

The Golden Age: The Millennial Reign of the Messiah

Rev.20:1-7

In Rev. 20, we have six distinct references to the reign of Christ upon earth as being a literal period of one thousand years.

It Will Be An Age In Which Jesus Christ Reigns As King Upon The Earth.

When Gabriel brought Mary the news that she was going to have a child, he told her:

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”(Lu. 1:32-33).

David's throne is obviously a reference to an earthly throne. David's throne was never in heaven. There promise here is clear and explicit that Christ shall reign over the Jews on the earth, in the age to come exactly as His father David had done in ages past.

We believe that God will fulfill all the covenant promises he made to Israel, in due time. He has not forgotten or abandoned His chosen people.

Dan. 2:44, is a prophecy about the future kingdom of Christ.

The God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”(Daniel 2:44).

Then in Daniel 7: 14 we have a picture of the kingdom. *Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed.*

It Will Be An Age In Which The Saints Rule With Christ

The Bible tells us that the saints, who are in heaven, in the heavenly Jerusalem, to be exact, will also literally come down and rule with Jesus in this Millennium Kingdom.

The earth will thus have a mixture of people. The unglorified ones who have survived the 7-year Tribulation and who will continue to have children to keep the earth populating, and all the glorified saints who have died and passed on into heaven, and who then will be coming back down with Jesus to rule the nations with Him.

Daniel 7:18: *“But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”*

Christ's words to the apostles were *“Truly I say to you that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man shall sit down upon His throne of glory, you are having followed Me, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

With glorified bodies we shall have access to the regenerated earth from our eternal home, the holy city, the New Jerusalem, which will probably be suspended in the air as a canopy over the earthy Jerusalem at that time (Isaiah 4:5-6).

It Will Be An Age In Which Satan Is Bound

There is a time coming when Satan and his angels will be cast out of heaven and cast down to the earth (Rev. 12: 9).

The hosts of heaven are called upon to rejoice (v. 12) because of that casting out. At the same time there is rejoicing in heaven, a cry goes out to the earth dwellers - "

*But woe to the earth and the sea,
because the devil has gone down to you!
He is filled with fury,
because he knows that his time is short*

Satan knows indeed that his time is now short. So, his wrath is fierce and vindictive. Once he is cast out and cast down, at some point during the tribulation, he shall indwell the Antichrist. Through him, for three and a half years will unleash his fierce wrath against all Jews and Christians, such as the world has never experienced.

The John the apostle says (Rev. 20:1-2), "*And I saw an angel come down from heaven having a great chain in his hand.....and he laid hold on Satan and bound him a thousand years.*"

Satan, that ancient serpent, the Devil will be bound by a mighty angel and cast into the bottomless pit. The pit will be shut and sealed for 1000 years. He and his demons will be kept from deceiving the nations during the golden age.

It Will Be An Age In Which The Power Of Death Is Restrained.

The power of sin and death is restrained and broken during the millennium but not destroyed until the of the golden age.

For we read (1 Cor. 15:15), *that Christ shall reign until He hath put all enemies under His feet and that the last enemy which shall be destroyed is death.* In Rev. 20:14, we see that it is not until the end of the millennium that death is finally destroyed, for *then death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire.*

Isaiah 65:20 explicitly tells us, the nations which pass into the millennial age of the earth are still subject to death's power, even though it is restrained and limited.

"Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

It Will Be An Age Of Universal Peace

But when Jesus comes to bring the Great Tribulation to a sudden end, then shall peace come with Him. The advent of the King of Peace shall usher in the kingdom of peace.

In Isaiah 2:4 we have this word *"He shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

It Will Be An Age Of Great Temporal And Spiritual Blessing.

God shall tame the wild beasts of the field. Isaiah 11:6 states, “*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.*”

And to His own earthly people, the Jews, God will increase great wealth. Israel will be the head of the nations, not the tail. Jews have been promised earthly blessings from the start, while the church has been promised heavenly blessing from its inception.

Earth shall blossom in unending beauty and glory, for it shall be delivered from the corruption it is now subject to (Rom. 8:21).

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9). The knowledge of heaven shall flow and flow and flow from Jerusalem.

It Will Be An Age Of Universal Worship

All the world will unite in the worship of God and God’s Messiah in Jerusalem. *And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD* (Isaiah 66:23).

The prophet Ezekiel gives us a detailed description of the literal Millennium Temple that will be built and supervised by the Messiah Himself. The presence of the Messiah will be the glory restored in, over and around it (Ez.40-48).

Ezekiel's details include the re-organized temple ministries by the Zadok priesthood, the re-instatement of literal animal sacrifices, Sabbath -keeping, the keeping of three Jewish OT feasts, and the mention of Christ having a co-regent on the throne, whose name is called David.

Jeremiah prophesied in Ch 30: 9, "*In that day, [at the time of Israel's restoration], they will serve the Lord their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them.*"

There will be a reverting to law in the Millennium kingdom. Some laws will be of the Mosaic type, others will be new ones. The Messiah will rule with an iron scepter and righteousness will reign. Holiness and obedience will be enforced in the Millennium theocracy.

Those who refuse to worship the Lord will be afflicted.

Zechariah 14: 17-18—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. 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 Festival of Tabernacles.

It Will Be An Age Which Ends By Merging Into The Endless Ages Of Eternity.

The Millennial Age is God's last test of man. Mankind was tested in Eden and failed. Man was tested in age of conscience and failed. Man was tested in the age of government and failed. Man was tested in the age of Law and failed. Mankind was tested in the age of grace and failed. Mankind will be tested

under the personal reign of the Lord Jesus Christ and will fail. Mankind will have been tested and found guilty at every level!

At the end of the age, Satan is *"loosed out of his prison"* (Rev. 20:7). He goes forth to *"deceive the nations."* The unregenerate hearts of many who were born throughout the Millennium will revolt against God and His Christ, in spite of the wonderful conditions they have lived in.

Judgment falls once again from the God of Heaven (Rev. 20:9). Satan meets his final doom of the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10). The earth is then purged by purifying fires (2 Pet. 3).

John sees a "New Heaven and a New Earth" (Rev. 21:1). With them begin the everlasting Ages of Eternity. The gulf between heaven and earth is forever bridged. No more separation between men of the earth and God, for *"the tabernacle of God is with men"* (Rev. 21:3). Sin will have been forever banished in the eternal lake of liquid fire.