

Group Study #3 THE MESSIAH

Read: Revelation 20:1-10 and Isaiah 2:1-4

The Millennial Reign of Christ.

Two Views That Make the Most Sense: Jesus will rule upon the earth for a thousand years, and we will reign with Him (*Premillennialism is the predominant view today*). Or, Jesus is symbolically ruling right now and there will not be a physical thousand-year reign (*Amillennialism seems the most logical to people. Jesus returns and that's the end of the ballgame. The saints go to heaven and the sinners go to hell*).

The Millennial Reign of Christ is honestly a mystery. A mystery in the Bible is something only God knows, and we can only contemplate. There are three main teachings of the 1000-year reign of Christ:

1. **Amillennialism**- The time between the first and second coming of Christ. They do not believe in an actual 1000-year reign of Christ upon the earth. Jesus rules symbolically in men's hearts. The second coming marks the end.
2. **Premillennialism**- Believes the 2nd coming of Christ will occur first, and then, Jesus will set up His Kingdom upon the earth to rule for 1000 years. Satan will be released to deceive the nations again, but he will be destroyed and cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.
3. **Postmillennialism**- Jesus will return at the end of the millennium to a world that is predominantly Christian because of the evangelistic efforts of the Church reaching the lost world. (*Very few people believe this anymore because we see the world getting worse instead of better. And the Church has forgotten the mission of preaching the Gospel to all the nations.*)

What's the Answer? I personally do not understand the purpose of a Millennial Reign of Christ. Amillennialism makes the most logical sense of Jesus returning and that's the end. However, Scripture is adamant that Jesus will physically reign upon the earth from Jerusalem. That's why the millennium is a mystery. When something in the Bible is a mystery, the best way of interpretation is to understand it literally. Read Revelation 20:1-10 and Isaiah 2:1-4 and interpret these passages literally. For some reason, Satan is bound during the millennium only to be let out to deceive the nations after a thousand years. Just as Satan and those he deceived are about to attack the saints in Jerusalem, fire falls from heaven and consumes them. Satan is then thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Just because we don't understand it does not mean we don't believe it. I believe it. I don't have to understand it all right now.

What happens during the thousand years? Jesus rules from the holy mountain in Jerusalem. All the nations will go to Jerusalem to learn directly from Jesus how to live. There will be peace upon the whole earth among all the nations. We will rule with Jesus.

Questions:

1. Which view do you believe is most likely and why (Premillennialism or Amillennialism)?
2. How do you interpret Revelation 20:1-10?
3. What do you like most about Isaiah 2:1-4?