

The
SECOND COMING
...and Beyond



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The NEXT MAJOR EVENT in God's unfolding plan for humankind is the glorious SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST! The millennial reign—the “thousand years” of Revelation 20—will begin soon after Christ returns to this earth. But just WHAT is the Millennium? WHERE will it be? And what will it be like? Let's turn to the SURE PROPHECIES of God's Word for answers!

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The Feast of Trumpets and the Next Great Event in God's Plan

God's Word says, “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation” (Leviticus 23:24). Why? What does the Feast of Trumpets mean to us—and to the rest of the world?

What is the *next* major event for God's people—in fact, for the whole world? Quite simply, people do not know because they do not understand their Bibles. In Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21, Christ details the general overall scenario for the world: religious deception, wars, famines, disease epidemics, earthquakes, and so forth. These have been going on in ever-increasing intensity from the beginning. Christ said, however, “All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:8). Things were going to get worse! Much worse! Christ went on to warn that at the end of the age, “there shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be” (Matthew 24:21).

God's holydays, as laid out in Leviticus 23, picture God's plan of redemption—what God is doing on the earth—from the Sabbath and Passover on through to the Last Great Day. (If you have not already done so, please send for our FREE booklet, *God's Seasonal Plan*, which explains each in great detail.) The first of these spring holy-

days, Passover, the Days of Unleavened Bread, and Pentecost, have been fulfilled in history. The rest, the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day, lie immediately ahead of us. And what awesome things they portend!

Many pray, *Thy kingdom come*, or have said, *I can't wait for the Day of the Lord to come*, without realizing what the answer to this prayer will entail! Amos 5:18 declares, “Woe unto you that desire the day of the LORD! To what end is it for you? The day of the LORD is darkness, and not light.” Zephaniah 1:1–15 goes even further: “The great day of the LORD is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers” (Zephaniah 1:1).

The Feast of Trumpets—What it Means— What Will Happen Next

The Feast of Trumpets that we celebrate reminds us in advance of both the coming “trumpet plagues” (Revelation 8–11) that will be poured out in the terrifying “Day of the Lord,” and of our present job of lifting up our voice “like a trumpet” (Isaiah 58:1) to warn the nations of the soon-coming Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21). It will be a day of fear and trepidation for mankind, but a day of rejoicing for the saints!

The next blessed event in God’s redemptive plan is illustrated by the Feast of Trumpets. This is the time when Jesus Christ shall come again in clouds, riding upon a great white horse, descending with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God (1 Thessalonians 4:14–17). This will be at the last trumpet, “for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52)!

What a day this will be! The saints of God will be resurrected to immortal life—changed into spirit beings, born into the very Family of God—the time of our “spiritual birthday,” if you will. At this time, those who will have received everlasting life will be given authority to rule and serve under Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:6; 2:6; 5:10; 20:6) for a thousand years.

The Second Coming of Christ is revealed in the book of Revelation as occurring in three sets of seven: the seven seals, the seven trumpets, and the seven last plagues of God. In Revelation 5, we see a seven-sealed scroll or book that only Christ was deemed worthy to open. The seven seals cover the rest of the book. One by one, Christ strips opens the seals, as we see in chapter 6, verses 1 through 17. Note that these seven seals are an expanded visionary description of the *same* series of events Christ described earlier in Matthew 24. The Bible interprets its *own* symbols, and Christ here reveals what these seals mean *in His own words!* The seventh seal *is* and consists of—constitutes, is made up of—seven trumpets; and in turn, the seventh or last trumpet *is* and consists of—is composed of—the seven last plagues, culminating in Christ’s Second Coming.

In Revelation 8:1–2, the time of the opening of the “seventh seal” marks the beginning of the Day of the Lord, the prophesied time of God’s wrath. Notice John’s description of this momentous event: “And when He had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”

Christ will begin to directly intervene in world affairs at the seventh or last trumpet (Revelation 11:15–19). A trumpet is symbolic of war. The seven trumpets symbolize *a series of plagues* that are to fall upon the hostile powers that oppose and oppress God’s people. The first four plagues are poured out on the land, the sea, the rivers, and the atmosphere—the basic components of man’s life support system!

