

The Millennial Kingdom

In the book of Revelation we're told that one day the Lord Jesus Christ will rule over the nations for a thousand years:

Revelation 20:4: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

This period is usually referred to as the millennial kingdom, or the millennium. There are some people who reject the idea that the millennium is literal. They teach that it's a spiritual kingdom and Jesus isn't *really* going to return to this world and rule over the nations as some kind of political ruler. I believe this view is incorrect. The Bible claims in numerous places that the coming kingdom isn't purely spiritual but is very literal!

For example, in Daniel chapter 2 the Bible tells us that King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream he didn't understand. His dream disturbed him so much that he ordered his magicians to tell him what it meant. Daniel first told the king what he had dreamed:

Daniel 2:31-35: “Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver,

his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.”

Daniel then provided the interpretation. He explained that the statue represented four kingdoms that would control the world from the time of Nebuchadnezzar until the end of days. The fourth kingdom would be broken into pieces by God Himself and replaced with an eternal kingdom which would never be destroyed:

Daniel 2:44-45: “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.”

The last kingdom – the eternal kingdom that God Himself establishes – *replaces* the kingdoms which came before it. It

doesn't coexist alongside them as some sort of spiritual or symbolic kingdom! This last kingdom is going to rule over the world just as the previous four kingdoms did. This means the Kingdom of God *cannot* be a purely spiritual kingdom because it *violently destroys and replaces the kingdoms of the world*. Daniel describes it as a physical kingdom, not a spiritual one!

This final kingdom which God establishes is the millennial kingdom. Although some people teach that it will last for a thousand years, it will actually endure for all of eternity. The thousand-year period refers to the time when Satan is bound and the Earth enjoys a period of unprecedented peace:

Revelation 20:1-3: “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

After the thousand years are over the devil launches one last attempt to destroy the saints of God. This war is a complete failure and results in the devil's destruction:

Revelation 20:7-10: “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down

from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

After this final battle God will destroy the entire universe:

Revelation 20:11: “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

Next, God will judge all of the dead and hold them accountable for their actions:

Revelation 20:12-15: “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

It should be noted that the only people who are judged at this time are the *dead*. The church is resurrected at the rapture so when this judgment happens they won't be dead. The martyrs of the tribulation period are resurrected at the beginning of the millennium, so they won't be dead either. The only people who will still be dead at this point in history are all of the wicked, and

those who died during the millennium. They're the ones who will be judged at the Great White Throne judgment.

This passage tells us something very interesting. At the moment all of the wicked who have died are in Hell. However, those whose names aren't written in the Lamb's Book of Life are *not* cast back into Hell. Instead they're cast into the Lake of Fire, where they will be tormented day and night forever. That means no one is going to spend eternity in Hell. Instead they'll remain in Hell until the final judgment, and then they'll be cast into the Lake of Fire.

Next, God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth to replace the existing universe. In that new universe there will no longer be any death, crying, or pain, for the former things are passed away:

Revelation 21:1-5: “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

From that point on the Lord will dwell with mankind – not in Heaven, but in the New Earth that God will create. This means

that the Kingdom of God doesn't pass away! It endures forever, just as Daniel foretold. The Lord Jesus Christ will reign for all of eternity.

Should we be eagerly anticipating these events? Absolutely. In fact, Jesus commands us to pray for the coming of His kingdom! Do you remember how the Lord's Prayer begins?

Matthew 6:9-10: "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

What is the *very first thing* that we're supposed to ask for? That the Lord's Kingdom would come and that His will would be done on Earth. That's asking for the advent of the millennial kingdom! Where does Jesus place this on our list of priorities? At the very top.

The Bible has quite a lot to say about the millennial kingdom. Most of the information is found in the Old Testament. The book of Revelation doesn't have a lot to say about it, although the details that it does provide aren't found elsewhere. Revelation tells us that when the millennium begins Satan will be bound and unable to deceive the nations any more (Revelation 20:1-3). It also says that those who were martyred during the seven-year tribulation will be resurrected and will reign with Christ during the millennium (Revelation 20:4).

What about the church? Well, the church will be resurrected at the rapture, which will take place before the tribulation begins¹. We won't need to be raised from the dead at the beginning of the millennial kingdom because our resurrection already happened. Revelation 5:10 tells us that during the millennium we will also be reigning on the Earth:

Revelation 5:9-10: "And they sung a new song,

1 For more information on that topic see: <http://stories.cyragon.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Pre-Tribulation-Rapture.pdf>

saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

This song is sung by the 24 elders in Heaven, which represent the raptured church. The tribulation saints aren't the only ones who will reign on the Earth. We will reign as well!

