

Entering the Kingdom is Not Equivalent to Salvation

Believers are saved by believing.

Kingdom citizens enter the Kingdom by their works

[Trib saints who endure to the end will enter Kingdom, but all unbelievers who live in the Trib die in Rev 19 battle.]

Intro: the Negative Position has tried to clarify its understanding of the uniqueness of the Millennial Kingdom [often called the Kingdom of Heaven I Matthew]. We draw attention to several phrases from the Gospels in which the Affirmative Position confuses the conditions for entering a physical [can we say, political] Kingdom here on earth during the 1,000 year reign of Jesus.

We understand that such things as “enduring to the end” are requirements for the Tribulation believers to fulfill in order to and enter this Kingdom. Entrance into the Kingdom is for faithful believers only. Faithful Old Testament saints like Moses, David, and Nehemiah will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation period. Faithful believers who “endured to the end” of the Tribulation will also go straight from the Trib into the Kingdom. Jesus’ faithful listeners will also be raised to reign with Jesus.

The following passages are talking about obedience for Trib saints in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. This is not a list of requirements to receive eternal life. Only believers will enter the earthly Kingdom. *[Kingdom of Heaven is only mentioned in the book of Matthew.]*

- Fruit meet for repentance, Matt 3
- Meek inherit the earth, Matt 5
- Rewards for the persecuted, Matt 5
- Righteousness exceeds the Pharisees = great in Kingdom, Matt 5
- Whosoever shall do and teach them, Matt 5
- Love your enemies, Matt 5
- Forgiveness if you forgive, Matt 6
- Endure to the end, Matt 10.22 24.13
- Do the will of My Father [you’re my brother], Matt 12.50
- Keep the commandments, Matt 19
- Leave family & house, inherit eternal life, Matt 19
- 10 virgins enter with the groom, Matt 25
- Unfaithful servant / outer darkness, Matt 25

Gnashing of teeth, darkness, stripes, and being cast out which occur in the Kingdom period cannot automatically refer to hell. During Jesus’ lifetime He promised that the obedient would rule on earth. It seems the disobedient believers [in the Trib] die when Christ returns [Rev 19]. *Perhaps instead of dying they do enter the Kingdom but have deprived themselves of the privilege of being able to “rule and reign” with Christ as the obedient Church Age saints do. ??*

1. Jesus will reign on earth, Jer 33.14-18 Dan 2.44
2. Believers who endure will reign with Jesus in Kingdom II Tim 2.12
3. Jesus will strike the nations...rule with rod of iron...winepress of the fierceness of wrath Rev 19.11-15
4. Theocracy with a rod of iron, Isa 11.4 Rev 19.11-15
5. Worldwide gov’t on His shoulders, Isa 9.6
6. Gov’t lasts 1,000 years, Rev 2.4,6
7. He will sit on a throne as Son of David, Jer 33.17

8. Prince David will sit beside Him, *Jer 30.9 Hos 3.5 Ezek 37.24,25*
9. Wolf will lie down with the lamb, *Isa 11.16*
10. The **believing Remnant** will return to Israel, *Jer 33.10,11 Isa 1.9*
11. His reign: peace, justice, righteousness, *Isa 11.4,5*
12. Blessed is He Who comes in name of Lord, *Psa 118.26 Matt 23.39*
13. The Temple will stand in Jerusalem, *Isa 2.3 Hag 2.9 Zech 6.12,13*
14. This occurs after the Tribulation [*Jacob's Trouble*], *Matt 24.21 Rev 19.14 Jer 30.7*
15. Only believers [*the godly Remnant*] enter the Kingdom. All unbelievers are killed in the battle at the end of the Trib. *Rev 19.21*
16. Many Jews would die in the Trib but those who endured and remained faithful through the entire seven-year Trib period would be "saved" alive to enter the Kingdom ruled by the promised Messiah, Jesus, now "King of the World!"
17. Enduring involves overcoming at least 10 difficulties in Matt 24.7-13
 - * famine
 - * pestilence
 - * earthquakes
 - * affliction [*torture?*]
 - * death threats
 - * hatred
 - * betrayal
 - * false teaching
 - * deception
 - * [*ubiquitous*] iniquity
 - * cold hearts [*temptations to...?*]

Jesus' offer was clearly in fulfillment of the OT prophecies of a Jewish king who was the son of David [*Judah*] and would sit on David's throne. Most Jews seemed to think of the Kingdom as a utopia for Israelis only. Jesus message sometimes seemed to portray this as well. See Matt 15.2-24. It was reasonable for Jews to assume that for eternity they would continue to live on the earth. . . forever, and ever. Heaven was not clearly portrayed as equivalent to "eternal life." David's statement [*Ps 23.6*] ". . . and I shall dwell in the House of the Lord forever" was his understanding that the house of the Lord referred to the Temple in Jerusalem, rather than a mansion in heaven. Afterall, David did understand the concept of living forever, and ever. The Psalms distinctly speak of this.

Those believers who endured until the end of the Trib will enter the Kingdom. Matt 24.13

Believers are saved by believing.

Obedient Tribulation citizens* enter the Kingdom by their works,
by enduring to the end.

Kingdom Citizens' future:

- **Only obedient believers are granted permission to enter the Kingdom.**
- **Disobedient believers from the Tribulation are not resurrected until the end of the 1000 year Kingdom along with OT saints.**