DREAMING ABOUT THE WORLD TOMORROW









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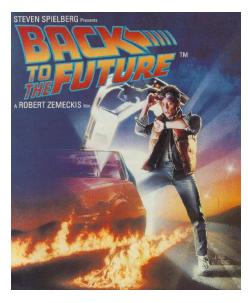
Mr Herbert W. Armstrong once wrote these words, "You don't have to believe it. It will happen regardless. It is sure - the world's only sure hope. This advance good news of tomorrow is as certain as the rising of tomorrow's sun. Humanity won't bring it about - it is going to be done to us. Humanity is going to be forced to enjoy world peace - to see universal abundance and joy fill the earth."

Those are the opening words of Mr Armstrong's book "The Wonderful World Tomorrow - What Will It Be Like?" introducing one of the most fundamental doctrines of God's church - the return of Jesus Christ to rule all nations and the setting up of God's Kingdom on this planet earth or the World Tomorrow as we like to call it.

I'd like to ask you a question. Do you look forward to and dream about the World Tomorrow or has the world and all the hassles of life in general dulled you so much that the World Tomorrow to you is just another church cliche?

The purpose of this article is to help paint for you as graphic a picture of the World Tomorrow as possible and to encourage you to dream more about it as we go through life.

In Proverbs 29:18 we read, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (KJV) and that holds very true for the World Tomorrow. So with that in mind let's jump into our imaginary time machine and visualize what the Wonderful World Tomorrow will be like.



What Will the Earth Look Like?

As we hover over the surface of the earth we notice that it's been dramatically changed. Many mountains have been brought low. Many areas now covered by oceans are dry land. Deserts and polar ice caps have become fertile and habitable. The surface of the planet has received an incredible face-lift.

And then God will need thousands to be pioneers. Have you ever envied the pioneers of yesteryear like Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo or Captain Cook just to name a few? Well, the achievements of the pioneers of tomorrow, you and me, who are being trained today will pale into insignificance anything accomplished in past ages.



Farmland will have to be opened in new areas where no man has set foot. With Christ's guidance beautiful cities are going to be built that will boggle the mind of today's architects and town planners. This is how Mr Armstrong describes this wonderful facelift:

Today - the greatest and most awesome problem of all is the population explosion. Growing populations in all nations are rapidly outstripping the ability of the world to sustain them. And the areas of the greatest rise in population are the underdeveloped parts of the world - the "have-not" nations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and superstition. Remember, not more than 10 percent of the earth's surface is tillable, or arable, land. And now the latest U.N. figures indicate the world will double in population in just 34 short years.

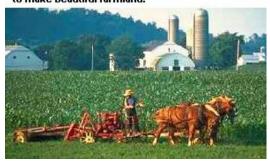
The daily, ominous pressure of people is one of the truly incomprehensible problems today. But God has the solution, and how simple it is. Simply make most of the earth cultivatable. Reduce the bare, snow-swept and craggy mountains, raise up some of the deep, arid desert valleys, change the world weather patterns. Make all the deserts green and fertile. Open up huge slices of the earth, like the Kalahari Desert, the Lake Chad basin and the Sahara in Africa, the Gobi Desert in Asia, and the great American deserts. Make green and verdant the vast wastes of Mongolia, Siberia, Saudi Arabia and many of the Western states in the U.S.

Thaw out the deep ice packs and snowdrifts, the permafrost and tundra from the vast, almost limitless expanses of Antarctica, North America, Greenland, Northern Europe and Siberia. Make level the awesome Pamir Knot, the huge giants of the Himalayas, the Atlas, Taurus, Pyrenees, Rockies, Sierras and Hindu Kush - level the immense sweep of the Andes, and all the other forbidding, towering, virtually uninhabitable mountains of earth. Then, provide good, gentle rainfall, in right balance, just at the right season. And what happens? Multiple millions of acres of unbelievably fertile, productive, wonderful farmland suddenly become available - just waiting to be discovered, and pioneered.

Impossible? In the hands of man - certainly. But look what God promises. 'Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the [Eternal], and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the [Eternal], and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.



Mountains to be brought low, Deserts made fertile, Polar caps melted and land under the sea reclaimed to make beautiful farmland.



"When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the [Eternal] will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains [artesian wells] in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah [acacia] tree, and the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree [cypress] together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the [Eternal] hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it." (Isaiah 41:14-20) (The Wonderful World Tomorrow – What It Will Be Like, p.69-70).

How much different would the map of the world look like in the World Tomorrow. What would happen if God reclaims a vast amount of land that is covered by the immense oceans of the

world (Isaiah 11:15, 60:5)? What if instead of only 29% of the earth's surface being dry land, 60% of the earth's surface was land? Say, put three or four continents the size of Australia in the Pacific and another one or two in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans?

What if Antarctica was thawed out and we could plant forests and fertile plains all over it? What would it be like to open up the Artesian Basin underneath the deserts of Australia and turn those deserts into beautiful rich farmland?

What kind of landscapes would you like to create on those extra continents in the Pacific or Atlantic? I absolutely adored Switzerland when I visited there – the snow-capped Alps, beautiful lakes and old world villages were absolutely beautiful. There's plenty of other wonderful landscapes and beautiful coastlines that I'd like to duplicate if I had the chance to create them.



An End to War



In the World Tomorrow there will be no war. The war machines of Russia, America, the Arabs and all nations will be dismantled. The awful atrocities of conflicts in places like the Middle East, Northern Ireland, East Timor and Rwanda will be no more. Leaders have sent countless young men to their deaths to fight in wars all throughout history leaving countless widows in their wake. In the World Tomorrow war will no longer consume the strength of young men.

Can you imagine a world where words like tank, battleship, bomb, warhead and holocaust are only in the vocabulary of historians? Can you imagine what kind of economy could exist if not one penny was spent on defence and the greatest minds were devoted to efforts of peace, not war?

Notice what the prophet Isaiah wrote about the world soon to come: "Many people 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 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" (Isaiah 2:3-4).



No More Poverty and Starvation

Millions of starving people in Africa and Asia will know the abundance that we have enjoyed in our Western nations. Once they are re-educated in God's principles of agriculture and they have beautiful farmland and rain in due season (Deuteronomy 28:12) they will be able to feed

themselves well. The quality of food in our Western nations will dramatically improve when farmers and food producers follow God's laws when it comes to agriculture and food production. In Amos 9:13 we read, "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, 'when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed."

I've been sponsoring children through Worldvision since 1987. Once a community they are working with is completely self-sufficient they move to another area and assign you with a different child. In total I've sponsored about five children in that time and every now and then I receive reports on how their community is going as well as letters from the children themselves who have been from different countries all over southern Africa. I take my hat off to those dedicated organizations who try to make some small difference in the lives of these children and the communities that they live in.

For all their efforts the overall amount of poverty, disease and starvation in these areas continues to grow because of a number of factors such as civil war, corrupt leaders, a lack of basic hygeine, sexual immorality, land clearing and breaking other sound principles of agriculture.

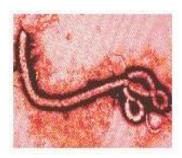
There's just so much starvation and wouldn't it great to have an active part in turning that completely around. That will be the job for many of us in the World Tomorrow – to go into these countries like organizations like Worldvision are doing, provide for and re-educate them.

Just as God did with Israel, we will teach them basic laws of hygeine, health, sexual chastity and agriculture as well as how to live peaceably with others. Africa, along with many other places, needs a good dose of basic old covenant laws to help it to heal and rid it of its diseases and poverty.



An End to Sickness and Disease

In the World Tomorrow sickness and disease will be no more. "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" (Isaiah 35:5-6).



I don't know about you but there are times when I see people on the street who are suffering with things like a completely hunched over back, who are blind or deaf or whatever where I dearly wish I could touch them and heal them like Christ and the apostles did in early New Testament times. In the World Tomorrow we will have that power to completely change their lives by healing them of those sort of terrible afflictions. Can you imagine being able to empty out hospitals and cure all those in mental institutions?

No More Natural Disasters and Environmental Pollution

Natural disasters will be a thing of the past. Can you imagine a world where hurricanes never blow ashore and tornados never touch down? Where earthquakes never occur? Can you believe a world where drought need never affect a crop? Where hunger is unheard of? Where floods never destroy homes? Where rain falls in due season? Where food supplies are more than adequate to support the population of the entire world?





