

What Will the Millennium Be Like?

Will the Millennium be a time of chaos and emptiness, with no life on earth? Or will the earth become a utopian paradise? What will the earth be like when Christ comes, and after He Returns?

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The Seventh-Day Adventists say the earth will be in chaos and void of life after Christ returns for one thousand years. However, that is a gross error. Ellen G. White was sadly mistaken in her belief and teaching on the millennium.

What does the Bible say about the Millennium?

The word “millennium” is not found in the Bible, but it means “one thousand years.” What will the earth be like for a thousand years after Christ arrives to judge mankind? The Scriptures are actually quite clear on this subject.

According to the prophets Micah and Isaiah, the millennium will be a time of unfettered joy and peace, where the nations will dwell in peace and safety, and the law of God will go forth from Jerusalem. “And it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains [over the nations], and shall be exalted above the hills [smaller nations]; and peoples shall flow to it. MANY NATIONS shall come and say, ‘Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.’ For out of Zion the LAW shall go forth, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1-4; see also Isaiah 2:1-4).

The Book of Revelation

At that time, the apostle John writes in the book of Revelation, the earth will be ruled by Christ and the resurrected saints, who will serve Him as kings and priests around the world. John declares, “You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall *reign on the earth*” (Rev.5:9-10).

To the church of God in Thyatira, Christ says, “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give *power over the nations*—‘He shall rule

them with a rod of iron; they shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels'—as I also have received from My Father; and I will give him the morning star” (Rev.2:26-28).

Does this sound like a desolate earth?

John also says in Revelation, “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and REIGNED WITH CHRIST *FOR A THOUSAND YEARS*” – which is the “MILLENNIUM” (Rev.20:4).

It seems very plain that the earth will not be a desolation for a thousand years after Christ returns! It will be filled with nations, peoples, and cities!

Old Testament Prophecies

Christ will rule the whole world and every nation will serve and obey Him. Says the prophet Zechariah, “Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. . . . Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the SAINTS with You” (Zech.14:3-5).

“And in that day it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half of them toward the eastern sea and half of them toward the western sea; in both summer and winter it shall occur. And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be—‘The LORD is one,’ and His name one” (Zech.14:8-9).

What will the earth be like, then? Zechariah continues, “All the land shall be turned into a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be raised up and inhabited in her place from Benjamin's Gate to the place of the First Gate and the Corner Gate, and from the Tower of Hananel to the king's winepresses. *The people shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited*” (Zech.14:10-11).

Clearly, the earth will not be in utter destruction. Jerusalem will be safely populated and prospered.

At that time, there will be many nations left on the earth. Zechariah records, “And it shall come to pass that EVERYONE WHO IS LEFT of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. And it shall be that whichever of the families of the earth do not come up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, on them there will be no rain. If the family of Egypt will not come up and enter in, they shall have no rain; they shall receive the plague with which the LORD strikes the NATIONS who do not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles” (Zech.14:16-19).

Plainly, all the nations will come up to Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Tabernacles, after Christ returns to set up His Kingdom – or else they will be plagued with drought and disease plagues. Needless to say, they will soon learn their lesson!

A Millennial View

What will the earth be like at that time?

Isaiah tells us, “The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God” (Isaiah 35:1-2).

The prophet continues: “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing, for waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes.

“A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isa.35:5-10).

At that time the world will become a pastoral paradise.

Says Isaiah the prophet, that will be a time when, “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them” (Isai.11:6). He adds, “The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play on the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain [kingdom], for the EARTH WILL BE FULL OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD as the waters cover the sea*” (Isaiah 11:7-9).

Blindness

How anybody could read these prophetic Scriptures, and conclude that the earth will be desolate – a smoking ruin – for a thousand years, after Christ returns, is simply too preposterous to believe.

Ellen G. White taught that the earth will be desolate and empty for 1,000 years. She was wrong. She misinterpreted a verse in Isaiah 24 where God says “Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned” (verse 6). There, she ended the verse. And she said the earth would be desolate and empty for 1,000 years, with no human occupation.

But she ignored the last part of the verse! The verse goes on, and says: “Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, AND FEW MEN ARE LEFT.” She left out the words, “*and few men are left*”!!!

In other words, the earth would NOT be emptied completely. Millions, and billions will die, when the world fights against Christ when He comes in the power of His glory. When the sixth trumpet sounds, “a third of mankind” will be killed (Rev.9:15). That would be over two billion people, today!

That is a lot of people – yes – but not everybody!

Population Deplosion

How many people will survive on into the Millennial age?

Isaiah and Amos both seem to indicate that a tenth of the world’s population will be spared, and they will repopulate the earth, at that time. Amos says, “For thus saith the Lord GOD; The city that went out by a thousand shall leave an hundred, and that which went forth by an hundred shall leave ten, to the house of Israel” (Amos 5:3).

Isaiah declared, “Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, and the LORD have removed men *FAR AWAY*, and there be a great forsaking in the midst of the land. But yet it shall be a *TENTH*, and it shall return . . .” (Isaiah 6:11-13).

The earth today has some seven billion people inhabiting it. When God’s judgment and fury are past, the indication is that one tenth – about 700,000,000 people will be left alive, around the world, and these are the people who shall be spared, and who will repent of their sins, and turn to God, and they will comprise the human nations of the earth who will be ruled over by the returning Christ and His resurrected saints.

I have nothing against Ellen G. White. I consider her as most likely a sister in Christ, and Seventh Day Adventists to be brethren in the Lord. But she was not correct in her view of the Millennium! And Adventists today are still blinded by the same myopic blindness because they accept her teachings on the subject without bothering to check up and “prove all things,” as the apostle Paul tells us to do (I Thess.5:21).

What about you?