Christ—Our Warrior King

When Christ came the first time, He came as the meek and lowly Lamb of God whose mission was to die for the sins of the world. But when He comes the second time, He is coming as a mighty conqueror—as King of kings, and Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14; 19:16)—and He will wage *war* with the nations that oppose Him. But before worldwide reconstruction can commence, Christ must deal with His enemies—and they are many. He must “destroy them which destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18). The next holyday, the Day of Atonement, describes how our ultimate enemy, “the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were

cast out with him” (Revelation 12:9).

In Revelation 19:13,16, we see Christ returning as a mighty conquering warrior king: “And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God... And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.” He will then execute the supernatural seven last plagues, which will ultimately bring rebellious mankind to its knees. We see here another Bible opposite. As shocking as it may seem to those who picture the Lord Jesus Christ as only a sweet, harmless, loving Lord Jesus who would never hurt anyone, the first thing He is going to do at His return is KILL multiple millions of people! Revelation 6:17 declares, “the great day of *His wrath* is come; and who shall be able to stand?”

John writes: “And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He doth judge and make *war*. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns; and He had a name written, that no man knew, but He Himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and He shall rule them with a rod of iron: and He treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God” (Revelation 19:11–15).

The Millennium Begins

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever” (Revelation 11:15). Once Christ, the Conquering King, destroys His enemies with the “brightness of His coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8), He will establish world headquarters at Jerusalem, and then proceed to gather the peoples of Israel and Judah into Palestine to repopulate the land (Hosea 1:10; Ezekiel 37:21,22)—thus, Israel will be restored as a nation; the people “shall dwell safely all of them” (Ezekiel 38:8); and “Jerusalem shall be inhabited as towns without walls” (Zechariah 2:2–5). The Feast of Tabernacles will be reinstituted and enforced worldwide. Those nations who refuse to keep it will suffer the plague

of no rain (Zechariah 14:16–19). At long last, all Israel—not just Judah—will be reconciled with God, and will become the model nation she was intended to be.

Christ will at that time restore true worship, peace, and harmony in the land. The long-awaited Millennium—the prophesied thousand years of utopian peace, harmony, and global reconstruction—will then begin. “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 2:3).

The Last Great Day

And finally, after the Millennium, comes the Last Great Day, a totally separate feast day picturing the time when the *rest* of the dead (Revelation 20:5)—all those billions who never had the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior during their lifetimes—will be resurrected to physical life and have *their* first and only opportunity to enter into the kingdom of God.

In summary, clearly the Feast of Trumpets pictures the time of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ in power and glory to begin His reign on the earth. Could *any* event in all history be more important, more pivotal, or more glorious than the return of Jesus Christ to rule the earth?

Now, let’s take a closer look at what God’s Word reveals about the wonderful world to come—the millennial reign of Jesus Christ..

The Millennium—What Will It Be Like?

Where will *you* spend eternity?” the huffing, puffing, perspiring evangelist bawled at his enthralled audience; “in heaven—or in hell?”

Heaven or hell! What an alternative! Yet, those are the two prospects placed before millions of Protestants, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims. (For Catholics, there is also a place called “purgatory”—a temporary holding place en route to heaven—proclaimed as a dogma by the Council of Florence in A.D. 1439.) Heaven or hell—is this all

we have to look forward to? Is this what is predicted in your Bible? What ultimately lies ahead for mankind? You may be surprised and, yes, SHOCKED as to what your Bible really says!

Few, even those in traditional Christianity, give any thought to what the Bible says—yes, prophecies—lies shortly ahead. Few understand what the Bible foretells about that period of time referred to as the *Millennium*, or “the thousand years” in Revelation 20:5–6.

What is the Millennium?

Millions have prayed the prayer, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done *in earth*, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10), but do they really know what they are asking? The good news is, that prayer *will* soon be answered in a magnificent way! Jesus Christ will soon return to put down the present wicked system of things and replace it with the long-awaited Kingdom of God.

The word “Millennium” is derived from two Latin words: *mille*, meaning “thousand” and *annus*, meaning “year.” *Millennium* simply means “1,000 years.”

