

Thinking About End Times – The Kingdom of God

I Corinthians 15:24-27

Revelation 20:4-6

“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 about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy are those who share 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.”

Battle of Armaggedon

- The great battle of Armageddon, the final battle of human history. This is where human history ends. It's where the Lord Jesus intervenes and stops the madness of humanity. Jesus will return to earth and destroy all the ungodly

Millennialism

- **Millennialism** is a belief held by some Christian denominations that there will be a Golden Age or Paradise on Earth in which "Christ will reign" for 1000 years prior to the final judgment and future eternal state (the "World to Come" of the New Heavens and New Earth). This belief is derived primarily from Revelation 20:1–6.

Post Millennialism

- *Post-millennialism* is the view that says that Christ will return **after** the Millennium. This position originated with Augustine who felt that the Church would dominate the world for a thousand years and then, afterwards, Christ would return. Many people hold various forms of post-millennialism. For many years, liberal Christianity held a humanistic post-millennialism that taught that man would get better and better until man himself would bring the Kingdom of God on Earth. However, they didn't believe Christ would ever literally return.

Pre-millennialism

- *Pre-millennialism* says that Christ will return **before** the Millennium. It is based on the literal, grammatical, historical interpretation of Scripture that interprets Scripture for what it says. It follows the basic hermeneutical principle that says, *If the literal sense makes sense seek no other sense*. Pre-millennialists believe that Christ's return to Earth will be followed by a literal thousand year reign just as the Bible predicts here in Revelation 20:4-5. The pre-millennial view is the correct view, in my opinion, since it alone strictly adheres to the scripture.

What Does The Bible Say

- The kingdom of Christ is spiritual, not physical, in nature
 - John 18:36 – Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”

What Does The Bible Say?

- The kingdom of Christ does not come with outward observation, but is inward.
 - Luke 17:20-21 – “Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, “The kingdom of God does not come with observation; **21** nor will they say, ‘See here!’ or ‘See there!’ For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.”

What Does The Bible Say?

- The NT teaches that Christ's kingdom already exists.
 - Colossians 1:13 – “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”
 - Revelation 1:9 – “I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”

The Kingdom and the Church are One

- Jesus used "church" and "kingdom" interchangeably.
 - Matthew 16:18-19 – “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **19** And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

What Does the Bible Say?

- The prophecy of God establishing His kingdom in the days of the Roman kings has been fulfilled in Christ and His church (Dan. 2:44; Mk. 1:14-15; Col. 1:13).
- 1 Cor. 15:24-27 teaches that Christ is now reigning with all authority "in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18), and that He will continue to do so until the last enemy (death) is abolished (by the resurrection of the dead).

What Does the Bible Say?

- At the return of Christ, *"the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to God the Father"* -- (not established on earth for 1,000 years!) 1 Cor. 15:24.
- All the dead will be raised and judged according to their works (Jn. 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11-15).

What Does the Bible Say?

- When Christ returns the earth will be burned up with fervent heat according to 2 Peter 3:8-12. To expect Him to establish a kingdom on earth for 1,000 years is to contradict the teaching of God's word.
- The fact that Christ, at His return, will bring judgment against all who do not know or obey God should cause us to obey His gospel and live holy lives (2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Pet. 3:11-13).
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