

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

Various Scriptures (Is. 35; Ezek. 47; Zech. 14; Rev. 20)

Well last week in our journey through the book of Mark, the subject of the kingdom of God came up. And so we talked a lot about the kingdom of God concepts in the Scriptures – how there is a difference between the Universal Kingdom and Theocratic Kingdom. It was one of those message that I told my wife I wish I could preach twice in a row because I enjoyed preaching it and I think it's that important for us to know. So if you missed last week's message, make sure you go to our website and listen to it or watch it or read it. What I want to do today, is to step away from Mark and discuss that theocratic, Millennial Kingdom a little more. The MK is so important to understanding prophecy and it's a subject that I really enjoy teaching on because it's encouraging and it helps you make sense of the Word of God and that's somewhat we're all about here. We want people to have a working knowledge of the Bible; to handle the Word of God accurately and confidently.

The Bible is clear that God is sovereign over this world and His dominion is an everlasting, Universal dominion, as Daniel 4 puts forth. But the Bible is also clear, like in Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 that there is a future kingdom of God to come, that has not yet been established on earth. Right now Satan is the prince of this world and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, but there is a promise that has been awaiting complete fulfillment that was made in Genesis 3:15, that God would crush Satan and restore the paradise of Eden. In fact, ever since the Fall of man into sin, God has been working towards restoration of all things *spiritual* and *physical*. God didn't just create this world to abandon it or throw it away when it fell into sin. He is working towards restoration and He gives His Son for it. Throughout the Bible you will find the words reconcile, redeem, restore, return, renew, regenerate, resurrect. All of these words begin with the prefix re-, which suggests a coming back to an original state that has been ruined or lost.¹

And the original state was in Eden before the Fall. Eden was a utopia. And a utopia can be defined as a place and state of being where everything is perfect – like heaven on earth. And that state of being where everything is perfect again is something we long for. We want it back. We groan for it, Romans says. This desire for a utopia is a God-given desire. And you see this desire in about every philosophy. Take, for example...

- New Agers/Secularists – They believe that society is to blame for the sin issues. If only we had a better society, humanity would live in perfect harmony with itself, nature and with the cosmos.
- Nazis regime/Hitler – Wanting to create the Master Race (Nordic/Aryan) that was part of the Holocaust. They tried to help evolution along – speed up natural selection – and to do that they executed people like the Jews and the disabled, who didn't fit their bill.
- Islamic State – with their Shariah Law. People from all over the world fell for the ISIS propaganda online and went to Syria to join that ISIS thinking it was going to be some sort of Islamic heaven on earth, only to find out that it was more like hell on earth, and when they were being killed when trying to escape.
- Sidetracked Christians – trying to usher in God's kingdom now via the social gospel/dominion theology – using humanitarian efforts and sign gifts and an Emergent Church gospel that can morph to fit into any religion.

So a utopia is something we all long for. The Bible never uses the word utopia, but the Millennial Kingdom that Christ establishes at His return will certainly be one. And **Millennial** is not a reference to an age bracket in society today – it's simply a reference to the fact that it lasts 1,000 years. 10 years is a decade. 100, a

century. And 1,000, a millennium. It comes from two words put together in Latin – **Mille** (thousand) and **Annum** (years). You may hear it referred to as **Chiliasm** – after the Greek word for 1,000 – *chilia*. Revelation 20 uses the word six times.

- Verse 2: “And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.”
- Verse 3: “and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed.”
- Verse 4: “those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”
- Verse 5: “The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.”
- Verse 6: “Blessed and holy is the one who has part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”
- Verse 7: “When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out and deceive the nations...”

So in six verses, Revelation makes it clear six times, this is a period of 1,000 years. It is not merely symbolic (no use of symbolic language – like or as). Actually right after this when an angel is measuring the New Jerusalem walls for John, he says that the angelic measurements are the same as man’s measurements (21:17). So just because it’s in Revelation doesn’t mean it’s mystical. So for 1,000 years, the Bible says that Jesus will reign as King in Jerusalem, on the Davidic throne, through a literal, political and spiritual kingdom while Satan is bound.

