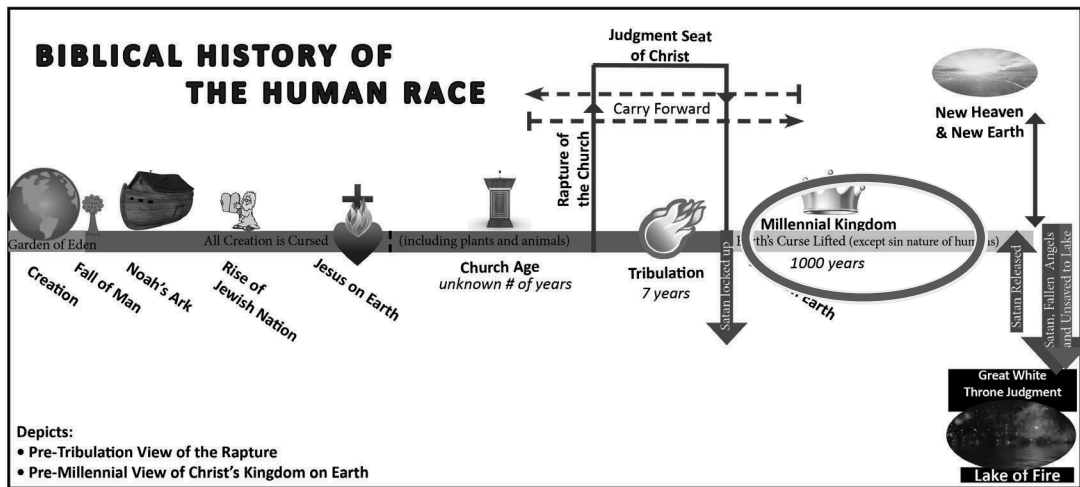


Preparing for the Rapture and Beyond



THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM - Part 2

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See page 183 toolbox for full-page image.

The Millennial Kingdom Continued...

WHAT WILL HUMAN PHYSICAL BODIES BE LIKE DURING THAT TIME?

Humans (like the rest of creation) will be restored to a healthy state (no blindness, deafness, inability to speak, lameness, etc.). It seems as if **there may be no illness at all.**

⁵Then will the _____ of the blind be opened
and the _____ of the deaf unstopped.

⁶Then will the _____ leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.

Isaiah 35:5-6a

Lack of illness will eliminate some of our modern medical-field jobs. But gravity will still work and knives will still be sharp. And there will be disputes between people that may result in harm being done to each other. Don't worry though, I'm sure the Lord will give us all meaningful and satisfying jobs to fill our days.

Lack of illness, however, doesn't mean there will be no death (see Isaiah 65:20 on the next page). How will the people die during that time (cause of death)? I don't know. Probably in many ways like today (except illness) and some "supernatural" ones too.

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This is why God had to drive Adam and Eve out of the Garden - to keep them from living forever in their sinful state - it is an act of mercy and grace on His part.

²²And the Lord God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden... Genesis 3:22-23

I am reminded of the story of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. They "lied to the Holy Spirit" and were rebuked by Peter for it. ⁵*When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. Then ...* ¹⁰*Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last.*

As always, the Lord has the power over life and death by His word alone. **Nothing needs to "happen" other than He says so...** Absent of that circumstance, it appears that people (for sure believers) will be healthy, fit, vibrant, happy, productive and satisfied for decades and even centuries. And in that state, they will be married and have families with many children.

GROWING OLD IN THE MILLENNIUM

There are a few verses in the Old Testament that speak about the people **born during that period of time**, but they are a bit confusing – at least to me. The verse is unclear on how long these people will live (an earthly body is not eternal – it won't last forever – thank God, right!?). During the millennium there will be an "age of accountability" that will have an effect on how long someone lives. Not everyone will accept Jesus as the rightful King, even though they may pretend to do so – **just like today**.

Here is the verse I am referring to:

²⁰*"Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach^[a] a hundred
will be considered accursed. Isaiah 65:20*

[a] Or the sinner who reaches

There are a few schools of thought as to how this might be interpreted (what it means):

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1. People who are born and grow up in the millennium will make a choice. **Those who accept Jesus as Savior and Lord will live up to the entire 1000 years in their human bodies** (this longevity was reasonably “normal” during the early years of the earth and since, for the most part, the earth will return to that state it would not be unheard of). Those who **do not accept Him will die at age one hundred or earlier** and everyone will know why. No doubt this will break a lot of mother’s and father’s hearts.

OR...

2. Again, people who are born and grow up during the millennium will make a choice. Those who accept Jesus as Savior and Lord **will live for one hundred years in their human bodies**. Those who do not accept Him will die **before they reach the age of one hundred** and everyone will know why.

