

MILLENNIUM—1000 YEARS OF PEACE

What is the millennium? Is it to be a Utopia? Are we about to enter into a golden Millennium of Peace when the whole world will dwell together in unity? Or do we face troubles and destruction? Thinking men everywhere are convinced that the end of all things is at hand, that our world is facing the greatest upheaval of its history. Millions are looking for the triumphant return of Christ as the only solution to the multiplicity of problems confronting our troubled world today.

When Christ returns it will not be in secret. Tonight all heaven is preparing for this triumphal event. It will be the greatest display of glory ever witnessed by this world. Jesus said in Matt. 24:27: "For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Jesus will return with such glory as has never been seen by mortal men.

All eyes will witness this dazzling display, for as John, the Revelator, says in Rev. 1:7: "Behold he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him . . ." Both the wicked and the righteous will witness this glorious sight, but with mixed feelings. At that time the fate of the wicked is certain, and they will never be given another chance to be saved. The righteous are happy, for they know their reward is sure.

In Isa. 25:9 we read: "And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." There is a theory that when Christ comes He will establish His kingdom right on this earth, where He will rule during the Millennium. The world is supposed to get better and better until Jesus sets up His kingdom to rule over all men. This is a beautiful theory, but is not what the Bible tells us about the last days and the coming of the Lord.

While the saints are rejoicing that Jesus has returned, how will the wicked feel about it? In Isa. 2:19 it says: "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, FOR FEAR OF THE LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth." Do you see, Friends, the picture that the Bible paints of the future of this world: The cities will be broken down, and the wicked will be afraid. Just think of the damage in the great Japanese earthquake when the earth shook for just two minutes and resulted in 250,000 dead! The Bible says that the day is coming when He will arise and shake terribly, not just Japan, but the whole earth.

Men talk today of solid investments, and of dependable securities, but on that day there will be nothing solid or secure. Even the ground under our feet will give way. The Revelator was shown a graphic picture of these events in Rev. 16:18 and 20: "And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake. . . . And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." This will be an international catastrophe. The appearing of Jesus will be a fearful time.

Is the world getting better and better? Well, let us see what the Bible says. In Matt. 24:37-39 Jesus predicted: "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." This text makes it clear that the world will not be getting better and better, but will become more and more wicked.

Surely there is more crime, more trouble, more war, more intemperance, and more of every type of sin than has ever been seen in all history. It is revealed in 2 Tim. 3:1, 13: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. . . . But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." So, instead of the world getting better and better, and finally entering a golden age of peace and happiness, the Bible plainly says that it will get worse and worse, and that perilous times will continue until Christ comes.

When will the world be at peace? When will troubles and wars cease for all time? The Bible tells us that this will be when the devil is put in chains. In Rev. 20:1 it says: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand." This is, of course, prophetic language. The angels of God will be relieved as will the human family of God when Satan is finally chained in the bottomless pit. The old earth will be at peace during this time. However, it will be a different kind of peace than many anticipate, as we shall discover later.

John the Revelator continues in verses 2 and 3: "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." Now WHY is this going to be done, why will Satan be bound? The Bible tells us why: "THAT HE SHOULD DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE."

This prophecy of the thousand years, when Satan is to be bound, is usually referred to as the millennium. However, the word "millennium" is not found in the Bible. It comes from two Latin words "mille" and "annum" and brought together they simply mean 1000 years. The Bible says that Satan is to be bound in the BOTTOMLESS PIT for one thousand years. Now let us find out what is going to take place at the beginning and end of the thousand years. This period is sometimes referred to as "The Golden Age."

There are many who believe that Satan is bound now. But that cannot be, for there are seven definite events that mark the beginning of the Millen-

nium period, and none of these things have yet come to pass. If Satan is actually bound now, what will it be like when he gets loose? If he is in chains now, the chains must be made of rubber that can be stretched from one end of the earth to the other, for we certainly see the work of the Devil wherever we go. It makes no difference what we have been taught, or what our preconceived opinions have been. The question is, "What does the Bible say?"

The coming of Christ will be preceded by the outpouring of the Seven Last Plagues. In Revelation 16 we read of seven angels with seven vials who are sent by God to pour out His wrath upon the world. These plagues will cause great havoc in the earth, and will be climaxed by a great earthquake and the coming of the Lord. As the result of these judgments of God the earth will be left in a shambles of destruction. This is the first event marking the beginning of the Millennium.

