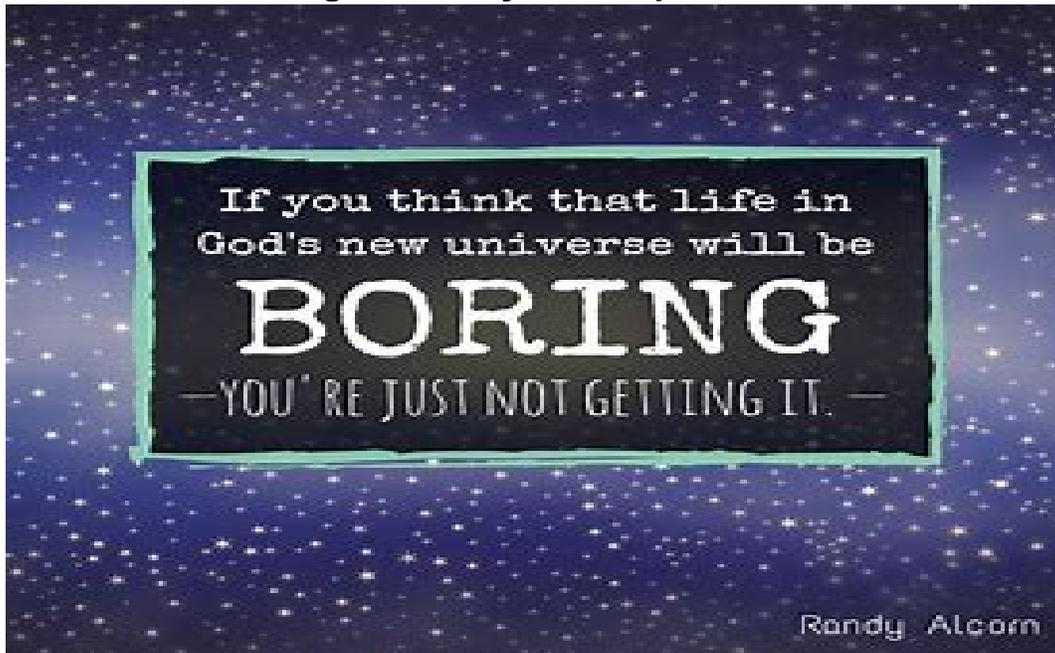


**Introduction: We cannot imagine 1000 years of peace!**



## Millennial Longevity

- Death for unbelievers only Isaiah 65:17
  - Nowhere is there a resurrection of Millennial saints.
  - Tribulation saints complete the “first resurrection” Rev 20:4-6
- No Jewish unbelievers? Jer 31:31-34
  - All accept by 100<sup>th</sup> year Isa 65:20
  - Thus, death only among Gentiles?

**After 1000 years of peace, man’s heart is still at war. Jeremiah 17:9**

One of the major reasons why the millennium happens is to convince the world they are not victims!

Society and earth will have 1000 years of peace, prosperity, righteousness, long life, no war...can you imagine such a thought?

Many people today say...if only my environment would be better I would not be such a mess.

No, mankind is desperately wicked...it is not our environment that is the problem, it is the human heart's sinful nature!

Chuck Missler: a. Satan will be released: For the thousand years of the direct reign of Jesus over this earth, Satan was bound and inactive. But after the thousand years are over, he will be released and successfully organize many people of the earth in another rebellion against God.

i. If Jesus has reigned so wonderfully for a thousand years, then why will the earth rebel? They will do it, and God will allow it, as a final demonstration of man's rebellion and depravity. *Outward* conformity to Jesus' rule will be required during His reign, but seemingly, an inward embrace of His Lordship will still be up to the individual.

ii. In this we see more of the important reason God has for the Millennial Kingdom and allowing this final rebellion. For all of human history, man has wanted to blame his sinful condition on his *environment*. "Of course I turned out the way I did. Did you see the family I came from? Did you see the neighborhood I grew up in?" With the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, God will give mankind a *thousand years* of a perfect environment – with no Satan, no crime, no violence, no evil, or other social pathology. But at the end of the 1,000 years, man will still rebel against God at his first opportunity. This will powerfully demonstrate that the problem is in *us*, not only in our environment.

iii. "It will be proved once more that man, whatever his advantages and environment, apart from the grace of God and new birth, remains at heart only evil and at enmity with God." (Hoste)

Today, we will see what will happen after the 1000 year reign of peace ends. We will find that man will rise up in war prompted by the deceiver, and that all who rise up against God will be defeated.

We will also see that the only way to victory is to have your name written in the Book of Life!

David Guzik: e. **Thousand years**: Is it a literal 1,000 years? We should take a number literally **unless** there is clear reason or evidence to do otherwise. We should take this **thousand years** literally, because God has an important work to accomplish during the Millennium.

- i. The Millennium is important because it will demonstrate Jesus' victory and worthiness to rule the nations.
- ii. The Millennium is important because it will reveal the depths of man's rebellious nature in a perfect environment. Some people seem to believe that man is basically good, and deep down he really wants God's righteous rule. Many believe that man is really innocent, and corrupted only by a bad environment. The Millennium will answer these questions before the great judgment (Revelation 20:11-15).
- iii. The Millennium is important because it will display the eternal depravity of Satan, who continues his evil as soon as he is released from his incarceration.
- iv. The Millennium is important because it will show the invulnerability of the city of God and God's new order.
- v. "Let us rejoice that Scripture is so clear and so explicit upon this great doctrine of the future triumph of Christ over the whole world... We believe that the Jews will be converted, and that they will be restored to their own land. We believe that Jerusalem will be the central metropolis of Christ's kingdom; we also believe that all the nations shall walk in the light of the glorious city which shall be built at Jerusalem. We expect that the glory which shall have its center there, shall spread over the whole world, covering it as with a sea of holiness, happiness, and delight. For this we look with joyful expectation." (Spurgeon)

## **Why be at war with God? You cannot beat Him!**

If you cannot beat Him, then join Him.

Let's stand and pray for the Lord to win your heart today!

### **I. 1000 years later, the Deceiver will still deceive. v. 7-10**

**a. Deception always leads to death. v. 8** He will find a ready-made audience because of inherent sin nature. Isaiah 53:6, Romans 1-3

1. Gog and Magog. Ezekiel 38, Genesis 10. Gog is the leader, king or prince...Magog is the land.

They will surround Jerusalem, and the land of the people of God. They will number as the sand of the sea.

a. Fire will come down to destroy.

b. Down into the Lake of Fire forever. Where the beast and the false prophet still are.

### **II. Dead rise to judgment, not to life at the Great White Throne. v. 11-15**

**a. Each one will be before God alone. Exposed by their works.**

**b. Each one will be judged by the absence from The Book of Life.**

a. Death is the condition.

b. Hades is the location.

i. Both will give up all the dead. Then, both will be cast into the lake of fire.

1. Then, all not found in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

Hell is a witness to the righteous character of God;

Hell is a witness to man's responsibility.

God does not send people to hell: they send themselves by rejecting the Savior (Jn 3:16-21; Mt 25:41).

If we saw sin as God sees it, we would understand why a place such as hell exists. Are you written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Or are you planning on defending yourself before the final judgment? [*It's not what you know, but who you know!*]

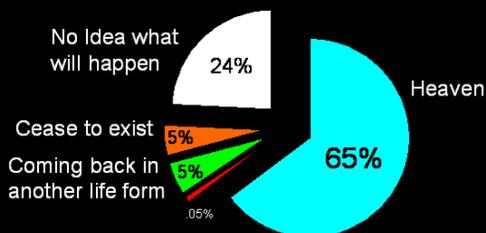
**Conclusion: Each one born once will die twice, each one born twice will die once.** This is the second death. The separation of the body and soul is the first death, the second death is the separation of the spirit from soul.

Slides from Chuck Missler revelation session 23

## Recent Research Studies:

- Despite the many changes in our culture, most people have retained surprisingly traditional views about life after death:
  - That Heaven and Hell really exist
  - That everyone has a soul that continues after death
- Yet over 50 million Americans are uncertain about their personal fate

## Destinations Anticipated



Barna Research Group, Sep 2003

## Key Questions

- What happens when you die?
- Is there really an “afterlife”?
- What is heaven like?
- Is there really a “hell”?
- What is the nature of
  - Eternity?
  - The “Reality” we find ourselves in?



