

Session 7 Identifying False Assumptions About the Millennium

I. REVIEW: THE 1,000-YEAR MILLENNIAL REIGN OF JESUS

- A. The Millennium is the 1,000-year period in which Jesus will rule this world in righteousness.

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

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

This is session seven, and I want to identify seven false assumptions about the Millennial Kingdom. There are many more than seven, but just for the sake of time I have identified seven. The idea is that we would take what the Word says so that we can more clearly picture what it might look like. We will never picture it clearly, but we want to get closer to what the Bible describes. Many believers who love the Lord have never studied this subject. There is a tremendous amount of information on this subject on the Bible, but it is not really a Sunday morning topic. It is not really something people have time and occasion to study out. They grow up with a mindset of, "It is not really important. I do not really know what the Bible says." We end up with a very, very fuzzy picture from what the Bible tells us. We can know it all from the Scripture, and we still see dimly. We see in part. I want to see a clearer picture. I want to get rid of some of the fog and smoke in my thinking and see more clearly.

A quick review for those who are new and joining us tonight for the first time.

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

The Millennium is a 1000-year period where the kingdom is openly manifested in every sphere of life in every nation of the earth. Every sphere of life: political, agriculture, economic, education. The result will be that the Lord restores the agriculture, the animal kingdom, and garden of Eden type conditions will fill the earth through this period of 1000 years.

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

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

All the kings of the earth will be saved.

- D. Jesus will rule in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12).

Jesus will rule this physical, natural earth together with saints who will have resurrected bodies. Those saints will have been raptured and will have received a resurrected body. They will live in the New Jerusalem, and the New Jerusalem will descend to just above the earth. There will be very rapid transportation entering in and out of the New Jerusalem to the earth, just like the angels can move in the natural realm and spiritual realm

seemingly effortlessly and very, very quickly. You can live in the New Jerusalem and work on this physical earth and be there in a moment's time is the assumption.

- E. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to establish His kingdom over all the earth and **join** the heavenly and earthly realms together. The earth speaks of the physical realm, where human process and physical sensation reach their fullest expression. Heaven speaks of the spiritual realm, where God's power and presence are openly manifest.

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

This is one of the most important points that we make several times during the course. Central to what God is doing, His eternal purpose is that He joins the heavenly realm together with the earthly realm. He joins them together on the earth. Right now the heavenly realm is far away. The earthly realm is here. Every now and then we see a little bit of supernatural activity. The day is coming when the two realms will be fully joined on the earth. The physical realm will be fully intact. It will not be absent. For example, in heaven they don't eat physical food. They don't eat food like they will on the earth. When the saints in heaven get a resurrected body, they will eat physical food. They will like it. There will be no negative effects.

- F. When Jesus rules the earth, the *natural processes* will not be suspended, but significantly enhanced by the *supernatural dimension* of the Spirit. Aspects of the natural and supernatural dimensions operated together when Jesus appeared to the apostles for forty days (Jn. 20-21; Acts 1:3).

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

***³⁹"Behold My hands and feet...handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones..."
⁴²They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish...⁴³He took and ate in their presence. (Lk. 24:39-43)***

I will say this a number of times because this is the most challenging to people's thoughts when they think about the Millennium casually without really thinking about it biblically. When Jesus rules the earth, the natural processes of life, the human process, will not be suspended. They will still plant vineyards and build cities.

While the human process will be significantly enhanced by the supernatural dimension of the Spirit, the supernatural dimension will not cancel out the natural dimension. I have found over the years this is the hardest part for people to get a hold of. When they think about the future, they think Jesus waves His hand, everything is automatic, and they sit on a cloud playing a harp and don't know what to do for the next billion years. They do not see themselves involved in work that matters, that is relevant, that creates change, and that is enjoyable. Work without frustration. Work without toil. Work without the curse of sin, and work that is relevant, that is meaningful. They do not see that. They see themselves on a cloud, playing a harp, hoping it doesn't get boring. In their picture of the future, they think, "Well, there are streets of gold. That sounds cool, and mansions far away." They do not see the earth in their picture of the future.

One preacher said, "If you do not think rightly about heaven, you will not think about heaven hardly at all." When you think about heaven coming to the earth with the earthly dimension and the supernatural dimension of the New Jerusalem together, it starts getting exciting. These verses are very meaningful. They form your thinking. They create a solid hope that is far more powerful because you can relate to it and think about it, not with really precise details, but some general details that are made known by the Scripture.

- G. There will be three types of people on earth when Jesus appears in the sky to rapture the Church.
1. The **redeemed** will be raptured at the time of Jesus' royal procession across the sky (Rev. 1:7).
 2. The **reprobate**, who took the mark of the Beast, will be gathered, judged, and killed.
 3. The **resisters** are the unsaved survivors of the Tribulation who refused to worship the Antichrist. They are referred to as "*those who are left*" (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16).

There will be three types of people when the Lord returns in the sky at the last trumpet. When the trumpet is sounded and the church is raptured, at that time there will be three types of people on the earth. Number one, there will be the redeemed. They get raptured.

There will be the reprobate, those who took the mark of the beast and worshipped the literal Antichrist. They will end up being executed. They will not just disappear. Jesus will not wave His hand and they all evaporate. There will be, I am guessing, several billion. A billion or two or less, I do not know, but a lot.

