

**TRIUMPH
PROPHETIC
MINISTRIES**

BIBLE

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE



New York City Skyline

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

Lesson 5

An Open Letter from the Staff ...

WE have GOOD NEWS for you! But the news you are reading in your daily newspaper is not good at all!

Big changes are taking place every week in the delicate balance of world power! Power-mad dictators are putting their hands to the controls of the AWESOME WEAPONS of the Space Age and developing frightening biological weapons! The problems facing the world today are GREATER THAN EVER!

Why doesn't the world wake up? Why can't we grasp the meaning of the headlines of our daily newspapers? The facts tell us plainly that MAN IS NOT QUALIFIED TO RULE THIS EARTH!

But despite political, economic, social and religious unrest -- there is GOOD NEWS FOR YOU!

Almighty God will finally grant WORLD PEACE! Jesus Christ -- the ONLY ONE qualified to govern the teeming billions of this earth -- is coming in OUR TIME to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords! The UTOPIA man has long sought will soon be a reality!

The TIME IS SHORT -- far SHORTER than most of you realize. This world is rapidly drawing to a close! We are already in the 21st century!

The question is: Are you overcoming yourself while you have the time? Are you putting every moment of YOUR TIME to good use?

Jesus Christ will give RULERSHIP in His Kingdom to those who have USED THEIR TIME WISELY!

That is why it is so important not to neglect a single day of Bible study with the Triumph Prophetic Ministries Bible Correspondence Course! You don't want to get behind in these vital lessons! But if you are not diligently studying thirty minutes each day YOU WILL BE BEHIND!

The next lesson you will receive will demand your immediate and thorough study! It will reveal to you the TRUTH about God's laws for your PERSONAL financial success. You will learn why so many people today struggle in an endless battle to make ends meet, and why so few ever find real financial security -- freedom from money problems.

It will help you to know how to end your financial worries, to be assured of the secure financial future only Almighty God can offer.

You won't want to lag behind and miss a single lesson of this course. Be ready for the lessons of the future.

We hope that you will be WORTHY STUDENTS of God's Word -- living by and acting on the vital truths you are learning.

TRIUMPH PROPHETIC MINISTRIES BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE LESSON 5

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About Our Cover...

Pictured is a striking view of the famous New York City skyline. Today's modern cities -- soon to be utterly destroyed -- are not to be compared with the fabulously

beautiful, well-planned cities of the Millennium.

Tomorrow's cities will be filled with happy and productive people! Everyone will learn that true happiness and enjoyment of material blessings come only as a direct result of living and working together in harmony with God's laws.

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THE COMING UTOPIA --- WONDERFUL WORLD TOMORROW

WHY should universal peace and prosperity ever be impossible? Why can't we have a world bubbling over with JOY and HAPPINESS?

Ever since the dawn of civilization, mankind has longed to live in a plush world where all his desires would be fulfilled!

But in his heart, man knows such a utopia could NEVER EXIST ON THIS EARTH through his OWN EFFORTS!

"Utopia" on Earth?

"Utopia" brings to the minds of so-called "practical" people the same connotation as "fairy story" -- an UTTER IMPOSSIBILITY! They ridicule the idea that a utopia could ever occur HERE on earth!

"All you have to do is look at history to see it COULDN'T happen," they retort. "Through the ages MAN has tried to bring about a utopian paradise by every conceivable means -- yet WITHOUT success. He has attempted to live by every imaginable type of government -- oligarchy, autocracy and democracy. He has even tried living without any government at all -- absolute anarchy. All of them have FAILED MISERABLY! Therefore, a utopia is IMPOSSIBLE," they conclude logically.

People today are RIGHT in drawing this conclusion. Diseases, fears, worries, uncertainties, lack of necessities, poverty, hate, oppression and injustice are taken for GRANTED in this wretched world.

People today can view past history and KNOW that mankind has failed to accomplish this objective. But why should a utopia EVER BE IMPOSSIBLE?

Must our only hope be in the puny efforts of mere MEN to bring this condition

about? If this be true, we ARE lost! The human race is DOOMED!

People today are SELF-centered! They fail to recognize there is any power OTHER THAN THEIR OWN that can bring about a "utopia"!

What GREAT POWER can, and WILL, do this?

GOD ALMIGHTY! He has the power and the wisdom to make UTOPIA a REALITY!

This is the very message God sent His Son Jesus Christ to proclaim to the world. It is the gospel -- the GOOD NEWS that He would return with the POWER to make a UTOPIA of this earth!

Soon, man's desires will all come true! Christ, through the POWER and WISDOM OF GOD, will bring us UNIVERSAL PEACE and PROSPERITY at last!



United Nations headquarters, New York City. Man's efforts to bring about a Utopia have failed miserably.

God's World Government

You have heard great statesmen proclaim that in order to have world peace and prosperity, we must have world government. But the nations lack the WISDOM TO

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

CREATE a workable world government, and lack the POWER TO ENFORCE its laws.

When Jesus Christ returns, He will be KING over the WHOLE EARTH. His law -- the LAW OF GOD -- will be the law of the world (Zech. 14:9; Micah 4:2). And His government will possess the POWER to ENFORCE His laws -- something the governments of our day cannot do.

God's government will prevent the strong from enslaving the weak. True justice will be received by all. The laws of God will be taught and practiced by those who administer the government. The high and the mighty who REBEL against Christ will be forever removed!

God has allotted mankind SIX THOUSAND YEARS to rule himself. During this time, God has kept hands off the affairs of this world. He has allowed man to pursue the course that "seemeth right" to him. God is NOW ALLOWING people the opportunity to establish their OWN FORMS OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT -- communism, democracy, fascism, socialism -- to the end that the nations learn their woeful shortcomings -- their BASIC HUMAN WEAKNESSES!