And if you study the history of the Church, what you find is that this is something that the Early Church taught and believed but began to take a back seat for a few main reasons. One of them was the fact that it’s **a highly Jewish view**. And with persecution from Jews against the early, mainly Gentile Church, it caused Jewish hatred to grow and Christians became arrogant towards the Jews (Rom. 11:17-32). Paul warned against that. Christians or people in the name of Christianity have done horrible things to the Jews throughout the centuries. The Church or what has been considered the Church has received an *F minus* in its treatment of the Jewish people.ⁱⁱ During the Inquisition, for example, if a Jew who underwent a forced Christian baptism to save his life later confessed that he believed in a literal future coming kingdom with a Jewish Messiah, he was excommunicated, tortured or killed.ⁱⁱⁱ The Greek church actually removed the book of Revelation from its Bible because of the highly Jewish teaching of the kingdom in it.^{iv} In fact I just read this week in the news where the Danish Bible Society removed several references to Israel from their Bible “to eliminate confusion” between historical Israel and the modern Jewish State. That is the result of Replacement Theology – replacing Israel with the Church. Amir Tsarfati calls it “Erasement Theology”.

The second reason why the MK doctrine took a back seat was because of the rise of **Greek philosophy** like **Gnosticism** that *elevated the spiritual, but made anything material seem carnal* (spiritual = good/material = bad). Well the idea of a MK, where *this world or this creation* is restored and set free from bondage, doesn’t fit Gnosticism(Rom. 8:21). So naturally that led to mystical and **allegorical interpretation** of these kingdom prophecies, which basically spiritualized all of the physical prophecies into something strictly heavenly. A major influencer was Augustine of Hippo, who lived from 354 -430 A.D. He was the most influential teachers and publishers in all church history and he made many derogatory arguments against the Jews. His mentor, Ambrose, thought of Jews as a type of infidel and said things like it wasn’t a crime to burn Jewish synagogues.^v His writings later influenced Martin Luther, who influenced Hitler. And that’s just a tiny speck of the anti-Jewish nonsense that has gone on throughout the centuries. But before all the

Jewish hatred and philosophy and allegory, it appears that the MK was taught widely and encouragingly, as I hope to do so today. It is an important teaching. Without it, the Bible doesn't make sense.

There are three main characteristics of the Kingdom that I want to point out that we can look forward too.

I. CHARACTERISTIC #1 – THE COVENANTS ARE COMPLETELY FULFILLED (GEN. 12:1-3)

Specifically, the **Abrahamic Covenant**. That is the main covenant that Genesis 12:1-3 records. If you want to understand prophecy, understand your Bible, the program of God, you've got to learn to think this covenant. It's the foundation. You don't need a fortune teller or a fortune cookie for future things, you need to **look back on God's promises in the past**. "Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the **land** which I will show you; and I will make you a great **nation**, and I will **bless** you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'" So out of all the people on earth, God chose Abraham to be his man to bless the world, whose descendants become the Jews. He is promised **land, seed (nation), and blessing**. Later God develops these aspects even further into sub-covenants: the Davidic Covenant, Land Covenant, and the New Covenants.

A. Land Covenant – In Genesis 15:18, God reaffirmed the land aspect. It says, "On that day, the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates;'" So according to the covenant, they should **possess** more land than they ever have had because God gave it to them. Even the Gaza strip is theirs. One of the reasons they haven't is because their *possession* of it is based on obedience and they have failed at obeying God. Their *ownership* of the land is unconditional but *possession* is conditional. They always own it, even if they don't possess it. And **in the MK is when they will finally possess all the land promised them**. Notice though that this promise is not just spiritual – it is earthly – terrestrial. Satan is literally ruling over the territory of the world now, but so will Christ. The land belongs to the Jewish people according to the Bible, history, and international law.^{vi} Joel 3:2 even says that one of the reasons for God's coming wrath on the wicked nations is because of their continual attempt to divide and take the land from the Hebrew people. There has been attempt after attempt after attempt to try to keep the Jews out of the promised land but there they are still, and it's one of the greatest proofs of God's existence. By the way He blesses them or curses them, He is teaching the world and is glorified. That's why they are called Israel My glory.

