

## ***Part 2, The Millennial Reign of King Jesus***

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by Philip W. Shields

*Abstract: We long for the Millennial reign of our King. What will it be like? What will our resurrection bodies be like – physical or spirit? Hear who could be the leaders over the new world empire. We discuss technology – or not – in the new world. Finally, why is Satan released at the end of the Millennium and why millions listen to his deception? And then what?*

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Greetings, dear family of God, future servant-leaders, judges, teachers of God's Way – who struggle, resist, overcome and who win over Satan's way now. This is Philip Shields, a member of your Body and the Body of Christ with Part 2 of the Millennial Reign of Christ.

There are so many misconceptions about the Millennial reign of King Jesus, that I'm delighted to cover what the Bible actually *says* – plus, in this case, since we're looking ahead, I'll do some educated speculation as well. I hope this message inspires you to consider some new angles. If you find there are things you wish to write me about, please do so. I'm here to listen as well as preach.

By the end of the last sermon, we have seen the sequence of events as revealed in God's word leading up to, and beyond, the return of King Jesus such as:

- the capture and **binding of Satan** for 1000 years
- the **deliverance** of the captive, enslaved Israelites, who are brought back in a massive exodus from all around the world
- how God the Father is still in heaven with the Heavenly Jerusalem during this temporary thousand years ruled by King Jesus on earth
- A primary mission: **the restoration of all things** – back to the way GOD thinks of every single item and topic, whether clothing, marriage, child rearing, home design, transportation, agriculture
- **The most important thing to be restored:** relationship with God and one another, possible only after God sets His hand to CONVERT the world and to pour out His Spirit to all flesh, so the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth.
- the fact there will be lots of cities in the world tomorrow, but unlike any city we know today
- the possibility of people living for a thousand years once again

**Today I'll show what the Millennium itself could be like, based on the way I understand scripture.** By its very nature, some of this sermon today will be speculative and I could be wrong. It's not a salvational-point kind of doctrinal sermon, but we'll take some time and fun to ponder various possibilities of what could lie ahead of us. Some of the things we'll cover today:

- The 2 types of bodies there will be during the Millennium
- What our resurrection bodies will be like
- Who the leaders in the world tomorrow could be
- will there be technology as we know it – or are we going back to horse and carriage?

- what the world could be like as we go down the millennial time line
- Why Satan is released at the end of the thousand years.

### WHAT WILL OUR “RESURRECTION BODIES” ACTUALLY BE LIKE?

I’m reading a book that is a best seller right now which basically takes all the same scriptures I’m using, and he teaches correctly that all this action happens right here on planet Earth – but then he misses the mark, I feel, on some very important aspects.

**There will be 2 types of bodies generally during the millennium, representing the 2 major groups of people: those who are in Christ when King Jesus returns and the rest of humanity.**

**Those who are God’s people will be changed to immortal *spirit* beings** – *not* flesh and blood any longer. When we’re spirit we’ll be able to appear and disappear however we choose, just as the angels have. We will reign on the *earth* – not in or from heaven, though heavenly Jerusalem will be our “city” and our “home”. This change to spirit bodies is *not* what most believe. *Most – incredibly to me -- believe that the “resurrection bodies” of those in the first resurrection will still be flesh and blood* but somehow live outside the curse on Adam and will never die. But let’s see what the Bible actually says.

**The rest of humanity** who survive the worldwide holocaust prior to Jesus’ return, will remain as flesh and blood beings on this earth and will be taught God’s way as time progresses. It will apparently take some time, as we showed last time. They presumably will be given their opportunity to accept Christ and in time also be changed to spirit beings, though nowhere does the Bible absolutely say that about this group. If not, what happens to them when the heavens and earth are burned up (2 Pet. 3:10, etc.)? So I think all humans during and after the Millennium will be given the opportunity to choose Life, immortal life – or rebellion and death. But you’ll see why what I just said seems to make sense, however, in the light of all other scriptures.

So let’s back all that up with scripture, so you know I am saying what the Bible says, and not what people have come to assume over the past couple thousand years.

**1 Thess. 4:16-17** says the dead in the Christ are resurrected first, then those who are alive and remain are changed and caught up with them in the clouds.