But this time is now ALMOST UP! The new ORDER -- THE WORLD TOMORROW -- is about to begin!

Do you realize what a privileged individual you are? God has made it possible for you to be able to peer into the future through His prophecies. You can KNOW NOW what will happen then.

This age we are living in is soon going to pass away and the new one will take its place. Christ will soon FORCE the world to cease from its labor of wars, sickness, heartache and death!

A NEW type of civilization is ahead -- a millennial UTOPIA. It will be a time of genuine rest -- a time of SPIRITUAL and PHYSICAL rejuvenation -- of boundless peace and prosperity!

A "Way" of Life

WHY will there be great PROSPERITY in the wonderful World Tomorrow -- the soon-coming Millennium?

God has a "WAY" of LIFE which, if FOLLOWED, would make living happy and joyous for all!

If people TODAY followed this way, they would KNOW HOW to meet all the family problems that confront them daily. They would learn to solve all of life's problems as GOD intends them to be solved -- and EVERYONE would be HAPPY with the results of the RIGHT SOLUTION to every problem.

GOD HAS PROMISED to create just such a world of happiness, joy and prosperity. We can have a FORETASTE of this wonderful World Tomorrow -- TODAY! BUT NOT UNTIL WE BEGIN TO LET GOD RULE IN ALL OUR ACTIONS ALL TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF THE DAY -- HERE AND NOW!

Christ brought the message about THIS WAY. The way of KEEPING the commandments and precepts revealed in your Bible! He said, "I am come that they {you and I} might have life, and that they might have it more ABUNDANTLY" (John 10:10). He preached that people could have full and abundant lives if they let God's precepts RULE in all their activities.

But how did the world accept His message? Was it interested?

Paul reports, "There arose no small stir about THAT WAY" (Acts 19:23). He also said that various people "spake EVIL of that way" (Acts 19:9).

This has been the attitude of the world to this day! It has NOT VOLUNTARILY accepted Christ's message, which, if followed, would have produced a UTOPIA on this earth! Instead, what do we find today? Look at the awesome world crisis that now confronts us. Human annihilation appears imminent!

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

But soon God, through Christ as Supreme King, will intervene and MAKE people KEEP GOD'S WAY! Just imagine -- COMPULSORY JOY!!

The WAY of God -- the way revealed in YOUR Bible -- will then guide them CONTINUALLY. They will pay God His TITHES. God says when this is done He will "open ... the windows of heaven, and pour ... out a BLESSING, that there shall NOT BE ROOM ENOUGH TO RECEIVE IT" (Mal. 3:10).

Also, for keeping His DAYS, God assures them they will "ride upon the high places of the earth" (Isa. 58:13-14). They will live in ABSOLUTE LUXURY! The Bible is FULL of such promises for OBEDIENCE. Read Leviticus 26:1-13 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14, which reveal some of the tremendous blessings God has promised for obedience.

As people begin to obey God, the world will begin to be FULL of things that are now considered great LUXURIES! They will SEE the DRAMATIC DIFFERENCE between God's happy, prosperous way and the wretched unhappiness of their former ways. They will then be called to REPENT of THEIR old way of life, and ALLOW THEMSELVES to BE COMPLETELY RE-EDUCATED TO GOD'S WAY.

At last the world will experience a UTOPIAN PARADISE far beyond man's wildest dreams!

Prophecy tells us about the world to come -- the utopia of the wonderful World Tomorrow which God will establish. COMPARE it with this world in which we now live. God wants you to do this. Then YOU make the decision WHO CAN RULE BEST -- GOD OR MAN?

Final Instructions

We are about ready for the actual lesson. But first, read these instructions.

This lesson is intended to direct you to the BIBLE -- to help you STUDY the Bible. Here is the method of study.

Is your Bible in front of you? If not, GET your Bible -- or Bibles, if you have more than one translation -- BEFORE YOU DO ANOTHER THING! Have a good dictionary, a concordance if you own one, and your note paper all placed in front of you on a desk or table.

Remember -- you must OPEN your Bible to EVERY PASSAGE. Never say to yourself, "Oh, I think I know what this verse is referring to" -- and then pass over it. You need to "KEEP YOUR NOSE IN THE BIBLE," so to speak.

You must READ and REREAD and THINK OUT each passage. Then MEDITATE on this new knowledge in your leisure time during the following twenty-four hours, and in your time of prayer -- BEFORE YOU FORGET IT! Do all you can to make God's Word a PART OF YOU!

Here is the method of making effective notes: write down neatly on your paper the lesson NUMBER. Next write down the TITLE of the lesson and underscore it. As you come to each question section, write down its HEADING. Then, underneath, NUMBER EACH QUESTION and WRITE DOWN THE BIBLE ANSWER to each, together with any pertinent ideas that come to your mind.

Be sure to WRITE OUT the scripture which answers each question. This will help you greatly in REVIEWING and REMEMBERING what you have learned.

Have you PRAYED to God for understanding?

If not, go to a private place, kneel down, and ask God for SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING and wisdom. Ask Him to HELP you grasp and apply in your own life the knowledge this lesson will reveal to you in the Bible.

And now for the lesson itself!

LESSON 5

Spirit of God Will Direct

1. As was previously shown, when Christ returns He will come in the clouds of heaven and His angels will gather His elect from all parts of the earth. They will meet Him in the air and all will soon thereafter descend upon the Mount of Olives. What will HAPPEN to this mount when Christ's feet touch it?

Zech. 14:4

2. Will the deep ravine thus formed become the channel of a MIGHTY RIVER which will ARISE IN JERUSALEM? Will half of this mighty river flow EASTWARD in the channel formed by this split, and will the other half flow WESTWARD? **Verse 8**. Will the river flowing eastward empty into the Dead Sea? And that flowing westward empty into the Mediterranean Sea? Look at the map of the Middle East in the back of your Bible -- refresh your memory about this coming NEW world government.

