

A New World Order Preview

Revelation 20:1-6

(preached Pine Grove 10/8/17; Sunday AM)

Introduction

Most of y'all know about our family vacations that we take each year in June...

Week long trips that we make with all of my Dad's side of the family to Garden City..

Where almost 30 people connected to the Moss family tree travel all the way from New York City to spend 7 days with relatives under one roof...

Now, we have been taking these trips for 14 years...

Anna was 6 months old the first time we vacationed at the beach and this December she will turn 15..

Needless to say, both Anna and Ally have lots of experience when it comes to Moss family vacations, and so do the rest of 25 others who come as well...

But guess what?

Every time we get together as a family, there is someone who makes a comment that looks forward to the next time we are going...

In fact, we will be together at Thanksgiving in a few weeks and I assure someone will make a comment that looks forward to summer vacation with all 30 or so of us being together for a week next June...

That is just the nature of people to look forward to times of fun and relaxation..

It thrills our heart to live in anticipation of what is to come, even if it is months or even years away....

Well, that is the way Christians should feel about the coming reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth...

We should speak of it with anticipation and delight..

We should look forward to it since we as believers in Christ will be in it...

So, why dont we?

Well, the answer to that is simple..

Very few Christians have been taught what that kingdom will actually be like...

And if you don't what what to look forward to, you often aren't filled with much anticipation?

For instance, why will our family talk about a vacation that is months away?

Because we have spent 14 years doing it together and we know the fun we will have and the relaxation we will enjoy..

And once you have the experience, you cant wait to get back..

Well, today I want to take you to the time when Jesus will be ruling the earth for 1000 years....

We have been in Revelation 20:1-6 for a few weeks now just looking at those 6 verses in relation to what that kingdom will be like...

And we are encouraged to know that Satan will be chained during that kingdom and that Jesus will reign in that kingdom....

But what else do we know about that time and what else can we anticipate about that kingdom?

Well, I want to use Revelation 20:1-6 as our foundational verses once again today but I want to build a better picture of these 1000 years today...

And my aim is to simply fill your hearts and minds with anticipation over what has in store for everyone believer in Christ in sending His Son to rule this earth for 1000 years...

So, what I want to do is simply put some muscles on the skeleton...

Put some paint on the walls...

And help add to the color of what is going to be a coming reality for all of those in Christ who are ready for His kingdom...

So, let's start out today talking about why we need a literal 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth...

In other words, we will begin with...

I. What the 1000 Year Reign of Christ Will Accomplish (Rev 20:1-6)

As we come to the idea of a 1000 year reign of Christ over the world, we must answer the question of why does this need to happen...

Some people who oppose the idea of Jesus literally ruling the world for a 1000 years believe that Jesus will come back a second time...

But after he defeats his enemies, believers will simply be swept into eternal life with God..

For many denominations, the next event in end times is not the rapture and the tribulation followed by the second coming and the 1000 year kingdom and then the eternal state...

For them, the next event is the second coming of Christ and then the eternal state..

The reject a rapture of the church, the 7 year tribulation period on earth, and a 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth...

They simply look forward to a second coming and then spending eternity with the Lord in heaven..

And though I am not here to ridicule those folks or draw a dividing line or question their salvation, the Bible simply doesn't describe that order of events...

Instead, the Bible speaks of a coming kingdom of Christ in many places...

So the first thing the 1000 year kingdom will accomplish is this...

A. The 1000 Year Kingdom Fulfills the Word of God

WE looked at some of those places last week in the book of Daniel which spoke of a kingdom that will come out of heaven to crush all the kingdoms of the earth...

We also looked at some passages in Isaiah that spoke of the lamb lying down with the lion and the child playing with a snake..

WE also looked at some passages in the NT where Jesus spoke of his people reigning with Him...

But there are other passages that indicate that a 1000 year kingdom of Christ is coming...

And one of the best is found in the book of Isaiah 65...

Let me read a passage to you this morning in Isaiah 65...

20

*“No longer will there be [o]in it an infant who lives but
a few days,
Or an old man who does not [p]live out his days;
For the youth will die at the age of one hundred
And the [q]one who does not reach the age of one
hundred
Will be thought accursed.*

21

*“They will build houses and inhabit them;
They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.*

22

*“They will not build and another inhabit,
They will not plant and another eat;
For as the [r]lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My
people,
And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their
hands.*

23

*“They will not labor in vain,
Or bear children for calamity;
For they are the [s]offspring of those blessed by the
Lord,
And their descendants with them.*

These verses clearly, especially verse 20, dont describe the current state of the earth...

