

Chapter 26
The Mediatorial Kingdom in the Apocalypse
By Alva J. McClain

- I. **Review the Definition** of the Mediatorial Kingdom from Alva McClain:

- II. **Hear God's Word** – key verses that refer either to the universal kingdom now or the future mediatorial kingdom or universal kingdom:

- III. **Survey McClain's chapter:** 73 pages long! I give you the Cream of the Crop
 1. The last book of the Bible is pre-eminently the Book of the Kingdom of God in conflict with, and victory over, the kingdoms of this world.
 2. The Apocalypse is also the Book of the Second Coming of Christ.
 3. The revelation of the Kingdom and its glorious King in the Apocalypse can only be apprehended in close connection with the OT, especially its prophetic literature, and particularly the Book of Daniel.

 4. The OT prophets taught that in the last days, three things would happen:
 - a. First, God will begin a period of pouring out His judgments on the world.
 - b. Following these judgments a Messianic Kingdom of God will be established on the earth.
 - c. This kingdom will become universal in scope and be prolonged without end.

 5. When we survey Revelation, after introductory material dealing with the churches receiving it, we find:
 - a. A period of divine judgments on the world (4-18).
 - b. The coming of Christ to establish His Kingdom on earth (19-20).
 - c. An extension of this reign of Christ into the eternal Kingdom of God in the new heavens and earth (21-22, esp. 22:3-5).

6. John preserves the distinction between the Universal Kingdom of God and the Mediatorial Kingdom as he sees two kingdoms, each preceded by a throne of judgment.

Five Remaining Questions:

#1 Where do we find the Church (ekkleisia) in Revelation:

#2 So when does the Rapture of the Church take place?

Here are McClain's 5 arguments for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture from Revelation:

1. During the judgments of chapters 4-19, the term ekklesia is never once applied to any body of saved persons on earth, although several such bodies or groups appear (7:1-8; 7:14; 12:11,17; 13:7; 14:1-5; 18:4).
2. The Churches lofty position in the coming Kingdom would be terribly inconsistent with subjection to the terrible judgments which prepare for its establishment.
3. There is also the specific promise of Rev. 3:10. The seven churches are real and at the same time they symbolically represent the whole Church of all ages.
 - a. Kept from a special hour of trial yet future that will fall upon the entire inhabited earth, not kept from general trials and suffering.
 - b. This hour points to the "hour of His judgment" as the period of Rev. 6-19 as so designated in 14:7 "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come ..."
 - c. This verb combined with ek speaks of being kept out of vs delivered through or delivered out of. Those who become saved during the Tribulation are not kept from anything but experience horrific persecution, suffering and death (whether Gentile or Jewish), including the two great witnesses of chapter 11. The only exception is the sealing protection upon the 144,000 Israelites.

- d. This promise lines up with others in Scripture made to the church age believer:
 - i. Rom. 5:9 “Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”
 - ii. I Thess. 1:10 “and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.”
 - iii. I Thess. 5:9 “For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ ...” (though we have been destined for afflictions (see 3:3-4))
- 4. Although there is no mention of the Church on earth in 4-19, there are three references to a body of saved people in heaven during this period and who are designated by terms which best apply to the Church of the present age:
 - a. The 24 elders of Rev. 4-5
 - b. Rev. 13:6 “and His tabernacle, that is, those who dwell in heaven”
 - c. Rev. 19:1-9 “the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready...’
- 5. Rev. 19:14 says, “And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses.”

#3 How long is this last and glorious Mediatorial Kingdom on earth?

Six times in Rev. 20:2-6 we find the expression “a thousand years”. This should be taken literally.

#4 What will the rule of Christ be like in the M.K. as there will still be sinners in their natural bodies? Both severe and tender:

#5 How should we understand the final, eternal state?

- a. When the last enemy of God has been put down by our Lord acting as Mediatorial King, the purpose of His Mediatorial Kingdom will have been fulfilled – SEE I Cor. 15:20-28 and compare to Rev. 20:14 (“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire”). “... the destruction of death and Hades appears as the last act of our Lord in preparation for the new and eternal world.”
- b. As we pass from Rev. 20 to 21 (“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth” 21:1), “we stand at the junction between two kingdoms ... Here also the Mediatorial Kingdom of our Lord ends, not by abolition, but by its merger into the Universal Kingdom of God. Thus it is perpetuated forever, no longer as a separate entity, but in indissoluble union with the original Kingdom of God from which it sprang.”
- c. “This does not mean the end of our Lord’s regal activity, but rather that from here onward in the unity of the Godhead he reigns with the Father as the eternal Son. There are no longer two thrones: one of His Messianic throne and the other the Father’s throne, as our Lord indicated in Rev. 3:21 (“He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne”). In the final Kingdom there is but one throne.

Rev. 22:3-5 “There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; and they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads. And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.”