

- THE MILLENNIUM -

"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years."

(Revelation 20:6)

"We give thanks to You, Lord God Almighty Who is and Who was, for You have taken Your great power and begun to reign." (Revelation 11:17)



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For the Body of Christ

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The Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)

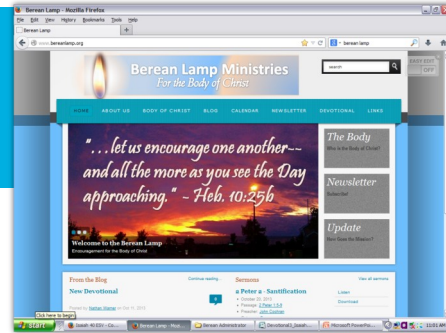


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The Berean Lamp Newsletter is a monthly publication of the Berean Lamp Ministry.

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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

- Pastor Scott Moller

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Administrator: Nathan Warner

Oversight Committee: Pastor Scott Moller, Deacon Bob Larsen, Nathan Warner

Editors: Natalie Warner





"For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:19)

By Maria Madsen

*"Indeed, the Lord will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places."
(Isaiah 51:3a)*



By Elliot Madsen

Why Look to the Millennium?

By Nathan Warner

For many Believers, what follows this life is a bit hazy. Most Christians think that when they die, they go to Heaven and spend eternity there. Many Christian songs and hymns reinforce this idea. But this is not what God's Word says; He is not silent about what comes next. See "A Scriptural Primer for the Millennium" on page 12 to learn more about what God's Word says comes next for us.

There are also many Christians who think we should focus on practical teaching for Christian living and skip all the prophetic elements since "they don't really apply to me," and "it isn't really relevant to my life and my practical spiritual needs." But the Millennium IS practical to our daily lives.

Practical means "of or concerned with the actual doing or use of something rather than with theory and ideas" (Google Dictionary). The Millennium is not a purely spiritual thing; it is a physical thing. It is the practical Kingdom of Heaven's government on Earth. For us, the Millennium isn't retirement (an end of responsibility and ceasing our labors), but the beginning of the most exciting and fulfilling work we've ever done.

It is practical to our lives today, because we are to be living our lives practically for that day – we ought to be "doing" the things we do today for that day. Our lives ought to reflect the traits of that Kingdom. As Peter said, *"the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God!"* (2 Peter 3:10-12a) Because the things we work and live for in the world are going to be destroyed, we should be living our lives now for the eternal things of Christ's Kingdom. And our character and nature should be the charac-

ter and nature of Christ's Kingdom. Is there anything in you today that will be unacceptable in the Millennium? Is there fruit of the Spirit missing or stunted in your life? Is there anything in you that is of this world and satan's government by sin? The answer is YES!

YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD. When you were born again, you were **Justified** by the blood of Jesus and transferred into His Kingdom as Sons of God. From that moment on, you are being **Sanctified** – set-apart for the Millennium, prepared for its responsibilities and glories. Part of that preparation is God's work in you to put to death the old man, the flesh, the old you that is still pulled this way and that by the kingdom of darkness.

You have been adopted out of the Kingdom of this world into the Kingdom of Christ, as a Child of God the Father. As His child, He has an inheritance for you. Do you know that He is preparing you NOW for your inheritance with all its responsibilities that will come in your glorification in Christ's Kingdom on earth? The Kingdom of Christ is practical to your life, NOW – it's not some wishy, washy fairytale of a far off land. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time"* (1 Peter 1:3-5). He's caused us to be born-again! Why? To obtain an inheritance!

You see, the Millennium is part of our inheritance. Is an inheritance "impractical"? Well, you can't use it right now, but you're planning, preparing, and looking forward to the day when the responsibility will fall to you. It is a part of you – a part of who you are. In the past, children were brought up for their inheritance, so they would be able to manage their portion of the estate that was their inheritance. As Believers, we also are not passive heirs: *"Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave al-*

though he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father" (Galatians 4:1-2). So your life right now is not passive but part of the managerial upbringing of the Holy Spirit.

Note that we are not to trying to make ourselves "worthy" of responsibility in Christ's Kingdom by our good works here on earth. But we are to give ourselves over to His work in us to make us worthy of responsibility in His Kingdom. As an example, think of two sons who both want to please their father and be worthy in His sight. The first son looks for something he can DO to please his father. He grabs a saw and cuts the sofa in half because he heard his dad say how it would be nice to have two separate seats instead of one sofa. When his dad comes home, will he be pleased? Certainly not! A good son goes to his father and asks him what he can do for his father, giving himself up to his father's will. This will please his father. So, go to our Father, "**seek His face continually**" (Psalm 105:4b) in prayer and His Word to you. Why? "*So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining*

of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 1:9-13). We cannot walk worthy of Jesus, but we are to walk in a "manner" worthy of Him with a mindset to seek His face continually to please Him in everything we do.

God is regenerating you now spiritually – His Spirit's managerial work in you is producing spiritual fruit, so that you can take part in Christ's regeneration of earth. "*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the **washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit**, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life*" (Titus 3:4-7).

What happens if we do not walk in a manner worthy of Jesus and His Kingdom today? What if you spurn your inheritance and resist the Holy Spirit's work in you? Well, when King Jesus returns, "*each man's work will be-*

We rejoice in HOPE

of the GLORY OF GOD



GINNY LARSEN

By Ginny Larsen

come evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are" (1 Cor. 3:13-17). God has given you works to do today in preparation for your responsibilities and honors in Christ's Kingdom (not works for salvation).

