A period of 1,000 years is coming commonly known as “The Millennium.” It is perhaps better called “The Theocratic World,” which means God-rule. It will be time of peace, love and joy that begins on earth with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (not to be confused with the Rapture of the Church.) The picture to the left has always been one of my favorites, showing a lion and lamb lying down together. (They actually can do that right now; however, you have to change lambs daily.) The Isaiah passage tells of a wolf and lamb and lions eating straw as oxen do (Isa 65).

"While we are amazed beyond measure at the immensity of creation or the far reaches of the Kingdom of God, our amazement turns to wonder as we realize that the earth, one of the smallest of the heavenly bodies, is destined to be the theater to display the mighty works of God. It is here that He chooses to make known the riches of His grace to the utmost bounds of His universal Kingdom."

THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN / EARL MILLER / P 14

WHEN DOES THIS TAKE PLACE?

Here is a time line:

- We believe the next big event in prophecy is THE RAPTURE - the catching away of the followers of Jesus - instantly!
- On this earth for those left behind, the seven year period of THE TRIBULATION, led by Antichrist and the False Prophet
- Those who were raptured will stand before Jesus (I Corinthians 3) at the Judgment Seat of Christ for award determination
- Following that the raptured saints will be taken to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where the church is the Bride and Jesus is the groom
- At the end of seven years, Jesus returns to Earth (just as the angels prophesied in Acts 2 and by John in Rev. 19:11-16) And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. [12] His eyes were as a flame of
fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. [13] And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. [14] And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. [15] And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. [16] And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

The Second Coming of Christ launches the 1,000 year reign of Jesus on this Earth, as clearly taught by Isaiah 65:17-25 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. [18] But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. [19] And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. [20] There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. [21] And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. [22] They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. [23] They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. [24] And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. [25] The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord.

* Note the references to Jerusalem. *This passage reveals some of the most descriptive details known of the Millennium. Such information is given to show that Jerusalem will be the place of rejoicing; no more weeping will be heard within the city. Jerusalem has known much heartache throughout its many centuries. One of its walls is known as “the wailing wall,” waiting for the future restoration of the greatness of Israel. This will be fulfilled during the Millennium.*

REVELATION UNVEILED / Tim Lahaye / Zondervan / pages 343-344

* Did you notice in verse 20 that the “mortal” during the Millennium will once again have long life similar to those in Genesis. We who have returned with Christ will have immortal bodies such as Jesus had upon His divine resurrection and will never die.

* Satan will not be around to tempt or pester for Revelation 20 relates that Satan will
have been chained, bound for the entire 1,000 years, and pitched into Hell.

Jerusalem, the Holy City and World Capital

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah foretold the role of Jerusalem during the Millennium:

Zech. 14:8

And it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem; half of them toward the former sea (Dead Sea), and half of them toward the hinder sea (Mediterranean Sea): in summer and in winter shall it be.

14:16-21

And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. [17] And it shall be, that whoso will not come up of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. [18] And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. [19] This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

[20] In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. [21] Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts.

It is important here that we remember that while Christ's raptured followers, now in eternal bodies, most of the earth's population later in the Millennium will be normal mortal beings. God will test them again and again.

Holiness will be primary! In that day there shall be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD. Even a harness on a horse (or perhaps the VIN # on a vehicle) will be to reflect the service of God. The vessels in the tabernacle were called holy vessels. Why? They were not unusual. I have a notion that after forty years in the wilderness they were beaten and battered, and I think they looked like they had really had it. But they were holy because they were for the service of God. And everything in that day will be for the service of God. Today we are living in a world where practically nothing is used for the service of God.
What a difference there will be among all the nations of the world when Jesus is the King of Kings and the true Lord of Lords!

It is going to be a glorious time when Jesus reigns over all the world. No elections, no polls taken, no political jockeying for position. No, we will be in a THEOCRACY - God rule! And peace will descend upon the earth like a warm, soft blanket.

