

Episode #428 Bins for Bible Prophecies 2 – The Character of the Millennium

I. The Word of God contains many passages wherein Scriptures predict future events. There is a need to properly order the predictive passages of Scripture. Lord Bacon called this “sorting prophetic material.” We can compare this to sorting screws into bins. We need “bins for Bible prophecies.” We can get these by establishing the future time periods of Scripture, and then sorting any given prophecy into the proper one of these bins.

II. In our last message, we established four future bins, “The Tribulation Period,” “The Thousand Years,” “The Little Season,” and “The New Heavens and New Earth.” Now, we will examine more closely the second of these bins, “The Thousand Years,” commonly called the Millennium.

The Tribulation Period	The Millennium	The Little Season	The New Heavens and New Earth	
1	2	3	4	5

III. The Character of the Millennium.

A. Matthew 13:40-43. Part of the Lord Jesus’ explanation of the parable of the wheat and the tares. This is his conclusion.

1. The end = not our idea of end, which would be Greek *telos*, but Greek *sunteleia*, which means “consummation.” For example, a courtship can end in a breakup, but it only consummates in a marriage. A pregnancy can end in a miscarriage or abortion, but it only consummates in a birth. So this speaks of a consummation of the age, not an end.
2. Age = the Greek *aion*. It does not mean an age, a time period, any more than a “Presidency” means a period of four years. The basic meaning is “that which flows.” Shakespeare was born at “Stratford on Avon,” referring to the Avon River. Avon = a corruption of *aion*, meaning the “Flowing River.” *Aion* refers to that which flows. When God flows out to Adamkind, this will be the kingdom of God. His good flow will change the world!
3. Everything that causes offense is removed by the angels of God from the government of God. Rotherham in his *Emphasized Bible* translates this, “All the causes of stumbling.” Weymouth, “All the causes of sin.”
4. This includes Satan himself. Revelation 20:1-3. All who do iniquity are also removed.
5. Think what this would mean for the world!

B. II Thessalonians 1:7-10. The Lord Jesus comes in flaming fire taking vengeance.

1. All who do not know God and who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ are destroyed. This takes place at Christ’s “second coming.”
2. We cannot weaken this. There is no blessing in Christ’s coming for anyone who does not already know God, and who does not have a track record of obeying the gospel. We may think this sounds harsh, but this is what the Bible teaches about His coming.
3. Yet note the prophecy of Malachi 4:5-6 before we continue. There is a plan in God’s future program to ensure that the earth will not need to be cursed when Christ comes. We will examine this prophecy in more detail later.

C. Thus, these things will be true of the Millennium:

1. No one who does not know God, and who does not also have a track record of obeying the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, will be allowed to enter the Millennium.
2. Nothing that would cause anyone to sin, including Satan, will be allowed to enter the Millennium.
3. The result of this will be that, though death is still possible, none will die, and though sin is still possible, none will sin. It will be like the Garden of Eden with no tree of the knowledge of good and evil! It will remain that way until Satan is loosed for the little season.

III. Sorting Prophecies.

A. Now that we have our “bins” established, let us work on sorting other prophecies, for if these bins cover all of God’s plans for the future, we should be able to sort all the prophecies we come upon in Scripture into one of them. I do not believe that we can actually do this, for many great prophecies will not fit.

B. Isaiah 60:1-12.

1. 1-3. Great darkness covers the earth, but a light shines upon “you.” This is Israel. The nations will come to this light, and the kings of the earth. Like the queen of Sheba came to Solomon, these come to share in Israel’s light.
2. 4-5. From the point of view of the inhabitants of Israel. Their descendants return from far away. The abundance of the Gentile nations comes to them.
3. 10-12. The nations help and serve Israel. Those who refuse to do so will be destroyed (Verse 12).
4. If we honestly try to sort this prophecy, we cannot fit it into any of our four time periods. It cannot fit into the Millennium because:
 - a. We are currently living in a world covered by darkness, and Israel is in gross darkness. Being an Israelite will not shield them from Christ’s wrath when He returns (Romans 2:9). If this passage happens in the Millennium, after Christ’s return, there will be almost nothing left of Israel for the light to shine upon.
 - b. The Lord cannot give light to those in darkness in the Millennium, for any who are in darkness, do not know God, and do not obey the gospel, will already have been destroyed. Darkness will never cover the earth and its peoples at any time in the Millennium from the start.
 - c. Since all who “do iniquity” will have been purged from the kingdom in the Millennium, none would be left who would not willingly serve Israel at God’s command.
5. This can only lead us to one conclusion: if this prophecy is not fulfilled before the second coming of Christ, it cannot be fulfilled. This prophecy alone requires a new bin to sort prophecy into.

C. Isaiah 2:1-4.

1. Verses 1-2. Concerning Judah and Jerusalem, the mountain of the Lord’s house is in the top of the mountains, and all nations flow unto it.
2. Verse 3. They go to learn of the ways of God, and to walk in His paths.
3. Verse 4. He judges the people, and they turn their instruments of war to peaceful uses.
4. If we try to sort this prophecy, it cannot fit into the Millennium because:

- a. Before the Millennium, all things that cause sin are removed by the angels of God, so there would be no instruments of war left for the nations to turn to peaceful uses.
- b. The people of the earth seek to learn the ways of the LORD. There has been Divine intervention, but it cannot possibly be that described in II Thess. 1:7-10, for no one would be left to seek the Lord after that time.
- c. An examination of the phrase, "last days," shows it does not fit a time that has the character of the Millennium.

D. In our next program, we will undertake a study of the phrase "last days."

IV. Conclusion: We have established four time period "bins" into which to sort prophecies: "The Tribulation Period," "The Thousand Years," "The Little Season," and "The New Heavens and New Earth." Yet both Isaiah 60:1-12 and Isaiah 2:1-4 contain prophecies that cannot fit into "The Thousand Years" bin, nor into any of the others either. This shows us that we must be lacking a bin needed in order to complete our understanding of God's future program.