With that in mind, Believer, our lives should be *"hastening the day of God"* (2 Peter 3:12a), obeying Jesus Who commanded us to make *"disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I command you"* (Matt. 28:19b-20a), for the *"Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come"* (Matt. 24:14).

YOU ARE AN AMBASSADOR FOR CHRIST (2 Cor. 5:20) and His Kingdom. Every day since you became a Believer, you have been representing the Kingdom of Christ in your words and deeds – you are representing the Millennium now in your life. When Jesus sent out the 70 disciples to preach the Gospel, He told His disciples to tell the people they would meet, *"The Kingdom of God has come near to you"* (Luke 10:9)! It had not arrived – it wasn't here on this earth yet, but it had come near to them in the ministry and the work of those disciples. Your life as a Holy Spirit-filled Believer ought to testify to people that the Kingdom of God came near to them when you came near to them. Do people see a representative of Christ in you, or do they see the same sin in you that they are slaves to? I know there is sin in my life that does not represent the Kingdom – there is sin in your life that doesn't represent the Kingdom. Sometimes we see it in ourselves and sometimes we make excuses for it, but the world sees it regardless. Are we good representatives? It can be easy for an ambassador to feel he is far away from

accountability to his King in the foreign land where he is serving. He may do as he pleases. An ambassador's behavior is a representation of his Kingdom and he will be held accountable.

YOU ARE THE BRIDE OF CHRIST. You are the Church betrothed to Christ! In Jewish marriage, the Betrothal period was a time of sanctification – the man and woman were setting themselves apart for one another and looking for and hastening the day of their union. They were putting aside all the things that they once were – all the character traits and behavior that couldn't exist in their marriage – letting go of everything they once focused on and lived for as they are prepared to enter a new life together. People who say we shouldn't bother looking to the Millennium would be like someone saying to a bride, "You shouldn't waste your betrothal time looking forward to your marriage and preparing yourself for your husband!" The Bride of Christ spends every moment looking for and hastening Jesus' return for her. It is her hope and part of who she is and how she lives her life! She's living her life in a manner worthy of her Husband.

Every Believer has a promise that they will be united with Jesus when the period of their sanctification is up. It is a GIVEN, so we must be living diligently for that day – looking forward to it, living now for Him, earnestly desiring that day and hastening its arrival.

You have been set apart for Christ, Believer! This time of your Sanctification is when you are to be putting aside every weight and hindrance, every childish thing, to run the race of this life through the Holy Spirit's work in you, in preparation for your life with Christ in His Kingdom (Hebrews 12:1)! Jesus is the ultimate example—He lived His life looking past the Cross to the Joy set before Him (Hebrews 12:2)! Every Believer has a cross to bear as well (Matthew 16:24). Are you looking past your cross to the joy of your hope? The Millennium is our hope to be with Jesus. It gives us perspective in the temporal difficulties we face in life. It is PRACTICAL to you if you are His!

Why One Thousand Years?

By Jane Titrud

The most straightforward interpretation of Revelation 20:1-4 is that Jesus Christ will rule and reign with His saints for a thousand years after the Great Tribulation Period has ended. This interpretation fits the natural flow of Revelation chapter 19 into chapter 20.

Revelation 19 describes One who would appear to be Jesus Christ coming back on a white horse (vv. 11-13, 15, 16) along with the armies from heaven who are “*clothed in fine linen, white and clean*” (v. 14). These armies are more than likely the saints of God who were raptured just prior to the Great Tribulation and are now returning with Christ to take care of the situation on earth. The beast and the kings of the earth have assembled their armies to make war against Christ and the armies that are with Him (v 19). However, the beast and the false prophet are seized and thrown into the lake of fire (v. 20). The rest are then killed and eaten by birds (v. 21).

After this, in chapter 20, John sees an angel coming down from heaven with a great chain and a key to the abyss in order to bind Satan for a thousand years (vv. 1-3). He also sees thrones and people sitting on them for the purpose of rendering judgment—also for a thousand years (v. 4). The armies of heaven who come back with Christ (19:14) will likely be the ones who will administer judgment at this time, along with Christ, of course, and the saints who will come out of the Tribulation period (20:4). The ones being judged, on the other hand, must be those who were born on earth after the rapture of the Church but were not part of the armies assembled against Christ at His Second Coming, as these were killed in the great slaughter of Revelation 19, verses 17, 18, and 21. Of course, those being judged would also include any and all natural peoples born during the Millennial Reign.

Yet, one might well ask, why one thousand years? Why not immediately create the new heavens and the new earth mentioned in Revelation 21: 1, and then have Jesus Christ and His saints rule on earth forever? One thousand years is a long time, but it is not forever.

One reason the saints will rule with Christ during His Millennial reign is to fulfill promises made to the early disciples as well as to the rest of His saints to the effect that they would someday rule and reign with Him in His coming kingdom (Matthew 19:28; 2 Timothy 2:12a). But this really does not answer the question of why such promises were made in the first place or why the thousand years.

I believe the thousand-year period has to do with God teaching

“And I will MAKE them and the PLACES all around my HILL a blessing, and I will SEND down the showers in their SEASON; they shall be showers of BLESSING.” (Ezekiel 34:26)



By Maria Madsen



mankind as well as the angels in heaven something about the fallen nature of man by means of an object lesson. Several times in the Scriptures one can see God choosing to deal with mankind over extended periods of time in order to *demonstrate* a truth rather than just *stating* it outright, and that would seem to be the case here.