David's Prophecy

David was not only the great Israelite king of "the golden age" of Israel, a fabulous musician and song writer (the Psalms), but he was also a prophet. In Psalm 2 he prophesied of a time on earth during the Tribulation when the world's leaders have succumbed to atheism and have pledged their powers against the Creator God. They will have turned on Israel like a pack of hungry wolves over a bleeding, torn, calf. We are seeing some of that rabid antisemitism even now:

My friend Mike Evans has recently reported an event in France (for decades now never the friend of Israel and the Jews). Many Jewish people fled their homes in Paris this week, fearing for their very lives as a rampaging protestors burned cars, looted stores and synagogues, and screamed "Gas the Jews!" as they marched through the streets. It was the third such outbreak in the past few days, and it highlighted the hatred toward God's chosen people that is so widespread in Europe and the rest of the world.

This report from Mike is but a microcosm of what is coming as Satan flexes every muscle he has to eliminate God's people.

When the enemies of God become aware that Jesus is returning to Earth they decide to "stop Him." (It reminds me of the famed Eastern Gate in the walls of Jerusalem which was sealed up 500 years ago by a Muslim leader who declared that Messiah WOULD not enter the city through that gate! Can you imagine the God who flung stars into space being flummoxed by 20 feet of cement and rocks? What a joke!) So David wrote what was going to happen: Psalm 2:1-6 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? [2] The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, [3] Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. [4] He that setteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Can you even imagine the skies being filled with a sound that makes a thunderhead weak by comparison? It will be laughing, mocking sound from God at the efforts of puny little men to attempt to stop His Son from making His grand entrance. [5] Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. [6] Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion (Jerusalem). And David warned those enemies: Psalm 2:10-12
Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. [11] Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. [12] Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Can you imagine such effrontery on behalf of pathetic “earthlings” against almighty God? Or can you possibly imagine the skies emitting a sound more shaking than a thousand thunder storms and it’s the derisive, mocking laughter of God Himself? Jesus returns and with a word from His mouth He destroys the last of His opposition, despite men’s muttering and complaining and threats?

King Jesus!

It is hard to comprehend life on Planet Earth when Jesus is in full command. The great Isaac Watts wrote this lyric: (Jesus Shall Reign - 1764-1448)

Jesus shall reign where’er the sun doth his successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.

Behold the islands with their kings and Europe her best tribute brings,
From north to south the princes meet to pay their homage at His feet.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown His head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with every morning sacrifice.

Blessings abound where’er He reigns. The prisoner leaps to loose his chains;
The weary find eternal rest and all the sons of want are blessed.

Let every creature rise and bring all of their honors to our King.
Angels descend with songs again and earth repeat the long Amen.

EARTHLY CONDITIONS HERE WHEN JESUS IS IN FULL CHARGE

1. **There will be peace.** By that we mean there will be a complete cessation of war. All the nations will have but one ruler - Jesus Christ Himself. There will be need for weapons build-up or armies to train. Isaiah 2:4  *And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

2. **The world will know true and lasting joy.** Isaiah 12:3-6  *Therefore with joy shall ye...*
draw water out of the wells of salvation. [4] And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. [5] Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. [6] Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

3. As already mentioned, holiness will be the hallmark of the Millennium. Ezekiel 36:24-31
   For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. [25] Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. [26] A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. [28] And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. [29] I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. [30] And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. [31] Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations.

The word “holy” indicates “health.” The above passage from Ezekiel teaches us that during the 1,000 year reign of Christ, “filthiness” will be abolished. There will be abundant food for all the world under His administration (verse 30).

4. Every human need will be met. (Remember that while we who returned with Christ have resurrected and immortal bodies, millions upon millions will be born during the Millennium who are flesh and blood - mortal. Rev. 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Isaiah 61:3-4 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

5. There will be true justice for the first time. Jeremiah 23:5 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.
Each time I fly into Tel Aviv, Israel, my driver takes me near the place where Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann was hanged for crimes of genocide. His death for millions of innocent Jews and others whose deaths he expedited. Headlines declared, "Justice is served!" Not really. When the King reigns, we will know true justice, not before.

6. We will have unprecedented knowledge. Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 54:13 And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. I have an insatiable curiosity about a lot of things in this life and I read constantly. Some things are difficult for me to grasp - but not in the Millennium!

