

The Coming **NEW WORLD ORDER**

The present political and religious systems
to be Superseded by a Universal Divine
Political Government on Earth

THE world is advancing to some critical point; some great collision is at hand, a complete and final revolution. The highest point of civilisation is the lowest point of godliness. And having reached the highest point of civilisation, the world is found in a dreadful state. It can go no further in ungodliness without casting off all connection with God. It is therefore, manifestly approaching the final point of crisis. The future is the paramount subject of many minds. Statesmen, philosophers, moralists and politicians are all occupied with the future; and all are equally perplexed. There is only one place in which the future might be discovered: the Bible, which declares that God is to establish His kingdom upon this earth at the coming of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. These matters are discussed in this booklet, and we urge the careful attention of the reader to its pages.

HERALD OF THE COMING AGE

A Christadelphian Publication

**DECLARING THE TRUTH OF THE SCRIPTURES REVEALED FOR THE SALVATION OF THOSE WHO ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE THE CLAIMS OF GOD'S WORD;
AND PRESENTING THE GLORIOUS MESSAGE OF THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM ON EARTH.**

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The Coming New World Order



"The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Daniel 2:44).

What is the World Coming To?

YOU have probably asked that question a number of times! Everyone does these days. Open your newspaper, and the world is full of crises and confusion. Turn on the radio or TV, look at news magazines, and there it is again: profound perplexity, just as the Lord Jesus predicted when he was on earth over 1900 years ago. He declared that at the time of the end there shall be "upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity" (Luke 21:25). The problems appear both insoluble and widespread. There is the inflation problem, the food problem, the pollution problem, the crime wave, drug addiction, the armaments buildup...

Where can a sound and satisfying solution be found? From politicians? It is their job to solve problems, but they do not seem to be doing it. Many seriously minded young people look out upon a world that seemingly offers them no future, and they become angry with those in charge. They believe that the national leaders are too old and incompetent; that they should make way for younger men with up-to-date ways, and the vigor to implement them.

Youth Speaks

The angry Young Man! That is a modern phrase for young people who are impatient of watching the older generation

bumble through from one crisis to another. Such criticism is not new in the earth. The Book of Job, one of the oldest books in world literature, describes an angry young man named Elihu. He listened with growing impatience to the muddled reasonings and confused speeches of his elders. At last, able to stand it no longer, he burst out: "*I am young in years; and you are aged... I said, 'Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom'... but it is not the old that are wise, nor the aged that understand what is right, therefore, I say, listen to me: let me declare my opinion*" (Job 32:6-10).

Elihu then launched forth into a long, forthright speech which contained some truth and realism, even though it was bumptious in its expressions, and completely wrong in accusing its subject, Job. Elihu assumed he knew the answers, but in fact, he added no true wisdom to the comments already expressed by his fellows.

Nearly 4,000 years later, youth is still speaking with the same voice as Elihu; and with the same bumptiousness!

Youth Views Politics

Young people look at politics, and find them dominated by middle aged and elderly folk, who try to keep back the tide of war, violence and crises with nothing more effective than a feeble broom of their own manufacture. No matter whether the government is a dictatorship or a democracy, the same economic and social problems defeat the rulers again and again. Muddle, muddle and more muddle is the result!

Every country seeks a favourable economic budget; in short, it seeks to export more than it imports. Governments strain every means to accomplish this. All sorts of financial expedients are resorted to achieve it: import quotas, tariffs, devaluation, bank rates, speculation. Most of us do not really understand what it is all about, but in some hazy way we do realise that economic insecurity is rampant in every country, and consequently our livelihood is at stake. First there is a boom and we earn good money; then the government calls, "Crisis!" and immediately clamps down, so that the spectre of unemployment and shortages again appears on the horizon. At the back of our minds we have a notion that international financiers have something to do with it all: those folk derisively called by an English politician "the gnomes of Zurich" (the Swiss town, where many international

bankers have their headquarters). These are people who buy stocks and shares when they are cheap, and sell them when they are dear. Then people panic, and assume that the company whose shares are being widely sold is about to go bankrupt, and before you know where you are, financial chaos stalks the earth.