The second and greatest event of all that marks the beginning of the Millennium period will be the second coming of Christ. In the days of Noah the Lord suddenly ended the wickedness of the world, and again the Lord is going to come suddenly to put an end to sin in this present day. The coming of the Lord will be the greatest shock the world has ever received. He is not coming to convert the lost, but to punish the wicked for all their ungodly deeds, and best of all to reward the righteous for their faithfulness. There will be two groups when Jesus comes; one will seek to escape from His presence, and the other will look up joyfully and say, "This is our God." In which group will you be?

Much is told in the Bible of the manner in which our Lord Jesus will return. Let us read in 1 Thess. 4:16 what Paul says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first." When Jesus comes from heaven with a shout, and the voice of the archangel, the dead in Christ will be raised. All the angels of heaven will accompany Jesus in His triumphant return.

The resurrection of the righteous is the third event that marks the beginning of the Millennium. "THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST." There will be two resurrections, the one when the righteous dead are raised at the second coming of Christ, and the other when the wicked dead will be resurrected. The Bible distinctly reveals that there will be a thousand years between the resurrection of the righteous and the resurrection of the damned. This period between the two resurrections is the period known as the Millennium.

Jesus tells us of these two resurrections in John 5:28 and 29: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." Notice that Jesus divides the resurrection into two parts, two distinct resurrections.

In Rev. 20:6 John tells us: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection . . . they shall . . . reign with him (Christ) a thousand

years." This is the first resurrection, the "resurrection of life," at the second coming of Christ. O, that we are all worthy to be raised at that time, to live and reign with Christ a thousand years!

In Rev. 20:5 John tells us: "And the rest of the dead lived not again, until the thousand years were finished . . ." This is the "resurrection of damnation" of which Jesus spoke. Dear Friends, wouldn't it be a terrible thing to find that you had awakened at the close of the millennium, that you had slept through this thousand-year period, and that you were being called forth to the "resurrection of damnation?"

The "resurrection of life" marks the beginning of the millennium, and the "resurrection of damnation" marks the close. There will be 1000 years between those two resurrections. O, that we may learn to obey His voice now so that we will hear Him when He calls the righteous in the first resurrection at the beginning of the millennium. Many stop their ears now and will not listen to God's truths. But when Jesus calls them forth in the resurrection of the damned, they won't be able to stop their ears. They will hear His call.

Jesus is going to come with great power and glory, and as He descends the blazing sky He calls to the righteous dead, sleeping in the dust, ". . . AWAKE AND SING, ye that dwell in dust: Isa. 26:19. The dead shall come forth crying: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Cor. 15:55. The Lord is coming with all His holy angels (Matt. 25:31), and they will hurry to the graves of the saints to gather them together and carry them up into the sky to meet Jesus. There will be great rejoicing and shouts of victory from the redeemed as they realize that their conflict is ended, and they are now changed to immortality.

Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 15:51 and 52: ". . . We shall not all sleep, but WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED. . . . In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: . . . and this mortal must put on IMMORTALITY." According to the great evangelist, Paul, the dead are now sleeping; but it will not be for long. They will be awakened suddenly by the sound of the trump of God, and will be changed in a twinkling of an eye from mortal to immortal. This will take place at the last trump, or at the coming of Christ.

"WE SHALL ALL BE CHANGED." This is the fourth event that marks the beginning of the Millennium period. The righteous living will all be changed. "This corruptible shall put on incorruption, this mortal must put on immortality." Then, and only then, will the righteous be ready to go back with Jesus to heaven. All marks of sin and suffering will be erased, all the handicapped will be made whole, and God's people will be ready for that heavenly home.

Jesus tells us in Matt. 24:31: "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." The angels will gather the elect and sweep them up into the clouds to meet Jesus. Every angel in heaven will come down to help in this reunion—

from all parts of the earth and sea the righteous will be gathered together to meet their Lord.

This happy throng of redeemed children, the resurrected dead, and the living righteous who have been changed to immortality will be taken on a marvelous journey to the City of God to inhabit the mansions that Jesus has prepared for them. This is the fifth event marking the beginning of the Millennium, the **SAINTS ASCEND TO HEAVEN**.

In 1 Thess. 4:17 we read: "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." It is clear from this text that the saints who are alive when Jesus comes are going to be caught up together with those who have been raised from their graves to meet the Lord in the air. Christ will not touch this earth at His second coming. The risen and the living saints are going to be caught up into the clouds to meet Him.

