

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Millennial Kingdom **Selected Scripture**

Keywords: Kingdom of God, Millennial Kingdom, Premillennialism, End Times, Eschatology

SermonAudio Blurb: We look at the glorious features of the millennial kingdom in this message. We know now the signs of Jesus' coming so now we can consider what the kingdom itself will look like and what will occur during this wonderful time of Christ's earthly reign.

I. Introduction.

- A. A quick review regarding the signs leading to the Kingdom of God.
 - 1. The first is that the gospel is to go to all the nations and peoples of the earth.
 - 2. The second is that things will not get better leading up to the Kingdom of God.
- B. Revelation shows the build up of everything toward the second coming of Jesus Christ.
 - 1. In a brutal fashion it shows how through a series of consecutive events God begins to bring judgment upon the earth and those who refuse to worship Him.
 - 2. These come as a series of seals that are broken, 7 in number. The seventh brings in the next wave of judgments that are even worse in a series of trumpet blasts by angels. These then give way to the pouring out of God's wrath through the imagery of bowls, which again brought the level of horror up to a notch we truly cannot fathom.
 - 3. And then, finally, in chapter 19 we see the coming of Christ. Hear how it describes Him and that event, (vss 11-16).
 - a. In that moment incredible things take place as the King has returned to take the throne.
 - b. The passage goes on to say in Revelation 19:17ff (Turn)
 - c. It is a bloody time as the enemies are conquered. We see in chapter 20 that even Satan is imprisoned for this period.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- C. But in all of this, there is a lot that happens that the bible describes in many places and that is our goal today. To get a sense of the wonderful reality that is called the earthly reign of Jesus Christ.
1. This is also known as the “millennial” reign. Remember that the word, millennial, simply means 1,000 and it is found right here in Revelation 20 several times.
 2. This is a point of disagreement by various Christians and some will say that this kingdom is already taking place and that the 1,000 is simply symbolic for a undetermined length of time.
 - a. And part of the argument that is made is that there is no purpose behind having Christ reign on the earth.
 - b. So it is usually said in one way or another, that right now Christ reigns in heaven through His Church. And the next great event will be the eternal Kingdom of God where all things are made new. What we often mean when we say, “heaven.”
 3. However there is a very good reason for this first part of the eternal kingdom to be on this earth. The simplest way to say it here is that Jesus is the one who undoes what Adam put into being through his sin.
 - a. When Adam sinned he lost for humanity the true oversight over this creation. Satan is now the ruler and god of this age. So much so that the bible says that the whole world lies comfortably in the lap of Satan in 1 John 5:19.
 - b. He is known as the god of this world, or age in 2 Corinthians 4:4. And Jesus, Himself refers to him as the ruler of this age in John 12:31.
 - c. And one of the things that Jesus Christ is doing is reversing the very damage done by Adam. This is why Jesus is also called the “second Adam.”
 - d. When we relegate the work of Jesus as basically the Savior of sinners we reduce what He came to do and what He is. He came to crush Satan, and to dismantle the strongholds of Satan’s rule and to roll back the curses upon this creation caused by Satan’s evil and Adam’s sin.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- e. Consider the words here: “Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.” (Ps. 2:8-9)
 - f. Is that not the same thing that Revelation 19:15 said when we heard these words: “And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.”
 - (1) He is coming to judge the nations.
 - (2) But those same nations He is also going to rule. Beloved, that is not heaven. For in eternity all trouble and sin and judgment is done.
 - (3) So when you think about the future reign of Jesus Christ understand it is the final chapter of this current age we live in. And when it closes out then we will move into the new creation where sin, Satan and death are forever gone.
- D. So what will this kingdom be? That is the focus of today’s message.
- 1. Remember, the Kingdom of God was offered and rejected by Israel in the gospels.
 - 2. A great mystery that was then revealed is that the kingdom was not just for Israel, but that He was going to do a great, saving work among Gentiles.
 - 3. But as the gospels draw to a close we saw again that the Kingdom of God was coming, but it would be after Jesus’ death, resurrection and ascension.
 - 4. And now we are waiting and looking for the return of Jesus Christ to take up His kingdom and rule the nations as the bible promised.
- E. Now as we look at the millennial kingdom I want you to remember what I taught you about when Jesus was here the first time doing all those miracles and such.
- 1. They were glimpses into what awaited them in the kingdom.
 - 2. Demons fled, sickness was banished, blindness or lameness could not stand against King Jesus. And the final enemy of death was no match for His Kingly command to arise and come forth. Nature did things we could only dream about when the King commanded it to obey.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

3. And that is what you will see today and I hope it gives you a yearning for it to become a reality.
- F. We will see four features about the millennial kingdom. Four realities that should make the heart of every genuine Christian to yearn to say with others, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

