 3:16-21)

*I will bring this thing to an end here. It is a big topic, but I love it, so I kind of get going on it. I think about it a lot. In Revelation 2-3, He gives two promises related to ruling the nations. These two promises are in context to overcoming immorality, idolatry, and being lukewarm. He said that if you overcome immorality and idolatry, you will reign. You will have power in the nations. I am not going to tell you at what level, but you will be involved in His government, if immorality or idolatry touches you, and you resist it. Now, if you stumble, you can rise up, get forgiveness. You do not want to ever make peace with it and just say, “Okay, I am going to live that way.” No, you are resisting it all the way. He says that it really matters.*

*Look at here. He says to this one church, “You allow Jezebel to teach and seduce My servants to commit immorality and idolatry. If you overcome this, I will give you power over the nations. That is to the church of Thyatira. Then later on He tells Laodicea, “If you overcome lukewarmness, you will sit with Me on My throne.”*

* 1. Jesus connected the obedience of the apostles to His promise that they sit on thrones (Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:29-30). Eternal rewards are not based on ability, but on our responses. He prophesied to the apostles about their role in the Millennium to motivate them to walk in humility and diligence.

27“We [the apostles] have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” 28Jesus said to them, “…in the regeneration [the Millennium]…you who have followed Me will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Mt. 19:27-28)

28“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. 29I bestow upon you a kingdom… 30that you may…sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (Lk. 22:28-30)

*The point I am wanting you to get is that there are many different levels. It is not about being over people. To me it is about proximity, working with what is near and dear to His heart. It is not about earning, but it is about your life being a testimony. You loved Him when you could not see Him, so now He wants you to impart His love, now that you do see Him, because your life was a testimony of loving Him when it was challenging and difficult. He would say, “Those are the kind of people I want in My government.”*

*So He tells the apostles that He connects their obedience to their job description. Some people do not like this because that makes them feel pressured. Again I say, “Lord, shock me now! Do not shock me then.” Because, the Lord is not changing His Word or His kingdom policies just because some people in America do not like pressure.*

*Some people say, “I do not like that because I feel pressure.”*

*I say, “So we change the Word of God because you feel pressure?” You just do the ostrich thing; put your head in the ground and hopefully it changes? No, this is Jesus. The Bible is never changing, ever. I want to see what it says and embrace it.*

*He tells the apostles. Matthew 19:27, they say to Him, “Hey, we left everything! What do we have?”*

*He says in verse 28, and the idea is that because you left everything—and there is a sovereign dimension He called them to but they said yes—so “You are going to rule on thrones.” He connects it to their obedience.*

*Beloved, eternal rewards are not based on your ability. They are based on your response. He tells them later in Luke 22, He says, it is because you continued with Me when it was hard. You did not quit; therefore, you are going to sit on thrones. So in Matthew 19 He connects sitting on thrones with their giving up everything to His leadership. In Luke 22, He connected it to not quitting when things got tough; they stayed steady under His leadership.*

* 1. Those who are faithful in a few things now will have authority over many things then (Mt. 25:21).

21…you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. (Mt. 25:21)

17Well done…you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities. (Lk. 19:17)

*I love this one! This gives all of us hope. “You were faithful”—here is the key—“in only a few things.” The idea is that you were consistent. It was not only that you were faithful a few times. That is not what He means. You were consistently faithful. Though you did not have much entrusted to you, you stayed steady. Yes, you failed, but every time you failed, you recovered, and you came back with all of your heart. You are going to be ruler over many things.*

*In Luke 19, He says the same thing a different way. He said, “You were faithful over very little.” He did not mean his faithfulness was little, but the sphere entrusted to him. They only impacted a few people, and nobody really appreciated them, but they kept steady. They did not do it because men applauded them. They did it because the Lord said, “I want you to do that, and I am watching you.” He says, “You will be over ten cities.” So, beloved, it is not about how much impact or how much education or how much money, how much favor, how much opportunity you have; it is about the response of your heart.*

* 1. Our life on earth in this age can be likened to a 70-year internship (Ps. 90:10) which prepares us for our life on earth in the age to come which will be the time of our primary ministry calling. Our *preparatory* assignment is a ***70-year assignment*** on earth (our internship). Our *primary* assignment is a ***1,000-year assignment*** on earth after Jesus returns.

*Our life on the earth can be likened to a seventy-year internship. I have used this analogy over the years. We are being prepared in these seventy years. We are all in our internship right now. Our primary assignment on the earth is a 1,000-year assignment. We are in preparation. What we do matters now. It really matters. It is not a practice game. This is our preparation. Your fifty-year, your seventy-year assignment on the earth is not your primary one. You will have a 1,000-year assignment on the earth with a physical body, teaching, training, leading, mobilizing, being involved.*

*I want to use my seventy years with a view of getting trained for ministry. You know Billy Graham. He is about ninety-five plus. He has led many stadium events, probably hundreds and hundreds of them. I do not know. He is an intern. When he steps across that line in that resurrection, for 1,000 years he is going to have an assignment on the earth that I think is going to surprise him. He is an intern. We are all interns right now. Again, that does not mean what we are doing is not the real thing. It really matters. What we are doing now is not the* ***only*** *thing we are doing. That is where people lose it. They know what they are doing is real, but they think it is the only thing. No, we are doing what we are doing now for real, and we are preparing for something else that is real.*

* 1. Some of our personal prophecies will have their greatest fulfillment in the Millennium. Many of the prophecies in Scripture for Jesus, the nation of Israel, and Abraham (Gen. 12-17) have their greatest fulfillment in the Millennium. David had more personal prophecies recorded in Scripture about his 1,000-year assignment in the Millennium than his 40-year kingship (2 Sam. 7:16; 2 Chr. 6:6; 13:5; Isa. 55:3-4; Jer. 30:9; Ezek. 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos. 3:4-5; Amos 9:11-12). Others with biblical prophecies related to the Millennium include *Daniel* (Dan. 12:13), *Elijah* (Mal. 4:5-6; Mt. 17:10-11), *Zerubbabel* (Hag. 2:21-23); *Ezekiel* (Ezek. 43:18-19); *Aaron* (1 Chr. 23:13), the *tribe of Levi* (1 Chr. 15:2), *Phinehas* (Num. 25:10-13), and *Zadok* (Ezek. 44:15-16).

*This may excite you or discourage you: some of your personal prophecies, real ones—and there are real ones—they will have their greatest fulfillment on earth, but in the Millennium. You say, “What?” Well, the prophecies in the Bible for Jesus, Abraham, the nation of Israel, King David, those prophecies for them in the Bible have a lot more to do with millennial kingdom than their first time on the earth. David has far more prophecy about when he comes back to the earth than when he was on the earth. Look, I have a list of others: Daniel, Elijah, Zerubbabel, Ezekiel, Aaron, the tribe of Levi, Phinehas, Zadok. They had prophecies of their impact or what they would do when they came back in the resurrection.*

*So my point is that we just do not want to be thinking about only now, “Who likes me” and, “Is it going good or is it hard?” Then we evaluate as if that is the whole storyline. Beloved, that is only a part of the storyline!*

*He says, “If you overcome, you will sit with Me.” Wow! “If you overcome your lukewarmness, you will sit with Me on My throne.”*

*I say, “Lord, I am going for it. I love that you said this to us, Lord.”*

*Amen and amen! Let’s stand.*