3. Is the EASTERN CHANNEL in which "living waters" -- fresh waters -- flow into the Dead Sea the SAME RIVER described in **Ezek. 47:1-9**? Note especially **verses 8 and 9**.

COMMENT: Notice that the river described in Ezekiel causes everything with which it comes in contact to LIVE and be HEALED! This is the SAME river!

4. Does **Ezek. 47:8** show that when the fresh or "healing" water from this LIFE-GIVING STREAM begins to flow into the DEAD Sea, the DEAD Sea will also become a body of water having LIFE in it? Will it be "healed"? **Verse 8**. Will it contain LIVING fish? **Verse 9**. Will it give LIFE to the barren places through which it flows? **Verse 12**.

COMMENT: The Dead Sea, which is 1286 feet below the Mediterranean Sea level, is the lowest spot on earth! The water of this

sea is now so salty that no plant or marine life can possibly exist in it.

Look at any Bible map of Palestine and notice that the Jordan River constantly empties into the northern extremity of the Dead Sea. Even though it has no outlet, the water level of the Dead Sea remains fairly constant. This is because extremely hot temperatures cause the waters to EVAPORATE at about the same rate at which the Jordan supplies the Dead Sea with muddy water.

But when this NEW river -- the river of "LIVING waters" -- begins to empty into the Dead Sea not far from the mouth of the Jordan River, the waters of the Dead Sea will rise until they OVERFLOW SOUTHWARD THROUGH THE DESERT. The overflow will probably carry into the Gulf of Aqaba. It will then be in this overflow area that NEW LIFE WILL SPRING UP when the waters will have become FRESH. And all places into which it flows in Palestine will receive NEW life!

5. Notice the SIGNIFICANCE of this river which will flow from Jerusalem. This river has a DUAL MEANING!

Christ will sit upon David's throne AT JERUSALEM, the WORLD'S CAPITAL -- the same place from which the RIVER OF LIFE arises (**Ezek. 47:1**). Will His RULE which shall ALSO "go forth from Jerusalem" (**Isa. 2:3**), have a "HEALING" EFFECT like the



The extremely salty Dead Sea, about 15 miles east of Jerusalem. At Christ's return, it will be "healed" by a mighty river which shall flow into it from Jerusalem.

actual river? Will His rule HEAL the strife-torn nations of the world? **Isa. 2:3-4** and **Malachi 4:2**

Will the SPIRIT of God direct Christ to GUIDE the nations in the Millennium into His own way of life -- the WAY of LIFE which will produce the utopia they have always desired? Is the Holy Spirit compared to "living water"? **John 4:10** and **7:37-39**. Then will the World Tomorrow -- the millennial world -- "have life, and that ... MORE ABUNDANTLY"? **John 10:10**.

COMMENT: Here then we see that when Christ returns, He will give all nations a PHYSICAL representation (water) of the effect of the SPIRIT or mind OF CHRIST. Like the water of the actual river, His SPIRITUAL decisions and laws will FLOW OUT FROM JERUSALEM, and like the actual river, these will heal and give life, for they will PREVENT wars and strife which wound human bodies and cause death. His laws and decisions will produce happier, healthier and THOROUGHLY ABUNDANT LIVES! (**John 10:10**)

Israel a Garden of Eden

God reveals what conditions will be like in Palestine where Israel, God's model nation, will dwell. Living by GOD'S WAY, as administered by Christ the King, will produce a UTOPIAN PARADISE there!

1. Will Israel be FEARFUL of wars and destruction any more? **Ezek. 28:25-26**. Will the Israelites then be fearful of the future as this world is today? **Verse 26**.

2. Will God see that the laws of nature function for the BENEFIT of this nation? **Isa. 44:3** and **Deut. 28:12**. Will this be a TREMENDOUS blessing?

3. Will the devastated cities be REBUILT? **Jer. 33:10-11** and **Amos 9:14**. Will there be HAPPINESS? **Jer. 33:11**. Notice that these scriptures show there will be CITIES in

the new world order soon to be established. Does this indicate that cities, as such, are wrong? If they were wrong, would Christ have them built?



First recorded photo of smog in Los Angeles -- 1943. Eyesmartering and lung-damaging "smog" plagues many large cities today. It will not exist in the well-planned cities of tomorrow.

COMMENT: Today we have great SMOKE-blackened and SMOG-laden cities which are crowded and gloomy. In the cities of TOMORROW, these conditions WILL NOT EXIST. Cities in the Millennium will be decentralized. They will be small enough to promote healthy, happy family life, yet large enough for a proper BALANCE between industry and those things which promote joyous living (**Zech. 8:5**).

4. Tremendous destruction will be wrought by the seventh vial of wrath -- the great earthquake and hail (**Rev. 16:17-18, 21**), which Christ will inflict to bring the world to its senses.

Much RECONSTRUCTION Will have to be done. This work will have to be FINANCED. Other nations will not have the economic means to carry this out -- they will have to borrow. But Israel, after being led out of captivity by Christ when He returns, will have this means.

How will Israel acquire the financial means? Remember that those who will conquer and spoil Israel will have accumulated much wealth. **Rev. 18:9-13**. Will Israel take BACK

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

great treasure from their captors when Christ liberates them? **Zech. 14:14**. What will Israel DO with much of this wealth? **Deut. 15:6**. This will be a business of LENDING on a vast scale. Does **Deut. 28:12** also verify this?

COMMENT: The Dead Sea, lying in Central Israel, will be a very important source of wealth. It is extremely rich in minerals and will be a great industrial asset.

Yes, BUSINESS will be carried on in the Millennium, BUT PEOPLE WILL BE TAUGHT TO CARRY IT ON DECENTLY AND HONESTLY!

David's Tomb

There is another source of wealth that most people are unaware of.