The Millennium *is* the promised Kingdom of God—those first thousand years of Christ’s world-ruling reign on earth at the time of His return. It is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:2–7 and is alternately referred to as the Kingdom of God (Luke 19:11), the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 6:10), the Kingdom of Christ (Revelation 11:15), the regeneration (Matthew 19:28), the times of refreshing (Acts 3:19), and the world to come (Hebrews 2:5). At this time, Christ will be the undisputed Lord of lords and King of kings along with His resurrected spirit-composed saints who will reign in positions of co-rulership with Him (Revelation 1:6; 5:10; 19:16; Isaiah 61:6; Daniel 7:18, 22). This time is described in detail in Isaiah 2:2–4; chapters 11, 12, 35, and elsewhere. This millennial period is the fulfillment of the Abrahamic, Davidic, and new covenants, and will be completely fulfilled when the New Jerusalem and God the Father come down out of heaven to dwell on the new earth (see Revelation 20:4; 21:1–3, 7, 10).

The Kingdom of God

This period of time—often referred to simply as “the Kingdom”—was a central part of Jesus Christ’s message and is thus a major and central theme of the Bible. We read, “From that time

Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for *the kingdom* of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17, 23; 10:7; Mark 1:15; Luke 1:14; 4:43; 9:2; 19:11; John 18:36).

So *why* is this Bible truth so rarely understood, and *why* isn’t it commonly taught in most churches today? The early church fervently believed and taught Christ would return to rule over the *literal nations* on earth. They were sent out to preach this message (Luke 9:2, 60). Christians proclaimed this message faithfully. It was on their minds constantly. They believed it absolutely. They prayed for it fervently. At one point during Christ’s ministry, the apostles asked Him, “Tell us, *when* shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world [*aion*, age]” (Matthew 24:3)?

Again, just after Christ’s death and resurrection, and immediately before His ascension to heaven, they again wanted to know, “Lord, wilt thou at *this* time [now] restore again the kingdom to Israel” (Acts 1:6)? Jesus told them it was not God’s intent that they should know exactly when this would happen; neither do we know today. He told them they should concern themselves with proclaiming His *message* to the world (Acts 1:7–8, Matthew 24:14). The churches of this world worship the *Messenger* but ignore His MESSAGE!

Christ told His disciples that He would die, but would be resurrected 72 hours later, and that He would go to prepare a place or position for them in His coming Kingdom (Matthew 16:21; Luke 22:28–30; John 14:2–3). Initially, the apostles did not fully understand, believing the Kingdom would appear within their own lifetimes (John 20:9; Acts 1:6, 7). Later, when they received the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), they realized the Kingdom was to be yet future. To enter into that Kingdom they, too, would first die, then be resurrected as spirit beings, for flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s Kingdom (Philippians 3:20–21; 1 Corinthians 15:50).

Why Is So Little Preached About the Millennium?

You may rightly wonder, if these things be true, *why* so little is heard about the Millennium in the churches or religious circles of this world? *Why*, *when*, did mankind stop believing the message Jesus brought? Why is this, the central message of the Bible, no longer being preached? Instead, these Kingdom truths have been twisted, changed, and ignored. How unfortunate that most of mainstream

Christendom's churches have, by creeping incrementalism, *substituted* that glorious hope with the ideas, philosophies, and theologies of *men* about heaven, hell, and the immortality of the soul! Because of much false preaching, countless millions of good, sincere, but deceived, believers read their pagan notions of heaven and hell *into* the scriptures instead of taking Scripture for what it plainly *says*.

On the contrary, most religious denominations today hold that the Millennium is *not* a literal 1,000-year period during which Christ will rule on earth, but a nebulous, fuzzy description of heaven. (Be sure to read our free brochure, *What Does the Bible Really Say About the Millennium?*) Not knowing the Bible well enough, most people pass over these scriptures with little thought, leaving such "deep matters" to the paid professionals. These plain, but often ignored scriptures are usually "spiritualized away" because they do not fit in with their popularized belief of departed souls immediately wafting off to heaven or hell at death.

Some scholars teach that the Millennium is not an actual period of 1,000 years, but is only a long, *indefinite* period that may have started centuries ago and will continue to get better and better under man's direction until we arrive at a virtual utopia. The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* reports that Augustine "advanced the theory that the Millennium had actually begun with Christ's nativity" some 2,000 years ago and is still continuing.

The very highly respected and voluminous French *Dictionnaire de Théologie Catholique* defines "millennialism" as the "False belief professed by those who were awaiting a temporal reign of the Messiah, the length of which was sometimes considered by them to be a thousand years. . . . Since the fifth century, millennialism has no longer been spoken of, or very rarely, by a few cranky sects."

