



# **WATCH AND SEE**

**– BIBLE PROPHECY IN THE 21ST CENTURY –**

# Foundational Thoughts

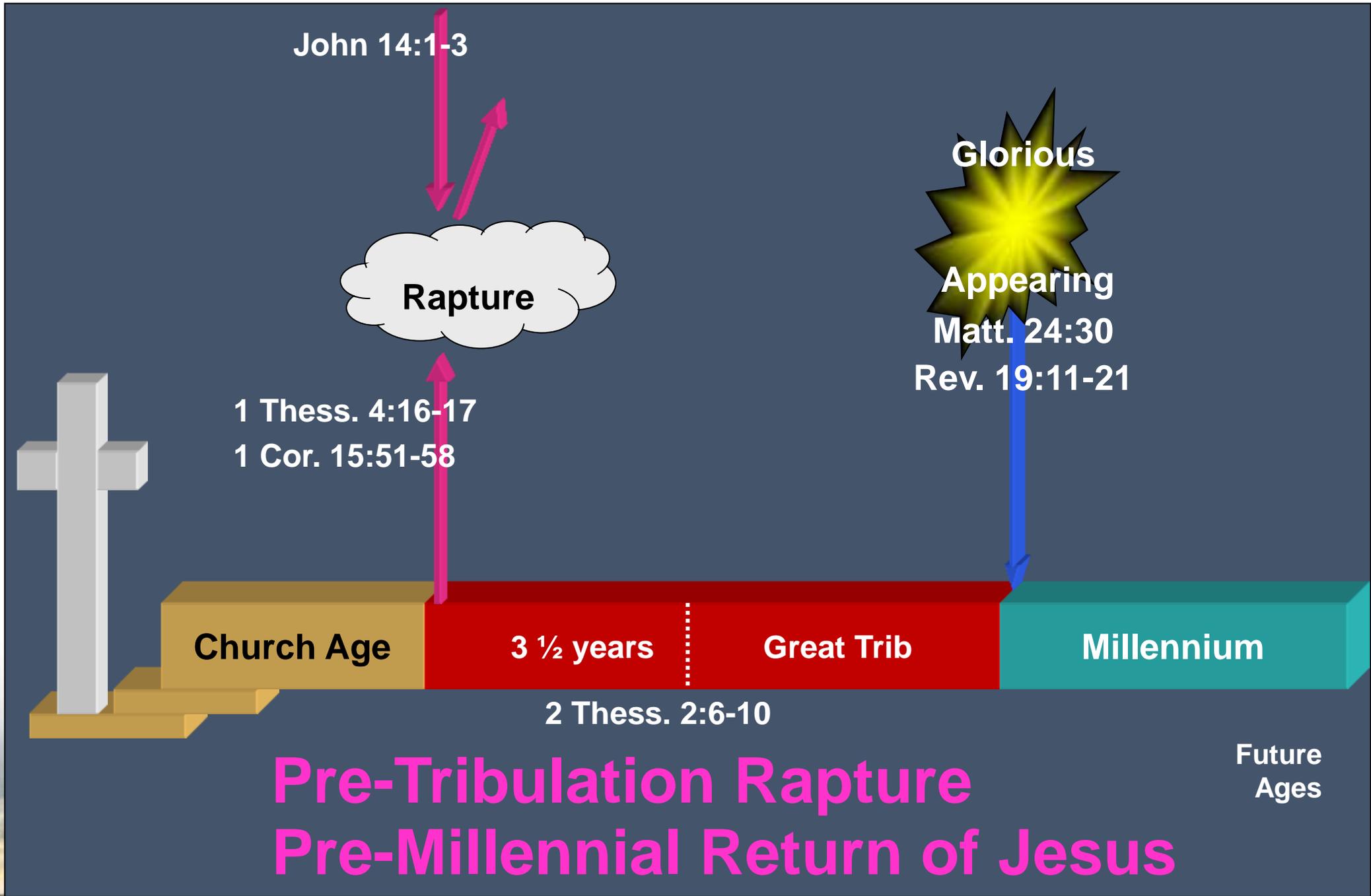
God's Word is true because **God is true.**

God's Word is true when we **can** understand it.

