

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

6031 Steamboat Drive
Dallas, Texas 75230-1851

September 24, 2001
Jim Ash letter No. 45

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

THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
PART SIX

“1. GOD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2. has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things through whom He also made [created] the worlds.”¹

God's line of delineation is clearly drawn *between* these two verses of scripture. *The ending* of the law of sin and death² and its ordinances [handwriting] that were against or contrary to us by nailing it to the cross³ in verse one, and *the beginning* of grace and truth Who came in the Person of Jesus Christ in verse two. But the line of delineation did not separate us from the reality of prophetic utterances by God's prophets as recorded in scripture. They (God's prophetic utterances) are certain to come to pass since, God's word will not return to Him void, but It shall accomplish what He pleases and It shall prosper in the thing for which He sent it.⁴

It is interesting to note that the only place in scripture the millennial period is referred to as a thousand years in duration is in the book of Revelation, Chapter twenty, where it is mentioned six times, whereas most of the explanatory verses on this end-time event are recorded by Old Testament prophets. This letter is a continuation of the description of that marvelous period of time.

Characteristics of the Millennial Kingdom (continued)

6. Glory.

Scripture: “In that day the Branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and *glorious*; and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.”⁵ “Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the Lord of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders *gloriously*.”⁶

¹Hebrews 1:1, 2, brackets inserted.

²See Romans 8:2.

³See Colossians 2:14.

⁴See Isaiah 55:11.

⁵Isaiah 4:2, italics added.

⁶Isaiah 24:23, italics added.

Comment: The “Branch of the Lord” is Jesus Who shall be beautiful and *glorious*. The “fruit of the earth for Israel” shall be for those who have escaped the armies of Armageddon. Just prior to the battle of Armageddon, Israel accepts Jesus as the Messiah and desperately calls on Him for help. He then responds to the call of *His family*,⁷ the call He has awaited for about two thousand years, and slays with the breath of His mouth the multitudinous adversaries of Israel. The “fruit of the earth” for Israel refers to the fact that Israel will have favored nation status by rule, governance and decree of the Lord Jesus and will be exalted above the Gentile nations who have persecuted her.

“The moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed” refers to the *glory* of the Lord Jesus exceeding that of the sun and the moon during His literal reign on the earth, centered at Jerusalem, the capitol City of the world at that time. How important it is today to accept Him as Savior and Redeemer and claim Him as Lord now. Salvation is in no other Name is the reason! Without the Savior, man is lost eternally! One reward for claiming Him as Lord now is that it puts one in a favored person status to rule and reign with Him during the Millennium. And that's exciting!

Scripture: “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom

⁷More than thirty years ago the Lord spoke to me as I was praying one morning and said, “Pray for My family.” I was obedient while not knowing specifically for whom I was praying. For example, did “My family” mean mankind since He created us all? Or did it mean all born-again believers, both Jews and Gentiles alike? Without knowing specifically God's definition of “My family,” I was faithful to His request as He instructed me. Then about four years ago as I was looking at a Zola Levitt letter, I noticed the word “Israel” in print. It was then that the Holy Spirit revealed to me that when the Lord Jesus asked me to pray for “My family,” He meant *Israel* – His flesh and blood relatives! I learned more about the humanity of Jesus in that revelation moment than I had learned in my prior years of living. The family of God (His wife) and the family of Jesus are one and the same: *Israel*. Israel is not the Church and the Church is not Israel. Jesus was sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, but the least in the kingdom is greater than John (a Jew). We Gentiles have been grafted into the natural olive tree (Israel) and are sons of God by adoption. Great are the blessings of the Church, the bride of Christ. But the Church and Israel are not the same. They are different. We are blessed by our Jewish Messiah. The Jews have written, preserved and handed down to us as Gentiles the Holy Scriptures. Rejoice, that as adopted children, we Gentiles, as the bride of the Lamb of God, are greatly blessed.

as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The *glory* of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the *glory* of the Lord, the excellency of our God.”⁸ “The *glory* of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”⁹ “*Arise, shine; for your light has come!* And the *glory* of the Lord is *risen* upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but *the Lord will arise* over you, and His *glory will be seen upon you*. The Gentiles shall come to your *light*, and kings to the *brightness of your rising*. Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see *and become radiant*, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will *glorify* the house of *My glory*. Who are these who fly like a cloud, and like doves to their roosts? Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; and the ships of Tarshish will come first, to bring your sons from afar, their silver and their gold with them, to the name of the Lord your God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because He has *glorified* you.”¹⁰

