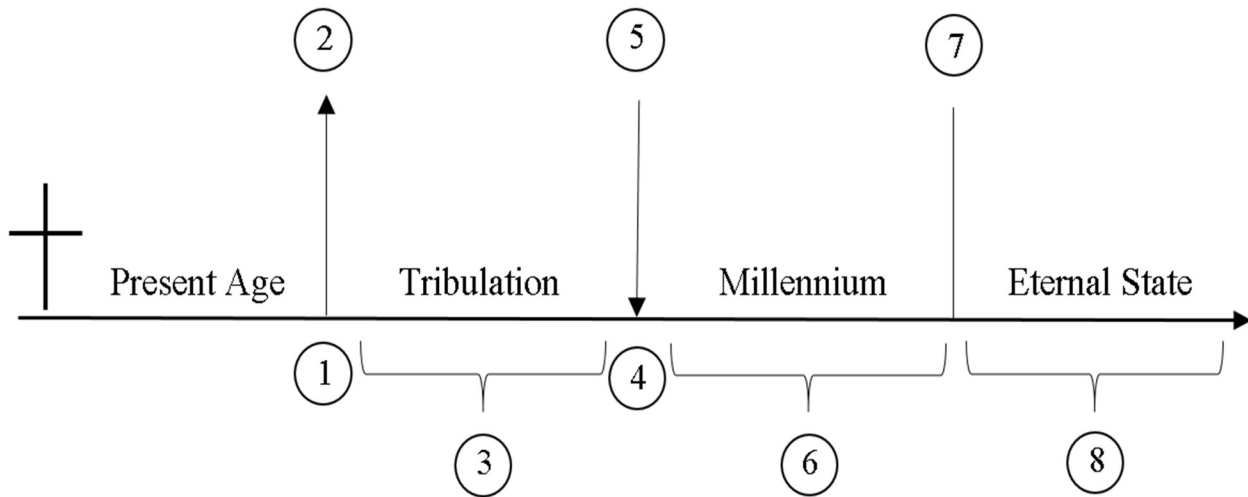


Introduction:

- Recall where we are in our eschatology timeline



1. The Imminent Rapture of the Church
2. The Judgment Seat of Christ
3. The Seventieth Week of Daniel
4. The Divine Restoration of Israel
5. The Second Coming of Christ
- 6. The Millennial Reign of Christ**
7. The Final Judgment of Unbelievers
8. The Final State of Eternity

### **The Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ**

## 1. The Millennial Kingdom Timing in the OT & NT

- The OT and NT speak together of the timing of the Millennial Kingdom from a few passages:

### a. The Existence of a Temporal Gap in Isaiah 24:21-23

“So it will happen in that day, that the Lord will punish the host of heaven on high, and the kings of the earth on earth. 22 They will be gathered together like prisoners in the dungeon, and will be confined in prison; and after many days they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and His glory will be before His elders” (Isa 24:21-23).

- Notice the timing from the passage:
  - The Second Coming/Final Destruction of Earth (spoken of in vv. 17-20)
  - The Initial Judgment of God’s Enemies (v. 21)
  - The Lengthy Incarceration of “Many Days” (v. 22ab)
  - The Final Judgment of God’s Enemies (v. 22c)
  - The Divine Reign of the Eternal State (v. 23)

### KEY IMPLICATION:

The “many days” of Isaiah 24:22 constitutes a lengthy period of time separating the Second Coming of Christ and the final judgment (the Great White Throne Judgment, Rev 20:11-15) and therefore requires an intermediate kingdom between the present age and the eternal state.

*Therefore, what is strongly implied by the OT prophets is clarified and made explicit in Revelation 20.*

### b. The Intermediate Kingdom of 1 Corinthians 15:25

- In 1 Corinthians 15:23-28, the apostle Paul sets forth the following sequence of events:
  - Christ is resurrected as the first fruits (v. 23a)
  - Christ’s people are resurrected at His Second Coming (v. 23b)

- Christ reigns on earth and continues the process of subjugating His enemies (vv. 24c-25)
- Christ abolishes His final enemy (v. 24c), which is death (v. 26)
- unbelievers are resurrected when death is abolished (vv. 24- 26); Christ delivers up the kingdom to the Father (v. 24b)
- and then comes the end (v. 24a) so that the Father is all in all (vv. 27-28).
- The reign of Christ in 1 Corinthians 15:25, then, constitutes an intermediate kingdom between the present age and the eternal stage.