## Heaven Bound?

Because:

- 43% “They confessed their sins and accepted Christ as their savior”
- 15% “They have tried to obey the Ten Commandments”
- 15% “They are basically a good person”
- 6% “God loves all people and will not let them perish”

Barna Research Group, Sep 2003

## Contradictory Findings

- Among born-again Christians:
  - 10% believe that people are reincarnated after death
  - 29% claim it is possible to communicate with the dead
  - 50% contend that a person can earn salvation based upon good works
  - Many believe there are multiple options for gaining entry into heaven

## Contradictory Findings

- Atheists and agnostics also confused
  - 50% Every person has a soul; Heaven and Hell exist; and that there is life after death
  - 12% Believe accepting Jesus Christ probably makes life after death possible
- Labels are not descriptive
  - Evidences the adoption of simplistic views from novels, movies, etc.

## I. WHAT THE MILLENNIUM IS. Chuck Smith

A. A 1,000 year reign of divine government on earth by the Lord and His saints.

1. Satan will be bound.
2. His host in the pit.
3. Beast and false prophet in lake of fire.

B. Reign of righteousness in contrasts to sin.

## II. PURPOSE OF REIGN.

A. From God's side.

1. Public earthly honoring of His son.
  - a. Phil. "Where God hath highly exalted Him."
2. Fulfilling of God's promise to His Son.
  - a. [Luke 1:32](#) "He shall be great and He shall be called the Son of the highest and the Lord shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David."
  - b. [Ps. 2:8,9](#).
  - c. [Ps. 110:1,2](#).
3. Final divine trial of sinful men.
  - a. Does man desire God's righteous rule?
  - b. Looking for perfect government.
  - c. They really hate it. Revolt at end of 1,000.
4. God's answer to prayer of saints, "Thy kingdom come."

B. From Christ's side.

1. Bestow upon meek of earth the inheritance. He loved to promise them. Matthew chapter 5 - "Blessed are the meek."
2. He receives the kingdom for which He has patiently waited.

C. From our side.

1. Come into state of indescribable blessedness.
  - a. Earth changed.
    1. [Isa. 35](#).

D. From nations and men who survived tribulation.

1. 1,000 years under iron rod sup.

E. From Creation.

1. Curse of sin removed. [Romans 8](#).
  - a. Wolf and lamb feed together. [Isa. 65](#).
  - b. Lion eats straw.

Chuck Smith

Now when the thousand years are over, Satan will be loosed out of his prison, He shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth [or the north, east, south and west], Gog and Magog ([Rev 20:7-8](#)),

These names are synonymous with rebellion against God. We find those names used in Ezekiel to identify Russia as the leader of the rebellion against God's people in the last days. But this is not to be confused with Ezekiel thirty-eight and thirty-nine.

And he gathers them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea ([Rev 20:8](#)).

It is amazing that after one thousand years of Christ reigning upon the earth that people living in the reign of Christ will be deceived and turn with Satan to try to destroy

Jesus Christ again. Multitudes of them will try, as many as the sand of the sea. That is a numberless multitude.

You say how could that be? I don't know. How could it be that man rebels today? I don't see how a logical thinking reasonable man could really set himself against God and rebel against God. I don't see how a person could do it, except that Satan has blinded their eyes that they cannot see the truth. They are really blind spiritually. "The natural man does not understand the things of the spirit neither can he know them" ([1 Corinthians 2:14](#)). And that is the only explanation I can give.

Having eyes to see, they will not see. There is none so blind as those who will not see. And there are people who just say, "I don't want to see it or don't want to hear it. Don't confuse me with the facts. I have made up my mind. Just leave me alone." And they just set their mind against it. And why and for what purpose? I don't know. For God only has your good at His heart. God is only interested in what is best for you. Why should you fight that? You are fighting against your own good and your own welfare, your own destiny. And why a person would want to do that I cannot understand, but such is and shall be the case.

Now, these souls that Satan deceives are those who are born during the thousand-year reign of Christ. We will be in our glorified bodies. Now what all the capacities of these bodies will be, I do not know. "We are now the sons of God. It doth not yet appear what we are going to be, but we know when He appears we are going to be like Him. We will see Him as He is" ([1 John 3:2](#)). I am certain we are going to have a lot of interesting marvelous capacities in our new glorified bodies.

For one I am not going to have to get on a stupid 747 to get all the way over to Israel and take seventeen hours in the air and arrive there weary and tired from jetlag. I really believe that in my new body I will be able to get there, zip, in a moment of time. "Hey, let's cruise over to Jerusalem and see what is going on." Poof. We're there. I think there are going to be a lot of capacities in our new bodies that the Lord has for us. They are sort of a universal body. We can say, "Hey, let's head out to the moon and see what is happening there." They are adaptable for anywhere. This body is only adaptable for the planet earth. It is out of the earth and for the earth. I am going to have a new body, which is of the heavens and universal. We are born in the image of the earth, earthy, so shall we bear the image of the heavens.

So, I am sort of excited about the new body. I know it is not going to have gimpy knees and crumbling teeth and fading eyesight. In fact, we'll probably have telescopic type of sight right through the walls of the houses. I think that we will have precognition. I think

that we will know in advance when someone is planning to do something wrong. So, zip, we are right there and we can say, "No, no, no." And if they persist then, "bong", ruling with a rod of iron. It is going to be interesting to say the least.

So, Satan deceived them that have been born during the thousand-year reign of Christ, who have never really had an opportunity to express their rebellion against God. They have been forced to serve Jesus Christ. They have been forced to live by the laws of God. And man will reveal once and forever the righteousness of God's judgment in ridding the world and the universe of such rebels. The fact that after living for a thousand years in the ideal environment of God's kingdom and at that they rebel.

Now, notice that Satan is really a tool of God and under God's control. When God wants, He can chain him and will, and then release him again for a short time and then incarcerate him forever. But he is just serving a purpose of God. But it sort of points up the fallacy that some people so foolishly declare, and that is, hey, God says that all are sinners. So by my sin, I am only proving that God tells the truth. So how can God judge me for sinning when I am only proving that He is a true God? Such type of reasoning deserves its own judgment. "Let us do evil that good might come, because where sin abounds grace overflows" ([Romans 3:8](#)). Well, then lets go out and sin, so God can show His grace.

So the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire [Gehenna], where the beast and the false prophet are ([Rev 20:10](#)),

Not where they were, not where they were destroyed, not where they were consumed, not where they were annihilated; but where they are.

and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever ([Rev 20:10](#)).

"Aionios perusi aionos:" from the ages to the ages. It is the Greek word for eternity. Is Gehenna then eternal torment and punishment? Is that fair for God? I am not going to touch that issue. That is what it says here. Now, you may do what you want with it to explain it or explain it away or whatever, but I am not going to touch it.

For over in chapter twenty-two I read, "If any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away His part out of the book of life and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in the book. If any man adds to the words of this prophecy, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book" ([Rev 22:19](#)). So, I am not going to touch it. You do what you want with it, but I am going to accept it as it is. You say, "Well, I don't understand it?" I don't understand it either, but I'm just going to leave it alone.

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them ([Rev 20:11](#)).

God's Great White Throne Judgment of which you have heard so much.

And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things that were written in the books, according to their works ([Rev 20:12](#)).

Now, there are several books. There is the book of life. There are mentions of this book of life in the Old Testament and also in the New.

the sea gave up the dead which were in it ([Rev 20:13](#));

Now, who are the dead which are in the sea? I don't know. Maybe the sea covers a previous civilization that also rebelled against God. There are indications that Genesis one is not original creation, except in verse one. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth", "barra", out of nothing and brought something into existence. "And the earth was without form and void." God doesn't create things without form and void as a general rule. On each of the days of creation, God saw that He created and said, "It's good."

We are told in Isaiah forty-eight that God did not create the earth wasted and desolate. He created it to be inhabited. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. The word "moved" in Hebrew is brooded as though in anger. It would seem that perhaps there was another civilization that existed on the planet earth prior to man in our present form that was destroyed in the wrath and the anger of God covered with water. The earth was then covered with water, the great ice age, and the previous civilizations buried.

and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them ([Rev 20:13](#)):

It could be that there is something to the legends of the lost continents of Atlantis and all. Who knows? I don't. But here it is interesting, it could just mean those that were buried at sea or those whose ashes were spread out over the sea, because no matter where your body is placed when you die, if you are unrighteous your soul is in hell. So, hell will disgorge its inhabitants separate from those in the sea. The sea gives up those, which are within it.

"And death and hell deliver up the dead which are in them." So, hell is not eternal. It is not the place of eternal punishment. It will come to an end as it disgorges its

inhabitants that they might stand before the Great White Throne Judgment of God. Then when the sentence is pronounced upon them at that point, they are sent into Gehenna which is the second death and that is permanent. So, "The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them."

and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire ([Rev 20:13-15](#)).

Men judged according to their works, their evil works. They said to Jesus one day, "what must we do to do the works of God?" He said, "This is the work of God, believe on Him who he has sent. Men who do not do the work of God will be judged then according to their own works"([John 6:28-29](#)).