There is a third group that is really clear. I call them the resisters. They are the unsaved survivors of the great tribulation. They did not accept Jesus, and they did not worship the Antichrist. I am guessing that there could be hundreds of millions. I do not know if it will be billions, but I think it is more than a few here and there. They are referred to in the Scripture as those who are left, or those who escaped, or those who remain. It is talking about those who remain on the earth. It is not talking about the "mark of the beast" people, and it is not talking about people with resurrected bodies.

II. IDENTIFYING COMMON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM

- A. In seeking to understand what the Scripture says about the Millennium, it is important to identify **false assumptions** about it, then replace them with **biblical principles**.

Let's move onto new territory. That was all just review. We are going to identifying seven common false assumptions. There are many others that you could list. You could list ten, twenty, or thirty of them if you really broke it down. We want to see what the Scripture says, so we have to identify false assumptions and replace them with biblical principles, biblical truths.

- B. At the second coming, Jesus will return to earth to accomplish a long-term mission of filling the earth with glory of God and bringing the earth under His Father's authority (Mt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 15:28). He is coming *to stay permanently* to establish a kingdom with an international government.

⁹***The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isa. 11:9)***

²¹***...truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD... (Num. 14:21)***

When Jesus returns, He is returning to the earth to be here permanently. Some people think Jesus comes, we all go away, and we stay away. Jesus comes, the church is raptured, and we get resurrected bodies caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

When the Lord returns to the earth, He stays on the earth forever. He has a very long-term plan that involves you, and you will have a physical, resurrected body, a physical body but with supernatural qualities. It will be physical. You will have an elbow. You will have bones. You will hug each other. The joke I like to make is that you will not hug each other and go, "Whoa," pass through each other, and try again. "Hey, go slower this time so I can hug you." You will have an elbow, two of them, actually.

Jesus is coming to fill the earth with the glory of God literally. Some folks think the earth is filled with the glory of God now. I answer, “By faith, and there is certainly the mark of God’s activity around the earth, but there will be a day when it will be obvious and open to everybody in a full way.”

- C. **Premise:** I assume that Jesus will use many of the same principles in His leadership over people (with natural bodies) on earth **after** His second coming that He used at His first coming. Some assume that He will lead people on earth in a radically different way after He returns.

*Here is my premise. Jesus will use many of the same principles in His leadership over people on the earth in the Millennium as He uses **now** in His leadership over people on the earth, because He never changes. The way He leads the earth now has wisdom in it.*

There will be some differences. The devil will be in prison. There will be no demons. The veil will be lifted. Jesus will use some of the same principles, not all, in terms of His leadership over people on the earth, people with natural bodies. There will be millions of people who have natural bodies. You will have a resurrected body living in the New Jerusalem, working on the earth, serving on the earth. The veil between the two realms, the supernatural realm and the natural realm will be lifted.

III. FALSE ASSUMPTION #1: NATURAL PROCESSES WILL BE SUSPENDED

- A. A common false assumption is that the natural processes of life will be completely suspended by Jesus’ supernatural activity. For example, that He might just “wave His hand” to instantly establish the infrastructures needed to support life and government on earth using only His supernatural power without human involvement and natural processes.

False assumption number one: that the natural processes of life will be suspended and all there will be is Jesus’ supernatural activity. Some assume that He will wave His hand and all the life support system for the physical earth will somehow pop into order. All the cities will be rebuilt. All the water systems, banking systems, and educational systems will be intact.

That is not how it will be. Jesus returns. He has His throne in Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem has descended. There is a dynamic connection with the earthly Jerusalem. His throne is in both places, and it is one throne, just two different expressions of one throne that is dynamically connected.

Now think of documentaries of WWII some of you have seen. In 1945, in Europe, the cities were bombed out. People were walking hundreds of miles, prisoners who were in Russia were walking back to Germany. The Russian prisoners were marching back up to Moscow from France. There was poverty, broken roads, no water systems, and the school systems were broken. The cities were bombed out. That is what the cities will look like after the Tribulation, but worse. Jesus will come and say, “Now, we are going to restore the whole thing. We are going to bring it far beyond what men did for 6000 plus years. We are going to bring it far beyond. The glory of God will fill the earth.”

It will take 1000 years for this process to happen. Literally. It will not take ten years. It will take one thousand. Not to see the glory of God initially, but for it to mature and spread into every sphere of life where people with natural bodies and cities and governments all around the earth are living and honoring Jesus’ leadership in Jerusalem as the president over all the nations, the King of all kings. All the laws will come from Jerusalem that effect school systems and banking systems. It is what life would have been like with a perfect leader because it will be that way. It is that utopia that people dream about. It is actually literal. It is real. It is coming.

You will have a resurrected body. You will be partnering and interacting with people who have natural bodies. You say, “How can that be?” It is like an angel who appears like a man, like a human being. All through the Bible they were confused sometimes. An angel would appear, and they didn’t know it was an angel. When Jesus appeared in His resurrected body, they did not even know it was Him.

They were talking, “Hey, did you hear what was going on in Jerusalem?”

Jesus said, “Tell Me.” The disciples on the road of Emmaus, they were talking for hours. They didn’t even know He had a resurrected, glorious body. He turned the glory down on the dial so to speak. He had veiled it.

It’s like how an angel can appear and actually scare you completely. Or an angel can appear with the glory veiled, and you do not even know it is an angel. Hebrews 13 says you entertain angels, and you do not even know they are angels.