What do politicians do about all this? They seem powerless whether they are Conservative, Liberal, Socialist or Communist. If they are democratic, then a general election throws everything into deeper chaos whenever it occurs. With this in mind, many politicians rule, not for the good of the country, but with one eye on the next election, and as to what will please voters best.

If the government is a dictatorship, then there is loss of Elihu's precious possession of free speech, "*Let me declare my opinion,*" and this booklet would most likely not see the light of day in such countries. But even a dictatorship — at least a human one — cannot sort out the economic problems of a complex civilisation. Today Communist China and the Russian Republics are stricken with trouble and unemployment.

When we look at it all, simple laymen like ourselves may be forgiven for suspecting that the whole basis of the economic and monetary system is based on a fallacy. How can every country hope to sell abroad more than it buys? If some countries have favorable balances, others are bound to be in the red!

And what of under-developed countries? The feelings of youth are particularly stirred by that theme. While the politicians talk — perhaps in all sincerity — thousands die, hungry and ill clad. Poverty is rampant whilst a population explosion lies round the corner. Half of the earth's inhabitants are undernourished. Diseases accompany famines; violence erupts when people seek for sustenance. A few charities like "Oxfam," Red Cross, and the various United Nations Organisations, can but scratch the surface of the problem.

Yet billions of dollars, pounds, Deutschmarks, pesetas, francs and roubles are spent every year in armament manufacture. Every small nation wants its own nuclear weapons, so that the prophecy of the Bible is fulfilled: "*let the weak say I am strong*" (Joel 3:9-11). And the strong nations go on stockpiling the most horrific weapons, whatever they might claim to the contrary. Politicians talk — but young people cannot help feeling resentful

at the thought that some ageing ruler's incompetency might one day bring it all to an end in a terrible explosion. Gone would be all their hopes, their careers, their ambitions, perhaps their lives!

Youth Views Religion

What remains? Religion? Is there an after-life? Youth is contemptuous. It sees empty churches and mocks: "I don't wonder at it! What message have the churches for me today? I am not interested in being sent to glory to sit on the edge of a cloud, strumming a harp, or even a guitar, for evermore. I should be bored!" Young people are full of doubt.

Can you wonder at it, when so many clergymen talk insipid platitudes, or when the leaders of the churches are torn with dissension? Some don't believe in a personal God at all; few of them fully believe in the Bible. "Religion is so airy-fairy — no clear message — nothing much to agree with or disagree with", says one young man. "It's all so goody-goody", says another. "When you ask them to prove all, it seems they don't believe it themselves", says a young woman, after a talk with a minister of religion.

Of course the Roman Catholics are growing. Some young people like the grandeur of ceremony, and magnificence of architecture, and are impressed with the wealth and glamour of great cathedrals and churches — but for the majority it all smacks too much of superstition and commercialism. "You go out and sin: you come back to church, pay up and confess. Sins forgiven and off we go again." A sincere Catholic would deny this interpretation, but that's how it looks to many a young mind.

No! away with it all!

The politicians — failures! outmoded!

The churches — half dead! outdated!

This is the feeling of modern youth.

Wanted — A Clean Sweep!

And this clean sweep is coming too! The purpose of the God, revealed in the Bible, guarantees it.

The Bible clearly shows that God will sweep away the politics and religions that have so conspicuously failed. The Bible is a very down-to-earth book — far from the sickly sentimentality so often wrongly attributed to it. Throughout its pages, it speaks of a new age that is coming, when all that is

wrong will be put right: when the sickness of society will be healed.