Well, you ask, where are they going to go? Jesus told His disciples in John 14:3: "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." When Jesus left this world 1900 years ago He promised to prepare mansions for His people that they might be with Him where He is. When He comes the second time He is coming to take His people to these mansions. The Bible says nothing about Christ setting up His kingdom on this earth when He comes the second time.

Now this takes care of two classes of people, the saints who are living when Jesus comes, and the saints who are in their graves and raised at that time. They are all taken back to the mansions in glory. We are told in 2 Thess. 2:8: "And then shall that **WICKED** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and **SHALL DESTROY WITH THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING**." The wicked who are alive at the second coming of Christ are going to be destroyed by several things. The seven last plagues will kill many of them, and of those who are not destroyed by the plagues, many will be killed by the great earthquake and shaking of this earth at the time of the second coming. Those who are not destroyed by either will be destroyed by the brightness of His coming.

So we have come to the sixth event marking the beginning of the Millennium, the **DESTRUCTION OF THE WICKED** who are living at the second coming of Jesus. These are slain by the brightness of His coming. If one angel were to reveal his glory in this auditorium tonight, we would all be struck down like dead men; but when Jesus comes we are told that all the angels are coming with Him, and the glory will be dazzling, so dazzling that the wicked are actually destroyed by the brightness. Today the wicked and the righteous live together, and you cannot always tell them apart. But in that day all will be made clear. Deceitful hearts can no longer cover their deceit, secret sins cannot be pawned off as holiness. His glory will slay only the wicked.

Let me give you a run-down of the events in

connection with the beginning of the Millennium. The seven last plagues are poured out, and as Jesus comes the earth reels to and fro. Jesus calls, "Awake," to those asleep in Jesus, and they come forth in the first resurrection. The righteous who are living when Jesus comes are changed into immortality, and all the righteous are taken to heaven together. The wicked are destroyed by the brightness of His coming. All the dead who died without faith in Christ live not again until the 1000 years are finished. How many people does this leave on the earth? The earth is completely depopulated. Not one person left. This brings us to the seventh event—the last event marking the beginning of the Millennium, the **BINDING OF SATAN**.

The Bible says that Satan is to be bound in a bottomless pit, so that he cannot deceive the nations. The word "bottomless pit" as it is used in different places in the Bible applies to the condition of the earth. In Gen. 1:2 it says: "And the earth was without form, and void: and darkness was upon the face of the deep . . ." The Greek word used in Genesis, describing the world in its original chaotic state, is identical with the word used in Rev. 20 referring to the bottomless pit. In other words, this earth is to be reduced to the same chaotic state as it was before the Lord made it into the beautiful Garden of Eden. The Hebrew word "void" in Genesis has the same meaning as "bottomless pit" in Revelation.

In Jeremiah 4:24-26 we read: "I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and lo, **THERE WAS NO MAN**, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, . . ." What a picture of desolation! The earth is left in a state of chaos. The cities are destroyed by the violent earthquakes. Dead bodies are strewn over the face of the earth, and even the birds are gone. It is dark and clammy. Only Satan and his angels will be there.

It is easy to see that Satan cannot deceive the nations during the Millennium, for there are no human beings alive on the earth during this time. Satan is chained to this earth by a chain of circumstances. The wicked are dead, and the righteous have gone to dwell in the New Jerusalem. The earth is left desolate. Have you ever heard a man say, "I would like to get away but I am just 'tied down'." There is no chain in his office fastening him to his desk, but his business ties him down. It is circumstances that tie him down.

Satan will be obliged to stay in this dark, cold, miserable, brokendown and chaotic world for a thousand years. In Jer. 4:23 it says: "I beheld the earth, and lo, it was without form, and void: and the heavens, and they had no light." With nothing to do but contemplate the devastation that he has brought upon the earth, it will be a miserable experience for him and his angels. Perhaps they will quarrel among themselves and accuse one another of causing this situation.

Scattered over the face of the earth will be the decaying bones of the wicked who were struck down by the brightness of the coming of Jesus. In Jer. 25:33, we read: "And the slain of the Lord

shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." There will be no one to bury them: there will be no one to weep or grieve. Why? Because the saints have all been caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord and are on their way back to the beautiful mansions in heaven.

