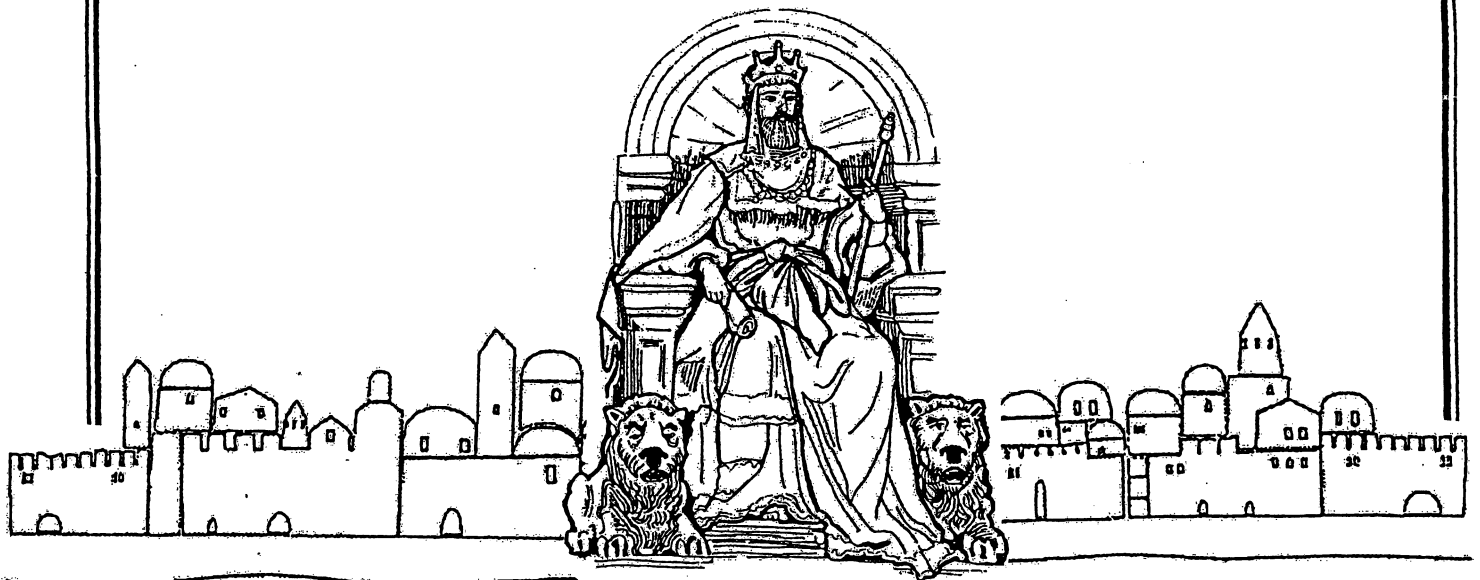


WHERE DOES THE BIBLE REFER  
TO THE  
Millennium?



# WHERE DOES THE BIBLE REFER TO THE MILLENNIUM?

Should we understand the Kingdom to be a literal, 1000-year period of time?

## 1A. THE DEFINITION OF THE MILLENNIUM

The Millennium is the 1000-year period of the earthly reign of Christ subsequent to His Second Advent in fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Davidic and New Covenants.

## 2A. THE DESIGNATION OF THE MILLENNIUM

- 1b. The kingdom of heaven (Mt. 6:10)
- 2b. The kingdom of God (Lk. 19:11)
- 3b. The kingdom of Christ (Rev. 11:15)
- 4b. The regeneration (Mt. 19:28)
- 5b. The times of refreshing (Acts 3:19)
- 6b. The world to come (Heb. 2:5)
- 7b. The dispensation of the fullness of time (Eph. 1:10)



## 3A. THE DECLARATION OF THE KINGDOM

- 1b. John the Baptist (Mt. 3:2) And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- 2b. Jesus Christ (Mt. 4:17) From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
- 3b. The disciples (Mt. 10:5-7) These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:  
<sup>6</sup> But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

## 4A. THE REJECTION OF THE KINGDOM

The official verdict of the Jewish leaders was that Jesus performed His stupendous miracles in the power of "Beelzebub, the prince of devils."

Mt. 12:22-24, 28 Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. <sup>23</sup> And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? <sup>24</sup> But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devil. . . <sup>28</sup> But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

## 5A. THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE KINGDOM

Mt. 21:43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

## 6A. THE PREDICTION OF THE KINGDOM

Christ's final words at His ascension related to the Kingdom which would be eventually established.

