Chapter 21

"The Millennium"

If Christ's return is the blessed hope, Titus 2:13 "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ," then the Millennium is the prize. Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We will rule and reign with Him as kings and priests over those people living on earth who still are in their human body as they did not die nor were taken in the rapture. Revelation 1:6 (NKJV) "And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Revelation 5:10 "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." They still have a mortal life to live. If the Raptured saints and Tribulation saints, which returned with Christ at the Second Coming, are to rule and reign with Him the obvious question is "to whom do we reign over?" We can find our answers in the Old Testament prophecies about the restoration of the planet's eco-systems, the restoration of mankind and what they can expect from God's provisions, and Christ's edicts for His law and rules of worship.

Before we go on to examine the Millennium, there is an important distinction that needs to be made about the first and second resurrection and the first and second death which was just mentioned in Revelation 20:5-6. The first and second resurrection is for believers only. If you recall, at the Rapture the physical bodies of those who are taken will transform from our current physical corruptible bodies to new glorified incorruptible bodies. We shall have the same type of body Jesus had after He rose from the grave and will have when He returns. 1 John 3:2-3 (NIV) "2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." This is the first resurrection. Bible scholars believe that the Tribulation Saints will get their glorified bodies at the Second Coming as both groups will then be returning with Christ. It will be in this form that the Raptured Saints and Tribulation Saints will rule and reign in the Millennium. Remember that the Tribulation saints are those who die in faith or are martyred specifically for their refusal to take the mark of the beast and were killed between the Rapture and the end of the Tribulation. However, there will be many people who refused to take the mark and evaded capture and survived to fulfill Jesus' prophecy of Matthew 24:13 "But he who endures to the end shall be saved." In addition, there will still be many Jewish people who fled into the desert beginning at the half way point of the Tribulation where God will protect and provide for them. Those believers who come to faith after the Rapture, those who survive during the Tribulation, and those who are born and remain alive up until the 1,000 years are over will be involved in the Second Resurrection if their names are found when the Book of Life is opened at the Great White Throne Judgement. We will explore the Great White Throne Judgement after we examine more closely what we can expect and how the earth is restored in the Millennium.

Regarding the first and second death, earlier we talked about what happens at death for the spirit and bodies when a person dies in the natural body. This is the first death. As we learned earlier at what happens at death, all deceased unbelievers since Adam and through the Tribulation will reside in Hades until the end of the Millennium. They will eventually be brought before God, where the Book of Life will be opened and if their name is not found there, they will be judged and sentenced to the lake of fire (hell) at the Great White Throne Judgment. This is the Second death mentioned in vs 6 and is only for unbelievers. Additionally, the unbelievers will not go into the Millennium. This topic will be examined in greater depth when we explore the restoration of mankind shortly.

We will now look at what the Bible says about what to expect in the Millennium. There are four main categories to examine: the Restoration of the Land, the Restoration of Mankind, the Absolute Authority of Jesus' Rule, and the Temple and Worship Laws.

- Restoration of the land. After seven years of cataclysmic disasters, the earth will be in ruins. With the voice command of God, He will renovate and restore the earth like it was in the Garden of Eden. Isaiah 51:3 "For the LORD shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody." Acts 3:21 "Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began." The land will be able to support farming to provide food for the inhabitants of this time. Isaiah 4:2 (NIV) "In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel." Isaiah 35:6-7 "6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. 7 And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes." Joel 2:19 and 22 "19 Yea, the LORD will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen." and "22 Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength." There will be such peace that even the animals will live in peace so that the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf free from fear of being prey. Isaiah 11:6-7 "6 The wolf also 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. ⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox." Ezekiel 34:25 "And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods." Children will be able to play by poisonous snake dens and not be afraid of being bitten. Isaiah 11:8 (NIV) "The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest." It is from these people who survive the Tribulation and the children they produce will need to farm for sustenance and repopulate the earth.
- Restoration of mankind. As we just touched upon, only the believers will enter the Millennium. Psalm 1:1-3 "1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. ² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night. ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Since Adam, God has always wanted a personal loving one on one relationship with each and every person born. The choice to participate is totally up to the individual. With Moses we learned how the concept of obedience brings blessing and disobedience brings judgment. And when judgment was called for, even then God provided a way back with His sacrifice of His only son to pay a debt He did not owe. In a word, He wanted us to have restoration (as before Adam sinned). In the truest sense of the word, God wanted to take His best creation, which had become corrupted and full of decay, and restore it to its original condition. Psalm 23:3 "He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake." Psalm 51:7 (ERV) "Remove my sin and make me pure. Wash me until I am whiter than snow!" Ezekiel 20:37-38 (ERV) "37 I will judge you guilty and punish you according to the agreement. 38 I will remove all those who turned against me and sinned against me. I will remove them from your homeland. They will never again come to the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD." Isaiah 35:8-9 (NIV) "8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. 9 No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there." Jeremiah 31:31-34 "31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new

covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: 32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." Isaiah 1:18 (NIV) "Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Joel 3:12 (NKJV) "Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations." Acts 17:31 "Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." When we looked at the Olivet discourse in Matthew 25:31-46 it talked about the separating of sheep/believers and goats/unbelievers. It clearly says in vs 34 "34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand (sheep), 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." In vs 41 and 46 "41 Then He will also say to those on the left hand (goats), 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:" and "46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life." God will usher believers into the Millennium and unbelievers will be sent to Hades, as just mentioned again, for the duration of the Millennium. As physical earthly beings, like we are now, those peoples still in their natural body who enter the Millennium will be responsible for repopulating the earth with children. Only married people will have the sex required to build the families as children will be produced. Matthew 22:30 "For in the resurrection they (returning saints with Christ) neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven." Zechariah 8:4-5 (NKJV) "4 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand Because of great age. 5 The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets." Earthly needs of food and water will be met and we will want for nothing. The Millennial people will work the land and enjoy the fruits of their labors. Micah 4:4 (NIV) "Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken." Isaiah 35:6b "6b For in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Isaiah 65:21-23 (NKJV) "21 They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23 They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them." Long life and good health will be reinstated. There will be no illness or disease. Isaiah 35:5-6a "5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the dumb sing." A person could die at 100 years old and his life span would be thought of like a child's. Isaiah 65:20 (NKJV) "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed." Micah 4:6-7 (NIV) "6 In that day," declares the LORD, "I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles and those I have brought to grief. 7 I will make the lame my remnant, those driven away a strong nation. The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion from that day and forever." The instruments of war that were used will be reshaped into farming tools. The study of war will no longer be needed or studied. Isaiah 2:4 (NKJV) "He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many

people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more," Micah 4:3 (NIV) "He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." Everybody will be treated and thought of as equal by those who will have authority over them. Isaiah 32:1 (NKJV) "Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice." There will be no second class citizens or third world countries. Hunger will be gone, disease will be gone, hurt feelings of betrayal will be gone. People will treat each other with courtesy and respect. The world will finally find peace. Isaiah 35:10 "And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Deceit towards your neighbor or pride of any kind will not be tolerated, while humbleness will be the standing order of the day. Zephaniah 3:11-13 (NKJV) "11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds in which you transgress against Me; For then I will take away from your midst those who rejoice in your pride, and you shall no longer be haughty In My holy mountain. 12 I will leave in your midst a meek and humble people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD. 13 The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed their flocks and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid." As a result of Jesus' righteousness, the nation of Israel specifically and the world by extension will experience prosperity like never before. Jeremiah 23:5-6 "5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. 6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jeremiah 33:14-16 "14 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah. 15 In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our righteousness."

Jesus' rule and authority will be absolute. Isaiah 9:6-7 "6 For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from henceforth, even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." Daniel 7:14 (NKJV) "Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed." Daniel 7:27 (NKJV) "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him." He will rule with a rod of iron. Revelation 12:5 "And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne." Revelation 2:27 (NKJV) "He shall rule them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels' as I also have received from My Father;" This phrase means once He makes a verdict, there will be no appeal or amnesty. Everyone will know the rules and be subject to punishment if they break one. Remember how, at the very beginning, we talked about God's consistency in keeping His word; otherwise, how could we feel safe to trust His word or judgment? As we just mentioned, those saints who return with Christ at the end of the Tribulation will rule and reign as kings and priests. As kings, those saints who return will serve