II. The Millennial Kingdom.

- A. The beginning point must be at the end of the bible (Revelation 20:1-5).
 1. I won't spend a lot of time here, you can hear my sermon on this chapter by going to our sermon archive to 2018 where I preached this on March 4.
 2. Chapter 20 now describes what happens now that Jesus has returned, as described in Revelation 19.
 3. To break it down simply we can see the following things:
 - a. The binding of Satan with the specific purpose of no longer being able to deceive the nations (1-3).
 - b. Then we see thrones, representing authority and rule, given to resurrected believers in vs 4a.
 - c. Along with these, we see all who suffered death because of their faith in Jesus during the great tribulation described in the bulk of Revelation are raised to life in 4b.
 - d. During this time unbelievers will not be raised (5), they await their final fate in the final judgment. That is when they are raised.
 4. Now there are many things simply not described in this passage that will also be part of this kingdom. But keep in mind that Christ is reigning, according the end of vs 4, Satan is imprisoned and no longer a factor until the very end, and all who died as believers have been raised and are with Christ.
- B. The most important feature is that Jesus will literally and physically reign from Jerusalem over the world.
 1. The famous Psalm 2 speaks of the Father giving His Son the nations (8). They are His.
 2. Isaiah 9:6-7 speaks of the coming Messiah and that eventually the government will rest upon him. Here these familiar words: *“There will be*

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

- a. This is not some vague throne or heavenly rule. It is the very throne of David. It is the fulfillment of God’s promise and covenant to David and Israel.
 - b. And it is not a vague kingdom either. It is “his” kingdom.
 - c. And it is not one like today filled with the whims of sinful men and women who corrupt justice for their own ends. From that day forward what the world will witness is justice and righteousness from the purest of souls and the wisest of any who might be wise.
 - d. Hear these words from Zechariah: *“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”* (Zech. 12:10)
 - e. Jeremiah 23:5-6.
 - (1) Here we see not only the promise of the fulfillment of the covenant with David, but also the future hope of Israel.
 - (2) This is what was preached to Israel in Christ’s first advent. Repentance was proclaimed that the nation might enter into this blessing. But they did not.
 - (3) But in the second coming, the nation will see, repent and be saved. Not merely from their physical enemies, but from the great enemy of sin and death.
- C. A second feature of the millennial kingdom is that the apostles will reign over a restored Israel with Jesus.
1. Matthew 19:28.
 - a. Notice the term “when” for it sets this in the future. When Jesus is on His throne, then this promise is given.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- (1) Now this cannot be now while He is in heaven, though many will try to make it that.
- (2) In Matthew 25:31 I want you to listen for the time and event that is connected to Him taking up His throne: *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.”*
 - (a) This clearly connects the time when he sits with the second coming.
 - (b) And this is the same event as what we have here in Matthew 19:
 - b. Then the apostles will be given thrones to rule over the 12 tribes of Israel. This is not a hard passage to understand but it is very hard for many to accept as it is written.
 - c. But not only will the apostles rule over Israel but they will do it to a restored Israel according to this passage. Jesus doesn’t use the broader term “Israel” but, rather, specifically the “the twelve tribes of Israel.”
2. This also fits with what Revelation 20:4 says, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. . . .”
 - a. What is interesting here is it is not merely to the apostles or regarding the twelve tribes of Israel. It appears to be much broader in scope.
 - b. Some, and I am one of them, see this as one aspect of the reward of faithfulness that believers will receive when they are raised from the grave.
 - c. Remember that Paul tells us that part of the judgment of believers will be how we built upon the gospel in our lives and the lives of others. This is laid out for us in 1 Corinthians 3. He reminds us that those who build poorly and wrongly shall suffer loss, but will still be saved. It is here that I see that a key reward may be the responsibility to judge the nations during the Millennial Kingdom.
 - d. This is part of what Paul had in mind in 2 Timothy 2:12, *“If we endure, we shall also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us.”*

