

THE CASE FOR PRE-MILLENNIALISM

1. **Meaning of Rev 20:4-5.** “They lived.” Compare Rev 2:8; 13:14. John speaks of a “first resurrection.” At this point, we do well to note the connection these saints have with those who have suffered during the Tribulation. But the most important thing to stress is that these saints *come to life* and then reign with Christ. That is, they are in resurrection bodies. This cannot happen during the Church Age. It must happen after the Church Age. So there is a kingdom reign of Christ *after* the Millennium. These resurrected persons cannot die again, and will not fall away. And these individuals are priests during the Millennium.
2. **God keeps his promises.** We believe that God keeps his promises. Hebrews 6:18 says that “it is impossible for God to lie.”
3. **Literal Interpretation**
 - 3.1. The argument that the Kingdom is not a literal future kingdom is built upon the argument that Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled non-literally.
 - 3.2. Deut 29:29 teaches that God reveals his Word in intelligible language in such a way that it is to be understood and obeyed by his people. (Hoyt)
 - 3.3. The Bible expects the faithful to make full spiritual use of the both Testaments. (Hoyt)
 - 3.4. The Old Testament is fulfilled literally within itself (e.g., Gen 15:13; 28:15; 40:9-22; 50:24; 2 Sam 12:24; 2 Kings 1:17; 2 Kings 19:7; etc).
 - 3.5. The supposed notion that the Old Testament is not fulfilled literally in the New Testament is itself based on a literal reading of the New Testament.
4. **Tracing the idea of the Kingdom throughout Scripture.**
 - 4.1. The Kingdom in Old Testament History.
 - 4.1.1. Adam: Genesis 1:26-28
 - 4.1.2. Abraham: Genesis 12:1-3 God promised him that he will bless those that bless Abram, and curse those who curse him. “And in you, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” See especially Gen 13:14-18; and Gen 15; 17; 22:15-18.
 - 4.1.3. Moses: Deuteronomy 30:1-10
 - 4.1.4. David: 2 Sam 7:1-17
 - 4.1.5. Demise of the Kingdom: Ezek 8:3-4; 9:3; 10:4, 18; 11:23
 - 4.2. The Future Kingdom According to the Prophets.
 - 4.2.1. The Ruler of the Kingdom:
 - 4.2.1.1. A son of David will reign as King. Isa 9:6-7 [cf. Isa 33:5; Dan 7:14; Psa 2:6; Jeremiah 33:14-22
 - 4.2.1.2. The son of David reigning in the Kingdom is both human and divine. (see Hoyt, 80) Isa 32:1-2; 11:1; Dan 7:13; Psa 2:7; Isa 40:9-10; 9:6; Zech 14:9
 - 4.2.2. The Land of the Kingdom:
 - 4.2.2.1. The Lord will be king over all the earth (Zech 14:9; Psa 72:8)
 - 4.2.2.2. The people of Israel will dwell safely in the land promised to Abraham. Obadiah 20-21. Compare Num 24:18; Amos 9:12; Psa 2:6; Isa 2:4; 65:21-22.
 - 4.2.2.3. Jerusalem will be the capitol. Isa 33:17-22. Compare Isa 2:3; 24:23.
 - 4.2.2.4. Israel will be reunited in the Kingdom; there will be no more divided kingdom. Ezek 33:7.
 - 4.2.2.5. Ezekiel describes a grand temple built in the Kingdom (Ezek 37:27-28; 40:1-43:27), where the Shekinah glory returns and stays (43:1-7).
 - 4.2.3. The Spirituality of the Kingdom. In other words, the Spirit of God has great liberty and freedom over men in this age.
 - 4.2.3.1. Regenerate people of Israel will make up the core of the kingdom’s people. Micah 4:7-8
 - 4.2.3.2. The Gentiles will also seek David’s son in this kingdom. Amos 9:11-12. Compare Isa 19:23-25; Micah 4:1-2; Psa 72:8-11; Zech 8:20-23; Deut 28:13; Isa 60:1-12;
 - 4.2.3.3. Ezek 36:24-32