God's Word is true when we **can't** understand it.

Reading the Bible while **paying attention** to our modern world will help us understand **both** better.





# What is the Rapture?

- Latin term *rapio*, which means to “snatch away” or “carry off,” is the root of the English word Rapture
- Greek *harpadzo* ἄρπάζω
- Hebrew *lakakh* לקח
- English word “rapture” is not found in your Bible
- The rapture event is God’s taking the Church (followers of Jesus Christ) out of the world instantaneously.
- The main biblical passage for the rapture of the church is 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17. Other texts used to support the doctrine of the rapture are John 14:1–3 and 1 Corinthians 15:51–52.

Source: Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary

Paul the Apostle, a trained rabbi, writes... “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. **Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up (ἄρπάζω) together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18



“Then after the sixty-two weeks (*sevens*) the Messiah will be cut off (*executed*) and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come (*Antichrist*) will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined. And he (*Antichrist*) will make a firm covenant with the many (Israel) for **one week (7 year Tribulation)**, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.” Daniel 9:26-27

# Why is it called “Tribulation”?

Jesus said, “For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will.”

Matthew 24:21

**θλίψις** [*thlipsis*] Greek noun; translated as “tribulation” 21 times, “affliction” 17 times, “trouble” three times

# Other terms for “Tribulation”

- Mentioned over 50 times in the Old Testament
  - “the day of calamity” (Ezekiel 35:5)
  - “day of wrath” (Zephaniah 1:15)
  - “the day of the Lord’s wrath” (Zephaniah 1:18)
  - “the day of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:7)
  - “the day of vengeance of our God” (Isaiah 61:2)
  - “the day of the Lord” (Joel 1:15)
  - “time of distress (trouble)” (Daniel 12:1)
- Mentioned over 12 times in the New Testament
  - “great Tribulation” (Matthew 24:21)
  - “the hour of testing” (Revelation 3:10)



