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“5 Marks of the Millennium”

Isaiah 65-66

Pastor Gary Hamrick

If you like movies and TV shows about time travel, then you should also like the Bible. The Bible takes us back in time and into the future as well. It’s about both history and prophecy. Isaiah concluded his book by providing a glimpse into the future, to a time even beyond our own day. Isaiah will take us to a time when all people will live in peace; a time when even the animal kingdom will be tame; a time when joy and laughter will fill the streets instead of weeping and crying; a time when people will live long lives, and there will be blessing and prosperity. Isaiah wrote about the time known as The Millennial Reign of Christ, when Jesus returns to earth to rule and reign in Jerusalem ¹ for 1,000 years. In this message, Pastor Gary shares about what life will look like in the Millennial Kingdom.

Historical Background

1. It’s important to understand the timeline of events that have taken place before the future coming of the millennium.
 - a. In approximately 32AD, Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and after 40 days he ascended into heaven.
 - b. When Jesus ascended into heaven, the Church Age began, and we are living in this this period today.
 - c. The Rapture of the Church is the next event in the timeline.
 - i. At the time of the rapture there will be people who won’t experience death but will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord.
 - ii. **1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** - “According to the Lord’s own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with voice

¹ Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world.

of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.”

- d. The 7-Year Tribulation begins after Christians are Raptured.
 - i. [Revelation 6-18](#) describes all of the things that will happen during the Tribulation.
 - ii. Everyone left on earth at the start of the Tribulation will be unbelievers.
 1. Everyone who has died knowing Christ, plus every Christian who was alive at the Rapture will be in heaven with the Lord.
 - iii. People can be saved during the Tribulation by placing their faith and trust in Jesus.
 - e. The Battle of Armageddon will take place at the end of the seven years of Tribulation, and Jesus will be victorious over all of his enemies!
 - f. Jesus will bring everyone in heaven with him to establish his Millennial Kingdom or The Kingdom Age.
 - g. After Jesus reigns for 1,000 years, a time in which Satan will be bound, there will be a new heaven and a new earth.
2. Pastor Gary said: “[The Rapture] can happen at any time. There’s not another Bible prophecy that has to occur prior to the Church being Raptured.”
- a. [Matthew 24:36](#) – “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”
3. God gave the people of Isaiah’s day, and he’s given us, a glimpse of our future hope!
4. God has prepared unimaginable things for every Christian!
- a. [Isaiah 64:4](#) – “Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.”
 - b. [1 Corinthians 2:9](#) – “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conveyed what God has prepared for those who love him.”
5. Most Old Testament prophets spoke about things that had a near interpretation and a far interpretation, and examples of this would include:
- a. [Daniel 12:11](#) – “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days.”
 - i. In 164BC, about 400 years after Daniel wrote this prophecy, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the city.
 - ii. He sacrificed a pig on the altar before destroyed the Temple of God, and Bible scholars believe this was the “near interpretation” of Daniel’s

prophecy.

- b. **Matthew 24:15** - "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand - then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains."
 - i. Jesus spoke of this as a "far interpretation."
 - ii. The person Jesus was referring to is the Antichrist, who will set himself up in the Temple of God, which is the "abomination that causes desolation."
 - iii. **2 Thessalonians 2:4** - "[The Antichrist] will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God."
- c. Isaiah wrote about a time of blessing, prosperity, and joy.
 - i. The near interpretation of this prophecy was that the people of Israel would serve 70 years in captivity in Babylon, but God would be merciful to them!
 - ii. The far interpretation of this prophecy includes things that would take place during the Millennial Reign of Christ.
 - 1. **Isaiah 65:20** - "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does live out his years..."
 - 2. **Isaiah 65:25** - "The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox..."

5 Marks Of The Millennium

- 6. There will be two kinds of people who enter into the Millennial Reign of Christ:
 - a. One group includes all of the Christians who died and went to be with the Lord in heaven before Second Coming of Christ, as well as all of the Christians who didn't experience death, but were raptured.
 - i. Everyone in this group will have a glorified body, just like the glorified body Jesus had after his resurrection.
 - ii. **Revelation 20:6** - "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."
 - iii. These saints of the Lord will help Jesus govern the earth!
 - b. The other group includes all of the people who become Christians and survive the Tribulation.

Similarity To Life Now

- 7. Pastor Gary said: "[When] Isaiah [wrote about] some of the different marks of the

Millennium, [he was primarily writing] about these people, who move into the millennial period. They are going to be living regular lives, in regular, natural physical bodies, being regular people. [Life] in many ways... will have a similarity to life now. ... These people are going to be doing life very much like life is now. They will marry, they will have families, they will build homes, they will work jobs, they will play sports, they will go on vacation, they'll worship the Lord, just like we do now."

- a. **Isaiah 65:21** - "They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit."
- b. **Isaiah 65:23** - "They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants after them."

Longevity

8. **Isaiah 65:20** - "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed."
9. After the Flood, the life span of human beings declined rapidly.
 - a. Adam lived to be 930 years old.
 - b. Noah lived to be 950 years old.
 - c. Abraham only lived to be 125 years old.
 - d. Moses, who lived to be 120 years old, wrote that the average age of human beings would be about 70 years.
 - i. **Psalm 90:10** - "The length of our days is seventy years - or eighty, if we have the strength..."²
 - ii. The average life span in the United States is 78 years of age (women 81 and men 76 years).
10. The Bible seems to indicate that people will return to a pre-Flood longevity, and something biologically or genetically will be restored to allow for long life.

Prosperity

11. **Isaiah 66:12** - "I will extend peace to her like a river, and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream..."
12. **Isaiah 60:5** - "Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come."

² Psalm 90 is the only psalm written by Moses.

13. Pastor Gary said: “What this means specifically [is] the economic prosperity of Israel, but it appears overall, in general, that during the Millennial period there will be spiritual and material prosperity. ... It’s going to be a time of great blessing and prosperity...”

Security

14. [Isaiah 65:22](#) - “No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat.”
15. People will not be threatened, and they will have no fear of attack or war.
- a. [Isaiah 2:4](#) - “He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. 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.”

Tranquility

16. [Isaiah 65:25](#) - “The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox...”
17. All animals will be docile and domesticated in The Millennium!
- a. [Isaiah 11:6-8](#) - “The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper’s nest.”

Discussion Questions

1. Read [Isaiah 65:17-25](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Provide an overview of the timeline of events that have already taken place. (See #1 above)
3. Read and discuss Pastor Gary’s comment about the fact that the Rapture can take place at any time. (See #2 above)
4. Spend time talking about the near and far interpretation of prophecy. (See #5 above)
5. Provide an overview of the two groups of people during the Millennial Reign of Jesus. (See #6 above)

6. Read and discuss the Scriptures in each of the points in Pastor Gary's outline concerning: similarity to life now; longevity; prosperity; security; and tranquility. (See #7 through #17)
7. Close your time in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).