Position in Christ	Option “1” Years of Life	Option “2” Years of Life
ACCEPT Jesus as Savior and Lord (... saved)	up to 1000 years	100 years
DENY Jesus as Savior and Lord (... unsaved)	less than 100 years	less than 100 years

Either way this “plan” helps to keep the number of unsaved people (people who have decided not to accept Jesus’ gift of ultimate salvation even during the millennium i.e., “rebels”) reduced somewhat. The unsaved born in the last one hundred years of the millennium will live to the end to join with Satan in the final battle at the end of the age – this is not Armageddon; it occurs prior to the onset of the millennium.

Just like in the early days of humanity, I suspect that many people will live for multiple centuries. Consider this list of the ages of the patriarchs. It is unlikely that the patriarchs were unique for their time period, many/

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most people probably lived to these ages:

Adam	930 years
Seth	912 years
Enosh	905 years
Kenan	910 years
Mahalalel	905 years
Jared	962 years
Enoch	365 years*
Methuselah	969 years***
Lamech	777 years***
Noah	950 years**

*Enoch never died, he was “raptured” - see Genesis 5:21-24 and Hebrews 11:5

Noah was **about 600 years old at the time of the flood but wasn’t considered old for his time. He lived 350 more years after the flood. The flood occurred **about** 1650+/- years after creation.

***Noah’s father and grandfather died a few years before the flood.

Because **unsaved people** will die in the millennium, there will be “widows and orphans.” They will need help and protection just like they do today. (Just food for thought as you consider what role you might play in service of the King.)

I believe SAVED people born in the millennium (as well as believers who “enter the millennium” at the beginning) will live until the end of the Millennium. They will not die. Therefore, there is no “resurrection” necessary for them. One must die to be resurrected from the dead. They will simply get new glorified bodies just like those who were raptured 1000+ years earlier (without dying first).

Will they “age” - probably yes, but not as quickly as we do today.

WHAT WILL OUR GLORIFIED BODIES BE LIKE DURING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

We will not get a reconstruction of our old body, but

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rather a **recreation of a new body** (see I Corinthians 15:35-54) that is uniquely us. In these passages, the Apostle Paul uses the metaphor of the sowing of grain. He describes how when a grain of wheat is planted that grain “dies” **as it becomes something new**. We know that it does not produce another grain of wheat, rather it produces a whole new thing. Both the original grain/seed and the new plant are physical and unique.

²⁰But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the _____ of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20

This also tells us that Jesus was the “first” to be raised from the dead with a new eternal body. Jesus’ physical resurrection is **the first installment of a series of resurrections**.^{*} When we look at the resurrection body of Jesus, we may get a “sneak peek” of what our future resurrection bodies **might be like**. His resurrected body is a pattern, a picture, a prototype of what our new body may be like.

***Note: everyone - every human being - will get an eternal body, not just believers.** Believers are resurrected or raptured to eternal life, non-believers to eternal damnation, but **all will get an eternal body**. See the **Order of Resurrections & New Bodies** on page 187 in the toolbox to review the first and second resurrections as outlined in the Scriptures.

What was His body like that could apply to us?

These are some of characteristics I believe we will have:

- **Visible, touchable and identifiable** - We will have physical bodies, we will not be simply spirits or ghosts.

³⁷They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! _____ and see; a ghost does not have _____ and _____, as you see I have.” Luke 24:37-39

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²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."
John 20:27

⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than _____ of the brothers and sisters _____, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.
1 Corinthians 15:5-8

- **Able to speak, hear and have conversations** - John 20:14-16, Luke 24:33-36, Luke 24:13-35, John 21:1-24, Matthew 28:16-20 and many more times in the 40 days post-resurrection we are provided clues about Jesus' talking with believers.

- **Able to eat and drink as desired** -

⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish,
Luke 24:42,



⁴On one occasion, while he was _____
_____, Acts 1:4a

This will be great (in the humble opinion of someone who thoroughly enjoys eating)! It appears that eating will be totally optional for us. If someone (human) wants us to join them for a meal to celebrate something, we will be able to do so and enjoy it as a gift from God. Since the primary purpose of consuming food is to stay alive and our glorified bodies cannot die or even have the effects of starvation, if we don't want to eat, we won't have to. If we want to, we can! Our choice!

- **Won't need to sleep but will enjoy rest and leisure time.**
- **Age – how "old" we will be for the rest of eternity**
- probably equivalent to our mid-thirties. The Bible

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never explicitly tells us how “old” we will be in our new bodies, but let’s use a bit of “sanctified speculation” to see what we might come up with.

