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## Forward

This booklet is meant for a very few people: the people of Emmanuel Free Church (“EFC”). At the end of my ministry I hope to have loved you as Christ loves you (Phil. 1:7) and that together we may glory in one another on the day we stand before Christ (1 Thess.2:19). Therefore, my hope as your pastor is to do all I can to build you up and present you perfect in Him (Col. 1:28). With this in mind I am venturing to write on certain doctrines in Scripture I feel are important for you to know. Maybe after reading this booklet your interest will have been so piqued that you will search out better works on the same subject (see Appendix A). This is why you will see this booklet is not very long or technical. As important as it is, theology must also be readable. So hopefully you find on these pages enough content and enough clarity to help you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)

## Introduction

*Waiting, counting days gone by  
Upward, eyes watching cloudy gates  
Looking, longing, each word nigh  
Til faith to sight, His glory makes*

If you are at EFC long enough you might hear things like “I’m a Monarchist at heart!” You might also hear, “We don’t know when the Lord will return but we are one week closer than we were last Sunday.”<sup>1</sup> The reason is that in our fellowship we try to promote a tangible hope for our Lord’s return. The Bible says that when Jesus Christ comes back to the earth from heaven He will establish His Kingdom upon the earth and it will last for one thousand years. There is a glorious passage in Revelation 20:1-7 where it says He will be the “King of kings and Lord of lords”<sup>2</sup>. This is what we are looking forward to and that’s why we also say “Maranatha!”<sup>3</sup>

While all Christians agree Jesus is coming back at some point, not all Christians agree on certain details of that event. There is disagreement over how we should understand this Millennial Kingdom. There are 3.5 main views: 1) the Pre-Millennial, 2) the Post-Millennial, 3) the Amillennial and 3.5) the Pan-Millennial. The Pre-Millennial view sees Christ returning *before* His Millennial Kingdom begins upon the earth. The Post-Millennial view says the Kingdom isn’t a literal 1,000 year Kingdom but rather a kind of *golden age* on the earth preceding Christ’s return<sup>4</sup>. The Amillennial view says that there will be *no* Millennial Kingdom at all.<sup>5</sup> The Pan-Millennial view says, rather humorously, we can’t really know but it will all “pan” out in the end.

How can people reading the same passage arrive at such different conclusions? The answer is found in how each one begins their study in the first place.<sup>6</sup>

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1 Romans 13:11

2 Revelation 19:16

3 Maranatha is an Aramaic phrase that means “Come Our Lord”

4 The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy, LaHaye, pg 274

5 LaHaye, p17-21

6 Pentecost, Things to Come, p1

## One: Proper ‘Interperation’

One of our favorite movies as a family is *Cars*. If you’re like us then a lot of your family vocabulary comes from your favorite shows. If you were to listen to us in our home you would hear all sorts of funny lines from our favorite movies. One line comes from the lovable tow truck character named “Tow-Mater” in the movie *Cars 2*. While trying to explain some humorous events Tow Mater said his computer had “mis-interperated” what he said. When it comes to God’s words, we don’t want to “mis-interperate” what He said.

Every one of us who sits down to read and study the Bible has to answer a very important question before we begin: How will I interpret this great Book? There are 2 prevailing methods to do just this: the literal and the allegorical. A concise definition of the literal method says:

“...interpretation that gives to every word the same meaning it would have in normal usage...”<sup>7</sup>

On the other hand, the allegorical method can be defined as:

“the method of interpreting a literary text that regards the literal sense as the vehicle for a secondary, more spiritual and more profound sense”<sup>8</sup>

In other words, when you literally interpret Scripture you take the words at face value.<sup>9</sup> When you apply the allegorical method you look for hidden and symbolic meanings. To literally interpret Scripture means you accept the plain and obvious meaning of the words. To allegorize Scripture means you set aside the plain and obvious meaning and instead look for a cryptic one. Whichever way you choose to interpret the Bible, whether literal or allegorical, it will have a dramatic effect on what you conclude the Bible teaches. Nowhere is this more evident than in the prophetic portions of Scripture.

The literal method is strongly urged upon you for several reasons. First, and very significant, every single Biblical prophecy that has already been fulfilled has been

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7 Ryrie, *Dispensationalism*, pg 91

8 Pentecost, *Things to Come*, p4

9 This does not mean that figures of speech, types and symbols are not recognized in Scripture. The literal method recognizes these when the Scripture uses them and explains them. Otherwise, we avoid imposing a symbolic meaning where the Scripture doesn’t use one.

fulfilled literally<sup>10</sup>. All fulfilled prophecy has been fulfilled exactly as it was stated when it was foretold. Therefore when we come to passages that tell us about future things we should understand them as they are literally written.<sup>11</sup>

The other reason why you should interpret Scripture literally is that it honors the authority of Scripture. It is the only way you can be sure the Scriptures are the authority of what the Scriptures say. If you use the allegorical method then your imagination becomes the authority when deciding what the text means – or, worse yet, your agenda.<sup>12</sup> The very essence of allegorical interpretation turns us away from the goal of studying, which is to understand what God said and meant. “This method stands in direct opposition to the literal method”.<sup>13</sup> The allegorical method trades God’s meaning for our own made up meaning.