Yes, dear Friends, the second coming of Christ will leave this world in a shambles of destruction. In Rev. 16:15 and 20 we read: "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. . . . And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." There will be such a terrific upheaval at the advent of Christ that every island and mountain will disappear. We are told that the cities of the nations, New York, London, Paris and all the great metropolises will fall. The wicked will run in panic, crying for the rocks and mountains to fall on them to hide them from the presence of God.

At the same time that the great earthquake is rocking the earth, buildings are being smashed by ice bombs. In Rev. 16:21 we read: "And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great." The weight of a talent is 57 pounds, avoirdupois. Imagine huge chunks of ice the size of bushel baskets falling upon the earth! God has warned us over and over again of the time that is coming, when the cities will be broken down, and the governments of men destroyed at the coming of the Lord.

The bodies of the lost that are scattered out over the face of the earth will become food for the vultures, for we are told in Rev. 19:17 and 18: "And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men . . ." O, Friends, where will you be at this time? Will you be returned to heaven with Christ and the saints, or will you be left on this scarred and broken earth to become the food for vultures?

In Isa. 24:1 and 3 another prophet tells us about the condition of the earth during this Millennium, while Satan is bound to this earth, the bottomless pit of chaos and destruction. He says: "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof. . . . The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word." This is yet in the future. God is going to take this old globe of ours and give it a half turn. Then a great earthquake will take place which will break down our magnificent cities and utterly destroy them.

In Isa. 24:19, 20 it says: "The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed

like a cottage, and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." This is not the opinion of any man. It is not my opinion. This is a prophecy of the Lord our God concerning the future state of the world.

What a fearful hour it will be when individuals are actually face to face with the fact that Jesus is coming. In Isa. 13:6, 7 it says: "Howl ye, for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt." "HOWL YE." Their frenzied cry will ring out through the shopping centers, in the crowded theaters, in the taverns. There will be weeping and mourning. Why? Because many have not prepared for this great day. They have put it off, considering it of little importance to them.

John the Revelator tells us that the righteous who are raised when Jesus comes and are taken to heaven will sit in judgment to determine what the final punishment of the wicked will be. In Rev. 20:6 it says: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." The saints who return to the City of God with Jesus will reign with Him for a thousand years.

In Rev. 20:4 we read: "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." This is certainly very definite as to what we must do in order to be with that wonderful company, helping to judge the wicked during that thousand years.

The righteous will judge, not only the wicked dead, but the devil and all his angels. In 1 Cor. 6:2, 3 we read: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?" Think of it, the redeemed will sit in judgment upon the angels who fell into sin with Satan, and they participate with God, determining the punishment that will be meted out to the lost angels.

Dear Friends, none of us needs to have his records reviewed during the Millennium. Jesus is judging us right now, and if we are living for Him we will have a home with Him some day. In 1 Tim. 5:24 it says: "Some men's sins are open before and, going before to judgment; and some men they follow after." I want my sins to go before to judgment, don't you? I prefer to have my record reviewed by Christ and the angels now than to have my name and record set aside to be considered later during the Millennium.

But judging the wicked will not take up all the time of the righteous during the Millennium. There will be many wonderful things to do in heaven. We are told in 1 Cor. 2:9: "But as it is

written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." We will listen to the celestial music of the angel chorus. We will travel to the unnumbered worlds in the universe of God, we will witness the dazzling brilliance of the billions of suns that God has created. We will taste of the delicious foods of heaven. We will visit with the saints, the patriarchs, and the prophets of old.

Such a contrast! Compare the wonders that the saints are enjoying in heaven with the gloom and despondency of Satan and his angels here in this uninhabited, dark, dismal earth. Isa. 13:9 says: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it." Why not make sure today by accepting Christ and obeying His commandments that we will spend eternity with our Saviour.

In Isa. 13:10 we are told: "For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine." There will be no sunlight. Everything will be darkness, the stars will not even shine. And there will be no one in the whole world for Satan to tempt or deceive. He will truly be bound by a chain of circumstances.

God says in Isa. 13:11: "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." This is the condition of the earth during the Millennium. But notice in the 12th verse how God describes the saints who are in heaven during that time: "I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir." Christ has redeemed us with His blood and we are more precious to Him than gold. How can we harden our hearts against the Spirit of God, and refuse to accept the wonderful truths that are found in the Word of God when He has done so much for us?

