

SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley
The Millennial Reign

OPENING & PRAYER:

The millennial reign of Christ is one of the most remarkable promises in Scripture—a thousand-year period when Jesus will physically rule on earth, fulfilling the prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." For centuries, believers have longed for the day when God's will is not just a hope or a prayer, but a visible, tangible reality. This reign is not a figurative or symbolic era, but a literal thousand years, as Revelation 20 repeats again and again. During this time, the curse that has plagued creation since the fall will be lifted, and the world will be transformed in ways we can barely imagine.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. I ask for guidance and direction as we study what is coming and how we as christians are to prepare for it. In Jesus' name I pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven. Matthew 6:10

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats.

Matthew 25:31-32

And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: **Matthew 25:33-34**

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

Matthew 25:41-43

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; **Revelation 20:1-2**

and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. **Revelation 20:3**

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. Isaiah 11:6-7

The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. 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. **Isaiah** 11:8-9

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," says the Lord. Isaiah 65:25

Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." Isaiah 55:13

The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. Isaiah 35:1-2

The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil. **Joel 2:24**

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame. **Joel 2:26**

And the inhabitant will not say, "I am sick"; The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity. Isaiah 33:24

In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. **Isaiah 29:18**

"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. Isaiah 65:20

Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? **1 Corinthians 6:2**

If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. **2 Timothy 2:12**

Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God Of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:3

He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. **Isaiah 2:4**

And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. Zechariah 14:9a

GO DEEPER:

The millennial reign follows a clear sequence: the rapture of the church, a seven-year tribulation, and then Christ's return with His saints to establish His kingdom. Only believers—those who have trusted in Christ before and after His first coming, including those martyred during the tribulation—will enter this kingdom. There will be two groups: those with glorified bodies and those who survived the tribulation in natural bodies. Even in this perfect environment, with Jesus visibly reigning, people born during the millennium will still need to choose Him, showing that true love and allegiance to God always require a choice.

Creation itself will be renewed. The animal kingdom will be at peace, with predators and prey living together, and even children playing safely among them. Nature will flourish; deserts will blossom, and abundance will be everywhere. Sickness and death will be virtually eliminated, and the knowledge of God will fill the earth. The church will reign with Christ, sharing in His authority and purpose. Jerusalem will be the world's capital, and Jesus will teach and judge the nations from there. War will cease, and peace will be the norm.

Yet, even in this golden age, the most important question remains: Is Jesus the king of your heart? He will be king over all the earth, but He desires to reign in each life personally. The invitation is open to all—receive Him now, and be part of this glorious future.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

The Millennial Reign is a literal, physical kingdom on earth where Jesus fulfills the long-awaited prayer for God's will to be done here as it is in heaven. This is not a symbolic era, but a thousand years of Christ's direct rule, as repeatedly emphasized in Revelation 20. The clarity and repetition in Scripture point to God's intention for us to anticipate a real, tangible reign of Christ on earth. **[03:50]**

Entry into the millennial kingdom is reserved for believers—those who trusted God before Christ, the church, and those martyred or surviving the tribulation. There will be a unique coexistence of glorified saints and natural-bodied believers, highlighting God's faithfulness to every generation and His ability to unite diverse groups in His kingdom. Even in a perfect environment, the necessity of personal faith remains, as each new generation must choose Christ for themselves. [13:26]

The renewal of creation during the millennium is profound: animals will live in harmony, nature will flourish, and the knowledge of God will saturate the earth. This restoration is not just about beauty or abundance, but about the removal of the curse and the restoration of God's original intent for creation. The world will become a place where God's presence and wisdom are as natural as the air we breathe. [21:52]

Sickness, suffering, and premature death will be abolished in the millennial reign. The healing and wholeness that Christ brings will be so complete that even those in natural bodies will not experience disease or loss. This points to God's heart for restoration and His ultimate victory over all that has marred human life since the fall. [26:55]

The church will reign with Christ, sharing in His authority and purpose, while Jesus Himself will rule from Jerusalem, bringing justice, peace, and instruction to all nations. Yet, even with Christ's visible reign, the call to personal surrender remains—He must be king not just of the earth, but of every heart. The invitation to receive Him is urgent and personal, ensuring that we do not miss the joy and purpose of His coming kingdom. [31:55]

LEARNING AND GROWING:

- **1.** According to Revelation 20, how many times is the phrase "a thousand years" mentioned, and what does this repetition emphasize about the nature of Christ's reign? **[05:21]**
- 2. What two types of people will enter the millennial kingdom, and what is unique about their bodies? [13:26]
- **3**. Why do you think God repeats "a thousand years" so many times in Revelation 20? What does this tell us about how we should understand the millennial reign? **[05:21]**
- **4**. The knowledge of God will fill the earth during the millennium. What steps can you take this week to grow in your knowledge of God and help others know Him better? **[21:52]**
- **5.** The renewal of creation is described as something beautiful and joyful. How can you practice gratitude for God's creation now, and what are some ways you can care for the world He has made as you look forward to its full restoration? **[23:23]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."