

Post-Exile Prophets
A WORLD TURNED RIGHT-SIDE UP

Friday, September 26
Reading: Revelation 20:1-6

Revelation 20:6 *Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

Zechariah gives us a few details about the reign of the Messiah from Jerusalem. But the Scriptures are full of snapshots of this time when Jesus will turn the upside-down world right-side up! We call this time the Millennium after the Latin word for 1000. Revelation 20 says the reign of Messiah on earth will be for 1000 years. During this time, Satan will be bound and Jesus will physically rule from Jerusalem.

One of the main purposes of this time is to fulfill God's promises to the nation of Israel. God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation and that his descendants would inherit the land from the Mediterranean Sea to the Euphrates River. Israel has never been a major world power and they have never possessed the full extent of the land God had promised. But during the reign of Messiah, they will!

The Old Testament gives us even more details about this 'golden age' at the end of human history. It will be a time of PERFECT PEACE:

Micah 4:2-3 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. (also Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:10; Zechariah 9:10)

PERFECT JOY:

Zephaniah 3:14-17 Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away your punishment, He has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in His love He will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing (see also Isaiah 35:10; 55:12; 65:19)

PERFECT JUSTICE:

Isaiah 11:3-5, 9 He will not judge by what He sees with His eyes, or decide by what He hears with His ears; but with righteousness He will judge the needy, with justice He will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth; with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be His belt and faithfulness the sash around His waist.

This is just a small taste of what this world was meant to be like. It will occur when Jesus rules from the throne in Jerusalem. It should make us pray all the more earnestly: "Your kingdom come!" The apostle Peter reminds us to "look forward to the day of God and speed its coming" (2 Peter 3:12). We do this by living holy and godly lives (3:10-14).