

## *“Peace on Earth”*

In Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah prophesied that the government of the entire world will one day rest upon the shoulder of a very special Man. Clearly, this Person of whom Isaiah prophesied *is* a Man, for we are told that He would be “born” as a baby. Isaiah said, “Unto us a *child is born*, unto us a *son is given*.” Yet, this “Son” would be no ordinary Man, because He would also be “The mighty God.” Before you can understand how Jesus is able to be “the Prince of Peace,” you must first understand that He is not only a Man: He is “The Mighty God” wrapped in human flesh.

In Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah made this prophecy of the Messiah:

“Therefore the LORD himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

In Matthew chapter 1, the Apostle Matthew quoted this ancient prophecy as he recorded the miraculous virgin birth of Jesus Christ:

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost...

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” (Matthew 1:18, 22-23)

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully Man; and because He is the all-knowing, Almighty God, as well as Man, He is able to carry governance of the entire world upon His shoulders. No other man but Jesus, the God-Man, could hold together a world-wide kingdom, and do it with perfect justice and judgment. Isaiah also made this prophecy of Jesus:

“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..." (Isaiah 11:1-4)

Many wicked, ruthless men in the past have *tried* to govern the whole world; but none has ever succeeded. The first attempt at one-world government was made by the wicked ruler Nimrod, about 100 years after the Flood (that is, until God confused the languages of mankind, and forced them to spread abroad over all over the earth).<sup>1</sup> Ever since that first attempt at world government, countless tyrants have attempted to bring "peace" to the world by bringing it all under their control. Even as we speak, powerful people all over the world are working overtime to set up a humanistic, one-world government; a communitarian, one-world economy; and an ecumenical, pagan, one-world religion. For a short time, God will allow them to succeed. However, before this global government is brought into power, the following event will happen:

"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.

Wherefore comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)

This "catching up" of all the believers who lived during the New Testament age could happen at any moment. We simply do not know when it will occur. Jesus said that "of that day and hour knoweth no man."<sup>2</sup> The Apostle Paul called this event "that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."<sup>3</sup> On that wonderful day, all believers who have already died in the Lord will be resurrected from their graves to sinless immortality, and will meet the Lord in the air. Immediately afterward, all true believers in Christ who are still living will be "changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump"; and they, too, will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord, with sinless, immortal bodies, fit for heaven.<sup>4</sup> This event (called "the Rapture," or "catching up") will mark the end of this present New Testament age, or church age. The next seven years will be what the Bible calls "The Tribulation," or the "Day of the LORD."<sup>5</sup>

During this coming seven-year Tribulation, God will loose His restraint on Satan and his followers, and will allow a wicked man called the Antichrist to rule over the whole world.<sup>6</sup> During that seven-year period, multitudes of people will turn to the Lord through the preaching of 144,000 Jewish evangelists, who will preach the Gospel throughout the whole world.<sup>7</sup> (The church age will be finished, and God will use his covenant people, Israel, to bring the Gospel to the world.) The 144,00 evangelists will be providentially protected as

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 11:1-9

<sup>2</sup> Matthew 24:36

<sup>3</sup> Titus 2:13

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

<sup>5</sup> Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:21; Isaiah 2:10-22; Zephaniah 1:14-18

<sup>6</sup> 2 Thessalonians 2:6-12

<sup>7</sup> Revelation 7:1-17; Revelation 14:1-5

they preach; but most of those who repent and turn to Christ during the Tribulation will be hunted down and killed by the Antichrist's forces.<sup>8</sup> During the last 3 ½ years of the Tribulation, the Antichrist will have supreme rule over the whole world, and will demand that everyone worship him, and take his mark of 666 in their right hand or forehead.<sup>9</sup> It will be a time of unprecedented calamity and sorrow, as God pours one supernatural judgment after another upon a rebellious world. So many people will perish, that Jesus said that "except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved."<sup>10</sup>

However, at the end of those 3 ½ years, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth from heaven with all His saints and angels, and will destroy the Antichrist and his kingdom at the Battle of Armageddon.<sup>11</sup> Christ will set His foot down on the Mount of Olives, just outside Jerusalem (where He ascended to Heaven 2,000 years ago); and He will then set up His perfect Kingdom for 1,000 years.<sup>12</sup>

The 1,000-year Kingdom of Jesus Christ will be a time of absolute peace. As Isaiah prophesied, "of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end."<sup>13</sup> There will be absolutely no injustice under Jesus Christ's rule, because He is all-knowing, all-powerful, and perfectly righteous. He will be able to see every situation perfectly, and will thus be able to make righteous judgments.<sup>14</sup>

Furthermore, the saints who lived and died during the Old Testament age, the New Testament age, and the Tribulation period, will be in their resurrected, glorified, sinless bodies; and they will be given authority in Christ's Kingdom, as well.<sup>15</sup> They will rule as kings under the Lord Jesus Christ; and, like the Lord Jesus, they will be able to make righteous judgments, because they will no longer have sin natures.<sup>16</sup> The Apostle Paul said that believers in Christ, who have suffered for His name in this life, "shall also reign with him."<sup>17</sup> The Lord promises His true followers, "He that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations."<sup>18</sup>