Consider, for example, that after the Fall of mankind, God let more than 1600 years pass before sending the Flood of Noah. God made a promise way back at the time of the Fall that the “seed of the woman” would be coming to defeat Satan and deliver mankind from evil. This promised “seed” would bruise Satan’s head while Satan would bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15). But, obviously, this “seed” did not come right away. Instead, God allowed man to multiply for several generations until “*the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and...every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually*” (Genesis 6:5, NASB).

The wickedness that took place during this time period was no doubt influenced by Satan. The Bible tells us, for example, that Cain “*was of the evil one, and slew his brother*” (1 John 3:12a). But the increase of evil at this time served to reveal something about the nature of man’s fallen heart as well. That is, if man were left to himself, he would eventually destroy himself. Some such as Seth (Genesis 4:26) and Enoch (5:22–24) walked with God, but most did not. Instead, by the time of Noah, evil was rampant.

It was not that the people who lived during this time period had been left without a credible witness concerning the evils of sin. Adam lived a long time—some 930 years, which was well into the lifetime of Noah’s father, and Adam was certainly familiar with sin and the deceiving powers of Satan. Perhaps he ultimately surrendered to the influence of evil himself. The Bible does not really say. But one thing is for certain—man would either succumb to his own violence or perish from God’s wrath. Indeed, God did decide to deal with the situation at hand by sending a worldwide flood from which only eight persons survived and

then only by His grace.

It was only a few hundred years more before man got himself in trouble again by organizing around the leadership of Nimrod (Genesis 10:8–10; 11:1–9). Instead of multiplying and filling the earth as God had directed Noah and his sons (Genesis 9:1, 7), the people decided to resist God’s direction in favor of making a name for themselves. They would attempt to do this by building a tower that would “*reach to heaven*” (Genesis 11:4). This was likely for the purpose of worshipping the heavens. Once again, the people were not left without a witness against this wickedness. Noah was still around to testify about God’s Word and His willingness to judge evil. He lived some 350 years after the Flood. Yet, men were eager to exalt themselves and resist God’s will. Hence, God had to intervene once more. Only this time He did so by confusing their one common language (Genesis 11:7) and scattering them over the face of the earth (Genesis 11:9).

The lesson here was that corporate government can be corrupted by man’s sinful nature just as well as individuals. It does not have to take thousands of years either. If a leader happens to be a godly man, then government tends to promote man’s common good as well as God’s purposes. However, when a leader is ruled by evil, it can lead to corruption and wickedness on a grand scale. And, just like Satan, fallen man loves power.

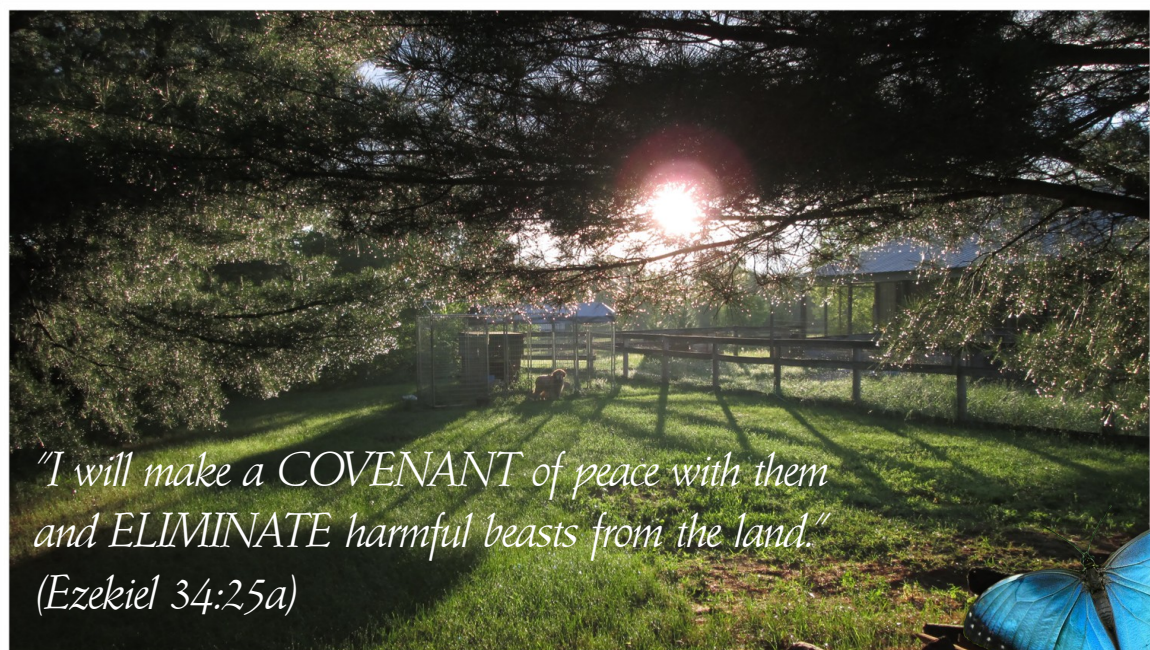
Scattering the people abroad according to their different languages served to limit the influence of any one leader. A reduced lifespan helped to somewhat limit man’s potential for power as well, for people did not live as long after the Flood as they did before the Flood (see Genesis 6:3). God also worked through men by choosing Abraham and his descendants to point the way to Christ—the promised “*seed of the woman*” (Genesis 3:15) who would destroy the works of the evil one. It would still be several hundreds of years before the coming of Christ. However, God made promises to Abraham about his descendants when he was old and had no children as of yet (Genesis 12:1–3, 7; 15:4, 5). And, the

fact that Abraham believed God and God credited this to him as righteousness (Genesis 15:6) pointed the way to the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith.

