

The Kingdom of God

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The Kingdom of Heaven is mentioned 33 times in the Gospel of Matthew and the Kingdom of God is mentioned 5 times. Mark and Luke refer to the Kingdom of God 63 times but John only mentions the kingdom twice in John 3:3,5. This is significant since the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) were written before the fall of Jerusalem and John's Gospel was written about A.D.90, or 20 years after the fall of Jerusalem when the Church was predominantly Gentile.

The Lord Jesus came in the age of Law when Israel was still God's messenger to the nations under the Old Covenant. The message Jesus preached was: "*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matt.4:17). The Gospel of the Kingdom had a special connection with the nation of Israel for when He appointed twelve apostles He told them:

*"Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to **the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matt.10:5-7).

When a woman of Canaan wanted the Lord to cast a devil out of her daughter Jesus replied:

"I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matt.15:24).

To the Samaritan woman at Sychar's well Jesus said:

*"Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for **salvation is of the Jews**"* (John 4:22).

However, Jesus indicated that "*the hour cometh, **and now is**, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth*" (John 4:23); this happened at Pentecost.

When Jesus stood before Pilate He was charged with being the King of the Jews and He affirmed that He was the King of the Jews but that His kingdom was not going to be established in

the immediate future. He said:

“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but NOW is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice” (John 18:36).

Christ’s Kingdom was not like the ungodly kingdoms of men and in any case, it was not going to be established on earth **NOW**: it couldn’t be because His nation had just rejected Him as their King. Christ’s Kingdom was **future when the nation believed** His testimony.

The Kingdom of God (or heaven) was essentially Jewish and it was promised by the prophets of Israel throughout the Old Testament. After the Church was born on the Day of Pentecost A.D.32, the Gospel was first preached to the nation of Israel calling upon her to repent of rejection of Jesus Christ, as Peter indicated:

*“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. And **he shall send Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive **until the times of restitution of all things**”* (Acts 3:19-21).

Ten days before Pentecost the disciples asked the risen Lord:

*“Lord, wilt thou at this time **restore again the kingdom to Israel?**”* (Acts 1:6).

Jesus did not say that the kingdom would not be restored to Israel but that it wasn’t the right time and there must be an interval in which the Gospel would be preached throughout the world. James outlined God’s program in dealing with the matter of Gentiles who were coming into a predominantly Jewish Church:

*“Simeon hath declared how God **at the first did visit the Gentiles**, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the*

words of the prophets; as it is written, *After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things*" (Acts 1:14-17).

After the return of Jesus Christ the nation of Israel will rule in the Kingdom of God and the throne of David will be restored. In the meanwhile, a Gentile Church is being called out.

By the end of the Book of Acts, Paul addressed the Jewish elders at Rome and quoted Isaiah's prophecy that the nation would be blinded: he concluded,

"Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it" (Acts 28:28).

Thus John's words written about A.D.90 were fulfilled:

"He came unto his own (land), and his own (people) received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:11-12).

In Scripture, Israel is described as a natural branch of the olive tree which has been plucked out but Paul states that when Israel repents, she will be grafted back into her own olive tree. Israel's restoration is foretold in Romans ch. 11:

*"And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in **again**... blindness in part is happened to Israel, **UNTIL** the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so **all Israel shall be saved**"* (Rom.11:25-26).

The position taken by both Protestant Reformed theologians and the Roman Catholic Church is that God has no future for Israel. They hold to a general resurrection at the 2nd Advent when all saved and unsaved will be raised to appear before the "great white throne" (Rev.20:11) of judgment where their eternal destinies will be determined. The logical outcome of this theology is that nobody would be left on earth to inhabit a kingdom of God and so they deny the many scriptures that speak of Israel ruling in an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years or

of Christ reigning on the throne of David from Jerusalem. The kingdom of God is spiritualized and the Church is considered a “spiritual Israel” that inherits all the promises given to Abraham and the Patriarchs.

To support the Amillennial teaching theologians deny a literal interpretation of all the Old Testament prophecies and the book of the Revelation: their position is essentially one of denial and ridicule of those who dare to believe that the Bible, in both Old and New Testaments, can be interpreted literally and that symbols are to be understood only in accordance with the interpretation given by Scripture itself.

Jeremiah made it clear that God will never abandon Israel and that the throne of David would be reinstated:

*“Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, **so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob:** for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them” (Jer.33:25-26).*

With such an assurance we have no doubt that the kingdom of God will be an earthly kingdom with Christ reigning on the throne of David just as Gabriel indicated to Mary:

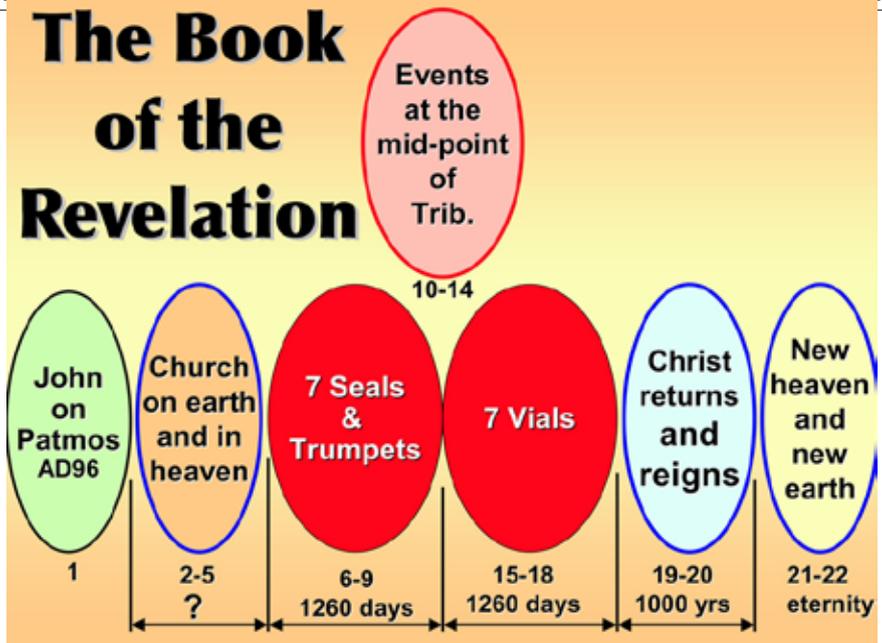
“Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:30-33).

Let us examine some of the many Scriptures that speak of the millennial kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Millennial (1,000 years) Kingdom

The Book of the Revelation is a chronological outline of God’s prophetic program from the beginning of the Church age to eternity. Chapters 1 to 3 describe Christendom as 7 golden candlesticks and the Lord Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, the

The Book of the Revelation



beginning and the ending, viewing the testimony of the **seven stages of Christendom** from the days of the Apostles to the Rapture. The saved remnant within Christendom is described as *“overcomers”* in each stage of Church history.

Ephesus is the Apostolic era; **Smyrna** is the period of 10 Pagan Persecutions; **Pergamos** represents the State Church beginning with Constantine (AD 313); **Thyatira** began with Pope Gregory and the Papacy (AD590) and goes into the Tribulation; **Sardis** is the Reformation Church (1516); **Philadelphia** is the great Missionary Church of the 18th and 19th centuries and **Laodicea** is the Charismatic/Ecumenical Church beginning in the 20th century.

This Church Age concludes with the **Rapture of the True Church** in chapters 4 and 5 where John foresees himself caught up through the open door into heaven.

From chapter 6 to chapter 18 the **Great Tribulation**, a period of 7 years, is described in detail. The **first half of the 7 years** is seen

In chapters 6 to 9; events occurring at the **mid-point** are seen in chapters 10 to 14; and the **second half** (42 months) describes the period when Satan empowers Antichrist and the vial judgments are poured out.

During the first half of the 7 years **Israel turns to the Lord** and is persecuted by Antichrist in the 2nd half of the Tribulation.

Chapters 19 and 20 give a vivid description of **Christ coming WITH His bride**, the Church, and the marriage supper of the Lamb is held on earth.

*“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude...saying, Alleluia: for the **Lord God omnipotent reigneth**. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and **his wife hath made herself ready**...Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb” (Rev.19:6-9).*

Antichrist and his armies are smitten and cast into the lake of fire and Satan is bound for 1,000 years in the Abyss (Bottomless Pit) while **Christ reigns** on the throne of David as King of kings over the whole earth. At the end of the 1,000 years Satan is loosed from the Abyss to test the nations and he raises an army that encircles Jerusalem. Christ destroys Satan’s army with fire from heaven and this is followed by the **resurrection to damnation** when the **unsaved** are raised and cast into the lake of fire.

Chapters 21 and 22 follow with heaven on earth for all eternity. The millennial saints are given resurrection bodies (Rev.20:5) before the earth is renovated with fire. The Church will dwell in the New Jerusalem, redeemed Israel around the City, and the *“nations of them that are saved”* will occupy the New Earth.

The millennial Kingdom is clearly indicated in chapter 20 where it is mentioned six times that the kingdom of Christ on earth is a period of 1,000 years.

- 1) Satan is bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.
- 2) Satan is loosed at the conclusion of the 1,000 years
- 3) The Tribulation martyrs are raised and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.
- 4) The remainder of the dead are raised at the conclusion of the 1,000 years.

Those who deny that Christ will literally establish His Kingdom on earth for 1,000 years are called Amillennialists. The word A-millennialist means “no millennium” just as a-theist means “no God”. These theologians deny any kingdom of Christ **on earth after His return** in glory and power.

How do Amillennialists interpret the 1,000 years? They selectively spiritualize the entire Book of the Revelation. Thus they can say that 1,000 years is just a symbolic way of saying “a long period of time” and represents Christ’s kingdom on earth which they think began when Christ came the first time. Thus they will tell us that we are in the millennium now and Christ is reigning over His Church which is His kingdom on earth.

It naturally follows that all the prophecies given to Israel, of the Kingdom of Christ on earth in the Old Testament, must also be spiritualized. To do this they then must claim that Israel was the “church” in the Old Testament and that the nation of Israel has been replaced by the Church in the New Testament.