Air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution will all be gone. Crystal pure water to drink; clean, crisp, pure air to breathe; rich black soil where deserts, mountains and seas formerly were, producing full-flavoured foods, and fantastic beauty in flowers, shrubs, trees.

The End of Crime

In the World Tomorrow there will be no more crime. Just think how wonderful the World Tomorrow will be when all this world's sufferings and evils will be no more.

Turn on the six o'clock news and what do you see – bad news after bad news – violent murders, rapes and child abuse, terrible accidents, corruption at the highest levels of government. Won't it be wonderful when that will all be something of the past and there will only be good news on the news hour.



Imagine getting rid of the drug problems that plague our nations and stopping the drug lords of Columbia and other places. What about getting rid of the pornographic industry, cleaning up Hollywood and the movie industry where there's no more movies that come out with gratuitous sex and violence and getting rid of all the violent video games that sadly so many of our young kids are hooked on?

Can you imagine what the world would be like if every one lived by the Ten Commandments? Here's a few quotes from the CGI's Ten Commandments booklet that tells us what it would be like:

Since the family is the very building block of civilization, the cornerstone of society, obedience to this commandment would virtually eradicate a monstrous amount of evil! Divorce, abandonments, desertions, family feuds and fights, parents murdering their children, children murdering their parents, husbands and wives engaged in stabbings and shootouts, juvenile delinquency and violence, teenage drug abuse, venereal disease, illegitimacy, runaways, the incalculable, multibillion-dollar waste and the tragedy of millions of shattered lives as a direct result of breaking the Fifth Commandment would be gone—erased—from the face of our nations!

The Fifth Commandment, if obeyed, would bring fabulous economic blessings; a stable, Godfearing, virtually crime-free society, and incalculable blessings from Almighty God! (p.52-53)"...

Ponder the question: 'What would our Western civilisations be like if everyone kept this Seventh Commandment?'

First, no divorce! No desertions, runaways or abandonments. No wife abuse. Families would be held together as tight-knit social units, the very building blocks of civilization. With such solid family units, all of society would greatly benefit! Productivity, physical and mental health, vibrant economies, an absence of sickness, disease and death; the list would go on and on. The great blessings which would come upon any nation keeping even one of the Ten Commandments of God are incalculable (p.60-65)...

Again, let your mind imagine what the world would be like if everyone were perfectly honest. What if there were no locks, keys, security devices, armed guards?

Why, the nations could do away with prisons and jails, reform schools and detention homes; all police and law enforcement agencies could be disbanded. Countless billions of dollars in lost labor, goods and services could be saved. Society would be a happy, safe place to live! What a righteous command! 'Thou shalt not steal!' (p.67-71)...

Can your mind envision what a world it would be if only the truth were spoken by government, industry, business, the medical profession, the military, among and between nations, races and most especially by religion? Obedience to this one command only would revolutionize all of civilisation as we know it! (p.76-78).

What kind of headlines will we read in the papers of the World Tomorrow. Mr Armstrong offers us a few possibilities in his book "The Wonderful World Tomorrow – What Will It Be Like?":

When the Supreme Ruler, Jesus Christ, comes again to earth...these might be the headlines you will read in the newspaper of the future:

Crime Rate Drops to Zero. No Wars During This Year. Former Soldiers Being Rapidly Assimilated into Food Production and New Industries.

"Disease Epidemics Disappear. Millions Have Been Supernaturally Healed of Sickness and Disease. All Vaccines and 'Shots' Banned. Causes of Cancer, Heart Attacks, Other Fatal Diseases Revealed. Authorities Predict All Such Diseases to Disappear, by Avoiding Causes, Within Coming Year.

Thousands of Hospital Properties Up for Sale. Sensational Decline in Sickness and Disease Releases Increasing Hundreds of Thousands of Doctors, Nurses, Attendants and Staff Personnel for Happier and More Useful Occupations. Knowledge of Causes Reduces Sickness and Disease. Thousands of Afflicted Now Being Divinely Healed.

Rapid Increase in Food Production. All Records Broken for Increased Food Production. Agricultural authorities Reveal Abolition of Artificial and Synthetic Fertilizers, and Return to Nature's Laws of Soil Enrichment Resulting Not Only in Bumper Crops, but Vastly Improved Quality and Flavor (p.26-27)"

All Mankind will have their Eyes Opened to God's Truth

No one will be deceived - as the vast majority of mankind is today. All will know the truth. No more religious confusion. No more Hinduism, Islam, tribal religions of Afica, America and the aborigines of Australia or Roman Catholicism. All arguments over religion will cease! Eyes will be opened to the truth.

Let's look at a couple of very inspiring scriptures that show how wonderful this will be in the World Tomorrow. Jeremiah 31:34 says, "No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

In Isaiah 11:9 God says, "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."

Satan for the first time in man's history will be banished (Revelation 20:1-3) and God's wonderful way of life will fill the earth like the waters fill the seas because of our teaching. Imagine the wonderful community spirit with God's help we'll be able to help produce. There won't be any generation gaps.



Can you imagine everyone in your neighbourhood being a part of the church? Can you imagine being able to strike up a conversation with people on the morning bus or train as easily as you would at church?

For those of us who qualify for the first or better resurrection (Hebrews 11:35) there are a number of verses that describe our role will be during the World Tomorrow. Let's look at a few of those.

In Isaiah 1:26 we read, "I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city." We will be judges resolving disputes between people with the perfect wisdom of God and helping healing rifts between people. We are also described as being counsellors. People are going to come out of the great tribulation with real problems and we will be there to counsel and help them resolve those problems with genuine concern and help them to live a positive, joyful life.



In Isaiah 30:20-21 we read, "And though the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left." We are described here as teachers. We will teach God's way of outgoing concern to all people.

Ron Kelly in a sermon he gave on what it would be like to be a God being added a bit of a humourous touch to this verse. Imagine some teenager trying to break into a car and take it for a bit of a joyride. You'll be able to read his thoughts before he even attempts to do it and be able to come up right behind him invisible to his sight. Imagine him looking around making sure nobody's around and about to break into the car. Suddenly you yell in his ear "Don't do that!" Scare the living daylights out of him and then you'll add, "This is the way, walk you in it."

In Isaiah 32:1 we read, "Behold, a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice." Jesus Christ is called the King of Kings and Lord of Lords in Revelation 19:16. We will be lesser kings under the great King, Jesus Christ. Our children who are not old enough to be baptized at the time Christ returns will be princes and have the responsibility like royal princes to be examples to the people of the right way to live in the World Tomorrow.

In Isaiah 49:22-23 we read, "Thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I will lift My hand in an oath to the nations, and set up My standard for the peoples; they shall bring your sons in *their* arms, and your daughters shall be carried on *their* shoulders; Kings shall be your foster fathers, and their queens your nursing mothers." Undoubtedly there will be a great number of orphans at the end of the great tribulation. We, as the kings and queens, will be their foster fathers and mothers caring for them personally as they grow up and eventually start new families of their own.



In his book Jeremiah wrote, "And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding (Jeremiah 3:15)...'But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,' says the LORD (Jeremiah 23:3-4)".

Here our job is described as being pastors or shepherds like our ministry who feed the church today. The job of a shepherd is to feed, tend and protect those sheep under one's control.

We read in Obadiah 21 that, "Then saviors shall come to Mount Zion to judge the mountains of Esau, and the kingdom shall be the LORD's." You'll notice that the word saviours is plural. Under Christ's guidance we will help save this world from itself when Christ comes to judge the nations.

In the millennium Micah tells us that "everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make *them* afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his <u>god</u>, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever" (Micah 4:4-5). The verse implies that in that time they will follow our lead as God beings as we follow God the Father and Jesus Christ.

In Revelation 5:10 we are called kings and priests. What would it be like to be a king and live like one? As kings though, our main job will be to help guide and administer how our 5 or 10 cities or whatever (Luke 19:1-26) we are over will be governed. We will also be priests teaching God's laws of love and concern for others to all those we will be over.

The Restoration of Israel

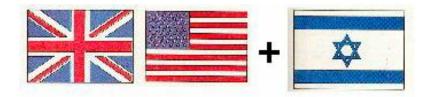
In the booklet "America and Britain in Prophecy" Raymond McNair describes what will happen to our Israelite nations soon after Christ returns to earth:

Notice what Isaiah prophesied: 'It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria [Greater Germany] and Egypt...and the islands of the sea [British Isles, New Zealand, etc.] He will set up a

banner for the nations, and will assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth' (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Isaiah is describing a SECOND EXODUS! Also note that, at the time of the end, Israel and Judah will still be two separately identifiable peoples. The prophet continues, 'For the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will still choose Israel, and settle them in their own land [the Promised Land]' (14:1)...