as something like a mayor, a governor, or some other position of authority. They will have iurisdiction over the people who make it through the Tribulation. God's regent over the earth will be Jesus. King David will also return to take his place over Israel. Jeremiah 30:8-9 "8 For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him: 9 But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them." Ezekiel 34:23-24 "23 And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. ²⁴ And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it." Ezekiel 37:24 "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them." Hosea 3:5 "Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days." The nation of Israel will be considered the pinnacle of earthly nations. Jesus will then set up His Capital and Temple in Jerusalem, and all the worlds' governments will submit their sovereignty in favor of God's kingship and send emissaries to pay homage and praise to Jesus the King. Luke 1:32-33 "32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." All the nations of the world must then make a pilgrimage to bring Him honor and glory as tribute. Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" Any nation that does not will be judged and punished for not doing so. Isaiah 2:2-3 (NKJV) "2 Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. 3 Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." He will rule from Jerusalem. Joel 3:14-17 "14 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining. ¹⁶ The LORD also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the LORD will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. ¹⁷ So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her anymore." Zechariah 2:10-13 (NKJV) "10 Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and I will dwell in your midst," says the LORD. "11 Many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and they shall become My people. And I will dwell in your midst. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you. 12 And the LORD will take possession of Judah as His inheritance in the Holy Land. and will again choose Jerusalem. 13 Be silent, all flesh, before the LORD, for He is aroused from His holy habitation!" Failure to do so will cause the rain not to fall in that country. When Jesus enters the city, He will enter through the Golden Gate aka the Eastern Gate. Ezekiel 44:1-2 "1 Then he brought me back the way of the gate of the outward sanctuary which looketh toward the east; and it was shut. 2 Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut." In 1541, the Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent had the gate walled up so that the coming messiah could not enter the city. However, Jesus will open the gate and enter when He moves His capital to Jerusalem. The nation of Israel will get back ALL the land promised to Abraham, not just the sliver of land they have today. Genesis 15:18-21 "18 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "Unto thy seed have I

given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: ¹⁹ The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, ²⁰ And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, ²¹ And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

The last topic may be the most important. There will be only one religion, Messianic Judaism. If we recall, the whole purpose of the Tribulation, Day of the Lord, or Daniels's 70th week was to solidify Jesus' role as Messiah for the Jews and the world. Remember that the eyes of Israel would be opened to see Jesus as Messiah. Isaiah 35:5 "Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped." In the Millennium, life will be centered around worship in God's Millennial Temple and Jesus as High Priest. Hebrews 9:11 (NKJV) "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation." There will be an emphasis on living in righteousness or holiness. Isaiah 4:3-5 "3 And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. 4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning, 5 then the LORD will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering." Isaiah 62:1-2 "1 For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. ² And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." Zechariah 8:3 (NIV) "This is what the LORD says: "I will return to Zion and dwell in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the LORD Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain." Zechariah 13:1 "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness." Zechariah 14:20 "In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar." Micah 4:1-2 "1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ² And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." Jesus will serve as High Priest, and as mentioned before, while the saints who return with Christ will serve as priests. Hebrews 2:17 "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 3:1-2 (NKJV) "1 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, ² who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was faithful in all His house." Hebrews 4:14-16 "14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." As priests, the saints will have the responsibility of performing worship services. Psalm 100:1-5 "1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. 2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. 3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he

that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. 5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." Psalm 145:10-13 "10 All thy works shall praise thee, O LORD; and thy saints shall bless thee. 11 They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; 12 To make known to the sons of men his mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of his kingdom. ¹³ Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." There will be music for worship. Ezekiel 40:44 (NKJV) "Outside the inner gate were the chambers for the singers in the inner court, one facing south at the side of the northern gateway, and the other facing north at the side of the southern gateway." The yearly cycle of temple worship including the Feasts of the Lord, the Ten Commandments, the law of Sabbath, and sacrifices will be observed. Zechariah 14:17-19 (NKJV) "17 And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. 18 If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the nations who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. ¹⁹ This shall be the punishment of Egypt and the punishment of all the nations that do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." Everybody will worship God as we were meant to in thought, word, and deed. Isaiah 66:23 (NKJV) "And it shall come to pass That from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me," says the LORD." Sacrifices will include the offerings of first fruits and animals. Deuteronomy 26:1-2 (NKJV) "1 And it shall be, when you come into the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, 2 that you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide." Isajah 56:1-8 "1 Thus saith the LORD, "Keep ye judgment, and do justice: for my salvation is near to come, and my righteousness to be revealed. ² Blessed is the man that doeth this, and the son of man that layeth hold on it; that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and keepeth his hand from doing any evil. ³ Neither let the son of the stranger, that hath joined himself to the LORD. speak, saying, the LORD hath utterly separated me from his people: neither let the eunuch say, Behold, I am a dry tree. "4 For thus saith the LORD unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant; 5 Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off. ⁶ Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the LORD, to serve him, and to love the name of the LORD, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant; 7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. 8 The Lord God, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith. Yet, will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him." The people of Israel were called originally to be kings and priests to God. Exodus 19:5-6 "5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." But as we know, they did not. Even when God sent them his messengers, the prophets, they killed them rather than repent and seek forgiveness. In the Millennium the