### **c. The Intermediate Kingdom of Revelation 20:1-6**

- After the seven-year period of Tribulation (Rev 6-19), Jesus will return in glory (19:11-16), bringing judgment to the false prophet, the beast, and the unbelieving armies of the earth (19:17-21).
- Satan will be imprisoned in the abyss for a thousand years (20:1-3), and Jesus will establish His kingdom on earth where He will reign with the saints in perfect righteousness (20:4-6).
- At the end of this thousand-year reign, Satan will be released and defeated once and for all (20:7-10); the wicked will be resurrected, judged, and thrown into the lake of fire (20:11-15); and the eternal state of the new heaven and earth will begin (21-22).
- Thus, what John describes is a thousand-year reign of Christ on earth (Rev 20) between the Second Coming (Rev 19) and the eternal stage (Rev 21).

## **2. Overview of the Millennial Kingdom Details**

- Christ will return victoriously in concluding the 7-year Tribulation to conquer the wicked and throw Satan into the abyss where he will be bound for 1000 years.
- Christ will subsequently ascend the throne of David, from which He will reign as the absolute ruler and king of the earth for 1000 years.
- Jesus will be present, in His glorified body, ruling as the supreme monarch over the entire globe. What a wonderful time that will be.

- As such, we would expect the world to experience a noticeable upgrade. Though things will not be perfect, because humans will still be there, it will be closer to Edenic conditions than now.
- Meanwhile, as we studied in detail, Israel will have experienced an unprecedented rival, having repented and bowed the knee in faith to her Messiah, Jesus Christ.
- By God's grace, they will then experience the remaining, unfulfilled blessings of land, geography, safety, world-prominence, and such, in the MK:
  - Zechariah 8:13-15 It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.' <sup>14</sup> "For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I have not relented, <sup>15</sup> so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear!
  - Zechariah 8:23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you." ' ' "

\*This, of course, has yet to happen

- Alongside Israel during her restoration, will live the following people in the MK:
  - Raptured saints who returned from heaven in glorified bodies (never able to die again) with Christ (cf. Rev 19:14).
  - Resurrected Tribulation martyrs (Rev 20:4) who will then be in glorified bodies.
  - Any remaining regenerate and unregenerate people from the Tribulation who were not killed (There is a debate as to whether or not there will be any living unregenerate people who enter the MK. That is beyond the scope of our study. If there are not, then the MK will be populated by living believers who enter the MK).
    - Though many, if not most, will be killed during the Tribulation (e.g. from the Seal, Trumpet, & Bowl judgments, and from the Battle of Armageddon), there will likely be some who remain alive and thus enter the Millennial Kingdom.

- Living believers who enter the MK (from the Tribulation) will have to be individuals who were converted to Christ during the Tribulation (all regenerate people were raptured prior to the Tribulation).
  - Living unbelievers who enter the MK (from the Tribulation) will be individuals who did not repent, despite the overwhelming evidence of the truth of God in the Tribulation and return of Christ.
  - The MK will be populated as these individuals procreate.
- We do not know every detail, and we must be careful about speculating beyond Scripture, but we do know various details which we will look at today.

### **3. The Nature of the Millennial Kingdom**

- Although Revelation 20 does not provide many details concerning the nature of the MK, the broader teaching of Scripture indicates it will be characterized by at least four things:
- the transformation of the physical creation
  - the restoration of the nation Israel
  - the reign of the Lord Jesus, and
  - the co-reign of the glorified saints.

#### **(1) The Transformation of the Physical Creation**

- The MK will be established on this present earth, but the physical creation itself will be supernaturally renewed by God.
- One can understand that with the return of the Earth's Lord and Creator, the creation will respond.
- The curse of the ground will be lifted:

Isaiah 32:13-15 For the land of my people *in which* thorns *and* briars shall come up; Yea, for all the joyful houses *and* for the jubilant city. <sup>14</sup> Because the palace has been abandoned, the populated city forsaken. Hill and watch-tower have become caves forever, A delight for wild donkeys, a pasture for flocks; <sup>15</sup> Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is considered as a forest.