C. The final battle after the thousand-year reign of Jesus.

1. ([Rev 20:7-8](#)) Satan is released and gathers an army.

**Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.**

a. **Satan will be released:** For the thousand years of the direct reign of Jesus over this earth, Satan was bound and inactive. But after the thousand years are over, he will be released and successfully organize many people of the earth in another rebellion against God.

i. If Jesus has reigned so wonderfully for a thousand years, then why will the earth rebel? They will do it, and God will allow it, as a final demonstration of man's rebellion and depravity. *Outward* conformity to Jesus' rule will be required during His reign, but seemingly, an inward embrace of His Lordship will still be up to the individual.

ii. In this we see more of the important reason God has for the Millennial Kingdom and allowing this final rebellion. For all of human history, man has wanted to blame his sinful condition on his *environment*. "Of course I turned out the way I did. Did you see the family I came from? Did you see the neighborhood I grew up in?" With the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus, God will give mankind *a thousand years* of a perfect environment – with no Satan, no crime, no violence, no evil, or other social pathology. But at the end of the 1,000 years, man will still rebel against God at his first opportunity. This will powerfully demonstrate that the problem is in *us*, not only in our environment.

iii. "It will be proved once more that man, whatever his advantages and environment, apart from the grace of God and new birth, remains at heart only evil and at enmity with God." (Hoste)

b. **Gather them together to battle:** Who will these rebels be? They will be those who survive the Great Tribulation, enter into the Millennial Kingdom, and their descendants. “Infants born during the millennium will live to its conclusion and will not be required to make a choice between the devil and Christ until the end.” (Walvoord)

c. **Gog and Magog:** These are prophetic enemies of Israel in [Ezekiel 38-39](#), but the battle described in those chapters of Ezekiel seems to be distinct and different from this final battle.

i. John seems to borrow the term and use it as a symbol. Seemingly, the battles described in [Ezekiel 38-39](#) take place before the return of Jesus, perhaps right before or during the tribulation. This final battle clearly takes place at the end of the thousand-year reign of Jesus.

2. ([Rev 20:9-10](#)) A battle ends before it begins.

**They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

a. **Surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city:** We don't know if the **saints** referred to here are glorified saints who reign with Jesus, or earth-inhabitants who come to faith in Jesus during the Millennium. Either way, the strategy of this vast Satanic army is clear: to destroy God's people, and the “headquarters” or “capital city” of His administration, Jerusalem (**the beloved city**).

b. **Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them:** We shouldn't even call this a final battle, because there is no battle. The fight is over before it begins. At this point, God finally deals with the devil and his followers forever.

c. **Cast into the lake of fire... they will be tormented day and night forever and ever:** After this aborted battle, Satan is then judged and **tormented** forever – together with the **beast and the false prophet**, who were cast into the lake of fire at the beginning of the thousand years ([Revelation 19:20](#)).

i. The presence of the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire after a thousand years argues against annihilationism. In eternal punishment, a thousand years is just the beginning. It never ends. Commentator John Trapp thought this eternal aspect of hell so terrible that he called it “another hell in the midst of hell.”

d. **Forever and ever:** Is this really *eternal* punishment? Yes it is; the words mean exactly what they appear to mean. “There would be no way possible in the Greek language to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost than here in mentioning both day and night and the expression ‘forever and ever,’ literally ‘to the ages of ages.’ ” (Walvoord)

D. Judgment at the Great White Throne.

1. ([Rev 20:11](#)) An awesome throne.

**Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.**

a. **I saw a great white throne:** **Great** in status, power and authority; **white** in purity and holiness; and a **throne** in kingly sovereignty.

b. **And Him who sat on it:** Who is this? The Bible tells us that the Judge is Jesus ([John 5:22-27](#)); or more likely, the fullness of the Triune God.

c. **The earth and the heaven fled away:** **Earth** and **heaven** flee from this throne, but **there was found no place for them**. There is absolutely no hiding from this throne. No one can escape the judgment that it represents.

i. Many – even most – Bible scholars believe that Christians will never appear before this **great white throne**. It isn't because we can *hide* from it – no one can. The idea is that we are spared from this awesome throne of judgment because our sins are *already judged* in Jesus at the cross. We don't escape God's judgment; we satisfy it in Jesus.

ii. However, Christians will have to stand before another throne – the *judgment seat of Christ*. [2 Corinthians 5:10](#) says, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

iii. Therefore, when we pass from these bodies to the world beyond, we must each give account *according to what he has done, whether good or bad*. This describes a judgment of works of believers.

iv. At the judgment seat of Christ, *what we have done* will be judged. Our *motives* for what we have done will be judged. Paul presents essentially the same idea in [1 Corinthians 3:12-15](#), where he speaks of a coming assessment of each one's work before the Lord. In that passage, he makes it clear that what we have done, and our motive for doing it, will be tested by fire, and the purifying fire of God will burn up everything that was not of Him. We won't be *punished* for what was not done rightly unto the Lord, it will simply be *burned up*, and it will be as if we never did those things. We will simply be rewarded for what remains. Sadly, some will get to heaven *thinking* they have done great things for God, and will find out at the judgment seat of Christ that they really did nothing.

2. ([Rev 20:12-13](#)) The judgment of condemnation.

**And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.**

a. **Standing before God:** This is not a *trial*, trying to determine what the facts are. The facts are in; here is the sentencing of someone already condemned. "Their standing posture means that they are now about to be sentenced." (Walvoord)

i. Because this is a sentencing and not a trial, those who stand before the throne have nothing to say. Many think they will “tell God a thing or two” at the final judgment, as reflected in this letter to *Dear Abby* (a newspaper advice column) written some years ago:

*Dear Abby: I am troubled with something a reader wrote: “What right do we mortals have to demand an explanation from God?” Abby, that writer has never known the gut-wrenching pain of losing a child...*

*God didn’t answer my prayers, and I resent being told that I have no right to question God. If there is a God, and if I ever get to meet him face to face, you can bet your life I will have plenty of whys for him to answer.*

*I want to know why my little girl died and why that drunk was allowed to go on living. I love her more than my life, and I miss her so. I am mad that I am having to live in a world where she no longer lives, and I want to know why. Why shouldn’t I have the right to ask God?*

*Aren’t we supposedly created in his image? If so, surely he has a heart and soul capable of hurting just as I hurt. Why would he not expect to be questioned if he has anything to do with miracles?*

*I don’t fear the Lord. And I don’t fear hell, either. I know what hell is like. I’ve already been there since the day my precious daughter was killed.*

*Please sign me... A Bereaved Mother*

ii. Of course, there will be no criticism of God on that day. This desperate woman will see not only the righteousness and goodness of God, but she will also see her own sin and rejection of Him more clearly than ever. One could only pray and hope she came to understand how the Father Himself knew the pain she experienced, and sent His Son to give her hope and redemption.

b. **And the dead were judged according to their works:** If people are *not* listed in the **Book of Life**, *then* each one is judged **according to his works**. Those who refuse to come to God by faith will, by default, be judged (and condemned) by their works.

i. “The issue is not salvation by works but works as the irrefutable evidence of a man’s actual relationship with God.” (Mounce)

ii. There are degrees of punishment for unbelievers, according to their works ([Matthew 11:20-24](#)). Here is where they are sentenced to their specific eternal punishment.

c. **The sea gave up the dead who were in it:** Why does the sea give up its dead? It represents the place of unburied bodies; the emphasis is on the universal character of judgment – *everybody* is included.

3. ([Rev 20:14-15](#)) Death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire.

**Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.**

**And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**

a. **Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire:** The last echoes of sin are now eliminated. **Death** is the result of sin, and it is gone. **Hades** is the result of death, and it is gone. The last vestiges of sin’s unlawful domination are done away with.

b. **The lake of fire:** When a person refers to *hell*, **the lake of fire** is what they usually have in mind. The Bible uses three main words to describe where the ungodly may go when they die.

i. *Sheol* is a Hebrew word with the idea of the “place of the dead.” It has no direct reference to either torment or eternal happiness. The idea of *Sheol* is often accurately expressed as “the grave.”

ii. *Hades* is a Greek word used to describe the “world beyond.” In the Bible, it has generally the same idea as *Sheol*. [Revelation 9:1](#) speaks of the *bottomless pit*; this place called the *abyssos* is a prison for certain demons ([Luke 8:31](#); [2 Peter 2:4](#); [Jude 6](#)). Or more generally, it is considered part of the realm of the dead ([Romans 10:7](#) uses it in the sense of *Hades*).

iii. *Gehenna* is a Greek word borrowed from the Hebrew language. In [Mark 9:43-44](#), Jesus speaks of *hell* (*gehenna*). *Hell* is a Greek translation of the Hebrew “Valley of Hinnom,” a place outside Jerusalem’s walls desecrated by Molech worship and human sacrifice ([2 Chronicles 28:1-3](#); [Jeremiah 32:35](#)). It was also a garbage dump where rubbish and refuse were burned. The smoldering fires and festering worms of the Valley of Hinnom made it a graphic and effective picture of the fate of the damned. This is **the lake of fire** prepared for the devil and his angels ([Matthew 25:41](#)). Men only go to this place prepared for the devil and his angels if they reject God’s salvation and condemn themselves.

c. **This is the second death:** “As there is a second and higher life, so there is also a second and deeper death. And as after that life there is no more death, so after that death there is no more life.” (Alford)

i. “The devil and the damned have punishment without pity, misery without mercy, sorrow without succor, crying without comfort, mischief without measure, torments without end and past imagination.” (Trapp)

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- Matthew Henry: III. An account of the return of the church's troubles, and another mighty conflict, very sharp, but short and decisive. Observe,
  - 1. The restraints laid for a long time on Satan are at length taken off. While this world lasts, Satan's power in it will not be wholly destroyed; it may be limited and lessened, but he will have something still to do for the disturbance of the people of God.
  - 2. No sooner is Satan let loose than he falls to his old work, *deceiving the nations*, and so stirring them up to make a war with the saints and servants of God, which they would never do if he had not first deceived them. They are deceived both as to the cause they engage in (they believe it to be a good cause when it is indeed a very bad one), and as to the issue: they expect to be successful, but are sure to lose the day.

- 3. His last efforts seem to be the greatest. The power now permitted to him seems to be more unlimited than before. He had now liberty to beat up for his volunteers in all *the four quarters of the earth*, and he raised a mighty army, the number of which was *as the sand of the sea*, [v. 8](#).
- 4. We have the names of the principal commanders in this army under the dragon—*Gog and Magog*. We need not be too inquisitive as to what particular powers are meant by these names, since the army was gathered from all parts of the world. These names are found in other parts of scripture. *Magog* we read of in [Gen. 10:2](#). He was one of the sons of Japheth, and peopled the country called *Syria*, from which his descendants spread into many other parts. Of *Gog and Magog* together we only read in [Eze. 38:2](#), a prophecy whence this in Revelation borrows many of its images.
- 5. We have the march and military disposition of this formidable army ([v. 9](#)): *They went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city*, that is, the spiritual Jerusalem, in which the most precious interests of the people of God are lodged, and therefore to them a beloved city. The army of the saints is described as drawn forth out of the city, and lying under the walls of it, to defend it; they were encamped about Jerusalem: but the army of the enemy was so much superior to that of the church that they compassed them and their city about.
- 6. You have an account of the battle, and the issue of this war: *Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured the enemy*. Thus the ruin of *Gog and Magog* is foretold ([Eze. 38:22](#)), *I will rain upon him and upon his bands an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, and fire and brimstone*. God would, in an extraordinary and more immediate manner, fight this last and decisive battle for his people, that the victory might be complete and the glory redound to himself.
- 7. The doom and punishment of the grand enemy, *the devil*: he is now cast into hell, with his two great officers, *the beast and the false prophet*, tyranny and idolatry, and that not for any term of time, but to be there *tormented night and day, for ever and ever*.

#### [Rev 20:11-15](#)

The utter destruction of the devil's kingdom very properly leads to an account of the day of judgment, which will determine every man's everlasting state; and we may be assured there will be a judgment when we see *the prince of this world is judged*, [Jn. 16:11](#). This will be a great day, *the great day, when all shall appear before the judgment-seat of Christ*. The Lord help us firmly to believe this doctrine of the judgment to come. It is a doctrine that made Felix tremble. Here we have a description of it, where observe,

- 1. We behold *the throne*, and tribunal of judgment, *great* and *white*, very glorious and perfectly just and righteous. *The throne of iniquity, that establishes wickedness by a law*, has no fellowship with this righteous throne and tribunal.
- 2. The appearance of the Judge, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ, who then puts on such majesty and terror that *the earth and the heaven flee from his face, and there is no place found for them*; there is a dissolution of the whole frame of nature, [2 Pt. 3:10](#).

- 3. The persons to be judged (v. 12): *The dead, small and great;* that is, young and old, low and high, poor and rich. None are so mean but they have some talents to account for, and none so great as to avoid the jurisdiction of this court; not only those that are found alive at the coming of Christ, but all who have died before; the grave shall surrender the bodies of men, hell shall surrender the souls of the wicked, the sea shall surrender the many who seemed to have been lost in it.
- 4. The rule of judgment settled: *The books were opened.* What books? The books of God's omniscience, who is greater than our consciences, and knows all things (there is a book of remembrance with him both for good and bad); and the book of the sinner's conscience, which, though formerly secret, will now be opened. *And another book* shall be *opened*—the book of the scriptures, the statute-book of heaven, the rule of life. This book is opened as containing the law, the touchstone by which the hearts and lives of men are to be tried. This book determines matter of right; the other books give evidence of matters of fact. Some, by *the other book,* called *the book of life,* understand the book of God's eternal counsels; but that does not seem to belong to the affair of judgment: in eternal election God does not act judicially, but with absolute sovereign freedom.
- 5. The cause to be tried; and that is, *the works of men,* what they have done and whether it be good or evil. *By their works men shall be justified or condemned;* for though God knows their state and their principles, and looks chiefly at these, yet, being to approve himself to angels and men as a righteous God, he will try their principles by their practices, and so will *be justified when he speaks and clear when he judges.*
- 6. The issue of the trial and judgment; and this will be according to the evidence of fact, and rule of judgment. All those who have *made a covenant with death,* and an *agreement with hell,* shall then be condemned with their infernal confederates, cast with them into the lake of fire, as not being entitled to eternal life, according to the rules of life laid down in the scripture; but those whose names are written in that book (that is, those that are justified and acquitted by the gospel) shall then be justified and acquitted by the Judge, and shall enter into eternal life, having nothing more to fear from death, or hell, or wicked men; for these are all destroyed together. Let it be our great concern to see on what terms we stand with our Bibles, whether they justify us or condemn us now; for the Judge of all will proceed by that rule. *Christ shall judge the secrets of all men according to the gospel.* Happy are those who have so ordered and stated their cause according to the gospel as to know beforehand that they shall be justified in the great day of the Lord!

### **The Millennium Chuck Missler Revelation: Creation changed:**

- Physical changes Zech 4:9,10; Isa 35:1-10
- Curse lifted Isa 11:6-9
- Creation redeemed Gen 3 vs. Rom 8:20-22
- Earth in full of knowledge of the Lord Isa 11:9; Hab 2:14

## **Yet, not eternity:** Isa 65

- Death, sin Isa 65:20
- Each to have land Micah 4:15
- Fruitful Amos 9:13

## **Not “heaven”:**

- vs. Eternal State which follows
- Not the “New Earth” Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1
- Not “where righteousness dwells”; limited evil, judged immediately Isa 11:1-16

## **Millennial Longevity:**

- Death for unbelievers only Isa 65:17
- Nowhere is there a resurrection of Millennial saints.
- Tribulation saints complete the “first resurrection” Rev 20:4-6
- No Jewish unbelievers? Jer 31:31-34
  - All accept by 100th year Isa 65:20
  - Thus, death only among Gentiles?

## **The Millennial Temple: Ezekiel 40 - 48**

The description of the Millennial Temple is highly detailed (not simply symbolic); all nations to worship there; offerings and sacrifices resumed; it is open only on the Sabbath Day and New Moons.

Topography significantly altered...tribes' inheritances different from Joshua's (see chart on next page).

## **Division of the Land: Ezekiel 48**

### **His Throne**

*And in mercy shall the throne be established: and he shall sit upon it in truth in the tabernacle of David, judging, and seeking judgment, and hasting righteousness.*

Isaiah 16:5

*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:*

Matthew 25:31

*And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the Temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his Throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne:*

Zechariah 6:12-13

*And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the*

*covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more. 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.*

Jeremiah 3:16-17

During the Millennium, the Ark is no longer the focus of worship in Jerusalem. It will be replaced by the Throne of the Lord as all nations shall be gathered to it. (The Ark and Mercy Seat were two separate objects in the Scripture.)

7] And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,  
8] And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.

This is not to be confused with Ezekiel 38-39, which is from the north, not from the four corners of the earth, and is before the Second Coming, etc. The time, place, and participants are all different.

Gog and Magog show up again? Magog is a people; but how can Gog still be alive after 1000 years? He is a demon king. Amos 7:1 (LXX): "King of the Locusts" (vs. Prov 30:27; cf. Rev 9 notes.) [Gog and Magog has become an idiom by then. This is a second occurrence of a similar battle.]

