

## An Exciting Study Of The Messianic Thousand Years

'They lived again and reigned with Jesus the Messiah, one thousand years ... Blessed and holy are they who take part in the first resurrection! ... They will be priests of God and of the Messiah and they will reign with Him one thousand years' (Revelation 20:4 & 6).

We hear a lot about what will happen before the Lord comes again. Jesus spoke a lot about the end of this age. We read books and we hear about the terrifying events that are to occur immediately prior to His return, but what will happen after the Great Tribulation is over and Jesus is here ruling over the earth? When Jesus returns there will be one thousand years of peace; the Messianic Age, when Jesus will rule over the whole earth after the first resurrection. Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:27; 12:5). Christians will have the new redeemed, immortal bodies we have been waiting for (Romans 8:23). When Jesus was resurrected He had a new immortal body, but the scars He received from His crucifixion will never disappear, even in His new body as He showed Thomas (John 20:27), so our immortal bodies will be the same as we are now, without the ravages of age and sickness. Any scars we received will probably remain.

When we finally reach the Messianic Age; the millennium; the one thousand years reign of Jesus or whatever one prefers to call that time in the future, Israel will be a huge country; from the Nile in Egypt to the Euphrates River. The Jews are just as important to God as the Christians are, and they are going to benefit greatly from Jesus' return to earth. The Lord God made Abraham a promise. "To your descendants (the Jews) I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates" (Genesis 15:18). Since this has not occurred in history, it is still to take place. God again promises Israel, "And it will be in that day that the Lord will thresh out from the flood of the River Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt, and you will be gathered one by one, O children of Israel" (Isaiah 27:12). We know at this time in our history, God is bringing the Jews back to Israel and He has given us a detailed account of the Jews' return to their own land. God warns the neighbouring nations, if they persecute the Jews in any way, they will be killed. 'In that day the Lord will again lift up His hand a second time to deliver the remnant of His people which is left; from Assyria (Syria and Lebanon), from Egypt, from Pathros (Greece and Europe), from Cush (Ethiopia), from Elam (Persia: Iran), from Shinar (Iraq), from Hamat (a valley in Syria) and from the islands (countries) in the Mediterranean Sea. He will raise up a signal for the nations and will assemble the outcasts of Israel and will gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. The jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and they who persecute Judah (Israeli's) from outside or inside will be cut off (killed) ... Ephraim and Judah (Israel) will swoop down upon the shoulders of the Philistines (now Palestinians) toward the west; they (Israel) will plunder the people on the east (West Bank and Gaza Strip). They will have power over Edom, Moab and the Ammonites (all of Jordan and a chunk of Saudi Arabia, and possibly even Kuwait) will obey the Jews. The Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian Sea and with His mighty scorching wind He will wave His hand over the Nile and will divide it into seven streams and will cause men to cross over in sandals (on dry land). There will be a highway from Assyria (Syria and Lebanon) for the remnant left of His people, as there was for Israel when they came out of the land of Egypt' (Isaiah 11:11 to 16).

Christians will reign over the earth with Jesus (Revelation 20:6). During this time there will be complete peace on earth – there will be no wars; carnivorous animals will no longer eat meat but will eat grass; tiny children will be able to play safely with snakes; people will go to Jesus for advice; the dreadful sudden infant death syndrome will cease and people will live hundreds of years. Those who die before they are one hundred years old will be thought of as just a child. 'And there will come forth a Shoot (Jesus) out of the stock of Jesse (King David's father), a Branch (Jesus) out of his roots will grow and bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him ... He will not judge by the sight of His eyes, neither decide by the hearing of His ears, but with righteousness and justice will He judge the poor and decide with fairness for the humble. He will smite the oppressor with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness and faithfulness will be the girdle of His waist. The wolf will live with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with a young goat. The calf, the young lion and the fattened cow will graze together and a little child will lead them. The cow and the bear will graze side by side; their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat grass like the ox. The (very young) nursing child will play near the hole of the asp, and the weaned child will put his hand on the adder's den. They (carnivorous, dangerous and venomous creatures) will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. It will be in that day that the nations will seek knowledge of the Root of Jesse (Jesus) Who will stand as a sign for the peoples and His dwelling will be glorious' (Isaiah 11:1 to 10). 'The wolf and the lamb will feed together, the lion will eat grass like the ox and dust will be the serpent's food. They (dangerous creatures) will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, says the Lord' (Isaiah 65:25).

