

WHY THE MILLENNIUM?

A study of Chapter 1

LET'S GET STARTED

Arno Gaebelin—Such a future age of blessing, peace, and glory constitutes one of the great Bible doctrines and is in reality the great hope of the world, the hope of all hopes.

I believe the Bible presents the Millennium as the crescendo of world history.

1000 Years— . . . most of the Bible would be pointless without the thousand-year reign of Christ (p. 1).

Some reasons why this is true:

- Israel would never become God's _____ nation to the world.

Exodus 19:6—“ . . . you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ . . . ”

- Israel would never _____ all the _____ God gave it (Numbers 34:1-12).
- Jesus would not _____ the _____ as the Father promised He would.

Isaiah 9:6-7—⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

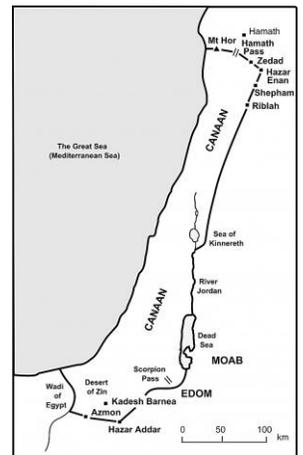
Luke 1:31-33—³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

- Numerous references to the earthly kingdom in Scripture would never be literally _____.

Daniel 2:44—“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. . . .”

Matthew 26:29—“I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.”

Matthew 6:10—“your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”



Israel's boundaries as given in Numbers 34:1-12

Grant R. Jeffrey—The prophecies about the coming kingdom provide the key to the true understanding of the Scriptures and God’s plan for redeeming humanity from the curse of sin.

REASONS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

- 1. To bring _____ to the Father

A truth to always remember: Everything is about God’s _____.

John Piper—The glory of God is the goal of history.

The Millennium will _____ God’s glory more than anything else He has done in history.

2 Thessalonians 1:10 says Christ will return at the Second Coming . . . to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed.

The glory of Christ will be the _____ of the entire Millennium, For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

Thomas Manton—[God’s] glory is the great end, and the coming of his kingdom is the first and primary means. For God’s glory is more manifest in his kingdom than in any other of his works.”

(The remaining reasons for the Millennium will also achieve God’s glory)

- 2. To honor God’s _____.

1000 Years—The Millennium will serve as God’s ultimate demonstration of His faithfulness to do what He says He will do and fulfill all His purposes (p. 3).

BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF A COVENANT: An agreement entered into by _____ parties in which each promises to abide by the terms of the covenant for the achievement of some mutually-agreed-upon benefit or purpose (p. 4).

God entered into seven covenants in Scripture, and the Millennium will bring about the fulfillment of four of them:

- (1) God’s covenant with _____ (Genesis 12:1-3; 15:18-21)

Genesis 12:1-3—¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. ²“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

➤ Through this covenant, the Jews became God’s “_____.”

➤ In this covenant, God’s granted the “_____” to Abraham and his descendants.

Genesis 15:18-21—¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

- God intentionally made this covenant _____ - _____ on His part, so that it would be kept regardless of whether or not the people of Israel remained faithful to Him.

Chuck Missler explains the typical covenant-ratification ceremony of Abraham’s day:

Chuck Missler—There was a divinely ordered ritual called a *barath*: “to cut a covenant.” The procedure was as follows: two participants would divide a sacrifice into two parts and would walk a “figure of eight” pattern together between the elements while reciting the terms of the covenant. What makes Genesis 15 so interesting is God first put Abraham in a deep sleep (the same term was used of Adam when Eve was taken from his side in Genesis 2). Then God, in the form of a fire, a smoking furnace, went through the covenant procedure by Himself. The two of them did not go together; God went alone. The point is the covenant was unconditional and unilateral to Abraham’s benefit. He didn’t make a commitment; he was in a deep sleep!

God has temporarily _____ Israel _____ because of Israel’s unfaithfulness to Him, but His relationship with the Jews and their ownership of the Promised Land will remain forever. (This fact totally annihilates Replacement Theology)

Think About It: *What is God currently accomplishing through the church that Israel should be accomplishing?*

The Millennium will satisfy the terms of the Abrahamic Covenant by:

- Causing Israel to permanently _____ all of their God-given _____.

Genesis 13:15—“All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”

Ezekiel 37:25—“ . . . They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, . . . ”

- Bringing Israel into perfect _____ with God for eternity.

(2) The _____ Covenant (Deuteronomy 29:1-29; 30:1-10)

This is also called the “_____ Covenant,” because many of its promises pertain to Israel’s possession of the land.

This covenant was made between God and Israel right before Moses died and Israel entered the Promised Land

It is unconditional and eternal.

(3) God’s covenant with _____ (2 Samuel 7 and later summarized in 1 Chronicles 17:11–14 and 2 Chronicles 6:16)

- God reaffirmed His commitment to permanently settle the Israelites in the Promised Land.

- God also promised David that his descendants would _____ over _____ forever.

1000 Years—This did not mean members of David’s dynasty would occupy the throne in an unbroken line but that, ultimately, a descendant of David would sit as king over Israel forever (p. 8)

As with the other covenants, it is eternal. (“I will maintain my love to [David] forever, and my covenant with him will never fail” —Psalm 89:28).

- God will honor this covenant by causing _____ to sit on the throne of Israel during the Millennium and beyond it, and also by causing “the _____” to do the same (Ezekiel 12:10).

(4) The _____ Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34).

1000 Years—This covenant is not about land or dynasties but about the spiritual regeneration of the Jewish people. In it, God promised to bring about a future spiritual awakening in which the entire Jewish race will come to faith in Him (p. 9).

- This covenant will be fulfilled during the Millennium when all Israel comes to _____ in Christ.

Note: All four of the covenants are considered “determinative,” because they establish a _____ outcome for Israel.

1000 Years—Each covenant also serves as a litmus test of God’s faithfulness to keep His word. In all four covenants, God obligated Himself to keep specific promises to the Jewish people regardless of what they do or fail to do. Although the Jewish people have forfeited many blessings they could otherwise have enjoyed throughout their history had they not rebelled against God, the essential promises contained in the covenants remain in effect.

3. Another reason for the Millennium is to fulfill _____.

1000 Years—All of the major prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel) foresaw and heralded the Millennium, as did all of the twelve minor prophets, except Jonah.

- God assures us in Scripture that He will do everything He has _____ to do.

Psalm 145:13— . . . The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

- God declared that unfulfilled predictions expose _____ prophets (Deuteronomy 18:22).

4. To _____ God’s _____.

God’s enemies are: Satan, the demons, and unsaved and rebellious humans and nations.

Psalm 2:8-9 (God the Father speaking to God the Son)—⁸“Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

1 Corinthians 15:24—Then the end will come, when he [Christ] hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

5. To restore Israel and make it _____ of the nations.

Isaiah 62:6-7 declares that God will make Jerusalem “the praise of the earth.”

In the Millennium, God will totally erase Israel’s (and Jews’) shame and humiliation and will replace it with _____ and _____.

6. To _____ Old and New Testament saints.

Isaiah 40:10—See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

Our reward includes a level of _____, based upon our faithfulness to Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3—² Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? . . . ³ Do you not know that we will judge angels? . . .

Revelation 2:26—To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations—



Before the next session, read Chapter 2—*Launch of the Millennium*