9] And 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.

[There will probably be more people in this period than any other due to the perfect environment: no disease or lack of anything, etc.]

Even after a thousand years of perfect rule, there is enough evil resident in the heart of man that, given an opportunity, he still rebels... We belong to a fallen race, and every human being is born with an essentially evil nature. A perfect environment still reveals the fallen nature of man. A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart. The serious nature of our own heart can only be known by the Word of God (Jer 17:9).

10] And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *are*, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

After 1000 years, the "terrible twosome" is still there; there is no "annihilation" in the Bible...

11] And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Not to be confused with the Bema Seat. Great White Throne Judgment (Dead): vs. Rev 4; Dan 7:9-11; Isa 6; Ezek 1; 1 Kgs 22:19; Ex 24:9-11.

(Jn 5:24; cf. Mt 7:22-23). Note: Ecologists are doomed to failure—you cannot save the earth (Isa 65:17; Mt 24:35; 2 Pet 3:10-12; Heb 1:10-12).

12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened:

and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

What books? [note the plural.] God's Word: "the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (Jn 12:48). "Works" do not save; they simply mitigate sentences. A judge, but no jury; a prosecution, but no defense; a sentence, but no appeal.

Note "dead" occurs 7X in v.12-14. [If you know the right people, you can avoid the whole thing: get God's Son to stand in your place...]

Before God can usher in His new heavens and new earth, He must finally deal with sin; this He will do at the Great White Throne.

13] And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Judged by works—deadly! Even by their own standards, they fail.

[*Pember*, et al: demon forces agitated the sea (Mt 8:26); demons took temporary refuge in the sea (Mt 8:30); disembodied spirits from earlier inhabitants??...]

14] And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

The death of death (see v.6). *Hades*, *sheol*, is temporary. Gehenna is "permanent"; that is, outside our time domain.

### **A Paradigm of Death**

15] And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Whose book? Who keeps it? "Book of Life": Ex 32:32, 3; Ps 69:28; Rev 21:27; Phil 4:3; Rev 13:8; 17:8. Names of believers, not deeds Lk 10:20; works: Rom 2:11,12. [Book of Remembrance, Mal 3:16, "them that thought upon His name," vs. 1 Cor 3:14,15?]

Hell is a witness to the righteous character of God; Hell is a witness to man's responsibility. God does not send people to hell: they send themselves by rejecting the Saviour (Jn 3:16-21; Mt 25:41). If we saw sin as God sees it, we would understand why a place such as hell exists. Are you written in the Lamb's Book of Life? Or are you planning on defending yourself before the final judgment? **[It's not what you know, but who you know!]**

### **Key Questions**

- What happens when you die?
- Is there really an "afterlife"?
- What is heaven like?

- Is there really a “hell”?
  - What is the nature of eternity? and the “reality” we find ourselves in?
- The concept of “really”—our actual reality—underlies any basis of understanding. The nature of time itself, and the actual nature of the “reality” we find ourselves in, constitutes some basic understandings that must precede any serious discussion of these issues.

### **Heaven Bound?**

Although the lifestyles, values, and self-perceptions of most adults have undergone significant changes—and millions have embraced many elements of a postmodern worldview, the majority continues to believe that there is life after death, that everyone has a soul, and that Heaven and Hell probably do exist.

Yet, over 50 million Americans are uncertain about their personal fate: Nearly 2/3 of Americans believe they will go to Heaven. One in four admitted they have no idea what will happen after they die. Less than 1/2 of 1% expect to go to Hell upon their death. One in 20 believes he/she will come back as another life form (5%). The same proportion believe

Body

they will simply cease to exist.

Soul

Spirit

Physical Death

Spiritual Death Rev 2:11

Rev 20:6, 14

Rev 21:8

Jude

Let’s examine the beliefs of those who believe they are “Heaven Bound”:

- 43% because they have “confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as their savior.”
- 15% because they have tried to obey the 10 Commandments.”
- 15% because “they are basically a good person.”
- 6% because “God loves all people and will not let them perish.”

### **Contradictory Findings**

- Among born-again Christians: 10% believe that people are reincarnated after death; 29% claim it is possible to communicate with the dead; 50% contend that a person can earn salvation based upon good works; and many believe there are multiple options for gaining entry into heaven. Logical contradictions prevail, even among born-again Christians. Many have redefined grace to mean that God is so eager to save people from Hell that He will change His nature and universal principles for their individual benefit.

- Atheists and agnostics are also confused: 50% believe that every person has a soul; Heaven and Hell exist; and that there is life after death; 12% believe that accepting Jesus Christ probably makes life after death possible. Atheists and Agnostics also harbor contradictions in their thinking.

- Labels are not descriptive: evidences the adoption of simplistic views from novels, movies, etc.

### **Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16)**

19] There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20] And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21] And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22] And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

There's only one who has returned from the grave: He alone "has the floor." This is one of the few reliable passages on this subject. Notice that this is *not* a parable: these are real historical characters with names.

23] And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24] And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25] But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

No "soul sleep" here! Conscious and aware.

26] And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.

27] Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28] For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

He is very concerned for his family; he also understands what it would take to avoid his predicament...

29] Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30] And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31] And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

[It is interesting that one named Lazarus *did* come back from the dead...]

### **The Underworld**

Impassable

Gulf

Hades

Abraham's

Bosom

Place of

Torment

a;bussoj

*Bottomless*

*Pit*

This is the OT picture. After the Cross, Jesus came, declared His victory and took those in "Abraham's Bosom" with Him (Matt 27).

### **Some Insights**

- The man in Hades was fully conscious: he had memory; speaking; pain; desires.
- His eternal destiny was irrevocably fixed.
- He knew that what he was experiencing was fair and just. He also knew what his brothers needed to do to avoid his own fate: *repent!*
- (He was not yet in Hell, but only Hades)

### **The Underworld**

*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

1 Peter 3:18-20

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;*

Isaiah 61:1,2

Quoted by Jesus in His opening statement at Nazareth (Luke 4:17-21).

*And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.*

Matthew 27:52,53

### **Annihilationism?**

*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to **destroy** both soul and body in hell.*

Matthew 10:28

“destroy”: *avpo,llumi apollumi*, “to be delivered up to eternal misery” (Thayer’s Greek Lexicon). Nowhere used to mean “annihilate” Mt 9:17; Lk 15:4; Jn 6:12, 27.

*eternal life.*

Matthew 25:46

“eternal”: *aivw,nioj aionios*, everlasting, eternal.

*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*

Daniel 12:2

*The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*

Revelation 14:10,11

*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

Revelation 20:10

After 1,000 years, the beast and false prophet are still being tormented, not annihilated.

**John Brown: IV. [REVELATION 20:7-9](#) Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. (NKJV)**

A. If this doesn't convince us of man's true nature, nothing will!

1. After 1,000 years of being in the very presence of the Lord Himself. Experiencing His goodness, His peace, and His prosperity of the earth: there will still be a multitude of men and women on the earth ready to take up arms against the Lord at first chance!!

2. Please notice that Satan doesn't escape! He is let loose by the Lord!!!
3. During the millennium sin will be prevented by the Lord and His "kings and priests" and there will be some who will resent that they have to be "holy by lack of opportunity".
4. You see, in their hearts they do not love the Lord!
  - a) In the past they could blame not living for the Lord on poverty, pornography, war, or even pressure at work.
  - b) But now, those things had been removed for a 1,000 years!
  - c) There is no excuse by their own sinful hearts, and they must be confronted with that!
    - (1) Because it is only in accepting that we are sinners, that salvation can exist!
5. Notice also that a 1,000 years in the "pit" hasn't changed Satan's character one bit! (Quote about guy in KKK - change of heart)
  - a) He quickly mobilizes Gog and Magog (symbolic of the enemies of the Lord), (historically, Magog is Russia. Gog seems to be the leader of the people of Magog)
    - (1) I think it is important not to limit this reference to just Russia, but to all who oppose the Lord at this time!!
    - (2) This will be the one final assault upon the Lord and His people, and of course it fails!

(a) [Malachi 4:1](#) *"For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch. (NKJV)*

**V. [REVELATION 20:10](#) The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

A. Finally, here is the end of the angels turned demon, that fell from heaven with Lucifer.

1. It is the end of Satan and his reign of terror, the beast and the false prophet.
2. It is the end of all that opposes the Lord!
  - a) This is not just a "holding tank" in which "good old boys" party down!
  - b) It is torment forever!!

