The Millennium Paradox

By

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Introduction

It is interesting to note the various ideas we Christians have about a 1,000 year Millennium period of time, following the close of the Great Tribulation. So many personal concepts and those images created by others of what a new paradise, similar or better than the Garden of Eden was like, are to be discussed among Christians and found in Christian literature almost everywhere. Personally I’ve had considerable trouble with these notions, as they have not lined up with my understanding of what the Bible really tells us. Now I am not a person to make little of these views of thinking, but such information does raise questions with me about what is true and what is not true. Let’s investigate!

All throughout my 65 years of research, reading and study, I have always managed to glean different opinions of many biblical topics, especially anything that has had to do with the books of Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Revelation and other prophecy texts. However, early on in my life, I learned to allow scripture to interpret scripture, and depended upon my divinely answered request to the
Lord, through prayer, I have discovered, what I feel is the truth in what I will be writing. Now mind you, these thoughts aren’t just mine, what I am going to purport to you belong to many fine scholars in biblical studies. However, there are just too many to quote. I only want to write what I feel are the most basic, but biblically truthful facts coming out of the scriptural understanding of many great writers and teachers.

I have attempted to choose the best of the ideas and concepts which I have treasured, examined, reviewed, and scrutinized with great sensitivity and caution. Nobody wants to make mistakes when one espouses biblical teachings. And nobody wants to deliberately or accidently provide erroneous substance instead of believable truthfulness. You may also be able to see the wisdom of what is said through the mouths of others who have declared this same information, only in some different format, I do imagine. Please don’t believe me, believe what the Bible itself says. I am but one vehicle for the transmission of its holy messages.

I do urge every reader to keep an open mind along with an open Bible to check for yourself what I am sharing. I cannot recommend too much the importance of doing your own verification of any information written by a person against what Holy
Scripture says. Always check the ultimate source of truth and finality. Do yah know what I mean, Vern?

Don’t’ forget this simple truth. In fact, cement it in your memory.

Check, check and recheck. Be sure and pray that the truth of the Lord showers your with His blessings of understand and discernment.
Chapter One
Discussing the Millennial Age

Three Views of the Millennium

For many Christians, the Millennium is a very important doctrine. For some, it is “the wonderful world tomorrow.” It is an upbeat message about good news for the entire world — a new and far better world will come after Christ returns to put an end to this evil world. The Millennium will be a thousand years of righteous rule, when people will obey God, when there will be peace worldwide, when even animals will be at peace with one another. Yet, is it really all these things?

What is Provable and Attestable?

However, we do not stress the Millennium. Why not? Why have we neglected this wonderfully optimistic message about the future? The simple answer is, Scripture. We want to be honest in our use of Scripture. No matter how good particular teachings might make us feel, we do not want to be teaching things we cannot prove from Scripture. For example, how long will the Millennium last? Many say that it will be exactly one thousand years. After all, Revelation 20 calls it a thousand years. The
word “Millennium” itself means one thousand years. So why would anybody doubt it? The book of Revelation is filled with symbols. There are beasts and horns and colors and numbers that are meant figuratively, not literally. We also see in Scripture that the number one thousand is often used as a round number, not an exact count. God owns the cattle on a thousand hills, it says, without meaning an exact number. He keeps his covenant for a thousand generations, without meaning exactly 40,000 years. In scriptures like this, “a thousand” just means lots and lots and maybe even more than that.

So, in Revelation 20, the question arises, is the “thousand years” meant exactly and literally, or is it figurative? In this book of symbols that often aren’t meant literally, is the round number thousand meant to be exact? From Scripture, we cannot prove that the thousand years are meant exactly. We don’t have any other passage that gives us a chronology for this phase of God’s kingdom. We cannot prove that it isn’t figurative, meaning a very long time. That is a plausible interpretive choice. So, if we don’t want to say things we can’t prove, and we can’t prove that the “thousand” in Revelation 20 has to be literal, then we shouldn’t say that the Millennium is exactly one thousand years. But we can say that the Millennium is the time span
described in the book of Revelation. That is defensible no matter how anyone interprets the thousand years. That statement is biblical, and it is true.

Other Queries and Issues

We can also say that the Millennium is “the time span during which Christian martyrs reign with Jesus Christ.” Revelation tells us that those who are beheaded for Christ reign with him, and it tells us that they will reign with Christ for a thousand years. When do these saints begin to reign? With this question, we get into more disputed questions about the Millennium. There are several views about the Millennium. Some believe that the Millennium begins before Christ returns; others believe it begins when he returns.

Of those who believe it begins before he returns, some believe that there will be a special golden age of peace and godliness before Christ returns; others believe that things will continue much the way they are now until Christ returns. Of those who believe that the Millennium will come after Christ returns, some believe in a special role for Israel, and others do not. Some of these views are more literal in their approach to Scripture, and some are more figurative. But none are rejecting what the Bible
says — they are just interpreting it in different ways. All of them claim to base their view on Scripture. It is a matter of interpretation.

I believe these are the three basic views of the Millennium, along with their strengths and weaknesses. These three views are named by where they put the return of Christ in relation to the Millennium.

- In the Premillennial view, Christ comes before the Millennium.
- In the Postmillennial view, Christ comes after the Millennium.
- In the Amillennial view, Christ also comes after the Millennium, but it is called Amillennial or nonmillennial because it says that there is no special Millennium different from what we are already in. This view says that we are already in the time span *Revelation 20* is describing. That might seem preposterous if you believe the millennial reign is a time of peace that is possible only after Christ returns. It may seem like “those people just don’t believe the *Bible*” — but they claim to believe the *Bible*. In the interest of Christian charity, we ought to try to understand why they think the *Bible* says this. So, we will examine all three viewpoints.
The Premillennialism Viewpoint

**Old Testament:** Many prophecies in the Old Testament predict a golden age in which people obey God. “The lion and the lamb will live together, and a little child will lead them. They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, says the Lord.” Sometimes it seems as if this future world will be drastically different from the present world; other times it seems more similar. Sometimes it seems perfect, and sometimes it is mixed with sin. In a passage like *Isaiah 2*, for example, many people will say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord. He will teach us his ways.... The word of the Lord will go out from Jerusalem.” Nevertheless, there will be nations that need to be rebuked. There will be nations that refuse to obey. People will need plowshares, because they need to eat, because they are mortal. There are ideal elements, and there are normal elements. There will be young children, there will be marriage, and there will be death. Daniel tells us that the Messiah will establish a kingdom that will fill the entire earth, replacing all *Revelation* empires. There are dozens of these prophecies in the Hebrew Scriptures; however, they are not essential to be mentioned herein.

**Jesus:** The Jews understood these prophecies to refer to a future age on earth. They expected the
Messiah to come and reign and bring these blessings. Jewish literature before and after Jesus, expects a Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus’ own disciples seem to have expected the same thing. So, when Jesus preached the gospel of the Kingdom of God, we cannot pretend that the Old Testament prophecies did not exist. He was preaching to a people who expected a golden age ruled by a Messiah. When he said “Kingdom of God,” this is what they would have been thinking.

Paradise once again on earth and the Kingdom of Our God Jehovah. Could it be a second Eden?

The Apostles: Jesus announced that the kingdom was near. Then he left and said he’d be back. It would not be difficult for his followers to conclude that Jesus would bring the golden age when he came
back. The disciples asked Jesus when he would restore the kingdom to Israel, read Acts 1:6. “So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” They used a similar Greek word to talk about the time of the restoration of all things when Christ returns —Acts 3:21: “Jesus must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.” The disciples expected Old Testament prophecies to be fulfilled in a future age after Christ returned. The disciples didn’t preach much about this future golden age, because their Jewish audiences were already familiar with the concept. They didn’t need to be told about the golden age — they needed to know who the Messiah is, so he was the focus of the apostolic message. Many of the non-Jewish believers had attended synagogues before, so they would have understood this; yet, others would learn from the Hebrew Scriptures after they came to believe in Christ.

Since the apostolic message focused on the new thing God had done in the Messiah, and since it focused on how salvation is possible through Jesus the Messiah, it did not say much about the future Kingdom of God, so it is difficult for us to know exactly what they believed about it or how much
they knew about it. However, we see a glimpse of what the apostles believed in Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. In *1 Corinthians 15:22-23,* Paul is detailing his belief in the resurrection, and in that context he says something about the Kingdom of God that many Christians believe refers to a Millennial kingdom after Christ returns: “As in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.”

