

## **Biblical Doctrine of the Millennium**

### **Part 1**

Is there any biblical basis for a temporal interval between this present age and the eternal state? The answer is an unequivocal yes! It is very clear in passages such as Ezekiel 38-39 and 40-48 that there is significant activity related to Israel much too detailed to merely be symbolic. Daniel 7:1-28; 8:1-27; 9:1-27 and 10:1-12:13 along with Zechariah 12:1 – 14:21 and Revelation 20:1-10 suggest activities preceding the consummation of this present age and advent of the eternal state. There are at least five purposes served by a thousand year reign of Jesus as the Messiah:

- (1) The millennium would provide a historical arena to showcase the person and work of Christ in the context of human history. The predominance of Christ as the creator and sustainer of history remains hidden except to those who believe. There is no reason to believe Jesus will receive any recognition by the nations of the world until He returns in triumph (cf. Lk. 18:8; Mt. 24:8-14).
- (2) Such an interval would provide a final and fitting conclusion to human history. Without the millennium or something like it there would be nothing like what Paul describes in 1 Cor. 15:24-28 as “the end of human history.” Jesus will deliver the redeemed creation to the Father. Human history began with tranquility evident in the Garden of Eden before the fall. It would be fitting that the end of human history also concludes with a period of tranquility when Satan and Sin are bound.
- (3) Such an interval would provide the arena in which the person of Christ would be glorified as pre-millennialism teaches. Conservative scholars present the case for the triumph and glorification of Christ in history. The world has no desire to see His triumph but a millennial reign would provide a basis for it, Mt 16:28; 17:1-12.
- (4) A millennium would allow for the completion of Jesus’ messianic salvation. Jesus came not only to bring personal salvation to all who receive Him, but also to redeem creation from the curse of sin, Rom 8:20-23 and establish a reign of unprecedented peace and prosperity, Jn 16:38; 20:19, 21, 26. As the Messiah He will set up a reign of righteousness and destroy the evil elements of this age. Christ’s millennial reign is necessary for the completion of all that God has promised to do through the Messiah.
- (5) The millennium would provide an arena for Israel to fulfill the elements of its covenant symbols in the offerings and sacrifices as outlined in Ezekiel 40-46. Why would the sacrificial system be reinstated this side of the cross? The answer is that it provides Israel an opportunity to observe all the elements of their covenant and sacrifices for the first time, with Christ in view. The new sacrifices and offerings will be the “Lord’s Supper” of Israel’s covenant, Lk 22:15-23. But the law that dictates these new sacrifices will be based on the internal law that is the heart of the Gospel, Jer. 31:31-40.

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