

PROPHECY SERIES

THE *MILLENNIAL* REIGN OF CHRIST

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Rev. 11:15



By Dr. Lester Sumrall

The Millennial Reign of Christ

**by
Dr. Lester Sumrall**

*All Scriptures are taken from the
King James Version of the Holy Bible.*

*Study Guides, audiotapes,
videotapes, CD and DVD are available
from LeSEA Publishing.*

*Copyright © All Rights Reserved
First Printing: July 2009
The Millennial Reign of Christ
ISBN No. 1-58568-470-8*

*LeSEA Publishing
530 E. Ireland Rd.
South Bend, Indiana 46614
www.leseapublishing.com
A Division of LeSEA, Inc.*

The Millennial Reign of Christ

Truth is the most exciting thing in the world! You can spend a hundred years studying rocks, stars, and anything else, but when it comes down to the basics—this is it! Truth stands forever; it is on a rock; truth cannot be removed! You cannot find anything more exciting!

Dispensation is truth, truth from the beginning, from eternity to eternity. And the seven dispensations we will discuss here have the embodiment of fundamental truth in the story of mankind upon the face of the earth. What is a dispensation? A dispensation is a period of time in which God deals with His people in a certain way under certain laws and commandments. In our study, we have completed six of the dispensations.

It is fascinating that the Apostle Peter, under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, said a day with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is as a day (2 Peter 3:8). Two days, Sunday and Monday, represent the period of time from Creation to the Flood (2,000 years). Then came Tuesday and Wednesday, another 2,000 years in history. They covered the time from the Flood to the death of Christ (when the Son of God became the Son of man in order to take away the sins of the world by His death on the cross). Then came two more days, Thursday and Friday, which cover the period from Christ's resurrection to the present time, the period known as the Church age.

We have come to the Friday night of human history; it is the time when all things will be fulfilled. Among those things that will be fulfilled is the Kingdom Age. Also known as The Millennium, it is the dispensation of the Millennial Reign of Christ. This represents the seventh day, the day in which God rested.

The dispensation of the Millennium will begin with the second coming of Christ. It is the period that will begin once He returns to fight the Antichrist and destroys him. With the winning of that battle there will begin a new time on planet earth. The Lord Jesus Christ, as the Bible has taught, will reign as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, and He will reign for one thousand years.

THE SAINTS WILL RULE WITH CHRIST DURING THE MILLENNIUM

During the Millennial Reign, the saints will have immortal bodies. They will be something like God in that they will have bodies that cannot die. God, however, is everywhere all the time. The saints will not have that particular ability; however, they could be in another location very quickly. Their bodies will function beyond their present abilities. They could be in Jerusalem in one instant; they could be in India in one instant; they could be in China in another instant.

In Revelation chapter 20 and verse 6 it says, *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.”* This verse is speaking of the resurrection of the just. It is speaking of the resurrection of the righteous. Those who take part in the first resurrection will appear with Christ, and it is then that they will receive the job that they will perform during the thousand years. The second death has no power over them, as once they have been resurrected they will be immortal. There will be no more death for them! It goes on to say, *“They shall be priests unto God and of Christ, and they shall reign with Him.”* They will not be as strangers, or pilgrims, or street walkers. They will reign! The word “reign” means to rule. They will rule with Christ for a thousand years! If you are truly a follower of Christ, then that verse is talking about you.

When you study this you can see that God is not a liar. The sixth dispensation (we are living in the sixth dispensation now) and all the things

written in the book of Revelation and the book of Daniel are at this moment coming to pass precisely as God said they would. Therefore, we should have faith that Jesus Christ will reign on this earth as King of King and Lord of Lords, just as the Bible clearly says. The Word of God also says that you and I shall reign with Him! That might sound a little far out to you, but it is the truth. I don't know who you work for right now, but you will not work for him again! You'll be the boss, and if he is around then he will be your servant. This world is going to become topsy-turvy. Thank God, forever! Jesus will be the ultimate voice, the supreme Judge of the earth. You will receive your information from Him as to what you should do and how you should do it, and you will reign with Him!

