

Wolves Dwelling with Lambs

An End-Time Event

There are many preachers in Churches today that teach their congregations to believe in a future millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

They teach that when He returns, He will set up His Kingdom and reign in a rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem for a thousand years.

They say this will be a time of peace such as the world has never known. A time of peace when animals will not hurt or harm each other.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb; the cow and the bear shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox. They base this all on **Isaiah 11:6-10** and **Revelation 20:1 & 4**.

These preachers go on to say that because we have not seen these things evidenced in the animal kingdom, this means that Jesus has not yet returned to set up his 1,000-year reign.

- What does the Bible **REALLY** say about the thousand years of peace?
- What does the Bible actually say about the Millennial Reign?
- What did Jesus say about this?

Jesus never said anything about a thousand years of peace or a thousand-year millennial reign upon the Earth.

The phrase “**millennial reign**” never appears anywhere in the Bible. The Apostles **NEVER** said anything about this thousand-year reign of peace or the millennial reign either.

This can only mean one thing: the verses in **Isaiah 11** and in **Revelation 20** mean something totally different than what many preachers are teaching their congregations today.

In **Isaiah 11:10**, Isaiah said that this event would happen “**in that day**”, that is in the same generation that Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 24:34**.

The Branch from the root of Jesse in **Isaiah 11:1** refers to Jesus. (**Isaiah 11:2-5**) In **Matthew chapter 1**, we read about the lineage of David and of Jesus. (**Matthew 1:6,17**)

Mary was also a descendant of David as the genealogy points out in **Luke 3:23-38**. In **Mathew 1:18**, we read how Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost and conceived. The branch from the root of Jesse made his appearance in the first century.

The Apostle Paul also quoted this same phrase found in **Isaiah 11:1** “**There shall be a root of Jesse**” to rule over the Gentiles. (**Romans 15:8-12**)

This is important because it places all the “**changes in the nature of animals**” directly to the first century during the earthly ministry of Jesus.

When Jesus brought the Gospel message, He fulfilled the promise that God made to Abraham. (**Galatians 3:16**)

In **Ephesians 2:11-15**, we read about the effects of the Gospel on the Gentiles. **Ephesians 3:6** refers to the Gentiles being partakers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the life in the New Covenant Age.

All through the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, we can read references to the change of human nature brought on by the new birth.

The Prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles used metaphorical expressions as simple ways to communicate concepts of Truth.

Metaphors and similes are words or phrases that use imagery or symbolism to describe something in a non-literal way which creates a comparison or implied likeness between two unrelated things.

Jesus often used earthly objects and familiar activities to teach spiritual Truths. The parables of Jesus are good examples of this. **A parable is simply an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.**

Many of these metaphorical expressions used throughout the Bible involve the use of animals to describe certain attributes of a person or of people.

Here are a few Scriptural examples: Ecclesiastes 3:18, Ezekiel 34:31, Jeremiah 23:1, Daniel 7:3,17, Matthew 7:15, and Jude 10.

The Book of Revelation is filled with these metaphorical expressions. Some of the most familiar ones are found in **Revelation 13:1-2, 18.**

There are many more of these metaphorical expressions which use the attributes of animals to describe a person or to describe people.

When the Gospel came in the first century, we see the influence and the effect it had on the human nature of people who were born again.

They were totally changed because of the new heart that God gave them. **(2 Corinthians 5:17, Ezekiel 36:26)**

Hosea 2:18-19 & 23 uses the metaphorical expression of animals describing the New Covenant Age when God through the Gospel would show mercy and pardon and offer opportunity to whosoever will. **(Isaiah 55:5-7)**

We can read this same imagery in Isaiah **65:17-20 & 25**. These metaphorical expressions are describing life in the New Covenant.

The born-again child of God will age in the physical realm but is ageless in the spiritual realm. The cruel untamed “**beast-like**” human nature will be tamed by the presence of the Holy Ghost in the life of a born-again believer.

After we have believed and obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are born again, we have the power through the Holy Ghost to overcome our own carnal tendencies thus living in peace and harmony.

