

THE “MILLENNIUM” EXAMINED

I. THE TERM *MILLENNIUM* DEFINED.

- A. The Word *Millennium* Comes from two Latin Words that Are Combined and Mean “Thousand Years.”
1. The word *Millennium* is used in place of the Greek words that mean “thousand years” and appear six times in Revelation 20:2-7.
 2. This is a thousand year physical reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Earth (Rev 20:6-7).
- B. The *Millennium* Is the central Theme of the Bible and Is Known by many Names or Terms.
1. It is known as “the thousand year reign of Christ” (Rev 20:4, 6).
 2. It is known as “the dispensation of the fullness of times” (Eph 1:10).
 3. It is known as “the consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25).
 4. It is known as “the redemption in Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38).
 5. It is known as “the regeneration” (Mat 19:28).
 6. It is known as “the Kingdom of Heaven” (Mat 3:2).
 7. It is known as “the Kingdom of God” (Mark 14:25).
 8. It is known as “the Kingdom of Christ” (Eph 5:5).
 9. It is known as “the Kingdom of the Son of Man (Mat 16:28).
 10. It is known as “the times of restitution of all things” (Acts 3:20-21).
 11. It is known as “the world to come” (Mat 12:32).
 12. It is known as “that day” (Isa 24:21-23).
 13. It is known as “the Day of the Lord” (Zep 1:7-8; 2 Pet 3:8).
- C. The *Millennium* must Be literal and earthly because It Is Mentioned along with other literal and earthly Kingdoms in Isaiah 9:6-7 and Daniel 2:44-45; 7:13-14.
- D. The *Millennium* Is the Time of the seventh Sabbath Rest Spoken of in Exodus 20:11, Isaiah 11:1-16, 2 Peter 3:8 and Revelation 20:1-7.
- E. The *Millennium* Is the Time of Liberty for the Children of God and the whole of Creation, Mentioned in Romans 8:18-23.
1. The creature mentioned here is Man (2 Cor 5:17).
 2. The curse on the earth will be lifted (Gen 3:17; Rev 22:1-3).
 3. The earth will be fruitful once again (Amos 9:13).
 4. All wars will stop (Psa 46:9).
 5. The animals will no longer eat meat (Isa 11:6-9).

6. There will be no more sicknesses, diseases or disabilities for the Jews (Isa 35:4-6), but there will still be sin and death (Isa 65:20).
7. The devil will be imprisoned in the bottomless pit for the duration of the *Millennium* (Rev 20:1-3).

F. In the Kingdom during the *Millennium*:

1. The Lord Jesus Christ will be King over all the earth (Zec 14:9; Luke 1:30-33; Acts 2:36; Rev 17:14; John 1:29; Rev 19:11-16).
2. Christians will rule and reign with Christ (2 Tim 2:10-12; Rev 5:5-10; John 1:29; Rev 20:4-6).
3. The rules and regulations for the Kingdom Age are found in the “Sermon on the Mount” in Mathew chapters 5 through 7.
4. All the unsaved people who were not killed during the Tribulation Period will be thrown into hell at the beginning of the *Millennium* (Rev 14:9-11; Mat 25:31-46).

G. On the Earth at the end of the Millennium:

1. There will be a rebellion of the nations that are deceived by Satan after he is released from his imprisonment (Rev 20:7-10).
2. God will end the *Millennium* in judgment after the rebellion of the nations is put down (Rev 20:11-15).

II. THE *MILLENNIUM* INTERPRETED AND DETERMINED.

A. The *Millennium* Interpreted.

1. One’s method of interpreting (determining the meaning of) the Scriptures (the Bible) will determine his view of the *Millennium*.
2. The **Allegorical** and the **Literal** methods are the two major methods that are used to interpret the Scriptures.
 - a. The Allegorical Method:
 - 1) An allegory is a story in which people, things and happenings have another meaning.
 - 2) The historical and literal senses of statements are completely ignored and every word and event is made into an allegory to escape the doctrinal problems or to maintain a peculiar view.
 - 3) This method does not really interpret the Bible and the final authority becomes the interpreter himself instead of the Scriptures themselves (2 Pet 1:19-20; 1 Cor 2:12-13).
 - 4) This method leaves no way to check whether or not the interpreter is correct in his interpretation. Any interpreter can claim that his private interpretation is correct (2 Pet 1:19-20).
 - b. The Literal Method:

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- 1) This method gives each word the same exact basic meaning it would have in normal, ordinary or customary usage, used in writing, speaking or thinking.
- 2) This method is best because:
 - a) It bases interpretation on actual facts rather than assumptions or guesswork (Mat 22:29; Gal 4:30a).
 - b) It opens up most of the Bible to the average Christian reader (1 Cor 2:12-14).
 - c) It gives an infallible (foolproof) authority to check all interpretations by (Acts 17:11).

