



LESSON 34

Foundations Curriculum

Revelation, Part 4: The Millennium

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Introduction

Revelation, Part 4: The Millennium

In this thirty-fourth lesson, we will study a subject that is not addressed with much clarity in Jesus' discourse on the last times in Matthew 24, yet it is important to understand well. What is the Millennium? What will it be like? What will happen during that period? Can we say that it is a subject that does not concern us? Not at all! Precisely for this reason we need to study and understand what is recorded in the Bible about it, its meaning, and its practical implications.

1) What the Millennium Is and Why We Should Study It

The subject of the “Millennium” also brings controversy, even though it is a subject that stirs great passion. It is important to study it because of the sheer number of details that appear about it in the Bible — because it matters to God, and it cannot fail to matter to us. There are also practical implications.

Millennium means a thousand years.

It appears in Revelation 20. Beyond that, there are numerous texts that speak on this subject, both in the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

First important observation: those who do not believe in the Millennium, who think that the Bible speaks of it only in Revelation 20, are mistaken. That is not true.

There are promises made to Israel as an earthly nation, involving the land that God gave to the descendants of Abraham.

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)

for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'

Matthew 23:39 (NKJV)

There is an important point to clarify:

There is a reference to a specific moment in the future concerning a mass conversion in the nation of Israel. It does not say that all will be converted, but that there will be a great number.

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Zechariah 12:10 (NKJV)

It is recommended that you read the whole chapter, because in the following text the story is told tribe by tribe.

As can also be confirmed in the text of Romans 11:25–27, there is likewise an indication of this.

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

Romans 11:25–27 (NKJV)

Notice the expression "all Israel will be saved" — it confirms Jesus' words in Matthew 23:39, spoken just before He entered into the Olivet Discourse. Jesus is speaking to Jerusalem.

There is another text that confirms this:

Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)

It should be noted that when this passage speaks of "tribes," it uses a Greek word that refers only to the people of Israel. Whenever it appears in the New Testament, it refers to the people who are physical descendants of Abraham.

These texts show that there will be a mass conversion when Jesus appears in the sky. It does not say whether this happens immediately when Jesus appears in the sky, but it gives us to understand that it is connected with His appearing on the clouds.

Before the beginning of the Millennium, when the last week comes to an end, at some point there is a conversion, and by the time the Millennium begins, it has already taken place.

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isaiah 2:1–5 (NKJV)

The text uses the words Judah, Jerusalem, and Jacob so that no one would think this is some figurative reference to the church.

We see that there will be a complete disarmament of the earth. And all the effort that today is spent on the military will be channeled into agriculture. The armed forces will be done away with. There will be no army. Through Jesus, there will be peace and investment in agriculture.

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Isaiah 11:1–5 (NKJV)

In this text there are some elements that do not appear in the previous texts.

When we come to verses 4 and 5, we see the “mountain effect” — something that will happen only at the second coming of Jesus.

When the text says “he shall strike the earth,” it is certainly referring to the bowls of wrath already studied previously.

There is a redemption of nature. We can see that something more happens to the earth than we might expect.

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves

groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:19–23 (NKJV)

Creation itself will be redeemed from the bondage of corruption;

The curse will be removed from the earth;

The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, which is Israel;

How does Jesus confirm the restoration of the nation of Israel? He leaves it implicit.

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

Acts 1:6 (NKJV)

Jesus answers by saying that it is not for them to know the times or seasons that God has reserved for Himself.

Other reference texts for reading and meditation:

And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be — “The LORD is one,” and His name one. All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's vinepresses. The people shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited.

Zechariah 14:8–11 (NKJV)

Micah 4:1–5 (prophecies of the glorious future of Zion and of a mass turning of people who will hasten there to seek the Lord);

Zechariah 14:16–17 (speaks of the nations that will go up to Jerusalem year by year; should any year fail to go, that nation will be without rain);

Isaiah 65:20 (speaks of longevity);

Isaiah 4:2–5 (speaks of the return of a phenomenon Israel had in the past, a cloud of the shining of fire by night).

2) 12 Indisputable Realities About the Millennium:

01 Israel will be head of the nations (Isaiah 2:1–5; Micah 4:1–5);

02 Jesus reigns over the earth from Jerusalem (Isaiah 65:18–19);

03 The 12 apostles judge over the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28); this possibly happens at the beginning of the reign;

04 The government will be with a rod of iron. This does not mean destruction, but obligation (Psalm 2:1–12; Psalm 2:8–9).

Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.

Psalm 2:8–9 (NKJV)

The gospel calls those who want to follow Jesus to do so voluntarily and to submit themselves. In the Millennium, the government will be with a rod of iron.

05 The curse will be removed from the earth (Romans 8:19–23);

06 There will be worldwide disarmament (Isaiah 2:1–5; Micah 4:1–5);

07 There will be abundant food (Joel 2:26);

08 The animal kingdom will be affected (Isaiah 11:1–10) — lion and lamb grazing together;

09 There will be longevity (Isaiah 65:20) — remember that we will be resurrected;

10 Satan will be literally bound (Revelation 20:2–3). Sin will still be present (in those who are not part of the church), but there will be no activity of principalities and powers;

11 The subjects of the kingdom (an obvious deduction) will be the nations that remain after Armageddon;

12 And what about us? We will have glorified bodies (Revelation 2:11); we will take part in the administration of the kingdom (Revelation 2:26; Luke 19:17–19); we will help to enforce the just laws established by Christ (Revelation 2:27). We too will reign with Him.

There is a reference to the reign of Jesus on the earth from Jerusalem, and it is found throughout the Old and New Testaments.

In Revelation 20 there are three things that are new; everything else has already been explained in the texts cited above.

Satan will be bound;

The length of this reign is defined (a thousand years);

The first resurrection comes before the millennium, and the second comes after the millennium.

These are simple and clear texts, so far.

3) The Importance of This Conviction for Today

We must flee from dangerous doctrines that have crept into the church over the centuries and that do damage to our understanding and our faith. They began around the year 400 with Augustine, who planted these ideas, turning everything in Revelation into allegory.

Some say that the Millennium is already being fulfilled, and being fulfilled through the church, but the Word makes clear that this is not so.

The text of Revelation 20 is not the basis for believing in the Millennium; rather, it is a complement to the many prophecies that appear throughout the Old and New Testaments.

4) What Should Be Done About These Theologies Concerning Israel?

Called replacement theology, it holds that God grew weary of Israel and that His only interest now is the church — that all the prophecies and promises are for the church, that everything is applied to the church.

Judah, Jacob, and Jerusalem are very specific words that have no way of referring to the church.

These doctrines appear only from the year 400 onward. There is not a single document written between the first and fourth centuries that supports them. The Reformers, to whom we owe a great deal, came out of Catholicism and changed many things, but not everything. The Reformers, for example, did not change the fact that the church was a state church.

For this reason, these doctrines must be opposed.

5) What Would Be the Negative Results of These Theories and Theologies?

First:

They portray a God who does not fulfill His prophecies for Israel.

We know that our God is a God of promises, and that everything He has spoken He has fulfilled or will fulfill.

Second:

The church has come to an end. Because of these theories, the church has become confused with the State.

Third:

People lose interest in the subject of the end times. If these are just allegories, there is no reason to pay attention to them. There are brothers and sisters who seek the Lord yet completely ignore the prophecies about the end of the age.

These theories and theologies offer hopes that are never fulfilled and end up bringing discouragement to the faithful.

We must be free from them. We choose to value everything that is in the mind of God concerning Israel.

To close:

Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I

will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1–3 (NKJV)

We must pray for Israel, for kings and authorities, so that our leaders do not fall into the folly of turning against Israel. If that happens, according to this prophecy, we will be cursed. Our nation would be cursed.

Jesus will reign on the earth, and men will see Him seated on the throne, governing for a thousand years. And we will be co-participants in that kingdom. It will be the only just government in all of human history.

CONCLUSION

In this thirty-fourth lesson of the Foundations Curriculum, we studied the Millennium and the signs, facts, and characteristics that accompany it. We also cleared up some confusion that has arisen about the church in relation to the Millennium. We spoke of 12 indisputable realities concerning the Millennium and dispelled the mistaken idea, spread today — even within the church — that God has given up on fulfilling His promises to Israel or to the church. Finally, we called attention to the lack of interest many people have in the subject of the end times, and to how important it is for the church to have understanding and to seek to grasp these truths, so that it may live and reach other lives for God.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 Did you grasp the full importance of the subject of the Millennium?
- 02 Are the events of the Millennium addressed only in Revelation 20?
- 03 What are the practical problems that come from denying the reality of the Millennium?
- 04 Of the 12 aspects covered about what the Millennium will be like, name the three that seem most important to you.

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

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