

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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The Millennial Kingdom

- Introduction
 - In Scripture the term kingdom of God can refer to the sphere of God's rule in the universe.
 - In Dan 4:34-35 Nebuchadnezzar testifies to the eternal nature of God's sovereignty and omnipotence.
 - The term kingdom of heaven is used in Matt 13 to refer to the present working of God in the period between Jesus Christ's ascension to heaven and His return at the Second Advent.
 - There are also many references in Scripture to a kingdom of God on earth which Rev 20:2-7 declares to be 1,000 years long.
- Three Views of the Millennial Kingdom
 - There are three predominant views of the Millennial Kingdom.
 - ✦ Amillennialism – The kingdom is spiritual in nature and there will be no literal kingdom on earth before or after Christ's return.
 - ✦ Postmillennialism – The 1,000 years are a "golden age" of evangelism that precedes the Second Advent return of Christ.
 - ✦ Premillennialism – Jesus Christ will Himself establish and reign over His kingdom on earth for 1,000 years after He returns.
 - Because there seems to be no progression toward a "golden age" on earth, few people hold the postmillennial view today.
 - A literal interpretation of Scripture supports premillennialism.
- The Millennial Kingdom – A Rule of God on Earth
 - In Psalm 2:7-9 it is clear that the Son of God will rule over an actual kingdom on the earth.
 - Isaiah 11 also emphasizes the earthly character of the kingdom where Jesus Christ as a descendant of David brings righteous judgment on the earth and punishes the wicked (Isa 11:4).
 - Innumerable other verses either state or imply that the kingdom will be a rule of God on earth (cf. Isa 42:4; Jer 23:3-6; Dan 2:35-45; Zech 14:1-9).
 - Any reasonable fulfillment of these verses would require there to be a literal kingdom on earth with Christ as King.
- Christ as King of Kings in the Millennium
 - Jesus Christ, as David's son, will sit upon the throne of David on the earth (2 Sam 7:16; Psalm 89:20-37; Jer 33:19-21).
 - When the angel Gabriel announced the birth of the Christ child, he foretold of His reign as King (Luke 1:32-33).

- In His First Advent, Jesus Christ was rejected as King by the Jewish people (Mark 15:12-13; Luke 19:14).
- In His Second Advent, He is described as “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Rev 19:16).
- See also Isa 2:1-4; 9:6-7; 16:5; 24:23; 32:1; 40:1-11; 52:7-15; 55:4; Dan 7:27; Mic 4:1-8; 5:2-5; Zech 9:9; 14:16-17.
- One interesting feature of the Millennial Kingdom is that King David will be resurrected to rule as a prince under Jesus Christ (Jer 30:9; 33:15-17; Ezek 34:23-24; 37:24-25; Hos 3:5).
- This situation does not in any way exist today and requires the Old Testament saints to be resurrected (at the First Resurrection – Rev 20:4-6) and the Second Coming of Christ.
- Because we anticipate the fulfillment of all of these prophetic passages, it is natural to expect that Christ will return to reign as King over a literal kingdom on earth – the spiritualization of these passages does not provide any satisfactory fulfillment.
- Major Features of the Government of the Millennium
 - There are several important aspects of Christ’s rule in the Millennial Kingdom...
 - ✦ While Jesus specifically reigns as King over Israel, His rule encompasses the entire earth (Ps 2:6-8; Dan 7:14).
 - ✦ The seating of Christ on the Davidic throne marks the beginning of His everlasting reign as King (Dan 2:44; 7:27).
 - ✦ Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Ps 2:9; Rev 19:15) and all who oppose Him will face His righteous judgment (Isa 11:4).
 - ✦ Jesus will be the spiritual leader of all the nations (Micah 4:1-2).
 - ✦ The creation itself will be restored to peace (Isa 11:6-9).
 - These unusual conditions are made possible by the judgments of Israel and the Gentiles and the fact that Satan is bound and rendered inoperative (Rev 20:2).
 - The only source of evil in the world will be the sin natures of the people still in their natural (soulish) bodies (1 Cor 15:44).
 - Open sin and rebellion against Christ will be punished in the Millennial Kingdom (Zech 14:16-19).
 - Human lifetimes will be restored to pre-flood durations such that physical death before 100 will be the result of divine punishment for the wicked (Isa 65:20).
- The Special Place of Israel in the Millennial Kingdom
 - In contrast to the present dispensation where Jew and Gentile are on the same plane and have the same privileges, the people of Israel will inherit the Promised Land and be the special objects of God’s favor in the Millennium.
 - ✦ Israel will be re-gathered and restored to the Promised Land in its entirety (Jer 30:3; Ezek 39:25-29; Amos 9:13-15).
 - ✦ Israel will be subjects of the restored Davidic kingdom (Isa 9:7).
 - ✦ The divided kingdoms will be reunited (Jer 3:18; Ezek 37:15-22).
 - ✦ God’s people Israel will have been spiritually revived (Isa 44:22-23; Jer 50:20; Ezek 36:25-27; Zech 13:9).

