

Seeking My King & His Kingdom

#40 Evidence For A Literal Millennial Kingdom: Jesus Christ & His Saints

Evidence for the literal Millennium: God will fulfill promises made to His Son, Jesus Christ.

A. God promised JESUS WOULD BE GLORIFIED in history to compensate in part for His humiliation in history. Scripture tells us: Jesus Will Return To Manifest His Glory.

Isa. 66:18, 23 This is the LORD's declaration. ¹⁸ "Knowing their works and their thoughts, I have come to gather all nations and languages; they will come and see my glory.

²³ And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.

II Thess. 1:7-10 And to recompense you who are so distressed and afflicted [by granting you] relief and rest along with us [your fellow sufferers] when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in a flame of fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹ Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power;

¹⁰ When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

Phil. 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Matt. 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. [Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27]

Matt 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

B. God promised He would GIVE JESUS DOMINION over all the world and He would reign over the nations from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem.

Ps. 2 is a good summary of these promises. It reveals God's plan for Christ's reign over the earth in spite of the rage of nations and their rebellion against God. It begins by surveying the rebellion of the world's political leaders against God and His Son, [called "His Anointed"] Then it describes their contempt for the Lord.

1. This Psalm is the bedrock OT promise around which the grand theme of Revelation develops: The Physical Placement Of Christ Over The Nations

Ps. 2:6-9 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. ⁷ I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

⁸ Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. ⁹ Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Consider: Jesus is currently a "king in waiting" who has already been anointed.

Daniel 7 reveals his vision regarding the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Daniel saw the rise and fall of 5 kingdoms: Babylonian, Medo/Persian, Greek, Rome and the kingdom of Satan headed by Antichrist. However, the most important is the kingdom that Christ shall establish on earth to the glory of God. This is the kingdom referred to in:

Matt. 6:9-10 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ THY KINGDOM COME, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Daniel 7:9-12 describes the heavenly throne of God the Father.

This event takes place before the kingdom of Antichrist is destroyed.

I kept looking until thrones were placed and the Ancient of Days [God, the eternal Father] took His seat, Whose garment was white as snow and the hair of His head like pure wool.

1. Ancient of Days emphasizes God's eternality. He is the God who had existed from eternity past, has planned all things and is working out His plan.

Note in Rev. 1:12-20 - These same characteristics are applied to Jesus Christ -

One proof He is the eternal Son of God.

And I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the chest with a golden girdle. ¹⁴ His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

1. These things are symbolic of His nature and character. He is eternal, holy and sovereign.

Daniel 7:9b -10a *His throne was like the fiery flame; its wheels were burning fire.*

A stream of fire came forth from before Him;

1. The vision of God's throne in Daniel parallels Ezekiel 1:15-21, 26-27.

a. Fire speaks of His holiness and judgment against sin.

b. The wheels symbolize His providential working in the world in ways we can't understand.

2. Deut. 4:24; Heb. 12:29 and Ps. 97:1-4 tell us "Our God is a consuming fire."

Daniel 7:10b-11 *a thousand thousands ministered to Him and ten thousand times ten thousand rose up and stood before Him; the Judge was seated [the court was in session] and the books were opened. ¹¹ I looked then because of the sound of the great words which the horn [Antichrist] was speaking. I watched until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. [takes place at 2nd coming]*

This seems to parallel Revelation 4 & 5 where John describes the throne room of God.

Rev. 5:11 He is praised: Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands...

as the sealed scroll is about to be opened and the Lord prepares to judge evil on the earth.

1. No matter what Satan and the Antichrist do on earth, God is still on the throne and He executes judgment.

The Earthly Throne Of The Son Of God - Power & Great Glory - Given Dominion

Dan. 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought Him near before Him.

a. "Son of man" is a familiar title for our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is used 82x in the gospels and frequently used by Jesus Himself. [Rev. 1:13; 14:14]

b. "Clouds of heaven" reminds us of His promise to return in glory and reign on the earth.

Acts 1:9-11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰ And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹ who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Matt. 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matt. 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.

Matt. 26:64 Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Dan. 7:14 And there was GIVEN HIM [The Son of Man] Dominion, and Glory, and a Kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve Him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Zech. 14:9 And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—"The LORD is one," and His name one.

a. This is the prelude to the stone being cut out of the mountain and coming down to destroy the kingdoms of the world.

Dan. 2:34-35 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan. 2: 44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

This parallels Rev. 5:1-7 And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Recall: In Psalm 2:8, the Father promised the Son, "Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession."

- This is the Kingdom God had in mind when He told David that his throne would never end.
[II Sam. 7:12-13, 16]

Wow! Jesus Christ will SHARE His Kingdom with His People and they shall reign with Him.

Dan. 7:27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE OF THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

God has promised that the Redeemed in Christ will reign over all the nations of the world.

Note: In Rev. 1:4 John addresses this letter to the 7 Churches.

Rev. 1:5b-6 To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1. What a phenomenal trade! Our sins are cast into a sea of forgetfulness and always covered by Jesus' precious blood.

2. In God's eyes, we are **KINGS** and **PRIESTS**.

We're destined to rule and reign with Him in His coming Millennial Kingdom.

The 24 Elders? [Mentioned 5x in Revelation: 4:4, 10; 5:8; 11:16; 19:4]

Revelation 4:4, 10 "Surrounding the throne were 24 other thrones, and seated on them were 24 elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads." ¹⁰The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,...

Rev. 5:8-10 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and Four And Twenty Elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odors, which are the prayers of saints. ⁹ And THEY sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed US to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

¹⁰ And hast made US unto our God kings and priests: and We Shall Reign On The Earth.