Mt Zion, the Eternal City, the Heavenly Jerusalem is what the Old Covenant prophets longed for. They longed for what we possess today. The writer of Hebrews said that it had arrived. **(Hebrews 12:22-23 & 28)**

Unfortunately, in many churches today, the Futurist teaching of the future 1,000-year reign of Christ has become a dump zone for all kinds of things that preachers say without any explanation.

In reality, the period from AD 30 – AD 70 was the time of transitioning from an Old Covenant that was ending to a New Covenant that was beginning. **(Hebrews 8:13)**

The 1,000 years of **Revelation 20:4** was not a literal time period but was a time of the completion of God's plan of redemption.

When that which was perfect arrived, the things that were in part were done away with. The word **“perfect”** comes from the Greek word **“telios”** which means completion. **(1 Corinthians 13:10)** This took place when Jesus returned in AD 70.

1Co 13:10 But^{G1161} when^{G3752} that which is perfect^{G5046} is come,^{G2064} then^{G5119} that^{G3588} which is in^{G1537} part^{G3313} shall be done away.^{G2673}

G5046

τέλειος

teleios

tel'-i-os

From **G5056**; **complete** (in various applications of labor, growth, mental and moral character, etc.); neuter (as noun, with **G3588**) **completeness**: - of full age, man, perfect.

The word **“thousand”** used in **Revelation 20:4** comes from the Greek word **“chilioi”** which means “an uncertain affinity, not a literal number.

Rev 20:4 And^{G2532} I saw^{G1492} thrones,^{G2362} and^{G2532} they sat^{G2523} upon^{G1909} them,^{G846} and^{G2532} judgment^{G2917} was given^{G1325} unto them:^{G846} and^{G2532} I saw^{G2532} the^{G3588} souls^{G5590} of them that were beheaded^{G3990} for^{G1223} the^{G3588} witness^{G3141} of Jesus,^{G2424} and^{G2532} for^{G1223} the^{G3588} word^{G3056} of God,^{G2316} and^{G2532} which^{G3748} had not^{G3756} worshipped^{G4352} the^{G3588} beast,^{G2342} neither^{G3777} his^{G846} image,^{G1504} neither^{G2532} had received^{G2983} his^{G5480} mark upon^{G1909} their^{G848} foreheads,^{G3359} or^{G2532} in^{G1909} their^{G848} hands;^{G5495} and^{G2532} they lived^{G2198} and^{G2532} reigned^{G936} with^{G3326} Christ^{G5547} a thousand^{G5507} years.^{G2094}

G5507

χιλιοι

chilioi

khil'-ee-oy

Plural of uncertain affinity; a *thousand*: - thousand.

It was a figure of speech denoting completeness or wholeness.

When Jesus returned in AD 70, the Book of Revelation was completely fulfilled. The promise that God gave to Abraham was fulfilled. **(Galatians 3:28-29, 1 John 2:25)**

Jesus is here today ruling and reigning in His Spiritual Kingdom. People, who have been born again by believing and obeying the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, make life decisions according to the will and purpose of God in their lives.

People, who are born again and make life decisions according to the Word of God, fulfill the reality of Jesus ruling and reigning in the world today.

Jesus will continue to reign throughout all eternity in the lives of His spiritual Church which is the Body of Christ.

Conclusion

The prophecy in **Isaiah Chapter 11** and **Chapter 65** which we read were describing in metaphorical terms the effects of the Gospel on human nature.

This was an end-time event that began on the Day of Pentecost in **Acts Chapter 2** and is ongoing throughout eternity.

The peace of God that passeth all understanding was made complete and whole when Jesus returned in AD 70. There is no future 1,000-year reign of Jesus on the Earth because He is already here ruling and reigning through the lives of born-again believers.

The Prophet Isaiah clearly states that these metaphorical expressions of peace and tranquility will come at the coming of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Obviously, the Gospel came over 2,000 years ago. To pair these images with a supposed physical future 1,000-year reign is clearly a misapplication of the Scriptures which makes it false doctrine.

Remember, if you don't know what the Truth is, you won't recognize a lie. (**Romans 3:4**)

The Everlasting Gospel is here and is still being preached today. Its effect remains the same for whosoever will believe and obey.

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