

The History and Significance of Premillennialism

Lesson #12 The Millennial Kingdom⁰⁶⁵⁶

I. Introduction

My approach in this lesson is to focus on what makes the Millennial Kingdom entirely different than other kingdoms on the earth that have been and are imperfect which is entirely the nature of man. The very best of earthly kingdoms are far short of perfect.

To understand that this Millennial Kingdom it is necessary to understand the nature of God as it relates to such perfection of righteousness as to be entirely beyond our ability to imagine or conceive. Consider the actual implications and meaning of the following passage:

Isa 55:8-13 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. ⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹so will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. ¹²For you will go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth into shouts of joy before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up, and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up, and it will be a memorial to the Lord, for an everlasting sign which will not be cut off."*

All Scripture is quoted from the NASU unless otherwise indicated.

These things will happen. This is the promise of God in His accomplishing that which He intended to accomplish. Satan and wicked men do not defeat God's initial and ultimate purpose in receiving glory unto Himself.

II. The Nature of God

God intends that His beautiful creation will fully reflect His nature and His goodness. But Satan and Adam have delayed this glorious state for a short time. In this section (II.) we intend to address a few of God's attributes that are not currently, under Satan's influence and man's disobedience, that must be fully reflected in fullness of His future Kingdom where sin and evil are fully resolved and permanently defeated.

Nature currently does reflect these attributes sufficiently, but not in the fullness that God intended. In God's reshaped earth of the Millennial Kingdom, these attributes of God will be fully reflected to His own glory.

The following attributes will be reflected in the reshaped earth of the Millennial Kingdom:

A. God's Absolute Holiness:

We often err when we confuse "holiness" with "righteousness". They have different meanings. We need to be careful here.

The **Hebrew** word for holy, "qodesh" is a common noun with adjectival force used with God and select things within the creation. It refers to that which is consecrated by being set apart or being different. It is used with regard to physical things such as the utensils used in worship in the Temple. Generally refers to that which has been set apart for God's purpose or use. The "holy" is that which has been consecrated to Him. In the ultimate case God is truly altogether different than we are which is why we are always prohibited from reflecting God in any visual image, which is sinful, presumptuous, and idolatrous. To the natural man, God is always "alien" to. He is totally different than lost men presuppose in their fallenness. It is only through God's three revelations to His redeemed that we just begin to apprehend who and what He is.

The **Greek** word for holy, “hagios” is an adjective referring to God, or people, or things set apart for God’s redemptive purpose. This setting apart infers that this holy thing is entirely different than, in attribute, in purpose, and/or in function. It is not to be considered “secular”, common, or worldly.

NOTE: As separate from, as different than, as higher than all of His creation, God cannot be understood or perceived by fallen man at all, and redeemed man in this life can only “apprehend” Him through His special revelation (Scripture), through General Revelation (Created Order), and through illumination by the Holy Spirit of man’s own knowledge, reason, and wisdom.

Job 26:7-14 *He stretches out the north over empty space and hangs the earth on nothing. ⁸He wraps up the waters in His clouds, and the cloud does not burst under them. ⁹He obscures the face of the full moon and spreads His cloud over it. ¹⁰He has inscribed a circle on the surface of the waters at the boundary of light and darkness. ¹¹The pillars of heaven tremble and are amazed at His rebuke. ¹²He quieted the sea with His power, and by His understanding He shattered Rahab. ¹³By His breath the heavens are cleared; His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent. ¹⁴Behold, these are the fringes of His ways; and how faint a word we hear of Him! But His mighty thunder, who can understand?*

B. God’s Absolute Sovereignty:

- God fully carries out His will without any intervening possibility of delay, failure, or modification no matter how slight from His original intentions, His will, and His plans.
- **Dan 4:34-35** *I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; for His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. ³⁵All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’* Nebuchadnezzar, that wicked pagan King, repents in faith unto redemption.

“I believe that every particle of dust that dances in the sunbeam does not move an atom more or less than wishes – that every particle of spray that dashes against the steamboat has its orbit, as well as the sun in the heavens – that every chaff from the hand of the winnower is steered as the stars in their course. The creeping of an aphid over the rosebush is as much fixed as the march of the devastating pestilence – the fall of leaves from a poplar is as fully ordained as the tumbling of an avalanche.”

