

MOUNT ZION REPORTER

Supplement

**The Restoration
of the Kingdom
To Israel**

Acts 1:6, 7

**A KING TO REIGN ON
DAVID'S THRONE**

**WILL PEOPLE LIVING NOW
HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE?**

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The great question uppermost in the minds of the disciples in the days of our Saviour was the restoration of the Kingdom, and just before His ascension they asked Him — “Lord wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?” He said “It is not for you to know the times and seasons which the Father hath put in His own power.” Acts 1:6, 7.

After He had ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit gave them the assurance that this would come in its time, and with this statement, — “And He shall send Jesus Christ (Hebrew “Yahshua ha Meshia”), which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive UNTIL the times of RESTITUTION of ALL THINGS, which God hath spoken by the mouth of ALL the holy prophets since the world began.” Acts 3:20, 21. As the heavens still retain Him, we have not yet arrived at the time for the restoration of the Kingdom, but are on the very threshold of the glorious event. It has been nearly 2000 years since these words were given and the “Times of the Gentiles” have about expired. The gospel of this Kingdom was to be preached in all the world, as a WITNESS to all nations, then the end was to come. Matt. 24:14. It is not to go to every person, but to EVERY NATION, and then the end of this age, and the ushering in of the 1000 year Millennium period was to come.

A KING TO REIGN ON DAVID’S THRONE

The prophet Ezekiel in speaking about the future of Jerusalem and the Kingdom of Judah said, “Son of man, set thy face toward Jerusalem, and drop thy words toward the holy places, and prophesy against the land of Israel” (Ezekiel 21:2), and then in verses 25 - 27 he says, “And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity shall have an end. Thus saith the Lord God; remove the diadem, and TAKE OFF THE CROWN.... I will overturn, overturn, overturn, it: and it shall be NO MORE, until he comes whose right it is; and I will give it him.”

The only one who has this right, is that child born at Bethlehem, and born to be king of the JEWS, and king of the world. — “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world” — was the answer of Jesus to Pilate. John 18:37.

It was generally known and understood, even before He was born, through the teaching of the prophets, that the promised Messiah was to be king of the Jews. Note what King Herod said to the wise men at the time of His birth, “Where is He that is born KING OF THE JEWS.” — Matt. 2:1,2. Also at His crucifixion the inscription was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin: “This is the king of the Jews.” Luke 23:38.

When the seventh trumpet sounds great voices are to be heard in heaven saying, “The kingdoms of this world ARE become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 11:15. Surely these voices, evidently in all languages of earth, will speak the truth. They do not declare that Satan is to hold this world dominion, and roam about in a desolate earth, as some vainly imagine without one text of scripture. This text says, “The kingdoms of this world ARE” (present tense), not going to be in the future but at that very time, they are HIS Kingdom. Yes, the time had then come for Him to be king, to which END He was born, and the rightful one to reign at Jerusalem is here. He is to be king. Read also Psalms 2:6, — “Yet have I set My King upon my holy hill of ZION.” Also note Psalms 110, where it reads, “The Lord shall send the rod of His strength out of ZION: rule thou in the MIDST of thy enemies.” Verse 2. It also says the people will be willing in the day of His power, and that the waste places will be filled with dead bodies, as He judges among the nations, and as the wicked tares are gathered out of HIS Kingdom.

Note also the following scripture, “The moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the Lord of Hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before His ancients gloriously.” Isaiah 24:23.

“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 forever.” Micah 4:7.