Acts 1:6 **When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

Acts 3:20-21 **And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: <sup>21</sup>Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.**

## 7A. THE DENIALS OF THE KINGDOM

1b. Lutheranism, since its inception, has denied a future Kingdom. In the Augsburg Confession of Faith, presented to Emperor Charles V on June 25, 1530, says the following under Article 17:

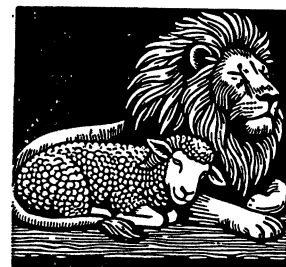
"They [Lutherans] condemn also others who are now spreading certain Jewish opinions, that before the resurrection of the dead the godly shall take possession of the kingdom of the world, the ungodly being everywhere suppressed."

2b. Lutheran pastor Vernon Harley writes in the conservative *Christian News*:  
"Among the many fantasies with which some Christians delude themselves and even endanger their salvation is the idea of a millennium, that is, a literal **1000 years** in which Christ is to reign here on earth" (June 14, 1971).

3b. Extreme opponents of premillennialism brand the view of the Millennium as a devilish doctrine. One California group is very outspoken in its hatred for those who subscribe to the dispensation of the Kingdom:

"Those human devils who are teaching that Christ will set up an earthly utopia or Communistic heaven on earth are promoting Communism under the masquerade of the Christian faith. When they are confronted with this issue they only maintain a surly silence and keep right on with their subversion and subterfuge. They desecrate the faith and the American flag with their premillennial Communism. They who hold the faith in unrighteousness are gravediggers" (*Christians Awake*, Summer 1972, 2).

4b. The Lutheran Church rejects a future Millennium:  
42. With the Augsburg Confession (Art. XVII) we reject every type of millennialism, or Chiliasm, the opinions that Christ will return visibly to this earth a thousand years before the end of the world and establish a dominion of the Church over the world; or that before the end of the world the Church is to enjoy a season of special prosperity; or that before a general resurrection on Judgment Day a number of departed Christians or martyrs are to be raised again to reign in glory in this world; or that before the end of the world a universal conversion of the Jewish nation (of Israel according to the flesh) will take place.



## 8A. THE DURATION OF THE KINGDOM

While there are numerous references to the future Kingdom scattered throughout the Old Testament, the duration of Christ's earthly Kingdom is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:2-7.

And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a ***thousand years***,<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the ***thousand years*** should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a ***thousand years***.<sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead lived not again until the ***thousand years*** were finished. This is the first resurrection.<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a ***thousand years***.<sup>7</sup> And when the ***thousand years*** are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

There is a well-known rule of grammar in the Greek and Hebrew languages, that when the word "day" or "year" is preceded by a numerical adjective, be it first day or **1000 years**, the reference would be to that literal time span.

## 9A. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE KINGDOM

1b. All of Israel will be saved at the Second Advent.

Rom. 11:26-27 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: <sup>27</sup> For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Jer. 33:8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.

Zech. 13:8 And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the Lord, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.

2b. Christ will be seated on the Throne of David.

Luke 1:32-33 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup> And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Mt. 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

3b. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world.



Isa. 65:18-19 But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. <sup>19</sup> And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying.

Jer. 33:16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness.'

- 4b. The disciples will be seated on twelve thrones, ruling the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mt. 19: And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

- 5b. The nations will be dining with Christ in Israel.

Isa. 25:6 And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.

Luke 13:29 And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

- 6b. The Jewish nation will possess the entire land promised to them.

Gen. 15:18 In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Deut. 1:7-8 Turn you, and take your journey, and go to the mount of the Amorites, and unto all the places nigh thereunto, in the plain, in the hills, and in the vale, and in the south, and by the sea side, to the land of the Canaanites, and unto Lebanon, unto the great river, the river Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them.

- 7b. The Holy Land will be divided in horizontal sections among the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ez. 47:13-14 (see 47:15-35) Thus saith the Lord God; This shall be the border, whereby ye shall inherit the land according to the twelve tribes of Israel: Joseph shall have two portions. <sup>14</sup> And ye shall inherit it, one as well as another: concerning the which I lifted up mine hand to give it unto your fathers: and this land shall fall unto you for inheritance.



- 8b. The Jewish population will worship in a spectacular temple.

Ez. 43:2, 4 (Ez. 40-46) And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.  
<sup>4</sup>And the glory of the Lord came into the house by the way of the gate whose prospect is toward the east.

- 9b. The nations will yearly visit Jerusalem on the Feast of Tabernacles.

