



A Thousand Years of Peace

End of the Age Series

VOLUME VIII

Gordon Lindsay

Gordon Lindsay was a specialist in last-day prophecy. He took very seriously the end-time prophecies which other theologians sometimes deemed lightly. Perhaps the clearest example of this is his interpretation of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ upon this earth.

While Lindsay realized that perilous days lay ahead for mankind (i. e. wars, atomic destruction, germ warfare, dictators, etc), he foresaw brighter times. It is this new Kingdom of God on earth which he depicts with scriptural clarity. What will life be like during this one thousand years of peace? Will people grow old? Will all men be believers? How will people be governed? Will peaceful men ever be deceived again?

These are some of the questions Gordon Lindsay answers in this book. It is must reading to all those who dream and pray, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

—Bob Summers CFN Editor

A Thousand Years of Peace

**END OF THE AGE SERIES
VOLUME VIII**

by Gordon Lindsay

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Chapter I

The Millennium Begins

The Millennium! This is the age of which poets have dreamed. Men have labored; they have tried many plans and invented many panaceas in their hope of building a utopian world. They have always failed. Repeated efforts have been put forth by statesmen to establish a world government. First, it was the League of Nations; at its demise the United Nations took its place. It is obvious that the U. N. is no more successful than the first attempt.

Today a dreadful peril faces the world. Nuclear warfare with its awful power to wipe out whole cities in the matter of seconds hangs over civilization like the sword of Damocles. Vast quantities of hydrogen bombs with lethal power calculated in megatons, or millions of tons of TNT, have been prepared, ready at the push of a button to destroy whole nations. These perils have been considered in previous volumes.

Nevertheless, man will not be permitted to destroy the world. After the terrors of Armageddon are over and judgment has cleansed the earth of its iniquities, the Lord of heaven will come forth and set up His kingdom which shall endure forever. We are told that Christ and His saints shall rule and reign for 1000 years on this earth, after which time shall merge into the new heavens and the new earth of eternity. To the events of this thousand years, the golden age, we shall now address ourselves.

The 1000 Years of the Millennium

All signs point to the fact that this 20th century will wind up the age. Without reference to Bible prophecy, noted writers, scientists and ecologists, tell us that this present civilization cannot survive beyond the year 2001 A.D. The population explosion has become a grim factor that we cannot ignore. Even

in the last decade the population increased from three billion to 3,600,000,000. This increase of 600,000,000 is more than the total population of the earth after 57 centuries from Adam. Pollution has become another circumstance that is rapidly making the earth unviable. But the atomic bomb threat is the most fearful of all because nations now possess the means of destroying the entire population of the earth (Matt. 24:21-22).

Moreover, according to Bible chronology, the year 2001 A.D. will complete 6000 years of man's week. Four thousand years from Adam to Christ and the subsequent 2,000 years add up to 6,000 years. The Millennium, the earth's Sabbath of a thousand years completes the 7,000 years of man's span. So evidently the years between 2001 and 3001 A.D. will mark the Millennium.

Earth's Population Greatly Reduced

The number of people remaining on the earth at the beginning of the Millennium will be greatly reduced in number. According to Revelation 6:8, the "pale horse," death, during the Great Tribulation will cut off one-fourth of the world's population. According to Revelation 9:18, one of the great Trumpet Judgments will take away a third of those that are left. But there are many other judgments. The righteous who survived the Tribulation of course have been removed from the earth at the coming of Christ (Matt. 24:29-31; Luke 21:36). Only the 144,000 sealed Israelites are guaranteed protection during the apocalyptic judgments of the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord (Rev. 7:1-8). However, there will be a remnant of all the nations to repopulate and replenish the earth during the coming age. This is clear from Zechariah 14:16, which speaks of "*everyone that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem*" shall go up from year to year to keep the feast of tabernacles.

To estimate the number who are left is of course sheer speculation. But the cataclysms of the Day of the Lord are compared to that of the days of Noah, so it will be safe to say that a very large portion of the present population will be swept

away in the terrible judgments when God's wrath falls upon the nations.

Devil Cast Into the Bottomless Pit

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season” (Rev. 20:1-3).

There could be no Millennium were it not that Satan, the old serpent who has deceived humanity for so long, will be cast into the bottomless pit to remain there for the entire thousand years. The Scriptures reveal that this pit has been a place of confinement of demons and evil angels. Revelation 9 speaks of demons' being released from the pit at the time of the apocalyptic judgments. But now angelic forces subdue Satan and his followers and confine them in this bottomless prison. There is no possibility of escape. Satan is not only chained, but the upper egress of the abyss is sealed. Satan, ejected from heaven in the eons past, was at the beginning of the Great Tribulation cast out of the heavenlies. Now just prior to the beginning of the Millennium, he will be cast down into this dark pit, no doubt to lash about in fury, but impotent to do anything. He will brood and plan new schemes of deception for the time that he will be released for that little season at the close of the Millennium.

It is not directly stated that the demon spirits will be incarcerated with him. Nevertheless, there is little doubt about this. The evil spirits that talked to Jesus in the country of the Gadarenes understood that the time was coming when they too would be cast into the pit (Luke 8:31).

There is a teaching abroad that the Millennium has already been going on for the past thousand years. This is indeed a mischievous doctrine. The devil will be bound during the 1,000

year Millennium as the Scripture clearly states. How could any sane person reason that the devil is bound at the present time? Evil spirits still possess human bodies; witchcraft involving all manner of sorcery is being practiced today, including devil worship.

Paul taught that believers war not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in heavenly places (Ephes. 6:12). This warfare, if anything, is more intense today than ever before.

The imprisonment of Satan will have a dramatic and salutary effect upon the world. He will be allowed to deceive the nations no more during the thousand years. The peoples of the world will, therefore, be free of his pernicious influence. The delusions and false teachings of our present day will have no place during the thousand years of Christ's reign.