"*A few cranky sects*"? When we read the Bible *itself*, we see a completely different picture! Why such confusion? Just who or what are we to believe? Should we take stock of the commentaries, philosophies, and fantasies of *men*, or the inspired Word of God?

Kingdom Truths Twisted, Changed, Ignored

Over the years, after the death of Jesus' apostles, these clear biblical truths about the Kingdom of God and the Millennium became clouded over with philosophy and the traditions of *men* who ascend-

ed to power in their churches. Indeed, during the first century, the apostles exercised a restraining influence that helped to keep Christian doctrine pure. After they died, a great apostasy set in (2 Thessalonians 2:3–8; 1 Timothy 4:1–4).

How did that happen? Let the apostle Paul explain: "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also, from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after themselves" (Acts 20:29–30, NKJV). He went on to say, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if *his ministers* [yes, Satan has ministers!] also be transformed *as* the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13–15).

Christ warned repeatedly that we should "Take heed that no *man* deceive you. For *many* shall come in my name, *saying*, I am Christ; and [by this means; *saying* that Jesus is the Christ] shall deceive many" (Matthew 24:4–5, 11, 24; Mark 13:5–6, 22; Luke 21:8).

Many surviving second and third century writings show that a great false church arose—a church driven and inspired by Satan the devil—mixing paganism with the true doctrines of first century Christianity and by it led the whole world astray (Revelation 12:9). Among many other doctrinal changes, this also affected what was taught regarding the Kingdom of God, or the Millennium for "the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (2 Corinthians 4:4).

The good news is that Jesus Christ will soon return to put down the present wicked system of things and replace it with the Kingdom of God.

Here's the Best News You've Ever Heard!

What Will It Be Like in the World Tomorrow?

What will life be like on earth in *God's* promised "brave new world"? The limited mind of man can scarcely fathom the glory and splendor of what life will be like for mankind during this time. For now, we see only in part, as through a glass darkly (1 Corinthians

13:12). This future thousand-year reign of Christ on earth—described in Isaiah 35 and elsewhere—will be a time of wonderful peace, joy, and blessing, the utopia man has hitherto only dreamed about!

One of the first things King Jesus will do is to put Satan and his demons out of commission—locked away in an abyss of inactivity for a thousand years. No longer will those evil, fallen angels be lurking behind the scenes, fomenting trouble, goading mankind into acts of disobedience to God (Revelation 20:1–3). What a relief!

During this time, the nations will become exceedingly prosperous. Undoubtedly, many advanced technologies will be discovered for the benefit of those who are on the earth.

The Millennium will be a time of perfect, beautiful weather, a veritable tropical paradise. There will no longer be extreme shifts in the weather—droughts, floods, storms, hurricanes, or tornados—to fear, for God will maintain proper climate control year round (Joel 2:23).

After centuries of pollution and war, the land will be healed, restored, and enjoy her sabbaths. God's commandments will be strictly adhered to (Psalm 111:10; 119:44; Isaiah 2:3). God will once again bless the earth, returning it to its former glory of Eden. "For the LORD shall comfort Zion: He will comfort all her waste places; and He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (Isaiah 51:3). The waters will come alive with every type of fish and become 100 percent pure for drinking, and the land will blossom with an abundant harvest. This will be a time of tremendous agricultural blessing. The earth literally will not be able to receive its bounty (Joel 2:24–26).

Millennial life will be active and productive (Isaiah 65:21–22). God will change the nature of man so that he will greatly enjoy his labors (Isaiah 65:21–23). No more will a man dread going to his livelihood on the first workday of each new week. He will be perfectly suited for the profession he has chosen, and will do it with joy. Vibrant health will be the rule of the day. Life span will be increased. Those who are sick or afflicted will be miraculously healed (Isaiah 65:20). This great society will also be characterized by one universal language (Zephaniah 3:9).

The world will enjoy the absolute peace of God and be com-

pletely safe. Crimes such as murder, rape, and theft will be non-existent. Thoughtfulness and consideration will be the norm and status quo. Vanity, jealousy, lust, and greed will be a thing of the past.

