

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

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- 1923 -

Van Kampen Press Wheaton, Illinois

Chapter Thirteen -

If You Were Living in the Golden Age

The Bible name for the Golden Age is "**the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times.**"

In the first chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians it is declared that GOD "**hath purposed in himself: that in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on Earth.**"

Commenting on this Biblical name for the Golden Age, the Scofield Reference Bible says:

"This, the seventh and last of the ordered ages which condition human life on the Earth is identical with the Kingdom covenanted to David (II Sam. 7:8-17; Zechariah 12:8; Luke 1:31-33; I Corinthians 15:24), and gathers in to itself under Christ all past "times:"

1. The time of oppression and misrule ends by CHRIST taking His Kingdom (Isaiah 11:3, 4).
2. The time of testimony and divine forbearance ends in judgment (Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 17:30, 31; Revelation 20:7-15).
3. The time of toil ends in rest and reward (II Thessalonians 1:6, 7).
4. The time of suffering ends in glory (Romans 8:17, 18).
5. The time of Israel's blindness and chastisement ends in restoration and conversion (Romans 11:25-27; Ezekiel 39:25-29).
6. The Times of the Gentiles end in smiting of the image and the setting up of the Kingdom of the Heavens (Daniel 2:34, 35; Revelation 19:15-21).
7. The time of creation's thralldom ends in deliverance at the manifestation of the sons of GOD (Gen. 3:17; Isaiah 11:6-8; Romans 8:19-21).

When the SPIRIT Said it Six Times

A commonly used name for the Golden Age is the Millennium.

It is sometimes objected that we ought not to employ this term because it nowhere occurs in the Bible. It is true that the English Bible does not have the term, because *millennium* is a Latin word; but its English equivalent occurs repeatedly in the twentieth chapter of The Revelation.

millennium is a compound Latin word, made up of *mille*, a thousand, and *annum*, years, and its English equivalent therefore is A Thousand Years. Now let us see how this name for the Golden Age is employed in the Scriptures:

"And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 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. 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. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison" (Revelation 20:1-7).

Thus we see that in these seven verses the Millennium is mentioned by name no less than six times. This is by no means all that the Bible has to say about the Golden Age, or the Dispensation of the Fulness of the Times, but even here there is much instruction that may be gathered up concerning that wonderful time.

1. The first item in the program is the restraining of Satan, who is to be locked up in "**the bottomless pit**" (Greek, *Abyss*), for the whole period of the thousand years. It seems a perfectly easy thing to do when the time for it has arrived. There is no struggle, no difficulty about it at all. One lone angel acts as policeman, and all by himself he puts Satan under arrest and shuts him up in prison. There is no trial, for long ago "**Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged**" (John 16:7-11). The sentence has been pronounced, and though its execution be long delayed, in due time "**shall the Prince of this world be cast out**" (John 12:31). In our next study we are to examine the career of this terrible Prince: suffice it now to say that for the whole thousand years of the Millennial Kingdom this World will be free from "**the wiles of the Devil**," free from the subtle deceptions of "**the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience**."

2. In that day the LORD JESUS CHRIST will reign as universal KING. This is implied in the Revelation passage, and it is taught elsewhere in the Scriptures with great clearness.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to

establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Jeremiah 23:5, 6).

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. 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 1:31-33).

"Thus saith the Lord God; Remove the diadem, and take off the crown: this shall not be the same: exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be no more, until he come whose right it is; and I will give it him" (Ezekiel 21:26, 27).

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever . . . I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of Heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 2:44; 7:13, 14).

"And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one" (Zechariah 14:9).

This will be the final answer to the petition contained in the Disciples' Prayer: **"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in Earth, as it is in Heaven."**

Think of it! The will of GOD *done*, and done *in Earth*, even as it is done *in Heaven*!

With a King on the throne, both *willing and able*. Sometimes rulers are willing but not able; and sometimes they are able and not willing. This King will both *will and do* the good pleasure of GOD.

A sceptre of righteousness will be the sceptre of His Kingdom. Righteousness shall be the girdle of His loins, and faithfulness the girdle of His reins.