The Judgment of the Nations

“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: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:31-34).

The judgment of the Gentiles as portrayed in the above Scriptures is one of the difficult passages of the New Testament. This judgment apparently occurs during the period just before the beginning of the Millennium. With His holy angels Christ has come and now sits on the throne of His glory, which is also His judgment throne. The nations are gathered before Him to be judged.

There now occurs a permanent division of the peoples still living on earth, which recalls the teaching of certain parables of Christ. In Matthew 13:41, we are told “the Son of man shall

send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them that do iniquity.” Again in the example of the heavenly Reapers, the angels are represented as separating the wicked from the righteous:

“So it shall be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” (Matt. 13:49-50).

Just how the peoples of the earth will be gathered together before Christ’s throne is not explained. We might suggest that this could be a supernatural operation in which the angels of God will engage. After the people are gathered together, they will be separated into two major divisions. One will include the righteous, and the other the wicked.

The parable clearly teaches certain things. For one it is probable that some nations after this judgment will cease to exist as an entity. This is clearly taught in the parable. Nations that persecute Israel put themselves under a curse. God stated this principle in Genesis 12:3: “*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee.*” Balaam tried to curse Israel, but instead brought a curse upon his own head. Amalek thought to destroy the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt; but as a consequence, divine judgment fell upon the nation, and it was utterly destroyed (I Samuel 15:1-11). Nations from time to time have been permitted to chasten Israel, but in turn were judged themselves. Thus it was with Assyria, which at one time was a great empire; but it perished and is no more:

“O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets ... Wherefore it shall come to pass, that when the Lord hath performed his whole work upon mount Zion and on Jerusalem, I will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks” (Isa. 10:5, 6, 12).

So it has been in modern times. Hitler murdered six million Jews, and in his act brought a terrible retribution upon his nation. Russia, Eastern Europe, and certain nations of the Mideast have sorely persecuted the Jews; and for that reason, judgment will surely come upon them.

In this judgment of the nations, Jesus declared that their great sin was that they failed to succor or help His brethren in their distress (Matt. 25:40, 45). While believing Gentiles are spiritual brethren of Christ, the Jews were Christ's brethren in the flesh. So it would appear that the nations will receive a judgment based on their treatment of Israel. Certainly that has historical precedent.

This judgment of the nations does not mean that all the individuals of those countries will be destroyed. The survivors may be assimilated by the nation Israel, as was the case with Rahab and her family; or they may be absorbed into other nations.

It must not be thought that this is merely a national judgment. Nations are made up of people; and as far as individuals are concerned, they stand or fall on the basis of their own record.

In God's great universe every man is directly accountable to Him. All men, good or bad, must face Christ in a judgment of mercy or in a judgment of condemnation. God has transferred all judgment to Christ; and yet not Christ, but His words will judge all men:

“That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him” (John 5:23).

“And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:47-48).

Those who have perished in the great judgments of the day of the Lord will not be judged at this pre-millennial judgment throne, for we are straightly told that the righteous dead are raised at this time and that *“the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished”* (Rev. 20:5). Apparently those who are left of the nations after the great and terrible Day of the Lord are judged at Christ’s throne of glory, and those who are found lacking receive the sentence of death. The following words uttered by the tenderest lips that ever spoke are worthy of the most solemn attention:

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ... And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal” (Matt. 25:41, 46).

Note how this picture contrasts with the lot of the righteous:

“Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matt. 25:34).

The judgment of the nations being completed, the Millennium proper will be inaugurated, and the thousand years of peace will begin.

There is, however, another judgment of which we must make comment. This event is discussed in detail in a previous volume; but we shall note it briefly, for it involves the saints who will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium.

The Giving of the Rewards to the Saints

All the righteous will one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ to receive a reward according to their deeds. Paul in II Cor. 5:10 tells us briefly about it:

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

This judgment seat of Christ appears to be portrayed in the Parable of the Pounds. In considering this parable, Christ represented Himself as a nobleman going into a far country and being gone a long time. Before leaving, he entrusted to his servants certain capital which they were to increase by trading. The pound apparently speaks of the commission which Jesus committed to His disciples before He left them. Some of the servants used the time to very good advantage, increasing the capital of their stewardship. Others were careless in carrying out their responsibility. But however they performed their task, the time came when they all had to come into the Lord's presence to give an accounting of their stewardship. This was at the time of His return. So we see that the rewards of God's people are not given at their death, but at the return of Christ.

The first man represented in the parable who came before his master was able to say, *"Thy pound hath gained ten pounds."* His lord replied, *"Well, thou good servant; because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities"* (Luke 19:17). The second servant reported that his pound had gained five pounds. He did not attain to the first, but was content with smaller achievements. He received a reward in proportion to his efforts and was given authority over five cities.

It is obvious that our Christian work on earth is a sort of training school for the future. When our labors here are finished, we shall be transferred to a new kingdom to take part in the administration of the affairs of the world to come. We know that our scope of service in that time will be vastly enlarged.

We may not overlook the fact that one man had gained nothing. When the king returned, the servant acknowledged him as "Lord," but he was accounted unfaithful. He kept his pound tied up in a napkin. The man had hidden his testimony and had given himself over to a life of idleness and ease. Surely there are thousands of professed believers in the church today who fit the description of the unfaithful servant.

Alas, when that great day comes to give account to the Lord, they will find that they have no reward.

Chapter II

The Curse of Sickness Removed

Sickness and disease will be things of the past during the Millennium. The resurrected and redeemed saints will, of course, be forever free from physical affliction. Their glorified bodies will radiate eternal youthfulness and health, but the peoples of the earth with their physical bodies will also enjoy buoyant health. This is not surprising, for even in Old Testament times God made provision for His people to enjoy health and be free from sickness. Consider these two passages from Exodus:

“And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them. And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee” (Exod. 15:25-26).

