

Now Concerning Spiritual Things
an historical account of one man's walk with God

6031 Steamboat Drive
Dallas, Texas 75230-1851

August 20, 2001
Jim Ash letter No. 44

(972) 458-2260 Fax (972) 458-0288
e-mail: jimash.min@worldnet.att.net

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
PART FIVE

Introduction

God's master plan for the world is the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Of this kingdom, John F. Walvoord writes, "It will be a golden age in which the dreams of social reformers through the centuries will be realized, not through human effort but by the immediate presence and power of God and the righteous government of Christ."¹

I concluded my last letter by writing about three characteristics of the millennial kingdom: (1) Peace, (2) Joy and (3) Removal of Curses, based on my understanding of some of the prophetic scripture which tells of that glorious future time: A one-thousand year period when I believe Jesus Christ will literally sit on David's throne and rule and reign as King over the earth with absolute authority.

What I am trying to do with my writing in this series of letters is to bring to life the reality of this future event. An event that is just as certain to happen as the event of Jesus, who, being born of a virgin, lived a perfect life of about thirty-three and one-half years, was crucified, died, buried, resurrected and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He now rules and reigns with all authority in heaven and on earth.² The reality of these events was

¹John F. Walvoord, THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM, Zondervan publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, p. 319.

²However His present reign is different from His millennial reign. His present reign is spiritual – in the hearts and lives of those who accept Him voluntarily as Savior, Redeemer and Lord of their life. (See Romans 10:9, 10). His millennial reign will not be voluntary. It will be mandatory and literal. His present spiritual reign is over a small percentage of the earth's population. His literal millennial reign will be over every living soul. His present spiritual reign is over born-again believers who are being trained to rule and reign with Him during His literal millennial reign. (You may not know this, but your faithfulness to His calling and election on your life will determine your role as His servant during the Millennium. One scripture that reinforces this statement is, "Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a **rewarder** of those who diligently seek him." [Hebrews 11:6] The nations who persecute the house of Israel (Jews) during His present spiritual reign will themselves be subservient to the Jewish nation during His literal millennial reign. Opposition to His present spiritual reign is tolerated. Opposition to His literal millennial reign will not be allowed. Both reigns have one thing in common: the Love of God manifested through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior, Redeemer and Lord. Once you know Him personally, the greatest honor one may achieve

prophesied beginning four-thousand years prior to His birth and is confirmed by both secular history and the biblical record. Just as sure as both secular and biblical records confirm these events, Jesus is destined to come again as the Jewish Messiah to rule as King over the earth. His earthly rule and reign will begin the restoration of His original plan for man and the earth – a plan that was thwarted by Adam's failure.

Here is an interesting thing to consider as we continue this "journey" together. The Office of Management and Budget, a department of the Executive branch of the Federal Government in Washington, D. C., publishes each year an annual budget for the United States Government. Our government operates on a fiscal year of from November 1 through October 31. The published figures estimated for the fiscal year 2001, beginning November 1, 2000 through October 31, 2001 lists the following **dollar amounts** budgeted (to be spent) for the following selected specified items:

	(In millions) (000,000 omitted)
Total National outlay (Budget)	<u>1,960,584</u>
<u>Payments for Individuals</u>	
Social Security & RR Retirement	0,435,109
Fed. Employment Retirement Ins.	0,101,535
Medical Care	0,404,652
Assistance to Students	0,010,894
Housing Assistance	0,025,182
Food & Nutrition Assistance	0,034,886
Public Assistance & Related Progrms.	0,083,220
Unemployment Assistance	0,025,905
All Other Payments for Individuals	<u>0,005,056</u>
Total for Individuals	1,126,439
Add National Defense	<u>0,299,136</u>
Total For Individuals & N. Defense	1,425,575**

The above *Total*** is 72.71% of the total US Budget for the fiscal year 2001. To give these figures more reality, here are the totals for the selected specified items expressed in 2001 dollars.

Payments for individuals \$1,126,439,000,000

is in faithfully serving Him.

National Defense	<u>299,136,000,000</u>
Total	\$1,425,575,000,000**

The 2000 census figures for the population of the United States is 284,837,381 divided into the above expenditure total** amounts to a cost equal to \$5,004.87 per person rounded off to the nearest one cent or a cost of \$25,024.35 for a family of five for these specified government programs alone.

From my study, I believe that the system of taxation and the utilization of taxes assessed will be radically changed during the Millennium. It is also my opinion that much of the above assessed total of \$1,425,575,000,000 (in the U.S. alone) will not be necessary.³ I alluded to this in my last letter. Now use *your* imagination. During the Millennium there will be no unemployment. Assistance to the elderly and infirm will be minimized to the absolute due to restoration of all physical and mental deficiencies at the beginning of the Millennium.