In the wonderful World Ahead, when the Jews and continental Northwest Europeans have finally learned their own true identities, they will at last recognize the Anglo-Saxon-Celtic peoples of America and Britain as their long lost brother Joseph. With great tears of joy, they will again shout, 'Joseph is alive!' - just as the sons of Israel did almost 3,700 years ago. What a great and marvellous family reunion that will be!



Then, God Almighty will again unite the Anglo-Saxon-Celts with the Jews as one people (Ezekiel 37:15-17). He says, 'Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand...Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations, wherever they have gone [into captivity], and will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land.... They shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again' (vv. 19, 21-22).

Ezekiel 48 reveals that all the Twelve Tribes will then be reassigned their own tribal allotments in the Promised Land - which will be much bigger in area than in biblical days. This will, at first, accommodate the millions of Israelites returning from captivity.

But remember what God told Israel would soon happen at that time: 'The children you will have, after you have lost the others [in the Great Tribulation], will say again in your ears [as they did in Great Britain before], 'The place is too small for me; give me a place where I may dwell' (Isaiah 49:20). So what will God do? 'Those who come He shall cause to take root in Jacob; Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit' (Isaiah 27:6).

At the time when God gathers the remnant of Jacob, He will make a 'perpetual covenant' with both Israel and Judah: 'Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and with the House of Judah...I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people...For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more' (Jeremiah 31:31, 33-34). After being converted by God's Spirit, Israel will finally stop rebelling against Him!....Israel will yet be the wonderful model nation God meant her to be all along (Exodus 19:4-6)'(p.63)".



So great will this exodus be that Jeremiah writes of this wonderful time, "'Therefore, behold, the days are coming,' says the LORD, 'that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land" (Jeremiah 23:7-8).

When Israel came out of Egypt they numbered around 2 to 3 million people. Amos 5:1-3 implies that our modern-day Israelite nations will be decimated in the great tribulation to where only 1/10 of Israel survives into the millennium. If we combine the peoples of America, Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, NW Europe and the Jews in Palestine there would be around 350 million people. A tenth of that would leave us with 35 million people which is still over 10 times the number of Israelites who came out of Egypt plus they will come from all corners of the earth rather than just out of one country. It will be an enormous exodus!

There are some fascinating parallels between the first exodus out of Egypt and the greater Exodus to come.

In Isaiah 11:11-16 we read, "It shall come to pass in that day that the LORD shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people who are left, from Assyria and Egypt, from Pathros and Cush, from Elam and Shinar, from Hamath and the islands of the sea...The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; with His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River, and strike it in the seven streams, and make *men* cross over dry-shod. There will be a highway for the remnant of His people who will be left from Assyria, as it was for Israel in the day that he came up from the land of Egypt."

When God brings back Israel a second time they will come from many directions including Europe and North Africa. Just as God parted the Red Sea for Israel during the first exodus God says that He will part the waters of the Nile for those coming from North Africa as they make their way to Palestine.

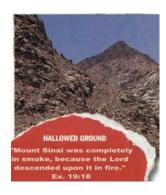
In Isaiah 48:20-21 we read, "Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth; Say, 'The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!' And they did not thirst when He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the rock for them; He also split the rock, and the waters gushed out."



God will bring Israel out of modern Babylon just as He did with Israel out of Egypt. God will cause water to come out of the rocks for them who thirst just as he did at Horeb during the first exodus.

In Jeremiah 31:1-2 we read, "'At the same time,' says the LORD, 'I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.' Thus says the LORD: 'The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness—Israel, when I went to give him rest."

Before entering Palestine God will first bring Israel into the wilderness and prepare them for entry into the Holy Land. At Mt Sinai God proposed the old covenant to ancient Israel. When God brings modern Israel into the wilderness for a time before they move into the Holy Land He will propose to them the new covenant to which they will agree to. This time around Israel God will give them the Holy Spirit and they will have the heart to be able to live God's way and keep the terms of the new covenant.



In Ezekiel 20:33-42 we read more about when God will prepare Israel in the wilderness before they enter the Holy Land. Also, God says that He will purge out the rebels from Israel. Just as there was the rebellion of Korah during the first exodus there will be one this time which God will put down.

"'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you,' says the Lord God. 'I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD...

"I will accept you as a sweet aroma when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will be hallowed in you before the Gentiles. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, into the country for which I raised My hand in an oath to give to your fathers."

In Isaiah 61:5-7 we read, "Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the foreigner *shall* be your plowmen and your vinedressers. But you shall be named the priests of the LORD, they shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory you shall boast. Instead of your shame *you shall have* double *honor*, and *instead of* confusion they shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs."

Israel will finally fulfill their destiny (Exodus 19:4-6) and become a nation of kings and priests. Compared to other nations of the earth our Israelite people are gifted at administration and leadership and our laws and constitution were originally built on the the Judeo-Christian principles of the Bible.

Despite their faults this enabled Great Britain to be a blessing to the nations of the world (Genesis 12:3) and help build the civil infrastructure and raise the standard of living amongst the Gentiles nations who came under the British Empire. Similarly, America (along with Britain) has helped feed the developed nations with their agricultural abundance.

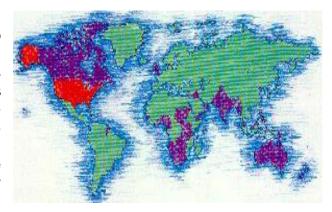
What stability we do enjoy in the international arena is due to the overwhelming power and deterring threat of a superpower like the U.S. that defines international stability as a national interest. Compared to other nations our Israelite people are not aggressive nations that have a heart to conquer other people as do certain others. When their God-given talents of inventiveness and administration are used to glorify God the Israelite nations are uniquely qualified to be that model nation God intended them to be.

In Hosea 14:4-6 we read, "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. I will be like the dew to Israel; He shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread."

That phrase "his branches shall spread" is used in a similar way in Genesis 49:22 in describing the prophecy of Joseph in the latter days when the British Empire spread all over the earth at the time God began to give the fulness of the birthright blessings to Israel. Similarly Israel in the World Tomorrow, after they have been established in the Holy Land, will begin to colonize the rest of the world (Isaiah 49:20).

At first, God will leave the Gentile nations alone while He prepares Israel in the wilderness and then brings them into the Holy Land which is why Gog and Magog try and conquer Israel at the beginning of the millennium to no avail (Ezekiel 38, 39).

Like in the days of the British Empire they will colonize other nations (Isaiah 14:1-3), help rebuild their cities, develop their civil infrastructure and teach them God's values under the guidance of the spirit-born members of the Family of God. As the nations mature spiritually they will be granted independence like the decolonization that occurred during the 1960's of the British Empire and earlier with the more developed nations of Australia, New Zealand and Canada.



For all its many faults, overall Britain did a good job of being a kind mother country to its mighty empire but as children develop and mature independence must be granted to them at the right time.

Sadly, the standard of living in the African nations has dropped significantly since independence due to the corruption of the leaders who have taken over since then. Thankfully the physical leaders in those nations during the World Tomorrow will be converted and help rule their nations under the authority of the God family with fairness and live by God's wonderful laws, statutes and judgments.

Everyone Keeping God's Feast Days

We read in Zechariah 14:14-16 that everyone, including Arab nations, will have to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in the World Tomorrow.

How awesome will it be when the whole world keeps the Feast? Imagine thousands upon thousands of feast sites over the whole world. Can you imagine a whole tenth of the world's income going towards a gigantic week-long festival/party?



What kind of awesome events could be put on to celebrate on such an awesome scale? Imagine how incredible a worldwide fireworks display, possibly at the Feast, would be in the World Tomorrow. It would make the year 2000 millennium fireworks party seem tame in comparison.

One World Language

The prophet Zephaniah was inspired to tell us in Zephaniah 3:9 that God will provide one language which will be the language for the whole world in the millennium. He wrote: "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language, that they all may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one accord."

I don't think that this will necessarily mean the abolition of all other national languages but God's new language, which will probably be easy to learn and completely phonetic, will be the primary language in all nations.

