

# ETERNAL KINGDOM

*Principle:* Things that are forever and eternal will be present in the Eternal Kingdom.

## MELCHIZEDEK AND LEVITICAL PRIESTHOODS FOR JEWS AND GENTILES

“the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him . . . and they shall reign forever and ever” (Rev 22:3–5).

“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come” (Dan 7:18).

### THINGS THAT ARE FOREVER

1. Adam and Eve were created to live forever (Gen 3:22).
2. God promised the land of Canaan as an inheritance to Abraham and to his seed forever (Gen 13:15; 32:13; Josh 14:9; 2Chr 20:7).
3. Yahweh is God’s name forever (Ex 3:15).
4. God lives (Ps 9:7; Isa 57:15; Dan 4:34; Rev 10:6), rules (Ps 10:16; 146:10), and is righteous (Ps 111:3; 2Cor 9:9) forever.
5. God will “reign forever and ever” (Ex 15:18; Ps 29:10; 66:7) and the Messiah will reign forever (Lk 1:33).
6. The sabbath is a perpetual covenant (Ex 31:16) and a sign between God and Israel forever (31:17).
7. Passover, Unleavened Bread (Ex 12:14, 17), Firstfruits, Pentecost, and Tabernacles are perpetual feasts (Lev 23:14, 21, 41).
8. The Day of Atonement is perpetual (Lev 16:29–34; 23:31).
9. Incense offering on the golden altar is forever (Ex 30:8).
10. The Levitical Priesthood is forever (Ex 29:9; 40:15; Dt 18:5) as are their fields and homes in Israel (Lev 25:31–34).
11. Eternal loss of reward for sin and disobedience (1Sam 3:13–14; 13:13; 1Chr 28:9; cf. Ezk 44:10–16).
12. Blessings for obedience that last forever (Ps 21:6; 45:2; 106:31; Ezk 37:25; Dan 12:3) and an inheritance for the righteous that lasts forever (Ps 37:18; 37:29; 73:26).
13. The throne of David will be established forever and ever (2Sam 7:13, 16; 1Chr 22:10; 28:4, 7; 2Chr 13:5; Ps 89:4).
14. Israel is God’s people forever (2Sam 7:24–25, 29; 1Kings 2:45; 9:5; 1Chr 17:22; Ezra 3:11).
15. God will dwell in Jerusalem forever (1Chr 23:15; cf. 2Chr 7:16; 30:8; 33:4, 7; Ps 48:8; 68:16; 132:14; Ezk 43:7; cf. Jer 17:25).
16. God blots out the names of the wicked forever (Ps 9:5) and they suffer a punishment that lasts forever (Ps 81:15; 83:17).
17. The fear of the LORD endures forever (Ps 19:9).
18. Life forever and ever from God (Ps 21:4; cf. 22:26; 37:27–28; Jn 6:51, 58; 1Jn 2:17); righteousness endures forever (Ps 112:3, 9), remembered forever (Ps 112:6), abides forever (Ps 125:1).
19. Jesus lives forever (Heb 7:24), is perfect forever (Heb 7:28), the same forever (Heb 13:8), saves forever (Heb 7:25), rules forever (Rev 5:13; 11:15; 22:5), is a high priest forever (Ps 110:4; Heb 6:20), worthy of glory forever (Heb 13:21).
20. Live in God’s Kingdom forever (Ps 41:12; 61:4, 7; 133:3).
21. Give thanks and praise God forever and ever (Ps 30:12; 44:8; 45:17; 52:9; 61:8; 79:13; 86:12; 89:1; 145:2; Rom 11:36; 16:27; 1Tim 1:17).
22. The earth (Ps 78:69; Eccl 1:4); God’s Word (Ps 119:89; Isa 40:8; 1Pet 1:25); God’s Kingdom (Dan 2:44; Mt 6:13; Lk 1:33); ministry of the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16); truth (2Jn 2), and the Lake of Fire (Rev 14:11; 20:10).

### THINGS THAT ARE ETERNAL

1. God (Dt 33:27; Isa 9:6; Rom 16:26; 1Tim 1:17), eternal power (Rom 1:20); eternal purpose (Eph 3:11; cf. Acts 4:23, 28; 1Cor 2:7), eternal covenant (Heb 13:20), eternal dominion (1Tim 6:16), eternal Kingdom (2Pet 1:11).

2. Eternal Spirit (Heb 9:14).
3. An eternal sin (Mk 3:29), eternal judgment (Heb 6:2), eternal punishment (Mt 25:46), eternal bonds for disobedient angels (Jude 6), eternal fire (Mt 18:8; 25:41; Jude 7), and eternal destruction (2Thess 1:9).