When it comes to the resurrections, Amillennialists cannot accept that the Old Testament saints have already been raised with Christ, or that those who are “*in Christ*”, the Church, will be Raptured before the Tribulation, and that the Tribulation martyrs will be raise at the Lord’s coming: their denial of a millennial kingdom after Christ returns has forced them into believing in a “general resurrection” of all the saved and unsaved together when Christ returns.

If the 1,000 years in Revelation 20 is not a literal 1,000 years then how do they interpret **other periods** in the Revelation? We read that two prophets will testify for 1,260 days in the first half of the Tribulation; that Israel will be persecuted by Antichrist for 1,260 days of the second half of the Tribulation while Antichrist reigns for 42 months.

These periods correspond with the 70th “week” of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan.9:27) in which the future Roman prince (Antichrist) will interfere with Jewish sacrifices in the rebuilt Temple. They also correspond with the periods described as “a

time, times, and a half a time", or three and a half years in Daniel chapters 7 and 12. To be consistent these must be literal periods and therefore the 1,000 years must also be taken literally.

Amillennialists will agree with a literal interpretation of the first 69 "weeks" of Daniel's prophecy (Dan.9:24-26) being 483 literal years from the command to rebuild Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah to "Messiah the Prince" because it has already been fulfilled, but they can't admit that the 70th "week" is to be literally fulfilled immediately preceding Christ's return.

The Everlasting Kingdom

If the Kingdom of God is to last for 1,000 years, How do we explain the fact that some Scriptures state that the Lord's reign will be for ever? Gabriel's message to Mary states:

*"...the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob **for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end**" (Luke 1:32-33).*

The millennial Kingdom is but the **first stage** in Christ's kingdom. When the 1,000 years are finished there will be a New Heaven and New Earth and the New Jerusalem will come down from God out of heaven. We read:

*"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, **Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God**" (Rev.21:3).*

Christ's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and it will be on earth for all eternity: First, it will on earth for 1,000 years and after that, on earth for all eternity. Paul wrote:

*"Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. **For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet**" (1Cor.15:24-25).*

Rebellion began when Satan sought to take the throne of heaven and was followed by one third of the angels of heaven. When God created man and gave him dominion over the earth Satan

took that dominion away and became the “*god of this world*”. All the kingdoms of this world were given to Satan as he told the Lord on the Mount of Temptation We read:

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it” (Luke 4:5-6).

God prepared a terrible place of eternal torment for the Devil and his angels called, the Lake of Fire or *Gehenna*, but first He must rescue the human race from Satan’s domain. The human race became implicated in Satan’s rebellion when Eve was **deceived** by the serpent and ever since demons and men have rejected the authority of Almighty God.

Ever since Eve’s sin, Satan has been the “*the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience*” (Eph.2:2).

However, God has responded by giving the task of recovering the Kingdom to His beloved Son and that led Him to come down from heaven to the earth, to dwell as a man among men that “*through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*” (Heb.2:14-15).

For 6,000 years now God has been implementing a rescue plan for mankind who have been deceived by Satan. Satan’s work is to incite rebellion against the throne of God but the Son of God has been appointed to the throne to subdue all rebellion and to deliver the Kingdom again to God:

*“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, **until I make thine enemies thy footstool**. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power”* (Ps.110:1-3).

When Jesus came the first time He entered Satan’s domain and Satan offered Him the kingdoms of this world if only He would worship him as God. But Jesus refused and went to the cross,

passing through death which Satan had brought on the human race. Christ arose showing that He could give eternal life to all who believed and thus lead humanity back into the Kingdom of God by trusting Him

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that **through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage**” (Heb.2:14-15).*

Calvary was the key to the master plan to rescue and redeem mankind who had become the victim of Satan’s revolt against the Kingdom of God. Death, is the consequence of sin that separates man from God and death must be abolished in resurrection. Satan was defeated when Christ rose from the dead and became the firstfruits of all from the dead: Some will be raised to eternal life and some to eternal damnation.

Since the time Adam sinned, man has been given the opportunity to escape from Satan’s kingdom

*“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath **delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**” (Col.1:12-13).*

The conflict between God and Satan will reach a fever pitch in the Tribulation. First, Satan will seek to overthrow the throne of God and there will be war in heaven (Rev.12:7-9). In that war Michael and his angels will cast Satan down to the earth where he will rage for the final 1,260 days seeking to exterminate every person who has given allegiance to Christ. He will possess a *“man of sin”*, Antichrist, and demand the worship of all men.

As the Tribulation reaches the half-way mark heaven anticipates the reign of Christ over the earth over which Satan has long had dominion. We read:

*“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, **The kingdoms of this world are become the***

kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Rev.11:15).

Christ will respond to Satan’s violence by coming in glory and power with all the armies of heaven: Antichrist and his followers will be cast into the lake of fire while Satan will be confined to the bottomless pit for 1,000 years.

At last, Christ will reign over the earth and men will be given a final opportunity to submit to the Saviour without Satan’s deception. God has no conscripts in His Kingdom and for 1,000 years men will have the opportunity to willingly trust in the Saviour of sinners and receive eternal life.

