

# CHRIST'S GOVERNMENT IN THE MILLENNIUM

## A STUDY OF CHAPTER 4

Paul-Henri Spaak (Secretary General of NATO, 1957-1961)—We do not want another committee, we have too many already. What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the allegiance of all people, and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and be he god or devil. We will receive him (*What in the World Is Going On?*, by David Jeremiah)

### THEOCRATIC GOVERNMENT—PAST AND FUTURE

God intended for Israel to have a \_\_\_\_\_ (God-led) government, but the Israelites turned away from God after Joshua died, and thus they forfeited God's original plan and ended up with man-led government. Not since then has theocratic government existed anywhere in the world (Judges 2:6-23).

Only when Christ sets up His earthly kingdom will any government on earth be led directly God.

To date, the British Empire has ruled the largest land area of any government in history (13.71 million square miles), or 24 percent. Christ's Millennial Kingdom will rule 100 percent of the Earth.

Zechariah 14:9—The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

*1000 Years*—All political, economic, and religious authority will be consolidated in Christ, and His dominion will extend to every nation and people group on earth (pp. 55-56).

Christ will rule from a glorious \_\_\_\_\_, presumably located in the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem.

Matthew 25:31—"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory."

Christ's glory will be displayed, day and night, by supernatural manifestations in the skies above Jerusalem.

Isaiah 4:5-6—<sup>5</sup> Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over all the glory will be a canopy. <sup>6</sup> It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain.

### One King, Four Titles

Isaiah 9:6—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.

1. As "**Wonderful Counselor**," Christ will provide divine \_\_\_\_\_ to the peoples of the earth and will lead with perfect knowledge.

2. As "Mighty God," His authority will be \_\_\_\_\_ and will extend to every corner of the world.
3. As "Everlasting Father," Christ will be acknowledged as \_\_\_\_\_, and He will care for His people as a father cares for his children, by meeting their needs and providing love and discipline.
4. As "Prince of Peace," He will end all \_\_\_\_\_ and settle disputes among nations.

Isaiah 2:4—He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

## A STERN RULER

During the Millennium, God the Father will subjugate all nations under Christ's rule.

Psalms 110:1—The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."

God the Father and Christ will accomplish this \_\_\_\_\_ over the entire span of the Millennium.

*1000 Years*—While it is certainly true that God the Father will use the Millennium to bring to fruition all of His covenantal promises to the nation of Israel, God's *primary* objective for the Millennium is the glorification of His Son, which will transpire as Christ defeats every enemy and quells all opposition to Him (p. 57).

When this takes place, the prophecy of Philippians 2:10-11 will have come true:

<sup>10</sup> . . . at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Then, when the Millennium has ended, Christ will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:24-26, 28 (God's Word paraphrase)—<sup>24</sup> Then the end will come. Christ will hand over the kingdom to God the Father as he destroys every ruler, authority, and power. <sup>25</sup> Christ must rule until God has put every enemy under his control. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy he will destroy is death. . . . <sup>28</sup> But when God puts everything under Christ's authority, the Son will put himself under God's authority, since God had put everything under the Son's authority. Then God will be in control of everything.

During the Millennium, the world's spiritual climate will steadily decline, except in Israel, and unbelievers will begin to \_\_\_\_\_ His rule.

*1000 Years*—This will occur as a steady number of children who are born during the Millennium do not turn to Christ in saving faith. As the centuries pass, the number of unsaved individuals living in the world will very likely burgeon into millions of unredeemed men and women. Although Satan will not be present to incite outright rebellion against Christ until near the end of the Millennium, these unbelievers will likely begin to resent Christ's strict rule over them long before Satan is released from the Abyss, and they will crave to be set free from it (p. 59).

Psalm 2:1-3—<sup>1</sup> *Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain?* <sup>2</sup> *The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.* <sup>3</sup> *“Let us break their chains,” they say, “and throw off their fetters.”*

**Aspects of Christ's rule that unbelievers will resent.**

- His intolerance of \_\_\_\_\_.

*1000 Years*—Christ will meet all rebellion against Him in the Millennium with shock and awe, and every crime and infraction of His laws will be summarily punished (p. 60).

Psalm 2:10-12—<sup>10</sup> *Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.* <sup>11</sup> *Serve the LORD with fear and rejoice with trembling.* <sup>12</sup> *Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.*

- His favor toward \_\_\_\_\_.
- His requirement that all nations participate in the Feast of \_\_\_\_\_.

Zechariah 14:16—Then the survivors from all the nations that have attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.

Christ will not maintain an army or impose His authority with military might. Instead, He will enforce His decrees with His own divine power.