But God also told Abraham that his descendants would be enslaved and oppressed in a foreign land for four hundred years (Genesis 15:13). This would be a long time to have to endure slavery. Yet, it happened to the people of Israel. The reason was partly because the land that was promised to Abraham and his descendants was still occupied by others, whose iniquity was “*not yet complete*,” as God said in Genesis 15:16. Therefore, the Israelites had to wait for their deliverance. Yet, I believe there was another reason for the delay as well. That is, the Israelites needed to see that slavery was bad—really bad. Otherwise, they would likely not have wanted to leave Egypt at all. For even after coming to the point of crying out for deliverance and seeing God redeem them with great signs and wonders, many still wanted to return. They quickly forgot how bitter their bondage had been under Pharaoh and lost the awe and wonder of the miracles they had just experienced through God’s almighty power. Something similar can happen in the case of human bondage to sin as well, which is kind of the point.

Israel’s deliverance from Egypt was a real historic event. But it was also symbolic in that it pointed ahead to the salvation and deliverance that Christ would eventually achieve for us on the cross. In other words, Christ delivered us from the power of sin and its bondage. Yet Christians sometimes forget what a bondage sin is and allow it back into their lives.

After the exodus from Egypt, God then dealt with the nation of Israel for a period of about 1400 years prior to the advent of Christ. And, one of the first and most important things He did during this time period was to give Israel the Law of Moses. This Law consisted of moral commandments as well as various statutes and ordinances, which were given in order to communicate the righteous requirements of a Holy God to those who were called to be His people. The Israelites were thus expected to practice it. In order to encourage obedience, moreover, God gave the people judges and priests, set up earthly kings, and sent them prophets. These religious leaders were altogether called to help keep the people on track and to point them back to God’s Word should they stumble—but seemingly to no avail. Eventually, almost everyone, including these spiritual leaders, was corrupted by sin. Many Israelites simply grew tired of the sacrificial



*"I will make a COVENANT of peace with them
and ELIMINATE harmful beasts from the land."
(Ezekiel 34:25a)*

By Elliot Madsen

system of approaching the one true God and ended up serving Him by rote. Others abandoned their allegiance to Him altogether in favor of serving gods made of wood or stone. The result was that the entire nation was eventually led away into captivity. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed as well.

Yet, however bad this situation turned out for Israel, giving the people His Law served a very significant purpose. That is, it demonstrated first hand that mankind needs more than a human king and a list of rules and regulations in order to defeat the power of sin. Even the righteous commandments of God written in stone were not enough. Ultimately, hearts need to be changed, which is something the Law cannot do. This, in turn, pointed to the need for a righteous Savior. The Law thus prepared the way for at least some Jews to accept the Gospel. Acting like a tutor, it led them to Christ that they might be saved by faith instead of being condemned by the Law (Galatians 3:23–25).

Many if not most Jews who were alive at the time of Christ were deceived into thinking that they were somehow saved by keeping the Law and, consequently, missed the way of salvation (Romans 9:30–33). Most practicing Jews are yet deceived along these lines. But this situation serves to show that fallen man still has a religious spirit that wants to achieve some degree of righteousness. It is just that he wants to achieve it on his own terms and merits rather than submitting to the Gospel of God's grace (see Romans 10:2–4).

In this present age of grace known as the "Gospel Age" or the "Church Age," we have our own struggles as well. That is, we are likewise experiencing a long period of delay with respect to God's dealings with mankind. Time and again we have seen that long periods of time involving *apparent* inactivity on God's part tends to bring out the fleshly side of man. The current situation involves the fact that we are still waiting for the return of Christ. It has been more than two thousand years since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and His delay in coming back is having an effect upon the Church as well as the world. Much of the

world is simply tired of hearing about the Gospel. Most do not have a saving faith in Christ at all, let alone believe that He is coming back. Yet, Christians are in need of endurance as well. An increasing number of those who call themselves "Christians" are actively becoming involved in the ways of the world and bringing worldly wisdom into the Church. Some of these may not actually be saved. Yet another possibility is that some have become deceived. Deception has been a problem for the Church from the beginning and so it will be in the end times. Even Paul exhorted Timothy to be on guard against it: *"O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called 'knowledge'—which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith"* (1 Timothy 6:20, 21).

The truth is that the current conditions are not at all static. Satan is actively involved in deceiving and discouraging Believers as well as in stealing souls away from the Gospel. He pushes falsehood in the name of "science." He appeals to the flesh and readily uses the media to endorse all sorts of debauchery until people become desensitized to it. He is also pushing for tolerance of sin while at the same time he is preparing people politically to accept the idea of a one-world government. All of this will eventually lead to the rise of the antichrist and the installation of his temporary kingdom. In other words, most people will reject the Gospel.

Indeed, the world seems like it is hastening towards the rule of the antichrist. But Revelation 19 also shows us that the kingdom of the antichrist will be put down by the return of Christ who will then rule and reign on earth with His redeemed saints for a thousand years. This, in turn, brings us back to the original question: Why one thousand years? The answer is that this time period will be necessary in order to test the hearts of the natural people who will be living under the Millennial Reign of Christ. It will also serve to show that man cannot ultimately blame Satan for his rebellion against God. Yes, Satan has cleverly enticed men all throughout human history in order to

promote his lies that lead to destruction and damnation. Satan wants to destroy God's creation and present himself as king. But all he has ever been able to do is appeal to sinful hearts that are only too willing to be deceived—even in the Gospel age. And what happens after the Millennial Reign will show that human hearts can still be prideful and rebellious without the influence of Satan and his temptations as well.