4. Eternal life (Mt 19:16, 29; 25:46; Jn 3:16, 36; 17:3; Acts 13:46; Rom 5:21; 6:23; Tit 1:2; 3:7; 1Jn 2:25; 5:11, 13; Jude 21), eternal gospel (Rev 14:6), eternal salvation (Heb 5:9), eternal redemption (Heb 9:12), eternal dwellings (Lk 16:9), eternal body (2Cor 5:1); eternal comfort (2Thess 2:16), eternal inheritance (Heb 9:15), eternal glory (2Tim 2:10; 1Pet 5:10), eternal weight of glory (2Cor 4:17), the things which are not seen (2Cor 4:18).

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

1. New heavens and earth (Rev 21:1).
2. New Jerusalem (21:2, 10–21).
3. God dwells with His people (21:3).
4. no tears, death, mourning, crying, or pain (21:4).
5. Lake of Fire for unbelievers (21:8, 27).
6. no temple (21:22).
7. no sun or moon (21:23; 22:5).
8. nations and kings (21:24, 26; 22:2).
9. no night (21:25).
10. memories erased (Isa 65:17).
11. tree of life (22:2).
12. no curse (22:3).
13. serve God (22:3).
14. see God (22:4).
15. no lamps (22:5).
16. all light from the glory of God (21:23; 22:5).

Thrones of God and Jesus in the Eternal Kingdom (Rev 22:1–5)



“In Thy right hand are pleasures forever” (Ps 16:11).



“the ages to come” (Eph 2:7)

### CREATION OF THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH

■ black is certain (statement) ■ blue is less certain (inference) ■ red is least certain (conjecture)

1. *Eternity Future* (also called the Eternal State or Eternal Kingdom) is hazy due to a paucity of revelation, but some major landmarks are clear, enabling us to construct more or less what life will be like in the endless ages to come.
2. A *priesthood* implies a mediatorial ministry between men and God. Is sacrifice possible in the Eternal State? I believe so. Sacrifice doesn’t necessarily imply scarcity or hardship (2Sam 24:24). Sacrifice does imply an economy, though; the saints willingly give up a portion of their possessions as gifts for God. Storing up treasure in heaven also implies a future economy: some have more and therefore have more to give than others, but all can sacrifice equally.
3. *Levitical Priesthood*: Levitical Priests minister to God forever (Num 18:8; 1Chr 15:2; 23:13) probably in a recreated Garden of Eden before the thrones of God and the Lamb in the New Jerusalem (Rev 22:1–4) and probably throughout the New Israel. (Note: Jesus’ sacrifice is memorialized forever in his name “Lamb.”) Serving with proper priestly garments is a statute for Levitical Priests forever (Ex 28:43). And a portion of the heave (thigh) and wave offering (breast) from the fellowship offerings (*shelamim*) of the people belongs to the Levitical Priests forever (Ex 29:28; Lev 7:34; cf. 7:36; 24:9). “Forever” (*olam*) implies that voluntary fellowship and gift offerings (*minchah* Lev 6:18; Ezk 46:14) will exist in the Eternal Kingdom. But surely no blood sacrifices or death occurs on the new earth (Rev 21:4); death has been conquered (1Cor 15:20–28). So the priests either share whatever is brought for fellowship offerings in Eternity Future (food but not meat) or *olam* here means ‘for a long time’ (e.g., Gen 6:3; Neh 2:3; Ps 13:1; Jer 5:22; Jonah 2:6); that is, animal fellowship offerings will cease at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. *Forever* has a figurative sense in English also: “It took forever to get through rush hour traffic!” The Levitical Priesthood is “a perpetual (*olam*) priesthood” (Ex 40:15; Num 25:13). “The LORD your God has chosen him and his sons. . . to stand and serve in the name of the LORD forever” (Dt 18:5). A study of the ancient Theocratic Kingdom of Israel is important because many of its institutions are forever and will be reinstated in the Millennial and Eternal Kingdoms (minus those regulating sin), such as the Sabbath, pilgrimage feasts, Levitical Priesthood, voluntary gift and fellowship offerings, inheritance of the land of Canaan, presence of God in Jerusalem living with his people, and the throne of David. The Theocratic Kingdom is a preview of life in the Eternal Kingdom.
4. *Melchizedek Priesthood*: Jesus is “a high priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (Ps 110:1; Heb 6:20; 7:24). Melchizedek Priests minister and rule in Gentile lands around the world in keeping with the rewards, honor, and positions they received at the Judgment Seat of Christ. This priesthood is eternal. Gentiles who are not members of the Church will not be priests and will not rule (except tribulational martyrs, Rev 20:4). Unfaithful Melchizedek Priests will probably serve with less honor and privilege (cf. Ezk 44:10–16). Since there are more saints in the Church Age than all previous dispensations together, humans must multiply profusely to even the priest-to-people ratio in the Millennium.
5. *Unending Grace*: We will receive unimaginable grace gifts from God in the ages to come (gnomic aorist of iterative action in Eph 2:7). I call this aeonian grace (from Greek *aion* “always, forever, forever and ever, eternally” Louw & Nida).