- Many other passages give additional information concerning the blessed estate of Israel, their spiritual revival, and their enjoyment of fellowship with God during the Millennium.
- Although the Gentiles will not have title to the Promised Land, they will be the objects of God's grace as He will provide them with abundant blessings (Isa 19:24-25; 66:18-19; Jer 3:17).
- The glory of the Millennial Kingdom for both Israel and the Gentiles will far exceed anything the world has experienced ever before.
- **Spiritual Blessings in the Millennium**
 - Although the Millennial Kingdom is correctly described as the political rule of Christ on earth, the characteristics of the kingdom will provide a context for abundant spiritual life.
 - Israel will be the recipients of the spiritual blessing associated with the New Covenant (Jer 31:33-34).
 - It will be a time of righteousness, peace and joy for the people of Israel (Ps 72:7; Isa 2:4; 11:3-5; 12:3-6; 61:3, 7).
 - The Spirit will not baptize believers into a spiritual unity as exists in the Church today, but the Spirit will indwell believers in the Millennium (Isa 44:3; Ezek 39:29; Joel 2:28-29).
 - A millennial temple is described in Ezek 40 – 46 which will be a center of worship in which sacrifices will be offered.
 - ✦ These sacrifices are not explained in Scripture, but will not have the same meaning and purpose as the Mosaic sacrifices.
 - ✦ One possible purpose of these sacrifices is to serve as a memorial to the Cross to remind millennial believers of the sacrifice Jesus Christ had to make on their behalf.
 - Even with an environment conducive to spiritual growth and all of these amazing spiritual blessings provided by God, the Millennial Kingdom will end in rebellion (Rev 20:7-8).
- **Other Distinctive Characteristics of the Millennium**
 - The curse on the productivity of the earth will be lifted (Isa 35:1-2; 41:19; 51:3).
 - There will be abundant rainfall for the crops (Isa 30:23; 35:7).
 - There will be changes to the topography of the earth.
 - ✦ A great valley will extend to the east of Jerusalem where the Mount of Olives now stands (Zech 14:4).
 - ✦ A large area surrounding Jerusalem will be changed into a plain (Zech 14:10).
 - ✦ The city of Jerusalem itself will be lifted up relative to the surrounding territory (Zech 14:10).

- Questions
 - What is one general meaning of the kingdom of God?

 - In what sense is the kingdom of God eternal and universal?

 - What important distinctions should be made between the present form of the kingdom and the future form of the kingdom in the Millennium?

 - What is meant by the amillennial, postmillennial and premillennial interpretations of Scripture?

 - What are the differing principles of interpretation employed by these three views?

 - What does Psalm 2 contribute to the idea of a literal kingdom on the earth?

 - What is revealed in Isaiah 11 concerning the earthly kingdom?

 - Why is it unreasonable to make the word “earth” represent heaven in these passages?

 - What does the Old Testament reveal about Christ as the supreme ruler over the earth as David’s son?

 - What Scripture supports the concept that David will be resurrected and rule as a prince under Christ in the Millennial Kingdom, and how does this require a future kingdom on earth?

 - Support from Scripture that Christ will rule over the earth far beyond the boundaries of the Davidic kingdom of the Old Testament.

- How do we know that the government of Christ will be one of absolute authority and power?

- What evidence do we have that the kingdom will be a time of righteousness and peace?

- What events pave the way for such a righteous kingdom?

- What special place is Israel given in the Millennial Kingdom and what will be the characteristics of the blessings conferred on her?

- What special blessings will be given to the Gentiles in the Millennial Kingdom?

- What evidence is there of unusual spiritual blessings in the Millennial Kingdom for all?

- What ministry of the Spirit will be found in the Millennium?

- What is taught concerning a millennial temple and a system of sacrifices in the Millennium?

- In view of the fact that Christ has already died on the Cross, how can these sacrifices be explained?

- How will the productivity of the earth be changed in the Millennium?

- What changes to the topography of the earth will occur in the Millennium?

- Summarize all of the unusual blessings that will characterize the Millennial Kingdom.