THE DESOLATION OF CANAAN AND THE DESOLATION OF THE EARTH

Following the death of the Messiah at Jerusalem, desolations were determined. Daniel 9:26, 27. There was to be an overspreading of Abominations, and the Holy Land was to be in a state of desolation — “UNTIL THE CONSUMMATION.” All of the prophets gave similar prophecies concerning Palestine which came to pass and the Holy land went into a period of desolation, without rain. The rain of the land was dust from heaven. Deut. 28:23-24 reads, “and thy heaven that is over thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land, — POWDER AND DUST from heaven shall it come down upon thee.” Go to the old city of Mizpah six miles North of Jerusalem, located on the very top of a low mountain, and view the work of the excavators. You walk on top of a wall twenty feet high, and twelve feet wide, from the place where it is completely uncovered, right into a hill where it is completely covered up. You can walk right on from the top of this wall on to this hill, upward another twelve or fifteen feet.

Here is where Samuel judged Israel, according to the scriptural record, and its location and identity is fully established by many things unearthed. This dust was actually rained down upon the city, through the desolation of nearly 2000 years. From inside of these buildings they have taken out many large wine jars, and obscene pictures of naked people, very much like we see to-day in every part of the world. The prophecies came to pass. The rain of this land was dust from heaven, and it covered cities on the tops of mountains. Many people in the central portions of the U.S. will know something about these sand storms, for in a similar manner was that territory visited about twenty years ago, which will be repeated again, as judgments come upon the

Gentile nations because of their ungodliness, just as they did upon this land for similar offenses.

THE DESOLATION OF THE EARTH

“Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof... The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled... The earth mourneth and fadeth away, the world languisheth and faded away... The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof: **BECAUSE** they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate: therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and **FEW MEN LEFT.**” Isaiah 24:1-6.

The prophet here is speaking of the earth and not just the Holy Land. In a similar manner to the desolation of Palestine will the whole earth suffer God’s judgments. Let us notice a little farther on this chapter the words of the prophet as follows, “In the city is left desolation, and the gate is smitten with destruction. When thus it shall be in the midst of the land **AMONG THE PEOPLE.**” Verses 12, 13. So we see there is not going to be an utter removal of all the people at this time, as some have been led to believe, for there are people left in the earth just as there were scattered people left in Palestine during the time of desolation.

The prophet goes on, “When thus it shall be in the midst of the land **AMONG THE PEOPLE**, there shall be as the shaking of the olive tree, and as the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done.” When the atomic and hydrogen bombs are used the cities will be vacated, and there will be desolations, with the inhabitants scattered abroad, just as it says here with millions perishing, and it will be as the gleaning of the vintage when the grapes are gathered, and as the shaking of the olive tree. There are always a few left here and there on the trees.

During this time of judgment, songs will be heard glorifying the Lord, by those surviving in the fire of His wrath. The inhabitants of the earth are to be burned and “few men left.” Verse 6, and 14.

The prophet Jeremiah also speaks of this same time thus, “I beheld the EARTH, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light... I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the Lord, and by HIS fierce anger. For thus hath the Lord said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a FULL END... The whole city shall flee for the noise of the horsemen and bowmen; they shall go INTO THICKETS, and climb up upon the rocks: every city shall be forsaken, and not a man dwelling therein.” Jeremiah 4:23-29. The prophet looked and could see no man, but later in his announcement tells us that they had gone into the thickets, and climbed upon the rocks, and the cities were all desolate and not a man dwelling in them.” This is exactly as it will be when the stock piles of Atomic bombs are being used, and when this time of desolation comes to all the world similar to what has come to the land of Israel in the past, but we notice that in both of these descriptions, there are people left.

We are told by the prophet Ezekiel that only one sixth part of Russia will be left after they come against the land of Israel. Ezekiel 39:2. This will mean a terrible destruction of mankind. Out of her 150 million, there would be but 25 Million left, with 125 million destroyed, and this will take place suddenly.

Jeremiah speaks of a time yet future when the slain will be from one end of the earth to the other, when they will not be lamented or gathered or buried. Jeremiah 25: 29 to 36. There will be a rapid gathering of the tares, “Out of His Kingdom,” when the King comes in His glory with all His holy Angels. Matt. 13:41.