**VI. [REVELATION 20:11-15](#) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (NKJV)**

A. John sees the Lord so glorious that everything disintegrates in His path that is not holy!

1. The fallen earth and heavens are vaporized!

2. And every human being ever created is seen standing before the Lord giving account for their lives!

a) Except for the Christians. they will not appear before this throne at all!

(1) Their sins have been taken care of at the cross.

b) *The Lord is not willing that any should perish* so this book called "The Book of Life", at one time had every person ever born registered.

c) Some have been "blotted out" by their own choice. They have chosen death instead of life!

(1) As they give account for their lives, the record precedes them.

(2) You see, they made a willful choice to "do it on their own", so they will be judged according their "works", not the forgiveness of the cross!

(3) Those not found in this Book will experience a bodily death once again! *This is the second death.*

(a) Remember [Hebrews 9:27](#) says, *it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, (NKJV)*

This second death is after their judgment!

Dr. J. Vernon McGee :: The Millennium



Aa

Click [here](#) to view listing below for [Rev 20:7](#)

## THE MILLENNIUM

What is the Millennium?

Where is the Millennium?

When is the Millennium?

Who establishes the Millennium? And why is the Millennium?

Beginning with Isaiah and continuing through the Old Testament, there is a section of Scripture which is called the prophetic portion of the Bible. Although the predictive element bulks large in this section, the prophets were more than foretellers. Actually, God raised up these men in a decadent day when both priest and king had failed.

Isaiah and all the Old Testament prophets were extremely nationalistic. They rebuked sin in high as well as low places. They warned the nation. They pleaded with a proud people to humble themselves and return to God. Fire and tears were mingled in their message, which was not one of doom and gloom alone, for they saw the Day of the Lord and the glory to follow. All of them looked through the darkness to the dawn of a new day. In the night of sin they saw the light of a coming Savior and Sovereign; they saw the Millennial Kingdom coming in all its fullness. We must understand their message before we can correctly interpret the Kingdom in the New Testament. The correct perspective of the Kingdom must be gained through the eyes of the Old Testament prophets.

We shall confine our glimpse into the Millennium through the eyes of Isaiah, although throughout the pages of Scripture and especially in the Prophets, there is further information regarding this great subject.

Millennium. Where do we get the word? What does it mean? It is like several other important words that are essential for our understanding of the Bible but which do not actually appear in it. The word **millennium** does not appear in the Bible but words that mean millennium do appear repeatedly. The word **millennium** comes from two Latin words: **mille**, meaning “one thousand” and **annus**, meaning “years.” A millennium is one thousand years. In the Greek, the word used is **chilia**. You’ll hear that term used by some theologians, and they are always coming up with words so that most people don’t know what they’re talking about! When theologians talk about chiliaism and millennialism, they are talking about the same event. Both words mean a thousand years, and they have to do with the thousand-year reign of Christ here upon this earth which is mentioned in **chapter 20** of the Book of Revelation. That chapter is the only place that gives the duration of the Kingdom, and the phrase “thousand years” occurs there six times. However, the theme of the thousand-year Kingdom which is coming on the earth is a great subject of Scripture.

### **God’s Magnificent Program**

Actually, the Millennium is merely one phase of God’s eternal Kingdom; that is, the “theocratic Kingdom,” as Dr. George N. H. Peters calls it — and I like that term so much better. Actually, everything that **has** happened in history, that **is** happening in our day, and **will** happen in the future is all part of God’s program in setting up His Kingdom here upon this earth.

Now the Millennium, one feature of God’s eternal Kingdom, is a special dispensation that is yet future. The Millennial Kingdom will come to an end, and the eternal Kingdom will begin. That is stated clearly in Scripture. Over in **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul gives the order of events, beginning with the resurrection of Christ in **verse 20**, then he says that those who are Christ’s will be raised at His coming.

***But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming.*** (**1 Corinthians 15:23**)

After that, "Then cometh the end." The end of what? The world? No. The Bible does not teach the end of the world. This world that we live in will not come to an end but is going into eternity. Yes, it's to be renovated, made new, but it is going into eternity.

***Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father ...***

There does come a time when this thousand-year reign will be delivered up to God the Father,

***... when he [Christ] shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. (1 Corinthians 15:24, 25)***

Christ is coming into this world someday, and He will come in with great judgment. He will set up His thousand-year reign here upon this earth. And during that thousand-year reign, He will accomplish a purpose. Today He is accomplishing His purpose of calling a people out of this world unto Himself. During the millennial reign He's going to bring this earth under His rule. He will rule with a rod of iron. Those who oppose Him will be dashed in pieces like a potter's vessel. That is going to be a time when Christ will rule arbitrarily upon this earth.

Now let me make this very clear. We have not yet seen a real dictator rule. You wait till Christ rules. When He rules on this earth a bird won't even cheep, a rooster won't crow and a man won't open his mouth without His permission. That'll be a time when His will at last will be done on this earth. And, my friend, even the Millennium would be a hell for any man who is in rebellion against God.

The Bible tells us that there will be some in rebellion, and that rebellion breaks out during the Millennium. Christ will judge it immediately because He is going to bring this earth back under the rule of God. That is God's purpose for the earth.

***For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Corinthians 15:25-28)***

Now what does that mean? It means simply this: The Lord Jesus will come to this earth, reign one thousand years, and bring this earth back under the rule of God. When this is accomplished, I take it that He will return back to His place in the Godhead. And this earth then will become what God intended it to be throughout the eternal ages of the future. This is the picture that the Scripture presents.

All the way through the Old Testament, and especially in the Prophets, this Kingdom, this thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth, is set before us. In fact, there is more Scripture — this may surprise you — on this subject than on any other subject in the Bible. The prophets had more to say about this coming Kingdom than anything else. It was their theme song. They sound like a stuck record, saying over and over that the King is coming, the Kingdom is coming, and great blessings will be on this earth.

Now, the prophets spoke of it as coming in the future. And from where you and I are today, it is still future. The conditions predicted have never been fulfilled in the past, and they are not being fulfilled yet, as we shall see.

The Kingdom of God will not be established by man's efforts, by human ability. The church is not building the Kingdom today, yet it is geared into a program that will see the coming of the Kingdom. It's not our business to build a Kingdom. This is one reason that I am thankful today to be out of the denomination I was raised in. I used to go to meetings in which there were always brethren building the Kingdom — and you ought to have seen the cheap little “chicken-coop” that we built! Yet we were always talking about building the Kingdom. My friend, when God is ready to set up His Kingdom, He won't need help from any church. In fact, He is going to remove His true church out of the world before He establishes His Kingdom here upon the earth. That is His plan, that is His program, if you please.

Now the Kingdom that we are looking at in these few pages will be confined to what Isaiah had to say on this subject. And believe me, he had a great deal to say about it.

### **The Kingdom of Heaven**

This Kingdom — and this is important for you to understand — is the same as we find in the New Testament where it is called the Kingdom of Heaven. That was the message John the Baptist began with: “Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” ([Matthew 3:2](#)). When the Lord Jesus began His ministry, He said the same thing.

Now neither John nor the Lord Jesus explained what that phrase meant. That seems to indicate to me that the only ones who miss this are theologians and seminary professors today who don't seem to know what's happening in this world. They try to make something very obtuse, something esoteric out of the Kingdom of Heaven. When you ask one of them what the Kingdom of Heaven is, he bats his eyes, and you think he's going off into a trance, and that it is something that only he and his little clique know. May I say to you that the common people who heard John the Baptist and the Lord Jesus understood what they were talking about. The Kingdom we are talking about is just what the Old Testament has been talking about: the Millennial Kingdom coming on the earth.

The Kingdom of Heaven is just simply this: the rule of the Heavens over the earth. When Heaven rules over this earth on which we live, we will have the Kingdom of Heaven condition.

Now look, I had to go to seminary to learn that! But that's all it means. And it's a shame to have to spend years in seminary and just make the discovery that the reign of the Heavens over the earth is all the Kingdom of Heaven can possibly mean.

The Millennium will be the time when there will be the full manifestation of the glory, the power and the will of God over this earth. And all agree that this is not in evidence today. You'll not have hospitals, you'll not have graveyards, you'll not have the suffering nor broken hearts and lives when Christ is reigning on this earth. And it's an insult to my Lord to say that the Kingdom of Heaven is being built today and is in existence on this earth. When He is reigning you won't have the tragedy that presently exists throughout the world.

Now we, of course, ask these questions. Why must we have tragedies? God has to vindicate Himself. Why is it that the earth is in such a deplorable condition? Why isn't God reigning on this earth now? Isaiah tells us how it all began. This is where sin began, and Isaiah deals with this subject.

### Where Sin Began

In Isaiah 14:12 the prophet tells about the fall of God's highest creature and that this creature led a rebellion against God to set up a kingdom that was opposed to God. Here is the revelation concerning it, and it is startling indeed.