1. The Bible reveals that David and those loyal to him performed remarkable feats in conquering the land promised to their fathers. **I Sam. 16:18; II Sam. 10:7**; and also **II Sam. 16:6; 17:8, 10; 20:7; 23:8, 9, 16-17** and **22**.

2. As a result of all these feats Biblical texts and other historical sources show that David amassed a huge amount of wealth. Look at what the Bible tells us about this treasure: **I Chron. 29:2**. Going to **II Sam. 8:10-11** we read more about this wealth. If we go to **I Chron. 22:14** we read that "I [David] have taken much trouble to prepare for the house of the Lord [the Temple] ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND talents of gold and ONE MILLION talents of silver, and bronze and iron beyond measure..." Is this verified by **I Chron. 22:16**?

Comment: Josephus, the 1st.-century A.D. Jewish historian, notes that at one point in David's life he had already accumulated a vast amount of treasure for building the Temple: "...for I [David] will make all things ready before I die: and take notice, that there are already TEN THOUSAND talents of gold, and a HUNDRED THOUSAND talents of silver

collected together..." (Josephus, *Ant.*, [Bk. VII, ch xiv, 2])

3. David amassed so much silver that the Bible indicates it was "dirt cheap"! **I Kings 10:27**. See also **II Chron. 1:15** and **9:27**.

Comment: David's motivation for accumulating all this wealth is quite clear. Apart from being a natural result of the spoils of war, David went far beyond that in amassing these riches so that his son Solomon would lack for nothing in building the Temple.

4. Taking the figures given in **I Chron. 22:14**, is the dollar value of David's wealth, in today's terms, staggering?

Comment: According to the *Biblical Archaeology Review*, the size of a talent ranges "from 25 to 75 pounds." If we take this spread as a basis for calculation, it is a simple matter to figure out today's dollar value of David's huge treasure. At the low end of the range (25 pounds) the worth of the gold would be a staggering \$14,000,000,000 if we use the rate of \$350 per ounce. At the high end of the range (75 pounds) David's treasure is worth \$42,000,000,000 at today's rate! Staggering indeed! And this doesn't include the silver and other treasures!

5. Does the Bible indicate that King Solomon ADDED to this incredible amount during his lifetime? **II Chron. 1:12** and **15**.

Comment: Both the Biblical account and Josephus' statements show that Solomon acquired VAST quantities of gold and silver IN ADDITION to David's accumulation. In one year alone Solomon took in 666 talents of gold (**I Kings 10:14**).

Notes the *Biblical Archaeology Review*: "Only two figures in ancient records approach the amount of 666 talents: the total of Pharaoh Osorkon's gift to the gods, and the amounts of treasure Alexander the Great found in Persia. Greek sources tell of about 1,180 tons of gold Alexander found in Susa (compared to about 25 tons a year mentioned in connection with

Solomon's income), and almost 7,000 tons in the whole of Persia." (May/June 1989.)

6. As we progress, it will become evident that much of this staggering array of gold and silver WAS NOT USED on the Temple or the palace of the king. Vast quantities were buried with King David and, later, with his son Solomon. Where was David buried? **I Kings 2:10.**

Comment: We read in Josephus that "David was buried by his son Solomon, IN JERUSALEM, with great magnificence, and with all the other funeral pomp which kings used to be buried with: moreover, he had great and immense wealth BURIED WITH HIM, the vastness which may easily be conjectured by what I shall now say...." (*Ant.*, 7.15.3).

7. Why did Solomon bury all that wealth with his father David? Did he not understand God's Plan and realize that David could do nothing with that wealth after his death? Wasn't Solomon the wisest man who ever lived? **I Kings 3:5-13; 4:31; Eccles. 1:16**

Comment: We should realize that that the theology of Israel did not entertain the ideas advanced by the Egyptian world. In Egypt, kings like Tutankhamen were buried with riches so that it could be enjoyed in the next world. Therefore, this could not have been Solomon's intent, because no one would expect David to relish this fortune in the afterlife.

8. Did not the apostle Peter himself state that "David is not ascended into the heavens"? **Acts 2:34.** By transposing this to the circumstances surrounding the riches in David's tomb, we can readily see that Solomon wanted to protect and preserve this huge wealth.

Comment: Could it be that Solomon (possibly even with David's advice) planned to bury the EXCESS wealth so that FUTURE generations would have an inheritance? (**Proverbs 13:22**)

9. We know that David gave final instructions about various matters including the disposition of his enemies. **I Kings 2:1-9.**

Would he not have also had a plan for his burial?

Comment: Since David was a practical man and Solomon had been given much wisdom, the plan was obviously one of anticipation and preparation for the distant future when David would be resurrected and placed over all of Israel in the Millennium! The wealth then could be used to rebuild Israel.

Returning to Josephus and his statement about David's burial, we read: "The vastness [riches] of which may be easily conjectured at by what I shall now say; for a thousand and three hundred years afterwards, Hyrcanus the high priest, when he was besieged by Antiochus...and was desirous of giving him money to get him to raise the siege, and draw off his army; and having no other method of compassing the money, OPENED ONE ROOM OF DAVID'S SEPULCHRE, and took out 3000 TALENTS, and gave part of that sum to Antiochus, and by this means caused the siege to be raised, as we have informed the reader elsewhere." (*Antiquities*, 7.15.3).

Evidently, these riches in David's tomb were "off limits" prior to this time and/or they were unknown to most people -- possibly even the king. Since Hyrcanus was a priest, it could be that only select ones in the priesthood had knowledge of this national resource.

As if to underscore the above description about the 3000 talents, Josephus repeats the story fully three times in his works!

Josephus' statement that Hyrcanus "opened ONE ROOM of David's sepulchre" implies that there is at least ANOTHER room -- if not MANY rooms!

