

## **John Newlin Ministries, Inc.**

*- realizing the power of a life in Christ-*

### **PREPARING FOR THE MILLENNIUM WHY? BECAUSE WE BELIEVERS WILL BE THERE!**

We have spent so much time talking about how close we are to the return of Jesus to collect his believers and to the beginning of that seven year time of horror on earth called the Tribulation. I purposefully have not written much about the details of that Tribulation because I expect us to be gone from here, to be with Jesus in Heaven. There are many scriptures that point that out, that make it clear we are not appointed to wrath.

So we right now are eagerly awaiting Jesus' return and hopefully doing all we can to help in God's drawing unbelievers to Jesus.

But then we come face to face with something else happening very soon – the Millennium, the thousand year reign of Jesus from Jerusalem following the Tribulation.

It is really soon! Real soon. Only seven years from the beginning of the Tribulation, which could be any time now.

You and I, serious believers who will go with Jesus when he first comes to collect his believers in the rapture, will return at the end of the Tribulation as part of his Holy Ones. His angels will be there too. So we will have been with Jesus in Heaven for at most seven years. We will all go to the battle of Armageddon, which Christ will win himself as described in chapter 19 of Revelation. The antichrist and the false prophet will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. Satan, the devil, will be thrown into a deep pit and locked up there for the Millennium.

And Jesus will take up reign from Jerusalem. The Kingdom of God will be on earth. Jesus will sit in the seat of David as God has long promised.

Now we believers who have gone with him and returned with him will rule with him. Jesus says this in Revelation 2:26 where he says we will have authority over the nations. He says this in Revelation 3:21. The point is also made in Revelation 5:10 and in Revelation 20:4.

Daniel 7:27 makes the point in dramatic fashion:

*Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Most High. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him.*

And Paul adds these words in 2 Timothy 2:12:

*if we endure, we will also reign with him.*

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***Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!***

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How do you suppose all the people on the earth after this terrible seven year Tribulation and that decisive battle of Armageddon will react to all that has happened? How do you think they are living? What do you think they believe? And how will Jesus as King from Jerusalem respond to all this?

Well, first we need to look at just who is on earth in the human race then. I am not speaking about we believers who will be in our glorious bodies. I am speaking about human beings in the same physical form we are in now. Many have been killed in the various incidents in the Tribulation. And certainly the military opposed to Jesus has been destroyed. But there still are people throughout the world.

Scripture tells us that right away Jesus convenes a judgement of these people. You can read about it in Matthew 25:31-46. You will see there that this judgement is on the earth. It is referred to as the sheep and goat judgement. Most people have not focused on this judgement or on the Millennium period.

Basically, what I think we see in this sheep and goat judgement is Jesus demonstrating again his great love for people and his refusal to just let all the lost people go to the Lake of Fire, to hell. This sheep and goat judgement is another second chance. Jesus separates people into two groups, one those who have done good things for his believers in the past and one those who have not done good things for his believers in the past. This latter group is called the goats and they are just sent off to hell, the Lake of Fire, right then. The first group are invited to enter into this Millennial Kingdom, this thousand year period of Jesus' rule on earth from Jerusalem. So these are those who begin the thousand year period on earth. They really haven't been born again have they, and we know that is required by Jesus to be in his Kingdom long term. They surely could have also been thrown into the Lake of Fire, for they are unbelievers, but Jesus has given them the opportunity to have eternal life.

Let's just think a minute. What are these sheep? They are unbelievers who have done good things for Jesus' people. We all know people like these sheep. They are not true born again believers, yet they do good works, they help others. We would describe them as decent people on earth, even if they are not believers. What I see here is Christ giving them yet another second chance. They live on earth during the Millennium and have children and grandchildren. They die. They obviously don't have the glorious bodies.

You would think then that the world under the overall kingship of Jesus begins the Millennial Kingdom in a good position, and it appears that is the case. But many scriptures throughout the Bible indicate these people – or maybe their descendants – break down into evil actions and rebellious behaviors which Jesus deals with. So obviously many of these people or their descendants do not take advantage of Jesus' second chance. I know that is hard to believe, that anyone could act that way with Jesus on earth but remember again these are all human beings. We have seen and see now how badly human beings can act.

Let's look at just a few really interesting scriptures about what happens in the thousand year period:

### **Psalm 2**

This psalm is the most obvious and the most dramatic scripture about the time of the Millennium. You should spend some time on this. It focuses on the nations and on Jesus' rule of the nations. That only happens during the millennium. Here we see the nations of the world conspiring and the people

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plotting, the kings of the earth rising up and the rulers banding together against God the Father and against Jesus. So leaders of the nations on earth and the nations themselves rebel against Kingdom rule. Hard to believe isn't it, I know, but the Psalm says this happens.

God responds in this psalm by saying he has installed his king on Zion, his holy mountain (in Jerusalem). God's king is of course Jesus. He tells Jesus he will make the nations his inheritance and the ends of the earth his possession. He goes on to say Jesus will break them with a rod of iron and dash them to pieces like pottery. Obviously he is not dashing to pieces his believers; he is dashing to pieces rebellious unbelievers. So at some point some of the people Jesus has blessed in the sheep and goat judgement, or their descendants, forget their blessing and rebel against the Lord. And no doubt lose the opportunity the Lord has given them.

The Psalm warns the kings of the nations to serve Jesus with fear and rejoice with trembling. (The kings are the presidents, prime ministers, leaders... whatever their titles.). It warns the leaders of the nations to kiss the son, for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

#### **Daniel 2:44**

Closely related to all this in Psalm 2 are these words from Daniel:

*"In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever."*

#### **Jeremiah 25:30-33**

These verses describe God's wrath against the rebellious nations and peoples. Pretty much a follow-up to Psalm 2 and the rebellion there.

#### **Zechariah 14:16**

Describes how after the battle of Armageddon, survivors from all the nations that attacked Jerusalem will go up year after year to worship the King, the Lord, and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. If any don't go up to worship the King, they will have no rain. All this of course takes place during the Millennium.

#### **Isaiah 65:20, 22, 23**

More fascinating details of the Millennium. These verses note that there will not be an infant that lives only a few days. There will not be an old man who does not live out his years. Anyone dying at a hundred will be thought a mere youth. God's chosen ones will enjoy the work of their hands. They will be blessed by the Lord.

So people still are having babies and are living and dying. These are not we believers who were raptured and have the glorious bodies, for we no longer marry nor have children and we surely don't die. And too these people are not in the new Jerusalem that comes at the end of the Millennium, for they are living and dying. Obviously too these receiving the benefits described are not the human beings rebelling against Jesus as described in Psalm 2!

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There is much more that could be said, but the above makes the point. Jesus is King and rules from Jerusalem during the Millennial Kingdom. We who have been raptured will rule with him. Now what that means I do not know. Perhaps he will send us to various corners of the earth to be responsible for an area. We just don't know those details. And other obvious questions such as how large will the population of the earth grow to be in the thousand years and how technically advanced will they be eventually become are just unknowns. I expect the answer is lots of people and really, really advanced. Space travel for them likely will be a reality.

As for how we believers who were raptured and now have glorious bodies will interact with these normal human beings, we can only imagine. It will be fascinating to see and experience.

Things are about to change in a big way for believers and of course for unbelievers. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Stay focused. Don't be distracted by all the deception and the disastrous practices and behaviors of today's earthly leaders. We are truly approaching the time of the return of the Lord. That is amazing and something we all rejoice over.

***May you live in the blessings of God always.***

***John***

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