Even the phrase “a clean sweep” is almost biblical. Hear it from the lips of the prophet Isaiah, several thousand years ago, speaking of the Babylonian civilisation as representative of human civilisations of all times: “*I will sweep it with the besom of destruction, saith the LORD of hosts*” (Isaiah ch. 14:23). The strange word “besom” refers to a hard broom used to whisk away dust and dirt — it is a cleaning utensil. This verse thus speaks of the divine judgment that would remove the power of Babylon. And it certainly did, for the great kingdom of Babylon no longer exists, except in history.

Again, speaking of the day when God will establish human affairs on “a sure foundation”, the prophet uses the word “sweep,” as we do when we say that a storm swept all before it: “*The hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding places* (Isaiah 28:17).

God’s judgment is going to come upon the present ailing world as a whirlwind upon a shelter in which people are hiding, called “a refuge of lies” because of its insecurity against such a judgment. How eloquent to describe the fallacies with which people surround themselves — the make-believe by which they try to protect themselves from the harsh realities of life to which there is only one answer.

God’s New Broom

How is this clean sweep coming? Who is to be the new broom? It is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ — alive and real. He rose from the dead some nineteen hundred years ago, and ascended to heaven as was decreed. He comes again to take over the government of the whole world: literally, politically, personally.

“But surely you don’t believe so fantastic an idea?” some may ask. Or, “I agreed with your analysis of what’s wrong with the world — but now you are as bad as any of the religionists. Worse in fact! Some time ago the *London Sunday Mirror*, published an article by a bishop, ridiculing the teaching that Jesus Christ is coming back to earth and claiming that it is ‘the greatest bit of fantasy in the whole collection of mumbo jumbo that goes under the name of Christian doctrine.’”

Well, in spite of all that men might declare, we do believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ, and see in it the only hope for mankind. Stay with us, just a few more pages, and hear us out!

You will agree that almost 2,000 ago a man named Jesus lived in Palestine. That is a clear fact of history — as much as the existence of Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar or Napoleon. (I did once meet a man who, when pressed with this line of argument, promptly denied that Napoleon ever existed — but we take it that our readers are intelligent people who accept the normal rules of evidence). Just look at a coin; notice the date on it: perhaps 1982. The “1982” means something — it speaks of “the year of our Lord” — and if the idea of Jesus’ existence was foisted upon us by some charlatan, then he is cleverer at miracles than even the God of the Bible.

Right! Jesus Christ existed. Next we learn he died because of the envy of the Jews and the timidity of the Roman governor — Pilate. No difficulty in believing that.

Then comes the really difficult part. He rose from the dead! This assertion is based on contemporary evidence. Carefully read the record in the Gospel records of the New Testament. Men who were frightened and cowered into the shadows when Jesus died, a few days later boldly proclaimed that he was alive again! They were either liars, mad or spoke the truth. They wouldn’t be liars — they gained no advantage, only persecution and martyrdom. Mad men would never have written words of such sober majesty as you will find in the Bible. Then the only other alternative is, that they spoke the truth!

But perhaps they were mistaken? Perhaps Jesus only appeared to die on the cross? Perhaps he only fainted and, reviving, came out of the tomb? Such an incredible idea has been advanced by some, but it does not accord with the facts. The cold tomb would have killed a half-dead man. In any case, his side was pierced by a soldier that confirmed he was already dead (John 19:33-35). How, if he survived, could he have rolled away the sealed stone? Would a half-dead Messiah have changed the lives of the apostles who, at one time, refused to believe the reports of the resurrection that were told them? No! Jesus Christ raised from the dead is still the only satisfactory explanation of the empty tomb — which, mark you — everyone admits was empty afterwards!

Granted the resurrection of Christ (and when all the facts are brought into view this cannot be logically denied), then everything else follows. He must have been, as he claimed, the Son of God. There must be a God. The Bible, which Jesus accepted, as far as it then existed (i.e., the Old Testament), is a divine revelation, and we can read it with confidence, gaining hope instead of cynicism, light instead of darkness. Jesus believed the Old Testament and commissioned the New Testament — to the Bible we therefore must go to find out the purpose of God. Let anybody read this remarkable book properly, and he will find its influence gradually asserting itself, demonstrating: “this is no ordinary book.” Persevere and notice its wonderful unity. Though made up of 66 books, written by more than 30 people, in different countries, over a period of 1,600 years, it yet proclaims one consistent message. See the harmony, feel the depth of the book. At least read it! Give it a chance! Its claims and offers demand investigation. And you will be surprised how interesting it is — even exciting!