# The Second Coming of Jesus

## The Glorious Appearing

Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” Matthew 24:36



# 14 Signs of the Second Coming of Jesus

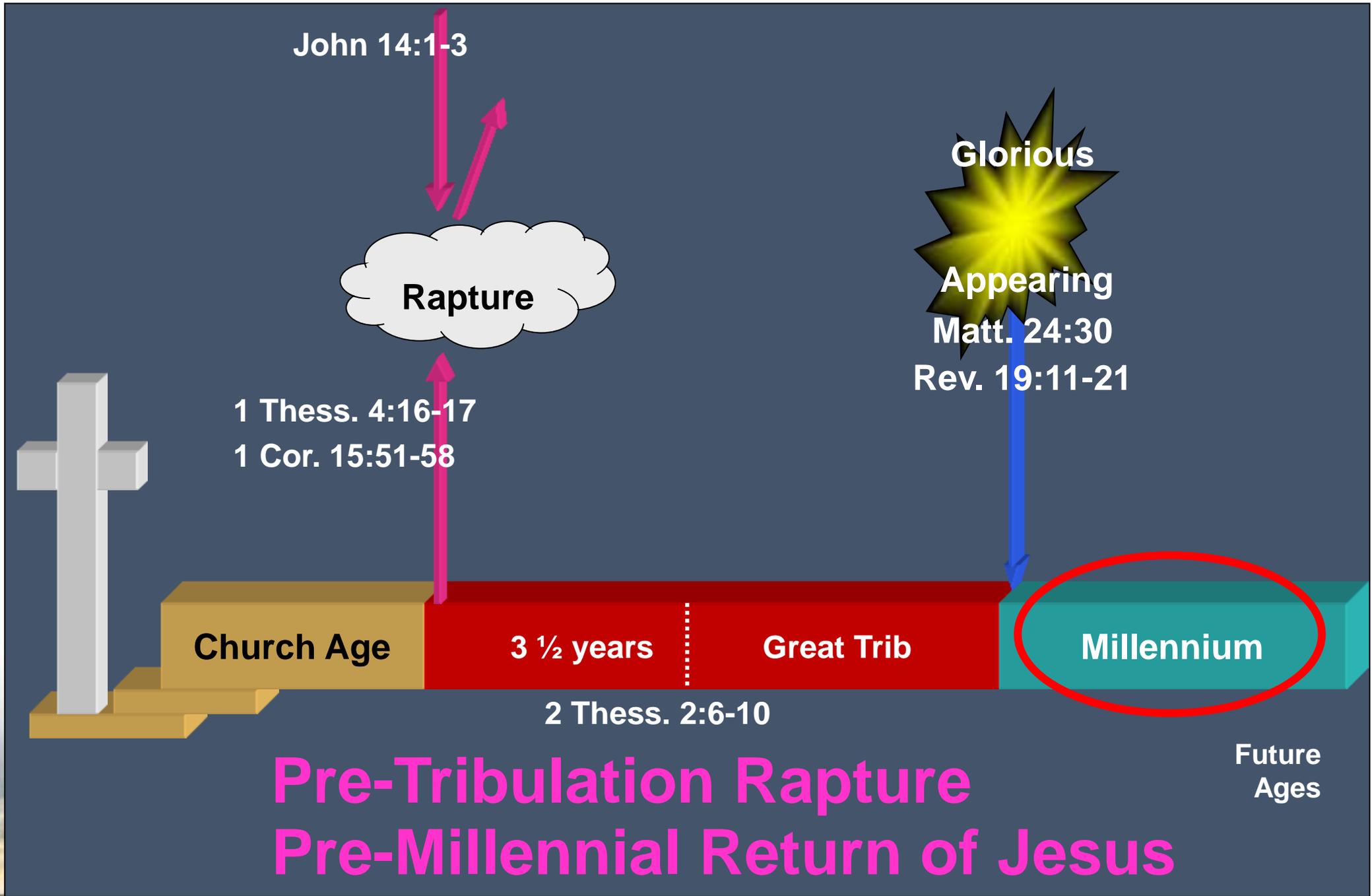
1. Rebirth of the nation of Israel
2. Re-unification of Europe
3. Rise of radical Islam
4. Revealing of the antichrist
5. One-world government and religion
6. Rebuilding of the Jewish Temple
7. Gospel will be preached in the whole world
8. Ease of worldwide travel, technological advances
9. Increase in deadly diseases
10. Worldwide earthquakes
11. Possession of Jerusalem disputed
12. Return of Jews to their homeland
13. Worldwide Famines
14. All of the signs coming together



# Second Coming of Jesus

Apostle John writes, “And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called **Faithful and True**, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God.**” Revelation 19:11-13





# Millennial (1,000 year) Reign of Jesus

Revelation 20:1-10



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# Millennial Reign of Jesus

- There are at least 1,845 references in the Old Testament and 17 books give prominence to the reign of Jesus on earth during the Millennial Kingdom.
- There are at least 318 references in 216 chapters of the New Testament and 23 of its 27 books give prominence to the event.

Source: Dr. Chuck Missler

John the Apostle writes... “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 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.” Revelation 20:1-3



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. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 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. Revelation 20:4-6

# Is it really 1,000 years?

- The Millennial Kingdom is the title given to the 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.
- Some seek to interpret the 1,000 years in an allegorical manner. They understand the 1,000 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, the Millennial Kingdom is specifically said to be 1,000 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.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/millennium.html>

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# A promise kept to Mary – A prophecy fulfilled

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 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; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.” Luke 1:30-33



# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

- 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; Isaiah 32:17–18), **joy** (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and **comfort** (Isaiah 40:1–2).
- It will be a time of **obedience** (Jeremiah 31:33), **holiness** (Isaiah 35:8), **truth** (Isaiah 65:16), and the **knowledge of God** (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14).
- Jesus Christ will rule as King (Isaiah 9:3–7; 11:1–10).
- Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28).
- Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3).

# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

- The Temple of the Millennial Kingdom is described in Ezekiel 40-44.
- The glory (כְּבוֹד *kabod*) of the Lord will fill the Temple (Ezekiel 43:5).
- The law given by God through Moses will still be kept, including the sacrifices (Ezekiel 43:19-27).
- The Levites will still minister in the Temple (Ezekiel 44:9-11).
- The laws and statutes delivered by Moses will be obeyed (Ezekiel 44:24).
- The sabbaths and feasts of Israel will still be kept, including the Passover, the feast of Unleavened Bread (Ezekiel 45:21), and the Feast of Tabernacles (Ezekiel 45:25).
- All will know that Jesus gave His life as the perfect sacrifice for all mankind.

<http://www.matthewmcgee.org/millen.html>

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# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. 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.**”

Isaiah 11:6-9



# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

“No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; they will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, they will not plant and another eat; for as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, and My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, and their descendants with them. **It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.** The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD. Isaiah 65:20-25

# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. 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. 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. Micah 4:1-3



# What happens during the Tribulation?

Jesus said, “You will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not frightened, for those things must take place, but that is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes.”

Matthew 24:6-7



# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;  
and He will reign as king and act wisely and do  
justice and righteousness in the land. In His days  
Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely;  
and this is His name by which He will be called,  
**‘The LORD our righteousness.’**” Jeremiah 23:5-6

Yahweh Tsidkenu    יְהוָה צְדִיקֵנוּ

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# What happens during the Millennial Kingdom?

Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem **will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths** (Tabernacles - Sukkot). And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths. Zechariah 14:16-19

# Will there be animal sacrifices during the Millennial Kingdom?

- The Old Testament indicates animal sacrifice will be re-instituted during the Millennial Kingdom. See Isaiah 56:6-8; Zechariah 14:16; and Jeremiah 33:15-18.
- The most extensive passage is Ezekiel 43:18-46:24. This is part of a greater passage dealing with the millennial kingdom, beginning in Ezekiel 40. In Ezekiel 40, the Lord begins to give details of the Temple that will exist during the Millennial Kingdom, a Temple that dwarfs all other temples previously built, even Herod's large Temple that existed during the earthly ministry of Christ.
- After giving details concerning the size and appearance of the temple and the altar, the Lord gives detailed instruction as to the animal sacrifices that will be offered (Ezekiel 43:18-27). In Ezekiel 44, the Lord gives instructions as to who will be offering sacrifices to the Lord. The Lord states that all of the Levites will not be offering blood and fat to the Lord due to previous sin; it will be those from the lineage of Zadok (verse 15). Chapters 45 and 46 continue to mention that animal sacrifices will be made.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/millennial-sacrifices.html>

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# Will there be animal sacrifices during the Millennial Kingdom?

- Animal sacrifices served as object lessons for the sinner, that sin was and is a horrible offense against God, and that the result of sin is death. Romans 3:20 says, “Because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.”
- The purpose of animal sacrifice during the Millennial Kingdom is memorial in nature. As the Lord’s Supper is a reminder of the death of Christ to the Church today, animal sacrifices will be a reminder during the Millennial Kingdom. To those born during the Millennial Kingdom, animal sacrifices will again be an object lesson. During that future time, righteousness and holiness will prevail, but those with earthly bodies will still have a sin nature, and there will be a need to teach about how offensive sin is to a holy and righteous God. Animal sacrifices will serve that purpose, “but in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year” (Hebrews 10:3).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/millennial-sacrifices.html>