During the 1,000-year Kingdom, Jesus Christ will sit on His throne in the Holy of Holies, in the re-built Temple in Jerusalem.<sup>19</sup> Israel will be the religious and governmental centre of the whole earth; and Hebrew will be the *lingua franca* of the entire world.<sup>20</sup> For 1,000 years, all nations will come to worship the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.<sup>21</sup> There will be no war,

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<sup>8</sup> Revelation 6:9-11; Revelation 13:15

<sup>9</sup> Revelation 13:1-18

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 24:22

<sup>11</sup> Zechariah 14:1-15; Revelation 19:11-21

<sup>12</sup> Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 20:4-6

<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 9:7

<sup>14</sup> Isaiah 11:1-5

<sup>15</sup> Daniel 12:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:4, 6

<sup>16</sup> Matthew 19:28; Luke 19:11-19; Revelation 5:8-10

<sup>17</sup> 2 Timothy 2:12;

<sup>18</sup> Revelation 2:26

<sup>19</sup> Ezekiel 43:1-7

<sup>20</sup> Zephaniah 3:9

<sup>21</sup> Zechariah 14:6; Revelation 20:4-6

injustice, or oppression of any kind. Seven hundred years before Christ's birth, the prophet Micah wrote of this glorious age:

“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.”  
(Micah 4:1-3)

A world without war or oppression sounds pretty nice, does it not? Yet, it gets even better. During the 1,000-year Kingdom, Satan and his angels will be bound in the bottomless pit, and will not be able to deceive men.<sup>22</sup> The earth will bring forth abundantly, and there will be no more arid or unproductive ground. As Isaiah put it, the “desert shall bloom as the rose.”<sup>23</sup> There will be no poverty or hunger. Furthermore, the Lord will cause even the animal kingdom to be at peace during the Kingdom age! In Isaiah 11, Isaiah prophesied that the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard with the kid, the calf with the lion, and the cow with the bear. The lion (and all other carnivorous animals) will eat grass, and not meat; and children will play with venomous snakes, because they will no longer be venomous. Isaiah winds it all up by saying, “They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD.”<sup>24</sup>

At the end of this glorious 1,000-year Kingdom, God will allow Satan loose for a short time, and will permit him to deceive the nations again; and those who, during the Kingdom age, worshipped Christ only outwardly, but never truly repented or believed on Him, will quickly follow Satan. Satan will swiftly gather all the rebels from around the world into a giant army, and will once again attempt to destroy the Lord and His followers, in one final military assault against Jerusalem. However, the Lord will destroy them with fire from heaven.<sup>25</sup> He will then dissolve the entire universe in a fiery conflagration, and will create a new heavens and new earth, where there is no curse of sin.<sup>26</sup> The beautiful city of New Jerusalem (Heaven) will be brought down to the new earth; and God's saints will dwell with their Lord in perfect peace forever and ever.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Revelation 20:3

<sup>23</sup> Isaiah 35:1-7

<sup>24</sup> Isaiah 11:6-9

<sup>25</sup> Revelation 20:7-10

<sup>26</sup> 2 Peter 3:10-13

<sup>27</sup> Revelation 21:1-8

Our world today is crying out for “peace” as it never has before. People are constantly crying “Peace! Peace!” Yet, there is no peace.<sup>28</sup> Just as the Apostle Peter prophesied would happen in the last days, people today are crying “Peace and safety!”: yet, little do they know that they are right on the brink of destruction.<sup>29</sup> The United Nations was established in 1945 for the alleged purpose of stopping another world war from happening; yet, there have been as many wars in the past 75 years as there ever were. In fact, wars seem to be increasing! Sinful men *cannot* bring about peace by their own efforts, because men’s hearts are wicked, evil, and corrupt to the core. The Bible says that “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”<sup>30</sup> Only Jesus Christ, the righteous One, can bring true peace and justice to earth: and He will do so when He comes to set up His kingdom.

My friend, history is not a random, meaningless series of events. As “out of control” as this world appears to be right now, it is *not* out of control. Things are not falling apart; they are falling into place. Those who know the Lord do not need to fear, because they know that their sovereign Lord is guiding history to a perfect consummation, in which He will rule and reign, and all wrongs will be made right. Those who know the Lord can confidently say, “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”<sup>31</sup>

Jesus Christ truly is the Prince of Peace. One day He will set up His Kingdom of peace on this earth.

However, this is not the only reason why Christ is called the Prince of Peace. He is also the Prince of Peace because He brings “peace with God” to the hearts of those who believe on Him! In the next article, I will show you how you can have this *personal* peace with God!

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<sup>28</sup> Jeremiah 6:13-14; Jeremiah 8:11-12

<sup>29</sup> 2 Peter 5:1-3

<sup>30</sup> Jeremiah 17:9

<sup>31</sup> 2 Timothy 1:7