“And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee” (Exod. 23:25).

Actually, sickness came into the world as the result of the curse. There was no sickness in the Garden of Eden. While physical death continued to reign on the earth, even after the redemption of God’s people at the exodus, yet provision was made for healing. The fact is that sickness was considered a curse, and God promised deliverance and immunity from it. However, the promise hinged on the condition of obedience. For a time the children of Israel enjoyed the blessing. *“He brought*

them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes” (Psa. 105:37). Nevertheless, the children of Israel’s disobedience and backsliding nullified the promise; and soon she became subject to disease. Deuteronomy 28:20-28 recounts the various plagues that would come upon Israel if she departed from God’s Law.

While Israel enjoyed deliverance from sickness for a comparatively short time, the Millennium will witness the complete fulfillment of the promise.

The prophets looked forward to this great day of deliverance...when the lame man will leap as a hart; when there will be no blind man tapping with his cane; when no deaf and dumb person will be ostracized from society because of his impediments; when cripples will not look wistfully at those who are well and who can come and go as they please; when there will be no more distressing cases of people suffering from malformations of nature or wasting maladies; when there will be no more morons, retarded children, palsied old men, nor youth prematurely aging from epileptic seizures or creeping paralysis; when people no more will be forced to hide their desperate cases from the face of society.

Thank God, all this human misery that has been caused by the sin of the human race will be forever ended.

Think of what this means: no more hospitals for the hopelessly ill, no more clinics, no more searching for cures for those diseases that baffle physicians. Never again will human beings have to writhe in pain from some loathsome terminal affliction, nor will lepers have to be separated from society and herded into colonies. Plagues, epidemics, and pestilences that have swept across nations decimating the population will all be a thing of the past. Man made in the image of God was not intended to suffer these torments. Sin with its curse is responsible, but Christ who became a curse for us came to earth to save us from the curse. Sickness is a curse.

Isaiah wrote of the coming of this wonderful day when the earth will be freed of this bondage:

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

The Author of Sickness Banished

There is one notable reason why sickness will disappear during the Millennium. Satan is the author of sickness. It was the devil who put the boils on Job (Job 2:7). Jesus said that it was Satan who had bound the woman bowed over and whom He healed on the Sabbath day (Luke 13:16). Peter while preaching at the house of Cornelius said that Christ’s mission included the healing of all those *oppressed of the devil*:

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38).

So it was and will be Christ’s mission to deliver His people from sickness. The devil being bound will no longer be able to inflict his foul diseases upon human bodies.

Death Not Fully Destroyed During Millennium

“Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (I Cor. 15:24-26).

From the above passage of Paul we see that, although the sickness problem has been solved, death is not completely defeated during the Millennium. As far as the glorified saints are concerned, death of course is a thing of the past. As Jesus said to the Sadducees concerning the children of the resurrection, “*Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels*” (Luke 20:36). But death will still reign to a limited

extent even during the Millennium.

We are referring to Israel and the nations of the earth that are saved after the Great and Notable Day of the Lord which continue on during the Millennium. Concerning the Millennial age, it appears that longevity will be restored to a length corresponding to that which prevailed during the antediluvian period. Bible readers are aware that during that time the average age of people at death was about 900 years. None reached 1000 years. Methuselah, the oldest person recorded, died at age 969. God had said to Adam that in the day that he sinned he would die. Now God's reckoning is that a thousand years is as a day, even as Peter said, "*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*" (II Peter 3:8).

Therefore, no man on earth in his physical body has reached the age of 1000 years. Toward the end of the antediluvian period when sin reached its fulness, God pronounced a shortening of man's life span to 120 years.

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years" (Gen. 6:3).

This Scripture can be said to apply in two ways. It was a warning that within another 120 years judgment would come on the antediluvian race. This of course happened in the Great Flood. However, the words appear to have another fulfillment. Shem lived to the age of 600 years (Gen. 11:10-11), making him contemporary with Abraham and Isaac, and is thought by some Bible scholars to have been Melchizedek. Be that as it may, during successive generations, longevity was gradually but steadily reduced from 600 to 400 years, then to 200 years. Abraham lived to the age of 175, and his son Isaac attained 180. Nevertheless, the process of the life-shortening went on until the time of Moses who lived to the age of 120. Then during the period in the wilderness God declared that the entire generation 20 years of age and upward would die within the 40-year period (Numbers 14:28-35). Apparently from that time, the human life

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span was reduced to an average of 70 years. So spoke Moses, the author of Psalm 90.

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (verse 10).

Remarkably enough after 3500 years have passed, from the time that was written 70 years is still the average limit of the human race. Disease, ignorance of the laws of health, lack of sanitation, and other causes may depress this age limit as is the case in certain underdeveloped and backward countries. But despite the most advanced tools of science now available and the optimistic predictions of the lengthening of the human span, this divinely set time for man’s probationary period on earth has not been appreciably changed. Nevertheless, a change is coming. Isaiah speaking of the Millennium makes this statement about the restoration of longevity in Isaiah 65:20-22.

There are several statements made in these verses which clearly refer to extended longevity.

First we are told that *“there shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days.”* Truly life seems altogether too short even for this probationary existence. Someday all of us will want to pass on to the next stage of life; but it seems a shame that when a man reaches the age in which he begins to have mature judgment and is able to be a blessing to mankind, that he has to be cut off. It is part of the curse. Some have exceeded this limit and have led increasingly productive lives up into the eighties. But most saints fail to attain these heights, and 65 has become the common age of retirement. Perhaps it is because the church has not taught her people to enter into their full inheritance which includes divine health (III John 2).