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- D. A third feature of the millennial kingdom is an incredible time of spiritual blessing upon the earth and people.
1. Isaiah 11:1-5.
 - a. We live in a time where the terms “justice” and “mercy” are tossed about without any real meaning.
 - b. At the same time wickedness, in its many forms both ugly and beautiful, rules the day. The vulnerable are exploited and the powerful live unscathed. Just as in the days of Psalm 73, the righteous struggle and suffer and the wicked seem to prosper.
 - c. But in that day, for the fulness of His earthly rule, Jesus will do all things rightly and in truth. Vs 3-4 will be a thing of beauty to behold. But also a time of true justice being carried out. The end of vs 4 makes it clear that though many today hate capital punishment, Jesus will practice it with ease.
 2. But it is passages like this that show that this kingdom cannot be the eternal kingdom because it involves the presence of the wicked, the need for on-going judgment and the reality that people will be afflicted. That is not eternity. That is a world where sin still exists though Satan is banished. But also where righteousness stands perfectly against it.
 3. This will involve a worldwide worship of Jesus Christ as well.
 - a. *“Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths. And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them” (Zechariah 14:16-17).*
 - b. This is but one example of many passages that speak of this grand reality. We see that the nations who survived the horrors of the tribulation now go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. Again, this is an incredible picture of the glory of the millennial kingdom and it cannot refer to the eternal kingdom because in vs 17 there is still those who disobey and are disciplined for it.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- c. No longer will the norm be rebellion for that will be addressed quickly and righteously. Instead the norm will be the people of the earth worshipping Him.
 - (1) Note that there is the celebration of feast days in the millennial kingdom. This is an indication that things have become very Israel-centric again, unlike now, during the Church. We do not have holy days nor celebrate these feast days as we are not Israel.
 - (2) In Ezekiel 40 there is the vision of the great temple that will be built during the millennial kingdom. This will be the center for the worldwide worship of Jesus Christ as King and Lord. It will be to centerpiece of the earth and the focal point of true worship.
- 4. To put it as clearly and simply as possible, this time of history will be the most peaceful and spiritually glorious in all of human history since the Fall of man into sin.
 - a. Satan will not work his woe.
 - b. And sin will not be allowed to run unchecked. It will be dealt with perfectly and properly every time it rears its head in society.
 - c. This is what we will be responsible to do in that kingdom. We will have been resurrected and now we will reign with Jesus Christ and dispense His will throughout the earth.
 - (1) So you will have two sorts of humans on the earth.
 - (2) Those who have been resurrected and changed to be fit for eternity, possessing immortal bodies and those who are still like we are today in mortal bodies, subject to sin.
 - (3) Sin will exist, but sin will not be the lord and ruler—Christ will.
- E. A fourth feature will be that the external realities of creation will be changed.
 - 1. Genesis 1-2 give us the story of the creation of this universe and our world. But none of us really grasp what it was like. Adam and Eve were placed in the garden and it was a template for them to see how the rest of

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

the world was to look like as they exercised their reign over the earth. But we have no idea how it looked.

2. All we know is that sin entered the world and that God cursed the creation so that it now would not reflect what it was meant to reflect. It is now like a dim expression of what it was designed to be. Now, only through difficulty do we produce beauty and it only remains for a short time. But even then, those glimpses touch something deep within us.
3. But in the millennial kingdom this is all going to change. The curse appears to be lifted and the earth responds in joy.
4. The animal kingdom will be at peace once again.
 - a. *“And the nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea”*
(Isaiah 11:8-9)
 - (1) I think of India, where 1.2 million people have died from snake bites in the last 20 years. In Africa, an average of 30,000 deaths per year.
 - (2) But what is important is the “why” that these sorts of things will not happen in the millennial kingdom. In vs 9 it is “for the earth will be full of the knowledge of YHWH.”
 - (3) There is a tight correlation between the spiritual state of the world and the physical.
 - b. The deserts will bloom and become fruitful (Isaiah 35).
 - c. The curse of the ground is taken away and the earth gives forth its true bounty. And the nation of Israel dwells securely in their land with their promised King.

“Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved. Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.”
(Amos 9:13-15)

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

- d. Sickness and physical brokenness will be gone.
 - (1) *“And no resident will say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell there will be forgiven their iniquity”* (Isaiah 33:24)
 - (2) *“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy”* (Isaiah 35:5-6).

- e. Probably my favorite passage on this feature is Isaiah 65:20-25. Again, as we look at it together notice how this cannot be in the eternal kingdom because of what is described.
 - (1) Death still is present, but different.
 - (2) Building and living.
 - (3) What you build will wear out before you do.
 - (4) Their children will not suffer under evil and disaster.
 - (5) Peace like never before since Adam sinned is the norm. The animal kingdom no longer will devour one another

III. Conclusion.

- A. Our journey is almost done and the fulness of the Kingdom of God is now in sight. But before that great and final event occurs we find one more event that threatens it from happening.

- B. For one thousand years our Lord will reign in Jerusalem. Consider again what those living in that time will experience:
 - 1. They will see Jesus Christ in the fulness of His glory.
 - 2. They will live in a world where every corner is full of true righteousness, justice and truth.
 - 3. Peace, in the fullest sense of that word, will reign. Peace between people and peace among the animal kingdom. Wholeness and wellness of soul and spirit.
 - 4. Their lives will not be marked by sickness and death. Tragedy is not the norm.

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

5. The earth will explode with all its creative glory and give forth an abundance we have never seen.
 6. Satanic, demonic oppression will be gone.
 7. But sin is still present. . . .
- C. So what will happen? We hear and say all the time that if only people could see Jesus they would believe. If only these bad things had not happened to them then they would come and love God. If only their child had not died, if only, if only....
- D. But that is not what is the problem. The problem lies within each person and that is the final enemy that will be put down in the end of this reign of Christ on earth.
- E. But you must come back next week to learn of it.

Benediction

Finally, beloved, rejoice. May you strive for restoration and reconciliation, to be in agreement with one another, to live in peace; and know that the God of love and peace is with you. Amen.

Community Group Questions

1. When you consider the millennial kingdom what fascinates you the most and why? Use this time to speak on how many things will change with perfect righteousness and truth present in Christ.
2. Does the idea of reigning with Christ in the time encourage you or disturb you (for lack of a better word)?
3. What is perhaps sad about the picture painted in this sermon about the millennial kingdom?