

## INTRODUCTION

Sir Thomas More in his 1516 book *Utopia*, described a fictional island society in the Atlantic Ocean in which existed the attempt to create an ideal society. According to Wikipedia, in Utopia, with communal ownership of land, private property does not exist, men and women are educated alike, and there is almost complete religious toleration. Such a society has been the dream of mad men, from Hitler who through his genetical laws designed to prevent defects in human offspring; to Jim Jones who established Jonestown in Guyana as a place “free of racism and a haven for justice”. Man’s best efforts to create a perfect society has failed and will always fail. Scripture records that the only perfect society on the earth will exist when Christ sets up His earthly kingdom following the Tribulation Period. During that time, there will be world peace; the curse will be removed from the earth, consequently, many diseases will be abated and men will live for hundreds of years. Discussion of this topic is the subject of much debate in Christendom. Over the next several weeks we will look at what Scripture says about the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

- I. THE REIGN OF CHRIST AS KING UPON THE EARTH IS KNOWN IN SCRIPTURE AS THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM.
  - A. The word “millennial” is derived from the Greek word *chilioi* which means 1,000.
    1. The word is used to describe the length of time Satan will be bound. Rev. 20:2,3
    2. The word is used to intimate the Tribulation martyrs ruling with Christ for 1000 years. Rev. 20:4,6
  - B. The kingdom is referred to by the Lord as “The regeneration” . Matt. 19:28
    1. The word “regeneration” (*paliggenesia*) is the same Greek word used to describe the new birth of believers. cf. Tit. 3:5
    2. The use of the article with “regeneration” denotes “**that restoration of the primal and perfect condition of things which existed before the fall of our first parents**” -- Joseph Thayer
  - C. The kingdom is also known as “The Dispensation of the Fulness of Time”. Eph. 1:10
    1. David is the steward of the Dispensation. Ez. 34:22- 25 ; 37:25
    2. The beginning of the Dispensation is the second coming of Christ with His saints. Zech. 14:5

3. The end of the Dispensation is the close of the Millennium. Rev. 20:1-15
4. The household for the Dispensation.
  - a) The saved coming out of the Tribulation period. Matt. 24:29-31
  - b) The resurrected Old Testament saints. Dan. 12:1-3
  - c) Saints martyred during the Tribulation Period. Rev. 20:4-6
5. The responsibility of the Dispensation: in a perfect environment under a righteous government:
  - a) Man is to obey God from the heart. Heb. 8:6-13
  - b) Man is to remain undefiled to enter the New Jerusalem to eat of the Tree of Life. Zech. 8:22-23

The test of the Dispensation: to believe that the reigning Christ will rule forever in perfect righteousness. Is. 9:6-7

II. THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH COVERS EVENTS FROM THE RAPTURE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM. Zech. 14:1-8

A. Zechariah covers the battle of Armageddon vs. 2

1. Nations will gather against Jerusalem.
2. The Lord will defend Israel. Vs. 3
3. Topographical changes will occur at His return
  - a) His feet will touch down as He said they would. vs. 4 cf. Acts 1:11
  - b) His landing will cause a division of the land.
4. The light will be affected by the turmoil of the Tribulation Period. Vs. 6-7
5. The foes of Israel will be plagued. Vs. 12

B. Zechariah prophesied a day when the "Lord would be king over all the earth." vs. 9

1. The phrase "in that day" is commonly used as a reference to the Millennial Kingdom. Cf. Is. 52:6 (Israel shall know Jehovah's Name); Joel 3:18 (of the prosperity of the land)
2. "King" is the Hebrew word melek
3. "Over all the earth"
  - a) "Over" is the Hebrew particle "al" which is used in the Old Testament to note "upon or over". Cf. Ex. 20:3 (of Israel having Gods over Jehovah)
  - b) "All" is the Hebrew noun "kol" which is used in Scripture to note the totality of a thing. Cf. Gen. 6:22 (of Noah performing all God asked of him); Ecc. 11:5 (of God who makes all things)

- c) "Earth" is erets --it is used with "kol" approximately 90 times in the Old Testament -- some denoting the Lord's reign over the earth. Ex. 19:5 (of all the earth belonging to the Lord); Is. 6:3 (of all the earth being full of the Lord's glory); Is. 54:5 (He will be God over all the earth)

## CONCLUSION