

A Study of Heaven – Week 9

What on Earth is the Millennium?

What thoughts does the hymn, “Joy to the World” bring to your mind, a baby lying in a manger or the Advent (Christ’s second coming)? What do the lyrics “Joy to the world! The Lord is come Let earth receive her King!” or “Joy to the world! The Savior reigns”

Revelation 20:1-7 mentions the 1000 years six times in the seven verses. Another word for the 1000 years is ‘millennium’.

What does Peter tell us about 1000 years in 2 Peter 3:8? One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. It has been two millennia since Jesus was born in a manger. It has been 4 millennia since Abraham took Isaac to the mountain.

When we studied the Book of Revelation we learned about the different ways of thinking on when the Millennium would occur.

The three views of Millennium are:

Post-Millennialism

These people believe that Jesus will return to earth after the thousand years of kingdom living occur. They believe that we are living in the Millennium right now. They also believe that there will be a “Golden Age” that will lead to the return of Christ. Looking at the world today, is it likely that we are living in a time of where society is getting better and closer to God?

A-Millennialism

These people believe that there will NOT be a one thousand year reign of Christ. The events that we read in Revelation 20 are happening now. The Church is reigning with Christ over the earth. A-millennialists require many of the scriptures about the 1000 year reign of Christ be interpreted spiritually and symbolically and not literally.

Pre-Millennialism

These people believe that when we read about a 1000 year reign of Christ in Revelation 20, it is a literal 1000 year reign of Christ. This view most closely fits the Scriptures.

According to Revelation 20, the Millennium will end with a final rebellion of man against God.

Christ will exert His power and bring the old earth to its fiery end. He will condemn the unsaved and bring about the new heaven and new earth.

Dr. Jeremiah says that there are **four purposes for the Millenium.**

Isaiah 40:10 and Revelation 22:12 tell us that God will reward the people of God.

1 Corinthians 6:2 and Revelation 20:4 - Part of the reward will be to reign and rule with Jesus.

Randy Alcorn said, "Service is a reward, not a punishment. This idea is foreign to people who dislike their work and only put up with it until retirement. We think that faithful work should be reward with

a vacation for the rest of our lives. But God offers us something very different: more work, more responsibilities, increased opportunities, along with greater abilities, resources, wisdom and empowerment. We will have sharp minds, strong bodies, clear purpose and unabated joy.”

The purposes of the Millennium will be to:

1. To Respond to the Prophets’ Predictions

What do the following verses say about the Millennium?

Psalm 72:11 – all kings will bow, all nations will serve Him

Isaiah 9:7 - He will rule with justice and righteousness (NLT)

Isaiah 60:21 – Those serving Jesus will be righteous and inherit the land forever, that He may be glorified.

Zechariah 9:10 – He will rule the entire earth

Luke 1:32-33 – He will reign over all the earth forever.

2. To Receive the Answer to the Lord’s Prayer

The Millennium will be a time when the Lord’s Prayer (Disciples’ Prayer) is fulfilled.

Matthew 6:10 says, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

3. To Reemphasize Man’s Depravity and the Necessity of Christ’s Death

Revelation 20:7-9 tells us that at the end of the 1000 yr reign of Christ:

1. Satan will be released

2. He will go out and deceive the nations
3. Battle of Armageddon

Dr. Jeremiah gives us 5 Profiles of the Millennium.

The Millennium will all be a prelude to the New Heaven and the New Earth. This is not heaven. It will be a time of:

Peace – It will be a time without war.

Psalm 72:7 – Righteous shall flourish and abundance of peace

Micah 4:2-3 – He will judge righteously. No more tools of war, nor training of war.

Isaiah 11:6-9 – Even the animals will be at peace.

Prosperity – It will be a blessed world.

Ezekiel 34:26-27 – There will be showers of blessings

Ezekiel 36:29-30 – Never again will there be a famine

Ezekiel 36:35 – The land will become the Garden of Eden

Amos 9:13 – “When the grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested.” NLT

Isaiah 35:1 – Even the desert flowers will be blooming

Purity – It will be a time without sin.

Isaiah 11:9 – Man will have full knowledge of who Jesus is.

Isaiah 25:9 – Jesus will truly be known as God.

Isaiah 66:23 – All men will worship Jesus

Zechariah 13:2 – There will be no idols. Satan and his minion will be gone.

Prolonged Life

It will be a return to pre-flood time. Man shall live as long as Methuselah.

Isaiah 65:20 – No SIDS, Even at 100 yrs old, a man will be young.

Personal Joy

It will be a time of happiness and contentment.

Isaiah 9:3 – Increased joy

Isaiah 12:3 – Man will have joy from salvation.

Isaiah 14:7 – The whole earth is at rest and quiet. Man will be so joyful, he will break out in song.

Isaiah 25:8-9 – God has delivered salvation. Pure joy.

Isaiah 30:29 – There will be joyful praise of God.

Isaiah 42:10-12 – Man will be so joyful, he will sing.

When Jesus came the first time, He came as a baby but when He returns He will come as a King. Consider the differences between the 1st and 2nd coming of Jesus using the verses below.

Jesus' 1st Coming

Swaddling cloths (Luke 2:7)

Weary traveler

Nowhere to lay His head

(Matthew 8:20)

Rejected by tiny Israel

(Mark 6:4)

Jesus' Second Coming

Reign in majestic purple

Untiring God

Revealed as heir of all things

(Hebrews 1:2)

Accepted by every single nation

(Philippians 2:10-11)

Lowly Savior acquainted
with grief
Wicked soldiers bowed the
knee of mockery (Mat. 27:27-31)

Crown of thorns (Mat. 27:29)
Delivered up His Spirit in death
(Mat. 27:50)
Laid in a tomb
(Mat. 27:59-60)

Mighty God anointed with oil of
gladness (Psalm 45:7)
Every knee will bow and tongue
confess that He is Lord
(Philippians 2:11)
Crown of gold Rev. 14:14
He will be alive forevermore
(Rev. 1:18)
Sit on a throne
(2 Corinthians 5:10)