

New Song Fellowship Church

Being and Making Disciples

The Millennium

Pastor Dean Murphy | May 3, 2026 | Revelation 20:1-4 | Revelation

The Millennium

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

a thousand years...repeated

The "Millennium" is a compound word from Latin which simply means a thousand-year period.

Premillennialists believe Christ returns before the millennium but after a period of intense tribulation.

Postmillennialists believe Christ returns after the millennium when the vast majority of the world has converted to Christianity (the world keeps getting better and better, then he returns)

A millennialists do not recognize a literal thousand year period. Rather, they hold the first coming of Jesus as the inauguration of the kingdom, and his return as the end. This present "church age" is the Millennium.

7 basic truths about the Millennium that every believer should know (from a Pre-Millennial perspective)

FIRST - Jesus rules and reigns in this Kingdom (the Millennium)

Jer 23:5 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior. (see also Luke 1:32)

(NLT) Act 3:17 "Friends, I realize that what you and your leaders did to Jesus was done in ignorance. 18 But God was fulfilling what all the prophets had foretold about the Messiah--that he must suffer these things. 19 Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. 20 Then times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and he will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah. 21 For he must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Second, Satan is chained and sealed away during the Millennium (20:1-3).

The world as we know it...

(NLT) 1 Jn 5:19 We know that we are children of God and that the world around us is under the control of the evil one.

(NLT) Eph 2:1 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil--the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God.

(NLT) 2Co 4:4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

Contrast...the Millennial world Satan bound and sealed away = no control, not commanding demons, not blinding, no longer deceive the nations, no longer unfolding elaborate wicked schemes, no longer tempting, no longer distorting...The Millennium will be a moral world, an ethical world, a righteous world

Third, the earth will be restored for the Millennium

Isa 35:1 Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses. 2 Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God.

Hos 2:18 On that day I will make a covenant with all the wild animals and the birds of the sky and the animals that scurry along the ground so they will not harm you. I will remove all weapons of war from the land, all swords and bows, so you can live unafraid in peace and safety.

Isa 65:25 The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!"

Fourth - The purpose of the Millennium is to fulfill God's promises/restore Israel

(NLT) Isa 2:2 In the last days, the mountain of the LORD's house will be the highest of all--the most important place on earth. It will be raised above the other hills, and people from all over the world will stream there to worship. 3 People from many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of Jacob's God. There he will teach us his ways, and we will walk in his paths." For the LORD's teaching will go out from Zion; his word will go out from Jerusalem. 4 The LORD will mediate between nations and will settle international disputes. They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will no longer fight against nation, nor train for war any more.

(NLT) Isa 65:9 I will preserve a remnant of the people of Israel and of Judah to possess my land. Those I choose will inherit it, and my servants will live there.

Fifth, The Tribulation "overcomers" will populate the Millennium -

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand-- 16 then let those who are in Judeaflee to the mountains.

Rev 12:6 The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

Jer 31:31 "The day is coming," says the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. 32 This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the LORD. 33 "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the LORD. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the LORD.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me ready," says the LORD. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

Sixth -Satan is loosed at the end of the Millennium

Rev 20:3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

Rev 20:7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

Seventh - believers will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium

Rev 20:4 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.

Mat 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, 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 twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

2Ti 2:11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; 12 if we endure, we will also reign with him.

1Co 6:1 If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people? 2 Or do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life!

Take to heart...1Jn 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Weekly Reflection

Take a few moments this week to sit with these questions.

1. When you consider that Satan will be completely bound and unable to deceive during the Millennium, how does that change your understanding of the spiritual battles you face right now in this present age--and what does it reveal about God's ultimate plan for justice?
2. The sermon teaches that believers will "reign with Christ" during the Millennium--judging angels and the nations. What does this promise mean for how you view your identity as a child of God today, and how should it shape the way you live in obedience to Him now?
3. If the earth will be fully restored--with deserts blooming, creation at peace, and no weapons of war--what does this vision of God's future kingdom tell you about His heart for creation, and how can meditating on this hope purify your affections and priorities in the present?