

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

Introduction

In Revelation 20 we see that the Tribulation has ended and the Millennium reign of Christ has begun.

I. WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM?

The millennium, or kingdom age, refers to the 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ on this earth.

At the close of the tribulation Jesus Christ literally will return to this earth to rule and to reign!

The Enemies of God and Israel will be destroyed!
The Beast and the False Prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire!
Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for a thousand years!

Jesus will then establish His kingdom and He will begin His 1000 year rule.

A. The Fact Of The Millennium.

The word itself is a Latin term which signifies “*one thousand years.*”

Revelation 20:4c “and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

In the first seven verses of Revelation 20, John mentions the thousand-year period no less than six times.

In spite of this, some have argued that, since this number is found in only one New Testament passage, one cannot insist that the thousand-year period will really come to pass.

To emphasize their point, reference is made to 2 Peter 3:8:
“*One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*”

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

It is interesting (and perhaps revealing) to note that the same group which attempts to shorten the thousand-year period of Revelation to one day (and thus do away entirely with the millennium) also attempts to expand the six days of creation in Genesis to millions of years.

Why can't God mean exactly what he says here?

There are three views of the millennium:

Post-millennialism says that through the preaching of the Gospel the world will eventually embrace Christianity and become a universal “society of saints.” At this point Christ will be invited to assume command and reign over man's peaceful planet.

Though post-millennialists believe in a literal thousand-year reign, their position is false, for the Bible clearly teaches that the world situation will become worse and worse prior to Christ's Second Coming—not better and better.

(See 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12)

This position was popularized by a Unitarian minister named Daniel Whitby (1638-1726), and it flourished until the early part of the twentieth century.

Then came World War I, and men began to wonder. Finally, the postmillennial theory was quietly laid to rest amid Hitler's gas ovens during the Second World War.

Amillennialism teaches that there will be no thousand-year reign at all, and that the New Testament Church inherits all the spiritual promises and prophecies of Old Testament Israel.

In this view, Isaiah's beautiful prophecy of the bear and the cow lying together and the lion eating straw like the ox (Isaiah 11:7) simply doesn't mean what it says.

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

However, if the eleventh chapter of Isaiah cannot be taken literally, what proof do we have that the magnificent fifty-third chapter should not likewise be allegorized away?

Pre-millennialism teaches that Christ will return just prior to the millennium and will personally rule during this glorious thousand-year reign. This position alone is the Scriptural one, and is the oldest of these three views. From the apostolic period on, the pre-millennial position was held by the early Church fathers.

The Fact Of The Millennium.

B. The Purpose Of The Millennium.

1. The purpose of the millennium is to reward the saints of God.

Psalm 58:11—“Verily there is a reward for the righteous.”

Proverbs 11:18—“to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward”

Matthew 16:27—“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works”

Matthew 25:34—“Then shall the King say Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

2. The purpose of the millennium is to answer the oft-prayed model prayer.

In *Luke 11:1-4* and *Matthew 6:9-13* our Lord, at the request of his disciples, suggested a pattern prayer to aid all believers in their praying.

One of the guidelines was this: *“Thy kingdom come.”*

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

The Savior was inviting his followers to pray for the millennium reign. Someday He will return to fulfill the untold millions of times these three little words have made their way to heaven by the prayers of Christians—*“Thy kingdom come.”*

3. The purpose of the millennium is to redeem creation.

In Genesis 3 God cursed nature because of Adam’s sin. From that point on, man’s paradise became a wilderness.

The roses grew thorns, and the docile tiger became a hungry meat-eater. But during the millennium all this will change. Paul describes the transformation for us in **Romans 8:13-23.**

4. The purpose of the millennium is to fulfill three important Old Testament covenants.

a. The Abrahamic Covenant.

God promised Abraham two basic things:

(1) That his seed (Israel) would become a mighty nation
(Genesis 12:1-3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:7; 22:17, 18).

(2) That his seed (Israel) would someday own Palestine forever (Genesis 12:7; **13:14, 15, 17; 15:7,18-21; 17:8).**

The Abrahamic Covenant

b. The Davidic Covenant.

(2 Chronicles 13:5; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; 23:5)

Here the promise was threefold:

(1) That from David would come an **everlasting throne.**

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

(2) That from David would come an **everlasting kingdom.**

(3) That from David would come an **everlasting King.**

**c. The New Covenant
(Isa. 42:6; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:7-12).**

This promise was also threefold:

(1) That He would forgive their iniquity and forget their sin.

(2) That He would give them new hearts.