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

C. God’s Absolute Righteousness:

- **Dictionary Definition of Wrath:** 1. Violent, resentful anger; rage; fury.
2. Divine retribution for sin.
- **Theological Definition:** “a necessary part of moral character is to abhor evil as well as to love good. God is actively and strongly opposed to all forms of evil;”
New Dictionary of Theology; Editors- Sinclair Ferguson, David Wright & J. I. Packer; IVP; p.732

God’s wrath is, in this present time, moderated by His great patience and mercy. Do not for a moment imagine that God’s wrath is in anyway ineffective or weak or that it is not perfect or that it is incomplete regarding justice. It is to be absolutely feared by men.

The lost must understand its total fury and its inevitableness. The saint must humbly ever acknowledge the greatness of God’s redemptive work, never forgetting such great mercy.

D. God’s Complete Providence:

Definition: “God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that He:

- (1) He preserves all things and maintains the properties with which He created them.
- (2) He cooperates with created things in every action, directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do; and
- (3) He directs them to fulfill His purposes.”

Taken from Systematic Theology by Dr. Wayne Grudem; page 315

Here we see 3 aspects of God's Providence:

1. Preservation: God maintains the universe for His own purposes and as He sees fit. Col 1:15-17
2. Concurrence: God acts to accomplish His purpose in and through His creation. Eph 1:9-12
3. Governance: God rules His universe with absolute sovereignty for His purpose. Dan 2:20-22
Dan 4:34-35
Dan 6:26-27

III. The Nature of Theocracy

- A. **“Etymology:** The word *theocracy* originates from the Greek θεοκρατία meaning "the rule of God". This in turn derives from θεός (*theos*), meaning "god", and κρατέω (*krateo*), meaning "to rule". Thus the meaning of the word in Greek was "rule by god(s)" or human incarnation(s) of god(s).

The term was initially coined by Flavius Josephus in the first century A.D. to describe the characteristic government of the Jews. Josephus argued that while mankind had developed many forms of rule, most could be subsumed under the following three types: monarchy, oligarchy, and democracy. However, according to Josephus, the government of the Jews was unique. Josephus offered the term "theocracy" to describe this polity, ordained by Moses, in which God is sovereign and his word is law.^[6]

Josephus' definition was widely accepted until the Enlightenment era, when the term took on negative connotations and was hardly salvaged by Hegel's abstruse commentary.^[7] The first recorded English use was in 1622, with the meaning "sacerdotal government under divine inspiration" (as in Biblical Israel before the rise of kings); the meaning "priestly or religious body wielding political and civil power" is recorded from 1825.” [Theocracy - Wikipedia](#)

B. The Millennial Kingdom of the God-Head

The Millennial Kingdom is a specific type of Theocracy. It is a “Direct Theocracy” where God rules directly the affairs of men through the person of Jesus, the Christ, the anointed One. All authority is through this Christ who will sit on the earthly throne of David ruling the whole earthly realm.

Christ, who is at One with the Father and the Spirit, holding all the attributes of the Father and the Spirit will rule the earth in perfect harmony, with perfect justice, with perfect provision, with complete dominion over all creation.

- **Who is this man Christ Jesus? Col 1:13-20 - Preservation of** (See section II. D. above)

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

- **What is God's Purpose in Christ's Earthly Rule? Eph 1:9-12 - Concurrence with**

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things

after the counsel of His will, ¹²to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

- **What Enables Christ to Provide Complete & Perfect Provision? Dan 2:20-22 – Governance of Daniel** said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. ²¹It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding. ²²It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him."

Dan 6:26-27 – Governance of

I make a decree that in all the dominion of my kingdom men are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; "For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. ²⁷He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has also delivered Daniel from the power of the lions."

IV. Elements of the Nature of This "Millennial Kingdom"

- A. The nature of God's Kingdom must be understood as different than our modern idea of Kingdom. We think of a Kingdom as a location and its people, ruled by a person, who is King. The Old Testament idea is quite different and fits more accurately our understanding of God's absolute holiness, absolute sovereignty, absolute righteousness, and His complete providence for His people.