THE MILLENNIUM, ONE THOUSAND YEARS OF PEACE

It will be clearly understood from many texts of scripture that the “Times and Seasons,” arranged by the Father, include one thousand years of millennial peace, here on earth, during which our Saviour is to be King of the world, reigning here at Jerusalem on the throne of His father David.

The prophet Isaiah saw in a vision a child to be born who would reign as king on the throne of David. He said “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name shall be called: ‘wonderful counsellor’ OF the Mighty God OF the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Septuagint translation). 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 forever. The Zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this.” — Isaiah 9:6-7.

The announcement of the angel to Mary before His birth is similar to the above prophecy. It reads: “And behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shall call His Name Jesus (Hebrew ‘Yahshua’). 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 forever, and of His kingdom there shall be no end.” — Luke 1:31-33.

It is most wonderful indeed how these prophecies have been fulfilled and confirmed by many other scriptures showing the beauty and harmony of the Word of God. This child has been born, the first stage of this prophecy fulfilled, and notice that HE is to reign upon the throne of David for a special purpose (Isa. 9:7), and that purpose is to — “Order and to ESTABLISH it”. It will require 1000 years to accomplish this restitution work.

We read in the Book of Revelation as follows: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and JUDGEMENT 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 1000 years... 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.” Rev. 20:4-6.

The above scripture is very plain as to the length of time required in restoring and establishing the Kingdom. But nothing is said here as to where this 1000 year reign will take place, with the saved ones reigning as kings and priests. Some further evidence is therefore necessary from the Word of God. We consequently turn to Revelation 5:9-10, where we have the following. It reads: — “.... Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God **KINGS** and **PRIESTS**: and we shall reign on the **EARTH**.”

We find further evidence in the following texts, “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of Iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.” Rev. 2:26, 27. Now as we strive through prayer, for the Spirit power, to live the overcoming life, we have the promise to reign with Christ, and to assist in this Restitution work, to help restore and establish the kingdom. Notice further that this man child, born to the woman (the church), was born to “**RULE THE NATIONS WITH A ROD OF IRON**,” Rev 12:5, but it says, “The child was caught up unto God and to his Throne.” Notice also that the heavens are to retain Him — “**UNTIL THE TIME OF THE RESTITUTION OF ALL THINGS**.” Acts 3:18 to 21. Then He is to be sent forth to do this work.

This judgment period wherein the overcomers are to be given power over the nations and assist in this “Iron ROD RULE,” is further set forth in the following scripture, “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.” Rev. 19:14 to 16.

A PLACE PREPARED FOR THE FAITHFUL

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2, 3. These mansions prepared for the faithful will be their abode, but this scripture does not say, “I will come again and take you to where I have been.” If it did, then the matter would be forever settled that the righteous people would have a journey to heaven, to the very throne of God, but it does not say that. If it did, it would involve the Word of God in a serious contradiction, because we read in another place, “The righteous shall NEVER BE REMOVED, But the wicked shall NOT inhabit the earth.” Proverbs 10:30.

These mansions prepared for the righteous are to come down from God out of heaven, in due time, and at the proper time for them to come. See Revelation 21:2, 10. The Lord promises to come again and to receive us unto Himself, that where He is there we will be also. This does not tell us He is going to take us back to heaven, but we are told plainly that the righteous “Shall NEVER be removed”. Also His feet will come to the Mount of Olives at His coming. — Zechariah 14:4. And verse 9 says He will be king over all the earth.

DESTROYED AT THE BRIGHTNESS OF HIS COMING

“And then shall **THAT WICKED** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and destroy with the brightness of his coming” (2 Thess. 2:8). Many people read this text wrong, and use it to prove that every wicked person on earth will be destroyed by the brightness of the coming of the Lord, but the Lord does not say: “the wicked” but “that wicked”, speaking of the “man of sin”, that wicked beast power, and his followers, which, of course, will include millions, but still there will be many left who were not connected with this “man of sin.” It must be remembered that this is just one of the three world-wide powers that gather the kings of the whole world to the Battle of Armageddon. — Rev. 16:13, 14.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THIS KINGDOM BE ESTABLISHED?