B. Davidic Covenant (Seed) – It's called that because the nation elements of the Abrahamic covenant was simply extended to David in 2 Samuel 7. God told him, "Your **house** and your **kingdom** shall endure before Me forever; your **throne** shall be established forever." So the promise includes an eternal house, throne, kingdom. And David's throne was an earthly throne in Jerusalem, like Christ's will be. Christ is at the right hand of God right now but He's not ruling on the Davidic throne. Right now, Christ is waiting in heaven for the perfect time to come and establish His throne. Hebrews 10:12 says He is, "at the right hand of God, **waiting** from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet." Peter told the Jews, "heaven must receive [Christ] **until** the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time." This Davidic promise will be fulfilled in the MK.

C. **New Covenant** (Blessing aspect) Reaffirmed in Jeremiah 31. It says, “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, ‘I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me from the least of them to the greatest of them,’ declares the Lord, ‘And I will remember their sins no more.’” Here God promises that He will have mercy on the house of Israel and give them universal spiritual knowledge (Rom. 11:26-27). He will bless them spiritually with regeneration, forgiveness of sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. And this is the part of the Abrahamic Promise that **we, the Church, partake of now – the spiritual blessings.** However, there is also more than spiritual blessings in the New Covenant – the land is mentioned in it as well in other places – as in Ezekiel 37’s dry bones that live prophecy – “I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land.” The land is mentioned over and over.

❖ **The fulfillment of the New Covenant is tied to their return to the land.^{vii}**
 (Jer. 32:36-41; Ezek. 36:24-25; 37:11-14).

And we’ve just scratched the surface of this 1st characteristic but it’s going to be amazing to see these covenants completely fulfilled in the MK. But we will also see...

II. CHARACTERISTIC #2 – THE CURSE ON CREATION LIFTED.

This means a lot is going to change – for one:

A. Animal kingdom is restored to peace (Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25; Romans 8:19-23)

In Isaiah 11:6-9 we read about the how during the Millennial Kingdom the animal kingdom is going to be as it was before the fall – animals will be vegetarians again. Check this out: “...the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.” These things have not happened yet except on rare occasions. These animal don’t lie down together. Bears do graze today but they also eat salmon, and people! Lions eat the ox. A sheep today does not enjoy the company of a wolf. Infants don’t play with vipers and not get hurt.

Story: In fact, my old taxidermy instructor tells the story of a little boy he knew who was fishing on his own at a local pond. The little boy was catching fish like crazy and an older gentlemen, who wasn’t having much luck, decided to go over to the little boy and see what he was using for bait. When he asked the little boy what he was using, the little boy responded, “Bitin’ worms.” “Bitin’ worms? What are bitin’ worms?” the old man asked. So the little boy took the old man over to edge of the weeds where he was getting his bait and realized these aren’t worms. This little boy had been sticking his hand in a viper’s den.