Let’s illustrate by looking at a specific passage that is often disputed: Revelation 20:1-7. According to people who hold Post-Millennial and Amillennial views, a literal 1,000 year Kingdom on earth is not the reasonable interpretation. They insist that the 1,000 years in this passage is symbolic. However, if we read Revelation 20:1-7 we do not see any indication that we should see the thousand years as anything other than just that – one thousand years:

“They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years....they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:4, 6).

If we take these words plainly as they are stated then we can expect a one thousand year kingdom in the future where Jesus Christ will reign over the whole earth. Only when we arbitrarily reject that conclusion from the beginning and insist the words are merely symbolic we will then come to a different conclusion of what is meant by “one thousand years”. We could ask if the other parts mentioned in this same verses are merely symbolic also. If the thousand year kingdom is not literal then why would the resurrection, the future priesthood of these resurrected souls, and their future co-reigning with Christ be literal?

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10 Walvoord, Every Prophecy of the Bible, p7

11 For a greater treatment of these two systems of interpretation I recommend you read chapter 1 of Things to Come by J. Dwight Pentecost, or chapter 4 in The End by Mark Hitchcock

12 See Appendix B

13 Ware, Nate. Article, “The Application of Old Testament Verses to Christians”, pg 2, 12/18/14

To allegorize Revelation 20, or any other passage, ends up ripping the real meaning out of Scripture. Then, as one author said, “words have indeed lost their meaning and the Bible must be from henceforth an insoluble riddle”.<sup>14</sup> When the allegorical method is used to interpret Scripture, two questions must be asked, “What reason do I have to believe the text means anything other than what it plainly says?” The second question is, “How can I trust Scripture in any meaningful way if I don’t believe it means what it says?”

Hopefully you can see the risks of looking through the allegorical lens. Therefore I urge you to use the literal method and accept the plain and ordinary meaning of the words.

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14 Feinberg, *Millennialism*, pg. 254.

## Two: A Match Made on Earth

What if I said to you that you shouldn't get too attached to heaven? Would you think I'm crazy? How many times have we been to funerals and heard the preacher assure us the deceased one was in heaven? How many times have we explained to others that salvation in Jesus Christ means heaven is a guarantee for them? So, what now? Have all those pastors and evangelists been mistaken? No. They are right. But, as we set out on a study of God's Word we are going to find God has given us a lot of information describing a future we will have on earth. While there is a time for heaven, you will see from Scripture that in the "long-run" it is earth that will be our home – beginning with the Millennial Kingdom.

In God's design the earth plays a central role for the future. Rather than removing it from existence He intends for it to remain – forever. After the Messiah's future Kingdom on the earth, God is going to usher in a new order where He will cause the "first earth" to pass away and make way for a "new earth":

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for  
the first earth and the first heaven had passed away"  
(Revelation 21:1)

I remember one time at a restaurant before a Bible study I was talking with a young waiter. I really liked him and had talked a number of times with him before. From previous conversations I knew he was studying science in college and that he believed in evolution. During this particular conversation I asked him where he thought everything in the world was leading to. He said quite passionately that humans were ruining the earth with pollution and wars. I could tell he was sincerely concerned and so I tried to encourage him with a Biblical promise. I said, "You know I would agree with you except that the Bible says God will preserve this earth long enough so He can destroy it Himself with fire." I could tell from his expression he had never heard that before.

Of course, after He destroys the first earth he is going to create a new earth. The point here is that if a new earth is going to be here forever then God intends for us to live on it.

Does living on the earth forever sound strange? Maybe this isn't too strange when you reflect on the mutual relationship we humans have with the earth. When you think back to our beginnings in Genesis we are told that God made man "from the dust of the ground". (Genesis 2:7) It tells us that the earth provided the "raw materials" God used to form our original human father!

Furthermore, the earth provides for our needs so we can exist. Our food grows out of the ground. Drinking water rains down and flows in streams. Medicine comes from the things of the earth. Earth is perfectly distanced from the sun so that its light benefits rather than harms life. Needed air for our lungs is only a breath away

everywhere we go. Of course the relationship is mutual and reciprocal, and so the earth benefits from us also. Think of how the carbon dioxide we breathe out is needed by plants. And remember that God designed the earth to be subdued by us so it would flourish under our care (Genesis 1:28; 2:5, 15).

From the very beginning of the Scriptures we see man and earth are paired together in a way that shows each are designed with the other in mind. If this is so, then it would indeed seem strange for man to exist for eternity in some place other than on the earth – especially if God goes through the trouble of making a “new” one.