7. The original curse on creation will be lifted. Genesis 3:17-19 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; [18] Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; [19] In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
For those of us fascinated by animals, it will be such a joy to see that they have lost their ferocity and/or venom in the Millennium. As I have mentioned many times, I plan to have a pet full-sized adult, male, black-maned lion!

8. The human population will soar. Ezekiel 47:22 And it shall come to pass, that ye shall divide it by lot for an inheritance unto you, and to the strangers that sojourn among you, which shall be born among the children of Israel; and they shall be unto you as born in the country among the children of Israel; they shall have inheritance with you among the tribes of Israel.

These “normal” human beings will be born with original sin, as are we, and will have to be redeemed (saved, born again) in order to spend eternity with God. Remember that during all these thousand years, Satan is bound in Hell; but he will be unleashed for a short time following the Millennium so that the humans can make a decision for or against God.

9. We are not going to “loaf” during the Millennium; there will be responsibilities. Jeremiah 31:5 Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat them as common things. Isaiah 65:21-23 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. [22] They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. [23] They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them.

Frankie Laine had a #1 hit song in 1949, “That Lucky Old Sun,” with the yearning lyric to be like “that lucky old sun” who has nothing to do “but roll around Heaven all day.” How incredibly boring that would be! That may be the concept some people have of the Millennium. Not so. We will have responsibilities. With our glorified bodies and minds, and Jesus in control, can you even imagine the accomplishments for His glory?!

10. The Millennium will be a time of unprecedented prosperity on Earth. Joel 2:21-27 Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. [22] Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. [23] Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. [24] And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. [25] And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the
palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. [26] And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. [27] And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Management, labor, and all facets of commerce will thrive for a thousand years.

11. Solar changes by divine intervention. There will be increase of solar and lunar light, which is a probable cause for the increased productivity on Planet Earth during the Millennium. Isaiah 60:19-20 The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. [20] Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

12. No language problems. Zeph. 3:9 For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent. Since the fall of the infamous Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, the multiplicity of languages has been a major communication problem. Genesis 11:6-8 And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. [7] Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. [8] So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

No matter where one travels during the Millennium, language will pose no problem.

13. Everyone will worship the one true God - no exceptions! Isaiah 45:23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. We who have returned with Christ at His second coming to Earth will worship Him freely and joyfully. But the “normal” beings will also worship Him, whether they want to or not. There is no choice. This is why humans will be given the chance to serve God or not at the end of the thousand years.

14. There will be constant enablement by the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel 37:14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.

15. The Millennium will be a foretaste of eternity. Hosea 2:19-23 And I will betroth
thee unto me for ever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. [20] I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord. [21] And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth; [22] And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. [23] And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

The entire book of Hosea is probably the greatest love story ever told among men and women. Hosea, the prophet, was married to a woman, Gomer, who had been a prostitute. She loved Hosea and they had children together. Then Gomer went on an incredible wild streak, prostituting again, and leaving her family behind. Hosea searched far and wide for her and finally found her being sold as a slave, nothing now but an old hag of a woman. Hosea got her back and loved her. It's the story of humanity and a loving God. When we were fallen and hopeless, slaves to Satan and his wiles, God bought us back at horrendous cost - His only begotten Son Jesus. And now we have the promise of His everlasting love for now and eternity.

The Return of King David to Jerusalem

There are a number of Biblical references to this:

- Isaiah 55:3-4  Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David. [4] Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

- Ezekiel 34:23-24  And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. [24] And I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the Lord have spoken it.

- Jeremiah 30:9  But they shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.

Obviously the Old Testament Jeremiah was born long after David died, so he must have been referring to the resurrected and glorified David who would again reign. Not everyone agrees with this. Some scholars say, this is only a “type” referred to here, not the literal David. Others, disagreeing, say that this “David” will be a relative of King David. To me, it so much more logical that the Bible means what it says and this will be
the historical David, resurrected by God, as we have been.

There will also be many lesser authorities involved in governance positions during the Millennium. Isaiah 32:1 Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

Israel will be the focal point of all nations. Amos 9:14-15 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. [15] And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord thy God. Zeph. 3:20 At that time will I bring you again, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

Jerusalem will be the center - not Washington, D.C., or Moscow, or London. Isaiah 2:2-4 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. [3] And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. [4] And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

More on the Millennium when we meet again next week.