When I visited Wales I was surprised that it was very much a bi-lingual country. English is the primary language but alongside English they have preserved Welsh as a secondary language which they teach to all school children along with English. Also, most of their street signs have the names of the street in both English and Welsh.

I really liked that arrangement where English (the international language of the four countries that form the United Kingdom) is the primary language and the national language is preserved as a secondary language.

In Europe the situation is the other way around. There are quite a number of different national languages which are all the primary language in each country even though most people in countries like France, Germany and Switzerland also know how to speak English.



The various languages of Europe like French, Italian and German all have their own particular charm to them and are expressions of the wonderous variety God has created in these people. German conveys the sense of order and authority of the German people while French and Italian both have quite a emotional and romantic feel to them like the people of those countries.

I believe the arrangement I saw in Wales will be the situation in the World Tomorrow where God's new international language will be the primary language in all countries with national languages being the secondary languages of various countries.

Happy Relationships by Living God's Way

With God's way of life being taught and lived all over the world relationships between nations and individuals will heal and marriages and families will be strong and happy. Ron Kelly makes these comments on this aspect of society in the World Tomorrow:

Without a doubt one of the most needed aspects of human relationships that needs restoring is family life. Virtually no society in all history has truly practiced the God-inspired, biblical instructions on marriage and childrearing.

We can at least get a glimpse of the happy family life from a few scriptures that look to the future when God's government is set up.



Jeremiah wrote about the restoration of God's way, 'The sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, 'Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever' (Jeremiah 33:11). For most of human history the joy of brides and bridegrooms has only turned to sorrow. Sickness, poverty and war have epitomised vast segments of human history. But in that world to come, the joy of the wedding will live on and on. Husbands and wives growing in love as each year goes by.

They will have healthy and happy children. And they will know how to rear them. Notice what Zechariah saw as God revealed the future to him: 'The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there' (Zechariah 8:5). Without fear of serious accident kidnapping, mugging, abduction and the host of modern atrocities that plague our societies, children will play openly—free from harm from man or beast. And verse 4 tells us, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Once again men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with cane in hand because of his [and her] age.' (Plain Truth, February 1984, article: 'Yes: A Brighter Tomorrow Is Coming!')"

Social Life in the World Tomorrow

Life will be challenging and exciting where you won't be stuck to a 40 hour a week routine. With most people working on the land there'll be exciting opportunities to travel or study during the land Sabbath each seven years.



Imagine every seven years over half of the world's people having a year-long holiday together. Where would you love to travel with money being no object? England, Europe, the Middle East, America, Canada, the West Indies, the South Pacific or diving around Great Barrier Reef?



People won't be anywhere near as burdened with the twins problems of not enough time or money to do what they really want to do, whether it be spending time with their families, learning new things, taking up certain hobbies or travelling anywhere in the world that they'd like to.

What would your social life be like in the World Tomorrow if distance was no problem and you could instantly transport and catch up with friends on the other side of the world? Can you imagine point-to-point transport like in Star Trek?



What would the world of sport and party life be like in the World Tomorrow? There are also a number of references to singing being a big part of celebration and social life in the World Tomorrow (Isaiah 49:13). I can just imagine getting carried away with song with everyone else at a cosy warm English pub or at an English soccer match.

Can you imagine watching God's home videos of the great events of the Bible history like the creation of the earth and Adam and Eve, the parting of the Red Sea and Christ's crucifixion and resurrection? What about meeting and inviting over for dinner some of the famous people of history such as the great explorers or musicians or King David, Abraham or the apostles or even Jesus Himself?

The whole educational system in schools in the World Tomorrow will change dramatically. Home schooling will dominate but there could still be a place for high schools. Imagine classes being whisked to different places on the earth as they are taught geography and about the world and the culture of different peoples. Imagine being taught history and seeing the great events of history through God's version of virtual reality which would be like the holodeck on Star Trek where it feels like you're actually there.

The Economy of the World Tomorrow

The economy and standard of living will be fantastic. Imagine full employment and paying only your tithes and no tax. In this world newly married couples have to go up to their eyeballs in debt when they buy a home. Imagine being given a couple of acres from the government as a wedding gift.

God's laws and statutes will be the laws of the land. There's some tremendous wisdom in those statutes. One that I've found fascinating has to do with the selling of land. If a family had to sell their land inheritance say, 10 years after the Jubilee, then the price for the 40 year lease would 80% of the value of a lease of the land for the full 50 years (Leviticus 25:14-16). The price of the land went down the closer to the Jubilee you got. Today we're used to seeing the price of housing go up all the time. It's because people are always trying to make a profit out of the land that everything else goes up and this is part of the reason why you have inflation. God's system defuses the problem of inflation.

In a feast sermon Graemme Marshall described how God's laws such as the Jubilee year law, gleaning and the land sabbath would go a long way towards eliminating poverty in the World Tomorrow (Leviticus 25:1-16). In the World Tomorrow everyone will have an inheritance of land from God. The earth is God's (Psalm 24:1) and land itself in God's system cannot be sold and horded by individuals, companies and governments.



When a person in ancient Israel mismanaged their finances to the point they had to sell their inheritance they didn't sell the land but the productivity of the land. If it was 40 years to the next Jubilee then it sold for 40 years worth of productivity; 30 years to the next Jubilee meant it could only be sold for 30 years worth of productivity as opposed to what the market would pay (Leviticus 25:14-16).

It could be bought back or redeemed at any time by the person whose inheritance it was or by his immediate family. The rights of the poor had precedence over those rich profiteers who bought it off them in that they could buy the land back at any time and have it restored to them. The Jubilee law helped equalize the wealth of the people where land reverted back to those whose inheritance it was rather than the unfortunate aspect of our society today where the gap between rich and poor is growing ever larger.

In our society today most of the poor have no land with which to grow crops to live off and make a living. In God's system everyone has land with which to grow food for themselves and make a living from. If they mismanage their finances God has provided for that situation with the law allowing them to redeem it at any time when they get their finances in order

again and, failing that, it automatically reverted back to such a person or his family in the Jubilee year.

Along with the Jubilee law God has provided another means to support the less fortunate in our society through the laws of gleaning and the land sabbath. Whatever was missed the first time when people harvested the land of its crops they were to leave for the poor (Leviticus 19:9-10). Also, every seventh year farmers were to rest their land from being harvested and whatever grew of itself was to be for the poor and their animals (Leviticus 25:1-7).

Along with the resting of the land every seventh year there was a release of all loans (Deuteronomy 15:1-6). Imagine credit card balances and personal loans being wiped out each seven years! Under God's system the number of things that can be taken by banks as security are a lot more restricted.



Deuteronomy 24:6-13 says that one could not take the mill or upper millstone or the cloak of a poor man to be a pledge. A pledge (collateral, security) cannot involve anything necessary to a man's work or living, for to do so would be to endanger the man's "life," i.e., his freedom. Since the land is God's, only the produce of the land could be used as security. If God's economic principles were in force it would solve the debt problems that so many people are burdened with in our nations.

If one takes away weather problems, insect damage, blight and fungus from farmers, losses through government price controls and overflooding of markets what would do for their lot in life? Take away thievery, robbery, accidents, weather damage, rust, rot and decay, from plants, stores and manufacturing concerns how much less could merchandise then sell for?

In Amos 9:13 we read, "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, 'when the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it." Imagine the rich, tasty food, the juicy succulent fruits and the beautiful sweet wine that the Bible talks about when the goodness will be restored to our farmland and farmers live God's way.



Can you imagine the kind of buildings, transportation, communications and conveniences we would have if the greatest minds in the world were devoted to serving mankind and living God's way? How incredible would be some of the inventions that they could come up with to help serve mankind and solve some of mankind's biggest problems? Can you imagine how good the literature, architecture, landscaping and entertainment will be?

Cities in the World Tomorrow

With a restructuring of urban society where there wouldn't be a need for large cities what would that do to solve the traffic snarls, the collisions and loss of life and the whole social and economic picture? George Kackos in a wonderful article he wrote in the WCG's Good News magazine entitled "Tomorrow's Cities – What Will They Be Like" gives us this exciting preview of what cities will be like in the World Tomorrow:

Wouldn't it be exciting to see cities planned, built, maintained the right way? And there is a right way – it's revealed in the Bible! God promises just such a thing in the World Tomorrow. 'And I will bring again the captivity of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them'(Amos 9.14). 'Thus says the Lord of hosts: 'My cities shall again spread out through prosperity; the Lord will again comfort Zion, and will again choose Jerusalem'' (Zechariah 1:17)

But what will these cities be like? Where will they be built? How big will they be? Who will rule over them? After the return of Jesus Christ, the world will be in shambles. Events during the Great Tribulation and the Day of the Lord, now shortly ahead of us, will leave cities and countryside alike in ruin.