Millennial Peace

The book of Isaiah gives us several exciting glimpses into life during the millennium. For example, there's this passage:

Isaiah 2:1-4: "The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

This short passage contains a great deal of information. First of all, during this time the temple of the Lord will be established in the top of the mountains. This temple will be a centerpiece of the whole earth. All nations will visit it to worship God! People from all over the world will go to the temple to learn God's ways so that they might obey His commands.

During this time the Lord Jesus Christ will reign over all the world from Jerusalem. Verse 4 tells us that He will judge the nations and rebuke “many people”. In the millennium the nations will no longer fight one other. Instead they'll take their weapons and turn them into farming equipment and will no longer learn the art of war. The millennium will be a time of amazing peace.

The Millennial Temple

The temple of the Lord is going to be one of the prominent features of the millennium. It's described in great detail in the book of Ezekiel, starting in chapter 40 and continuing on through chapter 48. Ezekiel tells us that God will establish His sanctuary in the midst of Israel:

Ezekiel 37:26-28: “Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the Lord do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore.”

The amount of detail that God provides concerning the millennial temple is staggering. Instead of trying to explore everything the Bible has to say about this temple I'll just mention a few key details.

In this temple the Ark of the Covenant will be missing. The Ark wasn't included in Herod's Temple (which is the one that existed at the time of Christ) and it won't be in this one either. We're told this in the book of Jeremiah:

Jeremiah 3:16: “And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more”

The time of the Ark of the Covenant is over. It served its purpose and is no longer needed. The new temple won't be a return to the Mosaic Law and the old way of doing things. Instead it's a new temple and represents the start of a new order.

One of the surprising things about this temple is that sacrifices will be offered there. However, this won't be a return to the sacrifices described in the Law of Moses! Instead there will be a new sacrificial system that has different rules and different offerings. I realize it seems strange that sacrifices will still be offered *after* the resurrection and return of Christ, but Ezekiel is very clear about this:

Ezekiel 43:18-21: “And he said unto me, Son of man, thus saith the Lord God; These are the ordinances of the altar in the day when they shall make it, to offer burnt offerings thereon, and to sprinkle blood thereon. And thou shalt give to the priests the Levites that be of the seed of Zadok, which approach unto me, to minister unto me, saith the Lord God, a young bullock for a sin offering. And thou shalt take of the blood thereof, and put it on the four horns of it, and on the four corners of the settle, and upon the

border round about: thus shalt thou cleanse and purge it. Thou shalt take the bullock also of the sin offering, and he shall burn it in the appointed place of the house, without the sanctuary.”

This passage describes burnt offerings which are made during the millennium in which animals are slaughtered in the temple! There are numerous other passages that describe millennial sacrifices as well. So what's going on? What reason could there be for resuming animal sacrifices? After all, the New Testament tell us that the time of offerings for sin is over:

Hebrews 10:18: “Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.”

I believe the millennial sacrificial system has a very different purpose from the Levitical sacrificial system. This can be seen from the fact that the two systems have different offerings, different rules, different holy days, and different procedures. The sacrifices which are offered during the millennium seem to be focused on removing ceremonial uncleanness, not on the forgiveness of sins. This is how one scholar put it:

Critics of future millennial sacrifices seem to assume that all sacrifices, past and future, always depict Christ's final sacrifice for sin. They do not! There were various purposes for sacrifices in the Bible. An overwhelming majority of sacrifices under the Mosaic system were for purification of the priests and objects used in various rites. This is why atonement can be said in the past to be effective, yet still need Christ's future sacrifice, because many of the sacrifices did atone ceremonially, cleansing

participants and objects in Temple ritual. Just as we never finish the task of washing clothes, ceremonial cleansing was an ongoing need. The same is clearly the case in Ezekiel. In Ezekiel 43:20 and 26, the atonement is specifically directed at cleansing the alter in order to make it ritually fit for sacrifice. The only other uses of atonement also refer to cleansing objects so that ritual purity may be maintained for proper function of further worship... Since all the sacrifices of Ezekiel relate to purification of the priests for Temple service, they do not specifically depict or represent Christ's atoning sacrifice. The presence and purpose of sacrifices neither diminishes the finished work of Christ nor violates the normal and "literal" interpretation of the prophetic passages. Nothing in Ezekiel 40-48 conflicts with the death of Christ or New Testament teaching at any point. The supposed contradictions between a literal understanding of Ezekiel and New Testament doctrine evaporate when examined specifically. (Dr. Thomas Ice, *Pre-Trip Perspectives*, June 2000, pg. 4-5)

