

Studies in Malachi #5: The Millennium

The second theme of the book is concerning a coming Messiah and his Millennial kingdom. I have previously taught on this subject, and for more details would recommend the following:

- The Kingdom of God series (14 lessons, but especially #11)
- Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah series (especially #16)

Predictions and Characteristics of a Millennial Messianic Rule Upon the Earth

The Bible makes many predictions and references to a time when a great King and Judge who will reign in Jerusalem over all nations, who will all participate in true worship. This time will be noted for genuine peace and no more war, and even peaceful coexistence with animals that are now quite dangerous (Isa. 11 and 35).

Malachi speaks of this time in 1:11, stressing that there will be true worship arising from all nations, not just Israel— **“For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.”**

While some could say this applies to the current age where Christianity has spread to all corners of the world, and worship and prayers arise to God from all (or most) nations, it is apparent from other scriptures that a more complete fulfillment is yet to come. While we freely and appropriately use the term “Millennium” to describe this time, that term, and even the fact that it is of a limited duration, is not in the OT, but from Rev. 20 because of its description of a 1000 year period of time which corresponds with the OT prophecies.

The Bible says there will be a time when the whole earth will be filled with his glory, and the knowledge of God.

- Num. 14:21 – “But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.”
- Isa. 11:9-10 – “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.”
- Hab. 2:14 – “For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”
- Ps. 72:19 – “And blessed be his glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen, and Amen.” (This psalm is millennial and messianic. See especially verses 7-8 and 17-19.)

It also speaks of God (the Messiah) reigning over all the earth, out of Jerusalem.

- Mic. 4:1-5, 7 (almost the same as Isa. 2:2-4)
- Zech. 14:9, 16 – “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. ... 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.”
- Rev. 20:1-6 – While the dragon (Satan) is bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years, the faithful overcomers, especially the martyrs of the great Tribulation, will have been raised from the dead and will reign with Christ.

This will also be the fulfillment of the promises that the meek shall inherit the earth.

It is apparent that from the time of Adam until now, this has never been true. How can it be understood that the meek will inherit the earth except for there being a resurrection and a time when the base and violent among men are absent? Christ will reign upon earth in a kingdom of peace and justice, when no man will fear, and “they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid” (Mic. 4:4).

- Isa. 11:4 (referring to the “Branch”, a term for the Messiah) “But with righteousness shall he judge the poor; and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth ...”
- Ps. 37:9-11, 22 – “For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.” “For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.”

- Mt. 5:5 – “Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.”

Some might ask why this is even important, since it is far in the future and we can’t do anything about it.

1. Maybe it isn’t so far in the future. We could say at least 7 years, but it could certainly happen in our lifetimes.
2. Even if we die first, we can still participate in it.
 - a. The saints who receive God’s mercy will somehow participate in the judgments against sinners. Mal. 3:16-18 – “Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.”
 - b. Mal. 4:2-3 – “But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.”
 - b. Jesus promised his disciples that they would rule over the tribes of Israel. Mt. 19:28 – “... 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.”
 - c. Lk. 19:12-27 – In the parable of the nobleman going to a far country, the reward for the servants who earned more with their lord’s money was to have authority over cities. Christ is that nobleman who “went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.”
 - d. He promised the overcomers at Thyatira (Rev. 2:26-27), that he would give them power over the nations and that they would rule them with a rod of iron.
 - e. The Bible consistently says that when Christ returns, it will be “with his saints”. That means we will be returning with him, and with his holy angels!

Zech. 14:5 – “... and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”

Col. 3:4 – “When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”

1 Thess. 3:13 – “... at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”

1 Thess. 4:14 – “For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”

Jude 14-15 – “... Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, ...”

Rev. 19:11-16 (the Word of God returns in flaming glory on a white horse) – “... And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ...”

- f. In the Millennium, Christ will rule with his saints. Rev. 20:4, 6 – “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them ... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

So for all these reasons, we should not think that when we die we will just be sitting on a cloud for ever. As overcomers we will have the opportunity of participating with Christ in his triumphant return, in the judgments to follow, and in the subsequent rule of his kingdom on earth. This should motivate us to holy and obedient living now.

3. Why say that we can do nothing about it? Jesus said we are to pray “Thy kingdom come”, and “let thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven”. While much of our praying is concerning this current world, and the salvation of God’s elect, and praying for a Holy Spirit outpouring, and seeking to do God’s will in our own lives right now, we should be praying for the ultimate fulfillment of God’s plan for his creation.

1 Cor. 15:24-25 – “Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”