In **1 Corinthians 15**, Paul starts by asking, in 1 b – “with what body shall those who are in Christ be resurrected”? Read it yourself. Then he goes on in verse 39-41, to say there different types of flesh bodies, and different types of celestial bodies. Some vary in glory from others. Let’s pick up in 1 Cor. 15:42.

#### **1 Cor 15:42-45, 50-54**

“So also is the resurrection of the dead. **The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.** 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44 It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.** 45 And so it is written, “*The first man Adam became a living being.*” *The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

Let's jump now to verse 50.

50 Now this I say, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we **shall all be changed** -- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Paul also taught earlier in 1 Cor. 15, that though we will all have glorious bodies, some will have more glorious bodies than others, just like stars vary in glory and power. Now let's see what John says under inspiration.

### **1 John 3:2**

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed **what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is."  
[flesh and blood cannot see God in His glory and live.]

Jesus Himself clarified it further in Luke 20. Though Jesus' focus was on marriage, He did make this statement, that in the resurrection we shall be **like the angels** - - who are clearly **spirit beings** (**Hebrews 1:7**). Now we don't mean ghosts! We don't mean "disembodied spirits" or something like that. I mean bodies that are much more powerful, more glorious, more everything – and they're real bodies. We will have arms and legs and faces and back ends and feet. But they are *spirit* bodies. Some want to believe that even God has no real appearance. We were made in God's *likeness* – that has to do with appearance, what God *looks* like – as well as in His *image* (that's our purpose, to be like Him in Character, what God *is* like).

### **Luke 20:35-36**

"But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, **and the resurrection from the dead**, neither marry nor are given in marriage; 36 **nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels** and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

For that matter, what did Jesus clearly say to Nicodemus in referring to the new birth?

### **John 3:6-8**

"**That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.** 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 **The wind** blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. **So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.**"

Can it get any clearer? **Our resurrection bodies – at least for those in the first resurrection who are in Christ – is not to flesh and blood. It is to glorious, powerful and immortal spirit.** This was also understood somewhat by the ancient prophets. **Daniel 12:2-3** says those who are wise will be resurrected to shine like the sun, like the sky!

This group comprises the "Kingdom of God". This group is *not* made up of flesh and blood physical beings, but spirit born, spirit-filled and actual **spirit bodies**. Not ghosts. Not weird, wisps of the night

– but *real* bodies, but made of spirit. Invisible, powerful, with new abilities, immortal and with no pain, eternally healthy, sharp minded beyond belief. This is the life to aspire to, and the life that the Kingdom of God will be. The spirit is real life, true life. The physical is mere shadow of this reality.

OK, let's move on. So that's the first group: those in the first resurrection, changed or resurrected to glorious, bright, shining, immortal spirit bodies.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> group of people will be the flesh-and-blood humans** who survive the nightmares and holocausts just before Christ returns and live on into the Millennium and those who are born in and during the Millennium. *They* will be flesh and blood. They will be able to bleed, die, hurt, tire – just as we are today as humans. I think it's entirely possible many will live for centuries, as they or their children practice health laws and as the climate and atmosphere of this earth are even changed. These will be the ones being ruled by the spirit rulers who comprise the Kingdom.

**The Millennium will be a time when all God's laws will be practiced.** In fact, nations will come up to Jerusalem to learn, for out of Zion shall come forth the law (**Micah 4:2**). As a result, humans during that time will be profoundly healthy. We won't be polluting our air, soil and streams and oceans. We will be renewing the earth in every possible way. Remember our God is into new – new creation, new heavens and new earth. He is also into renewing (**Psalms 104:30**) – our minds, our lives, our bodies as well as this planet itself.

The 1000 year reign will be a time when we won't have, anywhere we look on this earth, either obese, unhealthy, or starving people. Instead we'll be eating right, living by right principles. I preach to myself. I'm on a campaign to lose a lot of weight, to get healthier. Do you really think the most popular drinks will be **Coke or Pepsi** in the world to come? They won't even be *available*! They're not healthy, so why would God allow chemical laced foods and drinks, or so-called foods that have no nutrient value?