Adding a little more interest to all this is the doctrine of our future physical resurrection. If we will be raised physically then it means we should live in a physical realm. Now we are definitely convinced that we will be raised up with physical bodies someday by the Lord Jesus Christ (John 5:25-29). One of our greatest hopes is that we will receive glorified bodies like His (Philippians 3:21). And, as these new bodies are the final stage of our redemption (Romans 8:23) they will never be subject to death, disease or decay (1 Corinthians 15:51-55). Now all of this leads me to this question: if the original man was created to live upon the earth, wouldn't it follow that a physically resurrected man would also live upon the earth?

### Three: The Kingdom is Coming

“Your kingdom come.”(Matthew 6:10) So familiar to us. When the disciples wanted Jesus to teach them how to pray He taught them to pray for the coming of God’s kingdom. I think many well-meaning Christians believe Jesus was teaching us that we are to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth. However, I believe that is to misunderstand what Jesus said. Jesus was teaching His disciples that their longing for God’s coming kingdom was to be expressed in prayer. Hope for the coming kingdom was supposed to create calloused knees.

We should all be looking forward to this kingdom – like Paul did:

“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and His kingdom...” (2Timothy 4:1)

However, you may hear many people talk today as though we are in Christ’s kingdom right now.<sup>15</sup> But when we look at the Word of God we can be sure that this Millennial kingdom is still not here yet. How can we be sure? Because we are still waiting for many events to happen that must occur before Christ’s Millennial Kingdom. Before this Monarchy materializes the world must see other events first. The Rapture of the Church must happen.<sup>16</sup> After the Rapture the world will see the rise of the Antichrist and the 7 year peace treaty he negotiates with the nation of Israel (Daniel 9:27). Halfway through the Tribulation the world will watch the Antichrist renege on that treaty and begin his 3 ½ year persecution of the saints during a time known as the Great Tribulation.<sup>17</sup> Then concluding this seven year period every eye will witness the visible Return of Jesus Christ in glory to the earth, the conversion of the nation of Israel, and the ensuing battle of Armageddon.<sup>18</sup> At this time, just prior to launching the Millennial Kingdom, other events like the judgment of the Gentile nations, the judgment of that nation of Israel, the resurrection of OT saints, and more must happen. These things are to precede Christ’s Kingdom. Since we have not seen any of these events we can be certain that our Lord’s Millennial Kingdom is still in the future.

Another compelling reason we know this kingdom is not here yet is that the Bible’s magnificent description of this Kingdom does not describe the world we live in now. For

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15 <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/eternal-covenant-david/>;  
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/the-kingdom-is-now/>;  
<http://reformedanswers.org/answer.asp/file/40932>

16 John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:51-55, and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

17 Daniel 9:27; Revelation 12; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

18 Revelation 1:7; 19:11-21

instance, the Bible says Jesus Christ is to reign over the entire earth from a throne in Jerusalem<sup>19</sup>. Obviously that is not true today. Israel will be the most prominent nation among all the nations (Jeremiah 31:7), but, today they are the scorn of every nation. In that Kingdom the nations will travel to Israel to worship the King and learn from Him.<sup>20</sup> Presently, however, there are more gods than nations in the world and Jesus is as scorned today as He was before (John 15:18-20). In the Millennial Kingdom the Church will be reigning with Christ, but, now the Church is a non-political entity. The Kingdom will be characterized by peace, justice, righteousness, joy, and the knowledge of the Lord throughout the whole earth. Major changes to the earth's topography will occur and the animals will live in peace with each other and with humans. None of these describe the world we live in now.

These two reasons alone make certain that we are not looking at the Kingdom today but are still looking forward to its arrival when Christ comes.

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19 Zechariah 14:9; Isaiah 2:1-4; Psalm 2:6-8

20 Isa. 2:2-3; Zech. 14:16

#### Four: Regime Change

By far the outstanding attraction of the Millennial Kingdom is the Person of Jesus Christ. He will be the supreme ruler of His worldwide Kingdom. Think about that. It isn't any other religious leader that will return and rule the earth. In that day we're going to ask, "Where is the 12<sup>th</sup> Imam or the Mahdi?" "Where is the Buddha?" "Where are Joseph Smith and Charles Russell?" Hey, we will probably ask "Where is Oprah?" too! All the false religions will be done away with. The people who taught things against the knowledge of God will be destroyed (2 Cor. 10:5). When the world as we know it ends it will be because the King of kings and Lord of lords has arrived and taken over the earth.

This means there will be a regime change. While Christ the King rules on a throne Satan will be chained in a prison. Literally. Revelation 20:1-3 tells us about this awesome future scene:

"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."

The Abyss is no carnival. In Luke 8:31 we see 2,000 terrified demons begging Jesus not to send them into the Abyss. In Revelation 9:1-12 we learn that this Abyss is the current prison for frightening demonic creatures that will be set loose upon the earth during the Tribulation to terrorize people. This may be what Peter referred to when he told us there are angels that sinned and are held in "gloomy dungeons" until their judgment (2 Peter 2:4). Regardless, while the earth basks in the light of Jesus Christ's presence upon the earth for 1,000 years, it is in this awful place called the Abyss that Satan will be incarcerated.