There are plenty of infants who only live a few days in our current fallen world...

There are also plenty of men who do not live out their days...

So, what day and age are we talking about here?

Well, it must be a day when it is normal to consider a young man as someone who is 100 years old..

Because these verses describe a person who dies before 100 as being accursed...

Do we consider a 100 year old accursed today?

Well certainly not...

Someone who is 100 is thought to be blessed...

So clearly these verses dont describe our current world...

But it is also clear that they dont describe the new heavens and earth that is coming either...

In that final eternal state, there will no death at all...

So if Isaiah 65:20 doesn't describe today and doesn't describe eternity, what does it describe?

It describes the 1000 year reign of Christ...

Because we know this..

There will be people in natural bodies in that kingdom...

We talked about that last week...

So, if there are people in natural bodies in that kingdom, there will be death...

There will also be childbirth, which we mentioned last week and will talk about more next week...

So, there must be a 1000 year kingdom coming to fulfill Isaiah 65...

But there are also 100s of passages that predict a time of blessing for Israel...

Take for instance the promises that God made to Abraham...

God promised to make him a great nation and give him a great land and to make him a blessing to all the world..

Well, Abraham did produce a nation and Abraham was given a land, but Israel as a nation has never been that great..

They have been persecuted and attacked ever since they arrived in their strip of land by the Mediterranean Sea..

And speaking of that strip of land, it has never been close to the size that God promise them..

Israel as a nation is supposed to stretch from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River, but that has never been the case...

However, none of God's promises fail, so Israel will be a great nation and will possess a larger piece of land and that reality will take place in the 1000 year kingdom..

Which will bring the word of God to pass...

But then there is the promise that God made to David that one of his descendants would sit on the throne of Israel forever and ever...

And when Jesus takes his seat on the throne, that word of God will also be fulfilled...

You see, there must be a 1000 year kingdom because God's word must be kept...

And a future reign of Christ on the throne over the entire world will accomplish so many promises in the word of God..

The second thing the 1000 year kingdom will accomplish is this..

B. The 1000 Year Kingdom Rewards Believers

Let's be clear, there is much reward in repenting and trusting Christ..

First and foremost is the forgiveness of sin...

The promise of eternal life after death..

And though those would be enough, God is going to give so much more..

And part of that much more is that God is going to allow us to live in a world that we were made to inhabit...

A world where sin does not dominate the scenery..

A world with a perfect king...

A world where people can live in harmony with one another and with their Creator...

The events in Las Vegas should remind us that the world is not supposed to be this way, and guess what?

The world isn't supposed to be this way..

So God is going to reward those who put their in Him by putting those believers in a world made right for 1000 years...

A third thing the 1000 year kingdom will accomplish is this..

C. The 1000 Year Kingdom Redeems Creation

I could talk about this for a while, but let me put it this simple..

The current creation and world is under the curse of Satan, sin, and the fall.

Listen to Romans 8:22...

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, [i]in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of

the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

The 1000 year kingdom must come to free this physical world from its groaning to be free of the effects of sin..

For those who don't see a 1000 year kingdom, it is almost to acknowledge that Satan won the war for this world and it will never be released from curse..

Personally, I don't see that.

God will have the final say over the world he created and the final way is this..

Satan, you are finished and in chains and the world I created is now back to as it was in the garden of Eden.

Johann Sebastian Bach was a famous music composer, but he was a very obsessive man...

His kids would often get on the piano and play one of his pieces but stop before playing the last note..

Bach couldn't stand it.

So he would get up from whatever he was doing to go over and play the last note...

God will now leave his creation undone by Satan..

He will play the last note in this world and it will last for 1000 years as the world is brought back full circle from where it began..

Now, speaking of bringing the world full circle, let me finish this morning by putting some pictures of this 100 year kingdom together as giving us a picture of what this 1000 years will look like...

So now let's move from seeing what the 1000 years will accomplish to see what the 1000 years will resemble..

II. What the 1000 Year Reign of Christ Will Resemble (Rev 20:1-6)

For this, I simply want to give you a short list of living conditions upon the earth as Jesus reigns over it for 1000 years...

So, let's look at this list with a word that everybody wants but nobody gets...

