

# **Thematic Study on Millennium and the New Heaven and the New Earth**

## **7th Lesson from the book of Revelation**

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**What is millennium?** At the end of time Christ will return in all His splendor to gather together the just, to annihilate hostile powers, and to found a glorious kingdom on earth for the enjoyment of the highest spiritual and material blessings; He Himself will reign as its king, and all the just, including the saints recalled to life, will participate in it. At the close of this kingdom the saints will enter heaven with Christ, while the wicked, who have also been resuscitated, will be condemned to eternal damnation. The duration of this glorious reign of Christ and His saints on earth, is frequently given as one thousand years. Hence it is commonly known as the "millennium". Millennialism is the belief in a literal reign of Christ on earth for 1,000 years in the future. The word millennium means "1,000 years". The Latin word mille means "1,000," and the word annus mean "year." What is often referred to as the "Millennial kingdom" is mentioned in Revelation 20:1-7:

*" Then I saw an angel come down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a heavy chain. He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, which is the Devil or Satan, and tied it up for a thousand years and threw it into the abyss, which he locked over it and sealed, so that it could no longer lead the nations astray until the thousand years are completed. After this, it is to be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones; those who sat on them were entrusted with judgment. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image nor had accepted its mark on their foreheads or hands. They came to life and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over these; they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for [the] thousand years. When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison"*

This period of 1,000 years is marked by a binding of Satan and the reign of Jesus Christ. When that period of 1,000 years is over, Satan will be released for a short period for a final period of rebellion before the final end of all things.

**Background:** The roots of the belief in a glorious kingdom, partly natural, partly supernatural, are found in the hopes of the Jews for a temporal Messiah. The Jews longed for a Messiah who would free them from their oppressors and restore the former splendor of Israel. The gospel writers record how the Jews were waiting for the messianic kingdom but when Jesus came they were disappointed because he came to proclaim the spiritual kingdom of God for the deliverance of man from his sins and for his sanctification.

### **3 Major Positions of the issue of Millennialism:**

The **postmillennial position** interprets Revelation 20 somewhat figuratively and holds that this binding of Satan takes place through the preaching of the gospel and the advance of the church throughout the world. At some point, the world will become predominantly Christian, recognizing Jesus as Lord. Of course, not every individual will be saved, but the worldwide culture will be dominantly Christian, ushering in a golden age of human existence. This golden age will not be based on humanism but on the people and governments of the world making a conscious effort to order things according to the priorities of God's Word. Christ, though physically absent, will be reigning through His people, and this "golden age" dominance of Christian culture may last for a literal 1,000 years, or that number may figuratively represent a long period of time. At the end, there will be a rebellion, and Christ will return to earth to quash it. The term postmillennial means that Christ will return at the end of the millennial kingdom.

The **amillennial position** teaches that there is no literal 1,000-year kingdom. The kingdom of God exists right now as Christ reigns as king in the hearts of His people, the church. Satan is bound now, meaning that he cannot prevent the advance of the gospel and the salvation of the elect, but he is still able to wreak havoc in many other areas. The "1,000 years" cannot be literal because it has already been almost 2,000 years since Christ was on earth. The Church may or may not finally "Christianize" the culture of all nations of the world, but the important thing is that the Church lives according to the priorities of God's Word and proclaims Jesus as Lord. Christ will return one day to quash all rebellion and inaugurate the new heavens and new earth where there is no opportunity for any sin. The position is amillennial because it denies a literal, visible rule of Christ on earth before the new heavens and new earth, but it certainly does not deny the lordship of Christ or His sovereignty over all areas of life.

The **premillennial position** teaches that Christ will return to earth to inaugurate the millennial kingdom. Despite the best efforts of Christians to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, the world will never be "Christianized," and culture will continue to grow worse and worse. However, Christ will come and establish His kingdom visibly on earth, and Satan will be bound—unable to have any impact on world affairs. The governments of the nations of the world will submit to Christ, and there will be a "golden age" of human existence. Truth and justice will be the hallmarks of government instead of the self-centeredness and corruption that is common today. However, because there will still be human beings with fallen natures inhabiting the kingdom, there will still be sin and rebellion. At the end of the literal 1,000-year period, Satan will be loosed, and there will be a final rebellion of humanity against Christ. The Lord will put down the rebellion once and for all and usher in a new heaven and new earth where there is no opportunity for any sin.

