

The Bible teaches there will be a literal one-thousand-year reign of the Messiah on Earth and that it will commence directly after Christ's Second Advent. This will be a time when our planet will be restored to its original state before the Fall.

There are more prophecies in the Bible about the Messianic Kingdom than any other theme in prophecy. One of the clearest Old Testament descriptions comes from the Book of Isaiah. The Prophet writes:

They shall build houses and inhabit them, they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit, they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord – and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain says the Lord.

(Isaiah 65:21-25)

The Prophet Micah tells us there will be no more wars and that God's righteous Laws will go out to all the nations from the City of Jerusalem:

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

(Micah 4:3-4)

In the Book of Numbers the Lord says to Moses, "all the earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord." This theme is taken up again by Habakkuk, where he speaks of a time when "the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."

In the very last chapter of Zechariah we are told of a time when the Lord "will become King over the whole earth," and that even the common things of life will be holy, and all advertisements will promote and encourage people to godliness and purity.

Can we honestly say there has ever been such a time in history indicated in the prophecies above? And can we honestly say, in light of current events, there is likely to be in the near future?

The text quoted above from Isaiah says that even the animal kingdom and all of nature will be at peace and live in harmony during the Millennium Reign. The Apostle Paul takes Isaiah's words literally and tells us when this prophecy will be fulfilled. In his Letter to the Romans he writes:

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

(Romans 8:22-24)

Paul says that the restoration of all Creation will follow the bodily resurrection of the sons of God, and Scripture clearly teaches that this will happen at the Second Coming. "But each in his own order; Christ the first-fruits; then at his coming those who belong to Christ."

Notice also from Zechariah quoted above that these things happen after the Second Advent, when Jesus' feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives.

Finally, Messiah Himself clearly states that the full realization of His Kingdom comes only after His return, when He says in Luke twenty-one, "when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near."