We are beginning to see that this wealth was an emergency "bank account" for future generations. However, much time passed before "withdrawals" were made.

10. Before the birth of Christ, King Herod started rebuilding the temple of Zerubabel at Jerusalem -- spending vast sums of money to decorate and improve the structure

over a period of many years. **John 2:20**. This was his most grandiose project, and he refurbished and expanded the Temple Mount Complex until it was a wonder to behold. **Luke 21:5**.

Comment: How was Herod able to finance this work and other projects? At the beginning of Herod's restoration Josephus notes that "all the sacred treasuries [of Judea] were exhausted" (*Wars*, 5.5.6). The Bible mentions (**Luke 21:5**), as well as Josephus, that people around the Roman world sent donations for the refurbishing of the Temple -- but that was not enough for Herod's grandiose ideas! So, how was Herod able to finance this and other projects? History shows he found another source!

Herod gained access to David's sepulchre to finance and decorate his empire! Part of what had been amassed for the First Temple and laid aside by Solomon, was used for the Second Temple period.

If we pick up Josephus' narration at the point where Hyrcanus was paying the ransom to Antiochus, we read: "Nay, after him, and that many years, Herod the king opened ANOTHER ROOM [in David's tomb], and took away a great deal of money, and yet neither of them came at the coffins of the kings [David and Solomon] themselves, for their bodies were buried under the earth so artfully, that they did not appear even to those that entered into their monuments; -- but so much shall suffice us to have said concerning these matters" (*Antiquities*, 7.15.3).

Later, in another attempt, Herod tried to remove further wealth from the tomb to satisfy his greed. Notice what happened: "As for Herod, he spent vast sums about the cities, both without and within his own kingdom: and as he had before heard that Hyrcanus, who had been king before him, had opened David's sepulchre, and taken out of it 3000 talents of silver, and that there was a much greater number left behind, and indeed enough to suffice all his wants, he had a great while an intention to

make the attempt [again]; and at this time he opened the sepulchre by night, and went into it, and endeavoured that it should not be known in the city, but took only his faithful friends with him" (*Antiquities*, 14.7.1).

Now begins the most unusual account of all. Herod was determined to exploit the multiroom tomb to its limit to satisfy his greed. It appears that a MIRACLE occurred. The story is staggering in its implications -- not just for then -- but for now! "However, he [Herod] had a great desire to make a more diligent search, and to go further in, even as far as the very bodies of David and Solomon; where TWO OF HIS GUARDS WERE SLAIN BY A FLAME THAT BURST OUT UPON THOSE THAT WENT IN, as the report was. So he was terribly affrightened, and went out, and built a propitiatory monument of that fright he had been in; and this of white stone, at the mouth of the sepulchre, and that at a great expense also" (*Antiquities*, 14.7.1).

What an incredible story! It is as if God were saying: "This far, and no further." God allowed Herod to remove enough treasure to refurbish the Second Temple -- and no more!

David's tomb remains closed to this day and still contains the riches Herod was seeking, but never obtained. This tomb will remain under Divine protection until God allows it to be opened for the refurbishing of the Third Temple and the land of Israel!

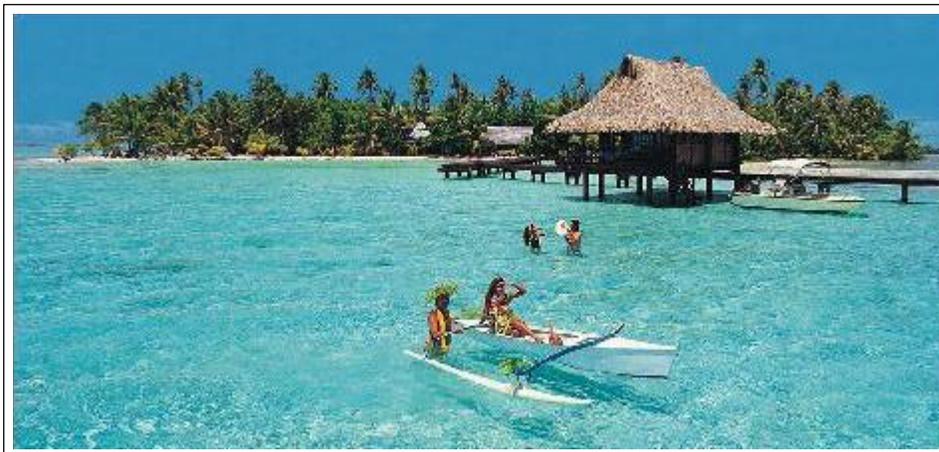
Building Homes in the World Tomorrow

1. Will the earth be RE-POPULATED after the terrific destruction of human life which lies just ahead of us? **Ezek. 36:11**. What about the HOUSING situation? How will shelter be provided for the expanding population? **Isa. 41:19; 60:13**

The forests of Lebanon are situated in the northern part of Palestine. The scriptures frequently refer to the beauty and splendor of the "cedars of Lebanon." Will the NUMBER

OF TREES in the forest increase markedly in the Millennium? **Isa. 29:17**.

COMMENT: Lumber is scarce today due to MAN'S EXPLOITATION. But God will not allow the forests to be destroyed for lack of proper supervision in the Millennium. The GREAT AMOUNT of lumber available then will make it far easier for all to have FABULOUSLY BEAUTIFUL HOMES!



Many picture "Utopia" as being some breathtakingly beautiful South Pacific island. But the utopian paradise God promises to make of the Mideast -- and eventually the entire earth, will pale into insignificance all of man's grandest dreams.

2. The Mideast is a relatively barren region. Prophecies indicate, however, that it will see the most dramatic change of any land. It is the land center of the earth and is destined to become its capital. It will be the SEAT of Christ's world government.