The Millennial Reign will usher in a time of righteousness, peace, and goodness unlike anything humanity has ever known on earth before—at least not since the Fall of Adam. Just think, with Satan locked away, the temptation to sin will be greatly reduced. Man will not be able to challenge the existence of God, for Christ the Creator will be living in their midst. Plus, violence will be nonexistent. It will simply not be tolerated. Yet, what we find at the end of the thousand years when Satan is released from his confinement is that he will be able to *quickly* deceive the nations once more and will try to overthrow the kingdom of Christ (Revelation 20:7–9).

Satan will only be released for a short time at the end of the thousand years (Revelation 20:3). And yet Revelation 20:8 compares the number of his followers to “*the sand of the seashore.*” This shows that most if not all of the natural peoples who will live on earth during this time period will fail to ever receive Christ into their hearts by faith. The presence of Christ and His righteous rule will seemingly make no difference. Perhaps people will be forced to comply with the will of the Lord during the Millennial Reign but will secretly resent it. Or, maybe the ease of life and relative absence of temptation during this time period will deceive many into thinking that they are somehow above sin, which will not be the case. As children of Adam, they will still have fleshly hearts that need to be changed. And, lacking humility as well as the guidance of truth, they might thus become easy targets for Satan's lies once he is released again to deceive and tempt them. Whatever the case, God will bring a hasty end to their rebellion and consume them with fire (Revelation 20:9).

The thousand years will thus answer every

argument to the effect that “the devil made me do it.” The lesson here is that man's problem is ultimately his own spiritual wickedness and not just Satan's power. God will consequently be forever justified in the eyes of man and the angels in what He is about to do—that is, condemn the wicked from every generation of men—just as He will condemn Satan—to the lake of fire forever (Revelation 20:10, 15).

Notice that the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11–15 immediately follows the Millennial Reign of Christ after it ends in rebellion. I believe this is the reason why. God will use this time period to finally prove His point about the fundamental nature of the human heart—namely: “*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings*” (Jeremiah 17:9, 10, KJV).

Another thing we can take away from this situation is that godly government is not the answer to man's sin problem. What could be godlier than a government in which Christ is king? The Millennial Reign will stand in stark contrast to the kingdom of the antichrist in that regard, yet look how it ends. The one and only answer to man's sin problem is the Gospel.

Understanding that eternal, final judgment will someday be leveled against all human wickedness not covered by the blood of Christ may be a sobering reality. But the good news is that no one alive today *has* to come to this end. In this present age of grace, God has given us the Gospel as His powerful remedy to judgment. As the Apostle Paul said, “***For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith as it is written, BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH***” (Romans 1:16, 17, NASB, bold emphasis added). So, let us be encouraged to seize every opportunity to be faithful witnesses unto God's gracious truth by giving the message of the Gospel freely to those in need. Amen.

A Scriptural Primer for the Millennium

The Millennium refers to the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ over the earth from His physical throne at Jerusalem and the Church's rule with Him as His Saints. Woven throughout Scripture are references to the Millennium, which immediately follows the Tribulation. Let's look at some Scriptural details of the Millennium in the context of the events surrounding it.

THE RESURRECTION AND RAPTURE

During the Millennium the Church will have glorified bodies like Jesus, through the Resurrection, which most likely occurs before the Tribulation: *"Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will **reign** with Him for a thousand years"* (Revelation 20:6 NASB). (This is where we get the term, "Millennium," which means a period of a thousand years). Mankind that survives the Tribulation and the battle when Jesus returns will be mortal, *"but those who are considered worthy to attain to that age and the **resurrection** from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; for they cannot even die anymore, because they are like angels, and are sons of God, being sons of the **resurrection**"* (Luke 20:35-36).

All Believers will be resurrected, *"but each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father [at the close of the Millennium], when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet [during the Millennium]. The last enemy that will be abolished is death"* (1 Corinthians 15:23-26).

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The Church will be with Jesus in Heaven for her marriage to the Lamb during the Tribulation of Earth, returning with Him to conquer the earth and destroy the Man of Lawlessness at the conclusion of the Tribulation (Revelation 19:6-21).

REVELATION OF THE MAN OF LAWLESSNESS

"Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God...And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming" (2 Thessalonians 2:1-8). The Man of Lawlessness will be revealed when the Restrainer (the Holy Spirit) is removed from earth—most likely triggering the removal of the Church from earth and the beginning of the Tribulation, the judgment of earth.

TRIBULATION OF EARTH

Only Jesus is found worthy in Heaven to break the seals that mean the judgment of the earth

can proceed: *“And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth’”* (Revelation 5:9-10). Now judgment of the satan’s kingdom on the earth through the Beast commences.

DESOLATION OF THE TRIBULATION

During the Tribulation, God’s wrath will be poured out upon the natural order, but man will also be heavily involved in making the earth a desolation under the influence of the Beast (the Antichrist, the Man of Lawlessness, the **Man of Destruction**): *“The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth”* (Revelation 11:18).

This is no surprise as satan has always been linked to desolation. In Isaiah 14, we see the King of Babylon being compared to Lucifer who in his rebellion against God sought to make himself like God. After he’s cast into the pit, *“Those who see you will stare at you and ponder over you: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a desert and overthrew its cities, who did not let his prisoners go home?’”* (Isaiah 14:16-17 ESV)

During the Tribulation, we see that man and his “savior,” the Man of Destruction will cause desolation on the earth: *“Therefore when you see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand) then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains...For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut*

short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short” (Matthew 24:15-16; 21-22 NASB).

“And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued” (Daniel 12:1b).