Paul is explaining that the resurrection comes in a sequence: First Christ, then later, all the believers. Paul uses the word “then” in verse 23 to refer to a time delay of 2,000 or so years. He uses that same word “then” in verse 24 to indicate another step in the sequence: “Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death” *1 Corinthians 15:24-26.* Christ must reign until he has put all enemies under his feet. This is not an instantaneous event: Christ reigns for a span of time in which he destroys all enemies, even the enemy of death. After all that comes the end. Even though Paul is not sketching these steps in a precise chronology, it seems that his use of the word “then” shows various steps in the plan. First, the
resurrection of Christ. The second step is the resurrection of believers. Then, after a reign of Christ, the third step will be to hand everything over to God the Father.

The resurrection and rapture of all Christian saints on earth and from their graves

Paul did not say how long the second phase would last. Some Jewish speculation in the first century B.C. said 400 years. When Peter wrote that a day with the Lord is like a thousand years, he may have been referring to a similar tradition, or simply alluding to Psalm 90. His point could have been made with 500 years or 10,000 years just as well. It was a round number, but God can work in round numbers. God can choose to use a symbolic number of years — the fact that a number has symbolic meaning doesn’t mean that it won’t also happen in exactly that number of years. Symbolic numbers
can be exact in addition to being symbolic — it is a possibility, but not a proof.

Revelation 20

The Old Testament predicts a golden age of peace and prosperity under God’s rule, and Paul says that God’s plan proceeds in steps. But the real foundation of the Premillennium view is the book of Revelation. This is the book that many believe Revelation states how all this comes together. We will examine chapter 20 to see what it says. We can begin by noting that Christ’s return is described in Revelation 19. It talks about the marriage supper of the Lamb, and the bride has made herself ready. There was a white horse, and the rider is named the Word of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords. He leads armies from heaven, and he rules the nations with a rod of iron. He gets rid of the beast and the false prophet and all his enemies. This chapter is describing the return of Christ.

Then we come to Revelation 20:1 “I saw an angel coming down out of heaven...” In the literary flow of the book of Revelation, this is something that apparently happens after the return of Christ. What did this angel do? “…having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or
Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.” The chain is not literal — it represents something that can restrain a spirit being. The devil has restraints placed on him. Would the original readers of Revelation, who were being persecuted by Jews and Romans, think that Satan had already been bound? Probably not. We were told in chapter 12 that the devil deceives the whole world and wars against the church. This does not sound like he is restrained. He is not restrained until after the beast and false prophet are defeated.

Verse 3: “The angel threw Satan into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.” John is seeing the devil restrained for a span of time. In chapter 12, the devil was the one who deceives the whole world. Here, he is prevented from deceiving the world for a thousand years. He is not just chained — he is locked up and sealed. The picture given to us is one of total restraint, total inability, of no influence.

What happens during that thousand years? John says this in verse 4, “I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge.” This judgment takes place after the return of Christ.
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. **Remember: 666 is the number of the beast and not his mark.** See verse 4. Here John sees some martyrs who reign with Christ. Who are they? The verse says it is those who were beheaded, but it probably isn’t intended to single out this particular form of martyrdom, as if Christians who were killed by lions didn’t get the same reward. Rather, “those who were beheaded” seems to be a figure of speech to stand for all who gave their lives for Christ. That could even mean all Christians. Elsewhere in *Revelation* we are told that all who believe in Christ will reign with him. For our purpose here, it doesn’t matter who this is. What matters is that some people reign with Christ for a thousand years, at a time when Satan is bound and is not deceiving the nations anymore. Verse 5 then inserts a parenthetical thought: “The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.”

There will be a resurrection at the end of the Millennium. Jews before the time of Christ believed in only one resurrection. They believed in only one appearance of the Messiah. The New Testament
tells us that things are more complex than that. The Messiah comes at different times for different purposes. The plan proceeds in certain steps.

Most of the New Testament describes only one resurrection at the end of the age. But the book of Revelation says that this comes in steps, too. Just as there is more than one “Day of the Lord,” there is also more than one resurrection. The scroll is being unrolled to reveal in Revelation more details of how God’s plan will come to its conclusion. At the end of this parenthetical comment about the rest of the dead, verses 5-6 return to the Millennial period. “This is the first resurrection. 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.” The people will be
priests and rulers in Christ’s Kingdom, when the nations are no longer being deceived by Satan.

Verses 7-10 describe something at the end of the Millennium: Satan will be released, he will deceive the nations once again, and they will attack God’s people, and these enemies will again be defeated and thrown in the lake of fire. He just never gives up. Or, Satan cannot obviously see the forest through the trees. Such is the sketch of the Premillennial view. Satan is currently deceiving the nations and persecuting the church. But the good news is that the church’s persecutors will be defeated, Satan’s influence will be terminated, and the saints will be resurrected and will rule with Christ for a thousand years. After that, Satan will be released a short while, personally I think he shouldn’t be, but who am I to make that decision,
then he will again deceive many, will be defeated again, and this time thrown into the lake of fire.

Then there will be a resurrection of the non-Christians. This seems to be what most of the earliest Christians believed, especially those in Asia Minor. If the book of *Revelation* was intended to convey any other view; but it apparently failed to make much of an impression on the earliest readers. And if this book simply described in dramatic language the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, then it was nearly irrelevant to the original readers in Asia. It is possible that the earliest readers got it wrong, but we can’t just ignore what they thought. In case of the Millennium, they apparently believed that a thousand-year rule of Christ would come after his return.
Chapter Two

Issues with Millennial Viewpoints

The Problems of Premillennialism, and the Case for Amillennialism

If Premillennialism is so obvious, why do many Bible-believing Christians believe in something else? They are not facing persecution or ridicule on this issue. They have no obvious external pressures to believe in anything else, and yet they do. They claim to believe the Bible, but they claim that the biblical Millennium ends, rather than begins, at Christ’s return. As Proverbs 18:17 says, “The one who speaks first sounds right, until the second one speaks.” We can’t answer the matter before we hear both sides, or in this case, all three sides. Perhaps it isn't so obvious. Some ideas are never that easy or clear to explain and/or accept, especially with multiple possible answers.

The Time of Revelation 20

For the Amillennial view, let’s start with this question: What if Revelation 20 isn’t chronologically after chapter 19? John saw the vision of chapter 20 after he saw the vision of chapter 19, but what if the visions did not come in
the sequence that they will be fulfilled in? What if *Revelation 20* takes us to a different point in time than when chapter 19 ended? What if the vision moves to another area of history without proceeding chronologically? In chapter 12, we can see a clear example of this freedom to move forward or backward in time. Chapter 11 ends with the seventh trumpet; chapter 12 then takes us back to a woman giving birth to a male child, and the woman being protected for 1,260 days. This is usually understood to be the birth of Jesus Christ and the persecution of the church. Yet in the literary flow, this comes *after* the seventh trumpet. John’s vision has taken him back in time to sketch another part of the story. So the question must then be: is this happening in *Revelation 20*? Is it taking us back in time? More specifically, is there evidence in the *Bible* that this is a better interpretation of what God is revealing?

Yes, says the Amillennial view. There is evidence in Scripture that the Kingdom of God has already begun, that Satan has already been bound, that there will be only one resurrection that Christ’s return will bring the new heavens and new earth, without any temporary kingdom in between. It is a hermeneutical mistake to make the book of *Revelation*, with all its symbolism and all its interpretive difficulties, contradict what the rest of Scripture says. **We need to use the plain**
scriptures to interpret the obscure ones, rather than the other way around. In this case, the book of *Revelation* is the obscure and the controversial material (mainly because of the apocalyptic writing style), and the other New Testament verses are clear on the matter.

Many Prophecies are Mostly Figurative

For example, *Luke 3:3-6* tell us how we are to understand Old Testament prophecies: John the Baptist went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. And all mankind will see God’s
salvation.’” Isaiah 40:3-4 When Isaiah wrote about mountains and valleys, roads and deserts, he was speaking in figurative language. Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) prophecies were given in figurative language to depict the events of salvation through Christ. Jesus said that the Old Testament prophets were pointing to him. If we see their major focus as some future time span, we are not seeing these prophecies in the light of Jesus Christ, because Jesus changes the way we read all the prophecies. He is the focus. He is the true temple, He is the true David, He is the true Israel, His kingdom is the true kingdom.

We see this in the book of Acts, as well. Peter said a prophecy of Joel was being fulfilled in his own day. Read Acts 2:16-21 which (the speaking in tongues) is what was spoken by the prophet Joel. “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will
be saved.” When the Old Testament prophets wrote about the last days, they were writing about the age of the church, the age we are in right now, or are slipping into inch-by-inch and day-by-day. And if there is a thousand-year age yet to come, then these are not the last days. There cannot be two sets of last days. When the prophets spoke of wonders in heaven above and strange signs in the sun and moon, such prophecies can be fulfilled in figurative ways, unexpected ways — as unexpected as the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on God’s people and speaking in tongues.