Has the Garden of Eden always been considered the MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE that has ever existed in this world? Will God transform Palestine into a place RESEMBLING Eden? **Isa. 51:3**. Will great joy be there?

COMMENT: ZION is a hill in the environs of the city of Jerusalem. It is the mount on which the old city of David was built. Geographically speaking, Mount Zion is often used in the Bible to stand for JERUSALEM or for the land of Israel.

God plainly shows us, through His prophecies, that the Middle East will become a VERITABLE "GARDEN OF EDEN"!

World to Share Prosperity

Notice how the rest of the earth will SHARE in the great PROSPERITY with which God will bless the Middle East.

1. We have seen that Christ will establish His capital in Jerusalem, Palestine, in Israel. From His capital city, He will RULE ALL NATIONS of the world. Christ will actually rule over a COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS. Then will all nations have the

same ruler -- Christ? **Isa. 2:2**.

2. Will the WHOLE WORLD THEN WALK IN GOD'S WAYS? **Micah 4:2**. Does this show that they will ALL be ruled by the SAME LAWS -- GOD'S LAWS? Since the Gentiles will obey Christ in the Millennium, will they be HIS subjects? Will they BELONG to Him? **Rom. 6:16**.

3. The Bible says, "If ye be CHRIST'S, then are ye Abraham's seed [you are ISRAELITES!] and heirs according to the promise" (**Gal. 3:29**). What was the promise made to Abraham's seed, the nation of Israel, for OBEEDIENCE? Were they to be BLESSED MATERIALLY? **Leviticus 26:1-13** and **Deuteronomy 28:1-14**. Isn't it plain that in the Millennium the OTHER NATIONS of the earth will SHARE in the promises made to Israel, IF THEY WILL OBEY CHRIST?

COMMENT: God has made Israel and its descendants a promise that He will set them "on high ABOVE ALL NATIONS of the earth," if they will obey Christ (**Deut. 28:1**).

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

Therefore, those of Israel who are obedient will occupy the land of Palestine and receive a RELATIVELY GREATER SHARE of the blessings than other nations. But, aside from this, ALL NATIONS CAN SHARE in the promises IF they will OBEY Christ! This world will become a literal UTOPIA for the obedient!

Ancient Israel was never able to claim all the promises of **Deut. 28:1-14** and **Lev. 26:1-13** over long periods of time because the people were not constant in their obedience to God. In the Millennium, with Christ ruling rigidly -- "with a rod of iron" -- their descendants will be obedient, and therefore they will receive ALL of these promised blessings!

Rapid Transportation

1. HOW will highways be BUILT in the World Tomorrow? **Isaiah 40:3-4**. Will these SUPERhighways be LEVEL, and will they go in a DIRECT LINE from one point to another, thus enabling high speeds to be safely achieved on them? Does this indicate MUCH TRAVELING will be done?

2. Notice **verse 4 of Isaiah 40**. Does it indicate a general LANDSCAPING of the earth's surface will be done? Would this indicate the use of much HEAVY MACHINERY and the opportunity to EMPLOY GREAT NUMBERS of people?

COMMENT: Unemployment is a great problem today. It will cease to exist in the World Tomorrow!

3. There is going to be a very unusual HIGHWAY in Palestine. Its fame will spread worldwide! Will it lead to the capital city, Jerusalem? **Isa. 35:8, 10**.

COMMENT: ZION is a general name for the city of Jerusalem. This will be an ACTUAL ROAD leading to the capital city of the world!

4. Will this actual highway be KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS AS

REPRESENTATIVE OF ANOTHER WAY -- GOD'S WAY OF LIFE? What is this way called? **Verse 8**. Will the UNCLEAN -- those who cling to sin (**II Cor. 6:16-18**) -- pass over it? **Verse 8**. Will any ferocious animals pass over it? **Verse 9**. Who will use it? Same verse.

Liberty!

1. Will there be MANY languages in the Millennium? **Zephaniah 3:9**. What do the words "with ONE consent" signify? Could all the people of the earth be of ONE opinion about a subject if they could not even understand what was said because it was spoken to them in a foreign language? Note also the words "PURE language."

COMMENT: At the tower of Babel God separated the various nations by giving them different languages (**Gen. 11:9**). Why? Because they were rebellious against His WAY of life. People wanted to live by their depraved lusts. The different languages of nations became a natural BARRIER against the spread of human depravity. If God had not done this, they would soon have destroyed themselves (**verse 6**).

In the Millennium there will be no danger of self-destruction. God will then give ALL PEOPLE ONE LANGUAGE. This will be valuable in the exchange of proper ideas, and will help in establishing peace and harmony. This plainly shows the world will be LIBERATED from the language barrier in the Millennium!

2. We have seen there will be much WORK to be done in the Millennium. But HOW HARD will this work be, COMPARED to the labor we are forced to do now when we are DISOBEDIENT to God's way and are NOT RECEIVING THE BLESSINGS God gives for obedience? **Isa. 11:10**. Note the word "rest."

COMMENT: Much is said in the Bible about how nature, influenced by God, will cooperate to make life EASY for people in the

Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?

Millennium when they are UNDER GOD'S RULE. Compare the EASY LIFE of GOD'S WAY with the HARD LIFE of man's way when he rules himself. God calls MAN'S WAY the BABYLONIAN system. Read of the rigor and TOIL and BONDAGE of living by this system in **Rev. 18:2, 10, 13-14, 23-24**. NOTE ESPECIALLY **verses 13 and 24**

GOD'S WAY OF LIFE is the WAY OF LIBERTY -- the EASY WAY -- BUT MAN IS NOT REALLY CONVINCED THAT IT IS! God is now, through man's own Babylonish system, letting man CONVINCED HIMSELF! Just look at what this world's FOREBODING FUTURE holds in store!

