September 20, 2020

Greetings to all . . .

 I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. This month’s topic will be “Beyond the Tribulation” and will cover “The Millennium” through “The New Heaven and New Earth”.

There are a lot of verses that cover the Millennium and I will say it right now, I will not cover all verses but rather those verses that are generally discussed. Here is something noteworthy, there are more prophesy’s in the bible about the Millennium than any other prophesy. A good question to ask next time the subject of prophecy is discussed is, “What prophecy subject is most discussed in the bible”? With the following information, you’ll be the go-to-guy when the topic is discussed.

So, let’s get started.

**Beyond the Tribulation**

**Bible Scripture Letter #5**

*(Verses are taken from English Standard Version - ESV)*

 Let’s review a little, when will the “Millennium” take place? It will take place at the end of the Tribulation, Armageddon is history and the 2nd Coming of Our Lord Jesus (Advent) is at hand. One note, there is a little over two-month period between the end of the Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom called the “Transitional Period” that I will not discuss due to many opinions as to what will occur during this time period. There are many commentaries written on the subject and I rather leave this topic to them. At this time, I would like to say that in many instances, there are more verses not shown per this writing.

As most of you know, Millennium comes from a Greek word “Mille” meaning thousand, “annum” meaning years; hence millennium means “1000 years”. Although the word “Millennium” does not appear in the bible, the word **thousand years** does. 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)**,** the Millennial Kingdom is specifically said to be **1,000 years in length**.

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

* ***2*** *And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a* ***thousand years****,*
* ***3*** *and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the* ***thousand years*** *were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*
* ***4*** *Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. 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 ended. This is the first resurrection.*
* ***6***  *Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a* ***thousand years****.*
* ***7*** *And when the* ***thousand years*** *are ended, Satan will be released from his prison*

For hundreds of years there have been three church perspective views as to when the millennium will take place. They are **Postmillennium**, **Amillennium** and **Premillennium**.

The **Postmillennialist** believes in an interpretation of Revelation chapter 20 which sees Christ’s second coming as occurring after the “Millennium,” They believe that “1000 years” simply means “a long period of time.”

The **Amillennialist** believes that there will not be a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ. They just do not believe in a literal millennium—a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on earth. Instead, they believe that Christ is now sitting on the throne of David and that this present church age is the kingdom over which Christ reigns. After this present age has ended, Christ will return and immediately usher the church into their eternal state after judging the wicked.

**The Premillennialists** hold that Christ will come before the Tribulation seven-year period to take His church (Rapture) into heaven. After this period of fulfillment, He shall then return to rule from a holy city, the New Jerusalem over the earthly nations for one thousand years. `

Let’s start by asking “What persons will enter the Millennial Kingdom”? There will be two distinct groups occupying the earth during the Millennial Kingdom—**those with glorified** **bodies**, and **those with earthly bodies who lived through the tribulation** that did not received the mark of the beast. Those with glorified bodies consist of the believers receiving their glorified bodies at the rapture.

[**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Thessalonians%204.13-18) **. . . . RAPTURE (They will have their glorified bodies)**

* ***16*** *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*
* ***17****Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*
* ***18*** *Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

**1 Corinthians 15:**[**51-53**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Corinthians%2015.51-53) **. . . . RAPTURE (They will have their glorified bodies)**

* ***51*** *Behold! I tell you a mystery.  We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,*
* ***52*** *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye*
* ***53*** *For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.*

There will also be those who are resurrected after the 2nd coming of Christ to Earth **-** [**Revelation 20:4-6**](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Revelation%2020.4-6).

* ***4*** *Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also, I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and* ***those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. 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 ended. This is the first resurrection.*
* ***6*** *Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

I mention the above to clarify or make a distinction between the rapture (1 Thess. 4:16-17; 1 Cor. 15:52) and the 2nd coming of Christ (Revelation 20:4) who will have their glorified bodies in the Millennial Kingdom. The implication is that saints who are on earth when Christ returns will remain on earth to enter the Millennial Kingdom in their natural bodies. Those who were raptured will have their glorified bodies and will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

So, we now know who is entering the Millennial Kingdom but the Lord has one other judgment to pass along called the “Judgment of the Nations” - AKA “Sheep and Goat Judgment”. They are the Gentiles/Jews who came through the Tribulation and will be judged according to their deeds. Sheep’s will enter the Millennial Kingdom while the Goats will not. The Goats will be sent to the White Throne Judgment that occurs at the end of the Millennium. In **Matthew 25 : 31-34, 41** reads -

* ***31*** *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, and then he will sit on his glorious throne.*
* ***32*** *Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd* ***separates the sheep from the goats.***
* ***33*** *And he will place the* ***sheep on his right****, but the* ***goats on the left****.*
* ***34*** *Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*
* ***41***  *Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.*

After the Sheep and Goat Judgment, the Millennial Kingdom begins and the bible speaks of the conditions during this time.