There is a kingdom; it's promised to us. And there must be a king over that kingdom. You cannot have a kingdom without a ruling king; otherwise, you don't have a kingdom. A kingdom

implies that there is a reign of a king, a place where a king rules and reigns. So, we have coming to us the “Millennial Kingdom.” It will be the largest, fullest operation of government the world has ever known, far greater than Babylon. Babylon only ruled the countries that were capable of raising an army to fight her, so she continued to put down armies. Persia was the same. They didn’t rule in China—it was too far away. They ruled around their part of the world. You could almost call it the “Western World.” They were lords, mighty and strong from the Euphrates River all the way back into Europe. All the prophetic empires noted in Daniel were in that geographical region.

Christ’s kingdom, however, is different from those empires. His kingdom shall flourish in every village on the face of the earth. Its size will not be limited to a certain region of the world. And we, the glorious body of Christ, will be the ones who will carry out the laws that come to us from the

headquarters of the Kingdom—Jerusalem. It's going to be an exciting time! A very exciting time! It's worth living for Jesus right now, so you can be there at that time. You will want to be part of the Kingdom where the King is named Jesus of Nazareth. And you and I, as His saints, will rule with Him!

A kingdom has two things—it has a king, and it has subjects. Who will be the subjects under the King? The subjects will be every human person on this globe! No one will be hidden from His sight. Christ will know every move we make, even as He does now. No valley will be too deep, and no mountain will be too high. There will be no remote spots in the world! God's children—His emissaries, His ambassadors—will be able to move any place on the face of this earth in a moment of time with their immortal bodies, and, therefore, every part of the world will be ruled according to what is said from Jerusalem, from the King.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST WAS PROPHESED

Through the Word of God, we understand that Daniel prophetically saw the coming of this Kingdom (Daniel 2:45). It is a beautiful revelation. Here was a man whom God gave the vision of this coming Kingdom! Imagine that. Daniel saw the Stone cut from the mountains without hands, which means that the Lord Jesus Christ was born without an earthly father, and He saw the Stone smite the empires (world powers) and destroy them completely. It says the Stone filled all the earth. We will be coming to that time soon. Daniel saw this 2,500 years ago.

The force and power of prophecy is amazing. I don't know why more people don't study prophecy! Perhaps they are afraid of it. Prophecy certainly is a daring thing. Some of those who study prophecy have a few "screws loose." They don't get it right and mess up a lot of people's lives. But if you just follow the Word of

God simply, then the Word of God will teach you the things you ought to know.

The Kingdom is foretold by Christ Himself as well. When the disciples saw Jesus praying, one of them said, “*Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples*” (Luke 11:1), and the Lord proceeded to do so (Luke 11:2-4). He said, “*When you pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven...*” (Luke 11:2). Isn’t it amazing that Jesus directed the prayer to His Father? You should study the relationship of the Trinity, or you might miss something. He also said, “*Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you*” (John 16:23). This shows there is a movement of unity between the Father and the Son that is unparalleled.

He told them to pray, “*Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come...*” (Luke 11:2). Jesus prayed, “*Thy Kingdom come,*” and He prayed it to the Father! He asked it of His Father. The Father’s Kingdom is

the Millennial Reign, and Jesus is the One who is ordained to be its King.

His kingdom hasn't come yet though. You can look back through the annals of history and see that nothing resembling the Kingdom of God has been on this earth. However, during the Kingdom Age, this earth will be called The Kingdom, and it will be the Kingdom of God. And the will of God will be done on this earth! And for that whole period of time Satan will be bound. He will be bound! That is very exciting! He will be incapacitated. He will have no voice to speak. He will have no dirty fingers to put on anyone. He will have no feet to go trotting after you. He will be bound. He will be incarcerated. Satan has a seal of God against him.

THE ANTICHRIST WILL BE DESTROYED BEFORE THE MILLENNIUM BEGINS

Christ will not begin His thousand year reign on the earth until the end of the Great Tribulation

period. However, the Tribulation itself will not begin until the Antichrist appears to deceive the nations. It has not begun yet, though it could at any time.

The nations of this world soon will find themselves in total bankruptcy, and no one will be able to figure the way out! The world will be ripe to receive the Antichrist. When the seven industrial nations meet, they try to resolve the economic problems of this world, and I am sure most of them go home confused. You say why? Because they have to work against each other to succeed! Japan's auto industry can't outsell America's unless they are competitive. How can Japan sell more television sets than anyone else in the world? How can England succeed? They do it by creating things cheaper than anyone else and by putting salesmen out there in the market places of the world. But in doing so they must come against Germany; they must come against France; and they must come against the United States.

