

Great Prophecies of the Bible

The Kingdom of God: Millennial
and Eternal (Isaiah 65)



Introduction: The Old Testament prophets made many predictions without reference to the more specific timelines given in the New Testament. Sometimes, as is seen in the first and second advents of Christ, the Hebrew prophets gave competing details that can only be reconciled by a lengthy period of time separating the events. Such is the case as Isaiah describes the Millennial Kingdom and the eternal state—the details are melded in such a way that proper perspective depends on the New Testament.

I. Glimpses of the Eternal Kingdom (Isaiah 65:17-19)

- A. The Bible speaks of both a literal, 1000-year reign of Christ on earth *and* of the eternal state that will follow Christ's Millennial Kingdom. The eternal state is properly viewed as the final form of God's kingdom.
- B. Isaiah blended the two concepts, and the New Testament helps in delineating between the two—though the eternal state is really a continuation and perfecting of the literal Millennial Kingdom.
- C. Isaiah's Vision of the Eternal Kingdom (65:17-19)
 1. At the close of the Millennial Kingdom (following the final rebellion), God will create a new heaven and new earth (17a, Isa. 66:22 C/F Rev. 21:1). The new heaven and earth will be eternal, never passing away.
 2. God's people will have no memory of the former earth with all its pain, sorrow, and misery. Memory of the former earth's sin and imperfection would mar the glories of the eternal state (17b).
 3. God's new creation will result in unabated joy. Even Jerusalem (formerly a cup of trembling for the nations—Zech. 12:2) will be made new (18 C/F Rev. 21:2).
 4. The Lord Himself will rejoice with His people (Rev. 21:3), dwelling among us for all eternity.
 5. Sorrow, sickness, pain, and death will be unknown in the Eternal Kingdom (19 C/F Rev. 21:4). To a lesser extent, these will be present during the Millennial Kingdom.

II. Details of the Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 65:20-

- A. Some of the elements of the Millennial Kingdom will continue into the Eternal Kingdom, while some things (such as death) will cease to exist.
- B. Blessings of the Millennial Kingdom
 1. **Longer lifespan** (20)—Those who reach 100 will be regarded as mere youth, and death coming that early will be the result of exceptional sinfulness. (Note that sin will still exist, but it will be suppressed.)
 2. **Social and economic justice** (21)—The work ethic will be rewarded and everyone will enjoy the *entire* fruit of his labors.
 3. **Security in personal ownership and longevity** (22) Property rights will be protected and long lifespan will ensure ongoing enjoyment of one's productivity.
 4. **Elimination of Infant Mortality** (23)—The common sorrow of premature/infant death will be unknown among the citizens of the kingdom.
 5. **Direct divine supply of every need** (24)—The Lord will be so close as to anticipate and fulfill every need of His people.
 6. **Peace and security within the animal kingdom** (25) Formerly carnivorous animals will dwell peacefully with their prey. Physiological changes in animals will transform carnivores to herbivores (Isa. 11:6-9).
- C. The Final Rebellion at the Close of the Millennial Kingdom (Rev. 20:7-10).
 1. Descendants of the saints entering the Millennial Kingdom will still be *sinners*, in need of trusting in Christ.
 2. While many will receive Christ as they enjoy the blessings of the kingdom, thousands will quietly reject Him—and become tools of Satan in a final rebellion.
 3. The rebellion will be quickly crushed, and the final judgment will commence (Rev. 20:11-15). After the final judgment, the eternal kingdom will begin.