Second, there will be cases of death during the Millennium; but if one dies as early as a hundred years, he will be considered as yet a child in comparison to the total life span. The age limit will thus be extended at least 12 times.

Third, we are told that *“the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.”* This speaks of divine judgment being executed during the Millennium. Of this we shall have more to say later.

Fourth, we are told that *“as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.”* Since trees live for many centuries, it is evident that life ranging up into many hundreds of years is indicated.

During the antediluvian times longevity proved to be too long, because it gave the sinner too much opportunity to pursue evil. As it was, the antediluvian race within 1600 years had corrupted itself so utterly that only eight souls were considered worthy to be saved out of the whole race. Of course Satan was free during the antediluvian times as now to deceive the people. Adam and Eve through disobedience had in effect turned their domain over to the devil. Cain, the first born of Eve, became a murderer and sold himself to Satan, “that wicked one” (I John 3:12). However, as we have seen, Satan will be bound during the Millennium; therefore, evil will not have the catalyst supplied by the evil powers to accelerate its development. The seeds of rebellion will be suppressed, held down, and will not appear until Satan is loosed at the end of the 1000 years.

One more note which we will touch on later. If longevity is less than a thousand years, none of the natural race living at the beginning of the Millennium will still be alive at the end of that time. The significance of this we shall presently note.

Chapter III

The Period of Reconstruction

The widespread devastation during the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord will require a substantial length of time for cleansing and restoration. Wherever war has touched an area most of its great cities will lie in ruins. The wreckage will be everywhere. For example, in Israel after the Battle of Armageddon, seven months will be required to remove and bury the dead who lost their lives in the great battle (Ezek. 39:11-16). As for the debris resulting from the conflict, it will require seven years to remove it completely and to restore the land to its original condition (verse 9). No doubt cleansing away the remains of the destruction and the rebuilding of the cities will occupy several years' time as was the case in devastated countries after the late war.

The new cities which will spring up no doubt will be built on a plan appropriate to the new social order. Those evil institutions which today are devoted to breaking the laws of God will be conspicuous by their absence.

Science and Invention

Some may imagine that many of the inventions and scientific achievements will be done away with during the Millennium. We do not believe this will be the case. God created these laws in nature and intended that they should be used for the benefit of mankind. Indeed, we may expect science and invention to reach its zenith during the Millennial age. However, the laws of the physical universe will no longer be prostituted for evil uses. The television screen which is able to link the world together no longer will be a medium for those vile and wicked programs which degrade the audiences that watch them. It shall have many noble uses for the benefit of the

generations of the new era.

We may assume that the progress of science will continue during the Millennium. A significant statement regarding this is made in Zechariah 14:16:

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

The annual feast is analogous to the Lord's Supper of the church. It is both memorial and prophetic. It points forward to the kingdom-rest of Israel. As a memorial it will be observed not only by Israel, but by all nations. They shall go up to Jerusalem from year to year to worship the Lord. It will correspond to annual conventions which are held by various Christian societies. The point here is that such a world convention would have been impossible in Bible days with the means of transportation then available.

Actually there are a half million people each year that now visit Israel during the tourist season! The giant 747 now in service with a capacity of nearly 400 people can carry passengers from New York to Tel Aviv in some 11 hours. Such facilities were never dreamed of at the turn of the century. Today we see how the prophecy of Zechariah can easily be fulfilled. We need not interpret the Scripture to mean that everybody will go to Israel each year. Obviously, only representatives or delegates representing the families of the earth will make the trip.

Atomic energy bids to supplant the fossil fuels in time. The atomic energy in a pound of uranium exceeds by millions of times the energy released by burning a pound of coal. No doubt the practical means of releasing energy from the element hydrogen, a secret at present held by the sun, will be learned during the Millennium. Since the element hydrogen is abundantly available, such a method when perfected will provide an unlimited supply of energy. One thing is certain—the energy of the atom will be used for peaceful purposes and not

for the production of atomic bombs for destructive purposes.

This brings us to the wonderful promise that there will be no wars in the Millennium for during that time the Prince of Peace will reign. Isaiah declares, "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4).

Although the earth may undergo severe depopulation during the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord, it is likely that it will be replenished rapidly during the Millennium. This is due to two causes: First, there will be no wars to ravage the nations; second, as we have seen, longevity will be vastly extended.

Chapter IV

The Regeneration of the Earth

The curse that came upon the earth has seriously disturbed it in many ways. For one thing the climate evidently has been altered substantially. When God during the creation week (or more probably the recreation week) prepared the world for habitation, He made the observation after His work was finished that “it was very good.” There were no destructive storms as we know them today, but the earth was watered by a mist that went up from the ground.

Each day in Eden was perfect and fair from morning till sunset. The sky was a deep blue, unpolluted with man’s ways. The earth was warmed under the rays of a friendly sun. There was no rainfall until the time of the Flood. Noah’s warning of a deluge fell on deaf ears as the antediluvian race had never seen rain. It appears that at the time of the Flood an adverse change took place in the earth’s meteorological conditions which severely altered its weather. In the Psalms we read the statement that “*all the earth’s foundations are out of course*” (Psalm 82:5). We also notice, in comparing the chronological statements found in Genesis 7 and 8 which refer to the Flood, that the pre-flood year was composed of 12 months of 30 days. Thus the antediluvians had a perfect calendar. This is in sharp contrast to our present calendar which has a year that is approximately 365 1/4 days. According to Kepler’s laws concerning planetary bodies, the earth must have receded from the sun about a million miles. In such case the earth would receive on the average of two percent less heat, which undoubtedly would adversely affect the weather.

One other physical phenomenon must be noted. The tilt of the earth’s axis is now 26 1/2 degrees. This accounts largely for the harshness of the seasons. The summers are too hot and the winters too cold for comfort in most of the regions of the earth.