The world will be restored in all things, remember. Vegetables will be fresh. Meat will be available without hormone or other chemical shots – and yes, we will eat red meat in the world to come. Jesus ate lamb and meat, certainly at His last supper (**Luke 22:8**). He cooked fish for His disciples after His resurrection (**John 21:11-13**). He came “eating and drinking” and He celebrated and had fun enough that He was even accused of being a “winebibber and a glutton” (**Matthew 11:19**). You have to at least have seconds once in a while to even *be* accused of being a glutton. **I mention this only to make the point that the world to come will be a fun place – as well as a healthy place.** Remember King David said that in God's “presence are pleasures forevermore” (**Psalms 16:12**).

There will be dances, festivities, celebrations, feasts - - and lots of food and wine at the right times and places.

### **Jer 31:11-12**

“For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of one stronger than he. 12 Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, **Streaming to the goodness of the LORD -- For wheat and new wine and oil**, For the young of the flock and the herd; Their souls shall be like a well-watered garden, And they shall sorrow no more at all. 13 ***Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, And the young men and the old, together***; For I will turn their

mourning to joy, I will comfort them, and make them rejoice rather than sorrow. 14 I will satiate the soul of the priests with abundance, and My people shall be satisfied with My goodness, says the LORD."

We read before how there will be so much to harvest that they won't have finished harvesting until it's time to start sowing again!

So don't think that God's way is boring. We "church people" have a way, somehow, of making the Christian life more austere than it needs to be, much more boring than it needs to be – for God's way is life, abundant living, joy and laughter.

### **LEADERS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW**

**The biggest change in leadership is that the world dictator, the "anti-Christ" and his armies – will be replaced with King Jesus Himself.** There will be no more question who GOD is. He'll be ruling in Jerusalem in the person of King Jesus! And God the Father – God in the Highest – will be ruling over all in Heavenly Mt. Zion, waiting to return to earth with that incredible city when the thousand years is over (**Rev. 22:1-2**).

Right now you have Muslims killing Christians, and Christians killing Muslims, and everyone else. You have Sunni Muslims killing Shiite Muslims, all in the name of their moon god, Allah. We've seen people who call themselves Christians killing other Christians who don't believe as they do in northern Ireland. Everyone's trying to get their god to be the god for everyone else.

The time is coming when God says, "enough!" and sends His Son, King Jesus to rule. He is Emmanuel, "God WITH us". He is WITH us, on our side if we walk with Him. **The whole world will over time see and experience what GOD IS truly like**, and they'll see that their gods were no gods at all, but figments of the imagination. The Greek gods, the gods of the Norse, the Romans, the Celts, and the Egyptian Pharaohs who claimed to be gods, the Roman emperors who claimed to be gods – all finally settled once and for all.

**The one true God will be worshiped, and we will be leading the whole world in that worship.** We need to know how to worship now and be doing it now. But we will reign with Him on this earth, as His Bride. There are endless scriptures which show the world will – over time – come to worship Christ. It seems it may take Egypt at least three years to come worship King Jesus (**Zech.14:16-18**), but other verses make it clear that Egypt and Assyria and other nations will be among the redeemed. **Some time carefully read Isaiah 19:19-25.** It's very inspiring how the Egyptians WILL come around to worshiping the one true God.

**This conversion process will be thorough, will be systematic, and will take time. God will be firm, but neither is He going to just immediately smash everyone who doesn't go His way.** He doesn't do that now, He didn't do it that way when Israel was His nation on earth, and He won't do it that way then. And you won't reign with him either, if you think your rod of iron is to smash skulls with! **King Jesus will win people over to God's way**, as word spreads that it is well with those who walk this new way.

At the end of the thousand years, there will be a massive series of resurrections, which I discuss in the next sermon titled “the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Feast”. **The leaders will need to have a ton of experience.** We WILL! **We’ll have 1,000 years** of reigning, judging, teaching, and getting better and better at being the kind of perfect leader God wants us to be – but learning all that on a much, much smaller population than the world currently has. *Then we’ll be ready* for the massive influx of more people to teach and lead in the time after the Millennium.