“To him that overcometh, will I grant to sit with me on **MY THRONE**, even as I also overcame, and am sat down with my Father on His **THRONE**.” (Rev. 3:21). Here we have two thrones brought to view, and for this Millennial reign there is to be a transference made, and a change from one throne to the other. Our King here at Jerusalem will be sitting on His throne which formerly belonged to David, on Mount Zion. He is the rightful heir, and the only one known today, “whose right it is”, to occupy the throne of David. Then it becomes His throne. He now sits at the right hand of the Father on the Father’s throne. — Mark 16:19 and Acts 2:33, 34 etc.

Here is also another Scripture shedding light on the topic under discussion: “**WHEN** the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, **THEN** shall He sit upon the **THRONE** of His glory.” (Matt. 25:31). Notice here that the

King sits upon the throne of His glory when He comes, and not 1,000 years later as many have been led erroneously to believe.

Also we find in the wonderful prophecy of Daniel concerning the metallic image of chapter two, that the stone smiting the image represents the “Kingdom of God”, and it says: “IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS”. (Dan 2:44). Notice that it is not 1,000 years after these kings have been destroyed, but it is IN the days of these kings that the Kingdom is to be established. It is also in the same place where the four preceding Gentile kingdoms ruled. Notice that this kingdom is not to be left to other people, but it (the kingdom) is to break in pieces all of these kingdoms. This is the time of the “Iron Rod Rule”, when the overcomers are to assist as kings and priests, and when the other “nations will be broken to shivers.” — Rev. 2:26, 27.

Furthermore in the seventh chapter of Daniel where we find the four Gentile kingdoms illustrated by four beasts in their successive order, one following the other, it says of the fourth beast that he is to continue prevailing against the saints, “UNTIL THE TIME CAME FOR THE SAINTS TO POSSESS the kingdom”. Therefore when this fourth beast power, under the papal horn, is destroyed, we will have reached the time for the saints to possess this kingdom. It will not be 1000 years in the future. Note Daniel 7:21, 22.

This kingdom that the saints possess is not one located in heaven, where it is said they will spend 1,000 years searching over the records there, etc. We are told in this chapter (verse 27) that this kingdom which these saints possess, as soon as the beast is taken away, is located “UNDER THE WHOLE HEAVEN”, and not up in heaven. This is the kingdom that the disciples of Christ were so much concerned about. They had read these very scriptures as given in the Septuagint translation of the Bible which they had access to in their day, and asked the Master: “Wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel.” Acts 1:6, 7.

CITIZENSHIP AND RULERS IN THE KINGDOM

We notice from the scripture cited above: Daniel 7:21, 22, 27, that this kingdom is to be given to “the people of the saints of the Most High”, and that it is to be “under the whole heaven”. The Gentiles as well as the Jews will have a place together in this Kingdom both as citizens and rulers, but Israel will evidently have preeminence in the ruling order of the kingdom. The king is of the seed of David, and from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Then the Saviour promised the 12 apostles, who were also Jews and Israelites, a special place in the kingdom. He said to the 12: “Ye which have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” — Matt. 19:28.

Furthermore the 144 thousand (Rev. 7), are sealed from the 12 tribes of Israel, with twelve thousand from each tribe. Those are seen with the Lamb, our King on Mount Zion, having the Father’s Name written in their foreheads. (Rev. 14). Hence literal Israel is to have the pre-eminence only for THEY are the chosen seed, the descendants of Abraham. They are beloved for the Father’s sake. — Romans 11:28.