Desolation of earth (overlooking Jerusalem)

Unless God ended the rebellion on earth, no life (human, animal, or plant) would survive the desolation during the Tribulation (part God’s wrath, part man’s self-destructive works). Desolation is not God’s desire, *“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited)”* (Isaiah 45:18a).

“And the earth will become desolate because of her inhabitants, On account of the fruit of their deeds” (Micah 7:13).

CHRIST’S RETURN

Because of man’s rebellion and the desolation that man brings upon earth, Jesus will lay waste to the world of satan’s government at His return in preparation for His restoration. Of that day, He says, *“I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. Now like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant. I will lay waste the*

mountains and hills And wither all their vegetation; I will make the rivers into coastlands And dry up the ponds. I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, In paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them And rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone” (Isaiah 42:14-16).

“Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left” (Isaiah 24:1-6).

We see this same event detailed in Revelation: “When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, ‘Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of Their wrath has come, and who can stand?’” (Revelation 6:12-17 ESV)

“Then the LORD will go forth and fight against

those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on **the Mount of Olives**, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley” (Zechariah 14:3-4b).



“On that day the LORD will protect the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the feeblest among them on that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the angel of the LORD, going before them. And on that day I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on Me, on Him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over Him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning for Haddad-rimmon in the plain of Megiddo” (Zechariah 12:8-11).

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war. His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems; and He has a name written on Him which no one knows except Himself. He is clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And **the armies which are**

in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses. From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS' (Revelation 19:11-16).

"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evil-doer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the LORD of hosts, 'so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,' says the LORD of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

"The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; Let the many islands be glad. Clouds and thick darkness surround Him; Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne. Fire goes before Him And burns up His adversaries round about. His lightnings lit up the world; The earth saw and trembled. The mountains melted like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory" (Psalm 97:1-6).

So we see that the earth is going to be in a bad way when Jesus returns, but Jesus will set up His Kingdom in Jerusalem and begin to repair the damage.

SATAN BOUND

At this point, satan is bound so that he will not be able to deceive, tempt, or seduce the peoples of the world (this is likely the scene depicted in Isaiah of people marveling over his powerlessness in the abyss): *"Then I saw an*

angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" (Revelation 20:1-6).

SAINTS TO RULE WITH CHRIST

"He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, TO HIM I WILL GIVE AUTHORITY OVER THE NATIONS; AND HE SHALL RULE THEM WITH A ROD OF IRON, AS THE VESSELS OF THE POTTER ARE BROKEN TO PIECES, as I also have received authority from My Father; and I will give him the morning star" (Revelation 2:26-28).

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but Your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding Your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear Your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth" (Revelation 11:17-18).

And the Twelve Apostles will be given authority over the nation of Israel: *“And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, **in the regeneration** when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’”* (Matthew 19:28).

“You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Luke 22:28-31).

The author of Hebrews says that Believers in the Church age *“have **tasted** the goodness of the word of God and **the powers of the age to come**”* (Hebrews 6:4b-5). This means that all the ACTS of the apostles and disciples of Christ were but a taste of the powers they would have during the Millennium. We see in Scripture that those in Christ could speak any language (Acts 2:6), heal physical trauma (Acts 20:10), repair bodies broken from birth (Acts 3:8), heal sickness and disease (Luke 10:9), had power over spirits that manipulate/possess people (Acts 16:18), could perform great wonders (Acts 6:8), bring dead people back to life (Acts 9:40), see the future (Acts 11:28), punish the ungodly (Acts 13:11), suffer no harm from dangerous animals (Acts 28:3-6), and much more. *“Do you not know that we will **judge angels**? How much more matters of this life?”* (1 Corinthians 6:3)

PERIOD OF RESTORATION

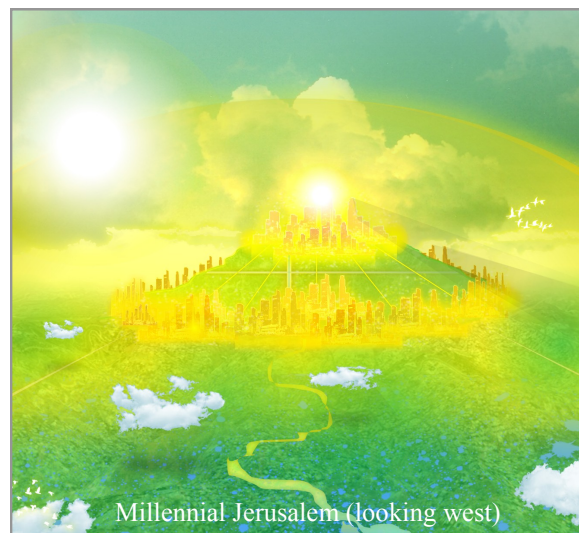
“And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed” (Daniel 7:13b-14).

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins



Modern Jerusalem (looking west)

*may be wiped away, in order that times of **refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the **period of restoration of all things** about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time”* (Acts 3:19-21).



Millennial Jerusalem (looking west)

“In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel. Those who are left in Zion, who remain in Jerusalem, will be called holy, all who are recorded among the living in Jerusalem. The Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion; He will cleanse the bloodstains from Je-

rusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire. Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over those who assemble there a cloud of smoke by day and a glow of flaming fire by night; over everything the glory will be a canopy. It will be a shelter and shade from the heat of the day, and a refuge and hiding place from the storm and rain” (Isaiah 4:2-6 ESV). Perhaps this canopy over Mount Zion is protection from the awful environmental state of the desolate earth at the beginning of the Millennium period – caused by the “destroyers who destroy the earth,” “the abomination that causes desolation,” and the “wrath of God.”