In these days it is impossible for human governments and rulers to rule righteously; our courts are unable to get at the facts, even when all concerned are honestly trying to do so; and very often lying witnesses and fraudulent lawyers, and sometimes even crooked judges, conspire to thwart the course of justice. But the KING, in the Golden Age, will be omniscient and omnipotent. He will not need to hear evidence, or depend upon witnesses, nor will He be obliged

to employ armies or police forces to execute His will.

"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" (Isaiah 11:3, 4).

He will enforce His own laws and decrees, and righteousness will be meted out without delay upon every one who violates them.

"he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked" (11:4).

It may well be that the words of Psalm 101:7, 8 are His own words, as the Righteous Judge of the whole Earth:

**"He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within
my house:
he that telleth lies shall not
tarry in my sight.
I will early destroy
all the wicked of the land;
that I may cut off all wicked doers
from the city of the Lord."**

For His equipment as KING, the Son of GOD, in the Golden Age, will have the SPIRIT of the LORD resting upon Him in all the plenitude of His power. Unto Him He will be **"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"** (Isaiah 11:2, 3).

"Endeavor then, dear reader," says Mr. W. Trotter, "to realize what would be the condition of a Kingdom under the absolute government of a monarch

so wise as never to make one single mistake,

so equitable as to deal even-handed justice to all,

so tender-hearted as to rule with the gentlest sway,

so pious and benevolent as to seek no object but the glory of GOD and the well-being of His subjects,

and so powerful as to secure the absolute submission of all within the sphere of His dominions!

What a Kingdom!

But when we think of such a Kingdom as extending over the whole Earth, and embracing all nations within its limits; and when we understand that CHRIST Himself is to be its Head and LORD, and that the risen saints are to be His associates on the throne, all language fails, and the heart can only find relief in adoration too profound to be expressed!"

Who Are These That Live and Reign?

The writer just quoted has referred to the association of the risen saints with the Son of GOD in His rule. It is written, "**they lived and reigned with CHRIST a thousand years.**"

Who are "they"? These co-rulers include "**the armies which were in Heaven,**" seen following the KING as He comes out of Heaven to take up His great power and reign (Revelation 19:14). They also include the Tribulation saints, "**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.**" These "**lived [again], and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**"

In a word, CHRIST's redeemed ones will be united with Him in His reign over the Earth. "**Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world? . . . Know ye not that we shall judge angels?**" (I Corinthians 6:2,3; see also II Timothy 2:11, 12; Luke 12:32; 19:17-19; Revelation 2:26, 27).

We have already seen that in the midst of this universal Empire Israel shall have her place. The old theocratic government will be re-established, with the Twelve Apostles ruling over Israel, subject, of course, to the universal rule of the Heavenly EMPEROR.

"And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city" (Isaiah 1:26).

"Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19:27, 28).

3. In the Golden Age, the land of Palestine will be the center of the whole Earth.

Whatever men may think of the land of Palestine, there can be no doubt as to GOD's love for it. It is a "**land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year"** (Deuteronomy 11:12).

In Daniel 8:9 it is described as "**the pleasant land,**" and in Ezekiel 20:6, 15, GOD Himself speaks of it as "**a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands . . . the land which I had given them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands.**"

In the eleventh chapter of Daniel the land is twice called "**the glorious land,**" or "the goodly land," "the land of delight."

The present desolation of the land is all in fulfillment of prophecy, but prophecy does not stop with predicting its desolation. The same GOD who said

"And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odours. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it" (Leviticus 26:31, 32).

has also said

"Prophecy therefore concerning the land of Israel, and say unto the mountains, and to the hills, to the rivers, and to the valleys, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I have spoken in my jealousy and in my fury, because ye have borne the shame of the heathen (goyim = nations, or Gentiles) Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I have lifted up mine hand, Surely the heathen that are about you, they shall bear their shame. But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown" (Ezekiel 36:6-9).

It is plain that the return of less than fifty thousand exiles from Babylon did not fulfill these promises, and there they stand. GOD has spoken, and He will perform. He hath said, and He will do it.