Comment: Italicized words and phrases in the above scripture verses comprise the following list which are descriptive of the glory of the millennial kingdom: *glory, glorify, glorified, gloriously, arise and shine for your light has come, risen, the Lord will arise over you, His glory will be seen upon you, the brightness of your rising, and become radiant, My glory*. In these verses the prophet Isaiah also speaks of the coming *glory* of the nation of Israel in six ways: (1) the “wealth of the Gentiles” will come to Israel, (2) the commerce “of the sea” will be returned to Israel, (3) the Jews will gather worldwide to the expanded area of land promised to Abraham, (4) the Lord “will arise over you” (Israel), (5) His glory will be seen upon you (Israel) and (6) the “Gentiles shall come to your light (the light of Israel).”

⁸Isaiah 35:1, 2, italics added.

⁹Isaiah 40:5, italics added.

¹⁰Isaiah 60:1-9, italics added.

The heart of Israel “will become radiant and swell with joy” because of their abundant wealth and their *favored nation status* under the theocratic rule of their Jewish Messiah, the Lord Jesus, as their king. When Israel was ruled by Judges, she wanted a king. Although this was not God’s will for them, He gave them what they asked for: King Saul who became a failure. But this time their King will be everything they have hoped for and longed for – and much, much more! This kingdom will be a glorious one in which the glory of God will find full manifestation on earth through His only Son. To my knowledge, there has never been anything like it, according to the biblical record. The garden of Eden prior to sin may have been similar. However, in order to arrive at such a conclusion, one must do so by assumptions in the absence of facts, which are clearly furnished on the millennial kingdom.

While these scriptures affirm a glorious transformation of Jerusalem and Palestine (with its extended borders), I do not believe these blessings will be limited to Israel alone. I see Israel as a millennial beacon of light for the world because the Jewish Messiah, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rules and reigns as King from Jerusalem. But I also see this portending to the other nations of the world who accept Jesus as Lord. This will apparently be universal since only the saved will enter the Millennium. That means God’s blessings through the literal reign of His only Son will begin at Jerusalem and extend to all Judea, and Samaria and to the uttermost parts of the world.¹¹ And that’s exactly what Jesus had in mind just before He ascended back to the Father forty days after His crucifixion.

7. Physical restoration of the deformed.

Scripture: “Is it not yet a very little while till Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be esteemed as a forest? In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”¹² “Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are fearful-hearted, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall

¹¹See Acts 1:8.

¹²Isaiah 29:17-19.

burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.”¹³

Comment: As I have previously written, only the saved will enter the Millennium, that is, adults who are accountable to God and children who have not reached that age. And, based on the above scripture verses, here are some other pluses at the inception of the Millennium: (1) The eyes of the blind shall be opened to see, (2) the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped, (3) the dumb shall sing, (4) the lame will leap like a deer, (5) weak hands will be strengthened, (6) feeble knees will be made strong, (7) the humble shall increase their joy in the Lord, (8) the poor shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel and (9) “waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.” This [Item (9)] refers to the land occupied by Israel becoming a super productive “garden spot,” an oasis in the desert.

I remind you again that Jesus will be bodily present to rule and reign in the Millennium while Satan and his demons will be bound in the bottomless pit. Does the Presence of God and the absence of Satan tell you anything about the cause of physical deformity? The common foe of both God and man is Satan whose job is to steal [from you everything God wants to give you], kill [you – he is the author of death] and destroy [you, your hopes, your dreams, your peace, your life]. On the other hand Jesus came that we might have a more abundant life.¹⁴ I believe the Millennium is the beginning of what God had in mind when Adam sinned and thwarted His plan.