The Object Of It All

God’s purpose with the earth is clearly stated: “*God formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited*” (Isaiah 45:18).

This is comforting — the earth to be inhabited — not to become a desert void as pictured by the scaremongers of space fiction, or the forecasters of disaster and doom.

Isaiah, a prophet from whom Jesus loved to quote, also declares: “*The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*” (Isaiah 11:9). Further: “*When God’s judgments are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness*” (Isaiah 26:9).

Ideas like the “knowledge of the LORD” and “righteousness” don’t appeal much to people today, but for all their contempt they must admit that ignorance of God and unrighteousness haven’t got us far. Does not wisdom dictate that we understand what is written in God’s Word? God is going to bring judgment upon this world whether it likes it or not and whether it believes it or not. The only trouble is, we might not personally survive these “judgments of God” unless we do something about it now.

The Bible is full of predictions about vast changes to be

brought about in the earth. In its first book, Abraham was told that all nations would be blessed through a descendant of his (Genesis 22:17), who is identified in the New Testament as Christ (Galatians 3:16). In the middle of the Bible, Psalm 72 speaks of a king (the Lord Jesus), who shall set up a universal rule of such benefit to humanity that "all nations shall call him blessed".

Jesus Christ Comes Back to Earth

All these changes are dependent upon the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth (Acts 1:11). He will return unobtrusively (Revelation 16:15), and not as some great flaming spectacle descending from the sky. When he first manifests himself in the earth, he will probably be viewed as a new and powerful Jewish leader, for he will reach the news headlines by defeating a great Russian confederated army which will invade Israel as the first step to its world conquest (see Ezekiel 38 and 39). People will not realise at first that it is the Lord Jesus when he first takes over control in the Middle East. They will doubt it, even though the Israelis accept him as king — for the prophet Zechariah declares that this will occur. He presents a word picture of Christ revealing his identity by showing the scars he received on the cross. This is the clear teaching of the prophet. Writing some 500 years before the first advent of Christ, but referring to his future second coming, he declared: "*They shall look upon him whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn*" (Zechariah 12:10).

Notice that this prophecy, given some hundreds of years before the birth of Christ now almost 2,000 years ago, foretold conditions evident today. It predicts that the Jewish people would not accept Jesus as their Messiah, until his revelation at his second coming! That prophecy has been thoroughly vindicated. Though the Jews claim to put their trust in the Bible, and though it is more widespread in Israel than in any other nation, *they refuse to accept Jesus as Messiah.*

It will be his manifestation as king in Jerusalem that will change the attitude of the Jews in that regard. So Paul taught: "*Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles is come in*" (Romans 11:25). That epoch will terminate

at the coming of Christ. Setting up his rule in Jerusalem, which is described as “the city of the great king” (Matthew 5:35), he will extend his power until eventually all mankind shall be incorporated into his realm.

Whether men recognise him sooner or later, the fact is that Jesus Christ is alive and will come back to earth, with power and decisiveness, to manage affairs in his righteous and wise way.

Three hundred times this fact is attested in the New Testament. If we are going to have any Bible, and any Christian religion at all, we must accept this fact that Christ will come again.

When the Lord departed from the earth, shortly after his resurrection, the record states that the disciples witnessed his ascension (Acts 1:10-11). But then they realised that two angels (messengers of God) were standing by them. These angels addressed the disciples: “*Why stand ye gazing up into heaven? (there was no chance of following him up there!) this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*” (Acts 1:11).