*1000 Years*—So how will Christ preserve order and deal with nations that resist Him? He will do so directly and with His own divine power, including by bringing devastating droughts and plagues upon nations that do not comply with His commands (p.61).

Zechariah 14:17-19—<sup>17</sup> *If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD Almighty, they will have no rain.* <sup>18</sup> *If the Egyptian people do not go up and take part, they will have no rain. The LORD will bring on them the plague he inflicts on the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.* <sup>19</sup> *This will be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles.*

*1000 Years*—Therefore, as we think of Christ's millennial government, we should not envision a military regime that dispatches armed forces to keep order in conquered lands. Instead, we should anticipate that Christ Himself, or the Father on Christ's behalf, will need only to speak in order to uphold justice and subdue His enemies. All of this will come about as a result of the Father's own sovereign pledge to make Christ's enemies His "footstool" (Psalm 110:1) and to make Christ the supreme Majesty of all the earth (pp. 61-62).

**RESURRECTED BELIEVERS' ROLE IN CHRIST'S GOVERNMENT**

Christ's worldwide rule will be administered by resurrected \_\_\_\_\_ who reign under Him.

1 Corinthians 6:2—*Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? . . .*

2 Timothy 2:12—*if we endure, we will also reign with him. . . .*

Revelation 20:4—I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6—Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.



The fact that believers will reign with Christ may provide the answer to why the Bible describes God's rewards for faithfulness to Him as \_\_\_\_\_:

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|---|--|
| 1) The Imperishable Crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25) | 4) The Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4)    |
| 2) The Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)  | 5) The Crown of Life (Revelation 2:10) |
| 3) The Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)     |  |

These crowns may be indicative of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Christ will grant to believers, based upon their faithfulness and service to Christ in this life.

This truth may be the point of Christ's Parable of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 19:11-27).

<sup>11</sup>While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. <sup>12</sup>He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. <sup>13</sup>So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. 'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.' <sup>14</sup>"But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' <sup>15</sup>"He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. <sup>16</sup>"The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' <sup>17</sup>"Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' <sup>18</sup>"The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' <sup>19</sup>"His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' . . .

*1000 Years*—As for believers who do little for Christ in this present life and enter eternity "as one escaping through the flames" (1 Corinthians 3:15)—*by the skin of their teeth* as it has otherwise been phrased—we can trust that God will wisely place them in roles corresponding to the extent of their present faithfulness. Of course, we should keep in mind that all positions of authority and service in the millennial kingdom will be undeserved by those to whom they are graciously granted (pp. 63-64).

In their \_\_\_\_\_ bodies, believers will possess the intellect and abilities necessary to govern, and to complete whatever other assignments Christ may give them.

Christ's basis for assigning work and granting authority to resurrected believers will not be based upon their education or experience, but upon how \_\_\_\_\_ we followed Him during our lifetimes on Earth.

*1000 Years*—I believe many of the highest offices in Christ's future government will go to believers whom the world will never have heard of but who will have remained loyal to Christ despite having endured hostility, deprivation, imprisonment, and even martyrdom. Some positions will be awarded to missionaries who shared the Gospel under grueling conditions on lonely, distant fields, and to

pastors who put in long hours of ministry, faithfully proclaiming God's Word to small congregations with little recompense or acknowledgment. Many ranks of leadership will be filled by Christian housewives and schoolteachers and office clerks and salespersons who "bloomed where they were planted," made sacrifices, and walked by faith (p. 65).

**ISRAEL'S ROLE IN CHRIST'S GOVERNMENT**

God will keep His promise to Israel by making it the preeminent superpower in the world, and by making \_\_\_\_\_ the world's capital.

Jeremiah 3:17—At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

Only \_\_\_\_\_ will govern Israel under Christ, and Gentiles will be assigned to Gentile nations.

Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ will each be assigned to rule a tribe of Israel.

Matthew 19:28—Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Note: Perhaps Matthias, who was later chosen to replace Judas, will occupy the twelfth disciple's throne (Acts 1:12-26).



**Will nations that exist in the world today exist in the Millennium? Probably \_\_\_\_\_.**

Revelation 7:9 indicates that races and nationalities carry over into eternity:

After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. . . .

John Walvoord—It is an error . . . to assume that national identity will be lost in eternity. Just as there will be individual identity, so also there will be racial identity, and individuals will inevitably carry throughout eternity an identification related to some extent to their place in the history of the world. Hence, Israelites will be Israelites throughout eternity and Gentiles will be Gentiles as well ("The Nations in the Millennium and the Eternal State" *Bible, org.*)

Christ's rule over the earth will continue \_\_\_\_\_ into eternity.

Isaiah 9:7—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.

The Millennium    The Eternal State



. . . from that time on and forever.