There are many, however, who allegorize this passage and would say that Satan has been bound since Christ was crucified and resurrected.<sup>21</sup> In their view the "binding" of Satan means that his power has been diminished because the Church is preaching the Gospel.<sup>22</sup> However, this view creates 2 problems. First, it is unsupported by Scripture,

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21 <http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/binding-satan/>

22 P.E. Hughes, *Interpreting Prophecy*, pg. 110; article by Douglas Kelly  
<http://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/binding-satan/>

and second, it is in conflict with Scripture. We may ask how can Satan be bound or weakened right now when 1 John 5:19 says he has the whole world under his control? How is he bound when 2 Corinthians 4:4 says that he “blinds the minds of unbelievers”? First Peter 5:8 warns us to “Be self-controlled and alert” specifically because “our enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” Furthermore we’re told to “put on the full armor of God and take our stand against the devil’s schemes” (Eph. 6:11). He can “outwit” us and he can get a “foothold” in our lives when we hold on to our anger (2 Cor. 2:11; Ephesians 4:27).

Those verses portray a very powerful enemy – not some weakling. The point of Revelation 20:1-3 is that Satan’s schemes will be completely disabled during the Millennial Kingdom – not diminished. Be on guard Christian, Satan is fully operational right now.

In the future Millennial Kingdom, however, we can expect at least two important changes to occur when Satan is imprisoned.

First, truth will prevail. Second Corinthians 4:4 says Satan is “the god of this age [who] has blinded the eyes of unbelievers...” In Revelation 12:9 he is described in this way, “The great dragon...that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.” Satan is “a liar, the father of lies and has been lying since the beginning.” (John 8:44). Without Satan’s dark lies in the world the glorious truth of Jesus Christ will shine throughout the whole earth. Jesus is the way the truth and the life” (John 14:6), the conduit through which the fullness of truth came (John 1:17), and the One in whose mouth was found no deceit (Isa. 53:9). Truth will prevail over the entire earth when it is brought under His kingship. No one will be blinded or ignorant anymore. Instead of being led astray by the lies of Satan “the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD...” (Isaiah 11:9). The machinery that energized the world’s mendacity will be brought to a devastating halt. Truth will reign.

We also see that when Satan is bound, the Last Adam - Jesus Christ - will take back the earth. When Satan led Adam to sin he took dominion of the world from Adam. While Adam was created to have dominion over the earth we see over and over again in Scripture that Satan now has control of the world. Ephesians 2:2 says he is “the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the prince who is now at work in those who are disobedient.” In John 14:30 Jesus calls Satan “the prince of this world”. In 1 John 5:19 it says, “the whole world is under the control of the evil one.” He offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world in Matthew 4:8-9 for the very reason that he had control of the kingdoms of the world. His control will reach its crescendo in the Antichrist’s worldwide government during the 7 year Tribulation. But with the glorious coming of the Lord Jesus Christ back to the earth, Satan’s term will be violently brought to an end and the government of the world will be put back into man’s hands. Specifically it will be put into hands of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, as He reigns over the whole earth. There will be a permanent regime change.

## The King of kings and Lord of lords

I love Handel's Messiah. Like good music it appeals to the higher parts of the human spirit. But more than that I find this song arouses the highest parts of the Christian spirit: radiant hope in the coming glory of Jesus Christ. I can hear the song now – the chorus of men and women's voices coalescing higher and higher into a fantastic climax declaring "KING OF KINNNGS! AND LORD OF LORRRDS!" Then the words come that sweep me away into the future: "AND HE SHALL REIGN FOREVER AND E-E-EVER!" The men first, followed by the women.

I try to imagine the glory of that first day when Christ ascends to His throne and begins His magnificent kingdom. Will He ride His white horse in triumph (Revelation 19:11) through a great throng of people? I can see them now crowding the courts of the temple forming an aisle leading up to the throne. Looking in all directions would reveal an endless sea of joyous faces stretching outward in all directions from the city. Maybe angels will be arrayed overhead in the sky in a royal formation for the King's coronation. Why not? They were there when He was born and they were at His side at His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming. Definitely this future moment will demand music. What majestic chorus will fill all Jerusalem while the King approaches His throne? Whatever it is, it will be as glorious as the moment. And the majesty of that day is faintly heard in my ears whenever I hear Handel's Messiah. What a day.

Once He takes His seat what will His supreme rule look like?

First, His Kingdom rule will cover the entire earth. Listen to how God the Father promises the entire earth to His Son in Psalm 2:8:

"Ask of me and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

"He will rule from sea to sea..." (Psalm 72:8)

Zechariah 14:9 makes the same prediction,

"The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and His name the only name."

This is the undisputed international sovereignty of Jesus Christ. In that day you could travel to the farthest place on the earth and His sovereignty will reach you wherever you go. No flower or animal will be outside of His borders. You will not meet a man or woman or child who is not subject to Jesus Christ as their King. His rule will be supreme over the entire earth.

