

REVELATION PART ELEVEN - Verses 1 to 10 of Chapter 20 (Continuation)**Chapter 20 verses 1 to 10 – Continuation on The Millennial Kingdom**

The previous message was clear from the Parable of the Ten Minas in Luke 19:11-27, that we should get ourselves prepared for the Millennial Kingdom and for our role in heaven, instead of just staying idle and being useless. If we are faithful in little things now, God will give us greater rewards in the Millennial Kingdom and subsequently in the New Heaven and New Earth.

What is this Millennial Kingdom and its purpose?

1. God has His purpose when He created the Garden of Eden. He put Adam in the garden to tend it.
 - a) The garden was perfect but has greater potential for more to be done, so God wanted Adam to tend the garden and to maximise it.
 - b) Our God is a God who works, contributes and gives. We are made in the image of God to be useful and to be a blessing to others. Adam was supposed to use his God's given talents to bless the creation and make the world a beautiful abode.
 - c) However, Adam was given the freedom of choice. The sacredness about God is that we are made in His image and so we are allowed to make choices, unlike other things that God created, such as plants and animals which could just repeat and do exactly what their ancestors did since the beginning of creation. But man can create and make choices. Adam was allowed choices but he messed it up.
2. **The Millennial Kingdom has a purpose.**
 - a) **It was to tell Satan that he did not mess it up because the second Adam, Jesus Christ, the perfect Man, the Son of God, is going to make right choices and He is going to rule the Millennial Kingdom.**
 - b) This Millennial Kingdom is similar to the Garden of Eden, but on a much greater scale and with much more grandeur. If Adam had made the right choice, he would have the potential to make the Garden of Eden similar to the Millennial Kingdom.
 - c) However, Satan tempted Adam and when Adam made the wrong choice, the world spun downwards. So, our God wants to show Satan that not only did he not succeed in messing up God's plan, but his actions will result in an even better plan for the world. **Instead of just having a Garden of Eden restricted to the Mesopotamia area near the River Euphrates, God will create a beautiful garden in the whole wide world called the Millennial Kingdom!**
 - d) Thus God is getting His plan back on track and is having the last laugh. Satan thought that he could thwart God's plans and so do many fools in this world, but no one can ever outdo God. If we do, we are trying it at our own risk and stupidity.

What does the Millennial Kingdom, the perfect place, look like?

1. This is Garden of Eden version 2 or 2 million!
2. Isaiah 11:1-5 say that there would be perfect, righteous rule in this Millennial Kingdom.
 - a) This is something that we have never had, a righteous ruler! We have leaders with some righteous traits but in the end, they are all “Babylonish”, because every ruler cares only about himself.
 - b) There are corruption and all kinds of deception in the current world. We all instinctively wish that our rulers, bosses, etc. will be righteous but the selfish nature keeps coming in.
 - c) In this Millennial Kingdom, there will be no corruption in the government or in the judicial system, nor selfishness or unfairness in school systems or companies.
3. Isaiah 2:4 says there shall be no war in this Millennial Kingdom.
 - a) In the current world, the major portion of the budgets of most countries are not for development but set aside for defence. They have a need to protect themselves with troops so as to avoid being taken advantage of, or conquered and taken over by this Babylonian system, where the rich get richer and more powerful and start controlling others.
 - b) War is a part of life in this current world. Every day, we hear of wars everywhere, between cities, companies, and nations. People are spending more energy defending their turf against sabotage, espionage, etc. than against development.
 - c) In the Millennial Kingdom, there will not be such waste of resources due to wars, but everything will be very productive.
4. The Earth will be restored and hence would no longer be cursed.
 - a) In this current world, with any vegetation that we try to grow in the ground, we are greatly bothered by weeds and thorns growing amongst them. This was because the ground was cursed in Genesis 3:17 when Adam fell. But Jeremiah 31:12 says that the Millennial Kingdom would have no such sorrow. Today, farmers face pestilences, weeds, locusts, soil degradation, viruses that kill pigs, cows and chickens etc.
 - b) But in the Millennial Kingdom, it will be productive and efficient without all these negatives. The curse of sin brought into the world is no longer an issue even though it is the same soil on the same Earth, because the Earth would no longer be cursed. The Earth will be restored and this is not even the New Earth yet. It is just that the curse will be lifted in the Millennial Kingdom.
5. Lifespan of people will be long but there will still be deaths.
 - a) Isaiah 65:20 says there would be no infant deaths nor anyone dying before 100 years old, or else he is accursed.
 - b) The lifespan of people in the Millennial Kingdom will be much longer, but there will still be deaths because these are still natural bodies and not resurrected bodies. (Remember, the resurrected saints will be ruling with

Christ in this Millennial Kingdom in their resurrected bodies. But the people they rule over will still have natural bodies like us.)