Consider that God created Adam and Eve at the “prime of (physical) life” – they were created as adults. God declared them to be “very good” just as He created them. He didn’t say, “They will be very good someday, when they grow up.” To qualify to serve in the OT Temple, the man had to be between twenty-five and fifty years old. When Jesus was resurrected, He was at the prime of His physical life and was probably in his early to **mid-thirties** based on historical records and Scriptural statements. It makes sense, therefore, **that we will likely be about that same age**. I don’t know about you, but that makes me VERY HAPPY to consider that possibility – rolling back the clock more than half my life! No doubt, He will fashion us in the “prime of our life” – no matter what age that looks like to us.

What about babies or young children or people who die before they reach that age? God knows all things, including what they would have looked like at the optimal stage of development had they lived that long the first time. He can certainly accomplish that for them and everyone else. After all He made humans out of “dirt.” Is anything too hard for the Lord? Bottom line: we will be our best selves.

- **Retain our unique identity, including our character** - There is a continuity between who we are now and who we will be then. Our personality is part of what makes us unique. It is doubtful that we will lose that. This is why character matters – strive to become all you can be now. I think this will be particularly important for our function in the Millennial Kingdom. More on this later.
- **Retain our original gender assignment** – Jesus said, ³⁰*“At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven.”* Matthew 22:30 This response from Jesus was an answer to a question about marriage, not

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gender assignment at the resurrection. Jesus was a man both before and after His resurrection. One of the primary purposes of marriage is the procreation of the human race (be fruitful and multiply). In the millennium, we are no longer “human” and will not contribute to that need, there will be plenty of humans to do that. I believe it is likely that we will retain our female or male gender but won’t get married. Our focus will be on our King and His Kingdom, not on marriage, family, children, etc. It seems there will be a change of focus with a new “head of household” - Jesus.

- **Retain our ethnicity** - (⁹... *with your blood you [Jesus] purchased for God persons from every _____ and _____ and _____ and _____.*” Revelation 5:9) Our ethnic identity is part of what makes us unique, part of who we are. Also, remember that there will be billions upon billions of humans born and living during the Millennial Kingdom. They will continue to have ethnic identities as well. I suspect it will be helpful to them if we (as their leaders) look like them (based on ethnicity). And I believe the Lord loves our uniqueness.
- **Able to identify our loved ones and be with them** - ⁸*Then Abraham breathed his last and died at a good old age, an old man and full of years; and he was gathered to his people. Genesis 25:8* What good would it be to be “gathered to your people” if they don’t know you and you don’t know them. We will know them and enjoy them as never before. I believe, based on the experience Peter, James and John had on the Mount of Transfiguration, that we will be able to recognize everyone in transformed bodies at some level – even those who lived and died thousands of years before us (like Moses, Elijah, Mary, Peter, John the Baptist, etc.).
- **Will be fit and strong and radiate the brilliance or splendor of Jesus’ perfect life** -

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⁴³... *it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory*
[Greek word doxē]; *it is sown in weakness,*
it is raised in power [Greek word dymamei]
1 Corinthians 15:43

o doxē = splendor, brightness,
magnificence, excellence, majesty – a
thing belonging to Christ

o dymamei = strength, power, ability,
power to perform miracles, abundance,
mighty (wonderful) work

Don't rush over the words in this verse (actually a prophesy). Please allow me to "rewrite" the verse using the definitions in place of the original words:

⁴³... *it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in*
splendor, brightness, magnificence, excellence,
and majesty;

it is sown in weakness, it is raised in strength,
power, ability, power to perform miracles,
abundance and mighty wonderful work.

1 Corinthians 15:43



"It" is our new bodies. What do you think about our new glorified bodies now? Discuss this with your group.

Some have concluded from this that we will have different abilities to shine the Glory of God in our lives **based on what we have done in this life (now)**. In other words, part of our "reward" in the afterlife will be greater capacity to reflect and show the Glory of God wherever we are in the universe. Consider these Scriptures:

²⁹ *When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the Lord. Exodus 34:29-35* Read the rest of the story - it's fascinating.

³*Those who are wise will shine like the*

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brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. Daniel 12:3

*¹⁸And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being **transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory**, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit. 2 Corinthians 3:18*

⁴³Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear. Matthew 13:43

These are future promises based on what we do during our present lifetime. You decide if these are literal or not. I say, **"Shine, Baby, Shine!"**

- **Never to die (or even get sick) -**

⁴²So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is _____ [able to perish or die], it is raised _____ [unable to perish or die]; 1 Corinthians 15:42

I am not certain that we will even be able to be injured. What do you think?

For us, there will be no need to diet, no need for exercise, no need for physical therapy, no jogging trails, no saunas, no vitamins or medicines, on and on. **The new body will be perfect and painless.** It will be the body we have always dreamed of, it will never disappoint us - forever young!

- **It is unlikely that we will be bound by time or space -** including being able to pass through objects, appear and disappear at will.

¹⁹On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, _____ for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" John 20:19

³¹Then their eyes were opened and they

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*recognized him, and he _____
from their sight. Luke 24:31*

Philip had such an experience during his lifetime (see Acts 8:39-40 to read the story).