1. Israel had priests and Israel had kings, but a man was NEVER a priest and a king at the same time. Israel's priests and kings came from separate tribes. Priests = Levi; Kings = Judah

Note: Only 3 group/groups are called Kings/Priests in the Bible:

Melchizedek, Jesus Christ and the Church

I Pet. 2:9-10 But you are a chosen generation, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, an holy nation, a PECULIAR people, that you should SHOW FORTH the praises of Him Who has CALLED you OUT OF DARKNESS into HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT, which in time past [as Gentiles] were NOT a people, but ARE NOW the PEOPLE OF GOD, which had NOT obtained mercy [in the OT as Gentiles], but NOW have OBTAINED MERCY.

1. The Church is a peculiar people, a separate body and unique from the rest of God's people.
2. The Church alone is BOTH KINGS AND PRIESTS.
3. Royal Priesthood = combination of both offices
4. We are NOT pre-flood people or OT saints. We are not Jews or Israel. We are not the future Tribulation Saints.
5. We are THE CHURCH, Christ's Body on earth. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. NONE of the other groups of God's people have that distinction.

Note: Daniel's nor Ezekiel's visions of God's throne room revealed the 24 elders.

Why? The Church was a mystery in the OT and never revealed until Paul the Apostle.

John MacArthur makes a strong case that the 24 elders represent a completed body of redeemed humanity, which at this point in future history could only be The Church.

1. Rev. 4:1 indicates The Church is in heaven at the close of the Church Age.
2. The immediate context is Revelation 2 & 3: Christ has made Promises Of Authority, Ruling and Reigning to those who overcome in the churches of Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Rev. 2:26-27 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give Power Over The Nations: ²⁷ And he shall Rule Them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Rev. 3:4-5a Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in WHITE: for they ARE WORTHY.

⁵ He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in WHITE RAIMENT

Rev. 3:12a Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God,

Rev. 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to Sit With Me In My Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

3. Rev. 4:4 The 1st reference to the 24 thrones on which the 24 elders sat indicates they reign with Christ.

a. This group of 24 elders cannot be angels.

- NOWHERE in Scripture do angels sit on thrones, ruling or reigning nor numbered.
- Angels serve as ministering spirits. [Heb. 1:14; Matt. 18:10]
- Rev. 7:11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, [separate group]

- b. This group of 24 elders cannot be Tribulation Saints
 - There are no Tribulation Saints yet. It doesn't start until Rev. 6
 - c. This group of 24 elders cannot be Israel.
 - The Tribulation period hasn't started. Israel's remnant isn't saved until the end of the Time Of Jacob's Trouble.
 - Daniel tells us this period is decreed for Daniel's people and the city of Jerusalem.
 - d. OT Saints and Tribulation saints are not resurrected until the 2nd Coming of Christ.
 - 4. The 24 elders are in heaven when John weeps because of the sealed scroll in Rev. 5:1-5.
 - 5. The 24 elders are in heaven before the opening of the seal judgments in Rev. 6:1.
 - 6. The Greek word, Presbuteroi, translated here as "elders" is never used to refer to angels, only to men.
 - 7. Their mode of dress indicates these are men. While angels do appear in white, white garments are more commonly found on believers, symbolizing Christ's righteousness imputed to us at salvation.
 - 8. The golden crowns worn by the elders also indicate these are men, not angels. Crowns are never promised to angels, nor are angels ever seen wearing them. The word, stephanos, translated "crown" refers to the victor's crown, worn by those who have successfully competed and won the victory, as Christ promised.
 - a. Christ promised this crown to the loyal overcomers at Smyrna.
- Rev. 2:10 Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.

In the Epistles, believers are also promised crowns for spiritual accomplishments.

I Cor. 9:25 And every man that striveth [competes] for the mastery is temperate in all things. [exercises self-control] Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; [stephanos] but we an incorruptible.

I Thess. 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

II Tim. 4:7-8 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: The victor's crown [stephanos] of righteousness is now waiting for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on the day that He comes, and not only to me but also to all who eagerly wait [loved] for His appearing.

James 1:12 Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood the test he will receive the crown [stephanos] of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Christ's admonition to Believers in His Church:

II Tim. 2:3-5, 12a You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of *this* life, that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier. ⁵ And also if anyone competes in athletics, he is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. If we suffer [endure], we shall also reign with him:

Rom. 8:16-18 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ;

IF so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

I John 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Rev. 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

As John beholds certain subjects of redemption, robed, and crowned, and enthroned, as priests and kings in heaven, we here have positive demonstration, that, at the time to which this vision relates, a resurrection and a translation have already taken place.

They occupy these thrones, before the closed, sealed scroll which brings forth the seals, trumpets, and bowls lies untouched in the hand of Him that sits upon the throne. They vote the Lamb worthy to open it. They behold Him taking it up, and fall down and worship as He holds it.

Rev. 7:11-14 They are in their places when heaven receives the accession of the multitude which come "out of the great tribulation."

Rev. 11:15-16 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever. ¹⁶ And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

Rev. 19:4+ They are spectators of the judgment of great Babylon, and sing Alleluia in glory as they see her fall.

Conclusion: The church will be the only complete redeemed people group by the time Rev. 4 occurs in history.

Therefore, I believe the 24 elders represent the raptured Church which sings songs of redemption [Revelation 5:8-10]. They wear the crowns of victory and have gone to the place prepared for them by their Redeemer [John 14:1-4].