The term “Israel” as applied to citizenship, and kings and priests in this kingdom, also includes Gentiles who are the adopted children of the kingdom. “If ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abrahams seed, and HEIRS according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:29). All who are of faith are the children of Abraham (Verse 7). Consequently in the restoration of the kingdom to Israel, both Jews and Gentiles are to be included. We read further that “circumcision of the heart” is what brings the Gentiles into the fold of Israel, and they are then known as Jews. (Romans 2:28, 29). Also that the keeping of the commandments of God is a sign of this heart circumcision. (1 Cor. 7:19). Hence all of those who teach that these commandments are abolished disqualify themselves for citizenship in the kingdom. They are to be the

“least in the kingdom”, according to the sermon on the mount. (Matt. 5:19). These who are least in the kingdom are the tares which the angels gather out, and cast into the fire. (Matt. 13:30). The tares, the least in the kingdom, are those who know the Father’s will but who refuse to do it. Notice in this parable of Matt. 13:30, these wicked ones are “in the kingdom” or they “could not be plucked out of the kingdom”, as the Master told us. Hence this work is during the time when the kingdom is being restored. It is the “time of the restitution”, when the earth is being restored back to its rightful place as it was in Eden before man sinned. This is during the “Rod of Iron Rule”, during the time when the KING reigns on Mount Zion, and in the midst of His enemies. — Psalms 110.

THERE WILL BE NATIONS IN THE EARTH

When our King comes to earth His “feet will stand in that day on the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem on the East.” (See Zech. 14: 4). Also He is to be King of all the earth (Verse 8), and the nations that will not honor the King by sending their representatives to Jerusalem, will have the rain withdrawn from them. (Verses 16, 17). Hence during this time of restitution when the kingdom is being restored, there are unruly nations upon whom punishment is to be inflicted. Therefore they are not subjects of heaven, but earthly people to be brought under subjection to a righteous rule. The prophet Micah also spoke of them in the following languages: “And He shall judge among many people and REBUKE strong nations afar off” (Micah 4:3), but He gives us the assurance at this time: “Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” The prophet Isaiah also speaks of this time in chapters two and 11.

THERE WILL ALSO BE CHILDREN IN THREE STAGES OF CHILDHOOD

“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... The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the Ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’ den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain (government): for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.” — Isaiah 11:4-9.

If all people are destroyed on the earth when the Saviour returns, and Satan roams around on a desolate world for 1,000 years, as some are taught, where do these sucking children come from? Have they remained infants for 1,000 years in heaven, and then come back to earth still in this same stage of childhood? If these Scriptures do not apply to the period of RESTITUTION, when the kingdom is being restored, then when do they apply?

We notice also, during this time, the lion eats straw like the ox. When the living righteous are changed in a moment to immortal beings at the return of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:53, 54), the nature of the animals is changed from carnivorous to herbivorous, and the lion instead of eating meat, its food will be herbs, just like it was at the creation, when the Creator beheld all things were good. He said that He had given every beast upon the earth green herbs for food. (Genesis 1:29-31). There is to be a restoring back to this Eden condition of perfection, where nothing will hurt nor destroy.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of this period also in the following texts: “There shall be no more thence an infant of days,

nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them... The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, saith the Lord.” (Isaiah 65: 20 to 25). In Daniel 2:34, 35, 44, 45, where this “Kingdom Age” is illustrated by a stone smiting the Gentile man on the feet, it is said this stone (or Kingdom) grows and becomes a MOUNTAIN and fills the whole earth. Isaiah tells us that “nothing will hurt nor destroy in all of this holy mountain.”

WILL PEOPLE LIVING NOW HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE AND WHO WILL LIVE IN THE KINGDOM?

The prophets speak of this time thus: “It shall break in pieces all of these kingdoms.” Isaiah says: “He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips slay the wicked.” The Psalmist David says: “He will would the heads over many countries.” — “Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces as a porter's vessel.” Psalms 110 and 2:9, 10. Micah says: “He shall rebuke strong nations afar off.” (Micah 4:3). Zechariah says of the nations refusing to honor the King at Jerusalem: “They will have no rain”, (Zech. 14:16, 17), and our Saviour's promise to the overcomers who keep His works to the end, that THEY will be given power over the nations, and “rule them with a rod of iron.” — Rev. 2:26, 27.