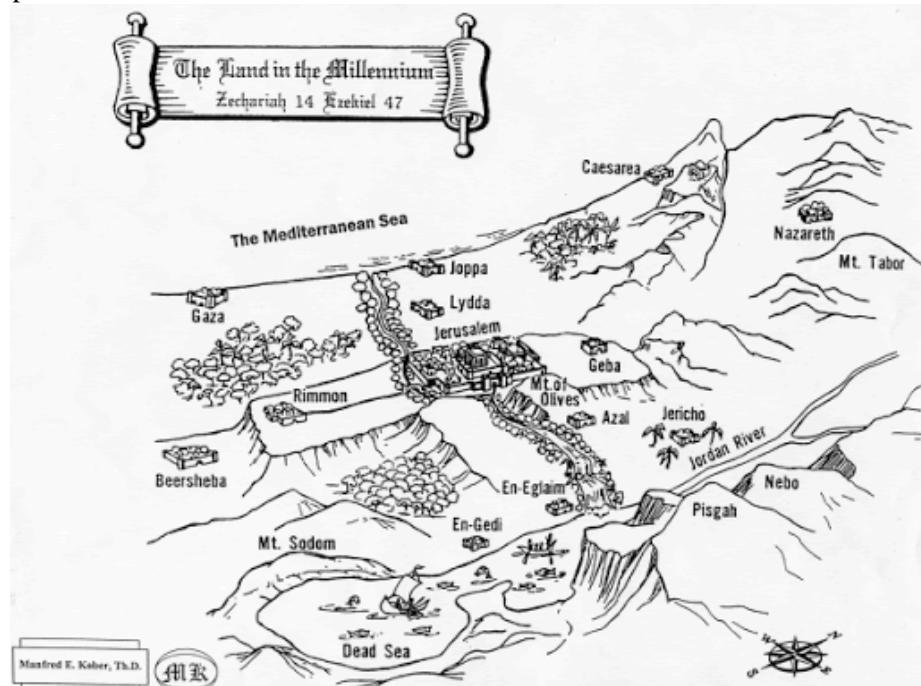
They were baby rattlesnakes. The story didn’t end well, if I remember right.

The effects of the curse are all around us in creation and creation is awaiting the return of Jesus Christ just as much as we are. Romans 8:19-23 says that “...the anxious longing of creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 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. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” Creation wants to be

set free. It groans after it. It's been said that this is why cats hiss; wolves howl; whales bellow; and horses run to the other side of the pasture; dogs chase the mailman; etc. But on top of the animal kingdom being restored to peace, we will also see...

B. Vegetation become incredibly productive (Isaiah 30:23-26; 35:6-7; 41:18-20; 51:3)

It is going to be a time of prosperity and production. Vegetation will return to an Edenic state. Isaiah often talks about the deserts being turned into lush valleys – Isaiah 35:1-2, 6-7 says, “The wilderness and the desert will be glad, and the Arabah [the desert area east and south of Jerusalem; Dead Sea basin] will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 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.... For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. The 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.” Ezekiel speaks of a supernatural stream emitting from underneath the Temple that will be built during this time (Ezek. 40-46) and it becomes a powerful river that flows into other waters like salt water and makes it fresh. “These waters go out toward the eastern region and go down into the Arabah; then they go toward the sea, and the waters of the sea become fresh. It will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the water goes. And it will come about that fisherman will stand besides it; from Engedi to Eneglaim there will be a place for spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many,” (Ezek. 47:8-12). Do you know where Engedi and Eneglaim is? The Dead Sea shores. Do you know what fish live in the DEAD Sea today? None. But in the MK there will be incredible fishing there. We'll have to call it the Living Sea! These are literal places in Israel. And below is one man's caricature of Zechariah 14 and Ezekiel 47 that I think is super neat.



Amos 9:13 says the days are coming when the sower will overtake the reaper and Isaiah 30:26 says the sun will be more effective.

C. Humanity will experience unmatched health (Is. 35:5-6; 65:20-22)

Before the Fall, Adam and Eve were created eternal, physically speaking. But after the Fall into sin, Adam and Eve would now die physically. They did however, live a lot longer than us and so did their children. Adam died at age 930. And with every generation, the longevity of days for his descendants dwindles, to where 120 years is considered a long life. In the MK though, the long lifespan of man is going to go back up. Those who are living when Christ comes back they will have children during the Millennium whose lifespan will be much longer than ours (Zech. 13:8 says 1/3 of Israelites survive the last assault on Jerusalem). Those in the MK it says will outlive the work of their hands. Isaiah 65:20-22 – “No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days , or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed.” Right now, the one who reaches 100 is thought to be blessed, not accursed. Whoever dies during the Millennium at the age of one hundred would be considered a mere child.

