

GOD'S PROPHECIES

FOR

PLAIN PEOPLE

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Chapter Sixteen -

After the Millennium - What?

"Then cometh the end."

The Millennium is not the end. Something else follows it.

The Millennium, blessed as it is, will be followed by something even better. In the Millennium righteousness will reign, but in the eternal state which follows the Millennium righteousness will dwell. In the Millennium evil will be restrained; and Satan will be in the abyss temporarily, but in the eternal state evil will be absent, and Satan will be in the Lake of Fire, to remain there. How good it will be to get beyond the penalty of sin not only, and beyond its power not only, but also beyond its very presence! How good to know in that day that finally we have been brought beyond the possibility of ever again grieving our Heavenly FATHER! Of that time John Fawcett sings:

"From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin, we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity."

Not much of detail is revealed in Scripture concerning the eternal state that shall follow the Millennium. Enough, however, is vouchsafed to set our hearts longing for it.

A passage bearing upon our subject is contained in the 15th chapter of First Corinthians, verses 22-28:

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming.

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

For He hath put all things under His feet. But when He saith all things are put under Him, it is manifest that He is excepted, which did put all things under Him.

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."

The Resurrection "Ranks"

The word "order" is a military term (Greek, *tagma*), occurring only here; it means rank, or cohort, or band, or company. All will rise from the dead, but not all at one time. The LORD JESUS came forth at the head of the list, the firstborn from the dead; they that are His will come forth in the first resurrection at His pre-millennial coming; and "**then cometh the end.**" After the thousand years are finished, after Satan has been loosed from his prison for a little season, after his organized rebellion against God has been brought to nought by fire descending out of Heaven, after the judgment of the Great White Throne with its terrible Lake of Fire; "**then cometh the end!**" The LORD JESUS, all His enemies subdued, now prepares to subject Himself to the FATHER, "**that God may be all in all.**" At the name of JESUS every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess His Lordship; and "**then cometh the end.**"

The first eight verses of Revelation 21 give us a picture of conditions in the eternal state:

"And I saw a new Heaven and a new Earth: for the first Heaven and the first Earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And, He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

From this passage it is a simple matter to discern and set in order some elements of the eternal state:

1. There will be a new Heaven and a new Earth. In the preceding chapter it is written that from the face of the Judge sitting upon the Great White Throne "**the Earth and the Heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them.**" In the first chapter of Hebrews the language of Psalm 102:25-27 is shown to be addressed to the LORD JESUS, saying:

"And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of Thine hands: They shall perish; but Thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt Thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but Thou art the same, and Thy years shall not fail." Hebrews 1:10-12

"By the Word of God the Heavens were of old, and the Earth standing out of the water and in the water:

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 not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But the Day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat: the Earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the Heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new Heavens and a new Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." (2 Peter 3:5-13; compare also Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22).

After Heaven's and Earth's Fire Bath

From this Scripture it is clear that the present Heaven and Earth are to be made new by renovation; they are to be purged by fire. The Heavens must thus be purified, since they have so long been the abode of Satan and his wicked hosts (Ephesians 6:12).

And the Earth will by this purging be forever freed thenceforth from the curse of Genesis 3:17-19, and the promise of Isaiah 55:13 will be fulfilled - "**Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.**"

2. There will be no more sea. This great barrier, between the nations, will be removed. While there were seas in the Earth as the Earth was replenished and delivered from chaos in Genesis I (see especially verses 9, 10), it may be seriously questioned as to whether the sea was a part of that original creation which was evidently wrecked during the interval that comes in between the first and second verses of that chapter.** I am not forgetting that many enlightened writers interpret allegorically the statement, "**there was no more sea,**" but I see no necessity for doing so, and I therefore stick to the old rule, "If the plain sense make good sense, seek no other sense." And yet there is doubtless spiritual teaching here, as well as the literal. The sea in the Bible is a type of the restless and rebellious world. "**The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God; to the wicked**" (Isaiah 57:20, 21). For the present it is JEHOVAH who shuts up the sea with doors, making clouds, the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it, and marking out for it his bound, setting bars and doors and saying, "**Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed**" (see Job 38:8-11). Once He allowed the sea to swallow up the Earth, and the waters stood above the mountains, but at His rebuke they fled, and at the voice of His thunder they hasted away; and He hath "**set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the Earth**" (see Psalm 104:6-9).

Thus does our God deal with the sea of waters and the sea of sin. But the mind of the flesh is not subject to the law of God; neither indeed can it be; and it will be a glad day when there shall be no more sea, and when the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of JEHOVAH as the waters now cover the sea.

***Editor's Note: This is referred to as The Gap Theory, and it does not fit all the Bible facts. There was no sin in the universe - including in any of the angels - until after that original creation week, when all that is in the heavens and the earth (including angels) was created.*

3. God's dwelling will be with men. I pass over the second verse concerning the holy city, new Jerusalem, whose description as she will appear during the Millennium is found in Revelation 21:9 to 22:5. What we have in Revelation 21:1-8 is her final state, after the first Heaven and the first Earth have passed away and given place to the new Heaven and the new Earth. The great point here is that God Himself will then be dwelling with men, holding sweet communion with them, as He did before sin entered into the world and death through sin. The language of the third verse of Revelation 21 is very beautiful. The word translated "dwell" is the same as the word for "tabernacle." The tabernacle of GOD is with men, and He shall tabernacle with them, and they shall be His people, "**and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.**"

4. Death will be no more. It is written, "**The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**" This terrible monster; which for so long has reigned over men through sin, will be utterly obliterated, with all its brood. Tears, sorrow, crying, pain - all gone, and gone forever! Thanks be to GOD for the potential abolition of death, even now, for those who have fled to JESUS for refuge! For such He has indeed "**abolished death**"; by tasting death for us He has delivered us from bondage through fear of death: but how good it will be when death shall be wiped out, with everything that belongs to it! As the glorious eighth chapter of Romans assures us, even the groaning creation of this nether world shall be delivered from the slavery of corruption into the liberty of the glory of the children of God!

5. Only GOD's children will be there. These are the overcomers - having overcome by the blood of the Lamb. Excluded are all those who, while the door was open, would not enter; these have their portion in the Lake of Fire, which is the second death. No place is found for them in either the new Heaven or the new Earth.

"**Then cometh the end.**" Ah, *but to that "end" there is no end.* Who can fathom the meaning of the language of Ephesians 2:4-7?

"But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved); And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus."

The significance of these words is not explained to us, possibly because we could not comprehend even the explanation. These things are too wonderful, they are too high for us, they are beyond us. And yet, they are all in store for us. How shall we, in whom, that is in whose flesh, there dwelleth no good thing, - how shall we be able to endure the exceeding and eternal weight of glory that shall be ours in the ages to come? We could not, but for the blood of Christ, in Whom dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and in Whom we are complete. Through Him, and only through Him, we enter into "**the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.**"

Eternal light! Eternal light!
How pure the soul must be,
When, placed within thy searching sight,
It shrinks not, but with calm delight
Can live and look on thee!

"The spirits that surround thy throne
May bear the burning bliss;
But that is surely theirs alone,
Since they have never, never known
A fallen world like this.

"Oh how shall I, whose native sphere
Is dark, whose mind is dim,

Before th' Ineffable appear,
And on my naked spirit bear
That uncreated beam!

"There is a way for man to rise
To that sublime abode;
An Offering and a Sacrifice,
A Holy Spirit's energies,
An Advocate with God.

"These, these, prepare us for the light
Of majesty above;
The sons of ignorance and night
Can stand in the eternal light
Through the eternal love."

~ end of chapter 16 ~