Zech. 14:16 And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

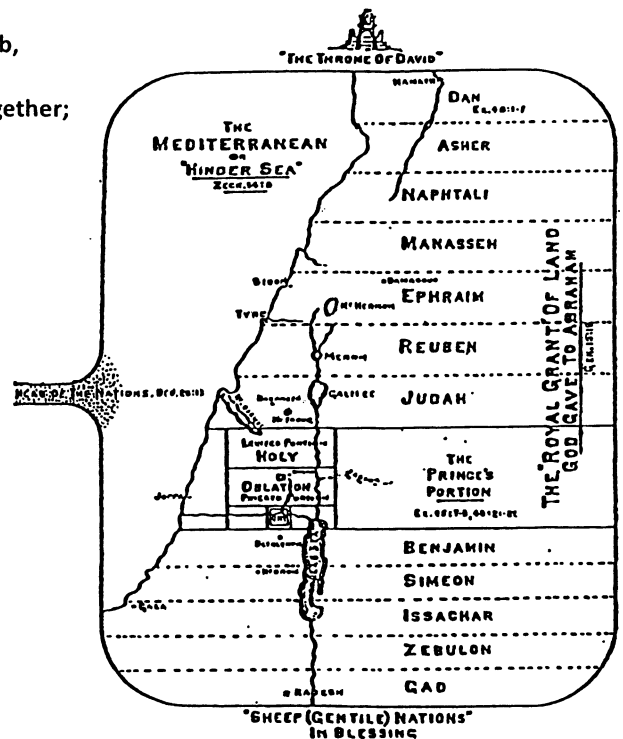
- 10b. The curse will be lifted from nature.

Rom. 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

Isa. 11:6-7 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
 and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
 and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
 and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup>And the cow and the bear shall feed;  
 their young ones shall lie down together:  
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isa. 65:25 The wolf and the lamb  
 shall feed together, and the lion  
 shall eat straw like the bullock:  
 and dust shall be the serpent's meat.  
 They shall not hurt nor destroy  
 in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

Hosea 2:18 And in that day will I make  
 a covenant for them with the beasts  
 of the field and with the fowls of heaven,  
 and with the creeping things of the ground:  
 and I will break the bow and the sword  
 and the battle out of the earth,  
 and will make them to lie down safely..



- 11b. A miraculous new river will flow east and west from Jerusalem.

Zech. 14:8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem;  
 half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in  
 summer and in winter shall it be.

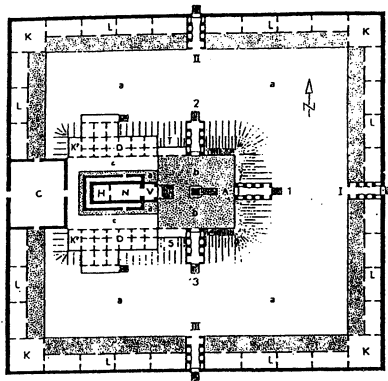
Ezek. 47:1-5, 8

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. <sup>2</sup> Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. <sup>3</sup> And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

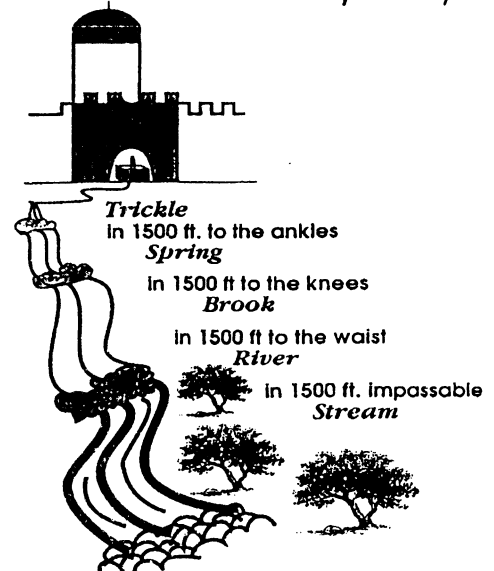
<sup>4</sup> Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

<sup>5</sup> Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

<sup>8</sup> Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. {Also Psa. 46:6 and Joel 3:18}



## The River of Life



12b. A miraculous tree will grow along the miraculous river.

Ezek. 47:7, 12 <sup>7</sup> Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. <sup>12</sup> And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

13b. The Judean desert and the Dead Sea will be healed.

Ezek. 47:5, 8-11 <sup>5</sup> Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

<sup>8</sup> Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed.

<sup>9</sup> And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters

shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.  
<sup>10</sup> And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. <sup>11</sup> But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt.

14b. All the desert areas will become fruitful areas.

Isa. 35:1, 6b The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isa. 41:18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.

Isa. 43:19-23 Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen. <sup>21</sup> This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise. <sup>22</sup> But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel. <sup>23</sup> Thou hast not brought me the small cattle of thy burnt offerings; neither hast thou honoured me with thy sacrifices. I have not caused thee to serve with an offering, nor wearied thee with incense.

15b. Mankind will be blessed with an intuitive knowledge of God and His ways.

Jer. 31:33-34 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

16b. Mankind will enjoy universal physical and emotional health.

Isa. 35:5-6, 10 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. <sup>6</sup> Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

17b. Mankind will enjoy longevity and prosperity.

Isa. 65:20, 22, 24 <sup>20</sup> There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. <sup>22</sup> They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. <sup>24</sup> And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

- 18b. The introduction of universal peace and cessation of all wars.

Isa. 2:4 And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Micah 4:1-3 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. <sup>2</sup> And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