The land given to Abraham and his seed has never yet been fully occupied by the people of Israel. In Genesis 15:18 is the unconditional title deed to the whole region lying between the Nile and Euphrates. The language is most explicit; it is "**from... the great river... Euphrates,... even unto the uttermost sea,**" that their coast shall be (Deuteronomy 1:7; 11:24). Joshua's commission extended "**from the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates . . . unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun,**" that is, the Mediterranean on the west. The Scriptures guarantee the rulership of the whole world to Abraham and his seed (Romans 4:13), and when Israel is finally established in the Kingdom she will doubtless occupy all that territory bounded on the west by the Mediterranean sea, on the southwest by the Red Sea, on the southeast by the Persian gulf, on the northeast by the Caspian sea, and on the northwest by the Black sea. It is the most strategically located land on the globe. Through these vast inland seas the restored nation of Israel will be able to reach out to every nation on Earth. It is true that much of the land I have described is occupied by the great Syrian desert, but that does not matter, for in that day the curse upon the creation itself shall be removed, and the wilderness shall blossom as the rose.

4. In the Golden Age the city of Jerusalem will be the universal capital of the whole Earth.

As already pointed out, the restored Earthly city, as it will appear in the Millennium, must not be confused with the holy city, New Jerusalem, which John saw "**coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"** (Revelation 21:2). John gives us the measurements of the Heavenly Jerusalem, showing it to be twelve thousand furlongs, or 1,500

miles, in length and breadth and height (Revelation 21:16). This is two-thirds as large as the total area of the United States. But the Heavenly city will not be placed on the Earth; it will be suspended over the Earth, and visible from it, **"and the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it"** (Revelation 21:24).

The restored Earthly Jerusalem is described in detail, with its surroundings, in the final chapters of Ezekiel. In chapters 40-48 of that prophecy there is a description, very circumstantial and minute, of the whole land, as it shall be during the Golden Age we are contemplating. The new city and its surroundings are described in chapter 45:1-8.

The whole tract, given to the LORD as an oblation or offering, will be 25,000 reeds square (Ezekiel 48:20). A reed is six **"great cubits"** (40:5; 41:8), or about ten feet and eleven inches according to our measurement. Thus we have a tract of land, four-square, about fifty miles on each side, or 2,500 square miles, to be given to the KING JEHOVAH-JESUS, for metropolitan purposes, during the Golden Age. It will be divided into three parts, on the plan of the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, one portion fifty by twenty miles being for the priests, a second portion of equal size for the Levites, and a third portion ten by fifty miles for the city itself with its surrounding "residue" set apart for food for them that serve the city (48:18). This third portion is called **"a profane place for the city"** (48:15). The city itself will be about nine miles square, having a circuit of 37 miles (48:15, 16, 35). The old city has never been more than five miles in circumference. The Millennial temple, within the restored city, will be about a mile square.

On each side of the city a portion is set aside for "the Prince." This may be David himself, though his name in this connection is usually applied by the commentators to the MESSIAH as his Root and Offspring. But let the reader consult the passages, and decide for himself whether David in his own person is meant. They are Ezekiel 34:23, 24; 37:24, 25, Jeremiah 30:9.

David is with the LORD now, and it may be GOD's purpose to place him in the Millennial Kingdom in something of his old relation to his people. No one will question GOD's power to do so, nor His right to do so if He desires - and why not? Are not the saints to judge the Earth, and reign with the LORD?

5. The city of Jerusalem, thus restored, will be the world's center.

"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isaiah 2:3).

That is to say, Jerusalem will be not only the political center, but also the religious center, of the whole Earth. From thence shall be administered the perfect law of GOD, and from thence also shall be regulated the world's worship: **"And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles"** (Zechariah 14:16).

Zion has suffered, and suffered greatly, in fulfillment of the prophetic Word. It has been **"plowed as a field,"** and has **"become heaps,"** and **"the mountain of the house"** has been made **"as the**

high places of the forest" (Micah 3:12).

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever. And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem" (Micah 4:1-8).

What a wonderful picture! A Golden Age indeed! And it is coming! It is coming, because He is coming Whose right it is to reign. In due time He came to die, and in due time He will come again to wield the scepter of righteous rule; even He **"Who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"** (I Timothy 6:15). **"For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry"** (Hebrews 10:37).

~ end of chapter 13 ~