“So come” — literally, physically, personally, bodily. Not merely into men’s hearts, into their thinking, into their doings — but literally Christ is coming into the arena of human affairs, to transform them beyond recognition.

The book of the Acts of the Apostles records a number of speeches made by the early followers of Jesus. They reflect what he had taught them about the kingdom of God during the forty days after his resurrection (Acts 1:3). A speech by Peter in chapter 3 (v. 19) speaks of “*times of refreshing which shall come from the presence of the Lord, and He shall send Jesus Christ, whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets*”. Peter taught that Jesus Christ will fulfil all the predictions of coming power and glory that shall stem from the reign of Israel’s Messiah foretold by Bible prophecy.

Paul, the apostle who was dedicated to preach to Gentiles, once spoke to an audience of learned Greeks in Athens, in the shadow of the Acropolis. In his wanderings just outside the city, he had observed an altar inscribed “TO THE UNKNOWN GOD”.

In his oration, Paul, in effect, said, “Men of Athens, you’re

frightened you might miss one of the gods out of your worship. Well, the One you don't know, is the One I preach to you. He is the only true One. He made all things and He has "*appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness, by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised him from the dead*" (Acts 17:31).

That is the purpose of God as consistently taught throughout the Bible: a purpose that will see removed present political and religious systems to make room for Christ's reign on earth.

The Organisation Of Christ's Reign

In this small booklet we cannot quote all three hundred New Testament passages which speak of the Lord Jesus Christ coming back to earth. Just a few must suffice. Jesus spoke of his return, describing it as a king coming to receive his kingdom (Luke 19:11-27); a bridegroom coming to claim his bride (Matthew 25:1-10); a trader coming to reckon with his officials (Matthew 25:14-30). He promised to raise from the dead all faithful people who, in all ages, had looked for his coming (John 11:25). He specifically mentioned that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would share a table with him in his kingdom (Matthew 8:11) and that all his true disciples in that day shall be like angels possessing visible tangible bodies, immortal, incapable of dying any more (Luke 20:36). To them he will give positions of authority, to guide men into ways of peace and true happiness (Jeremiah 3:15), so that the structure of government in that day will be like this:

(a) **A supreme, benevolent dictator** — Jesus Christ "shall sit upon the throne of his glory" (Matthew 25:31).

(b) **Subordinate rulers** — Those who in all human history have looked for his coming and striven to obey him, then made immortal: "*they shall live and reign with Christ a thousand years*" (Revelation 2:26; 5:9-10; 20:4).

(c) **Mankind in general** — Still mortal, enjoying the benefits of Christ's rule with the possibility of individuals attaining unto immortality in the perfect state to be introduced on earth at the end of Christ's millennial reign: "*He must reign, till he hath 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 [God] that put all things under him, that God may be all in all (1Corinthians 15:23-28).

In this program for the future there is something to which all can aspire. All the idealism of mankind will find its fulfilment in the day when the words of Revelation 11:15, incorporated in Handel's famous oratorio, *The Messiah* are manifested in the earth: "*The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever*".

Just think of the possibilities of this: **You**, then strong and immortal, as one of Christ's associates, assisting in making a clean sweep of present human political and religious organisations, in that day, when "*The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people (unlike human kingdoms after a ruler dies, or after an election) but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever*" (Daniel 2:44).

Here is a clean sweep indeed! Human kingdoms replaced by a divine, when Christ and his immortalised followers shall "*take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever and ever*" (Daniel 7:18). "*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom **under the whole heaven** shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him*" (Daniel 7:27).

The Collapse Of Modern Civilisation

But what sort of a kingdom will it be? What will be the effect of divine infallible government on the lives of people who shall still be mortal, at least for the first 1,000 years after Christ's return? The Bible is full of statements and hints which answer this question.