The Bible speaks of the conditions during the millennium as a perfect environment physically and spiritually. It will be a time of peace (Micah 4:2-4; Isaiah 32:17-18), joy (Isaiah 61:7, 10), and comfort (Isaiah 40:1-2). The Bible also tells us that only believers will enter the millennial

kingdom. Because of this, it will be a time of obedience (Jeremiah 31:33), holiness (Isaiah 35:8), truth (Isaiah 65:16), and the knowledge of God (Isaiah 11:9, Habakkuk 2:14). Christ will rule as king (Isaiah 9:3-7; 11:1-10). Nobles and governors will also rule (Isaiah 32:1; Matthew 19:28), and Jerusalem will be the political center of the world (Zechariah 8:3). Revelation 20:2-7 gives the precise time period of the millennial kingdom.

**Catholic view on Millennialism:** Millenarianism, millennium, postmillenniaslism and premillennialism are words associated with the non-Catholic belief that Christ will return to physically reign on earth for a period of 1,000 years. What does the Catholic Church have to say about this belief? The Catholic Church refers to it as the "Antichrist's deception."

The following is stated under # 675-6 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: # 675 "Before Christ's second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. [Lk. 18:; Mt. 24:12] The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth [Lk. 21:12; Jn. 15:19-20] will unveil the "mystery of iniquity" in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Antichrist, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh." [2 Thess. 2:4-12; 1 Thess. 5:2-3; 2 Jn. 7; 1 Jn. 2:18, 22]

676 "The Antichrist's deception already begins to take shape in the world every time the claim is made to realize within history that messianic hope which can only be realized beyond history through the eschatological judgement. The Church has rejected even modified forms of this falsification of the kingdom to come under the name of millenarianism, [DS 3839] especially the "intrinsically perverse" political form of a secular messianism. [Pius XI, Divini Redemptoris, condemning the "false mysticism" of this "counterfeit of the redemption of the lowly"; cf. GS 20-21.]

The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus is presently reigning on earth in His invisible Kingdom. Jesus is presently reigning among us in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and in the Sacred Tabernacles. To believe in the millenarianism is to deny the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacred Tabernacles. Because we believe in the presence of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and in the Sacred Tabernacles, there is no need for us to refer to millenarianism that opposes what our faith teaches us.

**Are there any Bible passages that affirm that the Kingdom of God is presently here and that it is spiritual?** Yes! When the Pharisees inquired about the Kingdom of God, Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is not something that can be observed; nor will they say, "Look here it is!" or "There it is!" For in fact, the Kingdom of God is among you. When questioned by Pilate as to where His Kingdom was, Jesus said, "My Kingdom is not from this world. If My Kingdom were from this world, My followers would be fighting to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, My Kingdom is not from here." [Jn. 18:36]

It is very important for Christians to realize from the two previous passages that the Kingdom of God is not physical in nature. It is an invisible and spiritual Kingdom that is among [within] the people. Anyone who teaches otherwise, he is proclaiming teachings that contradict the teachings of Jesus.

**Millennials of today:** Generally speaking, those born between 1980 and 2000 are considered part of what is called the millennial generation or Generation Y. This generation has faced massive changes in technology advancements, culture, and economic stability, which have affected the way these young adults have approached life, employment, and culture. Millennials are often accused of being self-centered, lazy, and generally more immoral than previous generations.

One of the main accusations against millennials is that they are self-centered. Their use of technology and cell phones is used as evidence of a self-obsessed generation focused on posting selfies and getting the most likes on a post or picture. The millennial generation has experienced great growth in technology and therefore is more involved in social media and technology than older generations. Many millennials use social media and their phones to stay connected to friends and to impact their community, and older adults do that as well. Much of the millennials' cell phone and technology use is motivated by the need to connect to others and build relationships—a need God designed humans to have.