- 4.2.3.4. Jeremiah 31:34 promises forgiveness of sins and true spiritual knowledge of God.
- 4.2.3.5. Jeremiah 23:5-6 prophesies that righteousness will characterize the land, flowing from the king from David, the righteous Branch.
- 4.2.4. The World of the Kingdom.
 - 4.2.4.1. Geological changes in Zech 14:3-4
 - 4.2.4.2. Climate changes in Isa 32:15-16; 35:7
 - 4.2.4.3. Increased fertility of the land in Isa 35:1-2; Amos 9:13.
 - 4.2.4.4. Changes in animal behavior in Isa 11:6-9; 65:25
 - 4.2.4.5. Physical healing in Isa 33:24; 35:5-6
 - 4.2.4.6. Long life in Isa 65:20, 22
 - 4.2.4.7. Elimination of Physical Hazards in Isa 65:23; Ezek 34:23-31
- 4.2.5. The Dark Side of the Millennium. Jer 30:18-20; Ezek 47:22-23; Jer 31:30; Isa 65:20.
- 4.2.6. The Duration of the kingdom is eternal. Isa 9:7; Compare Rev 20:4-6; Psa 45:6; Dan 7:13-14; Mic 4:7; 1 Cor 15:24-28; Rev 22:1-5.
- 4.3. Kingdom in the Gospels
 - 4.3.1. The gospels make clear that the coming of Jesus was connected to the coming of the kingdom. Luke 1:32-33; Matt 3:2
 - 4.3.2. Jesus proclaimed the same message in Matt 4:17. This is the “good news” or gospel “of the kingdom” (Matt 4:23), that the king had come and was among them.
 - 4.3.3. The kingdom of Old Testament prophecy is the kingdom proclaimed by Christ. (Luke 1:30-33; Matt 3:3; 4:15-16; 5:17-18; etc.)
 - 4.3.4. The Jews rejected their Messiah Jesus Christ (Matt 12:22-32; 11:13; 17:10-13)
 - 4.3.5. Jesus prepared his disciples to understand that the kingdom was going to be delayed and that in the meantime things were going to look different than they anticipated (Mark 4:26; Matt 13:24-30; 31-33; 47-50; 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-22, 28; 21:33-42; 16:28 and 2 Peter 1:16-18; 16:17-20; Luke 21:24)
 - 4.3.6. While stressing that Jesus was in the midst of the Jews, the King of the Kingdom, demanding their repentance, faith, and allegiance, the Gospels also present the kingdom as future (Matt 13:41-43; John 3:3, 5; Luke 19:11; Matt 19:27-28; Matt 25:31-34; Acts 1:6)
- 4.4. The Kingdom and the Church.
 - 4.4.1. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostles continued to call Jews to embrace the Kingdom found in Christ Jesus.
 - 4.4.2. In a sense, the mediatorial kingdom has been put on hold during the Church Age.
 - 4.4.3. This Church age is repeatedly called a “mystery” in the New Testament epistles, previously unrevealed by God (Rom 16:25-27; Eph 3:4-6; Col 1:26-27).
 - 4.4.4. Church believers are to continue to hope in and long for the coming Kingdom to be established by Jesus Christ, as the Lord himself commanded us to pray (Matt 6:10; Luke 18:1-8; Rev 22:20).
 - 4.4.5. We continue to preach the Kingdom, as Paul did in Acts 28:31 (Cf. Acts 20:25).
 - 4.4.6. All who believe in Jesus Christ have been transferred “into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Col 1:13; Matt 13:38-39).
 - 4.4.7. The Apostles looked to a future kingdom. 2 Tim 4:1, 18; 2 Pet 1:11; Jas 2:4; also 1 Cor 6:9-10; 15:50; Gal 5:21; Eph 5:5; 2 Tim 2:12
- 4.5. Difficult Passages
 - 4.5.1. Matt 19:23-24
 - 4.5.2. Col 1:13
 - 4.5.3. Luke 17:20-21
 - 4.5.4. Romans 14:17