They have a very difficult situation in which they are facing, and it will all lead up to the time when a one world government will be in place. That is what the economic community of Europe is all about. The EU is trying to bring prosperity to about 13 different countries all at one time, and it wants them all to have the same currency. But this is impossible. How can the lira of Italy be worth as much as the pound in England? I don't know how much the lira is right now, but sometimes it is about 5000 to 1 versus the English pound. When competing currencies are about 1½ to one, you find yourself about 5000 spots off the course. These are the problems they face, but the Antichrist will say that he will solve them. Isn't that something? The Antichrist will promise to solve them, which will be the beginning point of the period of time known as the Great Tribulation.

At the end of the Tribulation we come to the one thousand year reign of Christ upon the earth. We ought to insert the word “prophetic”

because though the thousand-year reign of Christ has been prophesied, it has not yet come to pass. Again, we call that period of time—that dispensation of time—the Millennial Kingdom (The word “millennial” comes from two Latin words. They are *mille*, meaning “thousand,” and *annus*, meaning “year,” so we have one thousand years that this dispensation will continue).

THE DEVIL MUST BE BOUND BEFORE THE MILLENNIAL REIGN BEGINS

Now, let’s look in the book of Revelation. Revelation 20:1 says, “*And I saw an angel come down from heaven....*” It is interesting that the Bible does not say this angel is Michael, but according to scripture Michael seems to be the archangel over all the military operations of heaven, so it very well could be him. But regardless of who he is, the Bible clearly says that he came down from “heaven,” where the Trinity lives, where the streets are paved with gold. It is also known as the New Jerusalem. As followers of

the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the place where you and I soon will go.

It goes on to say that the angel will come “... *having the key of the bottomless pit*” (Revelation 20:1). That also is interesting to me. The angel will have a key. Isn't that something? I don't know how big the key is, and I don't know how big the pit is. But they exist. I am absolutely sure that during the Millennium there will be things in the universe that you and I will explore and learn about. It's going to be phenomenal. The things we will learn will be phenomenal. There could be another world, of a different type, existing around us that we don't know about. I'm certain there's a world of demon power because we have faced it.

There was a pastor from New York City who sometimes would come preach for us, and, at times, I would go preach for him. He had over a thousand people in his church in Harlem. (He died, however, and we think they purposely killed him

at the hospital. He went for a little medical concern, and he never made it home. They don't know what happened to him. They just called the family and said he was dead).

This pastor told me several times, “Brother Sumrall, do you know why I love to come see you?”

I said, “No, I just know that you and I are good friends.”

He said, “Well, I will tell you. When I get on a plane to leave New York City, when that plane is in the air a few hundred feet, I feel relieved of something—I feel relieved of the pressure on that city of demon power. A man who doesn't fight demon power might not get that. But when that plane lifts off the ground, I feel the fight has just terminated. When I get over a little town like South Bend, I feel so free inside. I like to come out, you might say, to rest up and give the devil a hard time again.”

The point is that there are realms of power

not visible to the human eye. When you meet the number of people that I do who are possessed of the devil, you understand that there is another world somewhere close by. But it is not the world in which you and I live at the present time.

Revelation shows us that the angel came from heaven with a key to the bottomless pit. It is a pit that has no bottom to it. Scientists understand this today. They call them the black holes of space. There are things as big as the sun that go into them, into oblivion, before they even can be discovered. Scientists can't find the things that go into those black holes. They don't know where they go. Their telescopes are not powerful enough to track them. There is a place called the bottomless pit, and the Bible says that the angel will have the key of it.

The Bible goes on to say, “*And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years*” (Revelation 20:2). So, who is the war

against going into the Millennial Kingdom? The Bible tells us that entering into the Millennial Kingdom an angel will lay hands on this creature called the dragon, also called the old serpent (Revelation 20:2) (he is at least 6,000 years old because he is the one who tempted Eve) (Genesis 3:1-5), and also called the Devil (Revelation 20:2). It then says that he is Satan! The war will be against Satan. We are told that the angel will bind him and cast him into the bottomless pit, where he will be bound for 1,000 years. The angel then will set a seal of God upon him that he should deceive the nations no more until the 1,000 years are completed (Revelation 20:3).

Nations are easily deceived by the devil. Look at Iraq and Iran! They killed each other for years, yet every morning they prayed to the same Allah. Poor Allah. He didn't know which country to work with that day. They belonged to the same church, but they killed each other. But the devil will deceive the nations no more until the thousand years

are fulfilled. Then, the Bible says, he must be loosed “*for a little season*” (Revelation 20:3).

