



Living
in the
New Millennium
and Beyond

Benjamin L. Reynolds

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Chapter 1

What Will Life Be Like in the New Millennium?

Are you ready to spend 1000 years with Christ in the New Millennium? As a Christian, you may know about the antichrist, tribulation period and the rapture, but are you aware of what happens when all of that is over? Did you know that Jesus Christ has a plan for governing and administering the world after he returns and it includes you? As believers in Christ we are now closer than ever before in history to the rapture. If we want to serve Jesus Christ for all eternity, then it is imperative that we begin preparing for what our lives will be like after the rapture of the church right now, before we leave. We are going on a journey and everyone who takes long a trip must first prepare for the journey by doing some research on where they will be going and what they will be doing. We know that very soon we will be traveling through the clouds to be with Christ in the rapture, but most of us don't quite understand our destination, and what we will be expected to do after we arrive. What we are doing now (or should be doing) has a direct impact our future roles in heaven and in earth after Christ returns to take his rightful position as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Surprisingly, the bible has a great deal to say about what happens after Christ returns to rule the earth in the Old and New Testaments. The scriptures tell us that there will be people left on the earth who are not Christians and that their lives will be very different from the saints who return with Christ. The saints of God from all ages will return to reign with Christ and will be given positions of power and authority on earth and in heaven. In the New Millennium, you may just find yourself living and working beside Abraham, Noah or Matthew so you better get ready friend! We will begin by looking at some of the first things we can expect after our return to earth with Christ.

The New Millennium defined

The world Millennium defined by Merriam-Webster's dictionary actually means the one thousand year period mentioned in Revelation 20 in which holiness is to prevail and Christ is to reign on earth. This period of time will be represented by one thousand year of peace occurring immediately after Jesus Christ returns to rule the earth and destroys the antichrist and the false prophet after the great tribulation. Specifically, the Millennium period is defined in Revelation 20:4-7:

*"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.** (5) But the rest of the dead **lived not again until the thousand years** were finished. This is the first resurrection. (6) Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, **and shall reign with him a thousand years.** (7) **And when the thousand years are expired,** Satan shall be loosed out of his prison," Revelation 20:4-7*

Wow! These verses definitely say a lot. First, we are told that those who were killed for refusing to take the mark of the beast will come back alive to live and rule the earth with Christ for 1000 years. This is the first resurrection, or what we commonly call the rapture (or snatching away that the saints who are dead and those who are alive will be taken up to heaven to dwell with the Lord until he returns back to the earth. The rest of the dead who have not lived righteously will not come back to life until again until the one thousand year period is up on the Day of Judgment.

After the one thousand year period is over, Satan will be set free from his prison to roam the earth again. Next, we will look at the 1000 year period that begins after Jesus Christ and the saints return to rule the earth.

The state of the world when Christ Returns

*“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: **and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.** Even so, Amen.” Revelation 1:7*

*“Then shall the LORD go forth, **and fight against those nations,** as when he fought in the day of battle. 4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. 5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. 6 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the light shall not be clear, nor dark: 7 But it shall be one day which shall be known to the LORD, not day, nor night: but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light. 8 And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be. 9 And **the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.**” Zechariah 14:3-9*

When Christ returns to the earth, he will be coming back with power and glory. The night skies of Israel will light up as the entire world bears witness to Jesus Christ and the armies of heaven gloriously returning through the clouds to destroy the antichrist and the armies of the world at the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 19:11-21) There will be so much destruction that Israel will have to hire additional workers and spend the next seven months burying bodies of all those killed at that battle. Ezekiel 39:1-22 describes what happens in Revelation 19:11-21 and also gives us a chilling look at how Jesus Christ will use his victory at the battle of Armageddon. It is at this time that Jesus Christ will physically manifest what has been a spiritual conquest since his death on the cross almost two thousand years ago. The world at that time will see all of his power and glory and finally come to the conclusion that there is no other God but him.