All war materials and weapons will be destroyed. "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 [Imagine what it will be like being taught by Jesus Christ Himself!] for out of Zion shall go forth *the law*, and the word of the LORD *from Jerusalem*. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:2–4). With Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords, no one will need worry about nation rising against nation and kingdom against kingdom, for He will be our sole protector. No longer will man study war, but will convert his weapons into instruments of farming.

Does this sound too good to be true? We need not speculate, because the Bible plainly tells us, and what it says is thrilling, almost beyond belief, to modern ears!

The Bible Challenge

We challenge you. *Quick!* Go get your Bible! Blow off the dust. Now, casting all human reasonings, church creeds, and traditions aside, let us lay out in outline form, verse-by-verse, *what the Bible actually says* the Kingdom of God will be like. Then, don't believe us—believe your own Bible!

Do not allow yourself to dismiss these scriptures simply because you are not familiar with them or have been brought up in a different belief system. Do not permit your minister, priest, or rabbi to use smooth words, shallow answers, or vague dismissals to reject or "spiritualize away" these PLAIN scriptures! Instead, diligently search out these scriptures in your own Bible and ask God for understanding.

Throw aside all preconceived ideas. Insist on *Bible answers!* Copy

the Bereans who “received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were *so*” (Acts 17:11).

Following, in briefest form, is an outline of forthcoming world events. This is your future. It is the *best* news you have ever heard! For brevity’s sake, only the highlights are listed here. (Perhaps you might like to mark, color code, or chain reference these in your Bible for future quick reference.)

1. Christ’s Kingdom Is Received From God:

The Lord God shall give to Him the throne.	Luke 1:32–33
There was given to Him dominion and a kingdom.	Daniel 7:13–14
I will give thee the heathen.	Psalms 2:8
The kingdom is the Lord’s; and He is the governor.	Psalms 22:28

2. It Is to Be Established When Jesus Christ Returns to Earth:

In the regeneration, the Christ shall sit in the throne.	Matthew 19:28
When the Son of man shall come in His glory.	Matthew 25:31
A parable: Christ to receive the kingdom and return.	Luke 19:12–27
Christ shall judge at His appearing and kingdom.	2 Timothy 4:1
He is coming on a white horse as King of kings.	Rev. 19:11, 16

3. It Will Be Established in Power and Might:

He will smite the nations and rule with a rod of iron.	Psalms 2:8–9 Rev. 19:15
He will smite the earth with the rod of His mouth.	Isaiah 11:4 Job 4:9
The Stone [Christ] will smite and replace the image.	Daniel 2:34–35 Daniel 2:44–45
He shall fight against those nations.	Zech. 14:3–5
In flaming fire He will take vengeance on the disobedient.	2 Thess. 1:7–10
Christ will destroy the wicked with His brightness.	2 Thess. 2:8
The Lamb shall overcome those who make war.	Rev. 17:13–14

4. Israel Will Be Regathered, Converted, Exalted:

Bring again people of Israel.	Amos 9:14–15
Put a new spirit within you.	Ezek. 11:17–20
Exalted above the Gentiles.	Isaiah 61:4–6
Jerusalem will be the throne of the Lord.	Jeremiah 3:17

5. Christ’s Kingdom Will Supersede and Replace All Earthly Kingdoms:

The kingdoms of this world will become Christ’s.	Rev. 11:15
Christ will be King of kings and Lord of lords.	Rev. 17:14; 19:1
Christ’s kingdom shall never be destroyed.	Daniel 2:44
The kingdom given to the saints of the Most High.	Dan. 7:18, 22, 27

6. The Worldwide Extent of Christ’s Kingdom:

Satan and his influences shall be put away.	Rev. 20:1–3
Jesus Christ to be King over all the earth.	Zechariah 14:9
All nations will keep the Feast of Tabernacles.	Zechariah 14:16
Gentiles shall seek Him.	Isaiah 11:10
Uttermost parts of the earth.	Psalms 2:7–9
All nations shall serve Him.	Psalms 72:8–9
The Stone Who will fill the whole earth.	Daniel 2:35–44
All people, nations, languages shall serve Him.	Daniel 7:14
All dominions to serve and obey Him.	Daniel 7:27
Christ’s kingdom exalted above nations.	Micah 4:1–3
Earth shall be full of glory.	Isaiah 11:9

