

## 48. The Millennium

- When Christ returns to earth He will establish Himself as King in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David (Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33). He will establish His earthly kingdom where He will reign over all the people and nations of the world for a thousand years (Zechariah 14:9; Revelation 20:4). His kingdom will be characterized by justice, righteousness and His unfailing love. There will be harmony in all creation as the earth becomes a lush paradise, like the Garden of Eden. Wolves will dwell with lambs and lions will be led by little boys (Isaiah 11:6-9). People will be healed and healthy, will live in peace and will multiply and fill the earth. Since only believers will enter the Millennium, it will be a time of righteousness (Matthew 25:34-46); obedience (Ezekiel 11:19-20); holiness (Isaiah 35:8; Jeremiah 31:31-34); security (Isaiah 65:21-23; Ezekiel 37:24-28); and fullness of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

- Who will live in the millennial kingdom? Shortly after the second coming of Jesus Christ, "He will send forth His angels with a great trumpet and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other" (Matthew 24:31; see also Matthew 25:31-34). These believers will enter the millennial kingdom and will begin to repopulate the earth. In addition to mortal believers, Scripture says there will also be resurrected believers living on earth during the Millennium. Believers that lost their lives after the rapture and during the Tribulation days will come to life and reign with Christ for a thousand years (Revelation 20:4). This resurrection will occur just after the second coming. We also know that resurrected King David will be King of Israel and will rule from Jerusalem during the millennial kingdom (Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:24, 37:24-25; Hosea 3:5). Since King David will probably be resurrected during the rapture as an Old Testament saint, it is very likely that all resurrected believers will be a part of the millennial kingdom (refer to 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). Also, after believers meet the Lord in the air during the rapture, it is stated that they "shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:17). This implies that all resurrected believers will be with the Lord on the earth during His 1,000 year reign. The marriage supper of the Lamb will likely take place toward the beginning of the Millennium on earth and will probably include all mortal and resurrected believers (Revelation 19:7-10). In summary, we can conclude that the millennial kingdom will include mortal believers and resurrected believers, and of course Jesus Christ and His angels.

- Two major tasks will occur toward the beginning of the Millennium; rebuilding Jerusalem and constructing Messiah's temple. Ezekiel 40-46 provides detailed instructions for building Messiah's (millennial) temple and for the service attached to it. The temple will be considerably larger than the three previous temples. Scripture briefly describes the dedication of Messiah's temple (Revelation 14:1-5; Ezekiel 43:1-12) and how the glory of the Lord will return. "And the glory of the LORD came into the house by the way of the gate facing toward the east. And the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house" (Ezekiel 43:4-5). Throughout the Millennium, people from all nations will come to the temple to worship the Lord (Zechariah 14:16). Jerusalem will be the center of the world and rule (Zechariah 8:3), rising physically to reveal its prominence (Zechariah 14:10). Jesus will sit and rule on His glorious throne in the temple on Mount Zion as king and priest (Zechariah 6:12-

13, 14:16; Psalm 2:6-8). "And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one" (Zechariah 14:9).

- When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from the abyss and will come out to deceive the nations. Many will follow Satan and attempt to defeat Jesus Christ. Fire from heaven will devour them and the devil will be thrown into the lake of fire. Non-believers will then be judged before the great white throne and death and Hades will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-15). The old heaven and the old earth will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:7, 10-13). For additional information about the Millennium, refer to the following verses: Isaiah 9:6-7, 11:1-10, 24:23, 35:1-10, 56:1-8, 60:1-22, 61:1-11, 65:17-25, 66:10-24; Jeremiah 31:27-40; Ezekiel 34:11-31, 36:22-38, 37:21-28, chapters 40-48; Daniel 7:13-14; Joel 3:18-21; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:1-8; Habakkuk 2:14; Zechariah 8:1-23, 9:10; and Psalm 2:6-9, 47:1-9.