Receiving God’s Holy Spirit

We should not automatically reject highly figurative interpretations of biblical prophecies, because that is exactly how the New Testament shows us we can understand the Old Testament prophecies. Old Testament prophecies can be fulfilled either in the church age, through metaphorical fulfillments, or fulfilled in an even better way in the new heavens
and new earth after Christ returns. Everything that the prophets promised, we have better in Jesus Christ, either now or in the new heavens and new earth. The Old Testament prophets described a kingdom that would never end, an everlasting kingdom, an everlasting age. They were not talking about a limited “golden age” after which the entire earth would be destroyed and rebuilt. The New Testament does not give us a commentary on every Old Testament prophecy. It just gives us a sample of fulfillment that shows that the original writings were in emblematic language. They were intended to be figurative. That does not prove the Amillennial view, but it removes one obstacle. When we want proof, we need to look at the New Testament, and there we will find the evidence that causes many Christians to believe the Amillennial view.

What Does Daniel Tell Us?

On the way to the New Testament, we might look briefly at Daniel 2, one of the favorite passages of Premillennialists. However, it does not support Premillennialism, despite the assumptions that people bring to the text. Daniel 2:44: “In the time of those kings (the kings represented by the toes of iron and clay), the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be
left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” In Daniel, he is further describing the Kingdom of God, which will eliminate human kingdoms and last forever. In Revelation there is no hint in this verse that God’s Kingdom will come in phases of a church age that is almost destroyed by a great tribulation, and then a Millennial Age that is almost destroyed by the release of Satan, then finally a New Jerusalem. No, it is simply that the kingdom will be set up and defeat all enemies and last forever. There is no need for defeating all enemies twice, or establishing the kingdom three times. The Premillennial view is not in this passage, and yet most Premillennialists oftentimes cite it. Premillennialism has a tendency to read preconceived ideas into the Bible, rather than allowing the Bible to speak for itself.

What Jesus Christ Thought

Now let’s see what the New Testament says. The Olivet prophecy is the most detailed prophecy that Jesus gave. If the Millennium is important to him, we should find some hint of it here. But we do not. Instead, we find Jesus describing his own return immediately followed by a judgment of reward and punishment. Matthew 25 describes not just the righteous who are raised to judgment — it is also
the wicked who are consciously interacting with the judge and being sent to anguish and outer darkness. There is no evidence here for a thousand-year interval between the sheep and the goats.

Jesus gave another indication of his understanding of prophecy in Matthew 19:28 it says, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” Is this referring to a millennial period? Only if we read that into the verse. What it actually says is “the renewal of all things.” Jesus is not talking about a thousand-year span in which sin still exists, and in which Satan is only temporarily bound. When he says the renewal of all things, he means the renewal of all things — the new heavens and new earth. He means the complete elimination of sin. He says nothing about
a 1000-year period in the middle of things. Such a concept, to say the least, was not important to Jesus.

**What Peter has to Say**

The same thing happens in the early church. In *Acts 3:21*, Peter said that Christ “must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.” Peter is saying that Christ will restore everything when he returns, and that this is the proper interpretation of the Old Testament prophecies. Christ is not leaving sin around to cause an enormous crisis a thousand years later. He is getting everything settled at once — restored heavens and restored earth, all at once, all at the return of Christ. Notice what he wrote in *2 Peter 3:10* that “The day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.” The lake of fire consumes the whole earth at the return of Christ. He says nothing about a thousand-year period. Verses 12-14 say, that day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness. So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every
effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. Peter was looking forward not to a Millennium, but to new heavens and new earth. If we are going to talk about the good news of the wonderful world tomorrow, then this is what we ought to focus on, not a temporary period in which sin and death still exists. We have better news than that to focus on: we should look forward to the restoration of all things in the new heavens and new earth. Peter is saying that all this will happen on the day of the Lord, when Christ returns.

Christ Returning in the Clouds

Paul Has This to Say

Paul presents much the same view. Read in 2 Thessalonians 1:6-7: “God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give
relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.” God will punish the first-century persecutors when Jesus comes back. This means a resurrection of evil-doers, not just Christians, at Christ’s return. That means one resurrection, without any time span in between. He says it again in verses 8-10: He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

Hell Fire that Burns Forever
This describes one resurrection, everyone going at the same time, on the day when Christ returns. If the book of Revelation is talking about two resurrections, then it contradicts what Paul wrote. Paul says that both the good and the bad are to be resurrected on the same day. Paul is repeating what Jesus said in John 5:28-29, he wrote that “A time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” Jesus is talking about a resurrection of good people and evil people at the same time — and if anyone knew the best way to describe the future, it was Jesus. If we read Revelation in such a way as to contradict what Jesus said, then we are misreading what it reveals.

Next, let’s look at Romans, Paul’s most thorough sketch of doctrinal matters. He describes our future glory in Romans 8:18-23.

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be
liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to Sonship, the redemption of our bodies.” Why is creation waiting for the children of God to be given their glory? Because the creation itself will also be liberated from its bondage — presumably at the same time. When the children of God are revealed in glory, the creation will no longer be waiting. Creation will be renewed — a new heavens and a new earth when Christ returns.

One day, Christ will return and create a New Heaven & Earth

Paul gives the same view in 1 Corinthians 15. He says in verse 23 that those who belong to Christ will be resurrected when Christ comes. Verse 24 then
tells us, “Then the end will come...” That is when the end will come. When Christ comes to resurrect his people, he will also destroy all his enemies, restore everything and hand the kingdom over to the Father. There is no need to postulate a 1,000-year period between verses 23 and 24.

At the least, we could say that if there is a time period involved here, it is not very important to Paul. He doesn’t even mention it. Such a time period could contradict what he wrote in other places, and contradict what Jesus said. Romans 11, another passage sometimes cited by Premillennialists, says nothing about a kingdom after Christ’s return. What it says could fit into such a time span, but there is nothing in Romans 11 itself that would cause us to think of such a time period.

**Christ’s Kingdom Will Return – You Can Count on it!**

**Revelation**

Now we must look at the most difficult passage, the strange and symbol-filled vision of John, which causes all the controversy. In the sometimes bizarre beasts and heavenly symbols, is John revealing things other apostles did not, or is he simply
restating in several ways the same prophetic framework?

Satan is Bound in Chains

Let’s start in Revelation 20:1 — a messenger comes from heaven to bind Satan. Someone who knew the teachings of Jesus would likely think that this has already happened. In Matthew 12, Jesus was accused of casting out demons by the prince of demons. Jesus said, “If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” Jesus did his work by the Spirit of God, so we conclude that the kingdom of God has already come upon this age. Jesus adds, in verse 29, “Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man’s house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house.” The parable indicates that Jesus is able to order demons around because he has already entered Satan’s
world and tied him up. It’s the same Greek word as in *Revelation 20*. Satan has already been bound.

Satan has already been defeated. Here is more evidence:

- **In John 12:31**, Jesus said, “*Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out.*” Satan was being expelled during Jesus’ ministry.

- **Colossians 2:15** tells us that Jesus has already disarmed his enemies, “*triumphing over them by the cross.*”

- **Hebrews 2:14-15** tells us that Jesus destroyed — that’s a very strong word — the devil by his death on the cross: “*Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil.*”
• *1 John 3:8:* “The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”

• Last, *Jude 6* tells us, “The angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.” Satan has already been bound in chains. His power has already been curtailed. These scriptures are consistent.

So when we read in *Revelation 20* that John saw Satan being bound, then we can conclude that this is a vision of the past, something that has already happened. We are being taken back in time to see a part of the picture that other visions had not shown us. We see that Satan, despite his lingering influence, is a defeated enemy. He can no longer keep the nations under complete deception. The veil is being lifted, and people of all nations are already hearing the gospel and coming to Christ. Then we are taken behind the scenes to see that the martyrs are already with Christ. Although they were beheaded, or killed in other ways, they came to life and lived with Christ. They are now alive in heaven, says the Amillennial view, and this is the first resurrection, their first coming to life again. The second resurrection will be a resurrection of the body; the first is simply coming to live with Christ.
in the meantime. All who participate in this resurrection are blessed and holy.

Christ’s Martyrs Before the Throne of God

In Revelation 20, the first death is not like the second. Therefore, it is unrealistic to assume that the first resurrection is like the second. They are different in kind. Just like the enemies of God die twice, so also the saved people are said to live twice. In this vision, the martyrs are already with Christ, living and reigning with him, and it lasts a very long time, symbolized by the phrase “thousand years.” When this long time is over, Satan will be released, there will be a great tribulation, and Satan and his forces will be defeated for all time. There will be a judgment, a lake of fire and then a new heavens and new earth. An interesting support of this is seen in the Greek of verse 8: Satan gathers the nations not just for battle, but for the battle. John has already talked about the battle — in Revelation 16:14 and
in 19:19. All three verses are describing the same great climactic battle at the return of Christ.