- B. **Biblical principle:** Jesus will rule the earth without suspending natural human processes, yet will significantly enhance them 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).

The biblical principle is that Jesus will rule the earth and the natural, human process will be there. Gardens will still need to be planted, and they will grow. They will still have weeds in them that have to be pulled. Again, this is for people with natural bodies. You will be more involved in ministry, involved with them like angels are deeply involved with us. They are all over this room, but there is a veil. The veil will be lifted. We will be mandated, believers, to be deeply involved. People will know which are which. There will be no question about it. It is a glorious reality.

- C. The saints from all throughout history will sit on thrones, or occupy the top positions of authority over society (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).

Resurrected saints will occupy the top positions of leadership. It is a bit like the angels now. There are angels over cities, just like there are demons assigned to cities to attack cities and nations. There are angels and archangels. There is ranking of angels of nations and cities. They have far more authority than the president over that nation or the mayor over that city has. They have far more power over what goes on in that city.

The role of the resurrected saints will be parallel to that. I am sure it is not exactly the same. They will have the superior position of authority. They will interact with people with natural bodies. Again, it is probably an inaccurate analogy. There are probably lots of ways it is not the same, but it may be like angels have authority over cities now and interact with godly people now and help them. You have heard the story of the angel appeared and gave me this help or the prophet said the angel appeared and made me understand this. Or the door opened and Peter walked out of prison. The angel opened the door. Daniel 10, archangels and angels have authority over nations. Daniel saw them, etc.

- D. Jesus will rule in partnership with two types of human leaders—those with resurrected bodies who live in the New Jerusalem and those with natural bodies who live on earth. Resurrected saints will occupy the *highest positions* of government over the earth in the Millennium. This will be parallel to the position of angels in the government of the nations in this age. John made reference both to leaders or kings with natural bodies (Rev. 1:5) and to kings with resurrected bodies (Rev. 1:6).

⁵...*Jesus Christ...the ruler over the kings of the earth...*⁶*has made us kings and priests to His God and Father... (Rev. 1:5-6)*

There will be two types of human leaders. I am saying the same thing over and over. There will be human leaders with natural bodies, and there will be human leaders with resurrected bodies. Revelation 1, John refers to both types of kings. In Revelation 1 he says, "Jesus is the ruler over the kings of the earth." He is talking about kings with natural bodies who sin and die. Then he said, "But He has made us to be kings." He is talking about resurrected saints. There are two types of kings mentioned in Revelation 1:5-6.

- E. Together they will establish infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city in every nation. The infrastructure will include *life support systems* (water, electricity, etc.), *building projects* (homes, office buildings, highways, bridges, etc.), *economic systems* (currencies, banking, etc.), *spiritual life* (worship centers, Bible schools, etc.), *education* (from elementary to university), *law enforcement*; *agriculture* (farming), media, arts, technology, social institutions, etc.

Together humans with natural bodies and humans with resurrected bodies will work together. That is what it means by we will reign on the earth. We will work in the realm of the earth. We will live in the New Jerusalem, but the New Jerusalem will have descended down in a dynamic connection to the earthly Jerusalem. Again, Jesus has one throne. He has a throne in the New Jerusalem and a throne on the earthly Jerusalem, but He does not have two thrones. It is one throne in two dynamic expressions of one grand reality. We do not have a lot of detail on that, but just leave it there. There is a little bit more detail in the Bible on that. We will look at that in one of the classes, the New Jerusalem in the age to come.

Together there will be the two types of leaders, those with natural bodies and those with resurrected bodies. They will establish the infrastructure in every sphere of life. I just give a few examples, such as life support systems. Electricity has to work on the earth. Again, Jesus will not wave His hand in Jerusalem and all the electricity turns on in Chicago. Chicago will still be there by the way. These highways will still be here when the Lord comes in the next couple decades, the next couple generations, whenever. I believe He is coming sooner than later. The highways will still be there. They will not evaporate when He appears. That highway will still be there most likely. Some highways will probably be annihilated. Many will still be in place. I hope IHOPKC is still going.

IV. FALSE ASSUMPTION #2: SOCIAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE INSTANTANEOUS

- A. A 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.

False assumption number two: that social improvement will be instantaneous. I believe that is a false assumption. The healing of the nations will take time. I believe it will take more than decades. I think it will take a thousand years for it all to be established, all to be matured, all to be tested, all to be seasoned to reach every dimension of the earth. I do not think the 1000 years is symbolic, nor is it unnecessarily long. I think it actually will take that long.

- B. ***Biblical principle:*** There will be progressive social improvement in every area of life. This is referred to as *the healing of the nations*. This will take much time to accomplish. People with natural bodies will need to learn, then apply what they learned involving human processes.

The biblical principle: there will be a progressive social improvement referred to in the Bible as the healing of the nations. People with natural bodies need to learn and apply what they learned in every sphere of life.

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

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

- D. Jesus' rule will progressively increase until all the institutions of all the nations are fully disciplined by His teachings (Isa. 16:5; 60:3; Jer. 23:5; cf. Ps. 89:4; 132:17-18). Jesus will “order and establish” His kingdom with necessary infrastructure for every sphere of life in every city. The infrastructure He establishes through the saints who rule with Him will increase in capacity, quality, and size as the leaders (with natural bodies) grow in understanding and skill.