Isaiah 35 also says, “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute shout for joy.” So there won’t be any more cancer or viruses that don’t have a cure. It is likely that sign gifts will be in full operation by saints during this time and on top of that, the trees on either side of the river in Jerusalem we know will also be used for healing. Their leaves are medicinal (Ezek. 47:12).

Finally, our 3rd characteristic, is one I think we will extremely appreciate and that is just having righteousness and justice and morals in places of leadership.

III. CHRIST REIGNS AS RIGHTEOUS KING. (JER. 23:5-6)

Jeremiah 23:5-6 – “Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will raise up **for David a righteous Branch**; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The Lord our righteousness.’” **Righteousness is the word that really characterizes this age** and it’s only possible because Jesus Christ is ruling. This is the spiritual and political kingdom where those who have hungered and thirsted for r’ness, will be satisfied. No more corrupt governments. No more political chaos. No more lobbyists and bribery. Christ rules in righteousness.

Zechariah 14 describes the day of His second coming, saying, “In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east [which is also the mountain in the Powerpoint background today]; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south. You will flee by the valley of My mountains [Israel flees from invading nations that are struck down by Christ], for the valley of the mountains will reach to Azel; yes, you will flee just as you fled before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! In that day there will be no light; the luminaries will dwindle. For it will be a unique day which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but will come about that at evening time there will be light. And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one. All the land will be changed into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem; but Jerusalem will rise and remain on its site from Benjamin’s gate as far as the place of the First Gate to the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hanalel to the

king's winepresses. People will live in it, and there will no longer be a curse, for Jerusalem will dwell in security." And he goes on to talk about how the nations who don't worship Him during this time will receive plagues in their land instead of rain.

What I want you to notice thought is that these are real, geographical locations today and they can only be understood literally. If you read some of the commentaries that try to spiritualize these passages, it's as humorous as it is frustrating. Just let the text say what text says. I heard that when Martin Luther came to Zech. 14, he said, "I give up. I don't understand it." Well, that's because he was raised on Kingdom-Now, Replacement Theology. These things are very specific and they haven't happened yet. The kingdom hasn't come yet, but it will.

And when Christ comes to rule during this time, He will also enlist some help... from us!

❖ **Christ appoints believers to rule with Him in the Millennial Kingdom.**

That's something that is part of our **reward**. This is why it's critical to make a distinction at least between a judgment for believers before the MK and a judgment for unbelievers afterwards at the Great White Throne. **We've got to be rewarded before the MK because serving in it is part of the reward.** Remember when Jesus gave the parable of the talents in Luke 19 and He said things like "Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities," or to another faithful slave, "five cities" Well, the MK is what I think He's talking about. When He returns and receives the kingdom, He rewards those who served Him faithfully in the Church age (1 Cor. 3:10-15) or in the Great Tribulation (Mt. 25:31-46) with more responsibility. The scary part is that it says He slays those enemies of His who *did not* want Him to reign over them (Lk. 19:15, 27). But the faithful in this life will reign with Christ. This is why Paul gets frustrated with the Corinthians taking each other to court before unbelievers in 1 Corinthians 6:2. He says, "Do you not know that the Lord's people will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life." What this means is that this life is preparation for service in the MK and what we do in this life matters.

What I'm excited for is no more corrupt politics. No more lobbied elections. And no more wasting trillions of dollars on war because when He comes, He brings global peace (like every Miss America contestant says she desires). Isaiah 2:1-4 says, "they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war." Farming is a sign of peace. It's also, by the way, great rehab for veterans going from something destructive to something productive. There's even going to be peace between Egypt and Assyria and Israel. God will call Egypt His people and Assyria the work of His hands and Israel His inheritance (Is. 19; 35:8). All nations will abandon and forget their idols and worship the God of Israel together.