(See also Isa 30:23–25; 35:1–2, 7; 41:18)

- With the curse lifted, therefore, conditions will be Edenic; similar to what they were prior to Genesis 3

Ezekiel 36:35 They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited.’

\*Again, this promise, originally given to suffering Israelites, cannot be said to have been fulfilled.

- One must remember that even the most beautiful landscapes on Earth (e.g. the Tetons, the Faroe Islands, Glacier NP, French Polynesia, the Himalayas, etc.) are merely the result of: (1) God’s curse in Gen 3 and (2) the catastrophic judgment of the global flood. The most stunning scenes of God’s creation are mere scarred, judged land.
- Therefore, it is safe to assume that the creation upgraded will be far superior in beauty, glory, and provision to its current state. This fact will be one of many which causes unceasing praise and joy for God’s people in the MK.
- The animal world will be changed to pre-curse conditions:

Isaiah 11:6–8 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. <sup>7</sup> Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den.

Isaiah 65:25 “The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.

- Sickness and death, though not entirely eliminated, will be greatly reduced, leading to great longevity of life.

Isaiah 29:18 On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, and out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

Isaiah 33:24 And no resident will say, “I am sick”; The people who dwell there will be forgiven *their* iniquity.

Isaiah 65:20 No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives but a few days*, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be *thought* accursed.

Isaiah 65:22 They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so will be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.

- Even though sin and judgment will not yet be entirely eliminated (Ps 2:9; Zech 14:16-19; Ezek 44:25, 27; Rev 19:5; 20:7-10), it will be a time of unprecedented prosperity for humanity:

Jeremiah 31:12 They will come and shout for joy on the height of Zion, And they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD— Over the grain and the new wine and the oil, And over the young of the flock and the herd; And their life will be like a watered garden, And they will never languish again.

Ezekiel 34:25-29 I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. <sup>26</sup> “I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. <sup>27</sup> “Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. <sup>28</sup> “They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid. <sup>29</sup> “I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

Amos 9:13-14 Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; when the mountains will drip sweet wine and all the hills will be dissolved. <sup>14</sup> “Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, and they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, and make gardens and eat their fruit.

- The land of Israel, in particular, will be fertile and productive (Ezek 36:6-9; Amos 9:13-15; Zech 8:11-12), blessed by an abundance of rainfall and no longer subject to famine (Ezek 34:26-29; 36:29-30; Joel 2:21- 27), being compared to the Garden of Eden by all who pass by (Ezek 36:35).

- However, since it is not yet the Eternal State (of Rev 21-22), there will be imperfections, though far fewer than today:
- The prophets looked ahead to the glorious reign of the promised Messiah. And as they did, they described features of this future kingdom that are incompatible with the perfection of the eternal state.
- For example:
  - This future kingdom reign of Messiah will include the poor and needy (Ps 72:12-13; Isa 11:4); the wicked (Isa 11:4); the afflicted (Ps 72:2, 4, 12; Isa 11:4); enemies of God (Ps 72:9; Isa 11:4); and victims of violence and oppression (Ps 72:4, 14).
- The Millennial Kingdom will include physical birth and physical death:
  - Isaiah 65:20 No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives but a few days*, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be *thought* accursed.
- The MK will include distinctions between the young and the elderly and physical weakness due to old age:
  - Zechariah 8:3-4 Thus says the LORD, 'I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts *will be called* the Holy Mountain.' <sup>4</sup> "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age.
- Disputes will continue to arise:
  - Isaiah 2:4a And He [Christ] will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples
  - Micah 4:3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations
- However, war will be largely absent from the world (the exception will be the final uprising of Satan after he is released, cf. Rev 20:7-10; this will be discussed in a later lesson):



- Isa 2:4b ...And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

## **(2) The Restoration of the Nation Israel**

- As we studied in the lessons on the covenants, it cannot be said that the OT covenants (e.g. Abraham, Davidic, New) have experienced their completion.
- Therefore, at the end of the present age, God will fulfill His covenant promises to the nation of Israel by restoring her to the land.

