

The Lord has come and conquered. Now He establishes His 1000 year reign known as the millennium (Latin for 1000 years).

The book of Revelation makes the only scriptural reference to the millennium in the sense of a 1000 year span, but it offers few other details. For a full picture of the character and blessings of the millennium, we must look to the Old Testament. In its pages are myriad prophecies of a reconciliation between God and His people following a time of chastening. Here are a few of the prophecies to find their fulfillment in the millennial kingdom:

Israel will be humbled. Zeph 3:11

Israel will mourn for “him whom they have pierced.” Zech. 12:10

Israel will be given new spiritual life. Eze. 11:19

The Jews will be regathered into the land. Jer. 16, Deut. 30:4-6

The land of Israel will be equally divided among the twelve tribes. Eze. 47:13-48:29

Israel’s enemies will be destroyed. Zech. 12-14

Israel will enjoy unbroken prosperity. Amos 9:11-15

There will be a temple in Jerusalem served by Jewish priests. Eze. 40-44

Jerusalem will be a beacon to all the nations. Isa. 2:2-3

All nations will worship at the temple. Zech. 14:16

The animal world will be redeemed from “the law of tooth and claw” and return to the peace that prevailed in the garden of Eden. Isa. 11:6-8, 65:25

The Lord Himself will personally rule with righteousness. Isa. 11:1-5, Zech 14:9

The Son of Man and His saints will have full dominion over all peoples. Dan. 7:14,27

Wars will cease as the Lord decides disputes among men. Isa. 2:4

There will be universal peace and knowledge of God. Isa 11:9, Jer. 31:34

If we view the millennial kingdom as a nation, we can say:

- Its **king** is the Lord Jesus.
- Its **government** is the saints judging from heaven.
- Its **law** is God’s standard of righteousness.
- Its **justice system** is all-knowing and all-powerful, hence perfect.
- Its **citizenry** is the converted Jews and Gentiles coming out of the tribulation *and* their descendants, not all of whom are converted.
- Its civil and religious **capital** is Jerusalem.
- Its **durations** is 1000 years.
- Its **borders** are the ends of the earth.

Notes on Chapter 20:1-10

20:1-3 Men will be freed from the subversive and deceptive influence of Satan for 1000 years.

20:4 There are two groups of judges: The saints from the Old Testament and church who were raptured before the tribulation, and those who were martyred during the tribulation. Both groups will inhabit their glorified resurrection bodies and presumably will live in heaven apart from the natural humans on the earth (although visiting them and interacting with them).

“Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

“Do you not know that we are to judge angels?” (1 Cor 6:3)

20:5-6 The first resurrection mentioned here is the “resurrection of the just,” composed of the two groups mentioned above.

20:7-8 One thousand years is roughly forty generations. Forty is the number of testing: The children of Israel wandered the desert for forty years, and the Lord fasted in the wilderness for forty days.

This is man’s final exam. He fails it. Our tendency is to blame our faults on our parents or the environment in which we are raised. The inhabitants of the millennial kingdom have had godly parents (in at least the first generation), material prosperity, flawless government, crime free surroundings, and abundant instruction in righteousness. But when Satan is released and raises his banner, he attracts overwhelming numbers of recruits. (Note, however, that an unspecified number of people will likely remain faithful to the Lord. We are not told the population and proportions of faithful.)

It is abundantly clear that sin arises not from external influences, but from the heart of man. Only new birth can erase it.

20:8 The meaning of Gog and Magog is not clear. The words come from Ezekiel 38 and 39, where Gog is a king of the land of Magog who opposes Israel. Some translate the Hebrew in a way that associates Gog with Russia. It may be that Gog and Magog symbolically represent all of Israel’s gentile enemies.

20:10 The unholy trinity of Satan, the beast, and the false prophet are assembled together again, as in Revelation 16:13, but this time forever in a place of torment.