If we had nothing but the book of Revelation, we would probably accept the literal view — that Satan will be bound for 1,000 years, there will be more than one resurrection, there will be at least three phases in God’s kingdom, and there will be at least two climactic battles and more than one set of “last days.” But Revelation is not all that we have. We have many other scriptures that teach one resurrection, and teach that the end comes when Christ returns. So in this apocalyptic book, when we come across something that seems to contradict the rest of the New Testament, we do not have to accept the strange just because it comes last. Rather, we consider its context in a book of visions and symbols, and we can see how its symbols can be interpreted in such a way that it does not contradict the rest of the Bible. Hey, I’m just sayin’!

Personally, I don’t believe we can base a complex system of theology on the most obscure book of the Bible. That would just invite trouble and focus attention away from what the New Testament really is. Besides, what would we do with the book of Daniel? Just ignore it? The biblical message is not centered on a temporary kingdom after Christ returns. Rather, it is centered on what Christ did
when he came the first time, what he is doing right now in the church, and as a grand climax, the way it all ends in eternity after his return.

Are you ready, Vern? The Holy Parade of the Saints is about to Kick-off! Score! Jack-pot! Bingo!
Chapter Three
What Do Christians Say?

Responses to Amillennialism

The Amillennial view has biblical support. Perhaps you are at least convinced that it should not be dismissed without some further study. Let me mention some books that can help you get started in a study about the Millennium. I suggest that you read numerous sources about the Millennium but always balance and weigh what you glean from your reading with your Bible. If it fits fine. But if it doesn’t, start doing some real studying and check some other credible and reliable Christian sources. Like:

Millard Erickson has a book about the Millennium, too, and he has a good chapter in his *Christian Theology*. Wayne Grudem also has a good chapter on the Millennium in his *Systematic Theology*. Both of them survey the options before explaining why they choose the one they do. All these books attempt to sketch the strengths and weaknesses of each concept of the Millennium. In some, authors critique the other views. All the books show that the issues are complex, and the analysis of particular verses can get quite detailed. That is one reason that the debate continues. We should also note that the views are changing. Modern dispensationalists do not argue for the Millennium in quite the same way as dispensationalists did 50 or 60 years ago. Postmillennialism, which I will get to below, is considerably different than it was 100 years ago. It used to be characterized as liberal; today it is held by some very conservative Calvinists.

Even Amillennialism, which has the most stable tradition, has changed somewhat over the years, such as in its explanation of the martyrs who live again. In other words, all these various discussions are making some headway and progress. People are admitting their mistakes and willing to modify their views. I recall when I first studied the unique way that Jehovah Witnesses viewed the Millennium. It did get my attention and it literally encouraged me
to do some real research about what they claimed to be the truth. I found it was just one more opinion or view of the Millennium, however, a desirable one. But, all truth lies in the mix where the seed finds fruition and realization. On another note, in *Three Views of the Millennium*, one author actually wrote that he was convinced by his brother’s argument on one point. Sometimes it’s all in the family. The pun is meant. Even experts who have studied the issues for a long time are willing to learn something new. Every time I pick up my *Bible* I cannot but help to find some new thought or explanation I never considered before. I believe that times, places and events always bring new meaning into the way we all read the Holy Scriptures. I just read *James* chapter one this morning, once again, and realize that I am still stumbling along my pathway to Jesus. Thank God for important things and passages of scripture which make a lasting impression on us.

**Premillennial Responses**

How might a Premillennialist respond to the Amillennial view? A brief response could include these points: **First**, the book of *Revelation* is part of the *Bible*, and we can’t ignore its teachings just because it is difficult to interpret or because it is apocalyptic literature. We have to accept it as Scripture even if it changes the way we view other
passages. We have to allow it to reveal something new, not just repeat things we’ve already been told. We cannot assume in advance that it reveals nothing new or different. **Second**, further *Revelation* is not a contradiction of earlier revelation. Jesus spoke of one resurrection, but it is not a contradiction to realize that Jesus could be resurrected ahead of everyone else. So we already have *two* resurrections, without contradicting Christ, and it is therefore not a contradiction to suggest that the general resurrection is divided into three or more periods. WOW!!! New thinking? Yes, or no? The point is that each person is resurrected only once. **Third**, the Jews expected the Messiah to bring the golden age right away, but he did not. There was a huge time lag in the fulfillment of the prophecies. This is explained by later Revelation. In other words, inserting never-before-revealed time spans is not a contradiction — it is a clarification. Fulfillment can be, and has already been, in stages, with unannounced gaps. When I learned this part about huge time gaps, I almost fainted. Thank you Daniel! Why didn’t I see this before? Once again: different times, places and events.

Hmmmm?? Something new!
1 Corinthians 15 shows stages, and Revelation in its literary sequence also does. We have to allow the possibility that things develop after Christ returns. Time does not stop. Fourth, the Amillennial view does not seem to deal adequately with the language of Revelation 20:1-3. Not only is Satan bound, but he is also locked up and sealed. The picture is that of zero influence, not a partial influence. True, Jesus did speak of binding Satan, and true, he did defeat Satan on the cross. However, Jesus Christ’s victory over Satan has not yet been fully implemented. Satan is still active, still deceiving large numbers of people. The original readers, who were being persecuted by a beastly empire, would not so readily assume that Satan has already been bound where he can deceive the nations no longer. The readers knew well that the vast majority of the Roman Empire was in a state of deception.

Satan could be talking to you and he can whisper in your ear just as well. Don’t listen!
Briefly, the Amillennialist might say in reply: True, we can allow God to reveal new things, but we cannot assume in advance that every unusual thing in the book of *Revelation* is, in fact, a new thing. Or it may be an old idea in new clothing. The idea that one resurrection could be separated by a time gap does not mean that it actually is. And our imagination of what the original readers felt about Satan should not control our exegesis of what the apocalyptic symbolism really means.

**We cannot ever build an elaborate scheme out of a subjective impression of a book written in figurative language.**

**Postmillennial View**

Now let us add to this mixture the *Postmillennial* view, which says that a thousand years (or a long golden age) will come before Christ returns. To a Premillennialist, this may seem completely backwards, and yet this view is held by some Christians who are staunch supporters of biblical inerrancy. They firmly believe that the *Bible* teaches a golden age before Christ’s return.
Should we Expect Triumph and Attainment?

Where are the scriptures that support this above idea? First read, *Isaiah 55:10-11* it says, “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” Yes, God will do all that he purposes to do. His Word will not return to Him empty. It will accomplish what He wants. What does He want? He wants His gospel to be preached and for all people of all nations to believe. He will get what He wants. Scripture is always optimistic of what God is doing and will do. But He does this gradually, not by sudden force. Nor, does He do it according to our time schedules, or to meet our expectations. Jesus’ parable of the growing seed and the parable of the leaven show a gradual growth of the kingdom until it fills the entire lump of dough. As Daniel said, the Kingdom of God will fill the entire earth.

As mentioned in the Amillennial view, Jesus Christ has already defeated Satan. He has already conquered all contrary dominions and powers. We are already in the last days. We are in the Kingdom
of God, and we should expect success for what God is doing. In *John 12:31-32*, Jesus said that Satan is defeated and that Jesus would draw all people to himself. We should expect Him to do it. He has paid for all people, and we should expect Him to claim His rightful property. *Matthew 28:18* says He has all authority. He is already reigning as King of kings.

1 Corinthians 15:25 tells us that Christ will reign until He has put all enemies under His feet. He has already begun to reign, and we should expect progress toward His goal of putting all things under His feet. This passage also says Christians will be resurrected when Christ returns, and that is “the end,” when everything has been brought under Christ’s rule. (In this interpretation of 1 Corinthians 15, the Postmillennialist agrees with the Amillennialist in seeing the “then” of verse 24 as
the same time as verse 23, rather than implying a gap in time, which is the Premillennial view. The Postmillennialist simply stresses that this means that all enemies have been subdued before Christ returns.

Already Reigning with Christ

The book of Revelation was written in highly figurative, symbolic language. Satan has already been bound, and through the gradual growth of God’s kingdom (the way Jesus said it would grow). Satan’s influence will eventually be reduced to practically nothing. The nations will enjoy a span of time in which almost everyone believes in the gospel and allows Christ to rule in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. In the first resurrection are the people who pass from death to life by responding to the gospel. 1 John 3:14 says, “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers and sisters.” We are already in the category of those who live again. Even though we were dead in trespasses and sins, Ephesians 2:1-6 tells us, God has made us alive in Christ, and we are even now seated in heavenly realms. “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience
among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”

Before the Throne of God Almighty

If Paul can picture us as already seated with Christ, living and reigning with Him, it is no small thing for the book of Revelation to give us a similar image in its picturesque language. Colossians 2:13 says, “When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ.” We are already living again,
reigning with Christ, and that is what *Revelation 20* is picturing. Postmillennialism shares some interpretive similarities with Amillennialism, and Postmillennialists used to call themselves Amillennialists. It is only in the past 50 or 60 years that the terminology has distinguished between the views. Some Postmillennialists believe that we are already in the millennial situation; others believe that there will be a distinct period in the future characterized by worldwide godliness.