*“Therefore, thou son of man, prophesy against Gog, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal: 2 And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel: 3 And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand. 4 Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured. 5 Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. 6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD. 7 So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel. 8 Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken. 9 And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years: 10 So that they shall take no wood out of the field, neither cut down any out of the forests; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD. 11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all his multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamongog. 12 **And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.** 13 Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them; and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD. 14 And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search. 15 And the passengers that pass through the*

land, when any seeth a man's bone, then shall he set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the valley of Hamongog. 16 And also the name of the city shall be Hamonah. Thus shall they cleanse the land. 17 And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord GOD; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to my sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. 18 Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. 19 And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of my sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. 20 Thus ye shall be filled at my table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord GOD. 21 And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. 22 **So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.**” Ezekiel 39:1-22

There are several important points we can learn from these verses:

1. God will lure Gog, Meschech (Russia) and Tubal (Turkey) down from the north into the land of Israel to destroy them there with fire, or as Revelation 19:21 says, “The sword of Christ's' mouth.”
2. Israel will take the weapons and spoil that is left behind from the fallen soldiers and use it for fuel and other resources for 7 years.
3. Israel will have to hire people to bury the slain soldiers that have come to fight against Israel. It will take 7 months to finish burying the dead who are killed in that battle.
4. Israel and the unbelieving nations will see what God's does to the antichrist and armies of the world and know that Jesus Christ is the one true God from that day forward.
5. We know this occurs at the battle of Armageddon because Ezekiel 39:17-20 uses the same terminology of calling the birds to feast on the bodies of slain soldiers and royalty as Revelation 19:17-18 does.

By the time that Jesus Christ returns to claim the world as his own, all the earth will finally realize who he is and that they should have been serving him all along. The astonishing way that he returns will finally be enough to turn atheist into theist and the ungodly into godly. All of the failed policies, practices and false religious beliefs that God has allowed for thousands of years will be exposed as fallacies and now mankind will be ready to accept the true word and will of God.

In the New Millennium, Long life will be restored

“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.” Isaiah 65:20

Isaiah chapter 65 provides a stark contrast because verses 1-15 speak of how God punishes the Israelites because of their sins, but verses 16-25 speak of a future in which God creates a new heaven and new earth for the righteous to peacefully dwell in. Part of the blessing of that new period will include human life being greatly extended to the length that they were in the days of the antediluvian patriarchs. Adam lived 930 years, Noah lived for 950 years and the oldest recorded human to ever live was Methuselah, who lived an astonishing 959 years! Isaiah 65:20 tells us that if someone dies at 100 or 120 years, they will have been considered to have been only a child. A child at 100 years old? Yes. This is how it was in the antediluvian period (before the flood) Genesis 5:18 tells us that the youngest of the antediluvian patriarchs to begin having children was Jared, who was 62 years old. We would consider him an old man today, but at that time, Jared would have been considered a young man. In the new Millennium, everyone will be able to look forward to being considered young at 60 or even 100 years old. We can

expect the human lifespan to be extended by 10 times what they are right now...all by the grace of God.

Now, there does seem to be a bit of a controversy when reading Isaiah 65:16-25 because verse 18 says that God will create a new heaven and new earth and the rest of the scriptures go on to describe peace, long life and prosperity that follows. Just from reading those verses, it would seem that this occurs **after** God recreates heaven and earth and not **during** the millennium period. If we closely examine Isaiah 65:17-20 and then connect it with Revelation 21:1-5, we will get a better understanding:

*1 "And I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

*4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; **and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain**: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:1,4*

This passage is important because it tells that there will be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain after the new heaven and earth have been created. If this is case, then Isaiah 65:20 cannot be referring to the time after the new heaven and earth have been created because no one will die or feel pain and sorrow. It can only mean that Isaiah 65:22 is referring to the period **before** the new heaven and earth are created, which is the 1000 year millennium period. Isaiah 25:7-8 says more about the removal of death:

*"And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil **that is spread over all nations**. (8) **He will swallow up death in victory**; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it." Isaiah 25:7-8*

This says the same thing as Revelation 21:4 and reminds us again that Jesus Christ will remove the veil of death that is spread over all nations and wipe away tears from the faces of everyone on the planet. This includes all mankind and not just the saints who have been previously raptured away and given immortal glorified bodies. (1 Corinthians 15:50-57) In the next verse, it says that God will swallow up death in victory, which means that Jesus will remove the threat and fear of death that continually lingers over all the people of the earth. This will happen after the new heaven and earth have been created. Ordinary people will live and die during the Millennium period, because Isaiah 65:20 clearly says that they will, but they will enjoy the benefit of natural life spans will being extended beyond the 75-120 years that we commonly expect today. In contrast, the saints of God who have been previously taken in the resurrection during the tribulation period will **not** experience death and will have different roles, duties and responsibilities in the new kingdom. Our new immortality is better explained in 1 Corinthians 15:52-57:

*"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (53) For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this **mortal must put on immortality**. (54) So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this **mortal shall have put on immortality**, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. (55) O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? (56) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (57) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:52-57*

After the resurrection, the righteous saints of God who have faithfully served him will be raised, changed and given immortal bodies that will never die. As a reward for their faithfulness, the

righteous saints will receive the gift of immortality **before** the people who are leftover from the tribulation period will. As a consequence of having not served Christ before his return to rule the world, the people of the leftover nations will have wait and further prove their worthiness until Jesus creates the new heaven and earth after 1000 years. It is so vital for us to live holy and righteous before the coming of the Lord because not only will it determine who we are and what we do for all eternity, but it instantly guarantees that we will have eternal life before the day of judgment!

Going back to Isaiah 25:7-8, it says “the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke from away from all the earth.” This means that Jesus will get rid of the heartache and stress that daily plague us and shorten our lives. The 1000 year Millennium period will be a time free of death and full of happiness, long life and joy! In addition, the Lord will take about “the rebuke” which is the shame and denigration that comes from being a Christian. There was a time when it was considered popular to be a Christian but not so much today. We constantly see our morals questioned, prayer and centuries old Christian effigies being removed from public institutions all around North America, the once “most Christian” nations of the world. Thankfully, Jesus will change that when he returns in power and glory. When he returns with us by his side, we can look forward to prayer and christian landmarks **being put back into** our public institutions!

Living like the angels

*“In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife. (24) And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? (25) For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; **but are as the angels which are in heaven.**” Mark 12:23-25*

Life will simply continue on for the people in the world who are still alive after the Great Tribulation and destruction of the antichrist. However, for the lives of the saints of God will be very different. As the scripture above says, we will not have husbands, wives or even get married. Like the angels, our lives will be completely dedicated to serving God. Two scriptures below explain why:

*“But he that is married **careth for the things that are of the world,** how he may please his wife.” 1 Corinthians 7:33*

*“And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and **that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.**” 1 Corinthians 7:35*

Those who are unmarried have fewer distractions and can afford to dedicate more of their time to serving the Lord. While they may have been married during their first earthly lives, the saints will have new celestial bodies which no longer have the carnal desires, needs and emotions that inherent in the old human bodies. Without the constant need for physical and emotional gratification that is present in our bodies now, the saints will leave them free to “attend upon the Lord without distraction” in the New Millennium and beyond

How will the saints be rewarded?

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

When Jesus returns to take the saints of God in the rapture, they will be richly rewarded and eternally blessed. While the Bible speaks of several different types of rewards, the one most commonly spoken of is the reward of a crown. The New Testament speaks of six types of crowns in eight separate New Testament verses.

1. There is the crown given to us by Christ that which never fades away.

*“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain **a corruptible crown**; but we an incorruptible.” 1 Corinthians 9:25*

2. There is the crown given to faithful Christian workers who put the members of the church above all things in life, making the pride and joy of their lives. While the financial rewards are small and the stress is incredibly high when serving the Christian church, Jesus promises a crown to those who are faithful.

*“Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, **my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.” Philippians 4:1*

3. There is the crown of rejoicing which symbolizes the happiness and joy that we will have after the rapture

*“For what is our hope, or joy, or **crown of rejoicing**? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” 1 Thessalonians 2:19*

4. The crown of righteousness is reserved for those who have lived righteous and rejoice when the Lord appears to rapture the saints. A distinction is made because the antichrist and unbelievers will not be happy when Christ returns.

*“Henceforth there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” 2 Timothy 4:8*

5. The crown of life is spoken of twice and is reserved for those who faithfully endure trial and tribulation, even if it cost them their lives. That's right, they are willing to put their lives, so be prepared saints.

*“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive **the crown of life**, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” James 1:12*

*“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee **a crown of life**.” Revelation 2:10*

6. The crown of glory is reserved for faithful Christian workers who give their heart, mind and souls to help lead congregations.

*“And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive **a crown of glory** that fadeth not away.” 1 Peter 5:4*

7. Lastly, Jesus speaks generally of a crown reserved for those who are faithful and

endure. It could probably be classified with the crown of life.

