

B. The Davidic Covenant - 2 Sam. 7ff - We have the promise that God made to David, that David's heir would sit on the throne of Israel forever. Jesus is that heir, but He has yet to take His physical, political birthright that is clearly described in scripture.

C. The New Covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-34 outlines the promise that Israel as a nation will return to God and worship Her Messiah. It is restated in Romans 9-11. Jesus is the Messiah to all people—guided by two separate covenants. The Church and Israel both have separate covenant-promises that God made to each of them. If God will not keep promises to His own children—Israel—why would we think He would keep His promises to us as Gentiles?

2. Jesus

In Psalm 110, David records the promises that God ("The LORD" printed in all caps, Heb. יהוה *Yahweh*=God) made to Jesus ("my Lord" printed in lower case, Heb. אֲדֹנָי *Adonai*=Lord). God invites Jesus to sit at His right hand until God makes Jesus' enemies a footstool. Jesus will rule over, judge, and shatter His enemies while His people worship Him freely. This combination of judging enemies and being worshipped by the faithful cannot happen simultaneously in the eternal heaven, because in heaven there will be no sin or rebellion to judge. Similarly, in Daniel 7:11-14, Jesus is given dominion over all the people, nations, and languages before His enemies are permanently destroyed.

3. Gentile Believers (that includes us)

The promise in Daniel 7:11-14 refers to Gentiles, as well. It says that Jesus will be given dominion over all the nations. The whole world will know God according to Isaiah 11:9. In addition to Jesus' rule over the Gentiles, His faithful followers will be given positions of authority according to Luke 19:12-27; Revelation 5:10; 1 Corinthians 6:2.

4. Creation

Jesus' sovereignty will extend beyond human political systems and into all of creation. The curse will be lifted (Romans 8:18-23). Animals will live in peace again (Isaiah 11:6-9, 35:9, 65:25). Fields will be productive and freed from the curse of weeds (Isaiah 32:13-15). And the mortals who survived the Tribulation and populate the 1000-year reign will be freed from disease (Isaiah 33:24, 35:5-6, 61:1-2; Ezekiel 34:16).

Each of these covenants will be fulfilled during the 1000-year reign.

III. IS THE MILLENNIAL REIGN LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE?

Revelation 20:1–7, NASB -¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ 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. 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.⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.⁶ 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.⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison...[to deceive the nations].

Read these verses very carefully. Not one thing mentioned in these verses—not one—is a metaphor for anything. Everything mentioned here is literal and will be fulfilled literally, actually and physically in the future one-thousand-year millennial reign.

IV. WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE MILLENNIAL REIGN? (DETAILED)

1. Satan is bound, and Jesus reigns. ("That describes the millennial reign in just six words." -JKT)

Jeremiah 23:5, NLT -⁵ "For the time is coming," says the LORD, "when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David's line [Jesus]. He will be a King who rules the Earth with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. [Also see Isaiah 32:1ff; Rev. 19:12,15,16; Zech. 14:9; Zech. 6:12, 13; Isa 24:23; Zech. 9:10; Ps 72:11; Dan. 7:13-27; Luke 1:32-33; Acts 2:30.]

2. There will be a new and fruitful earth.

Ezekiel 36:34–35, NLT -³⁴ The fields that used to lie empty and desolate in plain view of everyone will again be farmed.³⁵ And when I bring you back, people will say, 'This former wasteland is now like the Garden of Eden!... [Also see Isa. 35:1-2ff; Amos 9:13]

3. The ferocious nature of animals and their instincts will be changed.

Isaiah 11:6–8, NLT -⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow.⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm.

Isaiah 11:6, Old KJV/AV (1611) -⁶ ... the lion will lie down with the lamb." [Also see Isa. 9:6-7; 65:25; Ezek. 34:25]

4. There will be no more war.

Isaiah 2:4, NLT -⁴ The Lord will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war anymore. [Also see Ezek. 34:25; Micah 4:4]

5. There will be a longer life span (for the unbeliever).

Isaiah 65:20, NLT -²⁰ No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred! Only the cursed will die that young! [Also see Heb 8:11; Hab. 2:14; NOTE: It's important to understand that those who survive the seven year tribulation—though they are lost—will be alive in the millennial; cf., Is. 33:24; 35:5-6, 61:1-2; Ezekiel 34:16ff; Christians will live forever—lost people won't.]

6. The saints will reign with Christ.

Revelation 20:4, NLT - ⁴ Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their forehead or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [Also see I Cor. 6:2ff; II Tim. 2:2ff; Rev. 20:4ff]

7. Jerusalem shall be the center of the worship of Christ.

Zechariah 8:22, NLT - ²² Many peoples and powerful nations will come to Jerusalem to seek the Lord of Heaven's Armies and to ask for his blessing...and worship Him there. [Also see Zech. 8:20-23; Micah 4:1-2]

8. Our physical bodies will be perfect.

Philippians 3:21, NLT - ²¹ He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53, NLT - ⁵⁰ What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. ⁵¹ But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! ⁵² It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. [Also see 1 John 3:2ff; 1 Cor. 15:42-44ff]

9. It will be life on Earth—just as God intended it to be.

John 14:1-3, NLT - ¹ "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am.

10. A Final Quote:

For 1000 years, Jesus will place everything good in the world and keep everything bad out of it. It will be life on earth as God meant it to be. Our bodies—perfect. Our world—perfect. Our hearts and minds—perfect. Our worship—perfect. Our fellowship with God—perfect. What our sciences could not do, He will do; what our theologians and preachers could not do, He will do; what our parliaments and governments could not do, He will do; what are medical systems could not do, He will do; what our educational systems could not do, He will do; what our armies could not do, He will do... That glorious day... will be the watcher's looked-for day; the purchaser's redemption day; the builder's completion day; the farmer's harvest day, the servant's reckoning day, the Master's payday, the Son's manifestation day; the bride's wedding day and the King's coronation day.

Oh, friend, I BEG YOU...DON'T MISS THAT GLORIOUS DAY!

- The Late Baptist Preacher Dr. R. G. Lee
(In his Sermon: "Jesus is Coming to Earth Again," March 27, 1977)



A Review of the Major Events in the Last Days

The Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth

Part Five

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.

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I. IMPORTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH

1. The literal Millennial Reign of Christ on the Earth, when Christ will reign over the whole Earth—that's now remade, will be just as God intended it to be. This one-thousand-year reign of Christ happens between the Battle of Armageddon and the Great White Throne Judgement (i.e., the final judgement of all unbelievers).
2. The purpose of the thousand-year reign is to allow for the fulfillment of several literal, unilateral (one-sided), covenant-promises God made with Israel, Jesus, all Gentile believers throughout antiquity and even the creation itself.
3. To not believe in a literal one-thousand-year reign of Christ (i.e., amillennialism) is to not take God's Word literally, or to spiritualize actual, literal and physical events in biblical prophecy, or to simply concede that God will not keep His covenant-promises.

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON EARTH?

The purpose of the thousand-year reign is to allow for the fulfillment of several promises God made with the following entities:

1. Israel

- A. The Land Covenant - Genesis 15:18-20 and Numbers 34:1-12 outlines the exact borders Israel is to possess on earth; the nation of Israel has yet to encompass these specific boundaries.