Those of older generations also claim that millennials are lazy or inexperienced. Throughout time, those who are older tend to look down on younger generations, and vice versa. Paul recognized this unfortunate truth and therefore encouraged his younger protégé, Timothy, with these words: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity" (1 Timothy 4:12). Jeremiah doubted his ability to serve God because of his youth, and yet the Lord encouraged him: "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you" (Jeremiah 1:7). Instead of submitting criticism to those of younger generations, it is better to be a mentor and encourager to those who are young.

Finally, millennials of today are generally accused of being more immoral than previous generations. While it's true that millennials are more likely to voice approval of cohabitation and same-sex relationships, there are studies indicating that millennials practice abstinence more than the two previous generations did. It should also be recognized that, although immorality is much more visible today, it does not mean that sexual sins were not occurring in previous generations. Young adults throughout history have experienced the temptations of "youthful lust" (2 Timothy 2:22). As Solomon states, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9).

Although millennials may have some differences in the way they carry out their work and engage socially, these differences are purely external. Regarding internal spiritual matters, there are no true differences. All humans, no matter what their age, all have the same basic

problem of being sinners. Paul states, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom 3:23). It is clear in Scripture that all of mankind is in bondage to sin and death and that the only way to be saved out of sin is to trust in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9; Rom 6:23). Instead of criticizing millennials, the church should seek to evangelize, mentor, and encourage them in the faith.

**New Heaven and New Earth:** Revelation 21 is an amazing prophecy about what God has in store for the future of our world. Here's what John wrote about the vision he saw:

***"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"*** (Revelation 21:1-2).

What is the meaning of "a new heaven and a new earth"? What will this new heaven and earth be like? What will happen to our current heaven and earth? One of the joys and hopes of every believer is the hope of heaven. In John 14 Jesus said I'm going to prepare a place for you and I'm not just going, I'm coming back to get you. This is the great expectation of every Christian to be with Jesus forever. This place that Jesus talks about is pointing to our eternal home where God has promised a new heaven and a new earth. Well what exactly is the new heaven and new earth? If we were to try to think of imagery to describe the New Heaven and New Earth, what comes to our mind is Creation 2.0.

If we recall prior to the fall of man, Adam and Eve lived in a perfect, sinless world. They are the only human beings who ever lived on this planet that know what that experience is like. The world we live in now has been corrupted by the influence of sin which has brought every type of problem along with it. The New Heaven and New Earth will be God resetting and recreating the heavens and the earth, where sin and the effects of sin will no longer be present. We will be able to enjoy the beauty of God's presence in all of his glory, unhindered by the presence of sin.

The Bible mentions the New Heaven and the New Earth a couple of times, both in the Old and New Testaments. Let's take a look at a few passages:

*Isaiah 65:17-19 - "See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more."*

*2 Peter 3:13 - "But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells."*

Revelation 21:1 - "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea."

Isaiah 66:22 - "'As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,' declares the Lord, 'so will your name and descendants endure.'"

The most detailed and vivid description comes from John in the book of Revelation 21:1-2 **"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"**.

**"He took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It gleamed with the splendor of God. Its radiance was like that of a precious stone, like jasper, clear as crystal. It had a massive, high wall, with twelve gates where twelve angels were stationed and on which names were inscribed, [the names] of the twelve tribes of the Israelites. There were three gates facing east, three north, three south, and three west. The wall of the city had twelve courses of stones as its foundation, on which were inscribed the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb"** (Revelation 21:11-14).

**"The wall was constructed of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass. The foundations of the city wall were decorated with every precious stone; the first course of stones was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh hyacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a single pearl; and the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass. "** (Revelation 21:18-21).

**"I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp"** (Revelation 21:22-23).

**"Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life"** (Revelation 21:27).

**It's a Place of Unimaginable Beauty:** One of the first things we will discover is the beauty of this place.

**It's a Place Where God's Presence Dwells Freely:** Regardless of how much of God's presence we have ever experienced, it is not humanly possible to experience God's presence fully in this human body. What we experience whenever we enter God's presence is just a part or a taste. In 1 Corinthians 13:12 Paul points to this - "For now we see only a reflection as in a

mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

In the New Heaven and the New Earth we will be able to experience God fully. John gives us further indication of this in 1 John 3:2 - “Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” God not only creates a New Heaven and a New Earth but he gives us an incorruptible body so we can enjoy it all. Paul talks about this a great deal in 1 Corinthians 15 if you want another point of reference.

