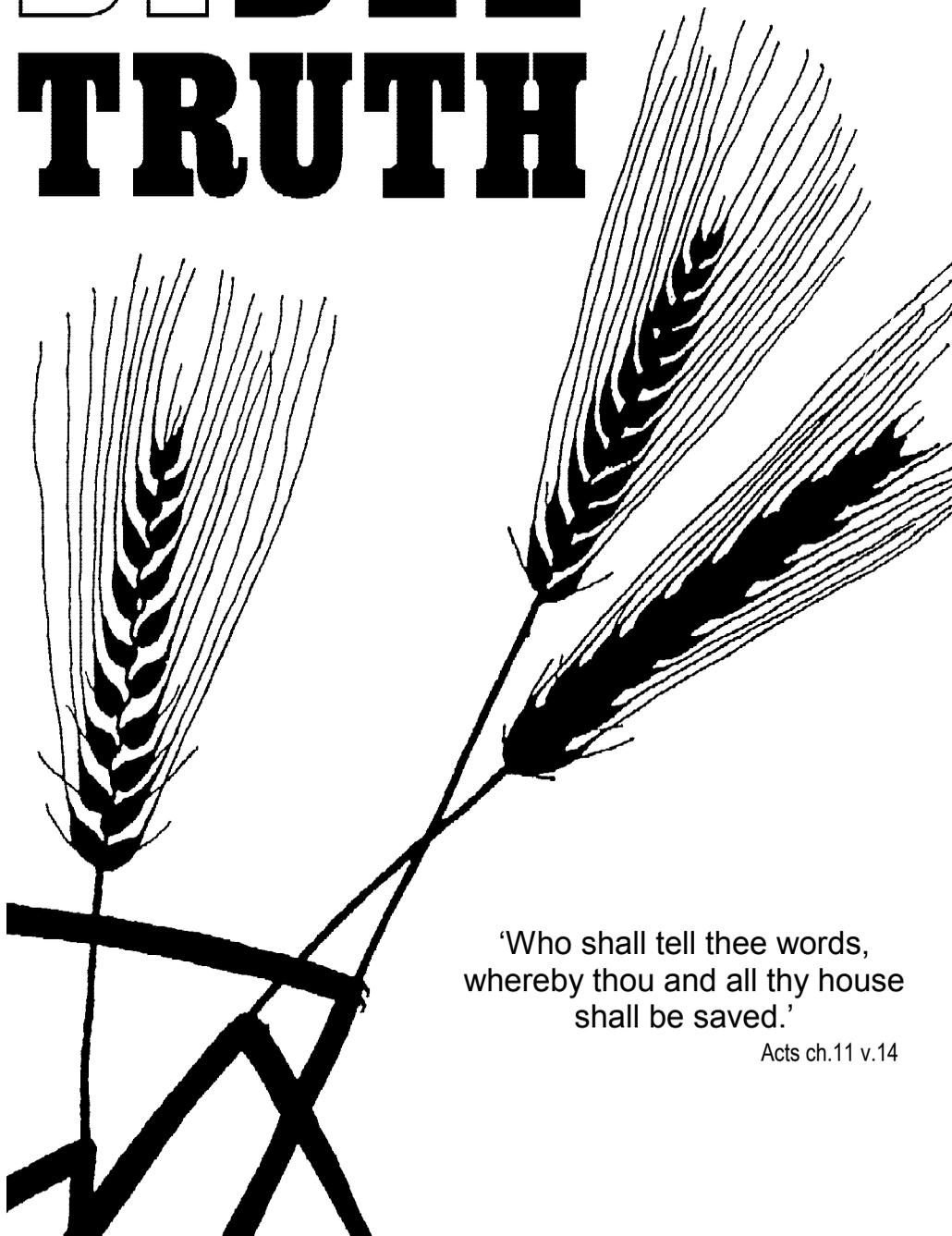


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'Who shall tell thee words,
whereby thou and all thy house
shall be saved.'

Acts ch.11 v.14

CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL REIGN

By John Lovell

It is most thrilling to learn of people's interest in prophecy, particularly that which is related to the coming of the Lord and the functioning of His Kingdom here on earth. This interest gives us enthusiasm as we share this message which deals primarily with Christ's reign of righteousness.

The word 'millennium' as such is not mentioned in the Bible. Some people object strenuously, therefore, to any teaching concerning the millennium simply because the word itself is not found in the Scriptures.

Let us not be so dogmatic and critical. There are many words that are not found in the Bible but still carry true scriptural meanings. The word 'Rapture' is not found in the Bible, and yet no one doubts that the 'dead in Christ' are to be raised, that the living Christians are to be translated at the Lord's coming and that both groups are to be caught into the air to meet the Lord. In substance, this is the main teaching of the Rapture.

