

# Contrasts between The Pre-Millennial Kingdom and The Millennial Kingdom

by – Otis Q. Sellers (1901-1992)

**T**he “*Kingdom of the Heavens*,” announced

by John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus Christ, is a divine state of government that covers a period of time, the exact length of which cannot be established from the Scriptures. That which we commonly call “The Millennium” is a succeeding divine state of government which is a thousand years in length. These two are not the same.

The “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” (Pre-Millennial Kingdom) is that divine government mediated by the Heavens. In our language we would call this Heavens’ Government over the Earth.

There is nothing on Earth today that can be properly called the “*Kingdom of the Heavens*.” The Heavens exercise no *manifest* sovereignty over mankind at the present time. They have no *apparent* voice in the affairs of mankind. The Heavens are now silent.

The “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is the full manifestation of the order and rule of the Heavens which will be imposed upon the Earth in a coming day when God decrees that it shall be so. Then human government must give way to Heavens’ Government.

In the study of Scripture the greatest possible confusion has been caused by making the “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” and the “Millennium Kingdom” to be one and the same.

There is no reason for this since there are many contrasts between the two.

- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is the time of Christ’s manifestation in the Heavens (*epiphaneia*, II Timothy 4:1). The Millennium Kingdom is the time of His personal presence (*parousia*, Matthew 24:3).
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is based upon Christ’s absence from the Earth and His presence in Heaven (John 14:12, 16:7, Luke 24:26). The Millennium Kingdom is based upon His personal presence upon the Earth and His absence from Heaven.
- In the Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” Christ is ruling the Earth from Heaven (Micah 4:3, “*afar off*”). In the Millennium Kingdom He is governing upon the Earth.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” precedes the “*Day of the Lord*” (Joel 2:28-31. The Millennium Kingdom is in the “*Day of the Lord*” (II Peter 3:10, Revelation 1:10).
- During the Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” the Adversary sows tares (*i.e.*, sons of the wicked one) in the kingdom, after Christ has sown the good seed (*i.e.*, sons of the kingdom; Matthew 13:24-30; 36-42). During the Millennium Kingdom Satan cannot do this for he is bound (Revelation 20:2).
- During the Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” the wheat and the tares will be permitted to grow together (Matthew 13:29-30). During the Millennium Kingdom no such mixture of good and evil will be permitted.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is like leaven which a woman hid in three measures of meal (Matthew 13:33). The Millennium Kingdom cannot be likened to leaven.

- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is like a treasure hidden in a field, which when a man finds he sells all of his possessions to purchase the field and possess the treasure (Matthew 13:44). There is nothing about the Millennium Kingdom that compares to this likeness. It is never hidden, and cannot be bought.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is like a merchantman seeking goodly pearls (Matthew 13:45-46). The Millennium Kingdom presents no such picture.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is like seed which when placed in the ground develops through stages such as the blade, the ear, the full grain in the ear, and the ripened grain (Mark 4:26, 29). The Millennium Kingdom does not begin and develop after this fashion.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is established after the salvation of God returns to Israel (Isaiah 42:1-4). The Millennium Kingdom will be established by one overwhelming and universal action by the Second Coming of Christ.
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” does not come by observation (Luke 17:20). The Millennium Kingdom will come with the greatest display of power and glory the world has ever witnessed (Matthew 24:27-31).
- The Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is the “*Day of Christ.*”<sup>1</sup> The Millennium Kingdom is the “*Day of the Lord.*”
- During the Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” rebellion comes when God loosens the merciful restraining influence which He has imposed

upon mankind (II Thessalonians 2:7). The rebellion at the end of the Millennium Kingdom comes when the Adversary is loosed for a “little season.”

The conclusion: the Pre-Millennial “*Kingdom of the Heavens*” is not the Millennium Kingdom.