Why would he be loosed since the only thing he wants to do is torment humans? Multiplied millions of people will be born on planet earth during the one thousand year reign of Christ. Those people will have never been tempted, will have never been tested. They will only know holiness, purity, righteousness, love, joy, and peace during that time. They will have never known anything negative. They will have never known quarrels or divorce. They will have never known anything that belongs to the devil. Eventually, we will come to a time when the Millennial Kingdom will be over, and we shall enter into our eternal inheritance. However, those who have been born during the Millennial Reign will have not been tried. They will not have had the privilege of deciding whether they want to go to heaven or hell, so they must be tried and tested one time, with eternal consequences.

They must be faced with the question, “Who do you want to serve?” Here is the devil. Here is Jesus Christ. That end terminates in the battle of Gog and Magog (Revelation 20:8-9).

It is important to know that Satan must be gone before the Millennial Kingdom can begin. If he tempts people during the Millennium, they will be as confused as they are today. Nobody gets to heaven by accident! A person goes to heaven because he chooses to go to heaven! There must be a time when those people, for a brief moment, have an opportunity to say, “I don’t want God.” They must be given the opportunity to say, “I have lived a thousand years of peace, and I don’t want peace either.” That sets up the final battle of the universe called Gog and Magog, after the thousand-year reign of Christ.

THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE A TIME OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE, AND JOY

The Bible says of Jesus in Isaiah 11:1-2a, “*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of*

Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might” You should study the words in those verses that describe the abilities of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is astounding beyond anything that man has ever conceived!

Isaiah continues by saying that Jesus will have *“the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord”* (Isaiah 11:2b). The word “fear” there is a very poor translation. It could say “respect of the Lord” or “obedience unto the Lord.” It is not referring to terror.

Isaiah further says of Him, *“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his*

lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins” (Isaiah 11:3-5). We should put a circle around the word “faithfulness.” Isn’t that amazing? Do you think that you don’t need to be faithful? Just look at what it says about Jesus here.

Isaiah further tells the conditions on the earth at that time. It says, *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb”* (Isaiah 11:6). That means the wolf will no longer kill. A new nature will be given to the wolf and to all wild animals: *“And the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them”* (Isaiah 11:6b). In the Millennial Kingdom, all of nature will be different. It will not be as it is now.

“And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious” (Isaiah 11:10). The word “rest” means to be peaceful, as in “lie down to rest.”

What a glorious time it will be!

The Jews could clearly read Isaiah's prophecy two thousand years ago. Isaiah was their orator. He spoke so eloquently. They had a picture of what was going to happen. It was spoken just over 700 years before Christ was born. Prophecy is an amazing, amazing, amazing thing. It is when God pulls open the veil and lets you see what will happen in the future, way out in front of you.

The Lord Jesus Christ is a king. He will literally rule upon the earth for one thousand years. I love the scriptures that we can read in Daniel 7, beginning with verse 13: *“And I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that*

which shall not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13-14).

The New Testament book of Ephesians says that Jesus is a king. It also gives us a warning: *“For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God” (Ephesians 5:5).*

At the time of the Millennial Reign, the whole world will be at peace, the whole of planet earth will be at rest. And the cause of all trouble, the devil, will be bound during that time. He will be tied up. He will be sealed in the bottomless pit for a thousand years. During that time God will show us how the world should have been run from the beginning. He will show us what God had in mind about it. And the Lord Jesus Christ, whom the Bible says is the second Adam, is going to be the One to rule and to reign for those one thousand years. We will know Him. We will work under Him. He will give us all of our orders. He will tell us just where to be and just what to do. And we,

the bride of Christ, will rule here with Him.

During the Millennium, the world will be different from our world today. This world is polluted with greed. Many officials today are simply not satisfied with what they have; in their minds they never have enough. They just want more and more. They catch a few of these swindlers and put them in prison for a time, but it doesn't make much of a difference. The devil has put greed into this world, but God will show man, through the Lord Jesus Christ, how he should live. Man will have no need, no lack, during that time. Every person will have plenty, plenty, plenty on the face of the earth. Everyone will. The sins of jealousy and covetousness will be gone. Every man shall work with his neighbors and friends, and the earth will be a place of total happiness, with no reason for sorrow. The glorious Church will be the helpers of the Lord Jesus Christ, to carry out His will on the face of the earth. Are you going to enjoy that?