Remember that most of mankind will not survive the manmade and natural catastrophes that are heading our way in the next 5-30 years. Only a “remnant” will remain. Perhaps 10% or less of human population will remain alive at the beginning of the Millennium.

So these are the people we will be leading. I mentioned last time that the cities we are given to rule, will be cities we’ll have to rebuild. Verse after verse talks about rebuilding the ruined cities. I covered that last time.

**Though I’m no fan of hierarchy as practiced today in the world and even in many churches, I believe there will be organization and leaders in God’s new world – but it will be familial, family-based.** Though we will all be leaders, we will no doubt have leaders coordinating us as well. Some of you don’t like hearing that, but I don’t know how you’d get around some very clear scriptures. However, it will be familial, based on a loving family. We will all be brothers and sisters under our “older brother” *Jesus, and He will not tolerate anyone “lording it over” other people.* He clearly said we are not to be like Gentile rulers who love to lord it over, but rather we should be servant leaders (**Matthew 20:24-28**).

**Paul taught Timothy** to work with older men like he would his own dad; with older women like his own mom; with younger women as he would a sister. A loving family is the model. When there were issues, they came together (Acts 15) and hashed out the issues together, and then a decision was made and sent out to the churches – who were expected to comply. **Yes, there was and there will be, some godly AUTHORITY** in the kingdom of God. I make no apology for that for you who will not come under any authority. Believe me, I understand, as so many in authority have abused it. For that matter, I’ll bet you have too, in whatever capacity you have had authority: in your marriage, your home, your work place, and so on. I too have had to repent of where I’ve fallen short so often in the past in ways I handled authority.... and we move on, and grow, right? **But we need to all learn to listen to one another, to submit to one another – like a loving family should.**

**So over all the earth will be King Jesus, the Son of God, and the Root of Jesse.**

**Under Him, very likely will be Abraham,** Isaac and Jacob coordinating other teams of world rulers. Abraham is the “father of the faithful” and in **Romans 4:13**, Abraham is called “**heir of the world**”. Ultimately all of us “inherit all things” (**Revelation 21:7**). The elect inherit (**Isaiah 65:9**) everything with Christ, hence we are called co-heirs with Him. To the Sheep on His right hand Jesus says, “Inherit the kingdom..” (**Matthew 25:34**). **The wise inherit glory (Proverbs 3:35)**, but little doubt, leading us all, under Christ, will be Abraham and His team of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

**The King over Israel** clearly will be the resurrected, spirit-bodied **King David**. King David died as a righteous king, but did not go to heaven (**Acts 2:29, 34**), but awaits the bodily resurrection – but to

SPIRIT – at the last trump. HE will reign over a reunited kingdom – of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel together, but still distinct tribes or nations in a newly united kingdom of the twelve tribes. If any of you don't like the word "over", you'll have to get over it, pardon the pun, because if you look up in a concordance the word "over", you'll find that everyone has someone over him or her except God the Father. Even Jesus: the head of Jesus is God (**read 1 Cor. 11:3**), although Jesus is over all creation (**Col. 1:15**). Remember Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, but there are indeed other shepherds under Christ (**1 Pet. 5:1-4**). And verse 5 says we are to all be submissive to each other.

**Ezekiel 34:23-31** "I will establish **one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them -- My servant David**. He shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 **And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My servant David a prince among them**; I, the LORD, have spoken."

**It is very clear that each of the 12 disciples will each lead one of the twelve tribes of Israel.**

**Matt 19:28-29** "*So Jesus said to them,* "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me **will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel**. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

**Leading the Gentiles?** The Bible is not specific. Here's the educated guess some have put forth: **probably the Prophet DANIEL** – who had incredible experience right at the epicenter of the culture that has influenced all cultures ever since: Babylon itself! Who better understands both GOD'S way as well as the Gentile mindset than Daniel. Remember that God is the one who sets people in their positions, so God must have also been behind Daniel's promotion to virtual prime minister under the emperor and his son.

And who better to assist him than his three friends – **Shedrach, Meschach and Abednego** – who were willing to be burned alive rather than bow down to a false god.