***How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!*** (Isaiah 14:12)

The prophecy of Isaiah goes back into the past and then looks on into the future concerning this creature who is yet to be judged and brought down. Who is this creature that rebelled against God? He is the highest creature God ever created, Lucifer. We know him today as Satan and as the Devil. He has many different names. Our Lord even called him a liar and a murderer.

This highest of God's creatures, according to Ezekiel 28, was "full of wisdom and perfect in beauty." And Satan hasn't lost that beauty. If you could see him today, you would not see an ugly, fearsome being. He would be most attractive. He disguises himself as an angel of light, and his ministers as preachers of righteousness, according to 2 Corinthians 11:14, 15. I do not know why those of us who are gospel preachers can't be handsome, tall, robust fellows who speak with basso profundo voices. Most of us are an unattractive lot. But have you ever noticed Satan's preachers? I heard Judge Rutherford when I was a boy. I want to tell you, he was impressive. I've heard many others who are the leaders of cults, and they all look like ministers of righteousness. Satan, if you could see him today, would be the most beautiful creature you have ever seen. God created him that way.

Now what was it he did? This significant passage refers to the beginning of [sin](#) in the universe:

***For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.*** ([Isaiah 14:13, 14](#))

You see, Satan does not want to be unlike God, he wants to be like God. When Lucifer, son of the morning, said, “I will,” sin entered the universe.

Way back in the past, and we’re told practically nothing about this in the Bible, something happened to this earth. Apparently, it happened long before man got here. If you are in Southern California, you may have taken a trip over the Ridge Route and have gone down through that area where you see those great big rocks along the side of the highway. I said to a friend of mine who is a geologist, “When do you think that took place?” and he answered, “Oh, two or three million years ago.”

And while out in Arizona another friend of mine, again a geologist with Cal Tech, said, “You want to see what’s on top of that ridge?” He took his foot and kicked out the topsoil, and you know what was under that, what made the ridge? A petrified log!

I said, “My there must have been a forest here.”

“No, there never was a forest here. These floated in here.”

“[Floated](#) here — in this desert?”

“Yes.”

“From where?”

“They floated in from California.”

“Floated in from California! How long ago was that?”

“About two hundred fifty to three hundred thousand years ago.”

All of this took place before man got to this earth. What does that mean? It means that a great catastrophe took place on this earth. When? The view that I favor is that this catastrophe took place between [verses 1 and 2](#) of the Genesis account, and the earth became without form, and void. Also, I think that the catastrophe was connected with the fall of Lucifer, who became Satan, as we know him today. However, God has given us no details in the [first chapter](#) of Genesis.

In the [third chapter](#) of Genesis God does tell us that Satan had access to this earth and that he approached our first parents with the same temptations that had affected him — the desire to “be as gods, knowing good and evil.”

This is the sin of man right now. This is our problem today. In [Isaiah 53:6](#) he says, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to [his own way](#)” — those are the three words that tell what’s wrong with all of us. You and I want our own way. Have you ever noticed how the little baby in the crib gets red in the face and yells and then holds his breath? You think he’s going to die! Do you know why he does that? Because he wants [you to pick him up](#). He wants [his](#) way. It’s born in us. We have a nature that says, “We want our way.” We don’t want God’s way. Mankind is in rebellion against God.

God says that He is going to establish His Kingdom on this earth. [His](#) way is going to prevail some day. That is the meaning of the rule of the Heavens over this earth.

Sin entered the universe when Satan rebelled. Then man rebelled against God — and continues to do so.

God’s [process](#) by which the Lord Jesus will come to the throne — that is, the establishing of the Kingdom here upon this earth and the Millennial Kingdom — is part of the great theocratic Kingdom of God.

I want to hit only some high points. You may have noted that the difference today in eschatology — that is, the difference in interpretation of future things — is always centered around the Millennium. This controversy is not actually around the person of Christ, but rather centers around the Millennium. There is postmillennialism which holds that the church or Christian agencies will correct every evil in the world until Christ has a “spiritual reign” for a thousand years. And not until after that would He return in person to reign over the earth. However two world wars, a worldwide depression and then the atomic bomb put the postmillennialists out of business.

A new group has come up known as amillennialists. They were not much in evidence when I started in the ministry, but by the time I got to seminary they were very much in the fore. In fact, in seminary I was taught the amillennial position, which is that there will be no Millennium other than that which is in progress at the present time! It is because I studied the amillennial position in seminary that I am a premillennialist today. Years ago a man came up to Dr. Beaver and declared, “Dr. Beaver, I am not a postmillennialist and I’m not a premillennialist.” Dr. Beaver looked at him and said, “That’s [preposterous](#).” And to my judgment amillennialism is a preposterous position.

Now, premillennialism holds the position that in the present age, evil will increase and end in judgment at the second coming of Christ to the earth, at which time [He](#) will set up His Kingdom and reign in righteousness for one thousand years.

These are the three views of eschatology today, and they all center around the Millennium.

The amillennialist makes the charge against those of us who are premillennial that we believe in only a materialistic kingdom with physical blessings in the future. In fact, a professor at Westminster Seminary has said that what we believe in is a worldly kingdom. That is actually not true. I want to answer this, confining our answers at this time solely to the Book of Isaiah, and cite some of the spiritual blessings of the Kingdom that are yet to come.

### Spiritual Blessings of the Millennium

#### Peace

This is one of those wonderful passages of Scripture:

***And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*** ([Isaiah 2:4](#))

This will not be experienced until the Millennium. Only then will there be world peace. Until then, you'd better keep your powder dry. You'd better not believe that aggressive superpowers will quit filling their arsenals, because they have lied before and are very capable of doing that sort of thing.

But the day is coming when there will be peace. That peace will come when the Prince of Peace rules on this earth. In that day you can beat swords into plowshares. Peace is a great spiritual blessing that is yet in the future.

#### Righteousness

***And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.*** ([Isaiah 32:17](#))

In [Psalm 85](#) it says, "Righteousness and peace have kissed each other" — they aren't even on speaking terms today! One of the reasons we cannot have peace on this earth is because we do not have righteousness. However, righteousness will characterize the reign of Christ during the Millennium.

#### Holiness

***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.*** ([Isaiah 4:3](#))

Holiness is one of the things that characterizes the Millennium. The word holiness literally means separation, a thing set apart. A believer's spiritual birth, his salvation, sets him apart as holy — that is, separated unto God. But our salvation is in three tenses: I have been saved; I am being saved; and I shall be saved.

Our problem comes in the second tense: "I am being saved." We are told, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" ([Philippians 2:12](#), [13](#)). Yet the believer still has that old sinful nature, and the idea that we

can get rid of it in this life is a tragic mistake. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8).

Not until we go to be with Christ will we experience the final stage of our salvation. “... We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2). Now, my friend, let’s not beat around the bush about these things. We are not going to see holiness on this earth until Jesus Christ rules. Believe me, it’s going to be holy when He is ruling during the Millennium.

### **Glory**

Not only does Isaiah mention peace, righteousness and holiness, but we’re also told here that glory is another spiritual blessing during the Millennium.

***When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning. And the LORD will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night for upon all the glory shall be a defence.*** (Isaiah 4:4, 5)

Glory is another spiritual blessing during the Millennium.

### **Joy**

***Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.*** (Isaiah 12:3, 4)

The phrase “in that day” in Isaiah and in all the Prophets is referring to the Kingdom, to the Millennial Kingdom. “And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD,” and when you say “Praise the Lord” in your church in that day, people won’t look at you as if something is wrong. You can say, “Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted!”

***Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth.*** (Isaiah 12:5)

Joy. That’s one of the blessings that will characterize the Millennium. Joy does not characterize the world today. Instead there is dissatisfaction, loneliness, sorrow and heartbreak. But just imagine being on this earth when all is joyful, and everyone is filled with joy!

### **Comfort**

There is also comfort in this same chapter, will you notice it:

***And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I***

***will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*** (Isaiah 12:1, 2)

### ***Full Knowledge***

Now here is another wonderful feature: there will be **full knowledge** in the Kingdom. Today we “see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known” (1 Corinthians 13:12) — full knowledge.

***And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding ... the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*** (Isaiah 11:1, 2)

There will be knowledge in that day.

### ***Instruction***

Also it's going to be a time of instruction, a time when folks are going to go to school. Right now a great many young people are going away to college, going away to school, trying to learn something — and maybe some of them will. But ours is a day when a great many people are interested in knowledge. During the Millennium there will be great knowledge, and there'll be a great deal of instruction. I'm hoping the LORD will let me teach a class down on this earth, probably the kindergarten class, during the Millennium. I enjoy teaching today and I think I'll enjoy it more in that day.