The sacrifices in the millennial temple aren't intended to obtain forgiveness for sins. Instead their purpose is to maintain ceremonial cleanliness and keep the temple and its contents from being defiled. The reason this is important is because God Himself is dwelling on Earth, and His glory is manifested in the temple. Since a holy God is dwelling in a sinful world there has to be a way to maintain ceremonial cleanliness.

Millennial Animals

Isaiah chapter 11 gives us another look at life during the millennium. Just as there's peace among nations, there's also peace in the animal kingdom:

Isaiah 11:6-9: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.”

Right now the animal kingdom is full of predators and prey. One species hunts, kills, and eats other species because that's the way of things. During the millennium that will change. Animals that used to be carnivores will become herbivores and “eat straw like the ox”. Lions and bears will stop hunting and will eat plants instead. Animals will also no longer hunt people and children will be able to play with deadly serpents and not be harmed. Life will be very different from the way it is now!

We can also see that “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea”. During the millennium the world will be *saturated* with the knowledge of the Lord. Today there are relatively few people who know the Lord and walk in His ways. During the millennium, however, that won't be the case. In that day the knowledge of the Lord will be everywhere and all nations will walk in His ways.

Millennial Lifespans

We can find another glimpse of life during the millennium in Isaiah 65. At first it seems like this passage is talking about the Eternal State because it mentions a “new heavens and a new earth”:

Isaiah 65:17: “For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.”

However, that's not the case. This passage is talking about the millennium. The reason we know this is because during this time there's still sin and death:

Isaiah 65:20: “There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.”

In the New Heaven and Earth that God creates after the Great White Throne judgment there's no sin or death because those things were done away with during that judgment. Since sin and death still exist in Isaiah 65 then these verses must occur *before* that judgment – which means they're addressing life during the millennium.

Why does God call it a new heaven and earth? Well, the millennial kingdom begins shortly after the tribulation ends. During the tribulation God will pour out His wrath upon the Earth and make the world almost uninhabitable. By the time the tribulation is over there isn't much left of the world. This passage tells us that the Lord is *not* going to spend the millennium ruling over a planet that's been utterly destroyed. Instead He's going to heal the world and rule over that.

There will still be sin during the Millennium. The church

won't sin because at the rapture (which takes place before the millennium) we will be turned into people who are both immortal and incorruptible:

1 Corinthians 15:52-54: “In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”

Since the tribulation martyrs are resurrected before the millennium begins, they won't be able to in either. However, those who survive the tribulation and those who are born during the millennium will sin. There will even be some who reject God and refuse to repent – and they will be accursed.

There will also be death during the millennium. However, people's lives will be much longer than they are today. Those who die at the age of 100 will be considered to be just a child. This is like the days before the Flood when people lived to be more than 900 years old (Genesis 5). Lifespans will be greatly extended during the millennium!

Millennial Joy

The millennium will be a time of tremendous joy:

Isaiah 65:18-19: “But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. And I

will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people:
and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard
in her, nor the voice of crying.”

The millennium won't be a time of pain, sorrow, or woe. Instead it will be a time of great rejoicing and gladness. We're told that in Jerusalem the voice of weeping and the voice of crying won't be heard. Those things simply won't happen.

It will also be a time when people will work and enjoy the fruits of their labor:

Isaiah 65:21-23: “And they shall build houses,
and inhabit them; and they shall plant
vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”

What will we be doing during the millennium? We will build houses and live in them; we will plant and reap the fruits of our labors. Our work won't be done in vain, and the fruits of our labor won't be taken from us by others. We won't have to worry about thieves stealing what we've worked so hard to obtain. Instead we will long enjoy the work of our hands.

It may seem surprising that we will work in the millennium, but that's what the passage says – and it makes sense if you think about it. During the millennium life will go on. Nations will still exist and civilization will continue. There will be work to do, people to feed, and children to raise. Since sickness, disease, and death will still exist there will need to be doctors. People will need jobs to provide for their families.