**The chief distinguishing factors and characteristics of Postmillennialism is its optimism: It expects God’s kingdom to subdue the world in this age, before Christ returns.**

This is a time to be vigilant, having an awareness that has us looking upwards and not turned into ourselves. If we hide within, we lose without!

**Responses to Postmillennialism**

What do Premillennialists and Amillennialists say to this? First, they agree on many points. All agree that God does whatever He wants, that He will accomplish His purpose just as He has planned to, that Satan has already been defeated and that Christ
already has all power and authority. Yes, amen! But, the problem is, we cannot assume that God wants what we want. We cannot assume that He wants everyone to respond to the gospel in this age.

For 2,000 years, it seems to me that God has apparently wanted only a minority to respond. That appears to be consistent with His purpose. He will accomplish everything He wants, but that doesn’t necessarily mean that we will have a golden age in this age. To see what God wants to do in this age, we have to see what the Scriptures say, not assume that God’s definition of perfect fulfillment and success has to be the same as ours.

All the victory that Scripture promises may come at or after Christ’s return, rather than in this age. We expect God to be successful, but we need to allow him to define what success is and when it will be. That makes perfect sense to me. . .how about you? And, He is coming in power – full power.

Get ready, Vern! Here He comes!
Christ already has all power, and He is already reigning in some sense. But we cannot consider His reign to be a failure even though He has not yet accomplished what we want. The evidence for the gradual expansion of Christianity is debatable. Just because some of Christ’s parables show gradual growth, we cannot make those parables dictate everything else in Scripture. Other parables show dramatic and miraculous intervention by Christ. The parable of the tares shows that a significant portion of people will remain unconverted even until Christ returns. There is no textual support for a golden age before Christ’s return. None at all!

The Postmillennial view is built more on theological assumptions than on exegesis of Scripture. In the Three Views book, the Postmillennial author is criticized for neglecting Revelation 20. That chapter is not a key component of their position, even though the very idea of a Millennium springs from it. Revelation 20 says that the people in the first resurrection are martyrs. This is not referring to spiritual rebirth — this is referring to people who have physically died, who have been killed for their faith. Martyrdom can happen even when Christ has all authority and power and is able to do all that He purposes, and martyrdom can continue until He returns. All the scriptures about
being made alive with Christ are true, but it’s just not the same picture as *Revelation 20* is giving us.

Some Postmillennialists have a radically different interpretation of the book of *Revelation*, saying that most of it was fulfilled in A.D. 70. This can affect the way they view chapter 20. However, not all Postmillennialists approach *Revelation* in the same way. See Steve Gregg’s book for further information, or *Four Views on the Book of Revelation*.

**Wrapping this Section Up**

The Amillennialist says that we are already in the last days and that it is wrong to expect another major phase of God’s kingdom either before or after Christ’s return. There is only one “last days.” The Premillennialist says that everything will be
restored after Christ’s return, not before. Satan is not gradually bound and restricted — the picture in *Revelation* is a sudden and complete containment. The Postmillennialist responds with the belief that God has promised victory for the gospel, and it is right to be optimistic about what God will do even in this age. What can we say? We can safely say that the Millennium is the time span described in the book of *Revelation* during which Christian martyrs reign with Jesus Christ. We do not need to say whether they are in heaven or on earth, whether they are reigning right now or in the future. We can leave those interpretive options open. We can also say, that after the Millennium, when all enemies have been put under Christ’s feet, and all things made subject to him, Christ will deliver the kingdom to God the Father, and heaven and earth will be made new. Yes, I think so. This repeats those ideas from *1 Corinthians 15*. This statement should be most agreeable and acceptable to all views.
We can also safely acknowledge that there are various views — that some Christian traditions interpret the Millennium as a literal 1,000 years to precede or follow the return of Jesus, while others believe that the scriptural evidence points to a figurative interpretation. That is, an indeterminate time span commencing with Jesus’ resurrection and concluding with his return. In saying this, we accept others as being Christian without any need to promote one view over the others. We may personally prefer a view that is different, but we do not have to make it an obstacle between any of us.

The Millennium is not a defining doctrine of who is a true Christian and who is not. Please don’t forget that! We do not want to divide Christians by their interpretive choices on this matter. Equally sincere, equally educated and equally faithful Christians can come to different conclusions on this doctrine. So, some Christians beliefs are Premillennial, some are Amillennial, and some are Postmillennial. Yet we have much to agree on:

- God has all power and will do all that He purposes and will fulfill all His prophecies.
- Jesus Christ has all power and authority, and He has brought us into His kingdom even in this age.
• Christ has given us life when we were dead in trespasses and sins, we go to be with Him when we die, and we will be resurrected.
• Jesus has defeated Satan but Satan still exercises some influence in this world.
• Satan’s influence will be completely and permanently stopped in the future. Amen!
• All humans will be resurrected and judged by our merciful and loving and righteous God. Come on crowns!
• Christ will return, and will triumph over all enemies, and will lead us all into an eternity with God.
• There will be a new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells, and this wonderful world tomorrow will last forever.
• Eternity will be better than the Millennium (no matter how we define the Millennium).
• The New Jerusalem is the perfect eternal frosting of this heavenly cake – our home forever.

We have much to agree on and we do not need to get upset about differences in the sequence in which God will complete his plan. The chronology of the last days is not part of our commission. The gospel is how we can enter the kingdom, but not about the chronology of when things happen. Jesus did not stress the chronology. He did not emphasize a
kingdom that would last for a finite period of time. Paul did not preach about a temporary kingdom. Peter did not write about this time span. The book of Revelation has something about it, but John gave it less space than he did the new heavens and new earth.

The Apostle John gave the worship of Jesus more space than he did the Millennium. Out of the 260 chapters in the New Testament, only part of one chapter is about the Millennium. The Millennium is part of Scripture, and we should study it, just as we do any other chapter in Scripture.

But we do not and should not ever make the interpretation of Revelation 20 an article of faith. We have more important things to preach about, and we have better news to preach.
We preach that through Jesus Christ, we can live with God not just in this age, not just for 1,000 years, but forever and ever, in joy and peace and prosperity that never ends.

Chapter Four is another clear reiteration and overview of our subject matter of the Millennium paradox. There is so very much to study and digest. Once again, don’t take what I say for the absolute truth, but use it as a tool and vehicle to move through your *Bible*.

A daily study of God’s Holy Word is Paramount for Godly Growth and Having a Close and Healthy Relationship with Him.
Perspective on the Millennium

1. Christians have had, and now have, various beliefs about the Millennium. Proponents of each theory believe that the *Bible* supports their view.

2. Proponents of each view agree that Christ will return and that there will be a judgment. For the faithful, there will be an eternity of perfection and glory with God.

3. The eternal age is much more glorious than the Millennial Age, no matter how the Millennium is understood. At best, the Millennium is second-best.

4. When Jesus Christ returns, everyone will rejoice. Premillennialists will rejoice even if a millennial reign is not set up. Amillennialists will rejoice even if one is. Postmillennialism will rejoice even if a golden age did not precede his return. No one will be disappointed, and everyone will have better things to do than to gloat about getting the chronological details right.
5. Christians who have an equally high view of the authority of Scripture may nevertheless have different opinions about the Millennium. Christians who hold one view about the Millennium should acknowledge that other Christians sincerely believe that the Bible teaches something else.

6. Millennialism is not a doctrinal point on which we must seek conformity. Christian authenticity does not depend, for example, on the belief that Christ will set up a temporary kingdom after he returns. We should not condemn or ridicule people who hold different views.

7. People can be saved without any particular belief about the Millennium. The gospel is about how to enter the kingdom, not the chronological or physical details of particular phases of that kingdom. Since the New Testament books do not emphasize the nature of the Millennium, we conclude that it is not a central plank in the church’s message. Millennial positions should not dominate our messages. Rather, we should focus on the bigger picture that we all hold in common. Once again, see points 2 and 3.

