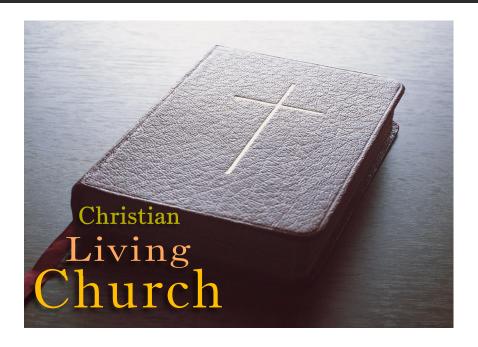
"Many people shall come and say, Come, let us go up into the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths. For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore."





This series of lessons has been designed for private study or classroom presentation. The purpose of this foreword is to explain certain conventions utilized throughout the program. The overall concept is to begin with the basic concepts necessary for the new convert to understand and progress toward more complex doctrine. The lessons are numbered in order to maintain the proper sequence of study.

When Scripture references are encountered in the text, various actions are recommended. When in parenthetical bold (Genesis 1:1) the verse is to be looked up and read right away. Frequently, the next textual statement will comment on that verse. Reading verse and text in proper order will enhance one's understanding of the verse. Direct quotes from Scripture will be "bold italicized and contained in quotation marks" and, unless otherwise noted, will be from the King James Bible. When the reference is in parenthetical non-bold (Genesis 1:1) it is to provide the Scriptural basis for the statement if confirmation is desired. References in blue Genesis 1:1 will be listed in the lesson section entitled FURTHER STUDY.

FURTHER STUDY is the "homework" section. Its purpose is to encourage Bible study at home. The referenced verses have a short summation to assist the student desiring more knowledge about a subject to find what they are looking for.

The DISCUSSION QUESTIONS section is primarily for classroom use. Open discussion with the exchange of ideas produces growth for all involved. Most of the time the answer is contained in the referenced Scripture but sometimes the question is offered for open discussion. Even in private Bible study, analysis of the question and the search for its answer can be rewarding.

This work is offered to anyone with a desire to better understand God's Word. It is our hope and prayer that the person studying these lessons will come away with a better understanding of God's will and a closer walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With Loving Concern for all those seeking God's Message The Church of God Rocky Mount Rocky Mount, Virginia

Key Verse: Isaiah 2:3-4 (NLT)



"Many people shall come and say, Come, let us go up into 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 shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore."

Discussion Question: What does this Key Verse mean to you?

"millennium" The word means a period of one thousand years. It might even surprise some to find out that the term millennium or The Millennium is not found in most Bibles, however, there are several verses that mention a time period of one thousand years and many more verses that can only apply to this time period. The first verse to mention this specific time period is Revelation 20:1-3: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bot-

tomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season," From these verses we find a wonderful thing has happened! Satan, the "god" of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) who has deceived the whole world (Revelation 12:9), will no longer be able to influence this world with his lies, doubts, and half-truths. His evil influence will be put on hold for one



thousand years! For the first time since the fall of man, in the garden of Eden, approximately six thousand years ago, the world will be able to get the truth straight from Jesus Christ Himself without any being or spirit to interfere with or distort God's Truths. Continue on in Revelation 20:4-6 and we see the first resurrection taking place and the saints ruling with Christ for the whole one thousand year period. Those who overcome the world and remain obedient to the end will have the power to rule nations with a rod of iron (Revelation 2:26-27). This will all take place on the Earth (Revelation 5:10). Jesus, when talking to the disciples about the last days before His return, said in Matthew 24:22, "And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Jesus returns to the Earth to set up His Kingdom just before mankind destroys himself. For more study material about the Kingdom of God and where it will be, ask for our Bible study on "Heaven and the Kingdom of God."

The Millennium is the first step in establishing God's Kingdom or the Kingdom of Heaven here on this Earth (Daniel 2:44; 7:22). From our Key Verse we see the following: God's Kingdom is established, nations flow to it to learn God's ways, God's law is still in effect, and nations learn war no more. These verses, along with others, show that there will still be some people





left alive here on Earth when Jesus returns. When the Millennium begins, there will be Jesus Christ, our King, the saints who will rule with Him, and the nations or people that are left alive after the terrible tribulation. If only five percent of the world's current population were left alive, that would still be a large number of people. Let's look at additional verses to see what this thousand year period of time will be like without Satan's influence and Jesus Christ as King. It will be a time of justice, even for the meek and the poor (Isaiah 11:4-9). Verses 6-9 tell us that the animals will be at peace with man and each other, just like it was in the Garden of Eden. The deaf and the blind (physically and spiritually) will hear and see again (Isaiah The Earth will be 29:18). changed and the lame will leap (Isaiah 35:1, 6). It will be a time of rich increase (Joel 3:18). A time for the whole

world to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zechariah 14:16), and also punishment for those that won't (Zechariah 14:17-19). The Earth will one day be filled with the knowledge of glory of the Lord (Habakkuk 2:14) and the Good News is that you can take part in teaching and ruling with Christ during the Millennium if you are in the first resurrection (Revelation 5:10). God is not calling people so that they can retire in heaven and just float around on the clouds. No, He wants you to help in His Kingdom during the Millennium. He is willing to give you a new body with God-Like powers and knowledge to help change this world into a paradise. He wants us to teach and demonstrate to others the way of love, true peace, and happiness. However, there is something standing in the way of most people from accepting this offer from God. It's called sin. Our sins are



made worse and hidden from our own eyes by Satan, the master deceiver. Some people won't accept God's offer in this life. God won't call some people until after Satan has been locked away during the Millennium, but maybe you are one that will heed God's call now and will get to serve in the Millennium and to take part in the first resurrection, the better resurrection.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. Is the Millennium a time of restoration? **Isaiah 65:17; Acts 3:20-21**
- 2. Will houses be built and vineyards planted during this age? **Isaiah 65:21**
- 3. Will they build and another inhabit, and will they enjoy the work of their own hands? **Isaiah 65:22**
- 4. What will happen to the wilderness and desert areas of this Earth? Isaiah 51:3; Ezekiel 36:35
- 5. Will there be a time period of one hundred years for a flesh and blood person to come to salvation and repent of their sins? **Isaiah 65:20**



FURTHER STUDY:

Psalm 67:4 You shall judge the people and govern the nations upon Earth.

Psalm 96:13 The LORD comes to judge the Earth.

Psalm 97:1-2 Let the Earth rejoice because the LORD reigns.

Psalm 98:9 The LORD comes to judge the Earth.

Isaiah 65:24-25 The wolf and the lamb shall feed together.

Micah 4:1-8 Every man shall sit under his vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid.

Hebrews 11:35 The better resurrection.

Revelation 5:10 We shall be priests and kings.

Revelation 20:4-6 Blessed and holy is the one that is in the first resurrection, for on such the second death has no power.

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