I also think that **very high among the leadership of the Gentiles could be the Apostle Paul** – and possibly Barnabas, Apollos and others who preached to the Gentiles. The apostle Paul was the "apostle to the Gentiles". He was probably being trained for an everlasting position.

Who knows? Perhaps **Noah** will be over the re-settling of the world, as he certainly had experience with that. Or perhaps he'll have something to do with restoring the health and vitality of the world's animal populations.... Who knows?

Perhaps **Joseph** can use his experience again in preparing and addressing the famines, to help the whole world get their agricultural programs going again. Perhaps he'll be busy in restoring the deserts, so they blossom as a rose.

**My point is, as the twelve apostles were prepared for specific positions – so are you being prepared for a specific position in the Kingdom.** Unfortunately God hasn't made it clear in scripture what exactly you or I will be doing. "Philip, you shall be ... doing such and such".... It's just not there! But I know that everything happening to me, and around me, is preparing me for eternity! And also for you.

The *important* thing about leadership in the world to come, is that there are just *so* many verses that talk about it being **a time of justice, fairness, loving leaders** who care about their people, and leaders who will listen when people call for help. *That* was the meaning of the verses about “your teachers won’t be removed to a corner anymore”—they are responding to cries for help. In my transcript I will list a bunch of scriptures about the quality of the leadership during that time, which you can study at your leisure if you wish. **Isaiah 16:5** says the One reigning will reign in mercy, seeking justice. The results, according to **Isaiah 32** will be peace and tranquility.

**Psalms 98:9** says, “For He is coming to judge the earth, **with righteousness He shall judge** the world, and the peoples with equity”. A really good passage to read on your own is **Jeremiah 23:1-6**, where God castigates the judges and leaders we have today and promises He’ll give the world much better shepherds. Remember Jesus tells us to learn to judge *righteous* judgment also (**John 7:24**). We are to learn how to judge – instead of just jumping to condemnations – since we too, will be judging the world and angels (**1 Cor. 6:1-2**). *Our training today is in the way we “rule” and serve and judge right now – in our homes, at our workplaces, at school and so on.*

**Other passages about the coming kind of leadership** we will have, and be a part of: **Isaiah 32:1; 32:16-18; 42:1-4; Ezekiel 45:9-10; Isaiah 11:3-5; Ezekiel 34:1-16**. The last 10-20 psalms are also replete with these kinds of promises and prophecies.

Leaders in the world tomorrow will *not* be voted in but will be appointed for specific positions by God who sees all, hears all our thoughts, knows all our motives and knows where we fit best – if we fit at all as a leader – in His kingdom. **This is our time of judgment and our proving grounds.** If you and I have flubbed it up badly in the past, or even presently, we best “get back in the game”, as it were, and ask God to help us be the kind of leader HE is. You may wish to hear my coming sermon, which I hope will be encouraging, titled something like “It’s how we End up that counts”.

## TECHNOLOGY IN THE MILLENNIAL WORLD?

**I now want to broach this question: will the world under Christ be almost an Amish-type existence, or will there be high-tech available? In other words, will we have high speed transportation, cell phones, computers, electricity, modern appliances – or are we going back to a totally agrarian, horse-and-buggy type existence?**

**I’m referring to the surviving human, flesh and blood population here with this question.** Obviously we who are born of the spirit and who are spirit-being members of the Kingdom of God, who are the resurrected Bride of Christ, will have inherent “high-tech” abilities. For example, WE will be able to fly faster perhaps even than the speed of thought! I covered those things in detail in my 2 messages on “Life as a Spirit Being”. We will have limitless strength, miracle-working powers, vision that sees through mountains and through darkness, be able to walk through walls, and appear and disappear at will. We will also be able to enjoy food and drink.

So my question about technology is not pertaining to those who are spirit, but to those who are living as humans on the earth.



There are some who feel that anything technological must be “of the devil”. Is that necessarily true? On the other hand, do we need all these modern high-tech things, or would the world, the environment, society and people be happier, safer and better without them?

I already covered last time that there **will be cities in this new world**. Lots of cities, just not “cities” like we think of cities. I covered last time that much work will be required. So God is not against cities, per se.

