

Week of January 20-26

IMAGINE

Scripture Reading: Read Revelation Chapter 20

Over forty years ago, John Lennon wrote and performed a song entitled, "Imagine." You probably have heard it played at one time or another. Although Lennon got it wrong by wanting to throw out heaven and hell and religion, he did express adequately the human heart's cry for a better world in which to live. One where there was no war, poverty, hate, injustice, greed, etc. Unknowingly with his song, Lennon prophetically provided folks with a glimpse, at least in part, of the future millennial reign of Christ that will follow his return and the binding of Satan. It will take place after the physical resurrection of the saints but precede the final white throne judgment and the new heavens and the new earth. We may ask ourselves why such a literal reign on earth is necessary. There are at least four reasons we can suggest for this 1,000 year reign.

- 1) Jesus Christ, the son of David, will establish his kingdom in time and space and fulfill God's covenant promises to his people. That which has been spiritual in the hearts of his followers will now become tangible on the earth. He literally will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It will be a time of universal peace. Justice will roll on like a river and righteousness like a never-failing stream (Amos 5:24). The wolf will live with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the goat (Isaiah 11:6). "*They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea*" (Isaiah 11:9). It will be nothing short of heaven on earth.
- 2) The saints will literally rule with Christ in fulfillment of his divine promise to the overcomers (Revelation 2:26; 3:21).
- 3) The millennium will reveal the true nature of human's heart. Even after a perfect reign by Christ, there will be those who will reject this reign and follow the devil when he is released for a brief period. No one then will be able to blame their environment, leadership, the devil, or anything else for their sinful desires and ultimate fate in the lake of fire.
- 4) The millennium, along with the defeat of Satan and the great white throne judgment that follows, fulfills Paul's description of the end to the church at Corinth (1 Corinthians 15:23-28): "*For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*" By ruling until death itself is thrown into the lake of fire after the white throne judgment, Jesus fulfills Scripture.

Action Step & Prayer Focus: Listen to John Lennon's song, *Imagine*. Compare and contrast it to what the Word says will take place during Christ's millennial reign. Pray and look for opportunities this week to connect with someone who is imagining a better world. Tell them that Jesus is already preparing for that better world where we will experience a touch of heaven on earth. Let them know it's available to them by faith.

Take-a-way: *Just imagine. Christ's 1,000 year reign will be a taste of heaven on earth!*