8. In any study of the Millennium, one should be aware of how others view the scriptures and how they come to differing conclusions.
Discussing the various interpretations of Our Holy Bible

Because there are several different interpretations and suppositions about what Holy Scriptures say about a 1,000 year Millennium period of time, it is necessary, to take a simple yet critical look, or study, of another view of this theory. *Revelation* is the only book of the *Bible* that specifically mentions a period of one thousand years, or Millennium, in connection with the end of time. It is first mentioned in *Revelation 20*. Chapters One through Four prepared you for an understanding of the Millennium. This section will further point out various things you should carefully consider to find where your comprehension leads you. *These verses that follow are filled with answers – read*
them! They are important for your understanding. With that said:

- **Revelation 20:1** “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.”
- **Revelation 20:2** “And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.”
- **Revelation 20:3** “And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

So at the very beginning of the 1000 years Satan will be restrained, or bound, and unable to deceive any person for the entire period. So, what immediately precedes the Millennium:

- **Revelation 19:11** “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.”
- **Revelation 19:12** “His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns;
and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.”

- **Revelation 19:13** “And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.”

- **Revelation 19:14** “And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.”

- **Revelation 19:15** “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

- **Revelation 19:16** “And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of kings, and Lord of lords.”
This is an unmistakable description of the second coming of Jesus Christ as the King of kings, and Lord of lords. Look what is described as happening at the second coming:

- **Revelation 19:17** “And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God.”

- **Revelation 19:18** “That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.”

- **Revelation 19:19** “And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.”

- **Revelation 19:20** “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

- **Revelation 19:21** “And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the
horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.”

This describes all the wicked of the earth being slain at the second coming, and the destruction of the beast and false prophet. This event is also mentioned elsewhere in scripture as follows:

- **2 Thessalonians 2:8** “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.” (This was the beast of Revelation 19:20)
- **2 Thessalonians 2:9** “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders.”
(This was the false prophet of Revelation 19:20)

- **2 Thessalonians 2:10** “And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.”
- **2 Thessalonians 2:11** “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie.”
- **2 Thessalonians 2:12** “That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.” (This was the rest of the wicked, who loved not the truth, the remnant of Revelation 19:21).

- **Psalm 37:20** “But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away.”
- **Psalm 46:6** “The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted.”
- **Psalm 46:7** “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.”
- **Psalm 46:8** “Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth.”
- **Psalm 110:5** “The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.”
Psalm 110:6 “He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries.”

Isaiah 13:6 “Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.”

Isaiah 13:7 “Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt.”

Isaiah 13:8 “And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.”

Isaiah 13:9 “Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.”

Isaiah 24:1 “Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.”

Isaiah 24:2 “And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with his master; as with the maid, so with her mistress; as with the buyer, so with the seller; as with the lender, so with the borrower; as with the taker of usury, so with the giver of usury to him.”

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A Desolate and Barren Earth

- **Isaiah 24:3** “The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.”
- **Isaiah 24:4** “The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and fadeth away, the haughty people of the earth do languish.”
- **Isaiah 24:5** “The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant.”
- **Isaiah 24:6** “Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.”
Isaiah 66:15 “For, behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.”

Isaiah 66:16 “For by fire and by his sword will the Lord plead with all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many.”

Jeremiah 4:23 “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.”

Jeremiah 4:24 “I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.”

Jeremiah 4:25 “I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.”

No Man or Woman to be Found
Jeremiah 4:26 “I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by his fierce anger.”

Jeremiah 4:27 “For thus hath the Lord said, ‘The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.’”

Jeremiah 25:33 “And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.”

Zephaniah 1:18 “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of his jealousy: for he shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

Malachi 4:1 “For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.”

Malachi 4:2 “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”
Malachi 4:3 “And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts.”

Matthew 13:47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.”

Matthew 13:48 “Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.”

Matthew 13:49 “So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just.”

Holy Angels Preparing to Select the Good and Godly From the Bad.

Sorry, Vern!
Matthew 13:50 “And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

Luke 17:29 “But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.”

Luke 17:30 “Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.”

Are you still with me, Vern?

So at the second coming, all the wicked living at the time will be slain. This is why Satan is restrained or bound for the 1000 years. He will have no one to deceive! The world will not have a living person left on it! This was also illustrated in the sanctuary service with the scapegoat:

Leviticus 16:21 “And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness.”

Leviticus 16:22 “And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not
inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”

The scapegoat represented Satan, put into an uninhabited land, bearing all the sins of the world, which he is responsible for all by himself. So, if the wicked are all dead, the earth barren but for Satan and his angels, then what of the righteous?

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17 “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Satan is the Loser!
So, it appears that the righteous dead from all time will be raised from the grave, then the righteous who are still living will be changed, and together all the righteous from all time with join with Jesus in the air. This is the Rapture you hear so much about. **Please note:** the only living folks left on earth to wonder what just happened are the unsaved; the wicked are all dead, and the righteous have met the Lord Jesus Christ in the air. What happens next? Let's return to *Revelation 20* for the answer.

➢ *Revelation 20:4* “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

The righteous will live and reign with Jesus in heaven for the period of 1000 years, and judge the wicked. How do I know this happens in heaven and not on earth? Many people ask this question and this is what I show them. It’s a picture of what a future possibility of such a scenario could be: those raptured just before the Lord comes, meet with Him to discuss His plans for them and those left on earth.
The Saints Will be Reigning with Christ.

- **John 14:2** “In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”
- **John 14:3** “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

At the second coming Jesus returns to earth to gather the righteous, that they may return with him to live in heaven in the mansions He has made for us to be with Him forever. So for the 1000 years, the books of all the wicked dead are open and
available to the righteous, that they may be revealed and judged. Now back to Revelation 20:

- **Revelation 20:5** “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”
- **Revelation 20:6** “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Clearly there are two resurrections. The first happened at the second coming and consisted of the righteous from all time, and they live with God in heaven for 1000 years. These people are immune from the second death, the fate of the wicked. Therefore, at the close of the 1000 years, Jesus and all the saints return in the New Jerusalem to earth.
Jude 1:14 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.”

Jude 1:15 “To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”

Zechariah 14:4 “And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”

Revelation 20:7 “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.”

How is Satan loosed at the end of the 1000 years? There is the second resurrection at the end of the 1000 years of all the wicked of the world, to ultimately face the execution of judgment, and perish in the second death. Satan again has wicked people to deceive! Remember those unsaved people who made it through into the Millennium?
Hmmmm??? And what does Satan do when he is loosed? The New Jerusalem mentioned in Revelation 3:12 with all the saints inside, will have come to rest in the newly formed valley caused by the splitting of the Mount of Olives.

The Mount of Olives

- **Revelation 20:7** “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.”
- **Revelation 20:8** “And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”
- **Revelation 20:9** “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved
city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”

Satan will lead the wicked in assaulting the New Jerusalem, as he did in the final battle of Armageddon, at the end of the Tribulation Period, but he will not succeed in taking the city.

- **Revelation 20:12** “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”

- **Revelation 20:13** “And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell (the grave) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.”

Notice that the dead are being judged by their works, or should I say their past rotten and evil works? This is speaking of the spiritually dead, being judged by their works, since they lacked a saving faith in Jesus Christ. This is where it gets exciting, Vern! Take a few moments and just reflect upon this whole big picture before you. What do you see? Can you imagine the enormity of this happening and the horror of its finality? Ug!
Romans 14:11 “For it is written, as I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

Romans 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

At this time even the wicked will acknowledge the righteousness of God's judgment regarding them and confess Him as God. With the conclusion of the "Great White Throne Judgment of the wicked," the sentence of the second death is carried out upon the wicked. I call this ante up time.

Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false
prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

- **Revelation 20:14** “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”
- **Revelation 20:15** “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Yes, Sir!

After Satan is cast into the lake of fire, he will exist no more. After death is cast into the lake of fire, it will exist no more. After hell (the grave) is cast into the lake of fire, it will exist no more. After the wicked are cast into the lake of fire, they will exist no more. That is the second death. Non-existence, or obliteration. Oh, but you say, verse 10 says torment forever and ever not obliteration. The word translated “aion” or (eon) as forever, in this verse means eternal and/or never-ending.

The word “eon” comes from “aion”. Eon is used in geology to specify an indeterminate period of time, an age, but an eon does have a beginning and an end. It is not necessarily the eternity that **Revelation 20:10** would seem to indicate. Need more proof?

**Note:** the upcoming passage in **Ezekiel**, where Satan's fate is quite clearly stated. Nobody should
want to follow such an awful creature who will lead them directly into his “pit of fate.”

Satan the Beast in the Lake of Fire

➢ **Ezekiel 28:13** “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created.”

➢ **Ezekiel 28:14** “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”
Ezekiel 28:15 “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Ezekiel 28:16 “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

Ezekiel 28:17 “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.”