*“Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, **that no man take thy crown.**” Revelation 3:11*

Jesus let's the church of Philadelphia in Revelation 3:11 know that his return for the saints will be quick and that they should not let any person get in the way receiving a crown as their reward. The crown is a reward for faithfulness, righteousness and being able to endure all things. It is critical that the saints of God understand that while we have to endure many hardships and trials brought upon us by others, there is no one in this life worth losing our eternal reward over.

Now, the question has to be asked, “Are there six different types of crowns or one crown with six separate descriptions?” It is most probable that the scriptures are describing one crown six different ways. The best evidence support this belief is that Revelation 3:11 does not give a description of a crown, only that the Lord has reserved a crown as a reward. Also, the bible never specifically mentions that saints will receive more than one crown. The reward of a crown is always referred to in the singular. Besides, the one glorious, incorruptible, never fading crown that we receive from the Lord should be enough to keep us happy through all eternity! Let's not get greedy.

Heavenly Homes

During his earthly ministry, Jesus said that the saints would be rewarded with a home and place in heaven.

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2-3

Jesus knows who will be ready to meet him in the air. He knows who is working and laboring for that great heavenly reward. Even as we speak, a home either has been prepared or is currently being prepared for us in heaven. A heavenly mansion awaits all those who faithfully serve the Lord and are ready to meet the him when he returns.

Eye has not seen and ear has not heard

In addition to that which has been shown to us in the Word of God, the most precious rewards are those things that await us which we have never seen or heard:

“For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.” Isaiah 64:4

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

Oh the things that God has prepared for those who love him! We cannot even begin to imagine how great and glorious the rewards of heaven will be until we have actually entered and seen it for ourselves. Even the most fantastic descriptions given to us in the scriptures about the joys of heaven will pale in comparison to what we actually see and experience once we are there.

Interestingly, we are told in 1 Corinthians 2:10 that the Spirit of God can give us a preview into some of these things if we allow it to search out the deep things of God. This is certainly how the apostles and prophets before us were able to peer down the halls of eternity and tell us of crowns, streets of gold and mansions. With such a great bounty of blessing before us, I would to God that more of the saints in who live in our day and age will feel that same unction which drives us toward the deep things of God that we might see greater revelations of heaven.

Chapter 2

Finally, Jesus Rules the World

*“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”
Zechariah 14:9*

After Jesus Christ returns to the earth with power and glory he will begin his eternal rule over planet earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. All of Isaiah chapter 11 describes what it will be like when Jesus Christ eventually returns to assume his role as ruler of the earth. His dominion will cover the entire world and everyone will know that he is in control and that he alone is God.

“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.” Isaiah 11:3-5

Several important points regarding Christ’s future governing of the earth are brought out in this passage:

1. Jesus assumes control of the entire earth and will be in charge of all secular and spiritual affairs. He will ensure that all matters are judged decently and fairly. This will be a great departure from the way that things are done now and especially different from the evil and corrupt government of the antichrist. Under Christ’s authority, no situation will be judged solely by the outward appearance. The poor will no longer have to worry about not getting a proper defense in court before they cannot hire a wealthy attorney nor will the rich evade justice because they can. Equality and fairness will be given to all people, regardless of wealth or status. The world will trust that Jesus Christ will reprove anyone who does not act in accordance with this new system of justice and equality for all.
2. Jesus will rule the world “with the rod of his mouth” which means everything will be governed by the word of God. It is so important to know and love the Word of God right now because the New Millennium and all eternity will be governed by it forever! Anyone who cannot abide completely by God's Word now will certainly have a difficult time adjusting to a 1000 year period where all nations must abide solely by God's Word. Isaiah 11:4 says that “with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked” meaning if anyone chooses not to obey God's word, they will face immediate and harsh punishment. Under the governance of Christ, the laws all nations will be changed to reflect the Word of God.
3. Righteousness and faithfulness will be the most important factors in the New Millennium. The once enviable traits of kindness, gentleness and being a good person will be the traits that are highly esteemed. Given the moral decay and immorality that the world will have recently experienced under the antichrist, righteous moral values will certainly be welcome. This will also be a far departure from today's society of doing whatever it takes to get ahead.

