

The Church and the Millennial Kingdom
Eagle Street Christian Fellowship
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- I. Main Idea: The kingdom is coming!
- II. What should we do about it? – We are people of the King, let’s live like it! Live kingdom values because that’s what our King is like. We are His ambassadors (2 Cor 5:20).
- III. As with the tribulation and the rapture issue, let’s remember that **this isn’t something to separate from other believers over. We can (and do) have happy fellowship and fruitful ministry with brothers and sisters who believe differently about this issue.**
- IV. What is the millennial kingdom? From reading Scripture, we understand that it is **a future kingdom that will be inaugurated by Jesus when He comes back at the end of the tribulation. Jesus Himself will reign as King over the regathered Israelites from the throne of David in Jerusalem for one thousand years** (see Rev 20). When it is over, there will be judgments and God will set up the eternal state/kingdom.

V. How do we know this?

The kingdom is a major theme throughout the whole Bible, especially in prophecy. Much is written in the Prophets about the kingdom, but here is what two of the more prominent ones say.

A. Isaiah 11

- 1) The **Davidic** Kingdom will be restored, and the Messiah will be the Davidic King (v. 1)
- 2) The King and His kingdom will be **endowed with the Holy Spirit** (v. 2)
- 3) The physical **earth** will be rejuvenated and **transformed** (vv. 6-9)
- 4) The King will rule **over Israel** (vv. 11-12)
- 5) His rule will extend **to the nations** (vv. 10, 12)

B. Daniel 2:31-45 [esp. vv. 36-45] (and its parallel prophecy in chapter 7) – This prophecy is revealed as Judah is rapidly declining and the people are being exiled, and it’s revealed to the Babylonian (Gentile) king, Nebuchadnezzar, in Aramaic, which was a Lingua-Franca for many nations in that part of the world at that time.

- 1) The ten toes (2:41-43, paralleling the ten horns in Daniel 7:7, 24) are ten kings in the Roman empire. This part of the prophecy has not happened yet, so **it is still future.**
- 2) The four kingdoms are earthly, physical kingdoms, and the fifth kingdom to come will also be **an earthly, physical kingdom.**
- 3) The fifth kingdom completely obliterates the first four, and **grows into a world-wide kingdom.**
- 4) It’s not of human origin, **God sets it up** (2:34, 44; 7:13-14).
- 5) The vision in chapter 7 also contrasts the feral beast-like kingdoms of the earth with the **noble humanity** of the Son of Man’s kingdom.

VI. What did Jesus say or believe about it?

- A. Jesus proclaimed, and even offered, the kingdom, but He **didn't really define (or redefine) it**. If His concept of the kingdom was different than the concept found in the Old Testament, which would have been familiar to His audiences, wouldn't He have clearly said so?
- B. Jesus implied that it was **still future** (Matt 6:10; 7:21-23; 8:11-12; 25:34)
- C. He didn't correct the disciples' concept of the kingdom in Acts 1:6-8.

So, Jesus must have believed the OT concept was true. He didn't need to explain it to His hearers because they were familiar with the concept already.

VII. Why is the millennial kingdom so important?

- A. Jesus will completely fulfill the covenants God made with Abraham, Israel, and David
 - 1) Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-8) – God promised Abraham that the whole world would be blessed through him, that kings would come from him, and that his descendants (the Israelites) would possess the land forever.
 - 2) Palestinian/Land Covenant (Deut 30:1-10) again promises that Israel will always hold the title deed to the land, even after they've been exiled from it.
 - 3) Davidic Covenant (2 Sam 7:8-17) – God promises that David will have a dynasty forever.
 - 4) New Covenant (Jer 31:31-34) – within the context of the future restoration of Israel and the Davidic dynasty, Jeremiah prophesies about the New Covenant in which God promises to change the hearts of the Israelites to allow them to have a true relationship of fellowship with Him (v. 33). He also promises that the knowledge of God would be universal and that their sins would be forgiven (v. 34).
- B. It also fulfills the **primary biblical purposes of mankind** in history: to have to dominion over the earth, and to glorify God.
- C. The millennial kingdom is also an opportunity to **show the true nature of man's heart**. After a thousand years of freedom from satanic influence, living under the most perfect and ideal political, social, economical, spiritual, and natural conditions, many will still choose to rebel against the Lord, showing that mankind needs the new heart Christ offers (Rev. 20:7-9).

VIII. What will the millennial kingdom be like? (Characteristics of the millennium)

- A. Holiness (Ezek 37:23, 28) – Holiness will abound. The King, His people, the land, the city, the temple, even the bells on the horses and cooking pots (Zech. 14:20-21) will be holy!
- B. Righteousness (Is. 11:4-5; 32:1; Jer. 23:5-6; 33:15-16) – He will reign in righteousness
- C. Truth – King Jesus is the Truth (Jn. 14:6), and Jerusalem, where He will reign, will be called the City of Truth (Zech. 8:3)
- D. Obedience (Ezek. 37:24; Dan. 7:27) – obedience from Israel and the nations
- E. Peace (Is. 2:4; 9:7; 32:17-18) – peace on and at all levels of life – from personal to international, and even peace within nature. True “shalom,” a whole peace.
- F. Justice (Is. 2:4; 9:7; 11:5; 42:1-4; Jer. 23:5)
- G. Equality, both economical and social (Is. 14:3-6; 35:1-2; 42:6-7; 49:8-9, 65:21-23; Amos 9:13-14)
- H. Full of the Holy Spirit/Spiritual (Jer. 31:33-34; Joel 2:28-29)

Book recommended for further study:

Benware, Paul N. Understanding End Times Prophecy. Moody Press: Chicago, 2006.