These two effects apparently have thrown the delicate balances of nature out of adjustment. Storms, tornadoes, cyclones, hurricanes, monsoons, and other meteorological disturbances of nature seasonally destroy life and property to the measure of many billions of dollars and leave behind scenes of death and destruction.

These substantial alterations of the climate which have brought suffering and tragedy to countless millions will be corrected at the beginning of the Millennium. A restoration of Edenic climate will take place as Isaiah the prophet indicates:

“Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord bindeth up the breach of his people, and healeth the stroke of their wound” (Isa. 30:26).

The beneficial change in the climate no doubt will extend greatly the boundaries of the habitable areas of the earth. Very likely the vast desolate region of the Arabian desert which will be occupied by Israel at that time will be transformed into fertility and productiveness. Of this Isaiah speaks again:

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

Topographical Changes

Moreover, there will be topographical changes. One such change is prophesied by the prophet Zechariah. A mighty earthquake will shake the Mount of Olives, dividing it asunder and producing a great valley which will range eastward from Jerusalem. Living waters will pour out from Jerusalem, half of which will flow west toward the Mediterranean Sea, and the other half eastward toward the Dead Sea:

“And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out

from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea, and half of them toward the hinder sea: in summer and in winter shall it be” (Zech. 14:8).

According to Ezekiel 47:1-12 the waters will issue from under the house of the Lord. The amount of the waters which flow out form a river so deep that they rise up over a man’s head. On its banks Ezekiel saw great numbers of trees growing.

The Dead Sea Healed

The effect of these new waters will be to change the aspect of the desert on the east slopes of the mountains of Israel. Down below on the plains of Jericho are many acres of fertile land, but only a small portion of it is productive, chiefly because of the lack of water.

The waters of the river will plunge on down toward the Dead Sea. At present this desolate body of water is a great saline sea with a concentration of various salts to the amount of 26 percent. Of course, no fish nor for that matter any living thing can live in this lethal brine. When an occasional fish in the Jordan River swims too far south and is caught in the deadly waters of the sea, it quickly perishes. No plant can grow on its shores or even near the sea. All this will be changed when this refreshing torrent of living waters from Jerusalem flows into the sea. It will become fresh, and great numbers of fish will inhabit its waters. The banks will be lined with beautiful vegetation and trees. Fishermen will also ply their trade in its waters:

“And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglain; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many” (Ezek. 47:9-10).

It will be remembered that, at the time of Adam’s sin, the

earth was cursed so that it brought forth thistles and thorns (Gen. 3:18). As the curse will be removed during the Millennium, we may anticipate that thistles, thorns and noxious weeds, as well as pestilent insects which ravage and destroy the crops, will be removed.

Man of course will continue to cultivate the land, even as Adam before the fall was commissioned “to dress” the garden and “keep it.” Even in the New Heavens and New Earth, men will continue to be active and engaged in profitable pursuits. But no longer will man earn his living by the sweat of his brow. Because the curse will be removed, the race will not have to struggle to survive, but the inhabitants will have an opportunity to *“long enjoy the work of their hands”* (Isa. 65:22).

Every man shall own his own home, and “sit under his own fig tree.” No mortgage or lien shall jeopardize it. The wealth of the earth will be equitably distributed, so that all may share in its blessings. The most wonderful part of it will be that people will with their prosperity worship the Lord and serve Him with all their heart, and He in turn “will answer while they are yet speaking.”

Regeneration of the Animal Kingdom

The apostle Paul spoke of the curse affecting the animal creation (Romans 8:19-22). But he looked forward to the time when the creature itself shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (verse 21).

The curse came on the animal kingdom as the result of Adam’s sin. This was typified in the judgment that fell on the serpent in which Satan embodied himself when he tempted Eve. It is probable that the serpent previous to the fall was a beautiful creature, but under the curse it became an odious and loathsome reptile (Gen. 3:14). Other beasts of the field, while they did not receive the same judgment, nevertheless, suffered. Many of the animals became predatory and bloodthirsty beasts. In fact it

appears from Mark 5:13 that demon spirits on occasion can enter into and possess animals, even as Satan did the serpent in the garden, although the text indicates evil spirits may do this only when they are permitted of God.

Isaiah the prophet points out in dramatic language that the animal kingdom will experience a regeneration. Thus such animals as the wolf and lion will mix with the domesticated beasts as the cow and the sheep. This is most beautifully stated in Isaiah 11:6-8.

Obviously these wild animals will be more than tamed. Their very natures will undergo radical change insomuch that their feeding habits will be altered. The lion instead of being a carnivorous creature will become herbivorous and will “eat straw like an ox.” Little children will play in complete safety among them. Today a lamb, for example, is the natural prey of a wolf, but in that day the two shall dwell together.

Likewise the insect kingdom will undergo a change. The asp will have its poisonous sting removed, and a child playing over its hole will suffer no harm. The serpent will probably retain its present form, but its fangs which are so deadly at the present time will be no longer poisonous. The prophet sums it up:

“They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Isa. 11:9).

Chapter V

The Millennial Government

“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. 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” (Isa. 2:2-4).

We are now to consider the government which will rule the nations during the Millennium. The above Scriptures show that the capital of the world will be at Jerusalem and that representatives from all the nations will go up to that city to learn the law of the Lord which will be the constitution of the kingdom age. The first task of the Great King, as we have seen, will be to judge the nations. After that will come the destruction and removal of the armaments of the nations. Various disarmament conferences have been held in the past by the great powers of the world. They all have been failures; bandit nations have used them merely as a cover to increase secretly their armaments, while the democracies disarm. The real disarmament conference will be at Jerusalem after Christ comes!