Ezekiel 28:18 “Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

Ezekiel 28:19 “All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”

If my understanding is correct, and I have found other ideas which say it’s not, but I say anyway, that this passage tells the fate of Satan, who will be
consumed by fire and reduced to ashes, and he shall never be any more. This happens in the lake of fire of *Revelation 20*. So clearly to me, so the example of Hell, as taught by the Roman Catholic Church, and most of Protestant Christianity does not exist. Satan will not rule in a place called Hell, he will be destroyed by God and so will all those judged to be wicked! And, I think that is a better idea. I don’t want anything like Satan or such similar evil and ominous minions ever existing in our future world with the Lord. So then what?

-One day, Christ will return and create a New Heaven & Earth-

- **Revelation 21:1** “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”
- **Revelation 21:2** “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God
out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.”

- **Revelation 21:3** “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

- **Revelation 21:4** “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

- **Revelation 21:5** “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write! For these words are true and faithful.”

The Earth Made New will be the Dwelling Place of God and His People for Eternity!
I do hope that it should now be clear that anyone who advocates that Jesus will reign on this earth for the duration of the Millennium will think twice. I had to re-think and re-think, and finally adjust to the fact that my thinking had been truly skewered. What I thought the Millennium was going to be, is actually what the New Jerusalem will be. Dang those Jehovah Witnesses who put me on the wrong trail. Scripture clearly describes a barren desolate planet after the post-rapture of the church, at the opening of the sixth seal judgment. Yes, the wicked dead are left unburied and Satan is left to contemplate his rebellion against God for 1000 years. That is the biblical truth about the Millennium.

Could This be the New Jerusalem Descending to the Earth?
Chapter Five
Other Thinking About the Millennial Age

Let’s consider that there will be a paradise-like setting during the Millennium. If so, have you ever thought about if you do enter into a paradise on earth, if such is so, during the Millennium, and if Christ were there, would you be free to roam and live, or would Jesus have work for you to do. If Jesus were there in such a paradise, I imagine He would want you to work with Him in serving people in His Kingdom! What people and from where did they come? Hmmm???? What will King Jesus have in mind for you to do? This may be the most popular theory about the Millennium, as I have spoken to many people and read numerous books purporting such ideas.

At one time, I also thought this was what would happen. After much study, I am not that sure about the Millennium occurring as such. I suggest that you buy Dr. Roland Rasmussen’s book titled, Post-Trib, Pre-Wrath Rapture: Abridged (April 14, 2014). This book will take you to new heights and open multiples doors behind which is substantial knowledge about End Times. . .with beaucoup
proven documentation, Holy Scripture and then some. There is so much to read, gleaning the richness of each interpretation of what is provided.

So, back to this common theory with which I above began. There would have to be two groups of people involved herein this scenario: those resurrected with their new heavenly immortal bodies, and those who somehow made it through the wrathful times of God, and were converted to Christ. Yes, rather last minute conversion, but, nevertheless, they somehow made it on a wing and a prayer. There are lots of thoughts about how all of this happens. One can get truly confused by all the possible angles and calculated ideas which mostly all seem to be plausible to some degree.

So, this 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth, commences when Christ returns to establish the Kingdom of God over all nations. Those who become truly converted Christians, what will they be doing in the Millennium? Hmmm???

First off, let’s deal with those who will then become immortal beings; if this is “US,” then we will obviously be serving our Mighty God. Our Eternal Father offers His precious gift of eternal life to those He calls who believe, repent and are baptized and live His way during this life. That’s us, I am talking
about those of us who will be raptured or resurrected and raptured. Also, I will assume we will take part in the Millennium as glorified spirit beings. We have the chance to be like Christ, even as He is. Read 1 John 3:2. So, what exactly will those who become God’s sons and daughters in this age be doing during the Millennium?

_Revelation 5:10_ gives the basic job description: We will be kings and priests and will reign on the earth. But what does that job truly entail? The best example of serving as a king and priest is our Savior Jesus Christ. He practiced godly leadership His entire life and taught by His example compassionate service to others. Christ’s instruction to the apostles in _Matthew 20_ demonstrates that godly leadership is much different from what is generally practiced in the world today. To rule with Christ in the coming Kingdom of God, our leadership has to be focused on service to others. Total service to others. “Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant,” Jesus said. “And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” _Matthew 20:26-28_ Servant leadership is a selfless act, motivated by love. Our actions in the Millennium will be of the same nature. So whom will we be serving in the Millennium?
A Server to Others

As always, we will serve God, of course, but in the sense of helping others, our serving work will be that of guiding and directing the people of the earth, this is the second group of believers. The world of the Millennium will still be a physical one, though under the rule of God through Christ. Our focus will be not on pursuing our own enjoyment but on first aiding and then teaching the thousands of displaced people who survive the calamities at the end of the age.

As the Millennium evolves and progresses, the dire consequences of Satan’s influence over the world today will become a distant memory. And over the course of generations, humanity will need to be reminded and warned that Satan will be let loose at the end of the Millennium. These new believers will have to be taught about the about God’s Kingdom what He expects of them, while living in a new heaven and new earth environment, eventually leading to living forever in the New Jerusalem.
What better teacher is there than those of us who have already experienced life during Satan’s reign and made the right choice by accepting Christ as our Savior and survived. We have that opportunity to be there for all of these succeeding generations. Those in God’s Church today know what it’s like to live a life where, with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, Satan’s influence can be resisted and overcome. And those of us who’ve grown up in the Church prior to conversion have a unique perspective that should drive us even more to want to be there to teach young people in the Millennium and after. So, after living our lives in spiritual battles and overcoming, our experience can be used to mentor the coming generations of God’s family. That will be a glorious job, a meaningful opportunity to instruct these new Christians in loving and obeying God to the fullest. As our Creator, He is entitled to all of our worship and devotion, and they need to know these things and follow the plan.
A Holy Spiritual Being in the Millennium

As new spiritual beings, how much will you desire for all mankind to know God’s ways? Some of us will be teachers, yes, while others will be kings and priests. Who will be what, I don’t know. It may have something to do with those who were least or last, will then be first and so forth. When we are kings and priests in the Millennium, how much will we desire that all people would join us in the family of God? How much do God and Jesus Christ desire it for us? See 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

We will be there serving and teaching because of the unquantifiable love that God has for humanity, for His future sons and daughters in His family. Jesus Christ died to make our inheritance possible. Read John 3:16. He also serves as our High Priest before God and as an example to us.

In this view of the Millennium, holy survivors will give people additional comfort and encouragement not only in God’s love for them, but also in the assurance that His Word is true. We will be living examples that someone else did it. Someone Jesus Christ died for made it. The same words that give us
comfort now will still encourage people in the Millennium.

Who better to teach them to hold fast so that no one may take their crown? Revelation 3:11 says, “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.” The numerous warnings to stand strong, endure to the end, keep the faith, grow in grace and knowledge, and love one another must still be taught. Things like this just never go away. They are staples of God’s Will for everyone.

Your Crown from God

Revelation 5:10 gives us the basic job description: “. . . and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” We will be as priests and will reign on the earth. But what does that job truly entail? Possibly as kings, as well?
The best example of serving as a king and priest is that of our Lord Jesus Christ. He practiced godly leadership His entire life and taught by His example compassionate service to others. Christ’s instruction to the apostles in *Matthew 20* demonstrates that godly leadership is much different from what is generally practiced in the world today. To rule with Christ in the coming Kingdom of God, our leadership has to be focused on service to others.

“*Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant,*” Jesus said. “*And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*” *Matthew 20:26-28*

Servant leadership is a selfless act, motivated by love. Our actions in the Millennium will be of the same nature. So whom will we be serving in the Millennium?

Like I’ve already said, we will mainly serve God, by fulfilling His Will, purposes and plans for us and those we will serve. In our sense of helping others, our serving work will be that of guiding and directing the people of the earth. The world of the Millennium will still be a physical one, though
under the rule of God through Christ. Our focus will be not on pursuing our own enjoyment but on first aiding and then teaching the thousands of displaced people who survive the calamities at the end of the age. Actually this theory is rather appealing, but so was the incorrect pre-tribulation rapture. Hmmm!!

As the Millennium progresses, the dire consequences of Satan’s influence over the world today will become a distant memory. And over the course of generations, humanity will need to be reminded and warned that Satan will be let loose at the end of the Millennium. Everyone will need to be taught about the coming of God the Father to His Kingdom in a new heaven and new earth. This teaching and instruction will be essential for their understanding and acceptance of Christ. Folks living then will have to make and trust their own personal decisions. To choose wrongly, would mean their eventual judgment and death. This death thing is a very hard matter to deal with, and it is always getting in the way. I just hate it!
What better teacher is there than one who has experienced life during Satan’s reign and chosen correctly? We have that opportunity to be there for these succeeding generations. Those in God’s Church today know what it’s like to live a life where, with the help of God’s Holy Spirit, Satan’s influence can be resisted and overcome. And those of us who’ve grown up in the Church prior to conversion have a unique perspective that should drive us even more, to want to be there teaching young people in the Millennium and afterwards. Therefore, after living our lives in spiritual battles and overcoming, our experience can be used to mentor the coming generations of God’s family.

