

The Population of the Millennium

By Robert I. Adams

Who is going to populate the world in the coming kingdom that Christ will set up on earth when He returns? Several Bible passages give us insight into the answer. Let's start with Zechariah 14, which tells us about events that surround the return of Christ. Here, the Lord says:

"I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city. Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. In that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley . . . Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him! . . . And in that day living waters will flow out of Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and the other half toward the western sea; it will be in summer as well as in winter. And the Lord will be king over all the earth. . . . Then it will come about that any who are *left of all the nations* that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths." (Zech. 14:2-5, 8-9, 16)

This passage tells us there will be people who are "left of all the nations" when Christ has returned. They will consist of those who survive the manifestation of God's wrath at the time of the return of Christ.

Jesus also tells about people from all the nations who are still alive when He comes back. In Matthew 25, we read:

"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. *All the nations* will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these *brothers* of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" (Matt. 25:31-40)

In this passage, Jesus says that He will judge those who are left of all the nations according to how they treated His "brothers." But who are Christ's brothers? Thirteen chapters earlier, Jesus said, "Whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he

is My brother" (Matt. 12:50). Christ's brothers are therefore those who do the will of God. The apostle John wrote to believers in Christ, "The one who does the will of God lives forever" (1 John 2:17). Christ's brothers are therefore those who believe in Him and do the will of God. Thus, those who are left of all the nations will be judged according to how they treated the believers. Those who treated them well will be reckoned by Christ to be worthy of entering the kingdom He sets up on earth. Apparently, they enter as they are, that is, as mortals.

Notice what Jesus says in the passage above to those He allows into His kingdom when He returns: "I was thirsty, and you gave Me something *to drink*; I was a stranger, and you *invited Me in*" (Matt. 25:35). Fifteen chapters earlier, Jesus said, "He who *receives* a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water *to drink*, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward" (Matt. 10:41, 42). Jesus was talking about people who are not His followers, but who receive His followers and supply their needs, and thereby get a righteous man's reward!

From what we have looked at, we can perceive that at the return of Christ, the survivors of the nations who have helped the people of God in the time of tribulation will be allowed into the kingdom Christ is going to set up on earth. This presupposes, of course, that they have not taken the mark of the beast, because those who do will be subject to the wrath of God (cf. Rev. 14:9-11).

As for the believers, we read in Revelation 5:10 that they "shall reign on the earth." And Jesus says in Revelation 2:26, "He who overcomes, and he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." Jesus is saying here that in the kingdom He will set up on earth at His return, the believers will reign over the people of the nations who are still mortals. When Jesus returns, the believers will be glorified and resurrected (1 Cor. 15:22-23, 50-52). In this way, they will be able to reign during the entire Millennium (Rev. 20:6). The interaction of glorified believers with mortals in the kingdom should not pose any problem when we consider the fact that the resurrected Jesus interacted with his disciples for more than 5 weeks before His ascension. Acts 1:3 says of Christ that He "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them [the apostles] during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Scripture informs us that mortals in the Millennium will eventually die. Isaiah prophesied of this time:

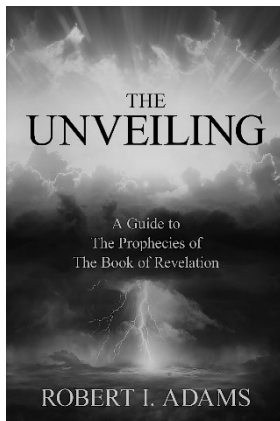
"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; for the child shall die one hundred years old, but the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed." (Is. 65:20)

In line with Isaiah's prophecy, the apostle Paul indicated that death will still be a reality even after Jesus has returned and is reigning on the earth. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:23 of "Christ at His coming," and in verses 25 & 26 he continued by saying, "He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be

destroyed is death." When this is read in conjunction with Revelation 20 and 21, we learn that death will not be eliminated until after the Millennium at the time of the final judgment. Revelation 21:4 states that from then on "there shall be no more death."

In conclusion, we see from the Bible that the population of the earth in the Millennium will consist of mortals of the nations who will be reigned over by glorified believers.

For more insight concerning the end time, you are welcome to view a book/eBook I have written entitled "THE UNVEILING – A Guide to the Prophecies of the Book of Revelation"



This publication shows what the last book of the Bible says about the world in the end time, the return of Jesus, and the coming kingdom of God. An oversight of the book of Revelation is provided, together with a viable chronology, as well as a detailed commentary on every verse.

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