The material used in the armaments, the guns, the tanks, and the war planes will all be junked; and the metals will be melted down for peaceful uses. Much of the wealth of the nations has gone into the manufacture of the weapons of war. This terrible waste of earth’s resources will be ended forever, and the energies of mankind will be directed to end poverty.

The above verses of Isaiah 2 show that a world government will be established during the Millennium. Statesmen in recent years have realized that at the pace the nations are traveling, they will soon destroy one another unless a central world government is established. The urgency of the need resulted in the formation of the League of Nations, now defunct, and the United Nations, which in turn has become more or less an impotent assembly, unable to exert any real influence in time of crisis. Both international organizations have signally failed, with the result that the nations are now rushing pell-mell toward a showdown at Armageddon. Communism, boldly intent on making the world atheist and communist, will not rest until it has plunged the world in the most terrible bloodletting in the history of the nations.

God has permitted man to attempt to establish a world government; and following its utter failure, the Lord will intervene by destroying the Gentile world system and setting up His own. This was foreseen by the prophet Daniel in his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever” (Dan. 2:44).

Now while it is clear that Christ will rule as the King of kings, it is also evident that He will have many regent kings exercising authority under Him. This is implied in the interpretation of another vision of Daniel in the seventh chapter:

“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him” (Dan. 7:27).

This is confirmed in Revelation 20:4 where it is stated that the saints lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

The Kingdom Set Up

There will thus be kings that will rule under Christ. John takes note of this in the first chapter of Revelation in which he declares that He *“hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father”* (Rev. 1:6).

The names of the kings who will reign over Israel are mentioned by Jesus. They are none other than the twelve apostles. Peter had reminded the Lord that they had forsaken all, and he asked, *“What shall we have therefore?”* Jesus replied saying that in the regeneration—meaning the new social order of the Millennium—they would reign over the twelve tribes of Israel:

“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt. 19:28).

Their reigning as kings will be more than presiding or functioning as figureheads. Their word will be law.

It will be the application of theocratic principles in contrast to those of a democracy. The rulers will not be elected by the people but will be divinely appointed. Isaiah in chapter I records the sad story of the corrupt government in Israel of his day. The princes and the judges, the prophet said *“are rebellious, and companions of thieves; every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards; they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them”* (verse 23). Now God says that after His judgments have purged the evil from the land, He will restore the theocracy to Israel. The rulers no longer will be man-appointed, but they will be appointed by God as they were in the beginning.

“And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counselors as at the beginning; afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness”

(Isa. 1:26-27).

The apostles sitting upon the twelve thrones of Israel will administer righteous justice.

Israel During the Millennium

We have noted that the Gentile nations have had the ascendancy during the past 2500 years. Their time has run its course, however; it is now Israel's day, and will be during the entire Millennium. There is much to be said on this subject, but it is one that is dealt with in other volumes. (See *The Miracle of Israel* and *48 Signs in the Land of Israel of the Coming of Christ*.)

As we have said, Jerusalem will be the capital of the world, and from it the Law will go out to all nations. The territory occupied by Israel will be much larger than she occupies at present, in addition to the considerable territory taken from the Arabs during the Six Day War. In fact her land will extend from the River Euphrates on the east to the Mediterranean on the west, and to the River of Egypt on the south:

“In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Gen. 15:18).

This prophecy has been a great puzzle to many who do not understand the Scriptures.

Many openly predicted that Israel would lose in the war of 1948-49. Again they said so in 1956, and finally in 1967. Each time their predictions failed. Israel's hour has come; and although she must go through much suffering during “*the time of Jacob's trouble, he shall be saved out of it*” (Jer. 30:7).

Christ's Rule Will Be Just and Firm

Today, even those in positions of authority are finding it increasingly difficult to administer the law of the land. Shyster lawyers spend their time doing nothing else but finding

loopholes in the law. Certain criminal syndicates have established such power—as for example the Mafia—that it seems impossible to bring them to justice. Corrupt judges set lawbreakers free on the pretext of some technicality, and all too frequently the latter use their liberty to commit new crimes.

This will no longer be the case during the Millennium. Justice will be administered without fear or favor, or respect of persons. Those who have been appointed by Christ to administer justice will see that law and order will be executed, and everyone will be allowed to dwell in safety “*under his vine and under his fig tree*” (Micah 4:4). Obviously, in a real sense life will go on in the Millennium much as it does in this present age. Only it will be an age cleansed of the evil which prevails at the present time. Moreover, Satan will no longer be free to deceive people. Nonetheless, there will be those who are not satisfied with the order set up by Christ and secretly in their heart will oppose it. Nevertheless, those whom the Lord has chosen to govern the nations will exercise a firm hand. In the words of the Scripture they “shall rule them with a rod of iron.”

“And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father” (Rev. 2:26-27).

Faithful men who have proved themselves during this age and have shown themselves worthy of the exercise of power will be entrusted with this authority. While we have no idea who these will be, they certainly will not be the great figures of past history. Alexander the Great, Caesar, Charlemagne, Napoleon, and similar personages will not be among their number.

Some men will rule nations; others will rule provinces. Still others will administer the government of ten cities or five cities, as the Parable of the Pounds indicates. There will be those who are given the responsibility of one city. The Millennial government is not a democracy. The people will not choose who will be in power. The rulers are God-appointed, and they enforce

and carry out the law of the Lord.

What will be the constitution of the Millennium? Largely it will be the Sermon on the Mount. The principles found in it will govern the people in the kingdom age.

The Millennium Not a Perfect Age

The Millennium definitely is not a perfect age; and the thousand years of peace will end on a somber note, as we shall presently see. Nevertheless, during its extent, in comparison to our present day, it will be a glorious age indeed.

Chapter VI

The End of the Millennium

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 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. 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” (Rev. 20:7-9).