7. The Eternal Duration of Christ’s Kingdom:

The throne of His kingdom to be established forever.	2 Sam. 7:13, 16
There shall be no end to His peace and government.	Isaiah 9:7
God’s kingdom shall stand forever.	Daniel 2:44
His dominion is everlasting.	Daniel 7:14
The saints to possess the kingdom forever and ever.	Daniel 7:18
Of His kingdom there shall be no end.	Luke 1:33
Christ’s kingdom to last forever.	2 Peter 1:11
The kingdoms of this world to be Christ’s forever and ever.	Rev. 11:15

8. The Structure of Christ’s Kingdom—

Christ, King of Kings, Will Reign From Jerusalem:

Christ’s kingdom to be exalted above the nations.	Micah 4:1–4
Israel’s returned and praised among all people.	Zephaniah 3:20
The Son of man shall sit on the throne of His glory.	Matthew 25:31
Christ to sit upon the throne of David, forever.	Luke 1:32–33

9. The Church Will Be Glorified With Him:

We shall be joint-heirs with Christ.	Romans 8:17
We shall also appear with Him in glory.	Colossians 3:4
We will have power and sit with Him on His throne.	Rev. 2:26; 3:21
As kings and priests, we shall reign on earth.	Rev. 1:6; 5:10
We shall reign with Him a thousand years.	Rev. 20:6

10. All Nations Left Will Serve the King of Kings:

All nations and kings shall serve Him.	Psalms 72:8–11
Nations to go to Jerusalem to be taught of His ways.	Isaiah 2:2–4
Those left of all nations will worship the King.	Zech. 14:9, 16

11. The Temple Will Be Rebuilt:

The temple described in detail.	Ezekiel 40—48
Animal sacrifices temporarily reinstated.	Ezekiel 40:42–43; Ezekiel 44:11

Burnt, sin, meat, trespass, and peace offerings.

Ezekiel 43:19–27
Ezekiel 45:17

**12. The Character and Blessings of Christ's Kingdom—
Christ will rule with righteousness and justice:**

With righteousness.
With righteousness shall judge.
Walk in His paths.
In righteousness He doth judge.

Psalm 72:8–10
Isaiah 11:3–5
Micah 4:2
Rev. 19:11

13. God's Laws, Sabbath, and Holydays to Be Strictly Enforced:

God's law kept forever and ever.
The Law shall go forth from Zion.
All nations to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.
All shall worship God from one Sabbath to another.

Psalm 119:44, 160
Micah 4:2
Zech. 14:16–19
Isaiah 66:23

14. There Will Be Worldwide Peace Among Nations:

There will be an abundance of peace forever.
Israel will no longer be a prey to the heathen.
Men shall beat their swords into plowshares.
No end to the increase of His government.
The work of righteousness shall be peace forever.
Men shall learn war no more.
He shall cut off war & speak peace unto the heathen.

Psalm 72:3, 7
Ezekiel 34:28
Isaiah 2:4
Isaiah 9:7
Isaiah 32:17
Micah 4:3
Zechariah 9:10

15. No More Sickness:

Inhabitants shall not say, "I am sick."
The blind, deaf, lame, dumb, healed.
The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard.
God shall wipe away all tears and pain.

Isaiah 33:24
Isaiah 35:5–6
Isaiah 65:17–19
Rev. 7:17; 21:4

16. The Nature of Animals Changed:

A little child shall lead formerly fierce animals.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together.
God will make a covenant with the wild beasts.
Christ will establish a covenant of peace with all.

Isaiah 11:6–9
Isaiah 65:25
Hosea 2:18
Ezekiel 34:25

17. The Fertility of Earth Will Be Restored:

The desert shall blossom as the rose.

The wilderness shall be as a pool of water.
Peace, singing, abound; no more thorns or thistles.
Desolate lands rebuilt; earth as a Garden of Eden.
The plowman will overtake the reaper.
There will be a restitution of all things.
The creature shall be delivered from bondage.

Isaiah 35:1–2,
Isaiah 35:6–7
Isaiah 41:18–19
Isaiah 55:12–13
Ezekiel 36:33–35
Amos 9:13–14
Acts 3:20–21
Romans 8:19–22

18. The Environment Will Be Made Friendly:

Protective covering cloud & flaming fire upon Zion.
There shall be showers of blessing.
There shall be bountiful harvests.
The wilderness and solitary place shall be glad.