At the second coming of Christ the earth will be moved out of its place. Where, we do not know. In Isa. 13:13 we read: "Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the Lord of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger." That will be a great and terrible day. Instruments of war that will have been used in the battle of Armageddon, will be scattered out over the earth; beautiful cities that have been admired so much will be hollow shells of destruction, everything will be dark and dismal. To this will Satan be bound by a chain of circumstances so strong and of his own making.

Satan was once an angel of light who dwelt in the presence of God. Now, think of Satan and his angels being in cold and clammy darkness for a thousand years. He will be a prisoner, not allowed to leave, forced to view the terrible destruction that he has caused. What an agonizing experience for Satan and his angels! How miserable they will be, bound as prisoners in such a state of darkness and destruction. The poor, doomed dupes who followed Satan in his deception and rebellion, the

wicked of this world, will have no more hope. They will never have another invitation to repent and be saved.

In Heb. 9:27 it says: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT." There is no second chance. Today is the accepted time. Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts. Beloved, I beg of you tonight, listen to the Word of God. I plead with you to read these things and to apply them to your own hearts. Soon it will be too late. If you refuse to hearken to His voice, His Spirit will cease to plead with you, and you will be eternally lost.

Let us sum up the conditions on this earth and in heaven during the Millennium. The wicked have all been slain by the brightness of His coming, and are scattered about unburied on the earth. Because of the earthquake, the hail, and the terrible shaking, the earth is a shambles, entirely desolate. Satan is bound in a prison of darkness, having sufficient time to contemplate the awful deeds that he has committed. The saints, both those living when Christ comes and those who are raised from their graves, are in heaven judging the wicked, including Satan and his angels. Where will you be, my Brother, my Sister, at that time? Let us pray that we will all be ready to go to heaven with Jesus when He comes.

Seven events mark the end of the Millennium. The Bible tells us what is going to take place at the end of this millennial period. The wicked will have been judged, and the punishment of each sinner decided upon, and the Lord will be ready to return to take possession of this earth. This will be the third coming of Jesus, and at this time He comes to establish His kingdom on this earth.

In Jude 14 we read: "And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." The saints will be with Jesus when He comes back this time. The Old and New Testaments both tell us of this wonderful return of Jesus with all the saints. This description given by Enoch could not refer to His second coming because the saints will not be in heaven to come with Him then.

Another prophet also tells us that the saints will return with Jesus when He comes the third time, after the Millennium period is over. In Zech. 14:5 we read: ". . . THE LORD MY GOD SHALL COME, AND ALL THE SAINTS WITH THEE." Not only all the saints but the angels of heaven will be in that glorious throng that returns to this earth after the thousand years is past.

According to the Bible, Christ's return with the saints is the first event that will occur after the Millennium. Think of the excitement in heaven. All traces of sin and its results will soon be destroyed, and only happiness and peace will be found in the whole universe of God. It will doubtless take several days for the saints and Jesus to make the trip through all the glorious suns and planets to this earth. When Christ was here 1900 years ago He left this earth from the Mount of Olives, and angels predicted that He would come back in like manner as He went.

So at the close of the Millennium the Lord Jesus is going to descend to the Mount of Olives, probably in the very place where He stood 1900 years ago. The prophet says in Zech. 14:4: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall move toward the north, and half of it toward the south."

Upon that spot from which Jesus ascended so many years ago, the beautiful New Jerusalem is going to settle. There it will become the capital of this world. In Rev. 21:2 John tells us: "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." That will be a wonderful sight, that great city coming down from heaven to settle upon this earth as the capital of the kingdom that Jesus will establish on this earth made new.

In Rev. 21:10 John continues: "And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God." This is undeniable proof that the holy city is some day coming down to this earth. Our beautiful mansions will be in that city, and we will all have homes there. The city, shining like a beautiful rainbow, resplendent in glory and color will be the capital of this world.

The saints and Jesus have already descended. That was the first event of the close of the Millennium. The Mount of Olives has been made a beautiful plain, and now we have the second event at the close of the Millennium, the beautiful city, the New Jerusalem descends to be on the spot where the Mount of Olives is now located. Won't it be wonderful to have our homes in that beautiful city, and to belong to that kingdom that God will establish for us here?

