

## ***The Saints Ruling in the Millennial Kingdom***

### **I. INTRODUCTION TO THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**

<sup>4</sup> *I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. I saw the souls of those...beheaded for their witness to Jesus...they lived and reigned with Christ for a 1,000 years. 6 they shall be priests of God...and shall reign with Him a 1,000 years. (Rev. 20:4, 6)*

<sup>10</sup> *Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. (Matt. 6:10)*

<sup>27</sup> *The greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the saints... (Dan. 7:27)*

A. The Millennial Kingdom is one of the major revelations of Scripture. The Millennium is a term that speaks of a literal 1,000 year period in which Jesus rules the earth (**millennium** is from the Latin “*mille*” or ‘a thousand’ and “*annus*” ‘a year’). At this time the Kingdom of God will be manifest worldwide affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, etc.). The Millennium will be initiated by Jesus' Coming (Rev.19:11-20:6; Isa. 9:6-9; Ps. 2; Acts 3:21).

B. At this time ***all the kings of the earth will be saved*** and worship Jesus (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24) and base their national governments on His Scripture. The result will be a 1000-year period of peace, righteousness, and blessing for the whole earth that is progressively restored to conditions of the Garden of Eden.

<sup>11</sup> *Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*

<sup>4</sup> *All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O LORD... (Ps. 138:4)*

### **II. JESUS WILL BE THE KING OVER ALL OTHER KINGS IN THE MILLENNIUM**

<sup>16</sup> *He has...a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev. 19:16)*

A. Jesus as King of kings will govern a worldwide Kingdom from Jerusalem in partnership with two sets of kings in the Millennium: the ***Millennial kings*** with non-resurrected bodies, and the ***resurrected Kings*** (saints). Together they will establish a biblically based, social order that affects every sphere of life (Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 60-62; 65:17-25; Deut. 8; 28; Acts 3:21).

<sup>5</sup> *Jesus...the ruler over the kings of the earth (Millennial kings). To Him who loved us...6 and has made us (resurrected saints) kings and priests to His God and Father. (Rev. 1:5-6)*

B. The saints with resurrected bodies who are counted worthy during their life on earth will be made kings in the age-to-come (Rev. 2: 26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rom 8:17).

<sup>26</sup> *He who overcomes...I will give power over nations, 27 he shall rule them... (Rev. 2:26-27)*

<sup>21</sup> *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My Throne... (Rev. 3:21)*

<sup>10</sup> *Have made us kings and priests to our God...we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)*

- C. The two functions most emphasized for the saints: priests and kings (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6).
- D. As priests, the saints will worship, intercede and communicate the knowledge of God to others i.e., non-resurrected people on the Millennial earth & saints and angels in the New Jerusalem.
- E. As kings, the saints will reign (rule) with judicial responsibility and authority. This role involves authority to evaluate the past (judging) and to determine action plans for the future for the people and areas that they are over. The ruling saints will appoint people into positions in the infrastructure that are within their sphere of Kingdom responsibility. This will include training and managing the people who are appointed. The saints will judge angels (1 Cor. 6:2).
- <sup>2</sup> *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?...the world will be judged by you...*  
<sup>3</sup> *Do you not know that we shall judge (evaluate) angels? (1 Cor. 6:2-3)*
- <sup>28</sup> *Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (re-birth of the earth beginning in Millennium), when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. " (Mt. 19:28)*
- <sup>29</sup> *I bestow upon you a kingdom...<sup>30</sup> that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Lk. 22:29-30)*
- <sup>23</sup> *His Lord said, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Mt. 25:23)*
- <sup>17</sup> *He said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' <sup>18</sup> And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.' <sup>19</sup> Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.' (Lk. 19:17-19)*
- F. The saints will rule with a rod of iron as they conduct war tribunals, judge the nations (Mt. 25:31), and administrate punishments on sinners (1 Cor. 6:2-3). Jesus and the saints will use a rod of severity against sin (Rev. 19:15; 12:5; Ps. 2:9; Jer. 30:21; Ezek 45:8-9; Mt. 19:28).
- <sup>26</sup> *He who overcomes...to him I will give power over the nations-- <sup>27</sup> 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'... (Rev. 2:26-27)*
- <sup>4</sup> *He (Jesus) shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek...He shall strike the earth with the rod...and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (Isa. 11:4)*
- <sup>23</sup> *Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)*
- <sup>1</sup> *A King (Jesus) will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice. (Isa. 32:1)*
- <sup>8</sup> *My princes (in the Millennium) shall no more oppress My people... (Ezek 45:8)*

### III. THE PROGRESSIVE INCREASE OF JESUS' GOVERNMENT

<sup>7</sup> *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end ...over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. (Isa. 9:7)*

A. Jesus' government will progressively spread to all nations (Isa. 9:7; 16:5; Jer. 23:5). Social improvements or the healing of the nations will be progressive not instantaneous. The Tree of Life in the New Jerusalem will be ministered to the leaders of the nations in a way that will promote the healing of their nation.