First we have to remember that the Bible is quite clear that Christ will return at a time of supreme crisis; when the world is heading towards unspeakable chaos. Daniel describes it as "*a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time*" (ch. 12:1), Christ predicted, "*distress of nations with perplexity... men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth*"

(Luke 21:25-26); the book of Revelation states that it will witness international antagonism during which man will possess such powers of destruction as would "destroy the earth" but for the intervention of Christ (Revelation 11:18).

In fulfilment of this, consider the devastating weapons of destruction invented by man. The nuclear missiles possessed by Russia and America alone are capable of wiping out the major cities of the world, causing, in a literal manner the figurative words of Revelation 16:19 to be fulfilled: "*The cities of the nations fall*". Christ's intervention will prevent that. But it will also sweep into the abyss all that man has built up that is antagonistic to the will of God. The proud civilisations of today, so complex, so glittering, so frightening, and so unsatisfying, will utterly collapse.

The opening days of Christ's rule will therefore be a period of reconstruction. Society will be completely reshaped. Out of the ruins of the present order, a new order will come.

The Perfect Ruler

Christ, who once suffered unresistingly in the overcoming of personal sin and evil, will come the second time as a mighty military leader, competent to quash all opposition, and to rule mankind with a "rod of iron" (Revelation 19:15). Perhaps at first this idea is foreign to our thinking. Some may think it too dictatorial. Yet, think further — are not authority and certainty wanted in place of the effete and vacillating efforts of human rulers and priests? The only thing wrong with dictatorship is that mere flesh is not wise enough to exercise it properly and therefore oppresses others who have as much right to justice as their self-appointed rulers.

When the Son of God rules, however, his infallible wisdom will establish his right to dictate and mere man will have no right to argue. He knows best for he is a manifestation of God. And Jesus Christ in character, is perfectly suited to this role. He is not the insipid and effeminate character so often portrayed by orthodox religious writers and artists. When on earth, men trembled before his rebuke: he launched scathing verbal attacks on the religious and political leaders of his day (read Matthew chapter 23), and was bold enough to drive the commercialists out of the temple. Yet he blended such actions with perfect sympathy

for the weak, the erring and the poverty-stricken. He will be altogether the perfect ruler, and, in that day, be accompanied by co-rulers made perfect through his perfection. We can be among them (Revelation 5:10)!

The prophets of the Bible are full of pen-pictures of his rule. Read the words of the prophet Micah 4:1-4. They teach that God's government will be established from the new capital of the world — Jerusalem. That new and positive laws will issue from that centre (not having to go through endless parliamentary discussions). That people will desire to make a pilgrimage to Jerusalem to be instructed by the Lord Jesus and his helpers (*"Come, let us go up to the house of the Lord..."*, is contrasted with the present continuous stream of pleasure-seekers to cinema, theatre, bowling alley, hotel, pokies — or just staying at home killing time in front of the mindless television). That swords will be turned into ploughshares and spears into pruninghooks. That disarmament will occur in earnest; the war offices and nuclear weapons of war — will be all gone for *"neither shall they learn war anymore."* That *"they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid."* A picture of complete and perfect security.

The Law of the Future

This picture is of a world ruled by laws similar to those given by God through Moses to the Hebrews 4,000 years ago. It was a good law for a community; indeed there has never been a better law for humanity. And even though some of its religious ritual will be amended, with the Lord Jesus returned to the earth, its main principles will stand. It will be the basis of the *"law that shall go forth from Jerusalem"* (Isaiah 2:2-4).

This law will be based on the three great pillars: of **God, Family and Land.**

God

The supremacy and wisdom of God, the Creator, will lie at the root of all its enactments. Its object will be to bring man close to God in respectful fellowship and friendship (and surely once you admit the existence of a supreme God there can be nothing more desirable). So there will be laws making provision for worship and instruction in matters to do with religion. No more will there be dozens of conflicting voices. Everyone will know

where they stand in the worship of that day: *“Wait ye upon Me, saith the Lord, until the day that I rise up to the prey; for My determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them Mine indignation, even all My fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy. For then will I turn to the people a pure language that they may call upon the name of the Lord, to serve Him with one consent”* (Zephaniah 3:8-9).