***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 shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. 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.*** (Isaiah 2:2, 3)

There will be a great hunger and thirst for God, folks wanting to know about God. We are living in a day when men want to know about missiles, about electronics. But in that day there will be a great hunger and thirst after God — people wanting to know **Him**, wanting to know His Word.

I sure am looking forward to that!

Every now and then I see that eagerness to know God's Word. I think my Thursday night Bible study congregation represented a group like that. I also get a glimpse of it in letters I read from our radio listeners. When I was up at a Campus Crusade conference with a bunch of college kids, I never saw kids as alert as those young people were. And then when I was out in Flagstaff with the Indians one summer, those Indian believers — my, how eager they were — they just hung around me. They let me teach for an hour and a half and still wanted to hear more. It's amazing! We see little indications of thirst for God, but just think what it will be during the Millennium. It'll be wonderful!

May I say to you, I think you ought to equip yourself down here for what you are going to do over there. This is really a training place, a staging area, where we get ready to go over on the other side. And one of these days we are going to move over. So it's time to prepare ourselves for that.

I want to mention just three or four passages that have to do especially with the Millennium.

This [second chapter](#) of Isaiah has these special features. So let me go over this again and call your attention to what I omitted. These are the special features — the person, the character and the physical facts of His Kingdom.

### Special Features

***The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. 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 shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow into it. (Isaiah 2:1, 2)***

Jerusalem will become the capital of this earth in the Kingdom. Just as Babylon is to be the capital of Antichrist during the Tribulation, so Jerusalem will be the capital on the earth for the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

***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:...***

You'll have to go there to the university, in order to learn.

***... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3)***

Now God names Jerusalem specifically, and this, of course, refers to the Kingdom.

***And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people:...***

This is a worldwide kingdom.

***... they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (Isaiah 2:4)***

This is one of those remarkable passages.

Then there is another remarkable passage in the [eleventh chapter](#), and let me call attention to several things:

**Person**

***And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.*** (Isaiah 11:1)

The Kingdom is never established by the church, never by an organization, never by a movement. The world will not grow into the Kingdom of Heaven. But the One who will establish the Kingdom is mentioned in this Scripture as the “rod” and the “Branch,” The Messiah who is to come.

This is exactly what John the Baptist meant when he said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand;” literally the Greek is “in your midst.” The Kingdom of Heaven is in your midst because the King is here. And you can’t have a kingdom without a king, any more than you can have a marriage without a bride and groom. They are essential. If I say that I officiated in a wedding, you know immediately that a bride and groom were there. There couldn’t have been a wedding without them. And neither can you have a kingdom without a king. When John said, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand,” he meant the King is here. It couldn’t be otherwise, could it? The King had come.

Now, they rejected Him. But here the prophet is emphasizing the necessity of this One coming in the line of Jesse.

He is to come out of the stem of Jesse. Why didn’t Isaiah mention David? Did Jesus come from the line of King David? Yes, but David’s line had returned to peasantry by the time Jesus came. Jesse was a farmer from Bethlehem. The Lord Jesus was a carpenter from Nazareth — that’s the way He was identified when He was here. The stem was of Jesse and a Branch would grow out of his roots.

Notice that the Messiah was to have the fullness of the Spirit:

***And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*** (Isaiah 11:2)

In [John 3:34](#) we are told that God gave to Jesus the Spirit without measure, the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

***And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD....*** (Isaiah 11:3)

One thing that will characterize the Kingdom is that the Lord is going to jack up the IQ of all the people. Won’t that be wonderful! There will be no neurotics, no mentally retarded, no dull minds. There will be nobody in the class who will have to say, “Teacher, I didn’t get that. Would you go over that again?” They will get the point immediately. I wouldn’t mind having my IQ stepped up a little, and maybe you wouldn’t either.

### ***Character of Reign***

Notice this as Isaiah continues:

***But with righteousness shall he judge the poor,...***

The poor have never had a square deal yet, have they? The politicians talk about all of us before election day, and then they forget us the day after election. The Lord Jesus shall judge in righteousness the poor man. Special interests and labor unions are not for the poor anymore. Capitalists have never been for the poor. Let's face it, friend, the poor man just doesn't have a chance in this world. Thank God for a King who is coming to judge in righteousness for the poor! He is the One I want to see rule on this earth. I like His platform.

***... and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; ...***

Meek folk. He says in [Matthew 5:5](#) that the meek are going to inherit the earth, and they are certainly not doing it today.

***... and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.*** ([Isaiah 11:4](#))

You may want to play that down, but the Word of God doesn't play it down. He will "break them with a rod of iron," according to the second Psalm. The Word of God is very specific. He intends to put down the wicked. He will make no treaty with the godless superpowers of this world. He will make no treaty with the combine of gangsters either in our own country or abroad. He intends to put them [down](#) — with no apology to anybody. He doesn't need their votes. He doesn't need their influence. He doesn't need their help. He intends to slay the wicked. Thank God, my friend, this earth is yet to get a square deal. And it will never get it until Christ comes. That's the reason the Millennium is quite a wonderful prospect for this earth.

***And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.*** ([Isaiah 11:5](#))

Righteousness and faithfulness are two additional spiritual blessings, and they are wonderful.

### Physical Blessings

Now let's look at some of the physical blessings of the Kingdom.

***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.*** ([Isaiah 11:6](#))

Apparently in the Garden of Eden there was no distinction between wild animals and domesticated animals. They were all tame. The animals would just walk right by Adam, and he named them. Then, after the fall, certain animals became wild, no longer friendly to man.

***And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.*** ([Isaiah 11:7](#))

A fellow came up to Dr. George Gill, a Bible teacher who had a very sharp mind, and said to him, "Doctor, that's ridiculous! Everybody knows that a carnivorous lion eats meat, not hay!" In his inimitable way, Dr. Gill said, "I'll tell you what we'll do. You make a lion; I'll make him eat hay."

If God made the lion and says he's going to eat hay, he will eat hay, my friend, and like it. This will be the Millennium.

***And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den.*** (Isaiah 11:8)

Nothing that is poisonous will be on this earth.

***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. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*** (Isaiah 11:9, 10)

Now he's going to talk about returning the Jews to their homeland:

***And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left...***

This is the nation Israel. There can be no Millennium until Israel is back in the land. There are so many things out of socket today. The devil is in the wrong place — he goes to and fro in this earth seeking whom he may devour. He has to be in the bottomless pit during the Millennium. He's out of place today. Christ is not in His rightful place for the Millennium. He will be on the throne of David reigning over this earth. The church is out of place today — it's in this world. The church is to be with Christ in the New Jerusalem. And Israel is out of place today, her people scattered throughout the world, and they must be back in their own land. There will be no Millennium until everything gets in its place.

In that day the Lord will recover the remnant of His people, who shall be left,

***...from Assyria and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elan, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.*** (Isaiah 11:11)

This includes America.

***And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.*** (Isaiah 11:12)

Again, this is during the Millennium which is to be established on this earth.

One more reference that has to do with the physical characteristics of the Millennium is that wonderful [thirty-fifth chapter](#) of Isaiah. Now will you note this:

***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.*** ([Isaiah 35:1, 2](#))

The desert will blossom as a rose in the Millennium. The curse that's on this earth today will be removed. I thought of this again out in Arizona as I drove from Flagstaff all the way up to Page at the Glen Canyon Dam. That is a desolate country, friend, for miles and miles. Now I think there is a beauty in the desert. It's a desolate, stark, almost an ugly beauty, yet it is beautiful. But I said to the folk traveling with me, "You know, it would be wonderful to make this trip during the Millennium. Just think — mile upon mile of roses! The desert shall blossom as the rose."

That's not all. He says something else here:

***Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,...***

There'll be no blind in the Millennium.

***... and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*** ([Isaiah 35:3-5](#))

There will be no need for sign language to translate for those who do not hear. There will be no deaf in that day at all.

***Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing....***

Even I will be able to sing. I want to sing a solo for you then. It may not seem like the Millennium to have to listen, but I do want to sing along with those who haven't been able to speak. "The tongue of the dumb sing."

***... for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.*** ([Isaiah 35:6](#))

Now let me drop down to the final verse of this chapter:

***And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*** ([Isaiah 35:10](#))

That is the Millennium; that is the hope of this earth. However, that is not the hope of the church. The church's hope is that one of these days we are to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air,

***For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*** ([1 Thessalonians 4:14-17](#))

He will take us to a place that, candidly, is going to be even more wonderful than this earth, the New Jerusalem. But I think we will be able to commute back and forth. What glorious things God has planned for our future!

I wonder today if you are on the way to the New Jerusalem. Our Lord Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" ([John 14:6](#)).