Isaiah 4:5–6
Ezekiel 34:26
Ezekiel 34:27
Isaiah 35:1

19. Who Will *Not* Inherit the Kingdom:

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom.
The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom.
Immoral persons shall not inherit the kingdom.
Unrepentant won't inherit the kingdom.

1 Cor. 15:50
1 Cor. 6:9–11
Gal. 5:19–21
Rev. 21:8, 27
Rev. 22:15

20. The Whole Earth to Be Filled With the Glory of the Lord:

The whole earth shall be filled with His glory.
Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord.
The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Psalm 72:19
Isaiah 11:9

Habakkuk 2:14

Amen! What a future! What a world! Now *read this list over again!* Let it really "soak in." We need to "prove all things" by the infallible Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Down through the ages, men have endeavored unsuccessfully to bring peace and harmony to this world, but the Word of God declares, "And the way of peace have they not known" (Romans 3:17). It will require a supernatural force—the strong, but loving and merciful hand of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to bring peace and harmony to this sin-sick world and release it from the curse of sin that has held it captive for thousands of years.

So we ask again, does the Bible *really* tell of immortal souls spending eternity in heaven, hell, or purgatory as the huffing-puffing preacher claimed at the beginning of this article? Or, instead, does it predict that God will bring a literal thousand years of peace and utopia *TO THE EARTH*? What a paradox! What an *opposite* set of beliefs! You be the judge. When people really *READ THE BOOK*, they find what the Bible *says* and what they are *told* the Bible says are often two very different things! Which do you choose to believe?

Let's be honest! Are there *really* lions, lambs, bears, cows, and snakes in heaven? Will there be harvesting, plowing and reaping, deserts, rivers, rain, heathen, nations, and kings, in heaven? Christ Himself said, "And NO man hath ascended up to heaven" (John 3:13)! Certainly no rational-thinking person can read these many pro-

nouncements from the Eternal God—from the inspired sacred words of Scripture—and not be absolutely convinced and convicted that God’s Kingdom is going to RULE ON THIS EARTH!

The refurbished earth—not heaven—is the reward of the saved! Continue reading in Zechariah 14:4! This plainly shows, “in that day” when Jesus Christ returns, His “feet shall stand on the *mount of Olives* [on the earth]”—and that He is coming *back* EXACTLY *as* the angelic messenger *said* He would in Acts 1:11, “in like manner *as* ye have seen Him go into heaven”!

When we read in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 and the surrounding verses that those who are alive at the Second Coming of Christ will be “caught up together *with* them [the ones having just been resurrected] to *meet* the Lord in the air,” we know that, true to the prophecy of Matthew 24:31, the angels will *gather* the redeemed from around the world; we know that they will be collected together to MEET the returning, conquering Christ *in the air* (and the air is very much a part of this earth’s *atmosphere*), and continue down to the mount of Olives in that very same day (Zechariah 14:3–4, 9)!

It is *here*, on this *earth*, that Jesus Christ intends on cleaning house—*solving* the problems—ushering in an era of absolute *joy*! Yes, the saints will reign ON THE EARTH! This is the *message* the *Messenger* brought to earth!

What a wonderful, glorious future lies ahead for mankind! When the seventh trumpet sounds, *will you be ready?*

About the Church of God International

This literature is published by the Church of God International, based in Tyler, Texas. Incorporated in 1978, the CGI has ministers and congregations scattered throughout the United States and Canada. We also have churches in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Australia.

The CGI's mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world (Matthew 28:19). We are blessed with four basic tools to accomplish this:

- 1. Personal and local church evangelism.*
- 2. Television and radio broadcasting.*
- 3. Booklets, brochures, and study tapes.*
- 4. The Internet.*

How You Can Help

All our materials and services are offered to the public free of charge. Many naturally ask us how we can afford to send out thousands of booklets and study tapes each month. The answer is simple.

On a regular basis, prayerful friends and members of the Church of God International voluntarily support us with tithes and offerings to further the advancement of the gospel to the world. No financial obligation is ever demanded, but if you are moved to support this work of God, donations are gratefully accepted at the addresses listed. (Contributions in the United States and Canada are tax deductible.) Giving to and through us is an effective way for people like you to help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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