**It Is a Place Where God Reigns and Sin Doesn't:** Verse 27 reminds us that nothing impure will ever enter it. This means we will never again have to deal with the impact, influence, or consequences of sin because they will have been dealt with forever. That alone is worth the price of admission. In fact, Romans 8 reminds us that all creation is waiting for this moment to happen because creation has also paid the price for the impact of sin.

The current heavens and earth have long been subject to God's curse because of mankind's sin. The new earth will be free from sin, evil, sickness, suffering, and death. It will be earth as God originally intended it to be. It will be Eden restored. In the new heavens and new earth, Scripture says, there are seven things notable for their absence—seven things that are “no more”: no more sea, no more death, no more mourning, no more weeping, no more pain, no more curse, no more night.

The creation of the new heavens and new earth brings the promise that God “will wipe every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21:4). This event comes after the tribulation, after the Lord's second coming, after the millennial kingdom, after the final rebellion, after the final judgment of Satan, and after the Great White Throne Judgment. The brief description of the new heavens and new earth is the last glimpse into eternity that the Bible gives.

The new heavens and new earth is the culmination of the biblical story, when Christ accomplishes God's original purposes for creation, reverses Adam's curse, culminates his fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham, and, ultimately, provides his people a place to dwell with God for eternity. When Adam and Eve sinned the earth became cursed. God promised to destroy the old earth and make something new. The future home of the believer will be in the new heavens and new earth. After the final judgment, God will remake the present universe and form a new one - a universe without any remembrance of sin. Though the exact relationship between the old and the new is not entirely clear, it is clear that the new universe will be without sin.

**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**  
**Lectio Divina for the feast of Christ the King**

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**Opening prayer:** Lord our Heavenly Father, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We give you thanks and praise you for your blessings in our life. Thank you for your holy presence in our life, filling us with your grace and wisdom through bible study and Lectio Divina day by day. Continue to guide us so that we may stay closer to you and each other by being faithful, prayerful, purposeful and grateful in our thoughts, words and gestures. Let us be joyful in worshipping you and honoring you by praying the Psalm 47, a royal psalm, recognizing your kingship.

*All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries. For the Lord, the Most High, is to be feared, the great king over all the earth, Who made people subject to us, nations under our feet, Who chose our heritage for us, the glory of Jacob, whom he loves. God has gone up with a shout; the Lord, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. For God is king over all the earth; sing hymns of praise. God rules over the nations; God sits upon his holy throne. The princes of the peoples assemble with the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God, highly exalted.*

**I Reading: A reading from the second book of Samuel 5: 1-3** In those days, all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and said: "Here we are, your bone and your flesh. In days past, when Saul was our king, it was you who led the Israelites out and brought them back. And the LORD said to you, 'You shall shepherd my people Israel and shall be commander of Israel.'" When all the elders of Israel came to David in Hebron, King David made an agreement with them there before the LORD, and they anointed him king of Israel. (The word of the Lord /Thanks be to God)

**Commentary:** This reading recalls the story of David's anointing as King of Israel. Saul was the first King of Israel and he learned from the Lord God through the prophet Samuel that the kingship would not remain in his family because he had disobeyed the laws of God. The first reading tells us how, on the death of Saul, the northern tribes came to David in Hebron and anointed him King over all of Israel. David's reign lasted a mere forty years

**Responsorial Psalm 122** *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem.

***R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD.

***R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David.

**R. *Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.***

**II Reading: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Colossians 1:12-20** Brothers and sisters: Let us give thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light. He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross through him, whether those on earth or those in heaven. (The word of the Lord / Thanks be to God)

**Commentary:** St. Paul simply states that Christ is superior to the whole lot. He tells the Colossians how grateful they should be to God for having made them Christians and citizens of Christ's kingdom. The Apostle then describes Who and What their new Sovereign is: true God and true Man, the true Image of the invisible God and, at the same time, the perfect exemplar of true humanity. The second reading reminds us of how blessed, how fortunate we are to be Christians, citizens of His Kingdom on earth, with a promise of perpetual citizenship in His Heavenly Kingdom if we remain faithful to Him, because "in Him all things hold together."