Psalms 72 was initially written for Solomon but looking at Solomon's life, it does not really fit this Psalm. Even if Solomon had continued living a righteous life, he never had dominion over the whole earth so this Psalm is attributed to David's Greater Son, Jesus the Messiah and the setting up of His Kingdom on earth. The Psalm gives a detailed description of what the thousand years will be like before the final total destruction of the sun, moon and earth. Jesus, the Royal Son will govern and judge with righteousness; He will bring justice

and prosperity; He will crush the oppressor or the dictator; He will have dominion all over the earth; all nations will serve Him; He will banish famine, poverty, sickness, hunger and violence; He will have pity on the poor and needy and save them; He will pray continually as He did during His earthly ministry; the whole earth will be filled with His glory. During the thousand years, Jesus will bring peace, which will abound. We can see this Psalm is a description of the reign of the Messianic thousand years, because at the very end of the thousand years, the sun, moon, stars, universe and the earth will be completely burned up (2 Peter 3:10 to 12) and this Psalm says: 'They will fear You while the sun and moon endure ... In the Messiah's days, the righteous will flourish and peace will abound until there is no longer a moon' (Psalm 72:5 & 7). Before that happens, Jesus will rule and reign over the earth. After the thousand years have passed, and after this earth is destroyed, the righteous will live permanently on the newly created earth where only righteousness and holiness can live (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

Not only will all people on earth be filled with joy at Jesus' return, all of creation will benefit. As we have already seen, carnivores will no longer eat herbivorous animals, because the carnivores will eat grass 'like an ox'. That also means humans will no longer eat meat, but fruit, vegetables and cereals. Heaven will be glad and even the rivers will be joyful. When Jesus returns, He will bring about the redemption of all creation. Animals are also affected by mankind's fall into sin. We see in the scriptures, all creation is waiting for the Messianic Age. 'The sufferings of this present time are not worth being compared with the glory that will be revealed to us, for the whole of creation waits with eager expectation for God's children to be revealed. For creation was subjected to suffering (because of sin). Creation itself will be set free from its decay into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole of creation has been moaning together ... and not only creation, but ourselves too, who have the Holy Spirit, groan within ourselves as we eagerly wait for the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved ... We hope for what we cannot see, we wait for it with patience' (Romans 8:18 to 25).

The Lord told Adam; 'The ground is under a curse because of you ... Thorns and thistles will the ground bring forth to you' (Genesis 3:17 & 18). There never were any thorns and thistles until Adam sinned. Adam had dominion over the earth and when he fell into sin, the whole earth was affected. When Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, they put on Him a purple robe and pressed a crown of thorns on His head. Jesus stood there with the thorns on His head and the purple of the thistle on His robe as a testimony that He was bearing the curse of mankind's sin on the ground. Not only will we have our new resurrected bodies, the whole of creation is waiting for the Messianic Age so they can be set free from the effects of sin. All of creation will rejoice. 'Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice, let the sea roar and all that fills it. Let the field and all that is in it exult! All the trees of the wood will sing for joy before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth! He will judge the world with righteousness, and the people with truth' (Psalm 96:11 to 13). 'Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell in it! Let the rivers clap their hands, let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth with righteousness, and the people with equity (fairness)' (Psalm 98:7 to 9).

If we look at the scripture where God said to Eve, as a result of the curse, "I will greatly multiply your pain in pregnancy and childbirth. In spasms of pain you will bring forth children" (Genesis 3:16), we can assume that when the Messianic Age is here and the curse has been lifted, women should enjoy pain free childbirth. Barrenness, miscarriage, premature birth and cot deaths are all a result of the curse on all mankind and all will cease. Children will no longer suffer diseases that destroy their young lives. Parents will never have to suffer the heartbreaking loss of their baby or child. Only the wicked will die at a young-ish age. 'No one will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will fulfil the number of your days' (Exodus 23:26). 'There will no more be an infant on earth who lives but a few days, or a man who dies prematurely; for the child will die a hundred years old, and the sinner who dies when a hundred years old will be thought only a child, cut off because he is accursed' (Isaiah 65:20).

For one thousand years, all of mankind, all animals and all of creation will enjoy God's blessing as originally planned at creation. There will be no wars, famine, hunger, sickness, disease, poverty, homelessness, oppression, tyranny, divorce, domestic violence, robberies, terrorism or any of the things that make life difficult. Imagine the peace, the tranquillity, the hope, the joy, and the laughter. Imagine knowing your child will always have enough food and clothing and your baby will never become seriously ill. If there is someone suffering arthritis; imagine never feeling pain again. For those who are blind or deaf; imagine having perfect eyesight and hearing. For the quadriplegics and paraplegics; imagine being able to run and play with children again, and maybe use your old wheelchair for a go-kart. If you are Jewish, imagine never again being persecuted, bombed or harassed. For those who are caught in the terror of domestic violence; imagine having it stopped for good. For the homeless; imagine having a home to live in, with the assurance that it is yours and no landlord will make you move. Robberies, violence and terrorism will cease. The coming of the Lord Jesus will be wonderful and is something to really look forward to; something to be excited about. Jesus said, "Yes it is true. I am coming quickly. Amen!" Yes, come Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:20).

Amen and God bless you.

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