Secondly, while Jesus Christ's rule will extend over the whole earth, it will be centered in Jerusalem. Today there are those who contend with Israel over Jerusalem. However, Jerusalem belongs to God. In Psalm 2:6 and Joel 3:17 God calls Jerusalem "My holy hill". As His possession it is the "apple of His eye" (Zechariah 2:8). When the time comes for this Kingdom He will make it the full and uncontested possession of Israel. Crowned with the throne of Jesus Christ, Jerusalem will become the mountain that is raised above every other mountain (Isaiah 2:2). She will be the epicenter of the Millennial Kingdom and all the peoples from around the world will journey to the Capitol for worship, education and justice (Zechariah 14:16; Isaiah 2:3-4).

Thirdly, when Jesus Christ takes His seat on the throne in Jerusalem we will witness the fulfillment of God's covenant with King David. In 2 Samuel 7:12-16 God promised King David that he would always have one of his descendants sit on his throne and rule over the kingdom of Israel forever. In Psalm 89:3-4 God says, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations." God reaffirms His covenant in Jeremiah 33:17:

"For this is what the LORD says: 'David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel'"

When the kingdom begins David will always have one of his descendants rule over Israel. We see that this covenant refers also to the Messiah. When Jesus was born we are informed that He was in the lineage of King David:

"Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ." (Matthew 1:17)

"You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:31-33)

This means that Jesus Christ met the ancestral qualification as the Messiah. While Israel will always have one of David's sons to rule it, Jesus will rule over Israel and all other nations as the King of kings. This fulfillment of God's covenant with David through Jesus Christ will be one of the fantastic features of the Millennial Kingdom.

Fourthly, the rule of Jesus Christ will involve education. Isaiah 2:1-4 says:

“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths. The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.” (see also Micah 4:1-3)

The knowledge of the LORD will go out from Jerusalem and fill the entire earth (Habakkuk 2:14; Isa. 11:9). The nations will flock to Jerusalem to hear the King, Jesus Christ, personally teach them. Then as they return to their own nations to practice what they learn the knowledge of the LORD will so fill the earth.

Can you imagine seeing Christ teach and hearing Him personally with your own ears? The greatest pedagogue who ever spoke will once again take up the role of teaching. Remember how marvelous He was? Matthew 7:28 says, “When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching because he taught as one who had authority...” Then in John 7 when the temple guards were so awestruck by Jesus’ words they couldn’t arrest him. When they went back to the Sanhedrin they were chastised for not bringing Jesus with them. But what did they say to defend themselves? “No one ever spoke the way this man does.” Now, remember that was the power of His teaching when He came humbly. Just think what it will be like to hear Him teach as He reigns over the earth in all His glory. Isaiah 11:2 says,

“The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power – the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

Fifthly the rule of Jesus Christ will reflect perfect righteousness and justice. Isaiah 11:3-5 says,

“And He will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.”

This means that when He is the Judge over the earth no sin will be “gotten away with.” No one will escape justice and no one will be denied justice. No one will get less than what he deserves or more than what he deserves. “He will rule them with a rod of iron” Psalm 2:8 says. Happiness will flourish under such virtuous kingship: “When the righteous thrive the people rejoice” (Proverbs 29:2).

These only begin to describe what our Lord's supreme rule will be like in the Millennial Kingdom. What a day that will be. Maranatha!

## Six: The kings of the King and lords of the Lord

“So, what are you going to do when you grow up?” Whether in childhood or in high school or in a mid-life crisis, we’ve all thought about what we would do when we get older. Unless, of course you live at home as a career student. Anyway, ask yourself this question: “What will I do in the Millennial Kingdom?” Think politics. If you’re a Christian, one thing you’re going to do is rule over the earth with Jesus Christ.

But you wouldn’t be the only one. There will be others assigned to cabinet positions in the new Administration. In Matthew 19:28 Jesus says to the 12 disciples, “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 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel.” Those who are faithful to Jesus Christ in the Tribulation will be decapitated by the Antichrist (Revelation 20:4). However, upon His return, Jesus Christ will raise them up and appoint them as “heads” of government in His Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6). We also know through the OT prophet Ezekiel that King David and his descendants will rule over Israel as well (Jeremiah 33:14-26; Ezekiel 37:24-25).

As was mentioned above, the Church will also rule with Christ in His Kingdom. The Apostle Paul was speaking to Christians when he said in 1Corinthians 6:2, “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?” In 2 Timothy 2:12 it says, “If we endure we will also reign with Him.” Speaking to a Christian church, Jesus promised in Revelation 2:26-27, “To Him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations...just as I have received authority from my Father.” He said again in Revelation 3:21, “To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on His throne.” Then in Revelation 5:9-10 we see the hosts surrounding the throne of God singing these words about the Church, “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God and they will reign on the earth.” Furthermore, Jesus is called the King of kings and Lord of lords. Who are the *kings* of the King and the *lords* of the Lord?