Sinners have not properly ruled this earth, and Jesus and His saints are going to show the world (all of heaven also) how it should be done. Some will miss the thousand years of peace. As I have told you, the wicked dead will not be present during the Millennial Reign. They will be in that place called hell, and they do not rise again until the end of those one thousand years.

Revelation 11:17 says that heaven will rejoice for Christ's kingdom. Heaven will rejoice when it sees what God had in mind when He created planet earth: *"We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned."*

In Revelation 12:10 we also see the promises of the Word of God fulfilled in totality, and you and I are part of that picture: *"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the*

accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.” We are not on the sidelines. We are part of the picture, part of the story. Only fear and unbelief, as sin, could keep us from being a part of it. And we are not going to tolerate that. We are going to love the Lord, serve the Lord, and have our part of ruling a thousand years upon this earth.

There will be no jail houses because there will be no breaking of the law! We will have a new nature; we will not want to break laws. There will be no prostitutes because no one will want to be one. This world will be a holy place in which to live. What a wonderful thing to look forward to. And since this prophecy will come to pass, then the rest of it will come to pass as well. It will all be fulfilled together, and you and I are on the right side. Glory to God!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A PART OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST?

The closer we are to the Lord the better. It just hit me in my middle when I first looked at the word “faithfulness.” Some of us are just not faithful and we know it. Being uncommitted is another way of saying it. Many people are only a little committed or totally uncommitted. If there was ever a time that we needed to tighten the screws, tighten the bolts, get everything solid—and the Bible says run this race with patience—it is right now. Millions of people around the world are going to wish they could get in, but many are not going to make it! They have not been totally faithful to the Master. They live by their feelings. They are wishy-washy, washy-wishy. If you are going to live by your feelings—I feel this way, I feel that way, I feel the other way—you will miss God EVERYTIME! We are not to live by the way we feel. We must live by what is right! Many times when I need to make a decision I stop a

moment and ask, “Lord, what would you do if you had to make this decision?” It is a lot easier then, you know. It gets a lot easier when we know what the Lord would do. And what we want to do is what the Lord wants done! Yes, let’s do it in Jesus’ name. There will come a time of finality, a finality of the seven days.

We have another lesson in our teaching syllabus: “The Time of the Great White Throne Judgment.” I feel we should get into what it will be like beyond the thousand year reign of Christ.

The Words of Christ:

¹⁶For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. ²¹But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:16-21

Prayer of Salvation

Lord Jesus I confess I am a sinner and I repent (stop sinning and turn away from my sins). Please forgive me. I accept you as my Lord, Master and Savior. I thank you for taking my judgment of death for my sin debt, by being nailed to the cross and shedding your blood for the forgiveness of my sins. I thank you for giving me your righteousness for my sins.

I promise to love you and with your help obey you all the days of my life. I will confess you before all mankind and never be ashamed of you. Please change me, and give me your grace and love for all people. Show me the plan you have for my life and help me to fulfill it.

Sign your name

(1) -Be sure to read your Bible daily, (2) -Pray daily, and (3) -Attend a Bible believing Church.

***The Millennial Reign of Christ* originated
from the *Dispensations* Teaching Series**

**Table of Contents from the
Dispensations Study Guide**

1. Dispensations: God's Plan for Man-----	4
2. The Time of Humanity's Innocence-----	8
3. The Time of Conscience-----	12
4. The Time of Human Government-----	16
5. The Time of Promise-----	19
6. The Time of the Law-----	23
7. The Time of Grace-----	30
8. The Great Tribulation-----	34
9. The Millennium: The Time of Christ's Kingdom--	40
10. The Great White Throne Judgment-----	43
11. The Time of the New Jerusalem-----	47

Dr. Lester Sumrall

1913~1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sumrall worked tirelessly to fulfill the Great Commission by carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1957 he founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. Today, with the help of our faithful partners and friends, the ministry continues to blanket the world through television, satellite, FM and shortwave radio, LeSEA Publications, and LeSEA Global Feed the Hungry®.

www.leseapublishing.com

www.feedthehungry.org

www.familybroadcastingcorporation.com

LeSEA Publishing
530 E. Ireland Rd.
South Bend, IN 46614

www.LeSEAPublishing.com
1-888-584-4847