

QUESTION: Does the Bible teach a literal 1000-year reign of Christ on the earth? (Part 3)

The answer to the question becomes clear when we establish from the Scripture that Jesus Christ is **now** reigning on David's throne. For if Jesus is **now** a King over a kingdom then the passage in Revelation 20, from which the question above is derived, is symbolic of His current reign from Heaven.

Nathan, the Old Testament prophet of God, spoke to King David of Israel saying, "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men...But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul...And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you..." (2Sam 7:12-16)

First, this prophecy refers to the reign of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel and one who could be guilty of sin (7:14). It also pertains to the reign of Christ. It is a dual prophecy. Both Solomon and Jesus Christ built a house for the Name of God. Solomon built the physical structure known as the Temple. Jesus built His church, the spiritual House or Temple of God (Mt 16:16-18; 1Co 3:16-17; 1Ti 3:15).

Premillennialists apply such passages as this to the Second Coming of Christ. They teach that Jesus will reign over His kingdom from modern Palestine. They do not believe that Christ Jesus is **now** reigning from David's throne.

What is "David's throne?" This expression does not refer to the chair from which he ruled, but to the exercise of his authority as king of Israel. The Bible records that Solomon sat upon the throne of his father David, and that throne was called "the throne of the Lord" (1Kgs 1:13; 1Chr 29:23). Solomon reigned over Israel by God's decree.

Jesus Christ is also reigning on David's throne by God's decree. The primary difference between His reign and Solomon's is that Jesus reigns over a spiritual kingdom. He rules not from a physical location, but from the "right hand of the Majesty on high" (He 1:3, 8-9; 8:1; Ac 2:36; Ep 1:19-23).

When did the rule of Christ begin? The apostle Peter, speaking to a large crowd of Jews, said, "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David...being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of Christ...This Jesus God raised up, of which we are all witnesses (Ac 2:29-32)." Here Peter explains the prophecy quoted above (2Sam 7). Solomon was the immediate fulfillment, but Jesus is the extended fulfillment. His reign over the kingdom of God (spiritual Israel, i.e., the church) began after His resurrection from the dead.

The Bible does not mention two different reigns of Christ, only the current one. Next week will be the final installment on this subject. We will give attention to more Old and New Testament passages that prove the present reign of Jesus on David's (God's) throne. A reign that does not begin, but ends with His Second Coming (1Co 15:23-24).

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