Before rebuilding begins, the land will be prepared for its inhabitants. Under the direction of Christ, even mountains and valleys will be altered and made available for productive use (Isaiah 40:4, Zechariah 14:10). Such changes will set the stage, for the rebuilding of Jerusalem, God's world capital and model city for the entire earth (Isaiah 60:10-14). Through this magnificent city, God will set an example for other cities to be built throughout the Millennium.

By examining the Scriptures, we can learn a lot about this future Jerusalem. In many cases, of course, the Bible does not reveal every specific detail, and we are left to speculate. But since so many Bible prophecies deal with the coming Kingdom of God in a general way, we can get a pretty clear picture of how that coming world may be. Here is what the Bible reveals about several points relating to Jerusalem and other cities in the world tomorrow:

- Ideal size. Is there an optimum size for cities? Certainly the sprawling, overcrowded, ugly metropolises of this world leave much to be desired. In Isaiah 5:8 God warns, "Woe to those who join house to house, who add field to field, till there is no place where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!"

Some city planners feel that smaller cities, perhaps two to six square miles in size, with populations ranging from 7,000 to 30,000 people are best. This size provides a sufficient population to support a variety of commercial and city services and job opportunities, yet it is small enough to foster close relationships, make travel easy and sustain an efficient government.



Since God opposes overcrowding, we know that the population of Jerusalem in the world tomorrow will be optimal, with plenty of room for comfortable homes and efficiently placed services. Jerusalem will have the advantage of ideal size and density. A strip of land outside the city will be left relatively open (Ezekiel 48:15-17).

- **Pleasant surroundings.** Understanding the effect that a city environment can have, positively or negatively, on the human psyche, city planners advocate green belts of farms, forests and other vegetation to separate cities so residents will not lose touch with the natural environment.

Such a green belt is planned for Jerusalem. To the east and west will be farming areas for the use of city residents (verses 18-19). To the north will be wilderness areas with rivers flowing from the Temple to the Mediterranean Sea and the (formerly) Dead Sea. The Dead Sea will become a living sea because of this new source of pure water (Zechariah 14:8)!



The waters will abound with fish, and riverbanks will be filled with animals and fruit trees:

And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live [including animals] There will be a very great multitude of fish...Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month" (Ezekiel 47:9 12).

Camping out without fear of man and animals will be possible (Ezekiel 34:25). Animals will be tame - even the snakes will be friendly. "The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den" (Isaiah 11:8). Such an environment will blend the best qualities of the city and countryside. No longer will people feel cut off from God's creation by huge cities stuck in sterile surroundings of concrete, asphalt and steel.

- Beautiful design and quality construction. Today's cities, for the most part, lack intelligent planning and quality construction. Buildings clash with each other, facilities are inadequate, residential and business areas are overcrowded and structures are deteriorating. Under God's government these conditions will definitely not be permitted to exist. God is not the author of confusion. Everything He rules over is done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40).

Jerusalem will be supplied with the finest building materials: "Instead of bronze I will bring gold, instead of iron I will bring silver, instead of wood, bronze and instead of stones, iron" (Isaiah 60:17). Quality craftsmen will then turn these materials into buildings that are both functional and beautiful (Psalm 50:2).

Ezekiel 41 and 42 offer glimpses of the Temple planned for Jerusalem. From these plans we can see God's concern for proper proportioning, focal points, interesting repetition and attention to detail. This same concern will be evident throughout the architecture of Jerusalem.



Homes and businesses will be properly located to complement one another. Adequate spacing between them will provide room for lush gardens, broad tree lined avenues, parks, sparkling fountains and imaginative sculpture to add aesthetic qualities. Unsightly billboards and gaudy signs will be eliminated. No more will our senses be assaulted and jangled as they are in cities today.

Through wise planning, an array of businesses will supply quality goods and services. Schools, libraries, museums, gymnasiums and theaters will provide exciting educational, recreational and cultural activities. Cottage industries will produce beneficial products such at farm implements (Isaiah 2:4).

Because of the cities' smaller size, elaborate transportation systems will not be needed. Walking or bicycling, for example, will easily get people to their destinations. Just think — no more bumper-to-bumper traffic jams! You big-city dwellers ought to appreciate that.

Communication systems will quickly spread helpful information throughout cities or between individuals. That which is harmful will not be allowed. Pollution will be eliminated by the use of non-polluting energy sources, the elimination of harmful substances and the recycling of waste materials (Deuteronomy 23:13).

Every development decision, from land allocation to the use of technology, will be based on what will be best for the people. The guiding principle will be that of Isaiah 11:9: "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain". Translated into action, this way of life will produce outstanding results.



- Happy people. Not only will the city of Jerusalem be transformed, so will its people: "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and you will keep my judgments and do them" (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Think what this will mean. No longer will people be filled with lust and hate. No longer will they envy and fight each other. Love - the give way of life - will permeate relationships. Because of obedience to God, city life will be a blessing, not a curse (Deuteronomy 28:1-3).

Marriages will be happy. Children will be reared properly. The elderly will not be neglected. Everyone will live in harmony, truly enjoying each other. God's command to Adam to tend and keep the Garden of Eden will be applied to Jerusalem. Litter, decaying buildings and weed-filled lots will not exist. High standards of maintenance will be emphasized.

Those same qualities that will make Jerusalem a great city will be stressed in other cities, too. Huge, overcrowded cities, cut off from the natural beauty of surrounding countryside, will not exist. The problems of poor planning, decaying buildings, pollution, inadequate resources, lack of educational, cultural and recreational activities, crime and unhappy people will gradually be solved as new cities are built throughout the world.

In Star Wars Episode 1 George Lucas created a magnificent looking city as the capital of the planet Naboo built on a plateau with a couple of beautiful waterfalls falling off the edge of the plateau creating a wonderful glimpse of the sort of cities we might help design and build in the World Tomorrow.

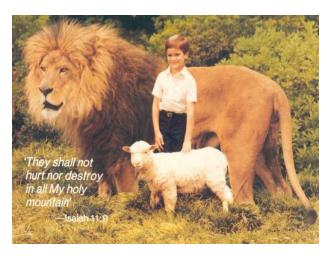


In a feast sermon on the what cities will be like in the millennium Rod McQueen added a few thoughts along these lines. He felt that surrounding cities would be farm areas and that criss-crossing between them would be belts of wilderness that would allow animals to roam the length and breadth of countries. Isaiah 11 describes farm animals and wild animals dwelling together – the wolf with the lamb, leopards and goats, the calf and the lion and the cow and the bear. This would only happen if farm areas were adjacent to belts of wilderness area.

Wild Animals Become Tame

One of the my all-time favourite millennial passages of scriptures is Isaiah 11:6-9 where God paints this wonderful picture of a world which will be so different from today.

God says through the prophet Isaiah that "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. 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 by 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, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea."



We also read of this change of nature in the animals in Hosea 2:18, "In that day I will make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, with the birds of the air, and with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, to make them lie down safely".

God will change the nature of animals so there will no killing and devouring in the animal kingdom that reflects Satan's system of competition. Imagine no more venomous creatures and wild animals no longer being dangerous.

What kind of animal would you like to have as a pet in the World Tomorrow - a polar bear, a playful dolphin or penguin, a siberian tiger or maybe Bambi? I don't know about you ... but I love venison. Imagine you're out swimming and suddenly you hear this music - dum dum ... dum dum dum dum... - "Oh, there you are Jaws. I was looking all over for you".



Life as a God Being in the Family of God

What will it be like to be a God being? Try and think of it for a moment. Here we are made of the dust of the earth. Imagine never getting sick, never getting tired, being full of power, energy, intelligence and able to travel across the galaxy in seconds.

We read in Revelation 3:9 where Christ speaking to the church says: "I will make them (false christians) come and WORSHIP before your feet and know that I have loved you." This verse is one of several that show that God is reproducing Himself through mankind since only God can be worshipped.