- c) There will be no more sadness due to infant deaths or young men dying in their prime.
 - d) Hence, if we read all these and still hold on to the view that there is no Millennial Kingdom, these verses will seem very weird and nonsensical. It is not referring to resurrected bodies but to natural bodies who moved into the Millennial Kingdom after the War of Armageddon or those born thereafter. In the Millennial Kingdom, people will not die young.
6. What will the spiritual state be like in the Millennial Kingdom?
- a) Habakkuk 2:14 says that the restored Earth would be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters covered the sea.
 - b) This means that people in the Millennial Kingdom will have knowledge of the Lord which can be “as common as waters covering the sea”.
7. Friendship between animals and men will be restored.
- a) Isaiah 11:6-7 say that the animals would be at peace with each other and “a little child shall lead them and the lion shall eat straw”. Animals would not eat human neither would human eat animals.
 - b) This is like the Garden of Eden again. It will no longer be a case of “survival of the fittest” unlike in the current world. The food chain in which the stronger one will eat the weaker one will not happen anymore.
8. There will be a temple.
- a) Ezekiel Chapters 40 to 46 describe a temple in the Millennial Kingdom in great details. The Jews will get back to the Millennial Kingdom and worship at the temple.
 - b) They will offer animal sacrifices not as substitutes for their sins, but as a constant reminder that for centuries, they did not acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah since His first coming. They will have to keep doing it repeatedly in the Millennial Kingdom to remind them because they had never got their understanding right.
 - c) Similarly, Christians take the bread and cup in the Holy Communion ordinance to remind themselves of Jesus’ sacrifice and death on the Cross, and it is not because these sacraments will save them. So, in the Millennial Kingdom, the Jews will have to make animal sacrifices to remind themselves that the perfect Lamb of God had died for them.

With all these perfect peace and joy in the Millennial Kingdom for 1000 years, the population with natural bodies will grow tremendously when the people get married. The saints and martyrs will rule with Jesus in a righteous way. Hopefully, we will be faithful in using God’s given talents today so that we, saints, will have 10 cities to rule in the Millennial Kingdom. Hence, we should prepare ourselves in this sin-cursed Earth, and be ready for the Millennial Earth now that we have learnt these facts about the Millennial Kingdom.

Next, we will see what happens when Satan is released from the bottomless pit.

1. After seeing 1000 years of perfect and righteous rule by Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom, Satan, upon his release from the bottomless pit in Revelation 20:7, will gather the people in natural bodies, which numbers are like the sand of the sea in verse 8.
 - a) These will be called the forces of Gog and Magog. "Gog and Magog" is the archetype of human rebellion against God. Satan will lead the final war (this is not the earlier Armageddon war).
 - b) From the four corners of the restored Earth, these rebellious people will gather at Jerusalem to fight against Jesus, but fire will come down from heaven and within a split second, the final war will be over just like in the Battle of Armageddon.
2. What is the lesson for us in all these happenings?
 - a) That even in a perfect environment where no one can claim that "Satan made me sin", somehow our human heart still have much rebellion when given the choice.
 - b) People always blame it on Satan and try to bind Satan everywhere. But even when Satan was bound for 1000 years and released for only a short while, everyone who has seen the perfect rule, will still make the choice to join him in rebellion.
 - c) This means that unless the grace of God works in us, we cannot be saved. Ephesians 2:8-9 say that we are saved simply by the grace of the Almighty.
 - d) Some claim that their grandfathers had never heard about Jesus and so was never given a chance to be saved. The fact is that if their grandfathers have lived during the Millennial Kingdom and seen Jesus rule righteously for 1000 years, they may still reject Jesus. We must remember that there are no satanic forces to deceive them in the Millennial Kingdom.

So, what have we learned in this lesson on the Millennial Kingdom?

1. It will not be deemed to be long to live even 1000 years in this Kingdom, because when one is happy, time seems short. But the point is that God wants us to know that there is rebellion in our hearts and we should not just blame anyone else.
2. We should just thank God that we are saved and that if it is not for His amazing grace, we could be like these rebellious people from the Millennial Kingdom, who, despite getting the best education to know God, yet could still have turned away from God easily.
3. Thus, when we enter the eternal state, those of us with resurrected bodies will be so grateful that we are saved by the grace of God who loves us and had done something within our heart to remove the rebellious nature. We will realise that we are not saved because of our good family, good religious background or good church, good country or any other environmental factor, but it is all purely due to the grace of God.
4. There is a 1000 years of work to do.

- a) Many skills are still needed. There are natural bodied people in the Millennial Kingdom and more babies will be born. Farming will take place. Production will take place in this beautiful, bigger Garden of Eden.
- b) We, with our resurrected bodies, should not be doing nothing, but to run this Millennial Kingdom well.
 - i. We should be looking forward to a productive job there. Nothing is more satisfying than to see things grow, be it crops or children. If we are not faithful in the little things here on current Earth, we may then regret.
 - ii. It is like our old grandpa who laments that he had wasted his life and all the options given to him to study, and so he could not read nor write.
 - iii. Will we not end up lamenting later in the Millennial Kingdom that we have wasted our talents while on the current Earth?
- c) So, let us believe in the Millennial Kingdom, and believe that whatever God says is true.
 - i. Do not disregard these spiritual truths and do not make the Bible a myth believing that Adam and Eve in Genesis Chapter 1 are not real; that the 6 literal days of creation are untrue; and that prophecies of the beautiful Millennial Kingdom which describes that the lion will sit with the child, etc. are myths too.
 - ii. Do not just assume that we will all go to heaven and sit on a cloud with the harp and sing forever.
 - iii. Do not disregard these spiritual truths otherwise there is nothing to read in the Bible.
 - iv. Whatever God says is real unless God meant it to be allegorical.
 - With verses that are repeated, (such as the phrase “1000 years” which was repeated 6 times), it cannot be allegorical.
 - The same applies to the beginning of creation in Genesis which says “evening and morning” 6 times.
 - God does not repeat Himself for nothing unless it is meant to tell us that they are real literal days. Similarly, God will not repeat the phrase “thousand years” if He just intended it to convey a long time.

So let us prepare now for the Millennial Kingdom and be forever thankful for eternity in the New Heaven and New Earth. We must know this Amazing God and His plan for us, so that we can have complete satisfaction eternally. Let us realise that the talents given to us on this Earth will continue to be useful and we have to prepare for jobs with even bigger potential in the 1000 years and beyond.