3. Will there be old men and women, as well as people of other ages in the Millennium? **Joel 2:28**.

4. Will all people be at PEACE? **Micah 4:4**. How does **I Kings 4:25** explain the expression "under HIS fig tree"? Did every man mentioned there actually sit "under his fig tree" ALL the days of Solomon, or is this SYMBOLIC of PEACE?

COMMENT: Here is an example of letting the BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF! All will rest under the shade of THEIR OWN trees



A banana plantation in the desert. A minute foretaste of the vast reclamation of today's untillable land in the soon-coming Utopia.

and grape arbors and none will ROB them of it by WARS or OTHER means.

5. Much is said today against PRIVATE ownership. Communists and Socialists

are especially against it. Does GOD think it is improper? **Micah 4:4**. Notice the word "his."

COMMENT: People will OWN their property in the Millennium. They will be LIBERATED from systems which deprive them of the righteous rewards of their own toil!

6. Today, the DOCTORS of this world have great difficulty in trying to prevent or cure lameness. Blindness, deafness, and dumbness are among their most baffling cases. But what will Christ do with such cases? Will it be SIMPLE for Him to CURE them? **Isa. 35:5**. If it weren't, God would not make such broad, sweeping statements. All this is a part of "The GOOD NEWS of the wonderful WORLD TOMORROW"!

Bounteous Crops!

1. Rain is one of God's choicest blessings (**Ezek. 34:26**). Will God see that RAIN is given for the seed? **Isa. 30:23**. Will there even be springs and streams of water on every high hill? **Verse 25**. Mountain streams will help to make beautiful resort areas in the utopia of tomorrow.

2. What will happen as a result of the ABUNDANCE of rain? **Isa. 35:7**. (The Moffatt Translation properly translates the word "dragons" as "hyenas and jackals." The word dragon may mean a land or sea serpent, or a hideous creature such as a hyena or jackal.) What else will happen? **Verse 1**.

3. Today, the greater portion of the earth is unproductive -- only a SMALL AREA of the land surface is actually tillable. There are many deserts and wildernesses. After studying **Isa. 35:7** and **Isa. 32:15**, can you say that this will be true during the coming UTOPIA?

COMMENT: The AGRICULTURAL WEALTH of a nation is generally the greatest asset it can possess. But the farmers and others employed in agriculture have had to gamble with the weather and rainfall throughout the centuries. The most JOYFUL NEWS they

could hear is that all their work would always be SUCCESSFUL. Since FOOD and WATER are the most vital necessities of life, all people will certainly be interested in this GOOD NEWS!

4. What will happen to the family fruit orchards and gardens? Amos 9:14. TODAY, are farmers in various nations robbed of their crops by communist and dictatorial masters? In the United States is DROUGHT and searing heat in some parts of the country robbing families of their produce while in other parts devastating rains and floods are doing the same thing to their gardens and farms? In ISRAEL will all have great success with their vineyards? Jer. 31:5. What will the people DRINK? Amos 9:14

5. Will people GIVE THANKS to the LORD for the abundance of the crops He will bestow upon them? Jer. 31:12

6. Today, much is heard of the scarcity of meat in certain parts of the world and of the price at which it sells. Meat is necessary for a well-balanced diet. Will there be a scarcity of this vital product then? What does God say of the AMOUNT of livestock there will be in the Millennium? Isa. 30:23-24. Does this also indicate there will be PLENTY OF MILK for building strong, healthy bodies?

7. Will there be a great abundance of FISH to eat for those who live in ISRAEL -- and for the rest of the world? Ezek. 47:9-10

8. When Adam DISOBEYED God, He said: "CURSED IS THE GROUND for thy sake ... THORNS also AND THISTLES shall it bring forth to thee" (Gen. 3:17-18). To this day the curse has existed in varying degrees.

What is the BASIC REASON behind the fact that there will be SO MUCH AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY in the Millennium? What will happen when men OBEY the WAY of God -- will God REMOVE this curse? Isa. 55:13.

9. Often, after men have succeeded in gaining their just reward for sweat and toil,

others ROB them of it. This will NOT be true in the soon-coming Millennium, will it? Isa. 62:8-9.

10. Will there actually be a SUPERA-BUNDANCE of foods? Amos 9:13.

11. With all this superabundance of foods and the good things of life, there is the question of HOW they will be used. We have seen that there will be many vineyards and much wine (Amos 9:14). What will Christ's attitude be in regard to LIQUOR? Will He teach MODERATION, or will He teach total abstinence? We can obtain an idea of what His attitude toward it will be by noticing His attitude when He was here BEFORE. What was it? John 2:1-11 and Mat. 11:19.

12. Will a FAMINE occur even though there have been years and years of prosperity in the Millennium? Does God say "NO FAMINE"? Ezek. 36:29-30. But what will happen to any nation that DISOBEYS? Zech. 14:17-18.

13. Will farm animals range over LUSH PASTURES? Isa. 30:23-24. Will this make the meat more flavorful?

COMMENT: Some assume that Isa. 11:9 means that man will not kill and eat meat animals during the Millennium. By comparing it with verse 8, it is plainly shown that serpents or wild animals WILL NOT DESTROY EACH OTHER OR HURT little children in the Millennium. It is NOT referring to man's diet at all!

New Natures!!

1. Will God MIRACULOUSLY CHANGE the natures of creatures in the Millennium? What does He say He will do with the NATURES of farm animals? Will they be afraid? Isa. 11:6-7. And with the NATURES of the fowls and creeping things? Hosea 2:18. And with the NATURES of the POISONOUS CREATURES? Isa. 11:8. And with the NATURES of the FEROCIOUS ANIMALS? Isa.

