

THE MILLENNIUM

The term “millennium” is simply the Latin for “a thousand years.” It is taken from Revelation 20, where six times the duration of Christ’s earthly kingdom is said to be a thousand years. But the word “millennium” has taken on a technical significance, as representative of all that is said of Christ’s earthly reign in other passages as well. Hence, today many persons speak of the “millennium,” not so much signifying its duration of a thousand years, but a time or condition in which there shall be universal peace and prosperity, because these things are prophesied of Christ’s Kingdom.

It would not be possible within a limited scope to refer to all the passages relating to this kingdom. In the Old Testament far more is said of that time than of Christ’s first advent into the world. Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3 state that at that time “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 any more.” At that time the curse of sin shall be removed from the earth (Rom. 8:21), so that “instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off” (Isa. 55:13). Many other prophecies tell of Christ ruling in righteousness, resulting in universal peace (Isa. 32:1-17). This is usually what people have in mind in speaking of the millennium.