George E. Ladd in his *Crucial Questions About the Kingdom of God*; pp. 78-80 explains: "The primary meaning of the New Testament word for kingdom *basileia*, is "reign" rather than "realm" or "people". A great deal of attention in recent years has been devoted by critical scholars to this subject, and there is a practically unanimous agreement that "regal power, authority" is more basic to *basileia* than "realm" or "people". [Mounce's Complete Expository Dictionary; p. 570 under "Reign"] "In the general linguistic usage, it is to be noted that the word *basileia*, which we usually translate by *realm*, *kingdom*, designates first of all the *existence*, the *character*, the *position* of the king. Since it concerns a king, we would best speak of His majesty, His authority". (Schmidt, Theologisches Worterbuch zum Neuen Testament I p. 579)" - Found in **Dwight Pentecost**; *Things to Come*; p. 429-430.

- B. Elements of this Millennial Kingdom under Christ's direct rule are:

- 1st Peace. The cessation of war through the unification of the kingdoms of the world under the reign of Christ, together with the resultant economic prosperity, since nations need not devote vast proportions of their expenditure on munitions, is a major theme of the prophets. Is 2:2-4 + 14 more.
- 2nd Joy. The fulness of joy will be a distinctive mark of the age. Is 9:1-4; + 17 more.
- 3rd Holiness. The Theocratic kingdom will be a holy kingdom, in which holiness is manifested through the King and the King's subjects. Is 1:24-27; + 17 more.
- 4th Glory. The kingdom will be a glorious Kingdom, in which the glory of God will find full manifestation. Is 24:23; + 4 more.
- 5th Comfort. The King will personally minister to every need, so that there will be the fulness of comfort in that day. Is 12:1-6; + 11 more.
- 6th Justice. There will be the administration of perfect justice to every individual. Is 9:7; + 7 more.
- 7th Full knowledge. The ministry of the King will bring the subjects of His kingdom into full knowledge. Doubtless there will be an unparalleled teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit. Is 11:1-4; +4 more.

- 8th Instruction. This knowledge will come about through instruction that issues from the King. Is 2:2-3; + 10 more.
- 9th The removal of the curse. The original curse place upon creation (Gen 3:17-19) will be removed, so that there will be abundant productivity to the earth. Animal creation will be changed so as to lose its venom and ferocity. Is 11:6-9; + 2 more.
- 10th Sickness removed. The ministry of the King as a healer will be seen throughout the age, so that sickness and even death, except as a penal measure in dealing with overt sin, will be removed. Is 33: Ezek 34:16; + 2 more.
- 11th Healing of the deformed. Accompanying this ministry will be the healing of all deformity at the inception of the Millennium. Is 29:18-19; + 5 more.
- 12th Protection. There will be a supernatural preservation of life in the millennial age through the King. Is 41:8-14; + 9 more.
- 13th Freedom from Oppression. There will be no social, political or religious oppression in that day. Is 14:3-7; + 3 more.
- 14th No immaturity. The suggestions seems to be that there will not be the tragedies of feeble-mindedness nor of dwarfed bodies in that day. Is 65:20; no other references.
- 15th Reproduction. The living saints who go into the millennium in their natural bodies will beget children throughout the age. The earth's population will soar. These born in the age will not be born without a sin nature, so salvation will be required. Ezek 47:22; 3 more.
- 16th Labor. The period will not be characterized by idleness, but there will be a perfect economic system, in which the needs of men are abundantly provided for by labor in that system under the guidance of the King. Is 62:8-9; + 3 more.
- 17th Economic prosperity. The perfect labor situation will produce economic abundance. Is 62:8-9; + 12 more.
- 18th Increase of light. There will be an increase of solar and lunar light in the age. Is 60:19-20; + 3 more.
- 19th Unified language. The language barriers will be removed so that there can be free social intercourse. Zeph 3:9; no other references.
- 20th Unified worship. All the world will unite in the worship of God and God's Messiah. Zech 12:2-5; + 10 more.
- 21st The manifest presence of God. God's presence will be fully recognized. Rev 21:3; + 3 more.
- 22nd The fulness of the Spirit. Divine presence and enablement for all. Rev 32:15-18; + 10 more.
- 23rd The perpetuity of the millennial state. This Kingdom is eternal. Ezek 37:24-28; + 13 more.

This list is taken from **Dwight Pentecost's** *Things to Come*; pp. 487-490.

Conclusion: The "Eternal State" which follows this Millennial Kingdom will be a continuation of this Davidic Kingdom, but not on the earth, but all promises will be actual and entirely fulfilled.