

Lesson 6: The Millennium, New Heaven, and New Earth

Revelation 20:4-6 NKJV - ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Matthew 6:9-13 NKJV - ⁹In this manner, therefore, pray: our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Millennium is a thousand-year period in which Christ will set up His Kingdom and will rule over the entire earth.

Both the Abrahamic Covenant and the Davidic Covenant promised that Israel would have an everlasting kingdom that would be ruled by the promised Messiah, who would be of the seed of David.

After the Resurrection of Christ, the disciples were still looking for the establishment of an earthly kingdom with Christ as King. Their expectations were rooted in Old Testament prophecies. They simply misunderstood the timing of the promised Kingdom.

Acts 1:6-8 NKJV - ⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

I. The Purpose of the Millennium

A. The Main Objectives

1. It is the time of the full manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ in all of His glory will shine forth in all fullness.

John 17:4-5 NKJV - ⁴I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

2. Christ will fulfill the messianic prophecy that He will reign over the nations in spite of their rebellion against God.

Psalms 2:6-9 NKJV - ⁶"Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion." ⁷"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"

3. The Millennium is the fulfillment that the government of the earth will be His – and that the throne of David is re-established in Christ.

Isaiah 9:6-7 NKJV - *⁶For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

II. The Nature of the Millennium

A. Characteristics and Conditions

1. The Millennium will be a time of both political and spiritual rulership. It will be characterized by righteousness and justice.
2. This period is a time when the Spirit of God and holiness of God will be manifested.

Isaiah 11:2-5 NKJV - *²The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. ³His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; ⁴But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.*

3. The physical presence of Christ will produce a pure worship because of the experience of the very Glory that is manifesting.

Ezekiel 37:27-28 NKJV - *²⁷My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ²⁸The nations also will know that I, the LORD, sanctify Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.*

4. The curse will be partially removed and sickness will be eliminated.

Isaiah 11:6-9 NKJV - *⁶“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹They 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.*

5. The Millennium will be a restoration of ideal conditions such as existed in the Garden of Eden in the beginning.

Isaiah 32:17-18 NKJV - *¹⁷The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever. ¹⁸My people will dwell in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.*

III. Who Populates the Millennium?

A. Three Categories of People

1. All believers who were raptured will return with Christ and will rule with Him in their glorified, new bodies.

Revelation 5:9-10 NKJV - ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

2. Believers who died before the death of Christ (primarily Old Testament believers) and believers who die during the Tribulation will be resurrected at the First Resurrection. This resurrection takes place after the Battle of Armageddon and just prior to the beginning of the Millennium.

Ezekiel 37:12-14 NKJV - ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. ¹⁴I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken it and performed it," says the LORD.'

Revelation 20:4-6 NKJV - ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

3. The last category of people who will populate the Millennium are "natural" bodied people who survive the Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon. The life span will be greatly increased for those who enter the Millennium, yet they will still be subject to the weakness of the flesh, and still prone to sin.
4. During the Millennium, Christ will rule with an iron scepter by enforcing the law of righteousness so people can live in the protection of the Kingdom.

Revelation 2:27 NKJV - 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'— as I also have received from My Father.

IV. The Eternal State

A. The Events at the End of the Millennium

1. Satan is released from the pit and leads a final rebellion against Christ. Somehow he deceives the nations to rebel against the Kingdom of God, but it is short-lived.

Revelation 20:7-9 NKJV - *⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.*

2. Satan's rebellion is crushed and he is thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the devil's final judgment and the end of evil.

Matthew 25:41 NKJV - *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

Revelation 20:10 NKJV - *The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

3. The Final Resurrection consists of all the Christ rejecters - all the unsaved from every generation.

Revelation 20:11-13 NKJV - *¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*

Revelation 20:5 NKJV - *But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*

4. The Great White Throne Judgment is for all of those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 20:15 NKJV - *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

5. God destroys the present heavens and earth by His own Power. It is more of a renovation of the heavens and earth, rather than total annihilation.

2 Peter 3:7 NKJV - *But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.*

Revelation 21:1 NKJV - *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

6. The Eternal State will be brand new.

Revelation 21:5 NKJV - *Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."*

Revelation 22:7 NKJV - *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."*