

“THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST”

(Sixth in an 8 week series on “The Future Unfolded”)

“To begin with, while it is true that the Book of Revelation uses many symbols, it has already been shown that the meaning of all those symbols is explained either within the Book of Revelation itself or elsewhere in the Scriptures. Furthermore, never are years used in a symbolic way in this book. If they are symbolic, the symbolism is nowhere explained. The mention of 1,260 days, 42 months, and 3½ years are all literal and not symbolic. **Hence, there is no need to take the one thousand years as anything but literal years.** The desire to spiritualize the text always places the burden of proof on the interpreter. Without objective proof it will result in a subjective interpretation.

It is, of course, true that the figure of *one thousand years* is only found in Revelation 20. But it is recorded six different times in this one text, and if repetition tries to do anything, it certainly endeavors to make a point.

While it is true that the *millennium* (that is, one thousand years) is found only in Revelation 20, the belief in the Messianic Kingdom does not rest on this passage alone. In fact, it hardly rests on it at all. The *basis* for the belief in the Messianic Kingdom is twofold. **First:** there are the **unfulfilled promises** of the Jewish covenants, promises that can only be fulfilled in a Messianic Kingdom. **Second:** there are the **unfulfilled prophecies** of the Jewish prophets. There are numerous prophecies of the Old Testament that speak of the coming of the Messiah Who will reign on David’s Throne, and rule over a peaceful Kingdom. There is a great amount of material in the Old Testament on the Messianic Kingdom, and the belief in a Messianic Kingdom rests on the basis of a literal interpretation of this massive material.

The only real contribution that the Book of Revelation makes to the knowledge of the Kingdom is to disclose just **how long the Messianic Kingdom will last**—namely one thousand years—for which the term *Millennium* is used. This is the one key truth concerning the Kingdom that was not revealed in the Old Testament.”

– Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The footsteps of the Messiah :
A study of the sequence of prophetic events*

*“I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. **They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** ⁵ (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be **priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.**”*

- Revelation 20:4-6

THE CAPITAL OF THE KINGDOM

*“On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.⁹**The LORD will be king over the whole earth.** On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name. ¹⁰The whole land, from Geba to Rimmon, south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up and remain in its place, from the Benjamin Gate to the site of the First Gate, to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the royal winepresses. ¹¹It will be inhabited; never again will it be destroyed. **Jerusalem will be secure.**”* - Zechariah 14:8-11

THE RULER OF THE KINGDOM

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and **the government will be on his shoulders.** And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ **Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.** He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.”* - Isaiah 9:6-7

*““The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a **King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.** ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.”* - Jeremiah 23:5-6

*“You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus.** ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and **he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.**”* - Luke 1:31-33

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM

*“In the last days the mountain of **the LORD’s temple will be established** as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. **He will teach us his ways,** so that we may walk in his paths.” **The law will go out from Zion,** the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴ **He will judge between the nations** and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.**”* - Isaiah 2:2-4

THE NATURE OF THE KINGDOM

“My servant David will be king over them, **and they will all have one shepherd**. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. ²⁵They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your fathers lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever. ²⁶**I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant**. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸**Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.**”
– Ezekiel 37:24-28

“**The wolf will live with the lamb**, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest. ⁹ **They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD** as the waters cover the sea.”
- Isaiah 11:6-9

“In that day I will restore David’s fallen tent. **I will repair its broken places, restore its ruins, and build it as it used to be**, ¹² so that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations that bear my name,” declares the LORD, who will do these things. ¹³ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. **New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills.** ¹⁴ I will bring back my exiled people Israel; they will rebuild the ruined cities and live in them. They will plant vineyards and drink their wine; they will make gardens and eat their fruit. ¹⁵ I will plant Israel in their own land, **never again to be uprooted** from the land I have given them,” says the LORD your God.”
- Amos 9:11-15

THE WORSHIP OF THE KINGDOM

“Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and **the glory of the LORD filled the temple**. ⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from inside the temple. ⁷ He said: “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet. **This is where I will live among the Israelites forever**. The house of Israel will never again defile my holy name—neither they nor their kings—by their prostitution and the lifeless idols of their kings at their high places.”
- Ezekiel 43:5-7

“Then he said to me, “Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: These will be the regulations for **sacrificing burnt offerings** and sprinkling blood upon the altar when it is built: ¹⁹ You are to give a young bull as a sin offering to the priests, who are Levites, of the family of Zadok, who come near to minister before me, declares the Sovereign LORD. ²⁰ You are to take some of its blood and put it on the four horns of the altar and on the four corners of the upper ledge and all around the rim, and so purify the altar and make atonement for it. ²¹ You are to take the bull for the **sin offering** and burn it in the designated part of the temple area outside the sanctuary.”

Ezekiel 43:18-21

(**Note:** The sacrificial system in the Millennium is also mentioned in: Isaiah 56:7; 66:20–23; Jeremiah 33:18; Zechariah 14:16–21; Malachi 3:3–4. Such sacrifices will serve as a memorial, **looking back** to the past sacrifice of Messiah, as the Old Testament sacrifices **looked forward** to the future sacrifice of Messiah).

“Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will **go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.** ¹⁷ If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain. ¹⁸ If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.”

- Zechariah 14:16-19

THE INCLUSION OF THE KINGDOM

“Let no foreigner who has bound himself to the LORD say, “The LORD will surely **exclude me from his people.**” And let not any eunuch complain, “I am only a dry tree.” ⁴ For this is what the LORD says: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant — ⁵ to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; **I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off.** ⁶ And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant — ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. **Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;** for my house will be called **a house of prayer for all nations.**” ⁸ The Sovereign LORD declares — he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “**I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.**””

- Isaiah 56:3-8