8. Employment.

Scripture: “You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food.”¹⁵ “The rest of the length, alongside the district of the holy section, shall be ten thousand cubits to the east and ten thousand to the west. It shall be adjacent to the district of the holy section, and its produce shall be food for the workers of the city. The workers of the city, from all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it.”¹⁶ “The Lord has sworn by His right hand and by the arm of His strength: surely I will no longer give your grain as food for your enemies; and the sons of the

foreigner shall not drink your new wine, for which you have labored. But those who have gathered it shall eat it, and praise the Lord; those who have brought it together shall drink it in My holy courts.”¹⁷ “They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth children for trouble; for they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.”¹⁸

Comment: There will be neither idleness nor unemployment, and no unemployment compensation paid, during the Millennium. Under the guidance and direction of the King, there will be birthed a perfect economic system which will meet the needs of everyone. The system will abundantly provide for a contented labor force. I do not foresee the need for labor unions with the right to strike to force management to meet their demands. As a matter of fact, I believe it will be dangerous to do so! Nor do I see any segment of the agricultural/industrialized society paying anything but just and fair wages to employees. I see a labor force working willingly, earning just wages *without discrimination* on the part of either management or labor. There will be a fully integrated economic system with labor, agriculture, business, industry, commerce, manufacturing, transportation and distribution facilities providing the needs of the King’s subjects. Glory!

9. Economic prosperity.

Scripture: “But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the Lord of hosts. For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew – I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these. And it shall come to pass that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, let your hands be strong.”¹⁹ “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

¹³Isaiah 35:3-6. Also see the following scripture verses supportive of the physical restoration of the deformed during the Millennium: Isaiah 61:1, 2; Jeremiah 31:8; Micah 4:6, 7; Zephaniah 3:19.

¹⁴See John 10:10.

¹⁵Jeremiah 31:5.

¹⁶Ezekiel 48: 18, 19.

¹⁷Isaiah 62:8, 9.

¹⁸Isaiah 65: 21-23.

¹⁹Zechariah 8: 11-13.

the reproach of famine among the nations.”²⁰ “Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground will eat cured fodder, which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan. There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.”²¹ “Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the trader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.”²²

Comment: The perfect labor climate previously described under “8. Employment,” together with conditions described under “9. Economic prosperity,” will produce an abundance unheard of today. Here are the promises of abundance to Israel. (1) prosperous seed, (2) prosperous vineyards, (3) rain from the heavens, (4) the curse of Israel removed, (5) deliverance, (6) abundant grain, (7) no famine, (8) abundant fruit, (9) increase of the fields, (10) abundant food for oxen and donkeys, work animals of the fields and vineyards, (11) continuous multiple (twelve-month) growing cycles, (12) sweet wine, (13) repopulation of a greatly enlarged Palestine, (14) waste cities rebuilt and (15) complete restoration of the fertility of the land.

Bear in mind that these promises of superabundance were made to Israel, as part of an agrarian world, at a time when today’s technology was undreamed of. Translated into today’s terminology, this means continuous unheard of superabundance aided by the Presence of a kind, loving God, with no depression or downturn in the business cycle ever, with all the wants, desires and needs of mankind amply provided for. Get ready! It’s coming!

10. Increase of light.

Scripture: “Then the Lord will create above every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire

by night. For over all the glory there will be a covering.”²³

“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.”²⁴

“‘For I,’ says the Lord, ‘will be a wall of fire all around her, and I will be the glory in her midst.’”²⁵ “Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound.”²⁶

Comment: Descriptions of the millennium in these scriptures are almost too awesome to contemplate except for other similar bible references, one of which is the wilderness experience of Israel: “For the cloud of the Lord was above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.”²⁷ This “mirrors” the millennial “covering of every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and above her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day and the shining of a flaming fire by night.” The reason the sun and moon will no longer be for light is because of the bright shining of the glory of God on earth. Notice the increase in light without any increase in heat. The reason “the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun and the light of the sun sevenfold” is because of the light of the glory of the Lord’s presence. Hallelujah! The reason the plowmen will follow the reaper [see 9. Economic prosperity, p. 4 column one] is because the light of Gods glory will literally eliminate night time and there will be light twenty-fours a day. Hence the continuous twenty-four-hour growing cycle in each day of the year. At that time one will literally be able to see and experience the glory of God as never before! Amen. Come quickly Lord Jesus.

. . . . more in my next letter about the millennial kingdom, the Lord willing.

²⁰Ezekiel 36:29, 30.

²¹Isaiah 30:23-25.

²²Amos 9:13, 14.

²³Isaiah 4:5.

²⁴Isaiah 60:19, 20.

²⁵Zechariah 2:5.

²⁶Isaiah 30:26.

²⁷Exodus 40:38.