It seems quite evident from these verses that our place in the Millennium will involve political and spiritual authority. It also seems possible that we will be spread throughout the Gentile nations around the earth to lead these countries in worship and government. And it seems best that Jews will rule Jews<sup>23</sup> and Gentiles will rule Gentiles.

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23 Jesus said that the 12 Jewish Apostles will judge the 12 tribes of Israel. It does not need to be argued that it would not be fitting for Gentiles to rule in Israel. I do also take this to mean that those 12 Jewish Apostles will not be assigned over Gentile nations. Instead, it is my guess that various Gentile Christians will be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ with different levels of authority within the Gentile nations throughout the world.

In matters of government, as Christ's regents we will be His appointed "arms" around the world who carry out His righteous rule at our assigned posts. These positions will be held by qualified people who received their assignments entirely on merit as a reward from Jesus Christ when they stood before His Bema seat.<sup>24</sup> This means everyone will be exactly where they deserve to be and should be. Those who hold their offices will be fit for their jobs. In that day there will be no more thwarting of justice through bribes and denying the poor their rights (Isa. 1:23). No longer will fools serve as princes and kings (Isa. 32:5). No more lies and cowardice and self-serving wickedness from those in authority. No more calling good evil and evil good, or calling light darkness and darkness light by the leaders of nations (Isa. 5:20). Think of it – everything we lament in this age will be reversed. Jesus Christ will be the Righteous Branch of David who will rule with righteousness (Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Ps. 72:2). As branches of His government we will also rule with righteousness. He is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and therefore we will promote His peace in our jurisdictions. He will reign with wisdom and justice (Jer. 23:5) and our constituents will see us rule over them with the same virtues.

In matters of worship we will serve as priests:

“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign upon the earth” (Revelation 5:9)

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood...” (1 Peter 2:9)

Most likely this will involve leading the national, regional and local worship gatherings in our respective countries. The teaching of the word of God, prayer, music, any required ordinances, etc. will be carried out by those who are the “royal priesthood.” So, what will you do in the Millennial Kingdom?

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24 Matthew 25:14-30

## Seven: The Restoration of Israel

Do you ever wonder what is going to become of Israel? If certain nations had their way the Jewish State would be “driven into the sea” and “wiped off the map”.<sup>25</sup> Many mainline Christian denominations protest against Israel and participate in “BDS” (Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions) against the Jewish nation.<sup>26</sup> For that matter, one might be surprised God hasn’t personally wiped the nation off the map for their persistent rebellion.

Yet, at the same time, Israel is unique on the stage of human history. With a tenacious and identifiable existence that defies all probability the nation of Israel still exists today. Frankly, there is no way that the Jewish people should still be alive and recognizable. There is no way the same ethnic people should be living for the third time in history in the exact same land. It is simply unprecedented. From their ancient origins nation after nation has sought to eradicate them from the memory of time. Whether Haman (Esther 3:5-6), Hitler, Russian pogroms, genocidal Iranian regimes, the PLO, HAMAS or the entire Arab world, no one has been able to exterminate the Jews from the earth.

With so much global opposition we could ask: Can this nation actually have a future? The Word of God is unmistakable on this point: Israel is destined for a glorious future. When Jesus comes and sets up His 1,000 year kingdom Israel will be blessed more than at any other time in its history. Let’s look at three of its most significant blessings.

First of all Israel will experience spiritual regeneration. Ezekiel 37:13-14 informs us of the glorious regeneration of the nation following their resurrection:

“Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live...”

The nation will also repent in the last days:

“Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come

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25 <http://www.buzzfeed.com/jerusalemcenter/sworn-to-destruction-20-threats-iranian-leaders-m-hys5>

26 [http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/bds\\_in\\_the\\_pews\\_european\\_us\\_and\\_canadian\\_government\\_funding\\_behind\\_anti\\_israel\\_activism\\_in\\_mainline\\_churches](http://www.ngo-monitor.org/article/bds_in_the_pews_european_us_and_canadian_government_funding_behind_anti_israel_activism_in_mainline_churches)

trembling to the LORD and to His blessings in the last days” (Hosea 3:5)

“And I will pour out on David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” (Zech. 12:10)

“I [God] have surely heard Ephraim’s [Israel] moaning: ‘You disciplined me like an unruly calf, and I have been disciplined. Restore me and I will return, because you are the LORD my God. After I strayed, I repented; after I came to understand, I beat my breast. I was ashamed and humiliated because I bore the disgrace of my youth.’” (Jeremiah 31:18-19)

The Jewish people will be spiritually correct for the Millennial Kingdom and eternity afterward. While revealing the New Covenant in Jeremiah 31:33-34, God further describes what the Israelite’s spiritual state will be like:

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel, after that time,’ declares the LORD. ‘I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother saying ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,’ declares the LORD. ‘For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.’”