It is a little difficult for some people to accept the fact that, after the earth has enjoyed 1000 years of peace, the devil will again be released from his prison. Yet God has a purpose in permitting Satan again to tempt the nations. All free moral agents must be tested. There must be no future time in the ages to come for another rebellion to break out. It is a terrible fact but true that when men are permitted the divine gift of a free will, there are those who will deliberately pursue the way of self-will. Some will choose the path of right, but others against all warnings will doggedly take the other course. Jesus stated this sad and strange truth in Matthew 18:7:

“Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!”

Thus it was that Lucifer and his angels, although they lived in the perfect environment of Heaven, chose the course of disobedience. In some insane way, they convinced themselves that they would prosper therein. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve, while in their state of innocence, chose to disobey one simple commandment. Thus it has been through all dispensations; some have chosen to serve God while others have rebelled against Him. So in the Millennium as in other ages, men

must be tested.

Nevertheless, it seems strange that after Christ has reigned for a thousand years that men will again choose the way of rebellion.

Yet that is what some will do, and it is well that we consider the means that Satan will employ to deceive the nations again.

The Causes of Final Rebellion

1. First, let us note that the generation which witnessed the judgments and supernatural manifestations that rang out the old age and ushered in the new will presumably have passed away. We are told that the life span will be as “the days of a tree.” Yet even trees must die. “The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (I Cor. 15:26). As we have observed earlier, it is very probable that none of the natural race that survived from the old age will live as long as the Millennium lasts. Their departure from the world will have an important effect upon the younger generation. Here again is the generation gap. It will be as it was in the case of Joshua and the elders:

“And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel ...

And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim” (Judges 2:7, 10-11).

As long as the older generation which had seen the mighty works of the Lord remained alive, it had a stabilizing effect upon the nation. But the younger generation which had not seen these things proved ready to apostatize when these men were gone. So it will be in the Millennium when the generation which entered it is gone; its godly influence will disappear from the earth.

It should be understood that the people who enter the Millennium will all know the Lord. The sinners and those who have rejected Christ will be destroyed out of the earth. In fact the office of evangelist apparently will cease, for as Jeremiah tells us, *"They shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them ..."* (Jer. 31:34). God will write His law in the "inward parts" and the "hearts" of His people, and all shall know Him (verse 33).

But we must remember that a new generation will be born; and, in time, those of the old generation will gradually leave the earth. The comparatively small remnant that will populate the earth at the beginning of the Millennium will increase to a multitude *"as the sand of the sea"* (Rev. 20:8). These circumstances will very gradually and almost imperceptibly, but surely, effect a change in the character of people living on earth.

2. Jesus said, *"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God"* (John 3:3). Even during the Millennium men will need salvation. True enough as the prophet Isaiah said, *"the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"* (Isa. 11:9). Habakkuk renders it a little differently and speaks of *"the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea"* (Hab. 2:14).

Men will have knowledge of the glory, but one must have more than knowledge—he must have a change of heart; he must be born again.

It is common knowledge that the offspring of some of God's choicest saints have failed to understand or enter into the experience of their parents. They enjoy the blessings which their parents have prayed down, but they take them as a matter of course. There has been no great spiritual awakening in their souls. In some cases this experience comes late in life as it did with Jacob. With others, they never seem to understand fully or enter into their spiritual inheritance, as was the case of Esau.

During the Millennium people born in that time will still need a Saviour. Of course everybody will acknowledge Christ as

king of the earth, but with some it will be more of an intellectual acknowledgment rather than a real heart experience. With others allegiance will be feigned. Such persons will be fertile ground for Satan to work on.

3. While peace will dominate the Millennium and people as a whole will serve the Lord, in time there will develop an undertone of discontent. The wisest ruler cannot satisfy all the people all the time. As people in the church age become gospel-hardened, so in the Millennium there will be those who become glory-hardened. The discontent will not fully come to the surface during most of the thousand years, but the roots will be growing; and the time will come finally when the discontent will have outward manifestation.

Zechariah notes that the nations will go up from year to year to the feast of tabernacles to worship the King. In the course of the centuries there will be those who apparently tire of the custom. Nevertheless, no pressure is brought to bear on those who do not come—the King desires freewill devotion and not compulsory worship. The first sign that something has gone wrong is that in certain of these countries there has been no rain for a long time:

“And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of the tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:17-19).

The lack of rain can indeed bring things to a head. It will cause some to examine themselves and repent of their negligence; but human nature being what it is, others will resent the chastisement. Instead of considering their own faults as being the cause of their problem, they will complain against the government. The lack of rain in Elijah’s day did not immediately

cause the nation to repent, but instead a great search was begun to locate Elijah to whom they attributed the cause of their troubles. Ahab's words to the prophet were, "*Art thou he that troubleth Israel?*" (I Kings 18:17).

4. We are given a hint that some men will rise up even during the Millennium and do wickedly. Isaiah 65:20 declares that "*the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.*" We are also told that the saints who reign during the Millennium "shall rule the nations with a rod of iron." In other words, sin will not be permitted to raise its head openly and get by, but such will be dealt with firmly. Divine judgment will be executed on evil doers. Men will fear to do wrong; but with some it will only cause increased resentment, even if it is not outwardly manifested. When divine judgment fell upon Korah and his followers, instead of having the fear of God put into the people, they accused Moses saying, "*Ye have killed the people of the Lord*" (Num. 16:41). It was necessary for further judgment to come upon them before they had learned their lesson (verses 47-50).

If the saints rule the nations with a rod of iron, there will be those who will complain of repression. One need only to look at past history. No matter how benevolent a government has been, in every case sooner or later there are those who rise up to overturn it. Abraham Lincoln has been considered the wisest of rulers, yet he was reviled worse than any. The Millennium will not be an exception.