(3) That He would use Israel to reach and teach the Gentiles.

5. The purpose of the millennium is to prove a point.

This is the point: Regardless of his environment or heredity, mankind apart from God's grace will inevitably fail. For example **consider the various**

Dispensations:

a. The *Age Of Innocence* ended with willful disobedience (Genesis 3).

b. The *Age Of Conscience* ended with universal corruption (Genesis 6).

c. The *Age Of Human Government* ended with idolatry at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11).

d. The *Age Of Promise* ended with God's people out of the Promised Land and enslaved in Egypt (Exodus 1).

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

e. The *Age Of The Law* ended with the creatures killing their Creator (Matthew 27).

f. The *Age Of The Church* will end with worldwide apostasy (1 Tim. 4).

g. The *Age Of The Tribulation* will end with the battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19).

h. The *Age Of The Millennium* will end with an attempt to destroy God (Revelation 20).

6. The purpose of the millennium is to fulfill the main burden of Biblical prophecy.

All Bible prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ is summarized in one tiny verse by the Apostle Peter: "*...the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow*" (1 Peter 1:11).

Here Peter connects Christ's first coming (the sufferings) with his Second Coming (the glory).

In this verse is the "*suffering-glory story*" of the Savior. Furthermore, when a sinner repents and becomes a part of the body of Christ, he too shares in this destiny.

Listen to these verses:

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Romans 8:18).

"And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation" (2 Corinthians 1:7).

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

*"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him"
(2 Timothy 2:12).*

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you; but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (1 Peter 4:12, 13).

"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed" (1 Peter 5:1).

*WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM?
(The Fact and Purpose of the Millennium)*

II. WHAT WILL BE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

A. It Will Be A Theocracy.

1. That means that God will rule the people.
2. No more socialism, nor communism, AND no more democracy!

B. Jesus Christ Will Be The King.

Remember how in Samuel's day Israel asked for a King when the LORD wanted to be their King?

1. *Isaiah 2:3b-4a—"...For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations..."*
2. *Daniel 2:44—"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..."*

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

3. In the announcement to Mary in *Luke 1:32-33* we read, *"...And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

C. Others Shall Rule Under The Messiah.

1. *Isaiah 32:1—"Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment."*
2. To His disciples Jesus said in *Matthew 19:28—"...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."*
3. In our text tonight, in the latter part of verse 6, John reveals that we will *"reign with Him a thousand years"*.

D. Who Will Be The Subjects Of The Kingdom?

1. Israel in restoration. **(Matthew 24:30-31 and Jeremiah 12:15)**
2. Gentiles in servitude. **(Isaiah 60:14 and Isaiah 61:5)**
3. We, the saints of God.

E. What Will Be The Scope Of His Reign.

1. Everyone and everything on earth will be under His authority.
2. Note: **Daniel 7:14 & Philippians 2:9-11**
3. Jesus Christ will have total dominion over the earth and all who inhabit it.
4. He will govern every inch of this world.

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

III. WHAT WILL BE THE CHARACTER OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

A. Peace.

1. *Isaiah 66:12—"For thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river..."*
2. *Isaiah 2:4—"...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 anymore."*
3. For the first time since the fall of man, people will live in peace with one another.
4. The Prince of Peace will be on the throne.

B. Righteousness.

1. Note: Isaiah 11:3-5
2. The curse shall be removed, and with the enemy bound, righteousness will flourish. (Isaiah 11:6-9)
3. Note that age-old enemies will be at peace with one another in vs. 8.

C. Universal Worship Of God.

1. *According to Isaiah 11:9b, "...The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."*
2. Everyone will worship the King, not just the Jewish people. (Zechariah 14:16)
3. *Psalm 66:4—"All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name."*

**THE COMING OF THE LORD
THE MILLENNIUM
REVELATION 20:1-10**

IV. WHAT WILL BE MAN'S FAILURE IN THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM.

A. Note: Revelation 20:7-9

1. Satan will be loosed for a "little season".
2. A short period of time, but long enough to deceive men who are unsaved.
3. Enough to mount a final rebellion against Jesus Christ.

B. God's final judgment on the earth will fall.

1. The rebellion is judged as fire from heaven falls upon them and devours them.
2. Satan is judged by being cast into the lake of fire where he is to remain for ever and ever!
3. All unbelievers are judged at the Great White Throne.

Conclusion:

The failure of man in millennial kingdom proves once and for all that unregenerate man has a fallen nature and changing his environment will not produce a change in his character.

But listen, Jesus wants to reign today, too! Does He reign in your heart?