A. Global Peace

Isaiah 2 gives us a picture of the 1000 year kingdom and here is what the last part of Isaiah 2:4 says,

***“Nation will not lift up sword against nation,
And never again will they learn war.”***

As our nation has fought in multiple wars, both worldwide and even within our borders, we know the horrors of war...

Even now, as we fight a war on terror and as we prepare for a possible war with North Korea, we live in an unstable political environment..

War has been an all too common way of life in this current world, but all wars will come to an end in the 1000 year reign of Christ..

There will be no military training, no draft, no branches of service, no war..

And the reason for that is simple, the Prince of Peace is now in charge..

And all nations will submit to Him...

There will no battle for power or money or territory and therefor there will be no battles at all...

Now, the removal of war will lead to a second characteristic of the 1000 year kingdom and that is..

B. Unbridled Joy

Listen to Isaiah 14:5-7...

5

***“The Lord has broken the staff of the wicked,
The scepter of rulers***

6

***Which used to strike the peoples in fury with unceasing
strokes,
Which [d]subdued the nations in anger with
unrestrained persecution.***

7

***“The whole earth is at rest and is quiet;
They break forth into shouts of joy.***

Can you imagine a world that is filled with joy?

In my opinion, one thing that people like about the holiday season is that it is generally a time of great joy..

You get to see family and its not because of a death or illness...

You get to see kids opening presents..

There is simply a sense of joy around Christmas..

Now in my lifetime, that window of joy at Christmas has gotten shorter and shorter as people work more and seem to be more busy...

But there is still a few days of joy and excitement associated with the holdiays..

Imagine a time where it is Christmas every day for 1000 years...

That is the joy of the 1000 year kingdom..

Happiness will not be unusual but a way of life...

I am ready for the day when each day puts a smile on my face...

A third characteristic of the 1000 year kingdom is this..

C. Widespread Holiness

Isaiah 35:7-8

7

***The [e]scorched land will become a pool
And the thirsty ground springs of water;
In the haunt of jackals, its resting place,
Grass becomes reeds and rushes.***

8

***A highway will be there, a roadway,
And it will be called the Highway of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it.***

One failure of the people of the world is to misunderstand the holiness of God..

Because every single person is so filled with sin, we cannot comprehend a God who has no sin..

Yet, there is coming a time and a kingdom that will consist of nothing but holiness...

There will be no lying, no stealing, no cheating, no sin...

Holiness will be the way of life for the citizens of the 1000 year kingdom, and what a way of life that will be..

Since holiness will be a way of life in those 1000 years, that kingdom will also be know for its glory...

D. Uncovered Glory

***1 The wilderness and the desert will be glad,
And the [a]Arabah will rejoice and blossom;
Like the crocus***

2

***It will blossom profusely
And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy.
The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,
The majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the glory of the Lord,
The majesty of our God.***

Sin has many devastating consequences but one negative of sin is that it prevents us from seeing God's glory...

At times in the Bible, God would reveal His glory to man...

Moses was able to catch a glimpse of it...

Peter, James and John saw the glory of God as Jesus was transfigured on the mountain before them..

But the reality is the God's glory is hidden due to sins of man..

In the 1000 year reign of Christ, God's glory will be on display for the people of the kingdom to see and behold...

Ever walked out of a dark room into the bright sun, that is a taste of what it will be like in the 1000 year kingdom, but without the pain and discomfort on our eyes...

A 5th characteristic of the 1000 year kingdom is this...

E. Universal Justice (Isaiah 42:1-4)

Listen to a description of the justice that will characterize the 1000 year kingdom...

***“Behold, My Servant, whom I [a]uphold;
My chosen one in whom My soul delights.
I have put My Spirit upon Him;
He will bring forth justice to the [b]nations.***

2

***“He will not cry out or raise His voice,
Nor make His voice heard in the street.***

3

***“A bruised reed He will not break
And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish;
He will faithfully bring forth justice.***

4

***“He will not be disheartened or crushed
Until He has established justice in the earth;***

And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His [c]law.”

The world has longed for true justice ever since the serpent decided Adam and Eve in the garden..

Court systems and judges and juries have given the world some justice, but they are all flawed people..

There have been innocent people sent to prison and guilty people set free..

But the day is coming when perfect justice will come to all perfectly and immediately...

A sixth characteristic of the 1000 year kingdom will be..

F. Redeemed Flesh (Isaiah 65:21-22)

In Isaiah 65, we get a glimpse of some of the human activities of the 1000 year kingdom...

