

THE NATURE OF THE MILLENNIUM

INTRODUCTION

- The kingdom of God should not just be a theological concept we study; rather it is an intensely practical issue that we as believers must understand
- We ought to love life because there is much to love about being alive in God's creation
- Yet, as believers, we should be conflicted because the life we live is not the life God intended us to live
- The broken world we live in brings us grief and frustration and should make us long for the coming earthly kingdom of Christ
- This is why we as believers need to understand God's kingdom plans
- Unfortunately, many believers today have no clear concept of the kingdom
- They have only a foggy idea of what awaits us in the kingdom, often simply thinking of it only as a "better place" or floating on clouds playing harps
- Furthermore, most believers today don't think enough or talk enough about the kingdom...and such a spirit of apathy surrounding this subject detracts from our spiritual health and sanctification
- So we need a proper understanding of the kingdom

From Genesis through Revelation the kingdom involves a beautiful and fantastic restoration of all things. It involves God's reign over every aspect of creation. It includes people, animals, and all creatures in the universe. It involves food, music, celebration, laughing and rejoicing. Most importantly, the kingdom brings a thriving relationship with God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, who is at the center of God's kingdom program. It also involves real interactions and activity with other people who know God. The kingdom also includes nations doing real cultural activities (Rev 21:24, 26). In other words, the kingdom is life and life abundantly (John 10:10).

Michael Vlach, *He Will Reign Forever*, 8-9

- The kingdom of God is something we should pray for and long for
Matthew 6:9-10 ~ Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.'
- The kingdom of God is what we are commanded to seek first...we ought to be thinking about and longing for the kingdom of God daily
Matthew 6:33 ~ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you
- The kingdom of God makes everything we do and every trial we face worth it
Acts 14:22 ~ Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

It's Elements

- The kingdom of God is one of the primary themes in Scripture...the term is used over 200 times in the Bible
- The kingdom of God refers to the rule of the sovereign God over His creation, both now and in the future
- Benware notes 3 essential elements in the biblical idea of the kingdom of God:

1. There must be a ruler who has authority to rule

- God has sovereign authority to rule over the entire universe

Revelation 5:13 ~ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

2. There must be a realm of rule

- This refers to the subjects in the kingdom who are under the reign of their ruler
- In order for a kingdom to exist, it requires subjects

3. There must be the actual exercising of authority

Isaiah 9:6-7 ~ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this

- All three of these elements are seen in 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 ~ Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all. Both riches and honor *come* from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.

It's Description

- Daniel prophesied that this kingdom would come:

Daniel 2:31-45

Babylon = gold head

Medo-Persia = silver torso

Greece = abdomen and thighs of bronze

Rome = legs of iron

Revived Roman Empire (future) = feet of iron and clay

*This kingdom will be destroyed by the stone "cut out without hands" (vs. 34), the future earthly kingdom of God which conquers all other kingdoms

Daniel 2:44 ~ In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

- Jesus came offering this kingdom in his first Coming

Matthew 3:2 ~ Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand

Matthew 4:17 ~ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

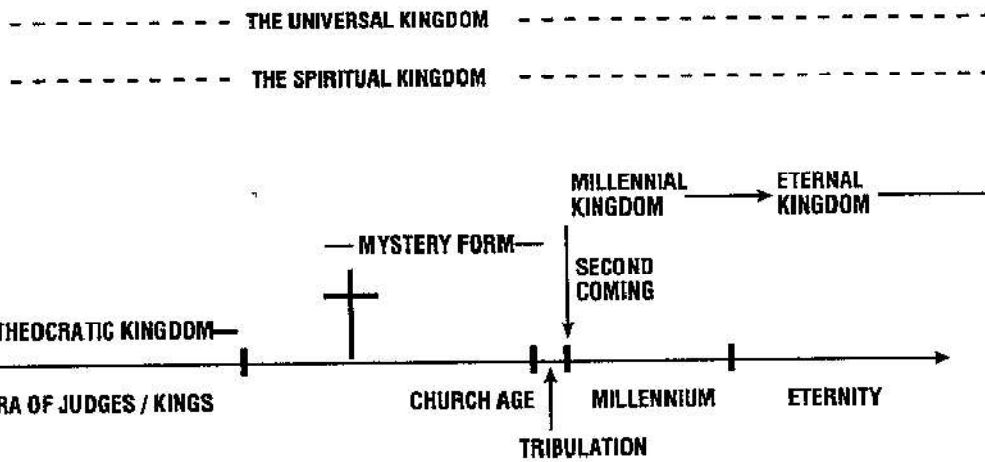
Matthew 10:7 ~ And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

- Paul preached about kingdom

Acts 19:8~ And he entered the synagogue and continued speaking out boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading *them* about the kingdom of God.