A time of perfect peace

The drastic change in moral values brought about by Jesus Christ will have a tremendous effect on the world and will usher in a golden era of peace the world has never experienced before. Isaiah chapter 9 explains the type of peace which results from Christ ruling the world:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. 9 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. 10 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.” Isaiah 11:6-10

The New Millennium will be such a glorious time of peace that even carnivorous animals will lay aside naturally hostile instincts and be at peace with their former prey. Little children will be able to freely play with lions and poisonous snakes with absolutely no fear. There will be no need for zoos or barrier between animals and man any longer. What a time to live in! Nothing that God has created will want to hurt or destroy. Why? Because all the earth will be filled with and touched by God's peace inducting Word. Oh, if that were possible today. Isaiah 11:10 says that Jesus will be unifying symbol that unites all creation toward peaceful coexistence. Mankind and animals alike will no longer have to constantly be vigilant against harm and violence from one another because of Christ. Everyone will know that God desires peace, love and unity and will change their hearts in order to achieve it. Peace on earth and good will towards all men will finally exist forever and not just at Christmas.

“Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. 3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.” Isaiah 26:2-3

Perfect peace awaits the nations who allow the word of God to rule their lands. Those whose minds are stayed on Christ will not have to worry about a single problem because they put their trust in God. Mankind will come to understand over time that Jesus will not govern the world selfishly as earthly despots have. He will not be given to the simple, carnal ambitions that have polluted the morals of earthly men. No, because he is God and has created all things, his righteousness is far superior to ours and we can expect him to govern the world the way that it was always intended to be since the Garden of Eden: in righteous peace.

The bible tells us the perfect peace that Jesus Christ gives will last longer than anything mankind has ever seen before. This peace will extend to all nations and every part of society.

“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.” Micah 4:3-4

Since there will be no need for war when Christ takes control of the earth, he will rebuke the most powerful nations and make them turn their weapons of war into tools of peace. The nations will no longer need to study war. There will be no need for West Point and other military schools. War will be eliminated and everyone will be able to enjoy the peace, comfort and life without fear. This will be warmly embraced by a world that will having recently emerged from years of

war, plagues and the near extermination of the human race by Satan and the antichrist.

The saints will rule with Christ

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; **and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**” Revelation 20:4*

The saints of God who are privileged enough to have either died as true Christians or to have been taken in the resurrection will live again and reign with Jesus Christ for 1000 years. In their earthly lives they may have held the low earthly positions but will now be richly rewarded and given the preeminent positions of authority in the New Millennium and beyond.

*“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, 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. 29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, **shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.** 30 **But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first.**” Matthew 19:28-30*

The scriptures are clear that the saints will **reign** with Christ...not just live with him. It is so important that we understand and master the principles of Christian living because as the new rulers of the earth, we will be the ones administering law and order through the divine guidance of Jesus Christ. Although the riches and pleasures of this world seem are tempting, but let us strive to be rich in Christ that we can multiply our eternal reward!

What type of government will there be in the New Millennium? Well, since with will reign with Christ as the king, it will definitely not be a democracy. The scriptures make it clear that Christ will rule using a theocratic style of government, which is direct rule from God to mankind.

“But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.” Daniel 7:18

“I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.” Daniel 7:21-22

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.” Daniel 7:27

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” Revelation 5:9-10

With Christ, the saints of God will take control and **possess** his newly conquered kingdom on earth. We will share in his **dominion** and greatness that will extend to everything on earth. Jesus will not ask men if they want to be governed by him. He will simply take what is already rightfully his. All dominions, nations and people will serve and obey Christ. His kingdom will be nothing short of and absolute monarchy where he rules and uses the saints of God as his regents in every nation, province and city. Fortunately, we will not have to worry about the negligence and corruption that ordinary men have shown when they ruled with absolute power. We can

rejoice in the fact that the scriptures tell us that Christ rule will be characterized by happiness, equity, love and peace.

What will the saints be doing during their time on earth and how will they rule?

*“And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear. 12 He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, **have thou authority over ten cities.** 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, **Be thou also over five cities.**” Luke 19:11-19*

This parable is perhaps the most informative when it comes to defining what duties that the resurrected saints will have in the New Millennium kingdom and it also highlights the importance of Christians fulfilling their duty of faithfully serving Christ. This parable directly correlates to how Jesus died on the cross, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven from Mount Olivet, leaving Christians to serve in and build the kingdom of God for the past two thousand years. When Christ (the nobleman) returns, he will call his servants (Christians) to see what they have done with talent, abilities and resources he has blessed them with what they have been given. We will be rewarded with positions in the new kingdom based on what we have done with what they have been given. It is interesting to note that the dutiful servants were promoted from managing a relatively small amount of money to managing entire cities. Here we see how richly Christ rewards those who are faithful to him! The small things that we do for him will one day be magnified when we are given our final reward. When we compare the scriptures in Daniel 7:18, 22 and 27 with Luke 19:11-19, we see that Christ will give the saints positions of leadership equaling our present day prime ministers, premiers, governors, mayors and councilmen.