<sup>2</sup> *Tree of life...the leaves of the Tree were for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2)*

B. Only to the measure that wisdom is learned and applied, will the many areas of life progressively improve (vegetation, economy, longevity of life, technology, science, etc.).

C. It will take time to convert the nations and bring them to obedience and then heal their land. The land is dynamically linked to righteousness of the people living in each region (Rom. 8:18-23). It will take many decades before healing is established in all the lands. It will take 1,000-years for righteousness to spread and fully mature in every area of every nation before the final testing.

<sup>7</sup> *Now when the 1,000-years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth... (Rev. 20:7-8)*

### IV. KINGDOM PARADIGM: ETERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES INSTEAD OF TEMPORAL ONES

A. In Stephen Coveys best selling book, 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, he said, "good leaders begin with the end in mind." Jesus and Paul both lived with their end goals in view.

B. Life in this age can be likened to a 70 year internship (Ps. 90:10) which prepares us for our life on earth in the age to come. Our next stage of life in the Millennium is when our primary ministry calling begins. This primary ministry assignment will last for 1,000-years (Rev. 20:4-6).

C. In our 70 year internship we have two issues that we are to determine in the grace of God. First, to decide if we want to be in God's family as voluntarily lovers. Second, to decide if we want to function in Jesus' government (initially for 1,000-years in the Millennium, then for all eternity).

D. The measure that we develop in love, meekness and revelation (of His Word) determines our place and function in His eternal government (Mt. 7:14; 19:30; 20:16, 26-27; 22:14; Lk. 13:24). Our ministry in the age to come has nothing to do with how much we accomplished outwardly in this age, but rather how much we developed inwardly. The choices we make in our 70 year internship determine where and how we will function in our 1,000-year ministry assignment.

E. Meekness or servant hood is the only way to promotion in the Millennial Kingdom.

<sup>5</sup> *Blessed are the meek (humble), for they shall inherit the earth (rule in Millennium). (Mt. 5:5)*

- F. **Premise:** our calling in the age to come is far more important than our circumstances now. Our calling then is determined by the growth of our heart now. Paul understood that the persecution that caused his outward man to perish also gave occasion for his inward man to be renewed (grow in meekness). He saw the affliction of persecution and obedience as that which worked for the benefit of his main calling (Millennium) which he considered an eternal weight of glory.

<sup>16</sup> *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. (2 Cor. 4:16-18)*

<sup>18</sup> *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom 8:17-18)*

## V. MOTIVATED TO RIGHTEOUSNESS NOW BY RULING IN THE AGE TO COME

- A. Jesus gave a great promise to the compromising Laodicean church. Jesus motivated them to resist compromise and passivity by offering them a place in His Millennial government. This is the same way Jesus motivated Peter, John and the other apostles (Mt. 19:27-28).

<sup>21</sup> *To him (Laodiceans) who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)*

<sup>27</sup> *Peter said, "We have left all and followed You. What shall we have?" 28 Jesus said, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (Millennium), when the Son of Man sits on the Throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Mt. 19:27-28)*

<sup>26</sup> *Whoever desires to become great among you (in the Millennium), let him be your servant. 27 Whoever desires to be first among you (Millennium), let him be your slave. (Mt. 20:26-27)*

- B. Vital revelation: great exchange from “few things in this age” to “many things in the next age.”

<sup>21</sup> *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' (Mt. 25:21)*

<sup>17</sup> *Because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.' (Lk. 19:17)*

- C. Few believers will be in government. One of the most sobering truths in Scripture is that many people are called (invited to inherit great things), yet only a few are chosen or esteemed by God as faithful and thus worthy to rule with Jesus at the time of His coming (2 Thes. 1:10-11).

<sup>14</sup> *For many are called (invited), but few are chosen (worthy to receive or rule). (Mt. 22:14)*

- D. Those who choose to be last by their lifestyles choices of humility will be first in age-to-come.