# Who will populate the earth during the Millennium?

- Those who live to the end of the Tribulation and have accepted Jesus as Savior will be allowed to enter the Millennium in the flesh (Matthew 25:3-46).
- Most of those who place their faith in Jesus during the Tribulation will be martyred for their faith (Revelation 7:9-14).
- The believers who go into the Millennium **in the flesh** will begin to propagate, and the population of the world will grow exponentially. The reason the growth will be so rapid is because life spans will be expanded and death will be curtailed.
- Isaiah says that people will live as long as a tree (Isaiah 65:22) and there will no longer be infants who live only a few days (Isaiah 65:20). Those who die at 100 years of age will be considered young, and only those who refuse to accept the Lord will die at that age (Isaiah 65:20). The implication of Isaiah's prophecy is that during the Millennium the life span of those in the flesh will be returned to what it was before the Noahic flood, when people lived 800 to 1,000 years. If so, then by the end of the Millennium, the population of the earth could easily exceed the current seven billion.

# Will the Millennium take place on this earth or on a new one?

- The millennial reign of Jesus will take place on this earth, but the earth will be greatly changed in nature.
- The **first earth**, the earth of Adam and Eve, was perfect. There were no poisonous animals or plants. There were no meat-eating animals. There were no natural cataclysms like earthquakes, tsunamis, or hurricanes. Man and nature lived together in perfect harmony.
- But when Man sinned, God placed a curse on the earth, and the nature of the earth was radically changed. Death entered the world. Nature turned against Mankind. This new earth, **earth number two**, existed until the time of Noah.
- When the worldwide flood occurred, this second earth was “destroyed” (2 Peter 3:6) in the sense that it was radically changed again. The earth’s vapor canopy collapsed, its land mass separated into continents, the earth tilted on its axis, and the pressure of the water forced the formation of new mountain ranges. We have been living on **earth number three** ever since.
- When Jesus returns to reign, the earth will be radically changed once more. The change agents will be earthquakes and supernatural phenomena in the skies (Revelation 6:12-14). Every island will be moved (Revelation 16:18-20). Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain lowered (Isaiah 40:4).
- The topography of Israel will be radically changed, with Jerusalem becoming the highest place on earth (Isaiah 2:2).



# What happens after the Millennial Kingdom?

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7-10



# Why is Satan released after the 1,000 reign?

At the end of the Millennial Reign, Satan is loosed and is able to deceive a vast multitude to follow him in one final rebellion against the Lord of glory and His saints! It seems that the further humanity gets from the end of the Tribulation and the start of the Millennium, the more they will "take for granted" how good they have it, and some may even harbor doubts about the goodness of God. Even though the number who rebel with Satan are said to be "as the sand of the sea" (Revelation 20:7-8), they may still be a minority compared to the number who do not rebel. It will still be a large number of souls who join Satan. One of the reasons God gives us this picture of what will happen in time is to demonstrate the deep-seated sin nature inherent in all of humanity (Jeremiah 17:9).

<https://www.gotquestions.org/release-Satan.html>

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# Why is Satan released after the 1,000 reign?

- God is trying to reinforce some very important lessons concerning Satan himself, especially for believers.
- Satan has been and always will be the enemy of humanity. As God has fixed His love on us, Satan has for us a special hatred. Ever since Satan's fall (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28), he has been the adversary of believers, and he is the ultimate deceiver of mankind (John 8:44; 1 John 2:22). All he can give or promise man is death and destruction (John 10:10a).
- Satan is also shown here to be a truly defeated foe, and his ultimate doom is certain, along with the doom of all who follow him. God is trying to remind us that Satan is a created being who is powerless before Him (2 Corinthians 12:7).
- All this should encourage believers today to take God at His Word concerning our position in Christ with respect to the devil (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 4:1-7; James 4:6-8; 1 John 2:15-29; 1 John 4:1-3), especially as we remember this grand truth: "...greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

**Next Sunday**

**What will life in heaven be like?**

**What does heaven look like?**



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# Now What?

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.” John 14:6

Are you ready for His Return?