Just as no monarch sees to the day to day operations of every city in his kingdom, neither will Jesus Christ. It will be the duty of the saints to ensure that God's law is taught, practiced and enforced throughout the world. Micah 4:3 tells us that Jesus will judge the major matters among nations while the saints will handle all minor disputes and matters of law. The saints will duly earn the respect of the Lord during our lifetime of sacrifice, obedience and submission to God's authority. Once again, this is why it is so necessary for every Christian to learn and understand the importance of obedience to God's will, church attendance and working within the government of the church. The lives that we live right now prove how effectively Christ can use us in the New Millennium kingdom.

In another parable that mirrors Luke 19:11-19, Jesus shows us the importance of using our talents and abilities to serve him.

“Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. 14 For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. 17 And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. 18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants

cometh, and reckoneth with them. 20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 21 His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: **thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things:** enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 22 He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. 23 His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; **thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things:** enter thou into the joy of thy lord. 24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. 29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. 30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:” Matthew 25:13-31

There is so much that can be gleaned from this passage of scripture:

1. *God have given every man talents and abilities which he **expects** us to use in service to him.* There are many who have been given great abilities. Rather than using their talent to glorify God and minister to the saints, they sell out; shamelessly wasting their God given abilities in worldly venues in exchange for earthly rewards and carnal pleasures. Saints, use your talents to glorify God so that he does not take your eternal blessing away and give it to someone else who has glorified him. We should always remember that wasting our gifts on worldly pleasures will only bring short lived joy to ourselves and the masses. Only the things we do to glorify God and his kingdom will bring us eternal joy and reward.
2. Those that have been faithful over a few things, will be made **rulers** over much. Power and authority will be given to those who faithfully serve God. There are many who serve God while it is convenient and easy, only to fail when they encounter a difficult situation or circumstance. Faithfulness means that we stick to what God has chosen for us no matter what the cost. As my pastor always told me, “the best ability is stick ability.” God and the church need people who can start and finish their assigned duties without excuse or delay. Only by proving our faithfulness in our earthly lives will Jesus have no doubt that we are fit for bigger and better things in the New Millennium kingdom.
3. *God expects us to use our talents and abilities to **multiply** the kingdom of God.* The church needs you to expand the kingdom of God! No matter how big or small our gift is, we must use what we have to expand the kingdom God and not just ourselves. When the Lord returns to rightfully claim his kingdom, he will expect us to have spent a considerable amount of time laboring for him and not just ourselves. The air that we breathe, it belongs to God. The ground that we walk on, it belongs to him. Our homes and vehicles are all constructed from materials that God has created and given to us. Everything we have belongs to God alone and he expects us to use it to further and advance his kingdoms and not just our goals.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. “ Revelation 4:11

We will soon come face to face with the awesome revelation that all things, including us,

have been created for God's pleasure. We will soon realize that we are created beings made for his glory and not just our own. This is why it is so critical that we give the proper attention and focus to building the kingdom of God. Ask yourself, "How busy am I building the kingdom of God?" Is your life centered around your career or your God? Have your abilities profited you or the kingdom of God more? Have you supported the local church so that it can save souls and the work of heaven on earth? Whatever you have or whatever you do, make sure you don't waste God's talent.

4. Those that waste their talent will be punished. We have had nearly two thousand years since Christ departed the earth in addition to our entire lives to understand one simple principle: **Jesus Christ expects us to serve him**. There are no excuses. Even if you have small abilities, you are expected to produce something for Jesus by the time he returns. We know how him and understand his personality. Jesus expects **multiplication** of what he has given us; **not subtraction or division**. If we fail to understand this simple principle, then the price of failure is eternal damnation. While this may seem harsh, consider that God has been waiting patiently on the church for two thousand years and your entire life for you. It's time to pick up that talent and get busy!