The regeneration of Israel also means they will be acceptable for God’s sanctuary to be placed among them:

I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.” (Ezekiel 37:26-28)

Secondly, Israel will be internationally renowned. In the Millennial Kingdom Israel will be first among all nations. She will be the head rather than the tail. Honor will replace reproach. Disgust will transform into admiration. Rather than a byword the name "Israel" will be blessed in the mouths of all: "As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing." (Zechariah 8:13).

But glory will have to wait for Israel. She is today surrounded by enemies who curse her and devise her destruction. For example, former Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has repeatedly stated his desire to eradicate the Jewish people from existence.<sup>27</sup> Similarly, HAMAS, a designated terrorist organization, makes its purposes clear with regards to Israel in its charter. The preamble states, "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it..."<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, the Palestinian Liberation Organization, founded by terrorist Yasser Arafat, has a long history of murdering Palestinian Arabs who have citizenship in Israel and sell property to Jews (Glick, *The Israeli Solution*, pg. 144-146).

Of course today's hostility is nothing new for the nation of Israel. Imminent annihilation has always surrounded them. Psalm 83:3-5 shows us the nations surrounding ancient Israel felt the same way as the nations surrounding modern Israel:

"With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish. 'Come' they say,  
'let us destroy them as a nation, that the name of  
Israel may be remembered no more.' With one  
mind they plot together, they form an alliance  
against you"

So, why won't the nations succeed in obliterating Israel? We are told in Jeremiah 31:35-37:

"This is what the LORD says, 'He who appoints  
the sun to shine by day, who decrees the moon and  
stars to shine by night, who stirs up the sea so that

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27 On October 26<sup>th</sup> 2005 he stated to more than 4,000 Iranian students that Israel must be "wiped off the map". In the same speech he stated, "Anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of the Islamic nation's fury..."

28 Where "Liberation of Palestine" translates into Jewish genocide Article 13 says, "Palestine is an Islamic land... Since this is the case, the Liberation of Palestine is an individual duty for every Moslem wherever he may be." And Article 15 reads as follows: "The day the enemies usurp part of Moslem land, Jihad becomes the individual duty of every Moslem. In the face of the Jews' usurpation, it is compulsory that the banner of Jihad be raised."

its waves roar – the LORD Almighty is His name:  
Only if these decrees vanish from my sight,’ declares  
the LORD, ‘will the descendants of Israel ever cease  
to be a nation before me.’ This is what the LORD  
says: ‘Only if the heavens above can be measured  
and the foundations of the earth below searched out  
will I reject all the descendants of Israel because of  
all they have done.’ Declares the LORD”

No matter how many nations promise to destroy Israel, God has promised they will always exist. While their existence is far from glorious to date, in the future God will bring Israel everlasting honor among the nations. Isaiah anticipates these days:

“They [Gentiles] will bring your sons in their arms  
and carry your daughters on their shoulders. Kings  
will be your foster fathers, and their queens your  
nursing mothers. They will bow down before you  
with their faces to the ground; they will lick the dust  
at your feet.” (Isaiah 49:22-23)

“Who are these that fly along like clouds, like  
doves to their nests? Surely the islands [nations]  
look to me; in the lead are the ships of Tarshish,  
bringing your sons from afar, with their silver and  
gold, to the honor of the LORD your God, the Holy  
One of Israel, for He has endowed you [Israel] with  
splendor. Foreigners will rebuild your walls and their  
kings will serve you....men will bring you the wealth  
of the nations – their kings led in triumphal  
procession. For the nation or kingdom that will not  
serve you will perish...The sons of your oppressors  
will come bowing before you; all who despise you  
will bow down at your feet and will call you the City  
of the LORD, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.  
Although you have been forsaken and hated, with no  
one traveling through, I will make you the  
everlasting pride and the joy of all generations...”  
(Isaiah 60:8-12, 14-15)

“Their descendants will be known among the  
nations and their offspring among the peoples. All  
who see them will acknowledge that they are a  
people the LORD has blessed” (Isaiah 61:9)

“The nations will see your righteousness, and all  
kings your glory; you will be called by a new name

that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God." (Isaiah 62:2-3)

The prophet Zephaniah also foretold these glory days for Israel:

"At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes" says the LORD." (Zephaniah 3:20)

Why will Israel be honored? Because God has decided that He will be known through Israel and no other nation. His purpose is that the nations will know that the God of Israel is the LORD (Mal. 1:11). God says in Jeremiah 33:9, "Then this city [Jerusalem] will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they [all nations] will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it [Jerusalem]." Ezekiel 36:22-23 says:

Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.'

If every nation knew and believed God's plans for Israel then every nation would desire that day. Why? The reason is because in that day all the nations will be blessed when Israel is restored. Paul told the Romans that the fullness of blessings to the Gentiles would be experienced in the day that Israel was restored, "But if their [Israel's] transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fulfillment be?" (Romans 11:12). What Paul was saying here was that the Gospel was preached to the Gentiles because the Jews rejected it. The blessings of salvation were now given to Gentiles because Jews turned God's offer away. But the fullness of blessings for the Gentile world await the day when Israel will repent and be restored by God. That's what Paul was indicating when he asked, "how much greater riches [for Gentiles] will their [Israel] fulfillment bring?" When that day comes every Gentile will be fully aware of the privileged place Jews have with God and the benefits of knowing the Jews. Zechariah 8:13 says:

“As you have been an object of cursing among the nations, O Judah and Israel, so will I save you, and you will be a blessing.”