George Kackos has these things to say about how awesome it will be when we are finally born into God's family at the resurrection:

God has given us a sneak preview of what our resurrected bodies will be like, in the description of Jesus Christ's present body. You can read about it in Revelation 1:13-16. Christ's body never grows old, weary or unattractive (Isaiah 40:28, Hebrews 13:8).

God, the Creator and Master of all the invisible laws of physics, can journey throughout the universe at will (Psalm 68:32-33) and pass through solid objects and manifest Himself in the flesh (John 20:26). You will share these same powers.



Right now, you are stimulated through the five senses of sight, smell, taste, touch or hearing. You love to see beautiful sights, smell pleasing aromas, taste delicious foods, touch exquisite things, listen to pleasurable sounds. So does God! The finest things in the universe surround Him at all times. Imagine having your spiritual senses function on the God plane.

The pulls of the flesh lead you to suffer the anguish of sin. Wouldn't you like to exercise perfect character all the time—never sin'? As a spirit-being you will be perfect (1 John 3:9).

Your mind will be filled with knowledge as God unveils the secrets of the universe to you. Life's unanswered questions will be answered. Why did such and such happen in my life? What are the explanations to the questions asked by science?

Do you have a problem remembering things? God doesn't. He can name the billions of stars (Psalm 147:4). Your mind will become extremely efficient. Beyond that, you'll not miss a thing. A sparrow cannot fall on the ground without God knowing (Matthew 10:29), and your mind will be like God's. Your mind will be filled with wisdom — the ability to make right decisions at the right time in harmony with the right laws.

God keeps Himself happy. He surrounds Himself with enjoyable activities. 'Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore' (Psalm 16:11). God's desire is to share this pleasure with you (Matthew 25:21).

What does God enjoy? Family life, for one thing. God is expanding His Family (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). Together, as family members, you will worship God, rule, talk and, yes, even play. What satisfaction this will bring when you are filled with love.

Your work will be exciting as you help direct the rebuilding of cities and the revitalisation of farming. You will enjoy teaching people God's law (Isaiah 30:21) and the words you offer will bring them real life (John 6:63). Their success will be your success. There will be opportunities to learn, create and invent. Recreational games and some form of athletics will probably be played. Remember, this physical world is patterned after the spiritual...

You are awaiting the greatest event that could ever take place in the life of a human being—birth into God's Family. That knowledge should strengthen and motivate you. It should cause you to rejoice during the Feast of Tabernacles and throughout your life (Romans 8:18-19)! (Good News, Sept. 1982, article: 'What Your Life In God's Kingdom Will Be Like')"

Our bodies will be far superior to Superman's for we will be faster than a beam of light, more powerful than a million nuclear warheads and able to leap across the galaxy in a single bound! Even our little old ladies in the church will be like that one day so I wouldn't want to mess with them if I were you.

We'll be



More powerful than a million nuclear warheads



Able to leap the galaxy in a single bound!!!

When I travelled through Europe it really highlighted to me how we worship a God who loves and continues to create incredible variety in all He creates. There certainly is a wonderful variety of cultures, people, landscapes, architecture, languages, accents, food and so much more throughout Europe.



Often we focus on how great God's power or His love is. When you think about it, His creativity is every bit as awesome when you think of how every human being is unique with a different set of fingerprints and so many other things to how He continues to shower snowflakes of which no two have every been found to be alike.

Can you imagine what it would be like to have that kind of awesome creativity? How wonderful would it be to compose and create beautiful music, poetry, art, movies, literature, architecture, landscaping and even create wonders of nature like plants and animals that God hasn't begun yet?

George Lucas and his team created some amazing looking creatres in the Star Wars movies to give us a bit of a foretaste of what it would be like to create new creatures in the World Tomorrow.

I really admire those people who can be so creative with their humour and create funny jokes. Imagine having that sort of creativity or to be able to do all sorts of impersonations of people and sound effects like people such as Wes on or Michael Winslow from the Police Academy movies.



Can you imagine what it would be like to have both the courage and ability to indulge in all sorts of extreme sports from skydiving, aerial snowboarding, surfing huge waves, hang gliding, ski-ing down really steep slopes or ski jumping? Imagine being able to pick up any musical instrument and be able to play it like a maestro.



One thing I'm really looking forward to is finding out the answers to some of the great mysteries of the universe such as who built the pyramids and how, the Colonel's 11 secret herbs and spices and, of course, one of the greatest mysteries of all - what do women really want? ;-)



Richard Pinelli once gave an awesome sermon on "The first 60 seconds of Being Born of God" in which he described the awesome rush of those very first few seconds as we are transformed to spirit when Christ comes back.

All of a sudden we will have ALL of the emotions, ALL of the sensory powers, ALL of the knowledge and ALL of the power of God! What a rush that will be! Suddenly we will see all the angels that encompass us and the earth. We will be able to hear the awesome angelic choirs and literally see Satan and the demons put into the abyss.

In nature hawks can read a newspaper 200 feet in the air and bats can hear far better than we can. How much more greater will our sights and senses be and can you imagine what it will be like when your character is finally set so you never sin again? How often do we ache to be free from the pulls of sin?

Roy Holliday in a feast sermon gave another explanation of 2 Peter 3:8 where it says that with God a thousand years is as a day and a day is as a thousand years. We've often explained the first half of that in describing how the 7000 year plan of God is based on the 7 day week but haven't looked at the other half of it. He said that, because God's power and mind is so fast, that He can do in a day what it would take us a thousand years to do.

He went into a very detailed analogy, based on a computer's ability through the method of time slicing, to show how God can hear and answer so many people's prayers at the same time. Many computers these days can do some 300 million instructions a second making thousands of passes of thousands of users and still have time to spare. If our computers can

do that how much more can the God, who knows all the 400 billion billion plus stars by name, do? And to think, not long from now, we'll have that same ability.

He also explained it another way. When someone is in danger and need God to speedily intervene there could be a whole involved discussion between the Father, the Son and the 24 elders and whether or not to intervene and have someone dispatched to intervene in the situation, all in a mere fraction of a second. It's just almost impossible to comprehend what it will be like to be on the God plane of existence.

I'd like to now quote a short article by Stephen Collins that he wrote entitled "Your First Day in the Kingdom". It paints an absolutely amazing picture of what it will be like soon after the first resurrection when Christ returns. He writes:

You made it! You have been in the kingdom of God for one day, and it has been so full of incredible and exciting events that you now take a moment to reflect on what you have just experienced since being made part of God's family.

Just as the Bible had predicted, it had occured in the twinkling of an eye (1 Corinthians 15:52). Suddenly, you were a spirit being and no longer constrained with the problems, limitations, and frailties of human life and nature. Everyone's eyes were immediately riveted on the glorious central figure of Jesus Christ himself. There was eagerness on the part of all to personally speak with their Saviour, and heap their praise and thankfulness on him.

All those years in your human life when you would have given anything for even a word from Him built up such an anticipation for this moments you thrilled to find out that his anticipation to meet with you on His level was even greater (Luke 12:2, Revelation 4:11) as he had created you to come to this moment!



You had waited a few human years for that meeting; whereas, he had waited billions of 'years' for you, so many that the time span stretched into an infinity that you could not grasp with a human mind.

Quickly you had shared the incredible exultation and glory of this moment with your friends, the fellow saints, who were also now spiritual instead of physical. You had met friends who had died years ago, and you mutually experienced the joy of renewing your relationship with the knowledge it would never again be broken by death or any other circumstance.

In fact, all who had died in the faith were eager to catch up on the history of what had happened since they died, and those who had lived after then were just as happy to share it with them. Those saints who had lived in earlier ages were flabbergasted to learn about the explosion in knowledge (Daniel 12:4) which had occured since their deaths and the technological growth that had resulted. They were just as shocked to realise how totally corrupt the world had gotten in the years just before Christ's return.

There had been a war to wage, which was very short and totally victorious, of course (Revelation 19:11-21). You not only had witnessed it, but had participated in it. Satan and all his lawless angels were bound shortly after that (Revelation 20:1-3), and the relief of that act was felt all over both heaven and earth.

You remember the moment you met the angels who had protected and ministered to you during your physical life (Matthew 18:10, Psalm 34:7). They were so eager to share the experiences they had in serving you then. Over the years, they had developed an affinity for you, and their desire to be of assistance to you took on a whole new meaning now that you were a spiritual Son of God.

