

## What the Bible Says About Millenarianism: The Thousand Year Reign

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Introduction: Mankind has always been fascinated by kings, kingdoms and the power/prestige associated with them. This desire for kings and kingdoms, both real and imaginary, had led to both good and bad consequences throughout history.

- I. Examples of Kings and Kingdoms real and imaginary.
  - a. Nero, Trajan and Augustus – Roman Empire; Nebuchadnezzar – Babylonian Empire; Arthur – Camelot (From the Legends of King Arthur); Aragorn – Kingdom of Gondor (From the Lord of the Rings).
- II. God's people rejected God in favor of a human king (1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:1-5, 19-22).
  - a. Kingly Lineage of Israel under the United Kingdom
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9-11 – **Saul** the Benjamite was made king of Israel. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:13 – **David** was anointed by God to take over the Kingship from Saul, because of Saul's disobedience 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15. 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 1:38-40 – **Solomon**, the son of David and Bathsheba was anointed to succeed David and it was he who built the Temple of God in 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 6.
  - b. Kingly Lineage under the Divided Kingdom
    - i. **Rehoboam** – The legitimate heir of David and son of Solomon, ruled over the only two tribes who remained loyal to the house of David; Judah and Benjamin. **Jeroboam** – Ruled the remaining 10 tribes and established idolatrous worship in Israel.
  - c. In all, from Saul as Israel's first God appointed king (under the united kingdom) to Zedekiah Judah's final God appointed king, there were 42 kings of Israel who ruled from man-made human kingdoms. (This does not include the human leadership present during the Intertestamental Period)
- III. Jesus, as the promised Messiah, was expected to setup an earthly kingdom as David His father had done.
  - a. The Messiah was expected to return Jerusalem to its "glory days," such as when David ruled (See Luke 2:25, 38, John 1:45). Jesus; was the offspring of David (Matthew 1:1), came in the manner prophesied of the Messiah and from the city of the Messiah (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1-6, Luke 2:8-14), preaching about the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 3:2), healed and cast out demons, taught with more authority than the Jewish leaders (Matthew 5:20, 12:25-26), entered Jerusalem in the manner prophesied of the Messiah (Luke 19:11 and following) and claimed equality with God (John 8:58).
  - b. Jesus was expected to be a human, earthly king and savior like David (Luke 19:11, John 18:33-38, 19:12-16, Acts 1:5). Even the Apostles thought this (It had to be discouraging for men who thought this to watch Jesus die at the hands of the Romans. To them, it would have been the end and the failure of everything).
  - c. Even to this day, men do not understand the nature of the Kingdom of God. Some religions even teach that the Kingdom of God has not even come yet come, for Jesus was thwarted in His effort to set up the Kingdom by the Romans. (This is interesting in light of Matthew 16:28 and Colossians 1:13) There are also some teach that Christ will return one day to setup the very human, earthly kingdom on earth, that He was thwarted from setting up the first time.
- IV. The Doctrine of "Millenarianism": (Premillennialism) Jesus will return to earth and setup and rule/reign from the Throne of David in an earthly kingdom for a period of no less than 1,000 years. This ideology is based off of a misinterpretation of Revelation 20:1-6 and 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18. Depending on whether or not one

believes that Christ will return before, during or after the “millennial reign,” determines whether or not you are Pre-millennial, Millennial or Post-millennial.

- a. Passages that combat the false teaching of this doctrine.
  - i. Men only die once and then judgment comes (Passage). There are no multiple chances at salvation.
  - ii. All people will be resurrected to face the judgment at the same time. There are not multiple resurrection – 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 4:13-18 (i.e. Rapture for the good, then resurrection later for those who are good and then for the bad).
  - iii. The “1,000 years” is a symbol and means completeness and represents a “long time” or “Christ’s total reign” over all men.
- b. While it is true that Jesus is the offspring of David and will rule/reign forever (Luke 1:31-33, Amos 9:11-12, 1:1, 7:10-14, Acts 15:13-20, Isaiah 9:6-8, Jeremiah 23:5-6, I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6: 19-20, Zechariah 6:12-13), it is not true that we are waiting for Him to setup a kingdom and rule. He is reigning as our high priest now (Heb. 7:1-28), and on God’s throne now (Acts 2:24-35; I Cor. 15:22-26)
- c. Christ was not promised to rule and reign over David’s physical house and on David’s physical throne. The house of Jacob today is the new Israel of God, the church (Rom.2:28-29; Col.2:11-13; Phil. 3:2-6). His kingdom is the church which he is presently reigning over (Mt. 16:18-19; I Cor.15:22-26). **But Just as Jesus could not be a physical high priest on earth because He was not of the Tribe of Levi – Hebrews 7:14, Jesus cannot be a physical king on earth, reigning from Jerusalem on David’s physical throne, in light of Jeremiah 22:24-30.**

V. Old Testament prohibition against Jesus earthly reign.

- a. When king Jehoiachin was carried captive to Babylon (II K.24:8-17) Jeremiah said, “Write this man as childless...” (R S V) a man who shall not succeed in his days; for none of his off spring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah” (Jer.22:24-30). This king is called by three different names; Jehoiachin (II K. 24:6-8), Jeconiah (I Chr.3:16-17 and Mt. 1:12) and Coniah (Jer.22:24). **Christ is a descendant of this king (Mt. 1:12); therefore he cannot physically reign in Judah,** the place that the Rapture Preachers and the Premillenarian say that he will come back and reign as an earthly king for a 1,000 years.
- b. In light of Eph. 1:19-23, **why on earth would he want** to come to earth and reign as an earthly king when He has more power, dominion and rule now, with more splendor, majesty and beauty in His throne room in Heaven than in any throne room He would have as an earthly king.

Conclusion: The simple fact of the matter friends is this; Christ is the seed of David and the “heir” to David’s throne as prophesied by Isaiah, Jeremiah and the rest. He reigns now, from Heaven, over the house of Israel (the church) as it’s Lord and Master and He will reign forever in this capacity. He will not establish a physical earthly throne in Judah or Jerusalem or anywhere else for that matter for two very specific reason; **1) He cannot lest He violate the Word of God – Jeremiah 22:24-30 and 2) His kingdom is not of this world (John 18:33-37).** If it were, Jesus would have, by His own admission, established such a kingdom long ago and would not have willingly gone to the Cross and died as He did to save your soul and mine.