There will be no purpose for a National Defense budget. Agricultural products will be produced in a twelve-month continuous growing season. There will be no drought, famine, earthquakes, catastrophic illness or calamitous weather events. Joy and peace will prevail simultaneously with the cessation of curses pronounced on the earth, man and woman. Scripture support for all of these millennial blessings, and more, will be quoted and/or commented on in this continuing series of letters. I have given you graphic dollar figures for government assistance programs of our nation so you might use *your* imagination on just what it will be like to live in a perfect society in the absence of fear, with government waste eliminated and with allegiance to our King as Lord based on the love of God in the heart of man.

Here are some additional interesting and exciting descriptions of that future time.

Characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom (continued)

4. Holiness. First, allow the scriptures to speak for themselves, followed by my comments. As you read these scriptures, keep in mind that you and I as believers, will

experience these events either as *raptured* or as *resurrected* saints of God and will have *assigned responsibilities to carry out* during the Millennium. It's coming. And it's real. Try and imagine yourself in these circumstances. The Millennium is going to be the most interesting, fulfilling and exciting time you can imagine.

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: "I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion [Jerusalem] shall be redeemed with justice, and her penitents with righteousness. The destruction of transgressors and of sinners shall be together, and those who forsake the Lord shall be consumed."⁴ "And it shall come to pass that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy – everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and purged the blood of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and by the spirit of burning."⁵ "Return to Him against whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. For in that day every man shall throw away his idols of silver and his idols of gold – sin, which your own hands have made for yourselves."⁶ "A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there."⁷ "Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified."⁸ "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."⁹

The prophet Ezekiel gives us these insights: "For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all

³In consideration of the Millennium, these figures must be viewed relatively and not literally as to amounts. One reason is that the population of the millennial world will be reduced by over fifty percent, for example. These figures are provided, however, to point out the use of such expenditures in a government administered by man, much of which will be eliminated under a government instituted by and overseen by the Lord Jesus Himself. The millennial economy will be one of abundance. All needs will be met. Those in want will be cared for. Business, commerce, industry, manufacturing and gainful employment will continue, but under circumstances so as to provide for the well-being of man-kind as a first objective.

⁴Isaiah 1:26-28.

⁵Isaiah 4:3, 4.

⁶Isaiah 31:6, 7.

⁷Isaiah 35:8, 9.

⁸Isaiah 60:21.

⁹Isaiah 61:10.

countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of your trees and the increase of your fields, so that you need never again bear the reproach of famine among the nations. Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good; and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight, for your iniquities and your abominations.”¹⁰ “They shall not defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them. Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd; they shall also walk in My judgments and observe My statutes, and do them.”¹¹ “Moreover, when you divide the land by lot into inheritance, you shall set apart a district for the Lord, a holy section of the land; its length shall be twenty-five thousand cubits, and the width ten thousand. It shall be holy throughout its territory all around.”¹²

Zechariah prophesied: “Thus says the Lord: ‘I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the City of Truth, the Mountain of the Lord of Hosts, the Holy Mountain.’”¹³

Brief comments on these scriptures. Judges and counselors allude partially to an organized system of worldwide government beginning at Jerusalem. The city where our Lord was crucified will become a city of peace and righteousness. Transgressors and sinners shall all be destroyed. No sinner or unbeliever will enter the Millennium. Jerusalem will be called holy and will be purged from filth and blood. Israel, as the leading nation of the world, will be occupied by repentant, grateful Jews and

there will be no ravenous animals.

The gathering of Jews to Jerusalem and Palestine from all countries of the world will occur and Palestine will be expanded to the borders God promised to Abraham. God’s presence and provision will not only be prevalent in Jerusalem and Palestine but also in “all nations.”¹⁴ David, as Regent under Christ, will be king over Palestine and Jerusalem as the Capitol city of the world. A holy section of land shall be set apart for the Lord, twenty-five thousand cubits long by ten-thousand cubits wide. The Lord Himself will return to Jerusalem.

A Contrast of Two Cities

As the scriptures point out, the importance, the prominence, the holiness of millennial Jerusalem and Palestine is without question. But this is a radical departure from the condition of Jerusalem during the seven-year Tribulation period immediately preceding the Millennium. During the first part of the Tribulation, Jerusalem is spiritually called *Sodom* and *Egypt* where our Lord was crucified.¹⁵ The reason is because the moral and spiritual conditions that existed in Sodom before its destruction and the idolatrous iniquities that abounded in Egypt before God judged the land, permeates Jerusalem during this period of time. God’s two witnesses who preach and prophesy during this period, armed with supernatural power to literally destroy their opposition,¹⁶ are unable to change Jerusalem as Jonah was able to change the city of Nineveh with only his preaching of repentance.¹⁷ This is testimony to the depth of sin into which Jerusalem falls during the Tribulation. This also attests to (1) the sovereign power of God’s intervention at Armageddon¹⁸ and (2) the powerful effect of His prophetic commitment to make Jerusalem a Holy City, purged and purified by His cleansing and glorified by His presence. When we pray (1) “thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”¹⁹ and when we (2) “pray for the peace of Jerusalem,”²⁰ we are literally praying for the coming of *the millennial kingdom on the earth ruled over by*

¹⁴See Matthew 28:19.