It's Aspects

VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD



* From Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy*

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIUM

Satan is Bound

Revelation 20:2-3~And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years...so that he would not deceive the nations any longer

- Satan is bound so he can no longer deceive the nations, imprisoned in chains

A Literal 1,000 Years

Revelation 20:1-7~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. 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**. When the **thousand years** are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

- “Millennium” = χίλια (*chilia*) = thousand
- *Chiliasm* = The doctrine stating that Jesus will reign on earth for 1,000 years
- This word is used 6 times in these 7 verses and should be taken literally
- This is not just a general reference to a long period of time; rather it is a specific 1,000 period
- If other portions of this text (binding of Satan, the resurrections, etc.) are to be taken literally, so also must the 1,000 years
- There was another word available if John wanted to refer to long time = μυριάδες (*myriades*)
- This term, used in Rev 5:11, expresses an amount beyond calculation; innumerable

Revelation 5:11 ~ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,

- In a sense, Christ’s kingdom will actually last for all eternity
- The earthly aspect of the kingdom, with Christ ruling out of Jerusalem, will last only for 1,000 years
- But there will be a continuation of the kingdom which will have no end – this will occur when the earthly form of the kingdom merges into God’s eternal rule in the new heavens and earth

Israel will be the Focus

- The purpose of the millennial kingdom is to fulfill the covenant promises made to Abraham and his descendants

Jeremiah 31:31 ~ Behold, days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

Jeremiah 33:15 ~ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth.

Ezekiel 36:24-28 ~ For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.

- Also, Jerusalem will be the world center for worship

Isaiah 2:3 ~ And many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 60:2-3 ~ For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the Lord will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.

Micah 4:1-2 ~ 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.

Christ will Rule and Reign on Earth

- Christ will serve as the supreme, absolute ruler on earth

Psalms 2:6 ~ But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.

Luke 1:32-33 ~ 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.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 ~ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

Revelation 19:16 ~ And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”

- Thus, the form of government during the millennium will be an autocracy as opposed to a democracy
- Christ will be the autocratic ruler of earth – as the perfect man, without sin, Christ will be the supreme ruler
- Christ will be king over Israel in fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant (2 Samuel 7)

Isaiah 24:23 ~ Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed, For the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, And His glory will be before His elders.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 ~ “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.’”

Micah 4:7 ~ I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the Lord will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.

- Israel and Judah will be united under the kingship of Christ

Ezekiel 37:16-17, 22 ~ And you, son of man, take for yourself one stick and write on it, ‘For Judah and for the sons of Israel, his companions’; then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and all the house of Israel, his companions.’ Then join them for yourself one to another into one stick, that they may become one in your hand...and I will make

them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations and no longer be divided into two kingdoms.

- Christ will be king over the Gentiles

Psalm 2:8 ~ Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.

Daniel 2:35 ~ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

- Thus, Christ's reign will be a universal one

Daniel 7:14~ And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him.

Zechariah 14:9~ And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.

Glorified Saints Will Rule with Christ

- Resurrected saints (both church and Tribulation saints) will be those who are ruling and reigning with Christ during the Millennium
- Most probably, those whom Christ appoints to office will be glorified saints

1 Corinthians 6:2 ~ Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?

2 Timothy 2:12 ~ If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

Revelation 5:10 ~ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth

Revelation 20:4 ~ 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.

A Time of Great Blessing Because Earth Will be Supernaturally Renewed

1. No more war

Isaiah 2:4 ~ And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And 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 learn war.

Micah 4:3 ~ 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.

2. The curse on the ground will be removed; the land of Palestine will be fertile and productive

Isaiah 30:23-25 ~ Then He will give *you* rain for the seed which you will sow in the ground, and bread *from* the yield of the ground, and it will be rich and plenteous; on that day your livestock will graze in a roomy pasture. 24 Also the oxen and the donkeys which work the ground will eat salted fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. 25 On every lofty mountain and on every high hill there will be streams running with water on the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.

