

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST - VII. THE MILLENNIAL RULE

Reading : Isa.11:1-12; 35:1-10; 65: 18-25 Rev.20:1-10

Memory verses: Isa.11:7-9

Theme : To understand that the only solution to the evils and misery of this world is the second coming of our Lord and the establishment of His Kingdom and to live with hope in Him.

Introduction: What are the problems that are seen in the world? Can any person find solutions to the problems of evil, injustice, conflicts lack of love, diseases and sorrows and set up an environment of equality and peace? No, "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now" (Rom. 8: 22) Deliverance from this condition of the earth is the glorious appearances of the Lord. Christ will rule the earth with justice. Let us renew our great hope by looking forward to that golden age.

Events :

The anti-Christ is thrown into the hell fire. Satan is bound. Nations are judged and those who helped Israel are accepted into the kingdom and the others are sent to the lake of fire. All the people of Israel are gathered in Palestine (Isa.11:11-12). Then the Lord and His saints rule the world. This reign is called the Millennial rule. In this kingdom, there are three groups of people: transformed saints of God, people of Israel and nations who are accepted as righteous.

SPECIALITIES OF THE MILLENNIUM :

1. Administration: The King is the second Person of Trinity, the Son of God (Luke 1:30-33). As He was born as a man for the redemption of mankind in the family of Abraham and in the family of David, His official names are: Son of Abraham, Son of David and

Son of Man (Matt.1:1, Psa.89:3-4; Dan, 7:13-14; Matt.26:64). The Church, His bride will also be ruling with Him (2 Tim 2:11). According to His promise, the 12 apostles will sit on, thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel (Luke 22:28-30). Administration will neither be autocracy nor democracy. It will be Theocracy (Zech. 14:9). It will be a just rule (Isa.11:1-5).

2. The condition of the transformed saints: We have already learnt that all the saints of the Old Testament period from the first man Adam till the establishment of the Church and all the New Testament saints from the day of Pentecost till the rapture will be taken up with either resurrected or with transformed bodies. When they are happily receiving rewards from the Lord in heaven, the world is passing through the great tribulation. The saints of Israel who are killed during the tribulation for their testimony and for the Word of God will also be taken up to heaven before the glorious appearance of their Lord. These saints are also part of the first resurrection (Rev.6:6-11;20:4-5). Christ comes down to earth for the millennial rule with all these saints. They will all have visible, but transformed bodies. They will be like the body of Jesus which the disciples saw and touched. Kingdom and dominion shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High (Dan.7:27). The joint rulers are the New Testament saint as His Bride and the Old Testament saints as His friends and householders.

3. The extent of kingdom and its capital: Messiah will be the ruler of the whole world. "The Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zach.14:19). "He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river upto the ends of the earth" (Psa.72:8). As a the king of the family of Jacob, Messiah will rule the area promised to Abraham and his children (Gen.15:18-21; Exo.23:21; Deut. 11:24). Israeli area will be from River Nile in the west till River Euphrates in the east, about 1100 miles long, and from Lebanon in the north (Hamath) till Arabian desert (Kadesh) in the south, about 700 miles broad (Ezek.48:1; 48:28). Jerusalem will be the capital city of Christ (Isa. 24:23; Jer.2:2-3; Matt. 5:35; Micah 4:1-2).

4. Nations under the rule:

a) Jewish nation: The people of Israel who were persecuted by the anti-christ and who were converted by the ministry of the two

witnesses (Moses and Elijah) and who were born again at the appearance of the Messiah will be citizens of the kingdom of God. The land which was promised to them through Abraham must be given to them through Jesus Christ, the Son of David. Christ must rule them from the throne of David (Luke 1:31-33; Isa.11:1-5). As Israel settles down in the promised land, they will achieve immense success in agriculture. Course on nature will not be there. Desert will bloom like garden (Isa.35:1-2; Joel 2:19, 23-27; Ezek. 36:34-36). People will be healthy and have long life (Isa.65:20-23). They will build a beautiful temple in Jerusalem. We can read a description of the temple in Ezek.40-45. Messiah will be their king and priest. They will worship Him face to face. They will be abundantly blessed spiritually also. The promise of pouring of Holy Spirit on all flesh will be completely fulfilled (Joel 2:28-32; Zach. 12:10; 13: 1-2; Eze. 36: 24-26). Moreover, they will preach the gospel of the kingdom of God among the nations (Zach. 8:21-23; Micah. 4:2-3).

b) Nations who are counted righteous: The nations who are found righteous in the judgement at the glorious appearance of Jesus Christ inherit the kingdom of God (Matt. 25:31-35). But they will be settled outside the Israeli area. They will still be under the rule of Messiah, Peace, health, long life, good harvest, marriage, family etc. will be enjoyed by them also just like Israel. Although the first generation is saved through Messiah, the next generations may not remain so. The nature of sin will still be there in them. "The sinner being an hundred years old shall be accused (Isa. 65:20). Missionaries from Jews will go to other nations and preach the gospel of the kingdom and some will be saved. Those who are not saved will come to fight against Israel and the Messiah under the influence of Satan when he is released after thousand years (Rev. 20:7-9).

5. Birds and beasts :

Now due to Adamic sin, the whole creation is under the slavery of corruption. After the glorious appearance of the Lord the enmity among the animals will disappear and they will eat only vegetables. "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them (Isa. 11: 6-7; 65:25), all creatures will live as they lived in the garden of Eden.

6. The plant kingdom

All the plants will be released from the curse and will be in the blessed condition as that prevailed before the fall of man. There will not be any disease among them. They will grow well and produce bountiful fruits.

THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

This blessed period will be only for a thousand years. Satan will be let loose after thousand years (Rev.20:7). He will gather all his strength and prepare for war against the Lord and His saints. Unsaved people born during the millennium will also join with him and surround the holy city of Jerusalem (Rev. 20:8-9). The nations known as Gog and Magog will give leadership to this great war. In a moment the Lord will send fire from heaven and destroy the enemies. Moreover Satan who deceived them will be cast into the lake of fire where ant-christ and false prophet are already thrown. They will suffer eternal punishment there (Rev.20:8-10). After this the Lord and His saints will return to heavenly places and bring the millennial rule to a close.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the reasons for the trouble and miseries that are seen in the world today? Where can the solutions be found?
2. Who will rule in the millennium? Where will be the Old Testament and New Testament saints during this period?
3. Who are the ruled ones in the millennium? How will be their living conditions?
4. What will be the condition of the birds and animals and the plant kingdom?
5. How will the millennial age end?
6. Describe the area and borders of land which will be occupied by Israel during the millennium.