- **We won't be omnipresent** – this is reserved for the Godhead. But Jesus frequently appeared and disappeared at will during the 40 days He stayed on earth after His resurrection – before His ascension.

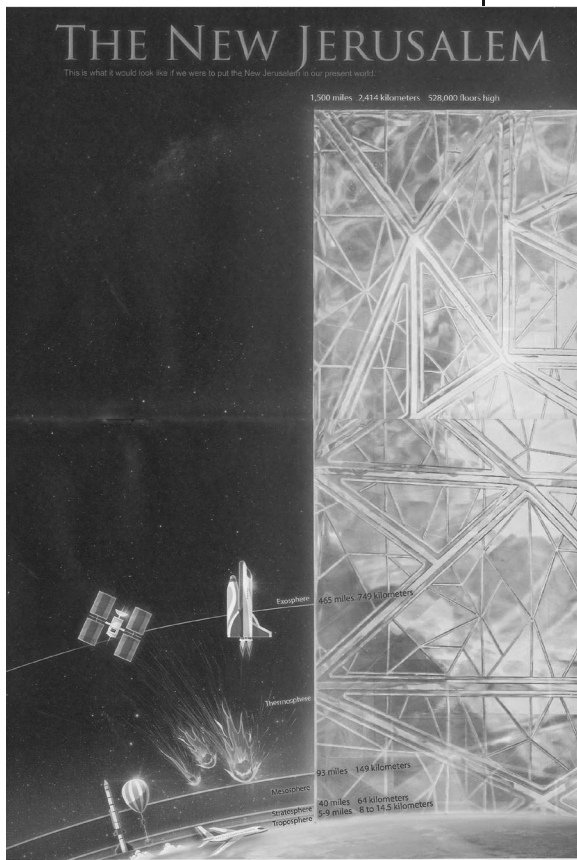
⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Acts 1:9

When Jesus left this earth the first time He simply traveled effortlessly through space. Perhaps we will be able to travel around the earth without the hassle of transportation as we know it today. The humans alive at that time probably won't have this ability, but we might/probably will. That will be very convenient to say the least.

It is possible that we could travel away from the earth in this new body, up to heaven or wherever He might want us to go. Wouldn't that be amazing? I believe that will be true in the Eternal Kingdom, but for now we are talking about the Millennial Kingdom and since our King will be here on earth, that's where I want to be.

We will be perfectly suited for whatever environment He puts us in or takes us to - (whether on earth or in heaven or somewhere in between). Think about it – ³⁹*Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 1 Corinthians 15:39* Each is perfectly suited for where it lives and functions. The same will be true for us then as now, we live on earth and are perfectly suited to do so.

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WHERE WILL WE LIVE?

This is a bit “tricky” to say the least. Revelation 21 provides in-depth details about the New Jerusalem which is to be **the eternal home for saints from all time periods**. The description includes exact measurements. No doubt, no one has ever seen anything as magnificent as it is promised to be. It is 1,500 miles or 528,000 stories “tall.” From the description given, it could be either cube shaped or pyramid shaped. Either way, its size is totally out of proportion to our existing earth, so it is likely that before it can come all the way down to the earth, the new earth will need to exist.

There are some who believe that the New Jerusalem will hover above the earth during the Millennial Kingdom and that we (in glorified bodies) will travel back and forth at will. Others think it will not “come down out of heaven” until the end of the Millennial Kingdom and believe we will occupy some other place on the earth during that time. I don’t claim to know which, if either of them, is right.

To read more about this I recommend trying to get an online copy of Ariel Magazine, Fall 2023. There are several sites online that offer a downloadable version of the magazine, it is well worth reading.

IN CONCLUSION

This chapter is meant to be nothing more than a brief list. No doubt this will truly be an amazing and exciting time to be alive (especially for those in glorified bodies).

We know how long it will last (1000 years). What we don’t know is **when it will begin. It could begin VERY SOON** – as early as 7 years from now. If it does, our reward-earning time will soon be over. Are you ready? Are you sure?

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In the next chapter we will dig a little deeper into the relationship between The Church Age/The Age of Grace (the era we are currently living in) and the Millennial Kingdom to help us be certain we are ready for it to begin.

What we do now has everything to do with our lives then - and for the rest of eternity.

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UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

1. Did you apply anything new last week from Chapter 4? What was it, how did you apply it? What difference, if any, resulted?
2. How does the presentation of the conditions of the Millennial Kingdom in this chapter compare with what you previously knew? Does it encourage you to learn more and become active in your planning and preparation for that time? If so, what might you do to learn more?
3. Name one thing you learned in this chapter that will be beneficial in the days ahead. How will you apply it (be specific)?

ALL RISE:
