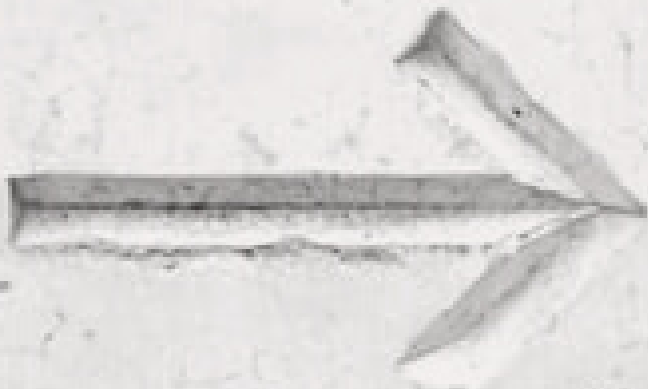


UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 53

UNDERSTANDING THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM



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IT'S ALWAYS BEEN ONE PLAN!

God's original plan for mankind.

God's redemptive plan.

God's eternal plan.

God has no plan B. Throughout the ages, it has always been about God's redemption and restoration to bring us back to the original plan He has for us. This is what the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal Age are about.



The Biblical view of life and time is neither linear nor cyclical, but is chiastic. This means that where it begins, it is supposed to end. That is why the Biblical storyline ends with God's original plan in Genesis 1 and 2.

The Bible begins with God creating the heavens and the earth. It ends with a new heaven and a new earth, and heaven and earth coming together (Rev. 21:1,2,10). It begins with the creation of a physical paradise, the Garden of Eden, with a river and the Tree of Life. It ends with the Garden of Eden restored, with a pure river of life and trees of life (Rev. 22:1-2).

It begins with God walking with Adam face to face in the cool of the Garden, and it ends with mankind relating with God face to face (Rev. 22:4). It begins with God giving man dominion and ends with dominion being restored to mankind, where the saints will partner with Jesus to rule and reign. It begins with a wedding and ends with a wedding.

Wow!

There are four foundational aspects of God's will for mankind in Genesis 1 to 3, which God will fully restore in the Millennial Kingdom and the Eternal Age. **All four are necessary in order for the fullness of God to be experienced by mankind.** They will be seen through four specific expressions in the Millennial Kingdom.

THE FOUR FOUNDATIONAL ASPECTS
OF GOD'S WILL FOR MANKIND ARE:



ONE

THE RELATIONAL ASPECT

God's desire is always to relate with a man in an intimate relationship. His desire is always to dwell with men, that He will be our God, and we will be His people (Rev. 21:3; 2 Cor. 6:16).

God the Father yearns for a family and for His people to relate with Him as sons of God. Jesus desires His people to relate with Him as His Bride. More than relationship and intimacy, God wants wholeheartedness as He Himself loves us with all His heart, soul, strength and mind.

T W O

THE GOVERNMENTAL ASPECT

When God created man, He gave mankind dominion over creation and over the earth. This is an eternal mandate, and it will not pass away. Dominion means rulership and having governmental authority. That's why we are called to partner with the Lord as kings forever. The first Adam lost it, but the last Adam took it back and will restore it to His Bride.

T H R E E

THE PHYSICAL ASPECT

It's the desire of God for mankind to live in a physical paradise here on physical earth. In Genesis 1 and 2, this was the Garden of Eden. In the eternal age, we will also be living in a physical paradise on the earth.

F O U R

THE SUPERNATURAL ASPECT

In the Garden of Eden, God walked with Adam face to face. It was always God's intention for man to experience and operate in both the supernatural and the natural realm together.



Hence, God's will for man is to have a **face-to-face relationship with Him**, functioning in both **the supernatural and natural realm** in a **physical paradise** and having **dominion over the earth**.

These four foundational aspects will be seen in **four specific expressions** in the Millennial Kingdom and eternity. The four expressions are:

1. THE HOUSE OF PRAYER: THE RELATIONAL ASPECT

God says that His house shall be called a House of Prayer (Isa. 56:7). The word house can be understood as family. We are His family who relate with Him intimately through prayer. We are called the House of Prayer because of our relationship with God. It is also our identity as a family of prayer.

It is God's desire to relate intimately with mankind. Partnership has to be the result of an intimate relationship with God. God will not have it any other way.

Prayer is the ultimate vehicle of relationship and partnership with God. Revelation 4 and 5 give us a glimpse of how God runs His kingdom — through constant, unceasing prayer and worship in agreement with Him. Prayer will continue in the Millennial Kingdom and in eternity (Ps. 72:15). It will never cease, and we will pray forever.



2. THE KINGDOM OF DAVID: THE GOVERNMENTAL ASPECT

The Kingdom of David will bring forth the governmental dimension of the Kingdom of God in the Millennial Kingdom. Righteousness and justice will be established in every sphere of life and in all nations.

The background of the term “kingdom of David” is God’s promise that there will be a seed from David whose throne God will establish forever. Jesus is the Root and Offspring of David (Rev. 22:16). He will rule as King of kings over all nations, and the saints will partner with Him in establishing a worldwide system and infrastructure that will be necessary for the establishment and advancement of His kingdom (Matt. 19:28; 20:20–23; 25:23; Luke 19:17–19; 22:29–30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2–3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26–27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4–6; 22:5).

3. THE GARDEN OF EDEN: THE PHYSICAL ASPECT

The Garden of Eden will be full of beauty and pleasure, because it is God's desire for us to live in a physical paradise. It will be progressively restored (Isa. 35:1–7; 51:3; Ezek. 34:26–29; 36:30–35). Jesus will renew and restore four things — environment, agriculture, atmosphere and animal life.

4. NEW JERUSALEM: THE SUPERNATURAL ASPECT

At the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom, the New Jerusalem will descend upon the earth partially (Rev. 21:10; Rev. 21:16; Ezek. 48:15–35). **The heavenly Jerusalem and the earthly Jerusalem will be connected, bringing a convergence of the supernatural and the natural realm, releasing a supernatural dimension of life here on the earth.**



There will be open heavens over Jerusalem, and the glory of God will come down and spread from Jerusalem to all the nations (Isa. 11:9; Hab. 2:14).

Jacob dreamt about a ladder reaching heaven. This gives us a powerful prophetic picture of what is happening in the Millennial Kingdom (Gen. 28:12–17). Jacob’s ladder was a gateway to heaven, a bridge or connection, and angels were ascending and descending on it. In the same manner, in the Millennial Kingdom, there will be a connection between the heavenly Jerusalem and the earthly Jerusalem, and the saints with raptured or resurrected bodies will be able to go up to New Jerusalem and come down!

We will end with Ephesians 1, which reveals the **four foundational aspects** of God's will in His original, redemptive and eternal plan for mankind.

Ephesians 1:3 reveals God's desire to give man every spiritual blessing from heaven, which is **the supernatural aspect he wants to endue man with**. Verse 4 reveals **the relational aspect**, God's desire for an intimate relationship with man, that we will live holy and blameless and in wholehearted love towards Him.

In verses 9 and 10, God reveals His delight and excitement about His redemptive and eternal plan and that **the fullness of His plan will come to pass when heaven (the supernatural aspect) and earth (the natural and physical aspect) are brought together as one through Christ Jesus**. The ultimate expression of this oneness will begin in the Millennial Kingdom, and the fullness will be manifest in the Eternal Age.

Verse 22 and 23 talks about the **dominion aspect** and man's partnership with God. God the Father will give all authority and dominion of the earth to Jesus — He will put all things under His feet (Eph. 1:22).

Jesus will be the head and the Church His body. His body will be His fullness which fills all in all (Eph. 1:23). **This means that the Church will be the vehicle through which God will express His fullness and His purpose here on earth.**

Wow!!



God's desire has always been to bring heaven and earth together as one. There is only one Man who can do this, the One who is fully God and fully Man, Jesus. He alone can restore the four realities of the Kingdom of God back to man here on earth.

Paul's understanding of God's will and eternal plan propelled Him to pray Ephesians 1:17–19. As we look forward to His coming, may this also be our fervent prayer,

*“... THAT YOU MAY KNOW WHAT IS
THE HOPE OF HIS CALLING, WHAT
ARE THE RICHES OF THE GLORY OF
HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS...”*

(Eph. 1:18)



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