nation of Israel will be reinstated as the channel of blessing they were intend to be. Zechariah 8:7-8 (NKJV) "7 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Behold, I will save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; ⁸ I will bring them back, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people and I will be their God, in truth and righteousness." Zechariah 8:11-13 (NKJV) "11 But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,' says the LORD of hosts. ¹² 'For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these. ¹³ And it shall come to pass that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, let your hands be strong." As we read before, some of those who return with Christ will be priests and Jesus will be the high priest. God will cleanse and sanctify those priests who are called to serve. Ezekiel 37:23 "Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God."

In addition to Ezekiel's war of Gog/Magog in chapters 38 and 39, Ezekiel is chosen to also describe the exact dimensions and sacraments for a New Millennial Holy Temple in chapters 40-48. Ezekiel 43:7-9 (NKJV) "7 And He said to me, "Son of man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel forever. No more shall the house of Israel defile My holy name, they nor their kings, by their harlotry or with the carcasses of their kings on their high places. 8 When they set their threshold by My threshold, and their doorpost by My doorpost, with a wall between them and Me, they defiled My holy name by the abominations which they committed; therefore I have consumed them in My anger. 9 Now let them put their harlotry and the carcasses of their kings far away from Me, and I will dwell in their midst forever." Remember the Third Temple had to be built for the Antichrist to make his abomination of desolation toward the beginning of the Tribulation. Somehow it will be destroyed. It could be as a result of a natural event like an earthquake or the result of attack. The main point is God's purity will not allow himself to occupy a space that has been defiled, therefore, a Millennial Temple must be built. The floor plan is different to that of Solomon's temple or Moses' Tabernacle. Ezekiel 43:10-12 (NKJV) "10 Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. 11 And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write it down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. ¹² This is the law of the temple: the whole area surrounding the mountaintop is most holy. Behold, this is the law of the temple." The cycle of the Feasts of the Lord will be restored and observed. Ezekiel 45:18-25 (NKJV) "18 Thus says the Lord GoD: "In the first month, on the first day of the month, you shall take a young bull without blemish and cleanse the sanctuary. 19 The priest shall take some of the blood of the sin offering and put it on the doorposts of the temple. on the four corners of the ledge of the altar, and on the gateposts of the gate of the inner court. ²⁰ And so you shall do on the seventh day of the month for everyone who has sinned unintentionally or in ignorance. Thus you shall make atonement for the temple. ²¹ "In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month, you shall observe the Passover, a Feast of seven days; unleavened bread shall be eaten. ²² And on that day the prince shall prepare for himself

and for all the people of the land a bull for a sin offering. ²³ On the seven days of the Feast he shall prepare a burnt offering to the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams without blemish, daily for seven days, and a kid of the goats daily for a sin offering. ²⁴ And he shall prepare a grain offering of one ephah (bushel) for each bull and one ephah for each ram, together with a hin (about 5.5 qts) of oil for each ephah. ²⁵ "In the seventh month, on the fifteenth day of the month, at the Feast, he shall do likewise for seven days, according to the sin offering, the burnt offering, the grain offering, and the oil."

Below is a breakdown of the Millennial Temple's construction as told to Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 40	1-5	A New City, a New Temple
	6-16	The Eastern Gateway of the Temple
	17-19	The Outer Court
	20-23	The Northern Gateway
	24-27	The Southern Gateway
	28-37	Gateways of the Inner Court
	38-43	Where Sacrifices Were Prepared
	44-46	Chambers for Singers and Priests
	47-49	Dimensions of the Inner Court and Vestibule
Ezekiel 41	1-4	Dimensions of the Sanctuary
	5-11	The Side Chambers on the Wall
	12	The Building at the Western End
	13-26	Dimensions and Design of the Temple Area
Ezekiel 42	1-14	The Chambers for the Priests
	15-20	Outer Dimensions of the Temple
Ezekiel 43	1-12	The Temple, the Lord's Dwelling Place
	13-17	Dimensions of the Altar
	18-27	Consecrating the Altar
Ezekiel 44	1-3	The East Gate and the Prince
	4-9	Those Admitted to the Temple
	10-31	Laws Governing Priests
Ezekiel 45	1-5	The Holy District
	6-8	Properties of the City and the Prince
	9-17	Laws Governing the Prince
	18-25	Keeping the Feasts
Ezekiel 46	1-15	The Manner of Worship
	16-18	The Prince and Inheritance Laws
	19-24	How the Offerings Were Prepared