One of the reasons I wanted to study this with you guys today is because if you're only seeing the New Earth or you think that we only go to Heaven when we die, to some spiritual place, you're missing out on so much and going to be confused when you try to interpret prophecy like this. Prophecy doesn't make sense without the MK. The Bible talks more about the MK than heaven now and the New Heaven and New Earth. It's an important doctrine for the consummation of this earth's history – a victorious theocratic kingdom over Satan, for a time to live out rewards, for proving the depravity of man while Satan is bound (removing all excuses), and in light of that, also proving the necessity of Christ's death.

MILLENNIAL KINGDOM	ETERNITY – NEW HEAVEN & EARTH
Davidic Throne of Christ (Lk. 1:31-32)	Throne of God and of the Lamb (Rev. 22:3)
Rules from sea to sea (Ps. 72:8)	No sea (Rev. 21:1)
Unrighteousness is present & dealt with swiftly (Is. 11:4; Zech. 14:16-19; Rev. 20:9)	No unrighteousness whatsoever (Rev. 21:27; 22:3)
Satan is bound in the abyss and released at the end (Rev. 20:2-3, 7-9)	Satan is in the lake of fire, never to deceive again (Rev. 20:10)
Children born naturally (Is. 65:20)	No children, but like the angels (no procreation) (Mk. 12:25)
People die physically (100 is young) (Is. 65:20; Rev. 20:9)	No death (Rev. 21:4)
Sun is brighter/more effective (Is. 30:26)	No need of the light of the sun – God illuminates it (Rev. 21:23-25)

Another thing to add to this is the Temple. In the MK there is a temple (Ezek. 40-46). But in the New Heaven and New Earth and New Jerusalem there is no temple (Rev. 21:22).

There is a lot more to come for this earth, which means you don't have to worry about those news headlines warning of a catastrophic nuclear war. You don't have to worry about the course of some giant asteroid that is passing by earth. You don't have to worry about Global Warming and carbon footprints and overpopulation slowly decimating human life. Some folks spend their lives freaking out about these types of things as if the world were affected by one of these tragedies, then it would remain unsalvageable. But God has laid out His past, present, and future plans for us right in His Word and His Word never fails. This earth will pass away, Peter said it will be melted down, but only when He says it is time and that's after the MK and then He creates a New Heaven and New Earth.

Some of you might remember a song by Merle Haggard called "Are the Good Times Really Over?" It's quite depressing, actually. In it, he says,

"Are we rolling downhill like a snowball headed for hell?

With no kind of chance for the Flag or the Liberty Bell?

I wish a Ford and a Chevy could still last ten years like they should.

Is the best of the free life behind us now? Are the good times really over for good?"

I'm not saying I don't love this country or shouldn't pray for it, but, the U.S. is not what you should put your hope in like Merle. Chevy's and Ford last a lot longer than ten years & the best is actually yet to come. The good times aren't over for good. There is a MK. And after that, a New Heaven and New Earth. In the New Jerusalem they pave streets and concrete with pure gold. Clearly, **the good ole days haven't even started yet**. we have no reason to dwell in the past or worry about the future. Rather, we should look forward to enjoying the MK with Christ and adjusting our lives accordingly in light of it.

Isaac Watts wrote a better song than Merle because Watts knew where to put his hope. He wrote Joy to the World back in 1719. Listen to it with MK mindset. It's not about Christmas and Christ's 1st Coming, but about the Kingdom at His 2nd Coming:

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
 Let earth receive her King;
 Let every heart prepare Him room
 And heaven and nature sing...
 Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
 Let men their songs employ;
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy.
 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...
 He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love...”

ⁱ Randy Alcorn, *Heaven*, 88.

ⁱⁱ Andy Woods.

ⁱⁱⁱ Renald Showers, *The Coming Apocalypse* (Bellmawr, NJ: The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, 2009), 25.

^{iv} Ibid, 13.

^v Ibid, 14.

^{vi} Amir Tsarfati.

^{vii} Paul Benware, *Understanding End Times Prophecy* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995, 2006), 73.