In-as-much as there are to be nations, the question arises as to their identity, and are they people who have spurned the call of the gospel, and put off salvation? We read in Psalms 2:6 to 9 as follows: “Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion... Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance,

and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron.”

According to the religious encyclopaedia, there are now more than nine hundred million people on the earth known as heathens, who have not yet heard the true gospel of salvation. At the present rate of the spread of the gospel in these nations, it would require a few hundred years yet, to take the message to every individual on earth. Furthermore the two most populous heathen countries, China and India, are being closed to the message from outside missionaries. Information direct from India is to the effect that many great cities there, of hundreds of thousands, only have a visit once every few years by a teacher of the gospel and then, only a few people hear the message.

Furthermore, even in countries like America, according to carefully prepared data, there are no less than twenty million children and youth who never go to church and who have never heard about salvation. One of such youth was asked, not long ago, who Jesus Christ was. She answered: “One of the teachers of George Washington.” We do not know how far the mercy of a loving heavenly Father will be extended in case of such ignorance. He will be the judge as to who has had a chance, and who comprise the “tares that are to be gathered out of the kingdom”, and burned in the fire.

It is evident, however, that all who have been called and have had an opportunity of hearing and receiving the plan of salvation, which they have willingly turned down, will be among these tares. Destruction will be their doom. There is no second chance for anyone, according to the scriptures. Today is the day of salvation to all who hear the glad tidings of good news. The Heavenly Father has promised that He will never destroy all living creatures again as he did at the time of the flood. (See Genesis 8:21, 22). Consequently we may expect this promise to be confirmed and all living creatures will never again perish from the earth.

WHAT ABOUT THE ELEMENTS MELTING WITH FERVENT HEAT, ACCORDING TO PETER'S BURNING DAY?

He says: "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the DAY of judgment and perdition of UNGODLY men. BUT, beloved, BE NOT IGNORANT of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day... The Lord is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." — 2 Peter 3:6-9.

We are told here that the world being overflowed with water perished. Still we all understand that this is the very same world that had this purge of wickedness by water, and it will be the very same world after the pending sin purge by fire. This "Day of Judgment", we are plainly told, is a 1,000-year-day. There is but one place in the Bible where we are told that a day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and that is when He is speaking of the Judgment Day. This will be the millennium of 1,000 years. It is declared to be such in Revelation 20: 4 to 6. It says: "I saw thrones and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them" There are kings and priests who will reign with Christ 1,000 Years (verse 6). These kings and priests will not preside over one another, but will have told why he is bound. It says plainly: "that he should deceive the nations no more (verse 3). Hence there are nations, as the other prophets have told us, and this testimony is in perfect harmony with the rest. If the nations are all destroyed and not a person left, why would Satan be bound to prevent him from deceiving them? The facts are that nations will exist as the many previous texts already cited or stated inform us.

The Father says, concerning the "Day of Judgment", "BELOVED BE NOT IGNORANT OF THIS ONE THING",

that one day is with the Lord, “as a thousand years”. Why did He put that statement right in here, and caution us to “Be not Ignorant of This One Thing”? Many believe the Judgment Day is one 24 hour day, wherein the living and the dead are to be judged, but let us follow these timely instructions to “Be not ignorant of this ONE thing”, that this is a 1,000-year-day. It is the millennium. The Restitution period, when the kingdom is being restored to Israel to both the literal and the adopted heirs of the kingdom.