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)***

Isaiah 9 references this. Isaiah 9:7, “Of the increase of [Jesus'] government there will be no end to it.” His government will increase the first twenty years after He establishes His throne on the earth. The New Jerusalem comes down. The first ten or twenty years, a lot of great significant and dynamic improvements will take place. Those first days and years will be so dramatic. The government will still be increasing. Meaning, His authority being manifest with people receiving it and understanding it and walking it out. There is no end to the increase. Even after the 1000 years it is not over. There is no end ever. There is an increase, and you will be involved in it with a relevant ministry assignment, call it a ministry if you want, job description if you want.

You will have relevant work forever. Work is not a problem. Genesis 3, it is work under the curse of sin that is the problem. It is work with frustration. Work under the toil and the heat of the sun. That is what is hard work—work with frustration. Work is glorious. We all want purpose. We were created that way.

Look what it goes on to say “the increase.” It is not instant. It increases slowly. I don't know about slow or fast, I do not know that kind of thing, but progressively. “There will be no end, upon the throne of David.” That is Jesus' throne in Jerusalem and the influence of it throughout the earth. Notice, “to order His kingdom and to establish it.” He will order it and establish it. Those are process words. Those are not words that lead you to think of instantaneous. You think of process, time, and development. He will do it from that time forward when He is on His throne in Jerusalem, and it will continue to increase. Look at this, “forever.” Someone might say, “Okay. A billion years from now, now what?” Somebody always asks me that every year, “What happens then? Do you think we will take over the stars?” I do not know. I don't what to go there. I do not know. I just know forever. I do not want to go beyond what the Bible says. I just know it will not stop. The increase will keep going.

- E. Jesus will set up training institutions to teach all the nations His ways (political, economic, spiritual, educational, agricultural, family, media, arts, technology, etc.) Many people will come to Jerusalem to learn of God's ways from Jesus. As wisdom is applied, society will progressively improve.

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)***

We are back in Isaiah again. Going a few chapters earlier to chapter 2:3. “Many people”—put the word, nations. These are Gentiles, people with natural bodies in the Millennium, and many will come to the mountain of the Lord because Jesus’ throne of glory is there. He called it the throne of His glory in the gospel of Matthew, Matthew 19:28. He also said this in Matthew 25:31. That throne of glory is not a chair overlaid with a little bit of gold and a few diamonds. This is the throne of His glory.

In Isaiah 2:3, His house is called the Mountain of the Lord. We can take this passage symbolically, which some do. I think we can use it this way in this age. We say the mountain of the Lord symbolically means His government. It does. In the Bible, mountain and government are symbolic. But it is more than symbolic. His throne and His house are a mountain house. The New Jerusalem is connected to it. That makes it a mountain. The New Jerusalem is big. I mean the nations will come and be overwhelmed at the size of the vastness of the throne complex of Jesus and His palace. It is called the mountain house. It is a mountain house. It is more than just figurative here. Although we can use the figurative in this age, let’s not limit it to that.

They will come to Jesus. They will say, “Teach us Your ways.” They are not only asking Him, “Define morality to us. Jesus, give us the true definition of marriage.” He will give morality, but it is far more than a couple definitions. He is going to unfold all of His ways. He is the greater Solomon. He knows everything about technology, everything about finances and banking, everything about agriculture and environment, everything about everything. They will come to Jerusalem, and He will teach them His ways. Not just His moral ways of how to live in humility and walk in purity. Certainly that, but more than that. The nations will go back home to apply what they learned from Him in every sphere of life. He is doing that now. This does not start then. It happens now. It is only in part now. It is going to come to fullness and fill the whole earth.

- F. The healing process of nations will be aided by the river from the millennial temple in Jerusalem. The water from the temple shall heal the desert as physical healing accelerates (Isa. 35:1-6)

¹ **...there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the [millennial] temple...⁸ This water flows...when it reaches the sea [Dead 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...¹⁰ ...fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many...¹² Along the bank of the river...will grow all kinds of trees...and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.” (Ezek. 47:1, 8-12)**

The healing process of nations will be aided by this river that is coming out of Jesus’ throne. It is coming out of the temple, and that is where His throne is, in the temple. There is a river with supernatural qualities coming out of His throne, His temple. There are two things that are highlighted; a river and a tree. There is a tree that is producing fruit, and there is a river. There is a flowing river and there are trees, plural, producing fruits plural. Twelve different types of fruit. I am guessing, this is purely a speculation, that there are probably all kinds of versions of those twelve types, just knowing the Lord’s diversity and looking at His handiwork in history. When it says there are twelve types of fruits, probably there are so many versions of each of those twelve. Who knows? We don’t need to know those kinds of details right now.

Look at this. Ezekiel 47 says, “There was water...”—it is water with supernatural properties—“flowing from under the temple.” In Ezekiel 43:7, Jesus tells Ezekiel, “My throne is in that temple. My throne is there.”

In Ezekiel 47:8, Ezekiel says that this water with supernatural properties flows out of the temple of Jerusalem into the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea is healed supernaturally and every living thing that moves lives wherever

those rivers go, because those rivers branch out. You think of the four rivers branching out from the garden of Eden back in Genesis. These rivers are branching out, and eventually they affect the whole world. Everywhere this water goes with these supernatural properties, it brings life. The first thing that is highlighted is the Dead Sea is healed. I mean the Dead Sea is really dead. Nothing can live in it. It is healed.