11:6-7. Will they be PEACEFUL? **Ezek. 34:25.**

2. The heart of man symbolizes his NATURE. What does God say of the heart of man AS IT IS TODAY? **Jer. 17:9.** Are men's DESIRES NOW LIKE THE LIONS? Are they BOTH quick to shed blood? **Romans 3:9-18.** NOTE ESPECIALLY **VERSE 15.**

3. What does God say He will do with the NATURE OF MAN in the Millennium? **Ezek. 36:26-27.**

COMMENT: As God is going to CHANGE the very inborn instinctive desire of the lion from the wish to destroy life for food to the desire to EAT STRAW, and is going to PACIFY the natures of ALL OTHER CREATURES, truly marvelous and MIRACULOUS THINGS are in store WHEN GOD CHANGES MAN'S NATURE IN THE DAYS JUST AHEAD! This change occurs in the MIND. It is brought about by REPENTANCE!

When God changes man's ATTITUDE so he will DESIRE from his innermost being to follow the right way -- GOD'S WAY -- then man will indeed have REAL JOY and HAPPINESS. God is going to miraculously place His VERY OWN LOVING NATURE WITHIN MAN when the people of the millennial world REPENT of following their old ways.

People will LOVE their fellow man and DO EVERYTHING within their power to make the other person HAPPY. They will love instead of hate because it will come NATURALLY THROUGH GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT PLACED IN THEM!

THAT is what will MAKE the millennial world an ACTUAL UTOPIA!! REMEMBER THIS. It is one of the MOST IMPORTANT POINTS IN YOUR BIBLE! There will be more on this subject when you receive the lessons on the Old and New Covenants, and the Holy Spirit! These will vitally apply to YOU -- PERSONALLY! They will explain how YOU can have an INWARD "utopia" begin right NOW!

God's Way BEST After All

God will soon FORCE the people of this world to cease from following THEIR wretched, unhappy way of living. They will be compelled to step aside and watch His way -- the way THIS age calls "heresy" -- in ACTION ON THIS EARTH!

The two mighty streams of water, which will flow east and west from Jerusalem and give abundant life to all things they reach, will call the attention of all nations to the influence of Christ's rule as He administers NOT MAN'S, but GOD'S precepts for a full and abundant life.

What will happen? What else could possibly happen than that the UTOPIAN PARADISE which mankind has always longed for will finally begin to materialize. And man will at long last begin to WAKE UP! He will begin to see through the VEIL of his prejudices which have prevented him from following the methods -- the LAWS OF GOD, if you please -- which would bring him ALL of his TRUE DESIRES!

God has known from the beginning that man would finally become CONVINCED his ways were wrong when he has the RESULTS OF THE TWO WAYS -- man's way and God's way -- laid side by side for comparison. Hear what God says -- HE PLANNED IT THIS WAY! "The Lord of hosts [shall] make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined [in the MILLENNIUM]. And He will destroy in this mountain the FACE OF THE COVERING cast over all people, and the VEIL that is SPREAD OVER ALL NATIONS" (**Isa. 25:6-7**).

Do you grasp the significance of all this? God said long ago that a time would come when He would cause the people of this earth to live UNBELIEVABLY WELL; and that in doing this they would wake up to a great truth -- the truth that GOD'S WAYS ARE

BEST AFTER ALL! This time is about here. This is the "GOOD NEWS" of the WORLD TOMORROW!

What will people begin to do when this TRUTH begins to dawn on them? Great numbers will fervently REPENT of following their old unhappy ways. They will fervently seek to be RE-EDUCATED to GOD'S WAY as revealed by the commandments and precepts in THE BIBLE! Then God will begin to MIRACULOUSLY CHANGE their basically EVIL natures by placing His HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN them.

The old ways of THIS world will be outmoded! The people will have found a BETTER WAY and they will be firmly convinced that the more they can LEARN of God's better way, the HAPPIER their existence will be! And in the meantime, they will marvel at the rich rewards they receive for their relatively easy labors.

Will they seek in vain for teachers? No! This is the time when God says Christ will come with "ten thousands of saints" for the very purpose of TEACHING them His ways (**Jude 14, 15**). Of this time God says, "Thy teachers [shall not] be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (**Isa. 30:20-21**).

Re-education AWAY FROM THIS WORLD'S ERRORS will be conducted on a vast scale! The results? "The earth shall be FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD [GOD'S KNOWLEDGE] as the waters cover the sea" (**Isa. 11:9**). GOD PROMISES THIS!

And what about corrections when people err? They will be swift and certain, but will become milder and milder as people learn and obey more of the ways which really make them happy.

The MANY -- not the few -- will go up to Jerusalem by the ACTUAL ROAD named "The Way of Holiness," which Christ will have built as a PHYSICAL REMINDER of God's WAY. They will say, "He will teach us of His ways" (**Micah 4:2**). They will also, IN PRAYER, seek God by His SPIRITUAL "Way of Holiness."

As with all the creatures about him, man's own nature will begin to change. The change in the NATURES of animals will be a constant REMINDER to him of the change that is taking place WITHIN HIMSELF! He, like the lion, will become peaceful. There will be no question in his mind about WHICH WAY to follow. He will KNOW! Man's innermost desire will be to come ever closer and closer to God in MENTAL attitude -- CLOSER TO THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE ALL HIS DESIRES FOR A UTOPIAN PARADISE COME TRUE!

MEN WILL AT LAST LEARN THAT GOD IS THE BEST FRIEND THEY EVER HAD!

THEN God will really set His hand to SAVE THE WORLD. The harvest of human souls will become RIPE for gathering into the Spiritual Kingdom of God. Human experience in living both the evil and the good way of life to the full will convince the mortal human beings still alive at Jesus' return that God's way is BEST for mankind. The vast majority will choose the good way of life -- God's WAY -- and will begin to OBEY God, preparing themselves to be transformed into immortal Spirit-beings in the Kingdom of God!

No wonder this present age is ONLY "A day of salvation"! (**Isa. 49:8**)



Today's World -- What Will Tomorrow Be Like?