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## The Millennium

### Introduction

When our Lord was here one of the many memorable statements He made was: "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them" (Matt. 13:17). We are living in days when there is such an unfolding of preparations for the fulfillment of prophecy it is difficult not to be amazed at the speed things are changing.

Several weeks ago the hymn, "Our Lord is now rejected and by the world disowned" was sung. The words of the chorus are:

"Oh that crowning day is coming, is coming by and by,  
When our Lord shall come with power and glory from on high,  
Oh the glorious sight will gladden each waiting, watchful eye,  
In the crowning day that's coming by and by"

As I began to muse on that coming day, the events which will follow it, and the glorious millennium reign of the Lord on the earth, I began to ask myself some questions, such as:

- a) Why have a millennium?
- b) What will be its characteristics?
- c) What will it mean to God?
- d) What will it mean for Christ?

### Why Have a Millennium?

If a number of people were asked this question there would be a variety of answers. The following are some of the reasons I believe it is necessary to have a millennium.

- 1) It will be the fulfillment of God's pledge concerning Christ.
  - a) The deeper reason, because in eternity past God purposed this in Himself. Why? When the Lord was here He said: "I have glorified Thee on the earth" (Jn. 17:4).
    - i) His entire purpose was to glorify God, so that everything He did was glorifying God.
    - ii) During the Millennium it will be God's sole purpose to glorify Christ on the earth.
    - iii) The last look the ungodly had of the Lord was him being despised, mocked, and suffering, hanging on the cross
    - iv) By Israel, ignorant of who He was and what He was. The next look will be as the Judge and their Messiah. Then when they see Him they will realize: "He was wounded for our transgressions" (Isa. 53:5).  
The entire universe will see him coming in power and great glory.
  - b) Christ's glorification (Heb. 2:14). He will rule over the whole earth and be glorified in the place of His rejection.
  - c) Christ's administrative universal government (Isa. 9:6; Dan. 7:14), and all in subjection under Him (Psa. 2:8-9; Heb. 2: 5-9).
- 2) It will be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.
  - a) For the fulfillment of ancient covenants to Abraham concerning the land (Isa. 10:21-22; 43:1); and to David concerning the king, throne (Isa. 11:1-3; Jer. 23:5-8; 33:17, **11?**; Ezek. 34:23-24; Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:7-8).
  - b) The houses of Judah and Israel will again be united (Jer. 3:18; Ezek. 37:15-22)
  - c) Israel will be acknowledged as the wife of Jehovah (Isa. 54:1; Mal. 2:14)
  - d) The New covenant will be available and accomplished in them (Jer. 31:31-33; Rom. 11:26-29)
- 3) It will be a demonstration of God's unchanging, unswerving purposes.
  - a) God's unfrustratable ways. Satan and man can stand against Him but He laughs in derision (Psa. 2:4)
    - i) Bring into subjection or annihilation every iota of opposition (Rev. 19:11-21)

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- ii) He will set His king upon His holy Hill of Zion (Psa. 2:6)
  - iii) To make a public demonstration of His evaluation of the Lord (Phil. 2:10)
- 4) A partial fulfillment of the Lord's prayer: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10), which will only be fulfilled completely in the eternal state.

### What Will Be Some Of It's Characteristics?

The millennium will be characterized by major changes and for this I can do nothing better than quote the verses and let the lovely truths sink deep into our hearts and minds. There will be changes concerning:

#### a) Horticultural

- i) There will be changes in the horticultural world for: "The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly" (Isa. 35:1-2).
- ii) "For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isa. 55:12).

#### b) Zoological

- i) There are few expressions more lovely than the words of Isaiah. "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 suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp (venomous snake), and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' (venomous snake) den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:6-9).

#### c) Satan

- i) The angel "laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:2).

#### d) Geography

- i) The mount of Olives shall split (Zech. 14:4). There will be changes geographically for the river flows from the temple to the waters of the sea (the Dead Sea, approximately 17 miles distant) which will be healed and teemed with fish (Ezek. 47:8-12).

#### e) Governmentally

- i) We live in a world of corruption on every level of government. Justice and truth are greatly unknown. However, in the millennium, when under the government of light (Rev. 4:5):
  - i) The Lord shall judge righteously. "Say among the heathen that the LORD reigneth . . . He shall judge the people righteously" (Psa. 96:10; Isa. 11:3-5).
  - ii) Christ will be the Legislator. "And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." (Isa. 2:3)
  - iii) Christ will be King. "Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion" (Psa. 2:6).
  - iv) David will be His Vice Regent King. "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them" (Ezek. 37:24).
  - v) There will be rulers, judges, and counsellors. "And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said

unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities” (Lk. 19:15-17).

It will be characterized by:

a) Holiness

- i) The city of Jerusalem, and mountain. “So shall ye know that I am the LORD your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more” (Joel 3:17).
- ii) The house, and all the surrounding area. “This is the law of the house; Upon the top of the mountain the whole limit thereof round about shall be most holy. Behold, this is the law of the house” (Ezek. 43:12).
- iii) The inscribing on the bells of the horses and the pots in the Lord’s house and Jerusalem. “In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD’S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts” (Zech. 14:20-21).
- iv) The people. “And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem” (Isa. 4:3).

b) Peace

- i) Between people internationally. “And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isa. 2:4).
- ii) Between man and God by the acceptance of Christ as Messiah and His peace (Col. 1:20).
- iii) Between man and those which were wild animals and venomous snakes. “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. 11:8).
- i) Between the nations. “And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Micah 4:3).

c) Glory

- i) The glory of the Lord shall be revealed (Isa. 40:5; 60:2).

d) Joy

- i) “With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation . . . Sing unto the Lord . . . Cry out and shout” (Isa. 12:3-6; 14:7-8; 25:8-9; Jer. 30:19; Zeph. 3:14-17; Zech. 8:18-19).

**What Will It Mean To God?**

God shall display to the world the glory of:

- a) His ability to fulfill His purposes despite every obstacle of Satan directly or through man. (Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 1:10)
- b) His grace for man. “They shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads.” (Rev. 22:4)

**What Will It Mean For Christ?**

He will be honored universally in the place of His rejection (Psa. 72:8-11; Jer. 23:5).

- a) When before Pilate his accusation was He made himself to be a King (Lk. 23:2).
- b) In derision His accusation on the cross was: “This is Jesus the king of the Jews” (Matt. 27:37).
- c) In the millennium He will be manifested as:
  - i) The “King of Kings” (Rev. 19:16)

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- ii) “The blessed and only Potentate” (1 Tim. 6:15)
- iii) “The “Prince of the kings of the earth” (Rev. 1:5)
- iv) “King over all the earth” (Zech. 14:9)
- v) God’s anointed King (Psa. 2:6)
- vi) “The King of glory” (Psa. 24:7, 9)

#### Concluding Thoughts

It is very hard to comprehend what it will be like to live in a world where Satan is no longer at large, and therefore there will not be the same debasing satanic reasoning and influences, individually and nationally. There will be no such thing as political correctness. All will be done in unflinching righteousness for the greater glory of God.

*. . . . Rowan Jennings*