Verse 9, “There will be a very great multitude of fish. Because where the waters go, the waters will be healed. Everything will live where the river goes.” Verse 10, “The fish will be of the same kinds as in the Mediterranean Sea.” The great sea is the Mediterranean Sea. There will be exceedingly many fish. There will be so many fish in the Dead Sea.

I think of the two miracles that are like bookends on Jesus’ earthly ministry. In Luke 5 He caused the supernatural catch of fish. We know it is a symbol of “you are going to be a fisher of men.” Then at the very end, in John 21, He does the same thing, a supernatural catch of fish. We know it is about being a fisher of men. That is the spiritual principle. Jesus might have said, “You know, I am going to produce a whole lot of fishing a literal way, in a way you cannot imagine, by the river that flows from My throne.”

Read Ezekiel 47 and do not make it symbolic. Take it literally. We can use this passage symbolically like revival in the church. The only problem with using it that way—which we can, and I do think it is a good way to use it—is you have to get rid of about fifty details to make it symbolic. If it means revival in the church, where are all those dead fish? You have to figure out what all of those mean. It is literally describing an actual series of events. We can make it symbolic in part in this age, but it means much more than that.

Verse 12, “Along the banks of the rivers there will be all kinds of trees. Their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month.” This fruit will be touched by this water with supernatural properties. The fruit will have a certain supernatural dimension to it. People will eat the fruit for food, but the leaves will be for medicine. Literally the leaves will bring healing. I do not believe it is just right there in the Middle East. It is like the story of the pilgrims. They came over from Europe and brought their plants and their animals. I believe these leaves will be transported across the earth and used. The fruits and the water will end up being brought to all the nations of the earth. It will have its impact in a progressive way. All kinds of implications of those leaves going other places and being combined with other components for medicine and health and food, and the seeds of those fruits will be planted in other nations, I am assuming. The water will affect the water supply in other nations. The garden of Eden dynamics will spread out and eventually fill the whole earth. It will be progressive.

Isaiah 35 says that water from the temple will touch the desert. It will heal the desert, and it will heal the people as well. It talks about the blind, the lame, and the deaf. They will get healed as well. That water will heal everything it touches. Deserts, trees, fish, humans. I think in John 5, when the angel stirred the water, that was a little down payment of this kind of reality.

- G. The tree of life in the New Jerusalem will be received by the kings of the nations in a way that brings healing to their nation. It will take time to heal the land and the governments of the earth.

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

In Revelation 22:2, we find that there is a corresponding reality of those trees and that water in the New Jerusalem. Those trees and that water are in the earthly Jerusalem, but there is the tree and water in the New Jerusalem, too. I have no doubt there is a dynamic connection between the two. I do not understand it all, but in the New Jerusalem that water and that tree exist. In the earthly Jerusalem that water and that tree exist. Those two Jerusalems are dynamically connected by Jesus’ throne.

Notice that the leaves of this tree will be for the healing of the nations. The kings of the earth will have access to it. They will be able to go into the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem will be close enough to the earth where it says in Revelation 21, “The kings of the earth will present the glory of their nations to the Lord in that New Jerusalem.” They will look around and say, “Whoa, it is intense up here. Wow!” Somewhere they will have access to those leaves. Those leaves are for healing. It is not healing nations inside the New Jerusalem. The nations do not need to be healed in the New Jerusalem. They are doing great. Somehow the kings will have access to those leaves. They will have an impact. I do not know the details. They will have an impact on the nations even far away from the New Jerusalem. The uttermost parts of the earth. They say that New Zealand is the furthest place in the earth from Jerusalem. Those leaves and that water will be there before it is over. Some kings will bring it back or something.

- H. Natural processes will be involved in building cities, planting crops, etc. It may take many decades before all the destroyed cities of the earth are completely restored (Ezek. 36:36-38).

⁴And they shall rebuild the old ruins...and they shall repair the ruined cities...⁵Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and...be your plowmen and your vinedressers. (Isa. 61:4-5)

Cities will be rebuilt. Again, picture the ruined, devastated cities of Europe and the bombed-out cities. Many nations had bombed-out cities, but Europe was particularly decimated. In 1945, the war was over. I have seen a lot of these documentaries. It will be more severe than that. We can take Isaiah 61 and apply it to cities now where we can bring the presence of God, the glory of God, and we can see this in part now. This is valid. This is real. Beloved, I am talking about a day when every city of the earth will be restored. Every one fully restored. Not just a bigger church and a couple ministries, institutions, and businesses, but really prospering in the ways of God. I am talking about every single institution thriving in the ways of God. Every one. That is amazing.

- I. Natural processes will be involved in judging war crimes that occurred in during the Tribulation (Isa. 24:21-22).