**Prolong Life** - People will live long referring to those with natural bodies

**Isaiah 65:20**

* *No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.*

**Rewards** will be given according to their deeds

**Hebrews 6:10**

* *For God is not unjust so as to overlook your* ***work*** *and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do.*

 **Isaiah 40:10**

* *Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him;*

*behold, his* ***reward*** *is with him, and his recompense before him*

**Matthew 16:27**

* *For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will* ***repay*** *each person according to what he has done.*

**Peace**

**Psalm 72:7**

* *In his days may the righteous flourish, and* ***peace*** *abound, till the moon be no more!*

 **Isaiah 11:6-9**

* ***6*** *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,*

*and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.*

* ***7*** *The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*
* ***8*** *The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.*
* ***9*** *They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

**Joy**

**Isaiah 9:3**

* *You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its* ***joy****; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.*

**Isaiah 12:3**

* *With* ***joy,*** *you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

**Isaiah 14:7**

* *The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into* ***singing****.*

We know about the condition of the Millennial Kingdom, now let’s talks about the inhabitants of the Kingdom. As previously stated, there will be two groups of people during the Millennial Kingdom. One group will have their glorified body and the other their natural body. Those with their natural body will be able to give birth to children and populate the earth and live an extended life as we know it today. However, with life comes death. Reasoning is these people will still be in their natural state and sin will be in the world.

As for those with glorified bodies, it should be noted that the believers with glorified bodies will not be reproducing. There is no marriage at this time.

**Matthew 22:30**

*• For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.*

Unfortunately, not all of the children that are born during the Millennial Kingdom will come to faith in Christ. After the thousand years, Satan, who was bound during the Millennial Kingdom, will be loosed to deceive the nations, gather an army of the deceived, and take up to battle against the Lord. This prediction of an ultimate insurrection proves the existence of many unbelievers during the final days of the millennium.

**Revelation 20:7-9**

• ***7*** *And when the thousand years are ended,* ***Satan will be released*** *from his prison*

*•* ***8*** *and will come out to* ***deceive the nations*** *that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to* ***gather them for battle****; their number is like the sand of the sea.*

*•* ***9*** *And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city,* ***but fire came down from heaven and consumed them****,*

Satan and whose who reject Christ rule during the Millennial Kingdom will be consumed by fire. Satan will be sent to the **Lake of Fire** to be tormented and burnt forever and ever.

**Revelation 19:19-20**

* **19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
* **20** And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the **lake of fire** that burns with sulfur.

**Revelation 20:10**

*• and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the* ***lake of fire*** *and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Those whose rejected God/Christ from the beginning of time will be judged at the “White Throne Judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer their eternal damnation.

In the **Book of Daniel, 12: 1-2,** Michael the Archangel gives Daniel an earilier view about the inhabitants of the Millennial Kingdom.

In verse 1, the Archangel Michael is speaking to Daniel about the last days of the Tribulation of a time of trouble that has never been seen before. Michael than tells Daniel that your people (Jews) shall be delivered (saved) if their names are found **written in the book**.

**Daniel 12: 1**

* *“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found* ***written in the book****.*

What **“book”**? It’s the **“Book of Life”** also found in **Revelation 20:12 & 15** and its consequences.

* ***12*** *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the* ***book of life****. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*
* ***15*** *And if anyone's name was not found written in the* ***book of life****, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Verse **2**, Michael speaks about people who have died. Have you ever wonder about the Saints/Prophets who have died prior to Acts 2 when the Church was established, when are they resurrected? **Daniel 12: 2** tells us.

* **2** *And many of those who****sleep*** *in the dust of the earth* ***shall awake****, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

“ . . . *those who****sleep*** *in the dust of the earth* ***shall awake****.* These are the Saints/Prophets prior to Acts 2 who have died, such as Samuel, Ezra, Nehemia, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel to name a few. They will be resurrected and go into the Millennial Kingdom at this time. There is no other place in the bible that God mentions when these Saints/Prophets are resurrected. **Daniel** further writes *“and some to shame and everlasting contempt”.* Meaning others will be resurrected but sent to the Lake of Fire.

The Millennial Kingdom has passed and now the “Eternal State” also known as “The New Heaven and a New Earth” is at hand. Let’s start with John in the **Book of Revelation** that was revealed to him by God.

