

Who Will Populate the Millennium?

Making Life Count Ministries

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The Millennium is the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth after He returns at the Second Coming (Rev. 20:1-10). During this time, Jesus will set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem and people will continue to live on earth until it is destroyed at the end of the millennium (2 Pet. 3:10-13, Rev. 20:11). Many people wrongly believe that the earth is destroyed when Jesus returns. The Second Coming is not the end of the world, but the end of the age—the end of this time period as we know it (Matt. 24:3).

This study will show that the Rapture and the Second Coming cannot be the same event happening at the end of the Tribulation Period. They must be different events separated in time, for at least several years. Ask yourself the following questions:

1. How do multitudes of people get into the Millennium?

Only a few will enter the millennial kingdom at the Second Coming (Matt. 24:22)

"Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up year to year to worship the King." (Zech. 14:16). This verse indicates that most of the earth's population will be destroyed during the Tribulation Period before Jesus returns.

By the end of the millennium, multitudes of people will be on earth.

Rev. 20:8 tell us "the number of them will be like the sand of the sea." If only a few people entered the millennium and there are multitudes of people living at the end, how did all those extra people get on the planet?

2. How do lost people get in the Millennium?

Only saved people enter the millennium.

At the Second Coming, only the sheep (saved people) enter into the kingdom, while the goats (lost people) are cast into hell. See Matt. 25:31-46. That means that the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth begins with an entire population of people who have eternal life (Matt. 25:46).

By the end of the millennium, many lost people will be there.

At the end of the 1,000 year reign of Christ on earth, Satan is loosed from the abyss and deceives the nations on the earth, who try to overthrow the throne of Jesus (Rev. 20:7-9). These are obviously lost people. Zechariah 14:16-19 tell us that during the millennium people will be required to go to Jerusalem once a year to worship the King (Jesus). For those who refuse to go, punishment will come upon them.

Why would a saved person refuse to worship Jesus? Obviously, saved people will look forward to worshipping Jesus. But these are lost people.

How did lost people get in the millennium? The answer is simple. **These are people born during the millennium.**

3. How can people be born after the Second Coming?

Resurrected people cannot beget children.

Jesus said, "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven." People with resurrected bodies won't be able to marry or have children (Matt. 22:30). At the Rapture, every Christian will receive a resurrected body, therefore we can't be involved in repopulating the earth.

The Rapture cannot happen at the Second Coming because every believer would have a resurrected body and no one would be in their natural body to repopulate the earth. People would need to have natural bodies to procreate and populate the world.

Children will be born during the millennium.

Only people in their natural, unresurrected bodies are able to produce children. The earth's population will be drastically reduced because most people will be killed (or raptured) before Jesus returns, and the earth will need to be repopulated. Jesus referred to the millennial kingdom on earth as the "regeneration" (see Matt. 19:28) which means "repopulation."

Many children will be born on earth during this 1,000-year reign of Christ (Zech. 8:1-5, Isa. 65:20-23, Ezek. 47:22, Rev. 20:7-9). Zechariah 14:16 tells us that those who refuse to worship Jesus in Jerusalem come from "the families of the earth," indicating these are the children and grandchildren of those who entered the millennium, who are now living all over the earth.

4. Who are the parents of these children?

The parents who give birth to these people are those who were saved after the Rapture and are still alive in their natural bodies at the Second Coming.

This is the reason the Rapture and the second Coming of Christ cannot be the same event. If the Rapture happens at the same time as the Second Coming, all saved people would have resurrected bodies and there would be no people in natural bodies to repopulate the earth.

At the Rapture, all saved people will receive resurrected bodies and will be taken to heaven. Everyone left behind on earth (not taken in the Rapture) will be in their natural human bodies. Many of these people will be saved and will live until the Second Coming. These are the people who will enter the Millennium in their natural bodies and will repopulate the earth.

We know that only saved people enter the millennium, so these believers are those who accepted Christ after the Rapture. God kept them alive through the Tribulation Period for a special purpose—so they could repopulate the earth during the millennium.

This means that the Rapture serves 2 purposes:

- 1) For the church to receive our resurrection bodies and home in heaven
- 2) To provide a group of people to populate the earth after the Second Coming.

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