On His Mountain, Jesus will restore all things: *“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; And His resting place will be glorious”* (Isaiah 11:1-10 NASB).

Jesus will restore nature on His Holy Mountain and abolish war for Israel (survivors of the Tribulation): *“In that day I will also make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds of the sky and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword and war from the land, and will make them lie down in safety. I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me in righteousness and in justice, In lovingkindness and in compassion, And I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness. Then you will know the LORD”* (Hosea 2:18-20).



“I will make a covenant of peace with them and eliminate harmful beasts from the land so that they may live securely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places around My hill a blessing. And I will cause showers to come down in their season; they will be showers of blessing. Also the tree of the field will yield its fruit and the earth will yield its increase, and they will be secure on their land. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I have broken the bars of their yoke and have delivered them from the hand of those who enslaved them. They will no longer be a prey to the nations, and the beasts of the earth will not devour them; but they will live securely, and no one will make them afraid. And I will provide for them renowned plantations so that they shall no more be consumed with hunger in the land, and no longer suffer the reproach of the nations. And they shall know that I am the LORD their God with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My peo-

ple, declares the Lord GOD. And you are My sheep, human sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Lord GOD” (Ezekiel 34:25-31).

The Saints will have a part in freeing creation from futility through our governance that Jesus will give us: “For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:19-21).

King Jesus will personally restore Israel: “Indeed, the Lord will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places. And her wilderness He will make like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in her, Thanksgiving and sound of a melody” (Isaiah 51:3).

“Thus says the Lord, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain’” (Zechariah 8:3).

“‘In that day,’ declares the LORD, ‘I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted. I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever’” (Micah 4:6-7).

God’s promise to Israel at this time (survivors of the Tribulation): “Arise, shine; for your light has come, And the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness will cover the earth And deep darkness the peoples; But the LORD will rise upon you And His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes round about and see; They all gather together, they come to you. Your sons will come from afar, And your

daughters will be carried in the arms. Then you will see and be radiant, And your heart will thrill and rejoice; Because the abundance of the sea will be turned to you, The wealth of the nations will come to you. A multitude of camels will cover you, The young camels of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba will come; They will bring gold and frankincense, And will bear good news of the praises of the LORD. All the flocks of Kedar will be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth will minister to you; They will go up with acceptance on My altar, And I shall glorify My glorious house. Who are these who fly like a cloud And like the doves to their lattices? Surely the coastlands will wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, For the name of the LORD your God, And for the Holy One of Israel because He has glorified you. Foreigners will build up your walls, And their kings will minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, And in My favor I have had compassion on you. Your gates will be open continually; They will not be closed day or night, So that men may bring to you the wealth of the nations, With their kings led in procession. For the nation and the kingdom which will not serve you will perish, And the nations will be utterly ruined. The glory of Lebanon will come to you, The juniper, the box tree and the cypress together, To beautify the place of My sanctuary; And I shall make the place of My feet glorious. The sons of those who afflicted you will come bowing to you, And all those who despised you will bow themselves at the soles of your feet; And they will call you the city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated With no one passing through, I will make you an everlasting pride, A joy from generation to generation. You will also suck the milk of nations And suck the breast of kings; Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your Savior And your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob. Instead of bronze I will bring gold, And instead of iron I will bring silver, And instead of wood, bronze, And instead of stones, iron. And I will make peace your administrators And right-

eousness your overseers. Violence will not be heard again in your land, Nor devastation or destruction within your borders; But you will call your walls salvation, and your gates praise. [Here we transition into Eternity with the New Heaven and New Earth described at the end of the Millennium] No longer will you have the sun for light by day, Nor for brightness will the moon give you light; But you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And your God for your glory. Your sun will no longer set, Nor will your moon wane; For you will have the LORD for an everlasting light, And the days of your mourning will be over. Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified. The smallest one will become a clan, And the least one a mighty nation. I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time" (Isaiah 60).

"'But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem for rejoicing And her people for gladness. I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Will be thought accursed. They will build houses and inhabit them; They will also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build and another inhabit, They will not plant and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, so will be the days of My people, And My chosen ones will wear out the work of their hands. They will not labor in vain, Or bear children for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them. It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain,' says the LORD" (Isaiah 65:18-25).

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she gave birth to a boy. Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons. 'Shall I bring to the point of birth and not give delivery?' says the LORD. 'Or shall I who gives delivery shut the womb?' says your God. 'Be joyful with Jerusalem and rejoice for her, all you who love her; Be exceedingly glad with her, all you who mourn over her, That you may nurse and be satisfied with her comforting breasts, That you may suck and be delighted with her bountiful bosom.' For thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I extend peace to her like a river, And the glory of the nations like an overflowing stream; And you will be nursed, you will be carried on the hip and fondled on the knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted in Jerusalem.' Then you will see this, and your heart will be glad, And your bones will flourish like the new grass; And the hand of the LORD will be made known to His servants, But He will be indignant toward His enemies. For behold, the LORD will come in fire And His chariots like the whirlwind, To render His anger with fury, And His rebuke with flames of fire. For the LORD will execute judgment by fire And by His sword on all flesh, And those slain by the LORD will be many. 'Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go to the gardens, Following one in the center, Who eat swine's flesh, detestable things and mice, Will come to an end altogether,' declares the LORD. 'For I know their works and their thoughts; the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and see My glory. I will set a sign among them and will send survivors from them to the nations: Tarshish, Put, Lud, Meshech, Tubal and Javan, to the distant coastlands that have neither heard My fame nor seen My glory. And they will declare My glory among the nations. Then they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as a grain offering to the LORD, on horses, in chariots, in litters, on mules and on camels, to My holy mountain Jerusalem,'

says the LORD, 'just as the sons of Israel bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. I will also take some of them for priests and for Levites,' says the LORD" (Isaiah 66:7-21).