At the end of that 1,000 years Satan will be released to test the loyalty of men and will deceive a great multitude who will rise up against Christ as He reigns over His millennial Kingdom from Jerusalem: The Lord will destroy those armies and Satan will be cast for ever into the Lake of Fire.

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet” (1Cor.15:24-25).

Victory is assured and when Satan with all his hosts, together with every unsaved soul, are consigned to eternal torment, Jesus Christ will have completed the task which the Father gave Him to do and He will present the Kingdom that was taken by Satan, back to the Father.

The millennial Kingdom is just the prelude to the eternal kingdom.

Christ will be King over the Earth

When Christ returns in glory and power *“immediately after the tribulation”* (Matt.24:29) He will appear as *“King of kings and Lord of lords”* (Rev.19:16) which indicates that kings on earth will serve Him. After describing the return of Christ to earth when *“His feet shall stand...upon the Mount of Olives”*, Zechariah states: *“the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one”* (Zech.14:16).

The Psalmist states:

*"Yet have I set **my king upon my holy hill of Zion**. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Ps.2:6-11).*

Isaiah is very specific. After describing the awful judgment of the Great Tribulation in Isaiah ch.24:1-22 he writes that Christ will come and reign from Jerusalem:

*"Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when **the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously**" (Isa.24:23).*

Jeremiah spoke of a day when Jerusalem would be the throne of the Lord, Israel will be restored to the Land, and the whole world would go to Jerusalem to worship:

*"At that time **they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers**" (Jer.3:17-18).*

A Magnificent Temple will be Built at Jerusalem

Worship in Christ's kingdom will be centred in a magnificent Temple at Jerusalem. Ezekiel indicates this:

*"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them (Israel); it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will **set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them: yea, I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And the heathen shall know that I the LORD do sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary shall be in the midst of them for evermore**" (Ezek.37:26-28).*

Ezekiel was given the specifications for the millennial Temple to be built at Jerusalem after Christ returns. This Temple should

not be confused with the Temple built in the Tribulation which will be occupied by Antichrist for the last half of the 7-year Tribulation. Sacrifices will be offered in the millennial Temple and the priests, the sons of Zadok will officiate. Sacrifices will be in **memorial** of Christ's sacrifice.

The Lord's presence will be in His Temple and the glory of God will be visible so that the Kings of the earth will go up to Jerusalem to see the glory that will light up the city:

"Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee...And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising" (Isa.60:1-3).

*"The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but **the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light**, and thy God thy glory" (Isa.60:19).*

After describing the millennial Temple Ezekiel indicated that the throne of God would be located in the Temple:

*"And he said unto me, Son of man, **the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever**, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcasses of their kings in their high places" (Ezek.43:7).*

Vast changes will take place in the topography of Israel when Christ returns. An earthquake will demolish the existing structures and raise up an area to form a plateau. The Mosques and the Tribulation Temple will be demolished as the Lord arises to shake terribly the earth (Isa.2:12-21). The mount of Olives on the east of Jerusalem will be split making a great valley from the city down through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea, a distance of 25 km.

*"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and **the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west**, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south" (Zech.14:4).*

Jerusalem is on Mount Zion but the whole area will be flattened from Geba 6 km North of Jerusalem to Rimmon 15 km north of Beersheba or 55 km from Jerusalem. **The total length of this plain will be 61 km.**

At the present time Jerusalem is 795m above sea level and Beersheba is only 268 above sea level and if the whole area from Rimmon, just 15 km north of Beersheba to Geba is to become a plateau then Rimmon will need to be raised perhaps 500 meters. That is just what the Bible says will happen!

“All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place” (Zech.14:10).

The first stage of construction of any project is the **bulk earth works** and God will do just that when Christ returns. A glorious Temple must be constructed at Jerusalem in which Christ will dwell in His glory and the whole land divided among the tribes of Israel as described in Ezekiel chapter 48.

The earthquake that will occur when Christ returns may well be the global earthquake described in Rev.16:18. This will happen as the last of the Tribulation judgments; in the seventh vial judgment Jerusalem will be divided into three parts. The fear it will cause is likened to the experience of Israel when a terrible earthquake struck in the days of King Uzziah (Zech.14:5).

Perhaps God will use this earthquake to bury the armies that come against Jerusalem just as He caused the earth to open up and swallow Dathan and Abiram:

“The earth opened and swallowed up Dathan and covered the company of Abiram. And a fire was kindled in their company; the flame burned up the wicked” (Ps.106:17-18).

When the northern army comes into the land in the first half of the Tribulation the Jews will be burying the dead in the valley of Hamongog in Jordan on the *“east of the sea (Dead Sea)”* for seven months (Ezek.39:12) but Armageddon will have many more bodies that will need to be buried. The kings of the east will contribute 200 million! If God burned and buried the families of Dathan and Abiram, He may do the same after Armageddon.

Such an earthquake will disrupt Antichrist's attempts to destroy God's people Israel. It will also provide a way of escape from Jerusalem through the valley from Jerusalem to the Judean wilderness: "Ye shall flee to (or through) the valley of the mountains" (Zech.14:5).