We do not believe that these circumstances will become more than an undercurrent during the early period of the Millennium, but increased dissatisfaction will develop as the centuries pass; and it will become cumulative. Even as we see fierce forces of nationalism arising in our present day, so will a similar trend appear toward the end of the Millennium. There will be those who resent the fact that law comes out of Jerusalem, and they will secretly work against it.

5. Nevertheless, these undercurrents would probably not break

out into open defiance, were it not for the fact that Satan is at length released from his prison and goes to work again to deceive the nations. He would not be able to incite an open rebellion without first imposing his deceptions upon the minds of people. He must first make the rebels think that their cause is just and right. Just as we see the revolutionaries today burning, bombing, and fomenting rebellion, so Satan will influence people to join an insurrection in that day. And they will do it as if they were engaged in a crusade for a great cause.

Despite the fact that decent, law-abiding people can see that the deeds of the anarchists are criminal and worthy of severe punishment, rebels always think that their defiance of authority is altogether proper and right. The only explanation of this is simply that they have come under the delusions of Satan. So it will be in that day; men discontented by nature will be open to satanic deception.

The passage of time has, of course, effected no moral change in Satan. His period of detention in the bottomless pit no doubt has been given to planning for his final attempt to disrupt the plan of God. He will use the evil knowledge gained over the centuries in his final desperate effort to stave off the fulfillment of the divine plan. He will cleverly play on the prejudices and smoldering discontent of the people. He knows that many have given only feigned obedience to the Lord and that they are ready to demand that the restraints be removed in order to be free to follow their carnal instincts.

But what about the prophecies which warn of Satan's being let out of the bottomless pit at the end of the Millennium? Surely people will be on guard against Satan when he is loosed. One would think so. But let us consider a moment. The Bible has given the church far more warnings against the rise of the antichrist—Satan's supreme delusion at the end of the age—and of the fact that he will be evil incarnate. Yet what proportion of the church believes it? It has become merely an academic question with many. Indeed, not a few denominations have

taught that the world is getting better and better! In fact many religionists now teach that there are no such things as the devil, hell, or future punishment.

The exact nature of the means that Satan will use at this time is not fully revealed, and it is wise not to speculate on the matter. Satan has been so successful in his deceptions of the past, that it would be consummate folly to think that his diabolic resources will fail him now.

Yet how could it be? This is the Millennium. Christ has been known to the nations.

How could Satan bring about a rebellion But did not Judas Iscariot follow Jesus for three years? Did he not witness all His glorious works and even share in His ministry (Acts 1:17)? Yet there was something in his nature that was not detected by any of the apostles. Indeed so subtly did he camouflage his true feelings that even on the night of the betrayal the eleven disciples had no inkling of who the actual traitor was, and they looked one to the other saying, "*Lord, is it I?*" (Matt. 26:22).

While we cannot trace exactly how events will develop, we perhaps can have some idea. The spirit of nationalism will touch off the rebellion. Each year nations have been sending representatives to Jerusalem. Under Satan's influence, they apparently refuse any longer to send delegates to the feast of tabernacles. What will happen if they do not? Nothing happens at first. But gradually they discover that the climate seems to be changing. They observe that the regular rains are not falling. This occurs in Egypt. The rains that feed the headwaters of the Nile have ceased. Is Israel to blame? The old animosity Egypt had for Israel apparently rises up again.

During the Millennium, sickness will be practically non-existent. It will be as in the days when Israel walked with the Lord, "*there was not one feeble person among their tribes*" (Psa. 105:37). But now a plague suddenly appears. The Scriptures say something about it, but this has been forgotten. "*There shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles*"

(Zech. 14:18).

The drought and the plague will eventually bring things to a head. The resentment now develops into a full rebellion. Some leader arises, who inspired by Satan eventually decides on a march on Jerusalem. This reminds us of the militants of our day, who have marched on the capital with their demands. Nothing is said that the rebels of the Millennium come with weapons. We are told that swords have been beaten into plowshares, and nations no longer learn the art of war (Isa. 2:4). It is a revolt against the theocracy. They want the rule of iron relaxed. A permissive generation has arisen. Men demand freedom to order their own lives and to run the affairs of their nations in their own way, without interference from Jerusalem.

At the time they come, the saints are apparently in a great convention in Jerusalem. The rebels have prepared for a confrontation. But the drama comes to a sudden and abrupt end. There are no series of judgments as those that ushered in the Millennium. This time fire comes down out of heaven and destroys the rebels. Thus does the age of glory end with judgment.

The judgment, long delayed, now comes upon Satan and his angels. The finis is told in one verse:

“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” (Rev. 20:10).

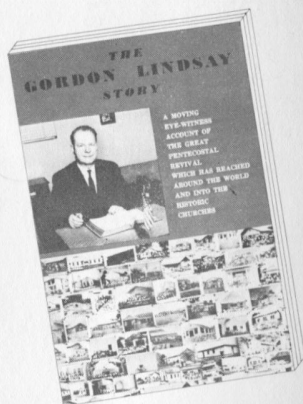
The way is now opened for the Great White Throne Judgment in which the dead small and great shall stand before God.

Publisher’s note: This book *A Thousand Years of Peace* (Volume VIII of the series) is the last of Gordon Lindsay’s End of the Age Series. Originally he had intended to write two more books, bringing the total to ten volumes on the end of the age. His sudden passing in April of 1973 cut short his plans.

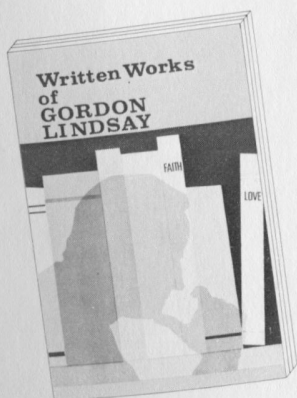
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