June 1, 2021

Greetings to all and I’m hoping this past Memorial Day you had in memory those who gave their lives for us to live in this “Free Country” and other countries throughout the world. As a Viet Nam era veteran, I too have memories of my school friends that fought in Viet Nam that are not with us anymore. But a day will come when we who are in Christ will NOT experience war anymore. We will live with God in the “New Heaven and New Earth” for eternity and this topic will be discussing in the near future.

The topic for this month Bible Scripture Letter will be “What is the Millennial Kingdom and should it be understood literally?” The following letters will be on:

# “What is the purpose of the thousand-year reign of Christ?”

* “Will there be animals sacrifices during the Millennial Kingdom?”

As stated last month, the Bible Scripture Letter #10 **"Who will Occupy the Millennial Kingdom?" you have already received is part of this Millennium topic.**

So, let’s get started.

Your Brother in Christ, Tony Gonzalez

**1 Peter 3:15**

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, **always being prepared to make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

**"What is the Millennial Kingdom and should it be understood literally?"**

**Bible Scripture Letter #14**

The millennial kingdom is the title given to the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. Some seek to interpret the 1000 years in an allegorical manner. They understand the 1000 years as merely a figurative way of saying “a long period of time,” not a literal, physical reign of Jesus Christ on the earth. However, six times in [**Revelation 20:2-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2020.2-7),

* ***2*** *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*
* ***3*** *and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things, he must be released for a short time.*
* ***4*** *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*
* ***5*** *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*

* ***6*** *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

Satan Freed

* ***7*** *When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

the millennial kingdom is specifically said to be 1000 years in length. If God wished to communicate “a long period of time,” He could have easily done so without explicitly and repeatedly mentioning an exact time frame.

The Bible tells us that when Christ returns to the earth He will establish Himself as king in Jerusalem, sitting on the throne of David.

[**Luke 1:32–33**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%201.32%E2%80%9333)

* ***32*** *He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*
* ***33*** *and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*

The unconditional covenants demand a literal, physical return of Christ to establish the kingdom. The Abrahamic Covenant promised Israel a land, a posterity and ruler, and a spiritual blessing.

[**Genesis 12:1–3**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Gen%2012.1%E2%80%933)

* ***1*** *Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives*

*And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you;*

* ***2*** *And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, and make your name great;*

*And so, you shall be a blessing;*

* ***3*** *And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse.*

*And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”*

The Palestinian Covenant promised Israel a restoration to the land and occupation of the land.

[**Deuteronomy 30:1–10**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Deut%2030.1%E2%80%9310)

* ***1*** *“So it shall be when all of these things have come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind in all nations where the Lord your God has banished you,*
* ***2*** *and you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I command you today, you and your sons,*
* ***3*** *then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.*
* ***4****If your outcasts are at the ends of the earth, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there He will bring you back.*
* ***5*** *The Lord your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it; and He will prosper you and multiply you more than your fathers.*
* ***6*** *“Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.*
* ***7*** *The Lord your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate you, who persecuted you.*
* ***8*** *And you shall again obey the Lord, and observe all His commandments which I command you today.*
* ***9*** *Then the Lord your God will prosper you abundantly in all the work of your hand, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your cattle and in the produce of your ground, for the Lord will again rejoice over you for good, just as He rejoiced over your fathers;*
* ***10*** *if you obey the Lord your God to keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this book of the law, if you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul.*

The Davidic Covenant *promised* Israel a king from David’s line who would rule forever—giving the nation rest from all their enemies.

[**2 Samuel 7:10–13**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Sam%207.10%E2%80%9313)

* ***10*** *I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,*
* ***11*** *even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you.*
* ***12*** *When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your*

*descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.*

* ***13*** *He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*

At the second coming, these covenants will be fulfilled as Israel is re-gathered from the nations [**Matthew 24:31**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2024.31)

* ***31*** *And 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.*

Converted

**Zechariah 12:10 - 11**

* ***10****“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.* **Zechariah 12:10 - 11**
* ***11*** *In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.*

and restored to the land under the rule of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace

[**Micah 4:2–4**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Micah%204.2%E2%80%934)

* ***2****Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord*

*And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways*

*And that we may walk in His paths. ”For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

* ***3*** *And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations.*

*Then 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 train for war.*

* ***4*** *Each of them will sit under his vine**And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.*

[**Isaiah 32:17–18**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2032.17%E2%80%9318),

* ***17*** *And the work of righteousness will be peace, And the service of righteousness, quietness and confidence forever.*
* ***18*** *Then my people will live in a peaceful habitation, And in secure dwellings and in undisturbed resting places;*

joy,

[**Isaiah 61:7**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2061.7)

* ***7*** *Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore, they will possess a double portion in their land, Everlasting joy will be theirs.*

**Isaiah 61:10**

* ***10***  *I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,*

*And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

and comfort - [**Isaiah 40:1–2**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2040.1%E2%80%932)

* ***1*** *“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God.*
* ***2*** *“Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”*

The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience - [**Jeremiah 31:33**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Jer%2031.33),

* ***33****“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

holiness - [**Isaiah 35:8**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2035.8),

* ***8****A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it.*

truth - [**Isaiah 65:16**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2065.16),

* ***16*** *“Because he who is blessed in the earth will be blessed by the God of truth; And he who swears in the earth will swear by the God of truth; Because the former troubles are forgotten,*

*And because they are hidden from My sight!*

and the *knowledge of God* - [**Isaiah 11:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2011.9)**,** [**Habakkuk 2:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Hab%202.14).

[**Isaiah 11:9**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2011.9)

* ***9***  *They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea.*

[**Habakkuk 2:14**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Hab%202.14)

* ***14*** *“For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, As the waters cover the sea.*

*Christ will rule as king* - [**Isaiah 9:6–7**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.3%E2%80%937)

[**Isaiah 9:6–7**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%209.3%E2%80%937)

* ***6*** *For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.*
* ***7*** *There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*

Nobles and governors will also rule - [**Isaiah 32:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2032.1)**;** [**Matthew 19:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2019.28)

[**Isaiah 32:1**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Isa%2032.1)

* ***1*** *Behold, a king will reign righteously And princes will rule justly.*

[**Matthew 19:28**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%2019.28)

* ***28****And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world - [**Zechariah 8:3**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Zech%208.3).

* ***3*** *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.’*

Gods reward to those who keep His word, will live for eternity with Him in the “New Heaven and New Earth”

[**Revelation 20:2-7**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%2020.2-7)

* *7**He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.’*

gives the precise time period of the millennial kingdom. Even without these scriptures, there are countless others that point to a literal reign of the Messiah on the earth. The fulfillment of many of God’s covenants and promises rests on a literal, physical, future kingdom. There is no solid basis for denying the literal interpretation of the millennial kingdom and its duration being 1000 years.

*Source: gotquestions.org/millennium.html*