Not only will God's city be brought to this earth, but God himself will come here to reign over His universe. Rev. 21:3 says: "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God." Only those who have been chosen to be God's people on this earth during the trying temptations and deceptions of the devil and his angels, will be there when God Himself shall be with them and be their God. O, how wonderful to contemplate! This old trouble-worn earth will some day be a haven of peace and rest, with God living here among men!

In Rev. 20:5 we read: "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished . . ." Therefore the wicked will be raised at the close of the Millennium. This is the third event marking the close of the thousand year period. There is a mighty army of wicked raised at this time. They are as the sands of the sea. At that time you will not want to be with the majority. The billions and billions who have lived down through time and been lost. This is the resur-

rection of damnation foretold by Jesus to His disciples.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matt. 7:13, 14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." The masses of people in this world today are not accepting the eternal life offered them by the compassionate Saviour. The nail-pierced hands of Christ are stretched in tenderest invitation to the multitudes to accept His sacrifice, but in vain. So there will be a great multitude raised in the second resurrection.

In Rev. 20:7 we read: "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison." What looses him? Well, if he was bound by circumstances, there must be a change in these circumstances. He has had no one to tempt for a thousand years. So now he must be unbound by these same circumstances; there must be a people for him to tempt. Yes, we have just learned that the wicked were raised, so Satan is loosed out of his prison and can go forth again to deceive the multitudes.

So, the fourth event at the close of the Millennium is the loosing of Satan from the bottomless pit, from the prison with no man in it. Satan sees possibilities in these wicked ones. He can again go about deceiving them, making them think that he is right and that God is wrong. It is quite evident that Satan is not going to be converted during the Millennium. His first thoughts when the wicked are raised is on deceiving them further.

We are told in Rev. 20:8: "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." So Satan is loosed to continue his deceptions among the wicked just recently raised. Satan believes that he may be able to besiege the City of God, defeat God, and overcome the saints. All the wicked who have ever lived will be raised and Satan will again be busy, loosed from his prison.

In Rev. 20:9 we read: "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city . . ." There they are, a motley hoard, raised from the graves with their defects, their diseases, their pock marks, and their sin-hardened faces, just as they went down with them into their graves. Satan has power to heal and he will heal them; he will perform great signs and wonders. He may even deceive them into thinking that he is the one who raised them from the dead. He will tell them that, since their numbers are so great, they can overcome the city and the saints. They will be gathered into a mighty army surrounding the city.

So we find that the fifth event marking the end of the Millennium is this final attack by Satan and his hosts against the government of God. All the ruthless rulers of the past, the Caesars, the Hannibals, Napoleon, Hitler, and all the rest are there to organize an army of mammoth proportions, mightier than any that has ever been known in

the history of the universe. Finally the day arrives for them to attack the beautiful city of God. Inside are Christ and the saints; on the outside are Satan and all of the lost. The wicked go up where the New Jerusalem stands, and surround it, prepared to attack the city.

What happens next? In Rev. 20:9, the last part, we read: ". . . And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." While the saints are safe in the City of God, fire and brimstone will come down from God out of heaven and devour the wicked. They will be completely burned, and the earth will become a blazing inferno. All the combustible materials stored up within the earth will burst forth; even the atmospheric heavens filled with smog, radioactive fall-out, and disease germs will pass away with a great noise.

Describing the beautiful New Jerusalem settling upon the Mount of Olives, Zechariah tells us what will happen to the people who surround the city to attack it. In Zech. 14:12 we read: "And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord will smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem. Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth." Those inside the city will be safe from the flames.

Of the fate of the wicked, Matt. 25:41 says: "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." Wouldn't you hate to be in that motley army of the lost who are gathered outside the City of God? O, how miserable they must be when they realize that they are eternally lost. They have no alternative but to follow their leader, Satan, who makes one last effort to overthrow the government of God; but fire comes down from heaven and devours them.

So the sixth important event at the close of the Millennium is the destruction of the wicked. Friends, I haven't pictured this graphically enough. I wish it were possible to summon words somehow to picture it so that you would see it as it will really be. It is true that we do not like things that frighten us. We don't want to hear things so real and so tragic. But when these things happen, we will cry out in anguish, "Why didn't someone tell me in time so that it might have done me some good?" I trust these tragic things will not happen to any of us assembled here tonight.

It says in Rev. 20:14: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." The wicked will all burn according to the deeds that they have done in their bodies; some will burn longer than others, but the fire will have to burn out at last so that the Lord can recreate this earth into a beautiful new paradise for the redeemed. This earth is going to melt with fervent heat. All the evidences of sin will be completely eradicated. In Obadiah 16 God says: ". . . They shall be as though they had not been."