B. The *Millennium* Determined.

1. One's view concerning the *Millennium* will determine how he divides the Scripture (2 Tim 2:15).
2. There are four basic views concerning the *Millennium* from which all other views come: the **Liberal View**, the **A-millennial View**, the **Post-millennial View** and the **Pre-millennial View**.
 - a. The Liberal View:
 - 1) This view denies the literal (actual), bodily and personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to rule and reign.
 - 2) This view uses the allegorical method of interpreting the Bible to deny Christ's physical return to rule and reign on the earth.
 - b. The A-millennial View:
 - 1) This view claims that there will not be a literal (actual) Second Coming of Christ to rule and reign on the earth for a thousand years.
 - 2) This view claims that there will be no actual judgment on this earth by Jesus Christ Himself.
 - 3) This view believes that the *Millennium* began spiritually at the First Coming of Christ.
 - 4) This view believes that the events of the Book of Revelation have mainly been fulfilled, except for the Second Coming of Christ and the Final (Great White Throne) Judgment.
 - 5) This view believes that there will not be a literal (actual) reign of Christ on the earth, but only a spiritual reign that is now taking place.
 - 6) This view teaches that the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven are one and the same kingdom.
 - 7) This view teaches that all prophecies in the Bible concerning both the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are being fulfilled now between the First and Second Comings of Christ, by the visible Church on earth.
 - 8) This view interprets chapters 6 through 20 of the Book of Revelation as being fulfilled in the past and its teaching gives way to pure speculation (guesswork).

- 9) This view teaches that Jesus Christ is ruling and reigning now through the Church (organized Christian religion) and Christ's earthly reign ended at the crucifixion.
 - 10) This view believes that Satan's power is now limited to some extent regarding believers but is unlimited regarding unbelievers.
 - 11) This view applies most of the verses in the Book of Revelation allegorically to match past historical events.
 - 12) This view says that the Beast of the Book of Revelation is the Roman Emperor Nero and is not a future ruler. To do this, they date the writing of Revelation before the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- c. The Post-millennial View:
- 1) This view claims that man will bring in a thousand-year period of peace and that Jesus Christ will return at its end.
 - 2) This view believes that after the preaching of the gospel has made the world better, Christ will reign on earth, spiritually, through the New Testament Church (Christianity) for a thousand years before He returns physically for the final judgment.
 - 3) This view teaches that the world will get better and better through the efforts of the New Testament Church until the Christian influence spreads throughout the whole world. The preaching of the gospel, combined with good works, will do this. Christ will then return physically to set up His kingdom for a short time, and after this the Final Judgment will follow.
 - 4) This view teaches all of this (see c., 1), 2) & 3) above) even though there is no Bible basis for a *Millennium* before Christ's Second Coming nor is there any Bible basis for a Second Coming of Christ after the *Millennium*.
- d. The Pre-millennial View (the correct view):
- 1) This view was held by the Christian Church for the first three centuries. It was the faith of Barnabas, Polycarp, Clement, Ignatius, Papius, Tertullian, Justin Martyr, Nepos, Irenaeus, Victorinus, Methodius, Lactantius, Hermas and many others.
 - 2) This view teaches that after the Second Coming of Christ (Rev 19:11-16; 17:14), He will set up a literal, physical, visible (Acts 1:6-7; Dan 2:44-45; Acts 4:10-11), Palestinian, Jewish, Davidic kingdom on this earth (Isa 2:1-4; Jer 23:5-8; Luke 1:31-33).
 - 3) This view teaches that Jesus will reign over this kingdom for one thousand years with His Bride (the New Testament Church) (2 Tim 2:12) and His Saints (Rev 20:4-6).
 - 4) This view teaches that there will be no lasting worldwide peace on earth until after Christ returns the second time physically (Isa 11:1-9; Zec 14:9-11, 16; Rev 20:1-3).

- 5) This view teaches that society, religion, education, science and civilization will get worse and worse and there will be an increase of evil worldwide which will end at the Second Coming of Christ (Mat 24:1-8; 2 Tim 3:1-8).
- 6) This view teaches that during the thousand year reign of Christ all of Israel's covenants (Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian, Mosaic, and New National) will be fulfilled (see The Nine Important Covenants).
- 7) This view teaches that the kingdom (also called, "the Kingdom of Christ" and "the Day of Christ") will be the combined Kingdom of God and Kingdom of Heaven that was offered by Jesus Christ at His First Coming (see The Seven Kingdoms, III.).
- 8) This view teaches that at the end of the *Millennium* the Great White Throne Judgment will take place (Rev 20:7-15).