⁶He [Jesus] shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies; He shall execute the heads of many countries. (Ps. 110:6)

⁴He [Jesus] shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people... (Isa. 2:4)

There will be a natural process involved in judging war crimes. Meaning, the leaders who are in the Antichrist empire will be rounded up. It will not happen in one day. They will be rounded up, tried, judged, and executed. That will take time. There will also be a supernatural dimension to it. It will be sped up. I think of the Nuremberg trials after WWII when they gathered some of the Nazi war criminals and tried them. It took a year. This will not take a year. Jesus is the judge. It says Jesus will judge the nations. He will fill the place with dead bodies. This is Jesus. He will execute the heads of many nations. They will be executed when He gathers them. They won't like it when He comes back. They will go into hiding, but He will get them. He will judge between nations. He will rebuke nations at that time. There will be rebukes. Some nations will cease to exist. Other nations will be established in a new way. He will rebuke nations when He comes. I do not mean just in the sky one rebuke. There will be a law system put in place.

V. FALSE ASSUMPTION #3: RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISHED IN THIS AGE WON'T LAST

- A. One false assumption is that the righteousness established in this age will be disregarded when Jesus returns. Thus many fail to see the *continuity* between our work in this age and the age to come.

The third false assumption is one of my favorite ones. The false assumption is that the great tribulation will be so bad and the Antichrist so powerful that everything that is good will be obliterated. That is not true. There will be continuity between some of what we do in this age and what we do in the age to come. There will be an element of continuity. It is a very, very important point. Darkness will be all over the earth, but so will the glory of God. They will both be increasing at the highest level in human history at the same time. The glory will be at the greatest, and the darkness will be at the greatest. Some people think that when the Antichrist arises, evil will be so powerful that it will overpower everything that is good. That is not true.

Some preachers use the analogy, “Why polish brass on a sinking ship? Why change the laws? Why stop abortion? Why should we have banking systems and kingdom businesses? Why do that when the Antichrist is coming and it is all going to go away anyway?”

Because it is not all going to go away when the Antichrist comes. There will be thriving dimensions of kingdom activity in every sphere of life. There will be hostile attacks and very dark, perverse, demonic expressions in every sphere of life as well. One city will have more of this and the other part of the world, different regions, cities, villages, more of that. It will be different everywhere in the world. It will not be like some evenly distributed evil during the Antichrist regime. Some nations will have far greater darkness, or some parts of nations will. Other parts will have far more demonstrations of light, glory and kingdom activities, events, and ministries, and kingdom businesses and righteous laws put in place.

- B. **Biblical principle:** There is continuity between the righteousness established in society now and what Jesus will need to establish in society in the millennial kingdom.

²⁶Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven. ²⁷Now 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)

For instance, if a city or a state or a nation outlaws abortion, when Jesus comes, He does not need to change that law. Abortion has already been outlawed. That law will still be on the record. He comes back and nations who are for abortion, He will rebuke that nation and change that law. If the law against abortion is already in place, there is continuity. Everything that we do is not obliterated and nullified when the Lord returns, because the natural realm will continue. There will be many buildings that still exist. Highways will exist. Schools will exist. Banks will still exist. When the Lord appears, they do not all disintegrate. Those institutions continue, I am talking about the buildings themselves, but also the policies that are in those buildings. The people who work there, if they are believers they will get raptured. If they worship the Antichrist, they will get executed. The number who are neither, they have policies, laws, and procedures. Those that are godly will stay in place. Those that are not will have to be completely made new. My point being, it matters what we do right now. Some of the victories being gained now, I am talking about in society, will hold up under the pressures of the Antichrist empire. It matters what we do right now.

Hebrews 12:26-27 talks about a great shaking that is coming. It is talking about the great tribulation so that there will be the removal of things that can be shaken, but the things that cannot be shaken will stay in place. It is a shaking on the earth after the Lord's return. Meaning the unshakeable will remain. This is talking about

when the Lord returns and how those things will remain. There are things that are built on righteousness. Again, that law that is prolife will not need to be undone.

The reason this matters is because some folks who study the end-time prophecies think, “It is all going to be bad anyway. We might as well abdicate, give up, and give in.” No!

Other people react to that and they say, “No, it does matter,” but they think the whole world is going to be Christianized. It is going to get better, better, and better. They do not see the great trouble coming. They say, “We cannot abdicate. Let’s go the other extreme. Everything is going to get better.” That is not right either.

There is a biblical answer. A lot of things get worse **and** a lot of things get better. Some things are obliterated. Other things remain. Let’s stay actively involved in bringing the kingdom to every sphere of society right now. We do not know what will remain; many things will and many things will not.

- C. All that is unrighteous will be shaken, dismantled, and removed. Righteous laws in society at the time of Jesus’ return will remain. God’s people can establish infrastructure now that will continue to be useful in the Millennium and will last beyond the shaking of the Tribulation judgments.

¹⁷Let 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. There are various expressions of the how the saints enter into the labors of those who lived before them. In other words, the past labors continue to impact future generations.

³⁸Others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. (Jn. 4:38)

Jesus talked about entering into the labors of others before us. I believe there are a number of expressions to that spiritual principle.

- E. There is a dynamic continuity of our present works including our growth in love and humility, ministry to others, and societal justice. There is fruit that *remains* from this life (Jn. 15:16).

¹⁶I chose you that you...bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain... (Jn. 15:16)

Jesus talked about fruit that remains. This includes fruit that remains in the resurrection, things that we do now that outlast the grave. Those are eternal rewards for sure. I think there are actual accomplishments, fruit that is born in society, which will remain. They will pass through that dark time.

- F. Fruit that remains includes the continuity of our labors in our *intercession* (it will continue to impact nations in the age-to-come), *character development* (eternal rewards), *relationships* (friendships), *legislation* (righteous laws, etc.), *natural accomplishments* (buildings, highways, scientific and technological developments), *life support systems* (food, water, electricity), etc.