At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is freed for a short time where he will make one last futile attempt to deceive as many as possible and gather an army to come against Jerusalem and Israel one last time only to be totally destroyed before they even launch their attack. Satan will be recaptured and sent directly to the everlasting lake of fire for all eternity never to be able to mislead anybody again. Revelation 20:7-10 "7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved

city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Jeremiah 50:3-5 "³ For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast. ⁴ In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God. ⁵ They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, saying, Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant that shall not be forgotten." As a special note, most prophecy scholars agree the Gog/Magog mentioned in Revelation 20:8 is not the Gog/Magog of Ezekiel 38 and 39 as vs 8 only mentions one of the three main participants that form the coalition to come against Israel in Ezekiel's account.

Life during the Millennium will be enriching and fulfilling as God always intended it to be. However, it is still each person's responsibility to confess with their mouths and ask for salvation. Romans 10:9-13 (NIV) "9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." As we previously talked about, the people who made the transition from the Tribulation, through the second coming and enter the Millennium will all be believers. Furthermore, they will have children who will still have man's spirit of rebellion in them. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God removes that spirit during the Millennium. The children born during this time will not have a frame of reference for them to know how badly mankind behaved or the level of punishment for that behavior. It will be up to their parents to remember and teach them, but as anybody who has had children can tell you, a child always thinks they know more than their parents. What makes it even more tragic is even with all the blessings of God there will be some that refuse to surrender their lives to Christ because of the hubris of man. The very sin of self-pride that infected Adam and Eve in the first place. Regrettably, there will be some who will fall for Satan's scheme and lose their mortal life, as well as their eternal life in the second death, as mentioned above. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

This brings us to God's last action on this earth, which we have referenced a couple of times, the Great White Throne Judgement. Revelation 20:11-15 "11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." The text clearly states all of mankind (since Adam) will be brought before God to be judged. This trial will be simple as the only evidence for the defense or criteria will be the Book of Life. It will be opened and the names read, if your name is found there you will be allowed entrance to heaven, if not, the only option is the lake of fire or hell. It is the great equalizer. Whatever good works one may have performed, or what station, or celebrity one may have held will not carry any weight. Acts 10:34-35 "34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with Him." God loves each person equally. God does not love you any less than He loves Billy Graham or Mother Teresa, nor does He love you any more than the vilest criminal, the deepest destitute, or slave to addiction. He loves all equally so much so that He sacrificed His Son to pay our price for redemption. The only opportunity to get your

name listed in the Book of Life is in this life. Daniel 7:9-11 (NKJV) "9 I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened. 11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame." This is where one of Daniel's prophetic visions comes into play. Daniel 12:1-2 "1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book (of life). 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

To clarify, some teachers suggest that only the unbelievers will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment. They point out that believers were judged at the Judgement Seat of Christ (Bema Seat) after the Rapture or at the separating of the sheep and goats at the start of the Millennium. There are two problems with this theory. One, if we recall, at the Judgement Seat of Christ was an assessment and reward of your type of service and faithfulness. Later the separation of sheep/believers and goats/unbelievers at the beginning of the Millennium was to allow the returning saints re-entry to earth. Neither one was to allow advancement to heaven. Two, the point of view does not address the issue of God judging believers, living or passed, who come to a saving knowledge of Christ during the 1,000 years. Furthermore, the Revelation 20:11-15 above passage says in vs 12 "and I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God." And in vs 13 "and they were judged, each one according to his works." The text does not list any exemptions. What is more likely is that their presence at this judgment for those saints in both previous judgments will be merely a formality. They will be invited to enter paradise, but they do need to present themselves. Those whose names are not in the Book of Life will finally realize the full extent of horror and folly of their actions like we saw with the rich man in Hades. Matthew 13:41-43 "41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear," Matthew 13:49-50 "49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the iust, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 7:21-23 "21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? ²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Luke 13:22-30 (NKJV) "22 And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. 23 Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?" And He said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. 25 When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,' 26 then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' 27 But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' 28 There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. ²⁹ They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. 30 And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."