Of course, some teach that the Lord takes those two groups to heaven for three and a half, or seven, years. This part of the teaching concerning the rapture appears unscriptural in so far as the Bible does not mention a three and a half year period. It does mention 1260 prophetic days and declares that each day stands for a year; likewise with the seven year or 2520 day period.

The word, 'deep freeze' is not mentioned in the Bible, or the word 'automobile', yet they are both perfectly good words representing the two objects we use daily in our complicated society. The word, 'millennium', simply comes from the Latin and means 1,000. Therefore, the expression has reference to the 1,000 year reign of righteousness, peace, and perfection here on this earth throughout God's Kingdom with Christ the King in charge.

There are several terms that are virtually synonymous or at least they have reference to the same period, which we would do well to understand. They are, the 'day of the Lord', the 'judgment day', the 'Kingdom age', and the 'Times of Restitution' or 'restoration'. All of these refer to the 1,000 year period during which time physical Israelites living in the Kingdom will be judged. It will be an age in which the

Kingdom flourishes; therefore it is called the Kingdom age. It will be a period in which conditions are restored to primeval beauty, Edenic glory, and paradisaical perfection.

Christ's coming precedes the Millennial Age

Post-millennialists believe that Christ's coming follows the millennial period but scripture does not seem to teach this. There could be no kingdom without a King! There can be no peace without the Prince of Peace! It will take Christ Himself in person to direct the affairs of this nation, to bring order out of chaos, destroy the enemies of Israel, solve our complex problems, and give us deliverance, restoration, and national perfection. The Scriptures are quite clear on this point.

'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. For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together. Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 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.'

Matthew ch.24 vv 27-31

'And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.'

Revelation ch.19 vv 11-16

The First Resurrection & the Translation precede the Millennium

I believe the Scriptures teach that the dead in Christ will be literally resurrected unto immortality at the Lord's coming. There are certainly plenty of Scriptures, that substantiate such a belief. I believe this truth is basic, important, and fundamental. I also believe the translation will follow the resurrection, and that people who have been born again will receive their new immortal bodies. The Scriptures speak far more eloquently and effectively than I can.

'But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [precede] them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 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.'

1 Thessalonians ch.4 vv 13-17

'Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. 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 remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.'

Zechariah ch.14 vv 3-4

Christ reigns during the Millennium

Let me repeat that I believe the Scriptures teach that Christ will be here in a personal, audible, bodily, visible, literal, tangible form as King and Chief Executive, directing all affairs during His millennial reign. Also that Jesus is God manifested in bodily form, for God is Spirit. Scripture tells us that He, Jesus, will actually take the throne of His father David, and from that vantage point He will rule the nations of the world. The following Scriptures describe in part the nature of Christ's righteous reign during the millennium period and the wonderful blessings that will be obtained during that time.

‘And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.’

Isaiah ch.11 vv 1-5

‘He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.’

Luke ch.1 vv 32-33

‘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.’

Revelation ch.20 v.6

The Overcomers will reign with Christ

Many people feel that the Lord will do all the work Himself during His reign, and we will do nothing but play our harps and sit under our vine and fig tree! Nothing could be further from the truth! We are not saved to do nothing. We are saved to serve. We will not be resurrected and translated by accident but for a purpose. It is perfectly true; however, that everyone that is resurrected and translated will not have a position of honour, trust, and responsibility in Christ's righteous government on earth. Only those who have merited such position by being faithful while in the flesh by overcoming and by being consecrated will hold such positions. The following Scriptures declare that we shall reign with Christ on earth in His Kingdom if we earn such a position.

‘If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us.’

2 Timothy ch.2 v.12

‘And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.’

Revelation ch.5 v.10

‘And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.’

Revelation ch.22 v.5

In connection with these Scriptures, there are other Scriptures that declare that some people will be made leader of cities in the next age, some will be made governors, some even will be made saviours, and some will be given crowns; the crown being a symbol, of course, of a position of honour and trust in the Kingdom government.

Accordingly, we beg you to strive for the Master; to try to be in the high-calling; to have an ambition to be an overcomer; to so live, study the Scriptures, give, pray, and act, that you will have a part, along with other such faithful people, in helping to make this planet a righteous one during Christ's millennial reign!

Now read more of this subject in

The Real Millennium

by Dr Michael D. Bennett

That the millennium is demanded by God's law, it is essential because Jesus Christ must reign, to allow men to inherit God's promises, there must be the 'restitution of all things'; and so on.

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