¹⁵See Revelation 11:8.

¹⁶See Revelation 11:2-6

¹⁷See Jonah 3:10.

¹⁸See Revelation 16:16; 19:11-21.

¹⁹See Matthew 6:10.

²⁰See Psalm 122:6.

¹⁰Ezekiel 36:24-31.

¹¹Ezekiel 37:23, 24.

¹²Ezekiel 45:1.

¹³Zechariah 8:3.

the Lord Jesus and for the *peace and holiness of millennial Jerusalem*. Until then the will of Lord will not be done on earth as it is in heaven and until then, there will be no peace in Jerusalem.

Additional scriptures affirming ***holiness*** in the theocratic kingdom are footnoted here.²¹

5. *Sickness removed.* Consider these scriptures: “And the inhabitant will not say, ‘I am sick;’ the people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity.”²² “‘For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,’ says the Lord, because they called you an outcast saying: ‘This is Zion; no one seeks her.’”²³ “‘I will seek that which was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong, and feed them in judgment.’”²⁴

As an introduction to commentary on these verses of scripture, it is interesting to consider the teaching of the scriptures on salvation and healing available *today* and the connection between the two. Jesus promises to believers today healing *and* salvation within the context of the Great Commission as recorded by Mark.²⁵ The healing ceremony in the book of James is likewise for believers today. Those who accept it and act on it by faith are promised healing *and* forgiveness.²⁶ This James ceremony on healing is the only place in the New Testament I know of that promises forgiveness *without confession*. The prophet Isaiah also affirms that salvation *and* healing was purchased for us by the Lord Jesus on the cross.²⁷ As a matter of interest, Dale and I have been healed by the Lord on more than one occasion and have witnessed the healing of others in our ministry. We still have much to learn in this area.

However, the millennial scriptures quoted above indicate that ***there will be no sickness in the Millennium!*** Consider for a moment: The high cost of medical care – treatment – insurance – today is one of the biggest issues facing American citizens and corporate America. The medical doctors versus the HMO problems will not exist in

the Millennium. With no sickness, the pharmaceutical industry, druggists, hospitals, clinics, medical doctors, nurses, insurance companies who offer health care coverages, the businesses and industries who “feed” off of the health care industry (manufacturers and suppliers of all health care related needs), as I see it, will be practically nonexistent. Consider this savings *alone* for a moment and envision the economic productivity and well-being of a millennial society.

I believe the “This is Zion, no one seeks her.” scripture may refer to the complete restoration of Jerusalem from spiritual Sodom and Egypt to a City set on a hill referred to by the Psalmist in these words, prophetic of the restoration of Jerusalem, including the possible topographical elevation of the millennial city, “Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.”²⁸

Now here are my questions for you: Why will sickness be eliminated from the Millennial Kingdom? What is the source of illness? What is the cause of Cholera, Leprosy, AIDS, M.S., Tuberculosis, Polio, the common “cold,” Alzheimer’s, Malaria and all other sicknesses common to man? Why is medical care in crisis in the U.S.? Here are my answers. Compare them with yours.

During the Millennium, one will experience three things: (1) The presence of God through the righteousness of the literal personal presence of Christ as King, (2) The absence of the influence of Satan, his fallen angels and his demonic hordes and (3) the saving knowledge of Christ. Now you may be able to see how Adam’s wrong choice impacted planet earth and those who live thereon. His wrong choice forfeited to Satan the right to pollute the earth and mankind. Because of his shrewdness, Satan has man blaming man and man blaming God (at times) for man’s problems. During the Millennium it will be evident that our real enemy *today* is (1) the absence of God and (2) the curse of Satan’s influence on planet earth. What a blessing it would be to see man’s eyes opened to this truth today.

. . . . more next time, the Lord willing, on the exciting changes in store for every one of us who eagerly await the soon coming of the Lord Jesus and look forward to His millennial reign on the earth.

²¹Isaiah 29:18-23; 52:1; Jeremiah 31:23; Ezekiel 43:7-12; Joel 3:21; Zephaniah 3:11,13.; Zechariah 13:1, 2; 14:20, 21.

²²Isaiah 33:24.

²³Jeremiah 30:17.

²⁴Ezekiel 34:16.

²⁵See Mark 16:15, 16, 18.

²⁶See James 5:14, 15.

²⁷See Isaiah 53: 4, 5.

²⁸Psalm 2:6.