Ezekiel 36:24 For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

- As promised to ethnic Israelites, God will forgive her sins, give her a new heart, put His Spirit within her, and cause her to walk in obedience during the millennial reign of Christ

Ezekiel 36:25-27 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. <sup>26</sup> “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

- During the Millennial Kingdom, Yahweh will renew her land and make it fruitful (Ezek 34:25-27; 36:29-30, 34-35), rebuilding her cities (Ezek 36:33, 35-36a), increasing her population (Ezek 36:37b-38a), and causing her to dwell securely (Jer 23:5- 8; 33:14-16) so that the nations will know that He is the Lord (Ezek 36:33-38). Again, it cannot be said that these promises, given to ethnic Israelites, have experienced their complete fulfillment.

Ezekiel 34:25-29 I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. <sup>26</sup> “I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. <sup>27</sup> “Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. <sup>28</sup> “They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them;

but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid. <sup>29</sup> “I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

- As Israel experiences her prophesied prominence, nations will learn the ways of the Lord:
  - Isaiah 2:3 (cf. Mic 4:2) And many peoples will 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 concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

### (3) The Reign of the Lord Jesus

- One of the immense joys of believers in the MK will be the physical presence of Christ, ruling and reigning upon the Earth.
- During the millennium of Revelation 20, the Lord Jesus Christ will rule from the Davidic Throne in Jerusalem (2 Sam 7:8-16).
- Christ’s reign will be glorious, unrivaled, and exacting

Psalm 2 Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth take their stand And the rulers take counsel together Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup> “Let us tear their fetters apart And cast away their cords from us!” <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. <sup>5</sup> Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying, <sup>6</sup> “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.” <sup>7</sup> “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. <sup>8</sup> ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the *very* ends of the earth as Your possession. <sup>9</sup> ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’ ” <sup>10</sup> Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. <sup>11</sup> Worship the LORD with reverence And rejoice with trembling. <sup>12</sup> Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

- As King over the entire world (Ps 72:2-4, 7-8, 12; Zech 14:9), Christ will reign in perfect wisdom and executing justice and righteousness upon the earth (Jer 23:5-8; 33:14-16).
- All the kings of the earth will bow down before Him (Ps 72:11), all the nations of the earth will serve Him (Ps 72:11; Zech 14:16), and all the

peoples of the earth will be blessed by the exercise of His rule (Ps 72:7, 16-17).

- This presents the saints with unspeakable joy: (1) Fallen men will no longer sit in the highest positions of rule upon the Earth and (2) Christ will begin to receive the glory and honor due His name
- Those who refuse to worship Christ the King will be necessarily punished:
  - Zechariah 14:17-19 And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. <sup>18</sup> If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no *rain will fall* on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. <sup>19</sup> This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.
- Knowledge of the Lord will fill the earth (Is 11:9), and the whole world will be filled with His glory (Ps 72:19).
- He will reign in peace, justice, righteousness, and faithfulness (Is 11:3-5), resulting in longevity of life (Isa 65:20, 22) and lasting peace and harmony among the nations of the world (Zech 8:4-5; Is 2:4; Mic 4:3; Is 11:6-9).

#### **(4) The Co-Reign of the Glorified Saints**

- During the millennial kingdom, the glorified saints – both the raptured and resurrected believers who return with Jesus (1 Thess 4:13-17; 1 Cor 15:51-52; Rev 19:14; 20:4a) and the Tribulation martyrs who are resurrected when He comes again (Rev 20:4b) – will reign with Christ for a thousand years (Rev 20:4-6; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 3:21; 5:10).
- They will sit upon thrones (Rev 20:4a; cf. 3:21), having been given authority over the nations to rule and exercise judgment (Rev 2:26; 20:4a; 1 Cor 6:2); and serving as a kingdom and priests of God and of Christ (Rev 5:10; Rev 20:6c).

\*\*At the conclusion of the MK, Satan will be briefly released and coordinate one final, and futile, uprising against Christ (Rev 20:7-10). We will look at this in our next lesson.