- G. Some businesses and financial resources will survive the shaking of the end time (Isa. 60:1-14). There is wealth at the beginning of the Millennium that will not be destroyed.

²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you [Jerusalem]...⁵the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you...⁹And the ships of Tarshish will come...their silver and their gold with them...He has glorified you [Jerusalem]...

¹¹Your gates shall be open continually....that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles... (Isa. 60:2-11)

- H. We cannot interpret the full significance of our labors by only seeing their impact in this age.
¹⁰For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)
- I. There is continuity between what we do in this life and the glory we will possess in the next life. Our function in the Millennium is determined by how we live now. Mary's life impacted her future.
⁴²Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her. (Lk. 10:42)
- J. An expression of continuity is in righteous deeds in this life being rewarded after Jesus' coming.
¹⁰For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (Heb. 6:10)
²²Sell all that you have...you will have treasure in heaven. (Lk. 18:22)
- K. Our resurrected body has continuity with the DNA of our natural body.
- L. Another 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.

VI. FALSE ASSUMPTION #4: ALL ARE CONVERTED INSTANTLY & AUTOMATICALLY

- A. A common false assumption is that all unbelievers will be converted instantly and automatically.

The fourth false assumption: that at the Lord's return, all the unbelievers become believers instantly. When I say all the unbelievers, remember, I do not know the number. I say a couple hundred million. That is a completely arbitrary number. I do not think it is billions of unsaved survivors. I think there will be a billion or two that get saved, a billion or two or more who will join the Antichrist, and a billion or two in-between. I don't really know. I think the numbers are more than a few hundred here and there who will be the unsaved survivors.

Some people have the false assumption that when the Lord appears, everybody gets instantly saved. That is not what it says. He does not violate their freewill. You say, "How could they not be saved?" How could the children of Israel watch the Red Sea split, have the fire of God come on a mountain, the whole mountain is shaking and they are all watching it, have water flow out of a rock every single day, be led by a supernatural pillar of fire, and then deny the Lord? I do not know how that happens. People will not instantly and automatically become saved because the Lord as a man is back on the earth. Salvation will progressively spread across the earth.

- B. ***Biblical principle:*** it will take time for all the individuals in the nations to be converted.

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

In Isaiah 66:19, God is talking about proclaiming His glory among the people who escape the great trouble at the end. "I will send to the nations, I will send them to the places that do not know of My fame or have not seen My glory," which means they have not comprehended it all. They know some cataclysmic events have happened. A man came in the sky. The Antichrist did a whole bunch of supernatural miracles that were

dramatic, but this man came in the sky and killed the Antichrist. Yet they do not fully comprehend the whole story. Through Isaiah the Lord says, “I am going to send messengers to the nations, to those nations that have not fully grasped it.” When it says they have not heard it, this means they do not grasp or interpret the whole storyline. They know some big stuff happened. You can read that passage later.

VII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #5: ALL WILL AUTOMATICALLY AND FULLY OBEY GOD

- A. A common false assumption is that all people will automatically obey God, all the nations will automatically be disciplined, and only the righteous will live on the millennial earth.

The fifth false assumption—you could have a lot more than seven of these—that everybody with natural bodies will automatically all fully obey God instantly.

- B. **Biblical principle:** People living on the millennial earth must voluntarily *choose* to accept Jesus. Sin and even some who prophesy falsely will continue in the Millennium (Zech. 13:3).

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)***

The biblical principle is that people need to choose obedience voluntarily. Our obedience grows now. Their obedience will grow then like it does with us in this age. In the Millennium, there is no devil, the veil is lifted between the realm of the spirit and the natural, the environment is being restored, and the animal kingdom is being restored. Righteousness is spreading everywhere. The school system will be amazing. The food will be awesome. Water will be really different than it is now. There will still be people being born with a sin nature, and they have to become born again. Then they have to renew their mind. It will be easier to renew their mind. Still they have to go through this process as they grow in the knowledge of God.

Zechariah 13 talks about after the Lord returns. He said, “If some people still prophesy, and they tell lies when they prophesy, they have to be executed.” Tell lies? The Lord is in Jerusalem. They are making up prophecies? Zechariah said, “Yeah, they will. Some people will.” How could you have Jesus in Jerusalem and people still make up prophecies? That is remarkable.

I mean when Jesus was on the earth, how could His own disciples have denied Him? How could all of these things happen? He appeared—I have said this over and over—He appeared to 500 at the resurrection, but only 120 made it into the upper room. Where did the other 380 people go? He appeared to them as the resurrected Messiah, but they did not make it to the prayer room. “Well, I was really busy that weekend.”

“What? God in the flesh appeared and He said, ‘Go pray.’”

“I know. I was going to go. I was going to be there the next month. I already had it on my schedule.” Inconceivable!

- C. There will be a righteous legal system that will punish criminals in the Millennium described as a being like a “rod of iron” (Ps. 2:9, 72:9-11; Isa. 11:4; 66:20, 24; Zech. 13:2-4; 14:16-19).

⁹***“You shall break them [the nations] with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces.” (Ps. 2:9)***

VIII. FALSE ASSUMPTION #6: GOD WILL RELEASE HIS AUTHORITY WITHOUT PRAYER

- A. A common false assumption is that God will release His power without continual prayer.