In the millennium there will be two very different

categories of people: those who are resurrected immortals, and those who are not. The church will be living on Earth as immortals, dwelling in the midst of people who aren't immortal. We will have our glorified bodies, but those who survive the tribulation will still be ordinary mortals (who will go on to get married and have children). Those who were resurrected won't have to worry about doctors, hospitals, or death. The Bible also tells us that those who were resurrected will reign with Christ, which means the church will be part of the ruling class.

The Bible indicates that during the millennium the nations will no longer elect their rulers. Instead Jesus will put His immortal and incorruptible servants in charge. We can see this from the fact that He promised thrones to His disciples:

Matthew 19:28: “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

During the millennium each disciple will sit on a throne and judge one of the tribes of Israel. The nations will no longer be ruled over by corrupt and sinful politicians; instead they'll be governed by people who are sinless and perfect.

Millennial Prayer

The Bible also tells us that during the millennium our prayers will be answered much more quickly than they are today:

Isaiah 65:24: “And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.”

The Lord will answer some of our prayers *before we even*

have time to pray them. Other prayers will be answered while we're still speaking!

Millennial Mountains

The book of Zechariah also has some things to tell us about the millennium. Much of the book discusses the events of the Day of the Lord (which is what the Old Testament called the tribulation). However, Zechariah does mention the millennium. Before the millennium begins the Lord will stand on the mount of Olives and tear the mountain in two:

Zechariah 14:4: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

The Mount of Olives will be torn in half and replaced with a great valley. Israel will then experience some dramatic topographical changes:

Zechariah 14:10: "All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and from the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses."

These changes are necessary because the Temple Mount isn't big enough to contain the temple that's described in Ezekiel

40 to 48. The millennial temple is also located on the top of a high mountain, so some pretty dramatic landscape work is needed before the millennial temple can be built!

There will also be a stream of living water which goes out from the temple:

Zechariah 14:8: “And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be.”

Ezekiel 47:1: “Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar.”

Ezekiel 47:8-9: “Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.”

The reason the world will need healing waters from the temple is because during the tribulation the world will be made almost completely uninhabitable. These healing waters will restore the world and make it livable again.

Millennial Worship

The most important fact about the millennium is that the Lord will assume the throne and take control of the nations:

Zechariah 14:9: “And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.”

Every year the nations will be required to come before the Lord and worship the King:

Zechariah 14:16: “And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

Not only will the nations be required to come to Jerusalem to worship God, but they'll also be required to *keep the feast of tabernacles*, which is one of the feasts mentioned in the Mosaic Law. That's right: the Gentile nations will be required to come to Jerusalem *to keep one of the Jewish feasts!* That's remarkable. Every year during the millennium the *entire planet* will make a journey to Jerusalem!

The Lord is quite clear that *everyone* is required to attend. Any nation that refuses to attend will be punished:

Zechariah 14:17-19: “And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague,

wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.”

This is another reminder that there will still be sin during the millennium. Even though Jesus Christ will be reigning from Jerusalem in all His glory, there will still be some who refuse to come and worship Him. In this age the Lord is patient and longsuffering and gives people an opportunity to repent. During the millennium, however, He will reign with a rod of iron:

Psalm 2:7-9: “I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.”

Revelation 19:11-16: “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of

Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords.”

All nations that refuse to go to Jerusalem and worship Him will be punished with a terrible drought. The Lord Jesus Christ won't accept rebellion during His reign.

Millennial Holiness

Zechariah also tells us that the millennium will be characterized by amazing holiness:

Zechariah 14:20-21: “In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, Holiness Unto The Lord; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.”

During the millennium God will dwell in the temple and His holiness will saturate Jerusalem and Judah. Even the smallest and most minor things will be as holy as the vessels on the altar! The nation of Israel will be absolutely saturated with the holiness of God. It will be everywhere.

Conclusion

The Bible has much more to say about the millennium than what I've covered here. I haven't discussed the land promises that God made to Israel or the coming reign of David. The Bible also has some things to say about how the millennial kingdom

will be governed.

What we can see from this study is that the Old Testament is filled with references to the millennial kingdom. The millennium isn't an idea that only appears in Revelation! It's mentioned in nearly every one of the major and minor prophets of the Old Testament, who had a great deal to say about its characteristics.

The coming Kingdom isn't a purely spiritual kingdom. It's a physical kingdom which will reign over this world for all of eternity. Jesus commands us to pray that this kingdom would come and His will would be done on Earth. I think it's time we started doing exactly that.