Is this what you want to do? How much do you yearn for all mankind to know the way/s of God? When we are kings and priests in this Millennium, how much will we desire that all people would join us in the family of God? How much does God desire it for us? 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” Nobody created by God is exempt from this, and repentance is not only vital, it is essential. It is God’s desire for everyone to have this everlasting relationship with Him. If folks choose not to, the alternative is not acceptable. In fact, it’s downright deadly, as in fatal.
People will be there serving and teaching because of the unquantifiable love that God has for humanity, for His future sons and daughters in His family. Jesus Christ died to make our inheritance possible. **John 3:16-18** “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” He also serves as our High Priest before God. Therefore, He should be an example to all.

In the Millennium, saints can give people additional comfort and encouragement not only in God’s love for them, but also in the assurance that His Word is
true. Saints will also be living examples that someone else did it. Someone Jesus Christ died for made it. The same words that give everyone comfort now will still encourage people in the Millennium.

Who better to teach them to hold fast so that no one may take their crown? Revelation 3:11 “I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.” The numerous warnings to stand strong, endure to the end, keep the faith, grow in grace and knowledge, and love one another must still be taught.

Finally, at the end of the Millennium, when Satan is released, he will deceive vast multitudes of people, likened to the sand along the seashore in number. Revelation 20:7-10 “And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were,
and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

During nearly a thousand years of godly rule, how often will we need to stir people up and warn them of the roaring lion that will seek to devour them? How will we help some avoid choosing to follow Satan and being deceived? The answer can be inferred by looking at ourselves today. Where are our weak points? Where do we need aid or encouragement? These same weaknesses will be present in people during the Millennium. We must endure to help teach others to do the same. Everyone will have an opportunity beyond their lifetime—an opportunity of an eternity. The Millennial period on earth will be just the beginning. The role of saints will as rulers, leaders, and priests mirroring the example of Christ. Life in the Millennium will be eternal, yet everyone must still long to see many more sons and daughters come to glory. All people are potential sons and daughters in God’s family. Both today and in the Millennium everyone must view their future potential and look beyond their shortcomings. As such, everyone today must live as examples now to be examples in the future. Our role in the Millennium is also our role today. 1 Peter 2:9-10 says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own
possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

Then and now, everyone must strive to live Jesus Christ’s example of servant leadership. Our present life is to be a holy living sacrifice, acceptable to God. Romans 12:1 “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.” Then and now, the Bible is “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God is the best listener, you don’t have to shout nor cry out loud because he hears even the silent prayer of a sincere heart.
If any person who hears the voice of the Lord, or experiences His Word from another, wants to be a part of the Kingdom and be ready for our future roles as leaders and priests in the family of God, they must first repent, be baptized and receive God’s Spirit. It will be fully working in those who seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. *Matthew 6:33* “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” If everyone is faithful in their lives now, then everyone will be granted the opportunity to be faithful with much, much more in our future life.

King Jesus Rules

Divine Rule and Government

In keeping with the thinking of the above material on the Millennium, the most popular view, another topic to be discussed is identifying what the various
characteristics and features of divine government would be like during the Millennium Period. From a governmental standpoint, the reign of Christ in the Millennium should probably encompass three important properties. First, it will be a rule over the entire earth. It was God’s intent from the beginning of the creation of man that the earth should be ruled over by man. Adam sacrificed his right to rule when sin entered the human race, God’s purpose, however, is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In Psalm 2:6-9, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” Therefore, God Almighty has declared His purpose to set His king in Zion who will have as His possession “the uttermost parts of the earth.”

In Daniel 2:35, “Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” Thus, a stone which fills the whole earth is an anticipation of the
universal rule of Christ. **Daniel 7:14** is explicit: “And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and languages should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”

This idea is repeated in **Daniel 7:27** “And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.”

This image of Christ becomes a frequent theme of prophecy. “May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!” **Psalm 72:8.** And again in **Micah 4:1-2,** “It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”
In Zechariah 9:10, it says, “I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations; his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The title of Christ is given in Revelation 19:16 as, “On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.” Perhaps, this makes it clear that Jesus Christ will be the supreme ruler over the entire earth. Who could actually doubt this, even if one was not a believer in this popular understand and belief of the future Millennium Period?

The second important characteristic of the Millennial rule of Christ is that His government will be totally absolute and unequivocal in its authority and power. This is demonstrated in His destruction
of all who oppose Him. Read *Psalm 2:9* “You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” And again in *Psalm 72:9-11* which says, “May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! May all kings fall down before him all nations serve him! And *Isaiah 11:4* states, “But with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.” Such an absolute rule, of course, is in keeping with the person and majesty of the King in whom is all the glory, power and sovereignty of our Majestic God.
The third important aspect of the government of Christ in the Millennium will be that of righteousness and justice. Most of the Millennial passages emphasize this as the outstanding feature of the Millennium. *Isaiah 11:3-5* assures the poor and the meek that their cause will be dealt with righteously in that day. “And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.” The wicked are warned to serve God Almighty and if they don’t they will feel His wrath. Read *Psalm 2:10-12* “Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.” I believe these verses make it quite clear and obvious that there will be no toleration of any form of sinfulness during this period to time. Furthermore, no open sin will go unnoticed or unpunished. People will still have to be accountable and responsible in their relationship with the Lord, this stands to be clear in itself.
Final Thoughts

This has not been a large book, but I do assume that you, the reader, will have gleaned some nuggets or essential information about what others feel about the Millennium Period of time. For years, I was a pre-tribulation person and thought the Millennium was my ticket for a taste of paradise. Maybe it was my precursor to heaven. I really don’t recall – I am older now and my memory is not what it used to be. Anyway, I feel that is as good an excuse as anything other reason I might feed you, or Vern.

Keep in mind the thoughts of Dr. Charles Feinberg, who says, the “Christ’s reign will be undisputed and unhindered (with Satan locked up in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years) from opposition from any other government or reign in earth. There will be no cause for a divided allegiance to God’s King, the Man of His choice. The false religious cults and systems
that are springing up now everywhere on such a colossal scale will be done away with, and the knowledge of God will cover the earth.” Further he mentions that, “Israel’s transgression will be finished, sins ended, iniquity atone form and everlasting righteousness and holiness effected.” In fact, every nation left upon the earth will now dwell in harmony, obedience and submission to Christ. I think that the goal and aim of the Lord, during this new age, will be to test mankind to see if he will willingly serve and obey Him under distinctive grace, and not under promises, law, innocence, conscience or human government.

God’s plan during such righteousness will reveal whether mankind, under these wonderful new circumstances, on a newly renovated earth, with harmony and peace spread over the whole face of the new world and throughout nature, and with Jesus Christ, as a righteous and just king, ruling and governing mankind, will again fail to follow God. With all things possible and perfect for man, although still with his sinful nature, will he continue to not obey God our Father. It will be his last chance to do so. However, Satan will be released when the 1,000 years is over to attempt to lead mankind one last time. Millions will follow him and millions will be destroyed, but Satan will be as well – for eternity.
Those men and women who stand by Jesus Christ will live forever in the New Jerusalem.

What I do believe is what Dr. Roland Rasmussen has clearly stated in his wonderful academic work *The Pre-Trib, Pre-Wrath Rapture: Abridged*. It’s right on with the *Bible*, and he solidly makes his cases for every topic, in detail. Read it and be ready to get new thinking, new answers, and new excitement. Keep your *Bible* open by your side. I do hope this tiny book was a blessing to you.

Granted there are many differing viewpoints espoused by many scholarly Christians, and others who are not so learned and erudite, and they can all be dangerous to what they teach and shout. Be careful and balance everything you read, hear or somehow manage to sanction into your living space, because it could infect your beliefs with false, devastating, and disastrous results. Trust the Word of God to interpret itself and show you the truth about what is yet to come.
Drs. Jan and Dahk Knox

We are servants of a Holy God whom we devote our lives to and communicate with every day. Either through prayer or just by talking to Him, “we just know that we know that we know that He is with us.” Our relationship, both together in life, and with God throughout each day, has been a tremendous blessings to us both. We owe the Lord Jesus Christ and Our Holy God Jehovah everything that we have and that He has provided us with to sustain us throughout each and every day and every year. He never has failed us in anything and we are eternally grateful to the Lord for all of those blessings. El Shaddai is our Eternal Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, is our Savior and Redeemer. Praise God Almighty!