**Gospel reading: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 23: 35-43** The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews." Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ)

**Meditation:** This Sunday we conclude the liturgical year with the great feast of Christ the King. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1925 with the proclamation "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" (the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ). It was established and proclaimed by the Pope to reassert the sovereignty

of Christ and the Church over all forms of government and to remind us of our fidelity and loyalty to Christ.

**The Biblical basis of the feast:** The title "Christ the King" has its roots both in Scripture and in the whole theology of the Kingdom of God. Christ the Messiah is represented as a king in most of the messianic prophecies given in the Old Testament books of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. In the New Testament we have very clear proofs for his kingship.

**In the Annunciation** (Lk 13:2-33), we read: "The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and He will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and His Kingdom will never end." In fact, the Kingdom of God is the center of Jesus' teaching and the phrase "kingdom of God" occurs 122 times in the Gospels and of which 90 instances are used by Jesus.

**The Magi from the Far East** came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt. 2:2) "Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him."

**During the royal reception** given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk.19: 38) "Blessed is the king, who comes in the name of the Lord."

**One of the thieves** who was crucified with Jesus pleaded him, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom"

**The signboard** hung over Jesus' head on the cross read: INRI "Jesus the Nazarene, king of the Jews."

**Before his ascension into heaven**, Jesus declared: (Mt. 28:18): "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." Finally, in Matthew 25:31, we read that Christ the King will come in glory to judge us on the day of the Last Judgment.

**Was Jesus truly a king? Yes. What type of king he was? What was his kingdom like?** He was not a king of the world because the kings of this world possess power, wealth, force and border as their properties. Jesus had nothing of this sort. Life for everyone, Love for the enemies, Preferential option for the Poor, downtrodden and marginalized, Actions based on Truth, Righteousness, Justice and above all Peace were his Kingdom principles. Hence when we pray in Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come and thy will be done", it is a daily reminder that our Lord's ways become our ways and his thoughts become our thoughts and his demands become our demands in our daily life and this is how his Kingdom will blossom and his Will will be one

**Why Jesus is called the Lord of lords and King of kings?** Different Kings in different times and places appear now and then and they are forgotten once their life is over whereas Jesus is ruling in thousands of human hearts all over the world for more than 2000 years and that is the reason he is called the Lord of the lords and the king of the

kings. He is all in all. In the end, all the rulers will be conquered and he alone will reign supreme as king of kings and Lord of Lords. There is no higher authority than him and that is why the book of Revelation in 19:16 calls him “King of kings and Lord of lords”

**Prayer for peace and prayer for local and global leadership is the need of our times.**

Jesus was a prince of Peace. We need peace more than ever before. We are living in very difficult times. Religious fundamentalism, extremism, terrorism, violence, communalism, moral relativism, the rise of individualism, breaking down of families, individual and institutionalized crimes, poverty, inequality, immigration issues, racial discriminations are becoming the norms of the day irrespective of any society and as a result we become a peaceless people and society. Although all of us share a bit of this mess, we cannot easily rule out the key role of governments and leaders because they are the law makers. St. Paul invites us to make supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings for our kings and rulers so that we may lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity. (1 Tim 2:2). This week specially let us make a very special prayer for our leaders that they exercise their responsibilities like Jesus with service mindedness, humility, selflessness and sacrifice in order to create a peaceful society. May Christ, the king of the universe, rule us, our families, our society, our religious and civil authorities that we all work for His kingdom on earth by bearing witness to Christ and his Gospel Values: Love and Peace. Viva Cristo Rey! Long live Christ the King!

**Concluding prayer:** Lord Jesus, You are the King of Glory, You are the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings. We pray for your Kingdom of justice, peace, mercy, love and righteousness to reign forever in our hearts and in our world. Honestly, We often have our own plans and agendas and we want to be rulers of our world. Forgive us for those times. Help us to know how to live as your Kingdom People in these times. There are a lot of Kings in this world who terrorize, over tax, humiliate, over exploit, and abuse those they are to lead. Help us to spread the good news of the different kind of King you are. Lord, we thank you for being a different kind of King. Thank you for your goodness and kindness in our lives. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for loving us. Thank you for including us in your Kingdom.