There had been the Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:6-9) in which Christ fulfilled the words of Matthew 26:29, and once again drank wine with his disciples and brethren. It was a very special moment when he particularly called for and toasted those brethren who had been with him at the very first Lord's Supper at which he uttered those words. The banquet had been awesome, and you had previously had no idea that anything could possibly taste or smell so good. The joy of sharing it with so many old friends, and also with so many new ones from all ages of mankind's history was beyond words! Such different backgrounds, yet you all were sharing it through the oneness of God's spirit (John 17:21).

Those who had physical children on the earth had visited with them to give them glimpses of their God-given glory, and had tried to express to them what an awesome experience it was to be in the Kingdom of God. Those children had been left with a remarkable foretaste of what they had to look forward to!

Now you understand what life is REALLY supposed to be like. Human life was so limited compared to what you now experience that you marvel you were ever so limited and frail. You now comprehend what Christ said in Matthew 19:17 when he said, "If you will enter into life, keep the commandments". The human experience was so pale compared to this that you understand why Christ did not refer to it as real "life". Now you experience what it is like to no longer be bound by time and space, and yet have perfect love and self-control in all you do.

All the above experiences were wonderful, but the experiece which overwhelmed all others in scope and majesty was the coronation ceremony of the saints which was foretold in 2 Timothy 4:8 and Revelation 20:4. The entire universe had waited so long for this event the coronation and welcoming of the NEW members of the GOD FAMILY! You will recall it vividly for all eternity. Even as Christ was crowned before the Father and given His authority, so was each of the saints individually and personally presented before the throne of God (Jude 24), and given their reward.

The atmosphere had been charged with electricity, and the scene was exactly as revealed by the Bible. The Father, YOUR FATHER, was on the throne (Revelation 4:2-3), at His right hand was Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34), the twenty four elders were around the throne (Revelation 4:4), the four living creatures were there (Revelation 4:6-8, Ezekiel 1:5-11), as were an innumerable company of angels (Revelation 5:11). Streched out before the throne was a seemingly endless sea of glass like crystal (Revelation 4:6), and flashes of lightning and peals of thunder periodically

proceeded forth from the throne of God (Revelation 4:5). This was not like thunder and lightning on earth but more comparable to displays and reverberations of LIVING, UNLIMITED, CONTROLLED POWER!

As each of God's new sons come forth, their works and sufferings for the purpose of Christ were proclaimed to the entire assemblage as trumpets sounded fanfares and voices of angels shouted as each new Son of God was crowned. You had seen the patriarchs of the Bible crowned before your eyes! As the ceremony continues, individuals you know are called forth and some that you thought were lowly and obscure in human life are given great rewards by God; the reverse also being true (Matthew 19:30). In all cases, regardless of the reward, each new Son is delighted with their reward and delights in everyone else's respective award.

Finally, it is your turn, A hush falls over the assembly, and Christ Himself is calling you to the very throne of God! As you respond, a spine-chilling fanfare of trumpets sounds, shouts of acclamation are ringing in your ears, and you see the beam of loving approval, affection and pride in the Father's eyes as you approach. Christ Himself presents you to the Father with rejoicing (Jude 24), and you are accepted by the Father Himself!

Christ turns to the entire family of God and the assembled angels and proclaims your deeds of righteousness, the sufferings you endured, and the service God's Spirit performed in you. You marvel as you learn that some of the darkest times in your life were the greatest in God's eyes! Some things which you thought were of little significance are given great importance. Nothing is left out, deeds tall and great (Matthew 10:40-42). You further marvel as you realize your entire life's drama was catalogued and recorded for this event (Hebrews 12:1-2).



Christ then turns to you and you are given a white stone with a new name written on it which no one knows, except you and Jesus Christ (Revelation. 2:17), symbolising the unique and special relationship you will have with your Saviour for all eternity! Other names are given you (Revelation. 3:12) by which you will be known to the rest of the family of God. You are now clothed in white raiment, glorious and brilliant, and Christ summons an angel who brings forth a crown, more glorious and beautiful than anything you can remember. You realise it is for YOU! The crown is designed to represent both you and the particular rulership you are being given.

You kneel before Jesus Christ, the very being who died for you and made all this possible, and as He places the crown on your head, you see the scars in His hands and the realisation of what He went through for you becomes very, very personal. You remember the stone in your hand with your personal name on it, and a bond is sealed between you and Jesus Christ which will last an eternity. You marvel how your responsibility of rulership is so uniquely designed for you, or is it that you were uniquely designed for the responsibility now given you.

You rise a crowned Son of God, and with the shouts of joy and welcoming ringing in your ears, you return to your position to witness the remainder of the ceremony, knowing that each other individual is experiencing the same kind of personal feelings about their crowning as you did.

As the ceremony ends the entire newly-crowned assembly of the Sons of God follows Jesus Christ to begin their collective and individual responsibilities in the Kingdom of God. You now realise that purpose is far greater than healing the earth and its environment, and caring for human needs. The overriding purpose is to prepare and assist all other humans now alive or ever shall be alive or resurrected to come to repentance and to Jesus Christ so that they, like you, can have their personal coronation ceremony as you have just had. You are absolutely determined that none will miss out of what you are now experiencing, and you realise it is the same determination which God the Father and Jesus Christ were determined to bring you into the Kingdom of God.

You realise that this first day in the Kingdom of God was a 'day' only in the sense that it has all occured during one revolution of the earth on its axis, and was perceived as a day only by those on

earth. For you are no longer bound by time, and marvel that you were ever so limited. It has been so joyful and the inner sense of peace you have is beyond words. You recall Romans 8:18 which stated "that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us". It has been so indescribably wonderful, and it has only been the first "day". The rest of eternity is still before you and things can only get better!!!"

The Great White Throne Judgment Period

After the millennium we come to the Great White Throne Judgment peiod when all who have died without knowing Christ will be resurrected. Imagine the joy of seeing old family members again who have since passed away. How moving will it be to see to your loved ones once again who weren't in the church? For mothers to see children who died in their arms, for husbands who lost their wives and for children who's mums and dads died when they were very young? It will be an incredibly moving time.

Ultimately we've got to stoop down and help and serve and bring into eternal life every human being who's ever lived from power-hungry dictators to starving kids on the streets of Calcutta in the World Tomorrow. Talk about an awesome challenge on our hands! Just think of the incredible transformation to take a starving kid in Calcutta or a primitive from Papua New Guinea or a pygmy in Africa, teach them God's ways and for them to become a member in the God family sharing all the power and glory that God has.

Imagine what it will be like to have all the great artists and musicians using their talents in a completely godly way and all together on the earth at the same time. What art and music would they create? Imagine the great musicians doing special music like Elvis or the many rock bands of today. What famous people of history would you like to meet?

Will the earth fit all the billions at that time. Let's say God makes 60% of the earth's surface land in the World Tomorrow and there are approximately 60 billion people that means there would be, on average, a spacious 5 acres for every family of four.

The New Jerusalem

After the Great White Throne Judgment period we read in Revelation 21 about how God the Father will come and dwell with mankind on earth and bring New Jerusalem with Him which He has been preparing for just this moment.

We are told in the Book of Revelation that the New Jerusalem is absolutely massive. It is 1500 miles by 1500 miles in area and soars to an enormous height of 1500 miles!

That is absolutely incredible. To give you some idea of how big an area that would cover that is a square area from Ankara, Turkey in the top left corner down through Cyprus and the Mediterranean Sea, Cairo, down through to the Sudan in the bottom left corner and then across the southern half of Arabia to the eastern side of the Persian Gulf and up through the eastern half of Iran.





That's an area that takes in the most of the Arabian Peninsula, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, much of Iran, southern Turkey, the Sinai and everything east of the Nile River. That is an incredible area!

Put another way, the New Jerusalem will literally be two thirds of the area of Australia and as big as all of the United States of America west of the Mississippi River!

And it's also a staggering 1500 miles high! That height would put its peak some five times higher than the standard orbit of the space shuttle which orbits in space about 300 miles above the earth!

Can you imagine taking an elevator ride up to the penthouse suite of the New Jerusalem? That's a pretty long trip in a standard elevator! Imagine the view of the whole earth from the balcony of the top penthouse.

The walls of the New Jerusalem will be 20 stories high or to put it in terms that young people will comprehend the walls of the New Jerusalem will be as tall as Godzilla. I guess that to God size really does matter.