SODOM AND GOMORRAH SET FORTH AS EXAMPLES

The apostle Peter in the previous chapter, just before the one under consideration, tells us about the destruction of two very wicked cities, viz. Sodom and Gomorrah. He says: “Turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemning them with an overthrow **MAKING THEM AN EXAMPLE** of those that **AFTER** should live ungodly.” When has this ever been repeated? When have wicked cities since that time been overthrown in like manner? Notice the Lord says these cities were set forth as **EXAMPLES** of those that **AFTER** should live ungodly. Therefore this same form and manner of destruction is to be meted out to every city in the world that lives ungodly as these two cities did, because here is the promise, from one who never fails to tell the truth. Consequently, let us take these cities for an **EXAMPLE** and then we will know the fate of every city in the world that lives ungodly. Surely this promise and this example will hold good, and it must be carried out. As it never has been, it is yet to be, and we are nearing the time.

During the 1,000- year Judgment Day, city after city will be judged, just as the angels were sent to judge and report on Sodom and Gomorrah (See Genesis 18th and 19th chapters). Also as a few righteous people in these cities would have prevented their destruction, so will it be during the millennium, and just as

the righteous were led out of those cities by the hands of the angels, it will be this way again before fire and brimstone are rained upon them during the burning day, when “the elements will melt with fervent heat, and the works of man will be destroyed.”

This cleansing work will begin at Jerusalem when fire and brimstone are rained from Heaven upon the hosts of wickedness, on Gog and Magog (see Ezekiel 38:11 to 33, when he comes against Israel). For seven months, they will be cleansing the land. — Ezek. 39:1-12.

The stone grew and became a mountain and filled the whole earth (Daniel 2:34, 44, 45). The King begins His righteous rule from Jerusalem. Here on Mount Zion is where He comes to rule the world with the “rod of iron”. Jerusalem is first created as a Holy place, and the cleansing begins here (See Isaiah 65:18 where it reads: “Be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create. For behold I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy, and I will rejoice in Jerusalem and joy in My People”).

As the stone Kingdom grows until it becomes a mountain and fills the whole earth, there will be fires burning on every side. City after city will suffer the same fate as Sodom and Gomorrah, as the Kingdom grows, and as the heads of many nations are wounded, and kingdoms are broken to shivers, with the few righteous saved. We find in the vision of Isaiah, concerning the desolation period, he says: “Wherefore glory we the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord.” — Isaiah 24:15.

A CLOUD BY DAY AND A FIRE BY NIGHT

There is to be, however, during this time, a flaming fire, “a cloud by day and a fire by night” on Mount Zion, just like there was over the tabernacle in the wilderness, and also over round about all of HER ASSEMBLIES throughout the world. Here is what the prophet says: “When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the

blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the Spirit of Judgment, and by the Spirit of BURNING. And the Lord will CREATE upon every dwelling place of Mount Zion, and UPON HER ASSEMBLIES, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defence” (Isaiah 4:4,5). It is high time now for these “Assemblies of Zion” to begin their preparation, by turning their faces Zionward, and connecting groups up with Jerusalem and MOUNT ZION.

HIS WORK IS BEFORE HIM

Thus saith the Lord: “I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, KEEP NOT SILENCE, and give Him no rest, till He establish, and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth... Go through, go through the gates; PREPARE YE THE WAY of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; LIFT UP A STANDARD FOR THE PEOPLE. Behold, the Lord hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, say ye to the daughter of Zion, behold, thy salvation cometh; BEHOLD, HIS REWARD IS WITH HIM, AND HIS WORK BEFORE HIM.” — Isaiah 62:6-11.

This scripture refers to the return of our Saviour when His work is before Him, and it agrees with Revelation 22:12, where we find a similar reading. It says: “Behold I come quickly and My reward is with Me.” The apostle Paul speaks of this work which he says takes place just following the resurrection of the good people. It reads: “For He must reign, until He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death... And when all things shall be subdued unto Him, then shall the Son also Himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.” — 1 Corinthians 15:22-28.

“Yes, we long to see His coming,
When the warfare will be o’er
And His people will be gathered,
From mountain, vale, and shore

The promised seed of Abraham
With justice then will reign
On our Father David’s throne
O’er all the earth’s domain

The sea delivered up its dead.
From earth our loved ones come
The weary waiting at an end,
The final victory won.

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