**Revelation 21:1-5**

* *1 Then I saw a* ***new heaven and a new earth****, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*
* *2 And I saw the* ***holy city, new Jerusalem****, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*
* *3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the* ***dwelling place of God*** *is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*
* *4 He* ***will wipe away*** *every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*
* **5** *And he who was* ***seated on the throne*** *said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also, he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”*

Have you ever asked yourself what was Gods purpose in creating the Eternal State? The preceding verses basically tell us most of the reasons. It is my belief (by scripture), the purpose was to restore the earth to what God intended to be prior to the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden.

In **Romans 8:19-21**, the scripture tells us of the creation that will happen in the future.

* ***19*** *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.*
* ***20*** *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope*
* ***21*** *that the creation itself will be* ***set free from its bondage to corruption*** *and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

This change *“free from its bondage to corruption”* is best interpreted as “sin”. John the Baptist recognized Jesus as the one who could remove sin**.**

**John 1:29**

* *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the* ***sin****of the world!*

**Galatians 1:4**

* *who gave himself for our* ***sins*** *to deliver us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*

**Hebrews 1:3**

* *He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for* ***sins****, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,*

**II Corinthians 5:21**

* *For our sake, he made him to be* ***sin****who knew no* ***sin****, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Jesus by his blood, died on the cross paying the price for **sin** that would reconcile man to God to the Eternal state.

 Scripture tells us that the earth will go into a cleansing by fire. It will purge earth of all its contamination.

**II Peter 3:10-13**

* ***10*** *But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Peter+3&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30516b)*] will be* ***burned up*** *and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*
* ***11*** *Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness,*
* ***12*** *waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be* ***set on fire*** *and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!*
* ***13*** *But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

The Eternal State, that is “The New Heaven and The New Earth” is now ready for Our God to rule those whose names were written in the Book of Life.

**I Corinthians 15:22-23**

* **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall **all be made alive**.
* **23** But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming **those who** belong to Christ.

At this time, Jesus will give to His Father the kingdom thence God will rule forever more.

**I Corinthians 15:24-28**

* ***24*** *Then comes the end, when* ***he delivers the kingdom to God******the Father*** *after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*
* ***25*** *For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*
* ***26*** *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*
* ***27*** *For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.*
* ***28*** *When all things are subjected to him, then the* ***Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.***

God will be dwelling in the Holy City within the Eternal State

**Revelation 1:3**

***3*** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the* ***dwelling place of God*** *is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people and God himself will be with them as their God.*

**Revelation 21:2-3**

***2*** *And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.*

***3*** *And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the* ***dwelling place of God*** *is with man. He will****dwell*** *with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.*

What’s next? Well, the best is yet to come. For the first time ever, we will be able to see God, Our Father face-to-face. How great is that!

**Revelation 22:4**

* They will **see his face,** and his name will be on their foreheads.

**I John 3:2**

* Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because **we shall see him** as he is.

What else is instore for us? The word of God gives us a description for us what to look forward to. There will be nothing to cause any distress or grief.

**Revelation 21:4**

* will **wipe away** every tear from their eyes, and **death** shall be **no more**, neither shall there be **mourning**, nor **crying**, nor **pain** anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

**Isaiah 25:8**

* **He will swallow up death forever**; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

God will supply us our daily needs. No more thirst.

**Revelation 7:17**

* For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd and he will guide them to **springs of living water**, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Revelation 21:6**

* And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. **To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment**

No more hunger. Remember that “Tree of Life” back in Genesis that Adam and Eve ate from and brought sin into the world. Well, we will be able eat from it with no worries.

**Revelation 7 :16**

* **They shall hunger no more**, neither thirst anymore the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.

**Revelation 2 :7**

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

**Revelation 22 :2**

* through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, **the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.

In summary, the Millennial Kingdom is 1000 years. Prior to entering the Millennial Kingdom, there will be “Judgment of Nations” separating the Sheep and Goats. Two groups of people will enter the Millennial Kingdom. The Saints with glorified bodies and those without who came thru the Tribulation. Satan is bound for 1000 years then let loose to do battle with the Saints.

After the battle, Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire to join the beast and the false prophet. The final day of unbelieving mankind will be judge at the White Throne Judgment. Those names are not found in the Book of Life will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire. The New Heaven and New Earth comes down from heaven also known as Eternal State. Jesus will cleanse the earth making ready to give the Kingdom to God the Father to dwell in the Holy City with the Saints where we will be able to see God, Our Father face-to-face.

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,