Jesus will rebuild and build up Jerusalem: "For the Lord has built up Zion; He has appeared in His glory" (Psalm 102:16).

The gentile survivors of the Tribulation will stream to Jerusalem: "Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths.' For the law will go forth from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war" (Isaiah 2:2-4).

Sinners cannot dwell in Zion and there is peace: "'You who are far away, hear what I have done; And you who are near, acknowledge My might.' Sinners in Zion are terrified; Trembling has seized the godless. 'Who among us can live with the consuming fire? Who among us can live with continual burning?' He who walks righteously and speaks with sincerity, He who rejects unjust gain And shakes his hands so that they hold no bribe; He who stops his ears from hearing about bloodshed And shuts his eyes from looking upon evil; He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given him, His water will be sure. Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will behold a far-distant land. Your heart will meditate on terror: 'Where is he who counts? Where is he who weighs? Where is he who counts the tow-

ers?' You will no longer see a fierce people [...] Look upon Zion, the city of our appointed feasts; Your eyes will see Jerusalem, an undisturbed habitation, A tent which will not be folded; Its stakes will never be pulled up, Nor any of its cords be torn apart" (Isaiah 33:13-20).

"O LORD, You are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. For You have made a city into a heap, A fortified city into a ruin; A palace of strangers is a city no more, It will never be rebuilt. Therefore a strong people will glorify You; Cities of ruthless nations will revere You. For You have been a defense for the helpless, A defense for the needy in his distress, A refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; For the breath of the ruthless Is like a rain storm against a wall. Like heat in drought, You subdue the uproar of aliens; Like heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced. The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken. And it will be said in that day, 'Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.' For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain, And Moab will be trodden down in his place As straw is trodden down in the water of a manure pile. And he will spread out his hands in the middle of it As a swimmer spreads out his hands to swim, But the Lord will lay low his pride together with the trickery of his hands. The unassailable fortifications of your walls He will bring down, Lay low and cast to the ground, even to the dust" (Isaiah 25).

“‘Therefore wait for Me,’ declares the LORD, ‘For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, To assemble kingdoms, To pour out on them My indignation, All My burning anger; For all the earth will be devoured By the fire of My zeal. For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, That all of them may call on the name of the LORD, To serve Him shoulder to shoulder. From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia My worshipers, My dispersed ones, Will bring My offerings. In that day you will feel no shame Because of all your deeds By which you have rebelled against Me; For then I will remove from your midst Your proud, exulting ones, And you will never again be haughty On My holy mountain. But I will leave among you A humble and lowly people, And they will take refuge in the name of the LORD. The remnant of Israel will do no wrong And tell no lies, Nor will a deceitful tongue Be found in their mouths; For they will feed and lie down With no one to make them tremble.’ Shout for joy, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; You will fear disaster no more. In that day it will be said to Jerusalem: ‘Do not be afraid, O Zion; Do not let your hands fall limp. The LORD your God is in your midst, A victorious warrior. He will exult over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. ‘I will gather those who grieve about the appointed feasts— They came from you, O Zion; The reproach of exile is a burden on them. Behold, I am going to deal at that time With all your oppressors, I will save the lame And gather the outcast, And I will turn their shame into praise and renown In all the earth. At that time I will bring you in, Even at the time when I gather you together; Indeed, I will give you renown and praise Among all the peoples of the earth, When I restore your fortunes before your eyes,’ Says the LORD” (Zephaniah 3:8-10).

“Then the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes, with great wrath I am jealous for her.”’ Thus says the LORD, ‘I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts will be called the Holy Mountain.’ Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Old men and old women will again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each man with his staff in his hand because of age. And the streets of the city will be filled with boys and girls playing in its streets.’ Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘If it is too difficult in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, will it also be too difficult in My sight?’ declares the LORD of hosts. Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.’ Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Let your hands be strong, you who are listening in these days to these words from the mouth of the prophets, those who spoke in the day that the foundation of the house of the LORD of hosts was laid, to the end that the temple might be built. For before those days there was no wage for man or any wage for animal; and for him who went out or came in there was no peace because of his enemies, and I set all men one against another. But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days,’ declares the LORD of hosts. ‘For there will be peace for the seed: the vine will yield its fruit, the land will yield its produce and the heavens will give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things. It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.’ For thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Just as I purposed to do harm to you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘and I have not relented, so I have again purposed in these days to do good to Je-

Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Do not fear! These are the things which you should do: speak the truth to one another; judge with truth and judgment for peace in your gates. Also let none of you devise evil in your heart against another, and do not love perjury; for all these are what I hate,' declares the LORD...Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go." So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.' Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you"'" (Zachariah 8).

King Jesus will build a new Temple in Jerusalem, and modified Mosaic sacrifices will commence for the unsaved who survived the Tribulation (Ezekiel 40-48).

END OF THE MILLENNIUM

"When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever" (Revelation 20:7-10).

JUDGEMENT OF ALL THE WICKED

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for

them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:11-15).

NEW HEAVEN, EARTH, AND JERUSALEM

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away'" (Revelation 21:1-4).



May/June Newsletter Theme— THE RAPTURE Submission Deadline: May 29 Publish Date: June 7



The Rapture...

- What is the Rapture?
- What causes the Rapture?
- When does it happen?

Verses on The Rapture (from the NASB version)

1 Thessalonians 4:14-18 — *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:1-10 — *“Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he will be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way. Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.”*



Further Out—Jul/Aug 2016: GOOD WORKS