What does this great city look like? George Kackos makes the following comments about what the New Jerusalem will look like:

It defies human imagination. Containing the glory of God and illuminated like a jasper stone, it glows in deep, rich, blue-green tones with the transparency of crystal. The walls have 12 gates, with the names of the tribes of Israel written upon them and 12 angels present. There are three gates in each of the four walls. The 12 foundations of the city wall contain the names of the 12 apostles (Revelation 11:14).

"The angel who measures the city gives its dimensions in terms of the reed (12 1/2 feet). The New Jerusalem is 1,500 miles in length, breadth and height (verse 16)!...[One] possibility is that the city is shaped like a pyramid, with God the Father and Christ appearing in the apex. The pyramidal structure is unique architecturally—the design may have originally come from God Himself. Other spirit beings may occupy areas at lower heights, depending on their status. Whatever the shape, New Jerusalem is a huge city. A spectacular example of God's handiwork is that the city is made of gold that appears as clear glass (Revelation 21:18).

"The walls encompassing New Jerusalem are 216 feet high (assuming a cubit measures 18 inches - that means the walls are about 20 stories high). Supporting the walls are an array of beautiful stones. Visiting a gem dealer would help you appreciate the beauty of the jasper [green], sapphire [blue], chalcedony green], emerald [green], sardonyx [red & white], sardius [red], chrysolite [yellow], beryl [green], topaz [greenish gold], chrysoprase [green], jacinth [bluish purple] and amethyst [purple] that are used (Revelation 21:17-20).

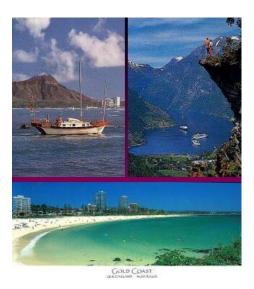


"Though hard to imagine, each gate is made from a single pearl. That's quite a contrast to the small pearls we see today. A street is described as being made of pure gold having the transparency of glass(Good News, January 1981, article: 'After the Millennium - New Heavens and a New Earth')"

Creating New Worlds - Going Where No Man Has Gone Before!

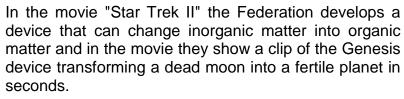
Once we're finished with beautifying the earth we come to the ultimate - creating our own CUSTOM-MADE PLANETS! Can you imagine that? Have a think of what you would like on your own custom-made planet. Maybe beautiful islands like Hawaii, Tahiti or beautiful coastlines like the Gold Coast or Norway's fjords or spectacular snowcapped Alpine mountains and gorgeous landscapes with sparkling rivers, magnificent waterfalls and superb lakes.

A friend of mine wants to have his own party planet with a couple of moons as gigantic speakers where you can actually surf along the sound waves. Personally, on my party planet I want a steep waterslide that takes an hour to get to the bottom.









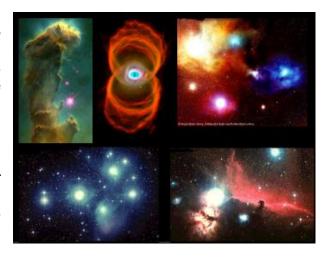




The highly emotional Dr McCoy is quoted in the movie as saying, "The old legend has it that God created the earth in six days but with this thing we can do it in six minutes." It certainly made a exciting preview of what we'll be able to do in the future in God's kingdom.

Imagine creating beautiful paradises on planets like Mars, Venus, Mercury and our own moon? Given that there is so solid surface on the gas giants of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune and that they are just balls of gas with a solid inner core it's obviously God didn't create them to be inhabited.

They were probably created to be spectacular backdrops for their respective moons which I believe we will terraform and make habitable one day.



What about creating some spectacular, colourful nebulas and galaxies like some of magnificent ones that the Hubble Space Telescope has photographed?

By the end of the Great White Throne Judgment period there may be approximately 200 billion members in God's family. If you think that's a lot, scientists estimate there are about 400 billion stars in the universe. Divide the number of stars by the number of God members and you have a galaxy or two for everyone on average. God has created all these solar systems with planets on to one day be inhabited. We will be the ones to help populate

those solar systems way out there. One day we really will have the "Intergalactic Church of God".

A question that sometimes gets asked is whether God may have created other beings like us in some other part of the universe who He is also working His plan through.

There are a few reasons why I don't believe that is the case. Everything in the Bible indicates that what He is doing through man is the prototype of any family expansion in the future beyond. We are told that only Christ has immortality (1 Timothy 6:15-16). If there was another plan and some had already become immortal the Bible wouldn't be that dogmatic that only Christ has immortality.

We are also told that Christ has died for sin "once for all" time (Hebrews 10:10-12). If there were other mortal beings elsewhere who had sinned then Christ would have died on their planet and not ours.

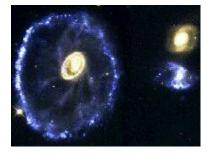
Lastly, if this isn't the first time God has done this thing why would He make earth and not some other planet He's working on the headquarters of the universe where He will dwell with mankind forever?

After the New Jerusalem has come down it says in Revelation 22:2 that the leaves of the tree of life will be for the healing of the nations. For people to be healed they must be sick. Now why would there be sick people after the New Jerusalem comes to earth? This indicates the possibility that we might create more people who will be mortal before becoming immortal after Project Earth is finally complete after the Great White Throne Judgment period.

A scripture that comes to my mind when I think about that is Isaiah 9:7 which says, "of the INCREASE of His government and peace there will be no end." There won't be just no end of God's government but no end of the increase as well.

If we do raise up new people on other worlds what will it be like down the track? Can you imagine tens of thousands of years from now if we've raised up several generations of new people who have subsequently created people on other worlds and they meet those of us in the church now? They will think it's an incredible privilege to meet someone who is, not just from the first world, but someone who was actually one of the firstfruits on Earth!

In the movie "Contact" someone asked the question if we are all alone in the universe and the answer that was given to the question was, "If we are all alone it seems like an awful waste of space". That comment highlights why the popular concept of going to heaven when we die mocks God's creation. If we spend all of our time in heaven when we die then the rest of the universe seems like a waste of space.



Speaking of raising up new worlds there is one very interesting scripture in the Book of Revelation that I ran across that seems to indicate this. Speaking to the church of Thyratira Christ says, "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations...and I will give him THE MORNING STAR" (Revelation 2:26-28).

Now we know the morning star is a symbol that usually refers to Jesus Christ but it doesn't seem to fit in this case. Why would Christ effectively say I give him myself? Could Christ mean He would give them the morning star as in the planet Venus? If it does and Venus is the first world that we start to terraform into a planet of beauty then it will be a fitting reward to the christians of the Thyratiran era in the Middle Ages who had to endure nightmarish religious persecution at the hands of the Catholic Church.

What I've tried to do here is to wet your appetite for God's kingdom and I'd like to encourage you to dream about it more. As life's pressures build we need all the encouragement we can to get through life and dreaming about the wonderful things God has prepared for us helps us keep our mind on the big picture and give us that encouragement. For the sufferings of this world are NOTHING compared to the glory and the wonderful future God has prepared for us (Romans 8:21).

This subject means a lot to me personally. When I was a teenager in the 1980's I was absolutely frightened to death by the prospect of nuclear war between Russia and America with the cold war still going on and that fear was hightened even further by shows such as the Prophecies of Nostrodamus and the Day After.

I picked up my first Plain Truth when I was 14 years old and the article that got me hooked onto the truth of God was an article on the World Tomorrow that appeared in the 50th anniversary issue (February 1984). It was this precious truth that brought me into the church so that's why it means so much to me.

Our kids I feel should be a lot more actively encouraged to dream about the World Tomorrow and have that big picture because the more real it can become to them I feel they'd be a lot less prone to giving up and leaving the church and have more enthusiasm to live God's way.



All these wonderful things that we've looked at in this article are why overcoming, repentance as well as baptism are all important – they are our passport to the World Tomorrow and being a part of that better resurrection!

Eye has not seen, nor ear has heard, nor has entered into the heart of man the things of the World Tomorrow which God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Corinthians 2:9).

Our ultimate destiny could be summed up in the following words. "Space - the final frontier! These are the voyages of the God family. It's bold eternal mission - to create new worlds and new life forms and to boldly go where no man has gone before!"

So with that in mind keep on dreaming about the Wonderful World Tomorrow!