The Land Divided Among the 12 Tribes

At the present time only about half of the known Jews are living in the Land. There may well be many millions more who are not presently recognized as Jews. These could be the remnants of the lost 10 tribes.

The Pathan tribes in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Kashmir number about 15 million and there is considerable evidence that these are remnants of the 10 tribes of the northern kingdom of Israel that was scattered by the Assyrian Kings in the 7th and 8th centuries. In the book, *Lost Tribes from Assyria*, by A Avihail and A Brin we read:

"There is interesting evidence about the preservation among the (Pathan) tribes of family trees on their origin, and on their relationship to the fathers of the Israeli people. These family trees are well preserved. Some of them are penned in golden lettering on deerskin. The names of the tribes speak for themselves: the tribe of Harabni (in the Afghan tongue) is the tribe of Reuben, the Shinwari is Shimeon, the Levani – Levi, Daftani – Naftali, Jaji – Gad, Ashuri – Asher, Yusuf Su, sons of Josef, Afridi – Ephraim, and so on."

Ezekiel prophesied that the two kingdoms of Israel would become one kingdom never to be separated again in the last days:

"And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be



no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all. Neither shall they defile themselves ... with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God. And **David my servant shall be king over them**" (Ezek.37:22-24).

These Pathan tribes are Sunni Muslims and if "*all Israel shall be saved*" in the Tribulation then there must of necessity be **a mighty work of the Spirit of God among Muslims in the Tribulation.** We know that Israel will turn to the Lord when the combined forces of Russia, Turkey, Iran, Libya and Sudan invade Israel and that the vast Islamic army will be decimated by Divine intervention (Ezek.38/39). Only then will Israel know that "*I am the Lord*" (Ezek.39:22).

Before this, soon after the Rapture, the Muslim Egyptians will cry out to the Lord: many will be saved (Isa.19:18-25) and the 144,000 Jewish preachers in the Tribulation will no doubt waste no time proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom to these Pathans. The destruction of Egypt and the total overthrow of the Islamic army led by Russia will be evidence enough that God is on the side of His people once they turn to the Lord. We read:

"And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them" (Ezek.39:23).

When Christ returns, the first thing He will do is gather His redeemed people from wherever they have been scattered.

"He shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect (Israel) from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. (Matt.24:31).

God said the same thing through Ezekiel:

"When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; THEN shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there" (Ezek.39:27-28).

When Christ returns the world will be in a chaotic state with debris and junk strewn everywhere. A massive clean up will be necessary. The population of Israel will be greatly reduced but after the lost and scattered tribes return, the remnant in Israel will be surprised at how many survived. In fact the land will be filled:

*“For thy waste and thy desolate places, and the land of thy destruction, shall even now be **too narrow by reason of the inhabitants**, and they that swallowed thee up shall be far away. The children which thou shalt have, after thou hast lost the other, shall say again in thine ears, **The place is too strait for me: give place to me that I may dwell**. Then shalt thou say in thine heart, Who hath begotten me these, seeing I have lost my children, and am desolate, a captive, and removing to and fro? and who hath brought up these? Behold, I was left alone; these, where had they been?”* (Isa.49:19-21).

The Kingdom will Begin with All Saved Inhabitants

At the end of the age there will be a period of 7 years of Great Tribulation and as we have seen, during that time *“all Israel shall be saved”* (Rom.11:26-29): two thirds in the land will perish but the one third that remain will all turn to the Lord on one day (Zech.13:8-9). In addition, through the testimony of the Jews, many Gentiles will be saved so that when Christ returns, He will set up the *“throne of His glory”* and before Him shall be gathered all the surviving nations. There will be three classes as mentioned in Matt.25:31-46; the Lord’s brethren (Jews), the saved Gentiles described as *“sheep”*, and the unsaved Gentiles described as *“goats”*. World population will be massively reduced but the saved will *“inherit the kingdom”* while the unsaved *“Depart...into everlasting fire”*.

Zechariah indicated that all those who survive the



Tribulation and the judgment of the living nations will continue to live on the earth and worship at Jerusalem:

“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16).

Obviously there will be saved individuals from all nations who will not have experienced resurrection at the 2nd Advent and will enter the millennial kingdom with natural bodies. Children will be born and the normal pursuits in life will continue but the government of the world will be centred in Jerusalem.

Resurrected People will Appear on Earth

Jesus told His disciples that in the millennium (regeneration) they would be given a place of authority over the twelve tribes of Israel:

“Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt.19:28).

We know that the Apostles were a part of the Church and that they all died. As part of the Bride of Christ, the Apostles will be raised at the Rapture of the Church and will come with Christ at His 2nd Advent. This means that they will have already received their resurrection bodies and yet they will be sitting on twelve thrones judging the tribes of Israel in the Kingdom. This is consistent with Paul’s statement to the Church that, *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him” (2Tim.2:12).*

We also know that the resurrected martyrs from the Tribulation will reign with Christ for 1,000 years:

“I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (Rev.20:4).

