

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LIVING AND RESURRECTED SAINTS

- I. The NATURE of the Millennium
 - A. The time of FULFILLMENT of God's covenants with ISRAEL
 - 1. God exercises ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY through the RULE of Messiah, Jesus Christ
 - 2. LIVING people are subjected to and TESTED by the authority of the King
 - B. The time of God's FINAL test of fallen humanity under IDEAL circumstances
 - 1. Mankind is surrounded by EVERY enablement to OBEY the King
 - 2. All external sources of TEMPTATION to disobey have been REMOVED
 - C. Significance for RESURRECTED saints
 - 1. They need no TESTING, because they've already been made RIGHTEOUS
 - 2. They need no GOVERNANCE, because they are already in full SUBMISSION to the King
- II. The OCCUPANTS of the Heavenly Jerusalem
 - A. UNFALLEN ANGELS (Heb. 12:22-24)
 - B. OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS (Heb. 11:10, 16), including TRIBULATION MARTYRS
 - C. NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS (John 14:1; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 21:2, 12-14)

D. GOD THE FATHER

1. He will dwell ETERNALLY in the NEW JERUSALEM (Rev. 21:1-2)
2. The Bible presents NO OTHER eternal habitation of God
3. This city possesses the GLORY of God (Rev. 21:11, 23; 22:5)
4. It has the THRONE of God, and His WORSHIP/SERVICE is conducted there (Rev. 22:3)
5. There, they will SEE His FACE
6. Those who dwell there “will REIGN forever and ever” (Rev. 22:5)

III. Conclusions

- A. The OT national hope of ISRAEL will be FULFILLED in the Millennium
- B. The OT saints’ individual hope of an ETERNAL CITY is fulfilled through their RESURRECTION into the New Jerusalem
 1. Still distinct from the glorified CHURCH, who is the BRIDE of CHRIST
 2. Sharing the glory of CHRIST’S REIGN
- C. The nature of the Millennium as the period of the TESTING of FALLEN humanity under the righteous rule of the King makes it unlikely that RESURRECTED individuals will live on earth as subjects of the King
- D. The Millennium deals with SAVED people in their NATURAL bodies
- E. The heavenly Jerusalem must be brought into a relationship with the EARTH at the BEGINNING of the Millennium