In 2 Peter 3:10, 13 it says: ". . . The heavens shall pass away with a great noise and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also

and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." The wicked will all be destroyed and the earth will become populated by the redeemed. It will blossom as a rose; it will be a magnificent Garden of Eden; the saints will have their mansions in the beautiful city, and will build houses in the country.

So as the seventh or last event marking the end of the Millennium takes place, it will be our esteemed privilege to watch God recreate this world into a beautiful paradise for the righteous. I yearn to see God create, for it will demonstrate His great power. The earth rests for 1000 years during the Millennium. Then God will make this earth over new into a paradise of beauty and holiness. All of the former aches, pains, and bereavements will be past. God will wipe away all tears. There will be everlasting joy upon the lips of the redeemed. Never again will anything occur to take away the happiness of God's children. There will be no more dread diseases, cruel wars, awful crimes, and temptations to sin. Satan and sin will be no more, and we shall live in eternal bliss and peacefulness, if we have been faithful to God.

Isa. 65:17, 21 says: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: . . . And they shall build houses and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them." In this home of the redeemed, the saints will dwell peaceably, never grow old, and never get sick. There will never be any wars, tornadoes, cyclones, floods, earthquakes, fires, crime waves, diseases, insanity, and such things. The redeemed will come with joy and gladness and songs upon their lips, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Let us summarize the events of the Millennium quickly. Today we are living in the last days of the earth's history. Soon the seven last plagues will be poured out upon the earth, and then Jesus will come. The saints are going to be raised in the first resurrection, and the living righteous will be changed. They will all be taken to heaven to be with Jesus. The wicked will have been destroyed by the brightness of His coming and Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit, or chaos. These events mark the beginning of the Millennium.

During the Millennium, the bodies of the wicked are scattered over the desolate earth. There will be no man, no life whatever, and it will be totally dark; but Satan and his angels will be there. The saints will be in heaven judging the wicked and enjoying the beauties of God's universe.

At the close of the thousand years Jesus and the saints will descend upon the Mount of Olives and the Holy City will also descend. The Lord Jesus will prepare a place for the city to settle. Then the wicked are raised in the resurrection of damnation, and Satan is loosed, going forth to deceive them and gather them into an army as the sands of the sea in number. They are led by the devil to surround and attack the city. When the order is given to attack the city, fire comes down from God out of heaven and this earth be-

comes a vast, seething lake of fire. The wicked burn, and the whole world is purified and cleansed by the flames. Then Jesus recreates this world into a beautiful Eden.

O, Friends, wouldn't you hate to come up in the second resurrection of damnation and realize you are lost for eternity, and that you are a slave of the devil? We see the lost outside the city with desperation in their eyes, looking through the beautiful transparent walls, recognizing loved ones and friends on the inside of the city. They see the beautiful Jesus crowned as King of kings; and the happy, rejoicing saints. How awful to think of those poor lost ones on the outside looking in but not allowed to enter. There they are with Satan their leader, the one they chose to serve instead of God.

Jesus says in Luke 13:28: "There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out." As they hear the devil, the leader of this mighty army order them forward, they rush to attack the city. Fire comes down from God out of heaven, not to torture, not to torment, but to consume sin and to do away with it forever. God in mercy will consume the wicked,

and every work of man will be destroyed. Not a trace of the mar that Satan has brought on God's universe will be left. The wicked will be reduced to ashes.

In Nahum 1:9 we read: "What do ye imagine against the Lord? he will make an utter end; affliction shall not rise up the second time." Dear Friends, when God gives the command, fire and brimstone pour down and the earth becomes one vast seething lake of fire. God will make an utter end. The wicked will be utterly destroyed. And sin will never again mar the universe of God. We who are safe within the city will thank God He has saved us from such an awful fate. Have you considered the importance of your decision for Christ tonight? Are you willing to live for Him, or will you be on the outside in that day without Christ?

The Lord is offering to you today eternal life, a home in heaven, a mansion in that beautiful city, a home in the country, and PEACE with no more fear, trouble, pain, sickness, old age, or death. Jesus offers you all this and more, free of charge. Will you accept it? Now is the accepted time. Accept this salvation made possible through Jesus and His shed blood.