The service that these resurrected Tribulation martyrs will render to God is revealed: they will be *“priests of God”*. In Revelation

5:10 the redeemed in heaven sing a new song to the Lamb:

*"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth**" (Rev.5:9-10).*

Daniel was told he would *"stand in thy lot at the **end of days**"* (Dan.12:13) and David will be ruling Israel as their Prince as both Hosea and Ezekiel have indicated:

*"Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, **and David their king**; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days" (Hosea 3:5).*

*"And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: **and my servant David shall be their prince for ever**" (Ezek. 37:25).*

It is clear from these Scriptures that the Kingdom will be quite different to all other ages and there will be an intermingling of natural bodies and resurrected bodies which is not surprising for it has happened before when Christ rose from the dead and the graves of the Old Testament saints were opened and they arose. Many of them appeared in Jerusalem (Matt.27:53).

Resurrection Saints will be Commuters

When a Christian dies his soul goes to the Father's house of many mansions in heaven. It would seem that this is the New Jerusalem which Christ is preparing for His Bride for He said: *"I go to prepare a place for you"* (John 14:2). After the millennial Kingdom, this place of many mansions that Jesus is preparing for His Church, will descend *"out of heaven from God"* (Rev.21:10) and will be the dwelling place of Christ and His Bride for all eternity.

Since the New Jerusalem does not descend until **after the millennial Kingdom** it must still be in heaven during the millennial Kingdom and if we reign with Christ we must be able to commute from heaven to earth during that 1,000 years.

Movement from one place to another for a resurrected person will not require time since time is only limited to natural bodies. The Lord could appear in Jerusalem and again in Galilee but He did not need to walk the three or four days journey as the disciples did. We know that heaven is upward but how far? It may be millions of light years but space and time do not exist with God and we will have a body like Christ's body!

It has been said that our sun is traversing a circuit that encompasses the universe and it will take 18 million years to complete one circuit. One wonders what is at the centre of that circuit to hold our sun on its course. Could it be that at the centre of all the universes is God's throne where Christ sits upholding all things by the word of His power?

Space travel for redeemed souls is not limited to even the speed of light. Millions of light years are only a measure set by the creatures of time but a resurrection body is eternal.

It should be noted that the Bible says very little about angels in the New Heaven and Earth only 12 angels are mentioned at the gates to the city. At the present time the angels are in heaven with ministries on earth: they minister to those who shall be the heirs of salvation. During the Tribulation the angels are seen in heaven defending the throne of God and warning men of coming judgment; they seal the 144,000 for service and administer the judgments as they are poured out on earth.

When Christ comes to reign the armies of heaven accompany Him. There will be millions of angels together with all the saints. During the millennial Kingdom one can only assume that the angels continue in heaven while carrying out God's will on earth just as they have done in previous eras but the earth is essentially man's domain.

Technology on Earth in the Millennium

In recent decades the human race has advanced to new heights of technology and one can only assume that this knowledge will be retained in the Kingdom. Some ships and planes will survive the Tribulation and qualified persons will be able to



fly the planes and sail the ships because Isaiah spoke of Israel being carried by plane and ship back to the land after Christ returns.

“Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows? Surely the isles shall

wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee. (Isa.60:8-10).

The wealth of the Jews in the Isles; America, Britain and other lands, will be transported by the saved Gentiles back to the land of Israel by ship and plane.



The millennial Kingdom will not be a time of ignorance and men will not return to primitive methods of farming: we can expect that advanced systems of travel will be developed and maintained which will require all the engineering expertise that we see today. The difference will be that the knowledge will be sanctified for holy use and not for the glorification of sinful man or for warfare.

One can only imagine how enormous stockpiles of weapons will remain in bunkers, warehouses, hangars: vast amounts of scrap metal will be recovered from battle fields while ships will lie idle in harbours. Isaiah prophesied that *“they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks”* (Isa.2:4). All of the technology that was used in developing weaponry will be applied to producing food and products beneficial to man.

One can also imagine that mining of ores will not be needed for some time because the scrap metals available will be adequate for their needs. However, just to process the conversion of *“swords*

into ploughshares” will need large materials handling machines and furnaces using gas or coal.

Weather Patterns will Change and Food Production Increase

It is God who controls the weather and He sends the rain on the just and upon the unjust (Matt.5:45). Droughts are sometimes an act of Divine judgment: when men sin against God withholds the rains: it was a part of the Palestinian Covenant:

“And thy heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed” (Deut.28:23-24).

When Israel entered the land of Canaan it was a “land flowing with milk and honey”. The early and the latter rains came in their season and the land brought forth abundantly. Throughout the centuries, since Israel rejected Messiah, the land has become desolate. Jeremiah told the sinful people in his day:

“Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore’s forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed’ (Jer.3:3).

Today Israel is surviving on desalinated water but after the nation turns to the Lord God will send rain:

*“I will cause **the shower***



Negev



Judean Wilderness

“the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water” (Isa.35:7).

to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase (Ezek.34:26-27).

Isaiah the following to say about the fertility of the land in the millennial Kingdom:

*“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and **the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.** It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God” (Isa.35:1-2).*

“In the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes” (Isa.35:6-7).

