

Preparing for the Millennium

1. WHAT IS THE MILLENNIUM?

A. IT IS WHEN CHRIST WILL RULE THE WORLD AS THE KING OF KINGS, Rev.19:11,15-16

- 1) Many Old Testament prophecies spoke about the Messiah ruling over the world, such as Dan.2:44, Zechariah 14:3,5,9,16; Dan.7:9-14; Mic.4:1-8, Psalm 2, Is.24:21-23, and Is.11:6-10.
- 2) The Apostles were waiting for Christ's kingdom reign on the earth: Mt.20:20-21, Lk.19:11, Acts 1:6.
- 3) Christ told stories and parables to help explain about His coming millennial reign, such as in Mat.25:31-46, Mat.25:14-30, Mat.13:36-43, and Lk.19:11-27.

B. IT WILL BEGIN AT THE 2ND COMING OF CHRIST

- 1) In Luke19:11-27 & Mat.19:28 Jesus taught that it would start at the 2nd Coming and the resurrection.
- 2) Revelation chapters 19-22 are clearly chronological in order. Chapter 19 tells about the 2nd Coming, chapter 20 about the Millennium, and afterward this, in chapter 21, will begin the New Heaven & Earth.
- 3) Old Testament prophecies (such as Zechariah 14) show that the reign of Christ over the earth begins at the 2nd Coming.

C. IT WILL BE 1000 YEARS LONG- The time length of Christ's kingdom on the earth is stated 6 times in Rev.20 verses 2,3,4,5,6 & 7 to very clearly state that it is not an indefinite or figurative length of time.

2. WE ARE CALLED TO BECOME KINGS AND PRIESTS, Revelation 1:6, 20:4-6, 3:21

A. THE COMING KINGDOM ORGANIZATION:

- 1) Christ will be the King of kings, Rev.19:16, Zech.14:3-4, 9, 16
- 2) David will be the king of Israel, Jer.30:9 (there will be kings)
- 3) The 12 Apostles will rule the 12 tribes (or provinces) of Israel, Mt.19:27-28 (there will be governors)
- 4) Many faithful saints will rule over cities, Lk.19:15-19 (there will be mayors)
- 5) How can we become prepared to rule and reign in Christ's coming kingdom?
 - a) God's foundational plan for man to rule over the earth ("and let them have dominion," Gen.1:26b) was based upon mankind first being conformed to the image and likeness of God, Gen.1:26a. Godly character prepares us for Godly authority!
 - b) We must learn to be faithful in little responsibilities before we will be given greater ones, Lk.16:10, I Tim.3:4-5, Mt.25:21, Lk.19:17.

3. MANY WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST, AND THE LAST FIRST, Matthew 19:30

A. ISRAEL HAD ALSO BEEN CALLED TO BE A KINGDOM OF PRIESTS, BUT MANY FELL SHORT

In Exodus 19:4-6 the Lord spoke to Israel & said "*you shall be a kingdom of priests, and a holy nation.*"

- 1) Only the tribe of Levi became chosen as priests, Ex.32:21-29, Deut.18:1-5, 33:8-10. The other tribes disqualified themselves, Mt.22:14.
- 2) The tribe of Judah was chosen for rulership (Gen.49:10) over disqualified Reuben (1 Chron.5:1-2).

B. CHRIST SAID THIS WARNING (IN MAT.19:30) WAS ABOUT HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

- 1) In the resurrection (and Millennium) there will be different levels of glory, 1 Cor.15:41-42.
- 2) Paul wanted to qualify for a place in the 1st Resurrection and the Millennium, Phil.3:10-11.
- 3) In Hebrews 11:35, some saints endured torture to obtain a better placement in the resurrection.
- 4) Christ gave us keys to have a better resurrection and Millennial placement:
 - a) If we will sacrifice (property, possessions, relationships) we will obtain a hundredfold, Mt.19:27-29
 - b) If we suffer with Christ we will reign with Him, Lk.22:28-30, 2 Tim.2:12.
 - c) If we are good servants now, we can become rulers then, Mt.20:21-27, Lk.19:11-26.
 - d) Teachers must teach *and* practice all of God's Word, Mat.5:19, Jam.3:1, Ezek.44:10-23.
 - e) If we help the poor we will be repaid at the resurrection, Lk.14:11-14
 - f) If we promote ourselves now, we will be demoted then, Lk.14:11, Mt.6:2, 6:5, 6:16, & 19:30

4. THERE WILL BE WORLDWIDE BLESSINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM:

- A. CHRIST AND THE SAINTS WILL RULE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, Rev.20:4-6
- B. SATAN WILL BE BOUND AND CANNOT DECEIVE THE NATIONS (until the end), Rev.20:1-3
- C. THERE WILL BE WORLDWIDE PEACE & PROSPERITY, Mic.4:1-4, Is.65:21-23
- D. THE ANIMALS WILL BE PEACEFUL, Is.11:6-9, Is.65:25
- E. THERE WILL BE LONG LIFE FOR THE NATURAL INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH, Is.65:20-22
- F. AFTERWARDS THERE WILL STILL BE MANY FUTURE AGES WITH NEW GRACE AND BLESSINGS, Eph.2:7, Is.9:7

CONCLUSION: The Church Age is drawing near to the end, when the Church will complete the Great Commission, Mt.24:14. We need to have a vision of what the Church must complete now, to prepare the way for Christ's return. However, we need to also keep the higher vision before our eyes, that we must prepare for our placement in the coming millennial reign of Christ! This vision should change our priorities, and motivate us towards preparing to become kings and priests for the coming 1000 years of Christ's reign over all the earth, Rev. 20:4-6.