And again in 8:23:

“This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘In those days ten men from all languages and nations will take firm hold of one Jew by the hem of his robe and say, ‘Let us go with you, because we have heard that God is with you.’”

While the news today presents an Israel that is hated and vilified, the Bible presents to us a nation with a glorious future.

Lastly, the land and people of Israel will be reunited. In the Millennial Kingdom the nation of Israel will finally have what it has never had before in history: the full possession of all the land God promised to Abraham. There were specific boundary lines God promised the Jews when He spoke to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21. While Israel has possessed much of it throughout history, never have they possessed it all.

The nation will not only possess the full extent of the land, but, it will possess it forever. In Isaiah 60:21 God spoke to Israel:

“Then all your people will be righteous and they will possess the land forever.”

In Amos 9:15 He says it again:

“I will plant Israel in their own land, never again to be uprooted from the land I have given them” says the LORD”.

Under possession by its true people the land will become extremely fruitful. This land has seen devastation, neglect, and barrenness, but, the opulence of Israel’s soil during the Millennial Kingdom will rival the Garden of Eden (Ezekiel 36:35). Lush vegetation, plentiful streams and bountiful crops will make it the distinguished piece of real estate in the world:

“water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The burning sand will become a pool, a thirsty ground, bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.” (Isaiah 35:6-7)

“In that day the mountains will drip new wine, and the hills will flow with milk; all the ravines of Judah will run with water. A fountain will flow out of the LORD’s house and will water the valley of acacias.” (Joel 3:18)

“The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills.” (Amos 9:14)

“They will say, ‘This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden” and “he [the LORD] will make her deserts like Eden...” (Ezekiel 36:35 and Isaiah 51:3)

The Millennial Kingdom will be the setting for Israel to be displayed as God’s choice nation - a nation that is regenerated, renowned, and reunited. Israel’s glory is coming.

**Eight: The 1001<sup>st</sup> Year and Beyond**

You might be asking, “Then what?” Good question. A thousand years is a long time, but what happens in the 1001<sup>st</sup> year? For that, I would encourage you to read the last three chapters of the Bible, Revelation 20, 21, and 22. There you will discover things like what is said will happen when Satan is released from the Abyss, the destruction of the current earth and heavens, the Great White Throne, the final resurrection, the books that are opened in heaven, the Lake of Fire, the New City, the new heavens and the new earth, the tree of life, the temple of God and of the Lamb and more! Truly, “no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9). We don’t know when these things will happen but we know we are one day closer today than yesterday. *Maranatha!*

Appendix A  
**Recommended Resources**

Hitchcock, Mark. *The End*. Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2012. Print.

Hixson, J.B. and Fontecchio, Mark. *What Lies Ahead*. Brenham: Lucid Books, 2013. Print.

LaHaye, Tim and Hindson, Ed. *The Popular Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy*. Eugene: Harvest House Publishers, 2004. Print.

*Tim LaHaye Prophecy Study Bible, New King James Version*. Tim LaHaye, gen. ed. AMG Publishers, 2001. Print.

Lightner, Robert. *Last Days Handbook*. Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 1997. Print.

Pentecost, J. Dwight. *Things to Come*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1964. Print.

Appendix B  
**Other Examples of Allegorical Interpretation**

These are several modern attempts at allegorizing Scripture to fit various agendas. These large-scale agendas are political in nature, but, we as individuals need to be careful not to impose our personal ideas on God's Word either.

1. *Christian Palestinianism*. Many so-called Christians are Pro-Palestinian (and anti-Israel) advocates who seek to re-interpret the Old Testament in a way that replaces the Israelites as the historical people of God with the Palestinians. This movement is a dishonest attempt to discredit the Jewish people's historical, legal and spiritual right to the land of Israel and instead justify a Palestinian occupation. For an excellent study of this ungodly movement I recommend the following resources:

- a. <http://www.pre-trib.org/data/pdf/lce-ChristianPalestinian2.pdf>
- b. <https://www.thebereancall.org/content/chrislam-christian-palestinianism-0>
- c. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oslx3tmvioY>

2. *Gay Christianity*. The homosexual movement has aggressively tried to reinvent what the Bible teaches about homosexuality to make it more affirming of the LGBTQ lifestyles. The wonderful friendship between King David and Jonathan is twisted into a gay relationship, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah is attributed to inhospitality, and the recent release of the Queen James Bible as a gay affirming translation are some of the fallacious attempts to allegorize and twist God's Word to fit a preconceived agenda. Some excellent resources to get you started into studying this topic further are here:

- a. <https://carm.org/homosexuality>
- b. <http://www.alwaysbeready.com/homosexuality>