Jerusalem is located at one of the high points in the land but there will be an abundance of water flowing from a spring under the millennial Temple. It will flow through a new valley formed when there will be a great earthquake at the end of the Tribulation. The earthquake will split the Mt of Olives to form a great valley all the way from Jerusalem to the Dead Sea. So extensive will be the water surging along this valley that it will be deep enough for a ship to sail in. The water



Level in the Dead Sea will be raised and reach up the Valley of Shittim at the N-E end of the Dead Sea. In all probability the water level will be raised filling the whole Jordan Valley all the way north to Galilee and fishermen will cast their nets into the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea will no longer be dead and the Jordan River will become a deep lake 250 km or more long stretching from north of Galilee to the Negev desert. It may even reach Eilat and empty fresh water into the Gulf of Aqaba.

Joel prophesied:

“All the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth out of the house of the LORD, and shall water the valley of Shittim” (Joel 3:18). See also Ezek.47, and Zech.14:8.

The dry wilderness areas of Israel that we see today in Judea, the Negev, and Sinai will become fertile productive land in the Kingdom and this will be a direct result of Israel’s repentance.

Since 1948 the Jews have been cultivating and irrigating at great cost. Remarkable results have been achieved but it is nothing compared with the inexpensive agricultural abundance awaiting repentant Israel in the millennial Kingdom. Amos wrote:

*“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed**; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God”* (Amos 9:13-15).

It is not hard to understand how food production will increase when we consider that wars, which disrupt the production and distribution of food will cease and there will be universal peace. The vast resources that are poured into weapons and security will be diverted into agriculture and industry that benefits mankind. Men will *“beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks”* (Micah 4:3; Isa.2:4).

Wild Animals will Become Tame

Not only will there be harmony among men but the animal world will be restored as it was in Eden. The wild beasts will be tamed and no longer live as predators: they will eat grass instead of flesh:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa.11:6-9). See also Isa.65:25 and Ezek.34:25.



The Deaf, Dumb, and Blind will be Healed

Just as Jesus healed those that were crippled, blind, deaf and dumb at His first coming, so He will heal many when He comes to reign.

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing” (Isa.35:5-6).

World Government with Israel Ruling

Zedekiah was the last King to sit on the throne of David and Ezekiel stated that there would not be another king to sit on the throne until Messiah reigned:

*“And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, **UNTIL he come whose right it is; and I will give it him**” (Ezek.21:25-27).*

Three times the throne was overturned by Nebuchadnezzar in the days of Jehoiakim (606BC), Jehoiachin (597BC), and Zedekiah (586BC) and there has never been a descendant of David on the throne since. When Jesus came the first time He fulfilled Zechariah 9:9 and presented Himself to the nation as its King on Palm Sunday. The people cried, *“Blessed is the King that cometh in the name of the Lord”* but the rulers rejected their King and cried, *“We will not have this man to rule over us!”*

Amos prophesied that the **throne of David** will be raised up in the last days:

“In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old” (Amos 9:11).

This prophecy was well understood by the Apostles for James made it clear that after the Church was complete, Christ would return and the throne would be restored in the millennial Kingdom when **all the Gentiles would seek the Lord:**

*“Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this **I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called**” (Acts 15:14-17).*

The reign of Christ however, will not be confined to Israel for

He comes as “King of kings and Lord of lords” (Rev.19:16). The Psalmist stated:

*“O let the nations be glad and sing for joy: for **thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.** Selah. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and **all the ends of the earth shall fear him**” (Ps.67:4-7).*

*“In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. **He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.** They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts. **Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him**” (Ps.72:7-11).*

*“Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall **he judge the world,** and the people with equity” (Ps.98:8-9).*

Jerusalem will be the centre of worship and government over the entire world and the Jews will be the servants of God to administer God’s law. Isaiah wrote:

*“And it shall come to pass in **the last days,** that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and ... out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people” (Isa.22-4).

All nations will be required to obey Israel who will be administering the Kingdom for Christ and those who refuse will be severely punished:

“For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted” (Isa. 60:12).

The nation of Israel will be a holy nation engaged in the service of the King of kings.

*“But ye shall be named **the Priests of the LORD: men shall***

call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles” (Isa. 61:6).

So exalted will the Jews be in the Kingdom of God that men will count it an honour to be with them. There will be no antisemitism in the Kingdom of God except for a short space at the end of the Millennium when Satan is released from the bottomless pit to test the nations:

“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you” (Zech. 8:23).

The Gentile nations be the servants of Israel:

“The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee; The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (Isa. 60:14).

Israel will be the economic hub of the world. The nations will pay taxes to Israel and the riches of the nations will pour into Israel but they will be honest with no graft or corruption:

“For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors (tax collectors) righteousness” (Isa. 60:17).

Israel will be the Bankers for the nations in fulfilment of the promise of the Palestinian Covenant:

“Thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath” (Deut.28:12-13).

Jerusalem will be the centre from which evangelists will go to the nations. During the 1,000 years of Christ’s reign on earth the Word of God will go out to the nations and Jewish preachers will instruct the nations.

“Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Isa.2:3).

Economic and Religious Implications

The implications of all the prophecies concerning the Kingdom of God on earth are hard to comprehend but it must be obvious to the reader that the world economy will be totally different. When a *“King shall reign in righteousness”* (Isa.32:1) He will not tolerate evil business enterprises in order to reap large taxes. Poker machines and gambling Casinos will no longer be required and the vast wealth of those who obtain money by covetous practices will be diverted to those in need.

The housing industry will boom as the desolation of the Tribulation is repaired but since world population will be radically reduced there will be housing for all. People will be safe in their own homes:

“They shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid” (Amos 4:4).

Politically, there will be no need for the United Nations; the world will be ruled by a King of kings reigning from Jerusalem. David will be a Prince in Israel and the 12 Apostles will judge the 12 tribes of Israel.

Gentile nations will be ruled over by a king appointed by the Lord Jesus and each king will be answerable to the King of kings. Alternate systems such as democracy and communism will be a thing of the past.

The world money system will change. The World Bank will be run from Jerusalem with honesty as the only policy. Crippling Budget deficits will be unknown.

There will be full employment and absenteeism through alcohol, drugs and violence will be rarely heard of. Because health will be improved and handicapped people healed huge health budgets will be radically reduced. Disability insurance will not be needed. A rebuilding and clean up program will employ large numbers for a long time.

Defence spending will not be necessary and police forces will find a different role in the community. Security services will

be disbanded and all building components for security will no longer be required reducing the cost of construction. The court system will be changed and reduced. Most goals will be demolished or converted for other uses.

The mining industry will be radically reduced but the scrap metal market will boom.

The ungodly entertainment world will disappear. Pubs, Clubs and Night Clubs will be out of business and close down. Prostitution will cease.

There will be a tourist industry after Christ returns just to behold the evidence of the Lord's victory:

"Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth" (Ps.46:8-10).

Tourism will not be for self gratification but for the praise of God and to behold what great things He has done.

False religions will disappear and all of the monuments built to paganism will be demolished. Cathedrals will be turned to rubble if Antichrist has left any still standing: Monasteries will be converted for righteous uses. We are not told how the Gentiles will worship in the Kingdom except that Jewish preachers will take the Law of the Lord to the nations:

"I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles" (Isa.66:19).

Zephaniah spoke of a day when God would deal with the nations:

"The LORD will be terrible unto them: for he will famish all the gods of the earth; and men shall worship Him, every one from his place, even all the isles of the heathen" (Zeph. 2:11).

We know that the leaders of the nations will visit Jerusalem:

“The Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising” (Isa.60:3).

We also know that the nations will *“bring gold and incense; and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD” (Isa.60:6)*. They will offer sacrifices on God’s altar with Divine acceptance:

*“All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together unto thee, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister unto thee: **they shall come up with acceptance on mine altar**, and I will glorify the house of my glory” (Isa.60:7).*

The feast of Tabernacles will be kept by the Gentiles:

“And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech.14:16).

Worship in the Kingdom will be very Jewish even for Gentiles. Just as it was in Old Testament times when a Gentile was saved they became a *“stranger in Israel”* and were blessed, so it will be in the Kingdom. Gentile nations that do not go up to Jerusalem will not receive their normal rain.

The Second Generation in the Millennium

At the beginning of the millennial Kingdom the nations will gladly accept the administrative role exercised by Israel because every king and every Gentile subject that enters the Kingdom will have been converted in the Tribulation: they will have suffered for Christ and appreciated the testimony of the Jews who brought them to Christ. However, babies will be born and a new generation will spring up that knew nothing but the blessedness of Christ’s reign. This new generation will have a sinful nature as all men have, and will need to be born again by the Spirit of God.

As has happened in Christendom, when apostasy has come into the Church there have been those who have faithfully stood for the truth and separated to establish a pure testimony but their children and grandchildren have not always followed in

their parents footsteps. Eventually, the work that was a faithful testimony lowers the standards and allows the old heresies to take over again. So it will be in the millennial Kingdom: by the end of the 1,000 years, when Satan is released to test the nations, those who do not have a genuine heart experience with God will rise up against the Kingdom that Christ has established.

For 1,000 years the world will be free from Satanic delusion: only God's truth will be proclaimed by faithful Jewish preachers. But deep down in the unregenerate hearts of many there will be a bitter resentment about Israel's role as the "*Ministers (servants) of our God*". I can imagine that questions will be asked about paying taxes to Israel and their role as the world Bankers. Jealous men will ask, Why should Jews be the special privileged class? Antisemitism will simmer in mens' hearts and when Satan is released from the bottomless pit he will fan the flames of discontent till nations, led by Gog and Magog (Russia), rise up and move into the Holy Land to surround Jerusalem. Sadly their folly will bring swift destruction for the Lord will send fire out of heaven and destroyed them all. We read:

"They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them" (Rev.20:9).

Thus the millennial Kingdom, like all other dispensations, begins with blessing but ends in failure proving that no matter how favourable the conditions, men will fail. Only the grace and mercy of God can change the human heart to walk in His ways.