Isaiah 32:13-15 ~ For the land of my people *in which* thorns *and* briars shall come up; Yea, for all the joyful houses *and for* the jubilant city. 14 Because the palace has been abandoned, the populated city forsaken. Hill and watch-tower have become caves forever, A delight for wild donkeys, a pasture for flocks; 15 Until the Spirit is poured out upon us from on high, And the wilderness becomes a fertile field, And the fertile field is considered as a forest

Isaiah 35:1-2, 7 ~ The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, The majesty of our God...The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass *becomes* reeds and rushes.

Isaiah 41:18 ~ I will open rivers on the bare heights And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water And the dry land fountains of water

Ezekiel 36:6-9 ~ Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and to the hills, to the ravines and to the valleys, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and in My wrath because you have endured the insults of the nations.’” 7Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘I have sworn that surely the nations which are around you will themselves endure their insults. 8 But you, O mountains of Israel, you will put forth your branches and bear your fruit for My people Israel; for they will soon come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn to you, and you will be cultivated and sown.’

Ezekiel 36:29-30 ~ Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you. I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.

Ezekiel 36:35 ~ They will say, ‘This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified *and* inhabited.’

Joel 2:21-27

Zechariah 8:11-12 ~ ‘But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ declares the LORD of hosts. 12 ‘For *there will be* peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these *things*.

3. *Sickness and death will be greatly reduced*

Isaiah 29:18 ~ On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see

Isaiah 33:24 ~ And no resident will say, “I am sick”;The people who dwell there will be forgiven *their* iniquity

Isaiah 35:5-6 ~ Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.

Ezekiel 34:16 ~ I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment

4. *People will be healthy and live to old age*

Isaiah 65:20, 22 ~ 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 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.

5. *Peace among animals and with humans; animal world will be tamed*

Isaiah 11:6-8 ~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.

Isaiah 65:25 ~ 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

6. Perfect justice will be executed by Christ

Isaiah 11:3-4 ~ And He will delight in the fear of the Lord, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

Jeremiah 23:5 ~ “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.

7. An outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Ezekiel 36:27 ~I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Joel 2:28-29 ~ It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, Your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. “Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

8. A time of unprecedented prosperity for humanity

Jeremiah 31:12 ~ They will come and shout for joy on the height of Zion,And they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD – Over the grain and the new wine and the oil,And over the young of the flock and the herd;And their life will be like a watered garden,And they will never languish again.

Ezekiel 34:26-29 ~ I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. 27 Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. 28 “They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make *them* afraid. 29 I will establish for them a renowned planting place, and they will not again be victims of famine in the land, and they will not endure the insults of the nations anymore.

Amos 9:13-15 ~ “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When the plowman will overtake the reaper And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; When the mountains will drip sweet wine And all the hills will be dissolved. 14 Also I will restore the captivity of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the ruined cities and live *in them*; They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit. 15 I will also plant them on their land, And they will not again be rooted out from their land Which I have given them,” Says the LORD your God.

But Sin and Judgment Will not be Entirely Eliminated

Psalms 2:9 ~ You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware

Ezekiel 44:25, 27 ~ They shall not go to a dead person to defile *themselves*; however, for father, for mother, for son, for daughter, for brother, or for a sister who has not had a husband, they may defile themselves...27 On the day that he goes into the sanctuary, into the inner court to minister in the sanctuary, he shall offer his sin offering,” declares the Lord GOD.

Zechariah 14:16-19 ~ 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. 17 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. 18 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. 19 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.

Revelation 20:7-10 ~ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 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. 9 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. 10 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.

Temple Worship and Sacrifices

- Numerous passages speak of a reinstatement of a millennial temple worship and sacrificial system

Isaiah 56:6-8 ~ Also the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, To minister to Him, and to love the name of the Lord, To be His servants, every one who keeps from profaning the sabbath And holds fast My covenant; Even those I will bring to My holy mountain And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples. The Lord God, who gathers the dispersed of Israel, declares, “Yet others I will gather to them, to those already gathered.”

Isaiah 66:21 ~ I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,” says the Lord.

Jeremiah 33:15-18 ~ In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the Lord is our righteousness.’ For thus says the Lord, ‘David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man before Me to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to prepare sacrifices continually.’ ”

Zechariah 14:16 ~ 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.

Ezekiel 40-48