<sup>16</sup> *So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen. (Mt. 20:16)*

<sup>14</sup> *Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life...few find it. (Mt. 7:14)*

- E. Only a few will have a sufficient maturity in meekness to share in the Millennial government. God must evaluate their life as proven in faithfulness (follow through), meekness and obedience under the varied pressures of opportunity, temptation and resistance. Note the dilemma of “being first” in privilege and prominence often will lead to being “last” in the age-to-come.
- <sup>30</sup> *But many who are first will be last, and the last first. (Mt. 19:30)*
- F. Not all the saints will rule but only overcomers who walked in meekness and obedience.
- <sup>14</sup> *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, 15 to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."* (Jude 14-15)
- G. Worthy means escaping situations that cause us to lose ground in the Spirit or to lose our reward.
- <sup>34</sup> *Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."* (Lk. 21:34-36)
- <sup>10</sup> *When He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints... Therefore we pray always for you that God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all (fullness in Millennial Kingdom) the good pleasure of His goodness... (2 Thes. 1:10-11)*
- <sup>26</sup> *He who overcomes...to him I will give power over the nations ... (Rev. 2:26)*
- <sup>21</sup> *To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)*
- <sup>14</sup> *He is King of kings...those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. (Rev. 17:14)*
- <sup>12</sup> *Epaphras...always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect (mature) and complete (found worthy in full obedience) in all the will of God. (Col. 4:12)*
- <sup>12</sup> *If we endure (follow through to the end), we shall also reign with Him. (2 Tim. 2:12)*
- <sup>4</sup> *You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. 5 He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life... (Rev. 3:4-5)*
- <sup>12</sup> *He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of...the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. I will write on him My new name. (Rev. 3:12)*
- <sup>15</sup> *Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." (Rev. 16:15)*

## VI. HAVING A RIGHT VIEW OF AUTHORITY IN THE MILLENNIAL GOVERNMENT

- A. Our view of authority dynamically shapes our view of seeking rewards in ruling the nations with Jesus after His Second Coming. If we see authority as the way to establish our honor before people and the way to secure our comfort by being over people, then we may not seek rewards. This paradigm of authority based on “honor by being over people” originated with Satan.
- <sup>25</sup> *The rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them and...exercise authority over them... (Mt. 20:25)*
- B. The secular paradigm of authority and reward is one that seeks self glory in ruling to dominate people. This paradigm is established on pride. *The Bridal paradigm of authority and reward is to be with Him where He is and doing what He is doing.* Is it being involved in what He calls precious. We will cherish and enjoy working closely with the One we love in the details of discipling the nations to bring people we love to the fullness of blessing under the Father’s authority. This paradigm is established on love. **Premise:** Personal rewards in the Millennial Kingdom are a foundational dimension in our lives in fulfilling our prophetic destiny.
- C. Jesus enjoys each step of the process of working with the Father. Jesus’ view of authority (ruling) in the Millennial Kingdom is to walk in the delight of intimate partnership with the Father and His people so as to serve and enrich all. *If we view authority as the way to close partnership with Jesus in establishing on earth what is dear to His heart,* then we will want the fullness of authority that God has invited us to walk in during the Millennial Kingdom. The Father gave Jesus the nations as His reward because of the Father’s profound respect, trust and affection for Him. Therefore, the Father entrusted to Jesus what was precious to Him. Thus, He mandated that Jesus disciple the nations to bring them to the fullness of blessing under the Father’s authority. Think of the person you most love, enjoy and admire, you would want to work closely with that person to glorify God and enrich people’s lives. Multiply that by 10,000.
- D. Jesus cherishes the partnership involved in ruling with His Father. In a similar way, we will also enjoy each step of the process of working closely with Jesus to bring the earth under the Father’s authority. We will delight in imparting the Father’s ways and values to those He loves.
- <sup>21</sup> *Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy (enjoyment) of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)*
- E. Jesus rewards us with authority or the privilege of close partnership with Him, in response to His respect of our life choices to love Him and to serve others in meekness.
- F. The mandate from the Father to disciple the nations is dear to Jesus and He entrusts this to us. This involves working through specific plans in intimate partnership with the One we love.
- G. The saints will have a position of authority in the governmental infrastructure to make important life enhancing decisions that determine the quality of life for many. The measure of our anointing will affect our impact and what we impart to others and our access to resources (equipment, finances, etc).

## VII. LIVING IN THE NEW JERUSALEM WHILE REIGNING ON EARTH

<sup>9</sup> *Having made known to us the mystery (hidden plan) of His will...10 that...He might gather together in one ALL things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth. (Eph. 1:9-10)*

A. The centerpiece of God's eternal purpose is for Jesus to come back to fully establish His Kingdom rule over all the earth as He joins the heavenly and earthly realms together. Both heavenly and earthly dimensions must come together to express God's personality and purposes.