Jerusalem will be the centre of world worship as well as world rule, and to it mankind shall turn for guidance in government and devotion: *“It shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem (at Armageddon) shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of Hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles”* (Zechariah 14:16).

The feast of tabernacles (Leviticus 23:39-44) is to be a joyful open-air harvest festival in which men will recognise that their tables, weighted down with good fare, exhibit the gifts of God.

This will mean an end to all the various versions of christianity and other religions, so that only *one* form of worship, based upon the true revelation of God, will remain. The effect will be to unite all mankind in one common belief, one common outlook, a necessary precursor to the establishment of one world in peace.

Religion, in Christ's kingdom will be no long-faced affair of dark churches, and holy-toned incantations, but altogether a thing of joy. Listen to Jeremiah describing the religious exercises of a regenerated people in that day: *“They shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all. Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow”* (Jeremiah 31:12-13).

Happiness in religion without losing its serious purpose!

First, of course, the clean sweep. Zechariah 13:2-5 describes all the false religions of the Christian, Jewish and Mohammedan persuasions being cleared out of Jerusalem and its suburbs, that

today abounds with shrines and money-making religious sites. This clearing out of false worship will extend to all the world so that *"the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord and His name one"* (Zechariah 14:9).

Family

It is obvious that the breakdown of the family unit in modern society is the root cause of its most disturbing problems. The lack of respect for authority, the aimless wandering of youth without proper guidance, the widespread and increasing juvenile delinquency all contribute to the growing social problems that afflict the modern world. Drug addiction, violence and crime, the lack of "natural affection" all stem from the decline of the family. They describe the state of things predicted in Scripture which warns that the last days would be perilous in the extreme, and would be noted among other trends for *"blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection..."* (2Timothy 3:1-3).

Under the law that Christ will re-establish, the family will form the basis of society. In the family unit the best of education and the highest of enjoyment will be found. Psalm 128 is an idyllic description of what will then be seen throughout the earth: *"Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in His ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel."*

Here is a picture of contentment: of pure enjoyment, of complete family happiness. The modern business man and career girl may shudder at it — but a little thought about the worries and risks of business, and the frustrations of a fading career, soon reveal that God's way is best.

Land

"Every man under his own vine" suggests a pastoral type of life in the age to come. Under Moses, every family had a farm of their own. This provided the basis of life, whatever else they did. When things went well, as they did when they obeyed God, they

were blessed in basket and store. They then lived a life that provided every means of comfort and enjoyment, providing a healthy, happy existence. They were partners with the God who made all things, instead of being remote from Him, as in modern civilization. They found satisfaction in their work well done, so that their lives, their worship and their families were thoroughly integrated. They were whole men and women, untroubled by balance of payments, devaluation, inflation, or import quotas, for God blessed them and they rejoiced in His goodness.

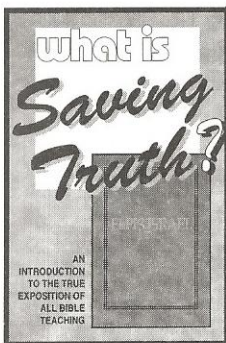
So it will be again when Christ rules on earth. The object will be to give to mortal men and women a proper background against which their minds may expand and their thinking become attuned with the God who made them, that they might reflect His glory.

Isaiah 65:18-25 gives a beautiful picture of that time. It describes what will first happen in Israel, and will then spread to all mankind, for "*Israel shall blossom and bud and fill the face of the world with fruit*" (Isaiah 27:6). Read this scripture and note: • Joy. • Longer life among mortal men — induced by clean healthy living. • Building houses and living in them (contrast the present mortgage problems). • Owning their own lands and "vineyards." • Long enjoying the work of their hands. • No labour in vain. • Peace. • No cruelty, aggression or destruction. And this is but a small specimen of what the Bible says will happen when Christ returns to earth.

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