21

***“They will build houses and inhabit them;
They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit.***

22

***“They will not build and another inhabit,
They will not plant and another eat;
For as the [r]lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people,***

And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands.

Clearly, there will be building and gardening in the 1000 year kingdom...

The good news is that I will know how to hammer and have the greenest of thumbs in that kingdom...

But that is not all that the citizens of the kingdom will be doing...

Let me give you a short list of what our lives will be like in the 1000 year reign of Christ upon the earth...

Now remember that we will be in bodies that are immortal and fit for eternity...

Bodies that will not tire or hunger or be filled with sickness or pain..

And in those incredible bodies, listen to some of the things that we will do for a 1000 years..

1. We will worship.

The Bible makes it clear that we will worship the Lord as part of activities in the 1000 year kingdom..

2. We will work and serve the King.

The Bible also makes it clear that there will be work going on in the 1000 year kingdom...

Building houses, growing crops, will be just some of the activities that we will be a part of in the 1000 year kingdom...

3. We will enjoy a world without sin.

I have no doubt that we will be free to travel the world and see the beauty of God's creation that is now free from the curse of sin.

We will 1000 years to explore the world and use every scene to worship the God who created it all..

4. We will enjoy fellowship with others.

Though there will be work and service and worship, there will also be fellowship with others...

There will be time to talk and eat and enjoy the goodness of God without the distractions of a fallen world..

5. We will learn about the Lord.

Though our minds will be filled with so much more knowledge than we have now, we will continue to learn about the glory of God..

The questions that you always wanted to ask God will be answered..

The questions about why God did this or that will be revealed..

There is much more to say about the benefits of redeemed flesh, but we will save that for later...

Let's look at the final and most exciting characteristic of the 1000 year kingdom...

G. The Lord's Presence

27 My dwelling place also will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. 28 And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever. ”””

As wonderful as it is to think about what our bodies will be like and what we will be doing...

The most incredible aspect the 1000 year kingdom is who we will be with...

And that is the reality that we will living in the presence of the Lord..

Ever since God walked in the garden with Adam and Eve, he has desired to have fellowship with his people once again..

And in the 1000 year reign of Christ, the Lord will be among his people..

Though I am looking forward to a new body and a new way to work and serve the Lord, I most look forward to being with the Lord...

To see the object of my faith...

To speak with the One who has saved me..

To worship the Christ who loved me so will be incredible..

Yet that day is coming and it is coming fast..

Conclusion

To end our time together this morning, take your hymnal out and turn to page 87...

There you will find the well known hymn Joy to the World...

And it is located right in the section of familiar Christmas hymns, but I will assure you that it was never meant to in that section of your hymnal..

If you at the bottom of page 87, you will notice the name Isaac Watts...

Watts wrote over 600 hymns in his lifetime....

And Joy to the World was one of them...

But Joy the World was not written about the birth of Christ and his coming into the world...

Joy to the World was written about the Second Coming of Christ, rather than his first coming...

And how do we know Watts didn't mean for this to be a Christmas hymn?

Well just look at the words of the hymn...

Verse 1...

Joy to the World, the Lord is Come,
Let Earth receive her king..

Verse 2..

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns..

Let me ask you?

Was Jesus received as king at his first coming?

Did he sit on the throne to reign at his first coming?

And the answer is clearly no..

So Watts was not thinking about Christmas when he wrote this song..

He was thinking about Rev 20...

So, let me read the last two verses of this great hymn and let our hearts not think of Christmas but of the coming 1000 year kingdom..

Verse 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

Verse 4

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders, of his love...

And now that we have come to understand just a bit of
the wonders of the 1000 year kingdom...

Let me say with Isaac Watts...

They will only reflect the great love that God has for his
people...

The 1000 year kingdom will be many things but one
thing that we will constantly be reminded of from year 1
to year 1000 is that how good God will be to allow us to
be a part of this incredible kingdom..

It will truly be a reflection of his great love for us...

And I would be not be a great preacher of the gospel if I
forget to say that the invitation to be a part of these 1000
years is in front of you today...

The hope for you this morning is this...

Joy to the World that the Lord has not come yet because many would not be singing for joy at his return..

If that is true of you, let the hope of the Lord's return fill you with joy and not dread...

Today is the day to turn from your sins and trust in Christ as Lord and Savior...

Today is the day to make yourself ready for a kingdom and a king who are quickly coming...

Let us pray...