B. The spirit realm and the material realm come together as the New Jerusalem descends to just above the Millennial Jerusalem. The two Jerusalems will be connected by a "Corridor of Glory." Stage one of the descent of the New Jerusalem is partial yet substantial at the Second Coming. Stage two of the descent of the New Jerusalem is total and ultimate after the Millennium.

C. *Where will the saints live?* The saints residence will be in the New Jerusalem yet they will rule with governmental responsibilities on earth. I liken this to senators who live in their home state with a government office in Wash., DC.

<sup>20</sup> *For our citizenship is in heaven (New Jerusalem)... (Phil 3:20-21)*

D. What kind of body will the saints have? A solid material body with supernatural abilities.

<sup>14</sup> *Mary Magdalene...saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where..." (Jn. 20:14-15)*

<sup>2</sup> *Do not forget to entertain strangers, by so doing some have unwittingly entertained angels. (Heb. 13:2)*

<sup>15</sup> *While they conversed...Jesus drew near and went with them...they did not know Him...30 as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread...and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. (Lk. 24:15, 30-31)*

<sup>26</sup> *After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" (Jn. 20:26)*

<sup>4</sup> *Morning had come, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, have you any food?" They answered Him, "No." (Jn. 21:4-5)*

E. Resurrected saints will relate to but not fully co-mingle with those in natural bodies. Inhabitants on the Millennial earth (with non-resurrected bodies) will work closely with saints with resurrected bodies. Marriage will continue among those in non-resurrected bodies. Those with resurrected bodies who live in the New Jerusalem will not be given to marriage.

F. Jesus spoke with His disciples for forty days in His resurrected body (Acts 1:3). Sometimes spirit beings (demons and angels) appear in the natural realm to interact with people in natural bodies.

## VIII. NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL GOVERNMENT

- A. The resurrected saints will occupy the highest positions of government in the Spirit in the Millennial earth. This will be parallel yet superior to the relationship of angels to demonic principalities at this present time (Eph. 6:12; Dan. 10:12-13). Michael warred against demon principalities over Persia in a way that influenced political leaders in that day (Dan. 10:12-13).

<sup>1</sup> *Then He called out...., "Let those (angels) who have charge over the city draw near, each with a deadly weapon in his hand." 2 Suddenly six men (angels) came from the direction...which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand." (Ezek. 9:1-2)*

- B. Saints will rule over angels (who will have a support role). Governmental authority in the spirit is currently carried out by angels who have charge over cities.

<sup>3</sup> *Do you not know that we shall judge angels?? (1 Cor. 6:3)*

<sup>14</sup> *Are they not ministering spirits...to minister for those who inherit salvation? (Heb. 1:14)*

## IX. SOME PERSONAL PROPHECIES: GREATEST FULFILLMENT IN MILLENNIUM.

- A. Some of our personal prophecies will have their greatest fulfillment in the Millennium. There are more personal prophecies in Scripture for some major figures for the Millennial Kingdom than for their earthly life and ministry.
- B. Jesus had far more prophecies about His Millennial reign than His first coming!
- C. King David had more personal prophecies in Scripture about his 1,000-year kingship in the Millennium than his 40-year kingship during his life (Ezek. 34:23-24, 37:24-25, 45:22, Isa. 55:3-4; Am. 9:11-12).
- D. Others with more personal prophecies in Scripture about their 1,000-year role in the Millennium than their role during their natural life are: Zerubbabel (Hag. 2:20-23); the apostles (Matt. 19:26, Lk. 22:29-30; Rev. 2:26-27; 21:14); Abraham (Gen. 12-17); Daniel (Dan. 12:13); Elijah (Mal. 4:5-6; Mt. 17:10-11); the offspring of the ancient priests of Zadok (Ezek. 44:8, 15-16); the nation of Israel (most prophecies in the Millennium).
- E. The End-Time martyrs: prophecy of their authority in the Millennium (Rev. 20:4-6); the saints at Sardis: in eternity their crowns not diminished.
- F. Melchizedek will be a priest in the Millennial Kingdom. Melchizedek was a type of Christ because he did not owe his priesthood to his physical lineage and because he was both a king and a priest in Jerusalem, and because he remains a priest forever, including the Millennium.

<sup>17</sup> *You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. (Heb. 7:17)*