

11041-A May 15, 2011
Christ's Kingdom on Earth
Revelation Chapter 20:1-10
#35

I. Jesus told us to pray for a future reality: God's kingdom. Mtt.6:9-10.

- A. His gospel is the gospel of the kingdom, the good news about a real kingdom.
 - 1. Where God's name (identity and authority) is known as ultimate reality.
 - 2. Where God's Son, Jesus the Christ, is known to be the real king.
 - 3. Where God's Spirit regenerates (see John 3:1-16), Titus 3:3-7).

II. Jesus focused on a future reality: God's kingdom. Matt. 19:28

- A. In the Regeneration; (ESV: new world) (Greek: palingenesia)
- B. A world reborn under Christ's personal leadership.
 - 1. Governed by people reborn under Christ's personal leadership who learned how to trust Christ in this present dark age.

III. Revelation is the account of how God takes back his world and establishes his kingdom.

- A. Chapters 6-18 are about the increased pressure as the Lord unleashes increasing judgment against human idolatry and evil.
 - 1. He pushes hard and exposes the violent opposition that humanity has to him.
- B. Chapter 19. The King returns physically and defeats his enemies.
 - 1. The end of idolatry as we know it.
 - a) Idolatry is the prioritizing of any form of the creation over God, a violation of the 1st commandment. Self, World, Success, Money, Romance—anything at all that becomes more important than God Himself.
 - 2. The armies of Antichrist have been destroyed by Christ's word.
 - a) Not every living person on earth, but only those in the army of Antichrist and who took the mark.
 - 3. The Beast and the false prophet thrown alive into the lake of fire
- C. Chapter 20. The King begins an eternal government (Isa.9:6-7).
 - 1. The Lord himself fills the void.

Rev. 20:1-10. The Kingdom comes and God's will is done on earth. (Read all)

IV. Five Things about the Millennial Kingdom:

- A. The tangible nature of it: A continuation of the best of material life.
 - 1. This is not a non-material, platonic "hope" but a very tangible and recognizable promise for real material life.
 - a) Many promises from the OT come to pass.
 - b) The "lion and the lamb" promises Isa 65:17-25.
 - 2. This is not symbolic of the present age (Amillennialism)
 - a) The chronology between chapters 19 and 20 seems clear. This millennium is after the 2nd coming, not before it.
 - b) There is a resurrection at the beginning and end of this millennium: This can only be at the end of the age.
 - c) Satan does not seem to be bound today in the way John describes in verses 1-3(next point)

B. The intellectual atmosphere of it: Free of deception. 1-3 (Rev. 19)

1. Satan is bound and removed entirely.
 - a) *Note that Satan's power is the power of deception, enslaving the mind and thus the will. 2 Cor.4:4*
2. Note that this is a complete inversion of the way things are now.
 - a) This age is dominated by deception about spirit reality.
 - b) **Luke 22:31-34.** Satan seeks to sift the faith out of us, but the Lord prays intercedes for us (Rom.8:26)
 - c) **Gal. 1:4,** this present evil age.
 - d) **2 Cor. 4:4.** The "god of this age" blinds the minds of the unbelieving that they might not see Christ.
 - e) **Eph. 2:1-3.** The prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience, where we all were before the Lord rescued us.
 - f) **Eph. 6:12.** Cosmic powers of present darkness (ESV)
 - g) **1 Peter 5:8.** Satan a roaring lion looking for somebody to eat.
3. That age will be dominated by perfect truth, unstoppable justice, irresistible goodness in government, society, culture.
 - a) *What a shock that would be to our culture, and us.*

C. The material governance of it: Christ and his resurrected people. 4-6

1. Ultimate reign by Messiah/ Christ. 4
 - a) He reigns literally and physically.
2. Supportive administration by Messiah's people. 4-5
 - a) Christ's people involved in governing the world (judging, reigning)
 - b) All the saints, including especially the martyrs.
 - (1) **Matt. 19:28.** Jesus promised the disciples they would sit on thrones judging the tribes of Israel.
 - (2) **1 Cor. 6:2.** Paul says that saints will judge the world.
 - (3) **Rev 2:26** John says saints will have authority over the nations.
3. Complete vindication of those who have trusted Christ all along. 6
 - a) Blessed and holy is every person who shares in this.
 - b) The second death has no power over them.
 - c) They will serve as Christ's representatives through this period.

D. The metaphysical openness of it: no barrier between spirit and matter. 6

1. God in human form is ruling on earth and everybody knows it.
 - a) No apologetics courses? No “explanation” of the gospel.
 - b) Everybody will know that the risen Christ is ruling.
2. Resurrected people with non-resurrected people.
 - a) Many millions will enter this time in old-model bodies
3. The “supernatural” will be completely natural at that time.
 - a) This sounds odd to us, but is it odder than people traveling 500 MPH at 30,000 feet sipping Starbucks and watching movies?
 - b) The future has always held things that seemed preposterous to the present mind.

E. The rebellion at the end of it: proof that unredeemed humanity is evil. 7-10

1. A final temptation and rebellion.
 - a) They choose deception, which means that it is culpable.
2. A final sweeping away of all evil and those who choose it.
 - a) The last struggle isn’t even a struggle.
 - b) God simply consumes them.
3. A final judgment of Satan and those who belong to him.
 - a) Gehenna, lake of fire, where the leadership of earth’s last evil rulers already resides.
4. *Even with no external deception, un-regenerate humanity rebels against the Lord.*
 - a) We are not innocent victims of deception. We are willing accomplices of rebellion.
 - b) Culpable ignorance; purposeful suppression of the truth. Rom. 1:18 ff.

V. **How does all this affect us?**

A. It makes us realize we need a king more than we thought.

1. We were created to serve a person and a purpose greater than ourselves.
 - a) Ever wonder why you feel insecure until somebody more important than you (in your mind) tells you that you’re worthy?
2. We Christians enter this sort of life now by faith, without seeing it. 1 Pet.1:
 - a) Matt.11:28-30. Learn (Greek: mathetes, disciple, apprentice) from me because you will find rest for your souls.
 - b) Matt.28:18-20. Make apprentices to me, teach them all I say.

B. Which makes us realize we need a savior more than we thought.

1. How helplessly evil must the human condition be that *without temptation from the culture, without external deception*, we still choose self over God, Satan over Christ.
2. If all we have is a king who tells us to obey, and we are unable to obey perfectly, what a hopeless situation that would be—and that is precisely how many people live, hopeless. But the news is much better than that.

C. Which drives us to the Grace of the *King who is the Savior*.

1. This King already lived the life we should be living and died the death we deserve, giving us a completely righteous and legally binding relationship with him and a right to enter his kingdom.

2. *The Lord alone changes a person's heart by first changing their actual status with God, forgiving and cleansing them totally...*

VI. *The Gospel is that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Lord who died to save you and restore your fortunes by sheer grace at his own cost. The Cross proves his love, the resurrection proves his victory, the Spirit calls you today. Come ...*