The sixth false assumption is that God will release His authority without prayer and the idea that prayer will no longer be important.

- B. **Biblical principle:** The redeemed will continue to function as the “house of prayer” (Isa. 56:7). Jesus intercedes forever and takes possession of the nations even in the Millennium by intercession (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:34; Ps. 2:7-8). Prayers in this age will have impact in the Millennium.

⁷***I [Jesus] will declare the decree: The LORD [the Father] has said to Me, “You are My Son...
⁸Ask of Me [intercession], and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance...” (Ps. 2:7–8)***

There will be more people praying, and the power of it will be more obvious even after the Lord returns than it is before. Prayer will not go away. Prayer will multiply beyond measure. Saints with resurrected bodies will pray. Jesus has a resurrected body. He prays to the Father. He intercedes. Jesus with a resurrected body will pray, you with a resurrected body will pray, and the nations will function like a house of prayer. Prayer will explode because God will release His power as His people come into agreement with Him. Beloved, you are in the occupation of prayer, and that occupation will never ever go defunct. You have job security if you are doing the harp and bowl forever. I am saying that “tongue in cheek.” Meaning you do not have to do that, but it is amazing that prayer and worship will fill the earth.

IX. FALSE ASSUMPTION #7: ALL SAINTS WILL HAVE THE SAME MEASURE OF GLORY

- A. A common false assumption is that all saints will have the “same measure” of glory in our resurrected bodies and in our positions of authority in the Millennium.

The seventh false assumption is that all the saints at that time will have the same measure of glory.

- B. **Biblical principle:** All believers will differ in the measure of God’s glory that they experience—in their resurrected bodies, clothing, dwelling, position of responsibility and relationship with God. Our rewards in eternity will greatly differ from one another. 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.

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)***

¹⁹***Whoever...breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom...but whoever does and teaches them, shall be called great in the kingdom...***
(Mt. 5:19)

Paul said, “As one star differs from another star in glory, so is the resurrection.” The saints with resurrected bodies, living in the New Jerusalem, working on the earth, will all have varying degrees of the glory of God in their experience. They will all have the free access to the heart of God and salvation by faith, but their capacity to experience the glory of God and even to impart it and to operate in it will vary. Everybody will be different. There is no star identically the same. As all the stars, the billions of them, differ in glory, so all the saints will differ in glory.

In Matthew 5, Jesus talked about those who are least in the kingdom and greatest in the kingdom. He meant it literally. He is talking more specifically about the age to come. He is not talking about people who are famous

when He says great and least, because some of the most famous Christians are not the most faithful Christians. This verse has application in this age, but He is talking about the full application in the age to come. There will be those of the billions who are called least and those called greatest. It will not be related to how famous they were in this age. **It will be related to how obedient they were.**

He says, “The people who take My commandments and dumb them down and obscure what the Word says, they can still be saved, but they will be least in the kingdom.” There are a lot of folks doing that today. They are dismissing, dumbing down, and nullifying what God’s Word says. “Well, the grace of God says this and not that. We can do this and not that.” They are reducing what God’s call is to the human heart.

The Lord says, “They can be saved, but they will be least in the kingdom. There are those who will say what I say and teach what I teach, they may not have a following at all in this age. But God will call their response to Him great, and they will have a greater measure in the glory of God in the age to come.”

Though it is all by the grace of God. Meaning, even the gifts He gives us, the rewards, they are pure grace. How could we do something as weak as pray and obey, and have it deserve eternal rewards? Even the fact that you get a reward is massive grace. It is way beyond what that act of obedience deserved. It is all in the grace of God.

- C. Being faithful now in “a few things” will lead to ruling over “many things” in the age to come. I compare life to a 70-year internship, preparing us for our assignment on earth in the age to come.

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

¹⁷“**You were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.**” (Lk. 19:17)

I will end with this. Here Jesus is talking about the Millennial Kingdom. He said, “You are faithful over a few things. You will be ruler over many.” This is literal. “Because you did not have much responsibility in the spirit before people, very few people were paying attention to you. Your impact was very small, but you were obeying Me. You did what I told you to do in secret. You stayed with it. You will be surprised. I will make you a leader on the earth with a far greater sphere than you can imagine.” He says that in Matthew 25:21.

He says it again in Matthew 19. You were faithful in very little. Very little responsibility. Very little impact that you could measure. Jesus said you would have authority over ten cities. He meant it. Though this is a parable, He is saying, “You are really going to have authority. It is real.” The great exchange, the great equalizer when we stand before the Lord and He measures our heart and our response.

Beloved, we are in our internship right now, our seventy-year internship. Some of you may live to be eighty or ninety. Some of you may not live to be seventy, but whatever age you live to, you are in your internship. Billy Graham is ninety-five years old. He is still an intern. Billy Graham’s ministry on the earth will be far different in the age to come than it is now. You have a ministry on the earth forever. Your ministry is not over. You are just in your internship right now. Some people go to Bible school to start their ministry. That is good. Go to Bible school, start your ministry, but your ministry now is your internship. In the age to come you have a whole different assignment related to your ministry in this age. It is not the size, but it is the quality of our faithfulness. So interns, every one of us including Billy Graham, we are all interns in this age. How we are responding in our training will impact our assignment in the age to come. It really will. Amen.