**But let me remind you: it’s not the “thing” God is against so much, but what man under Satan’s influence has done with the “thing”, whether the item in question is a city, or education, or farming, or transportation. There will be cities. There will be education, farming and transportation.**

**My thesis is this: everything in the world under Christ will be vastly different eventually from what we know today. A ‘city’ in this new world will bear no resemblance to cities today.** I suspect cities will be large, planned from the beginning, with lots of green space built-in, with people owning a few acres right in the city, for example.

There is something to be said for families living on the land, growing their own vegetables, milking their own goats or cows, teaching their own children, and doing everything as a family or even expanded families and small communities. But does that mean we can’t communicate instantly, or move around quickly, or use computers because somehow being able to use technology is somehow inherently evil by itself?

And how would you define “technology”? At what stage of technological development would that level of technology be acceptable? Even a horse buggy today has technological advances over carts and buggies 2,000 years ago for example. Even a modern simple kitchen knife, or rope, or nails for building have improvements made possible from “technology”. So how far back to do we go before something is no longer “evil”?

***Or, as I prefer to see it until shown otherwise by King Jesus, everything we have had has been touched by Satan, and everything will have to be restored, and then it will be acceptable, because it won’t have been tarnished by Satan’s influence and it will be used by converted people! Even technological marvels. I personally feel we are going to be just blown off our feet when we see what converted people can invent, when inspired by God, and inspired to invent something for the good of mankind. Just you watch and see.***

A world under Jesus Christ will need to be rebuilt. Will we not use high-speed tools like power saws, nail guns, and so forth? Will we have to move rubble by hand and crowbar? Or will we have access to bulldozers? That’s the question, isn’t it? Will we not have foundries and steel mills to make iron and steel for useful purposes? Will there not be some form of industry?

**I think it’s *probable* that in the *short* term, much of what we know today electronically will be totally knocked out, disabled and unable to function due to nuclear war, solar sunspots, and who knows what else. But in time, can humanity not go back to using the tools that could help them put a totally devastated population back into homes and schools quickly? Think about it!**

**Is there something so wrong about a telephone, or a cell phone, or a computer, when the users are all converted children of God? When the conversations will be clean? When there's nothing evil on the internet or servers?** Don't forget that even now, any organization or church doing the "work of God" today *do* use computers, cell phones, high speed transportation, and so on. I'm preparing this sermon right now on a computer. *If these things are inherently bad somehow, then the people of God should throw away these things right now.* And some cultures and religious groups do just that!

As long as the "technology" is used for good – and does not pollute God's earth – why not? I personally feel we won't have plastics, for example. Why? Because plastic doesn't break down or decompose. No doubt we'll have something much better – but environmentally friendly.

Why can't we have both pictures, however? **Micah 4:4 says we will sit under our own vineyard and our own fig tree or other fruit trees.** Why can't we have land, gardens, our own vineyards and fruit trees – perhaps even in or near cities – and still also be able to communicate rapidly by some form of telephone and/or computers? Some people assume God is inherently against speed or efficient use of time. I will grant you: we need to take time for the important things – God, our family, our health, our Bible study and so on – but is there something inherently wrong with moving fast? If so, God would never move fast, and God's people will never move fast.

Let's look at **transportation**. Some feel there will be no cars in the world to come, and some even feel there will be no roads. Well, then what do you do with all the scriptures that talk about the roads and highways in the millennium? **There's a MAJOR one that in fact is called "The Highway of Holiness" (Isaiah 35:8).**

Isaiah **19:23** talks about a **highway between Assyria and Egypt** and how they become converted along with Israel. Be turning there, while I tell you about a few others: **Isaiah 40:3** says to make a highway for our God. **Isaiah 62:10** says to "build up the highway" for God's people to travel on. Many NATIONS will come up to Jerusalem – Micah 4:2 – and how will they, without extensive road networks all around the world?

#### **Isaiah 19:23-25**

"In that day **there will be a highway** from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian will come into Egypt and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptians will serve with the Assyrians.  
24 In that day Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria -- a blessing in the midst of the land, 25 whom the LORD of hosts shall bless, saying, "Blessed is **Egypt My people**, and **Assyria the work of My hands**, and **Israel My inheritance.**"

Now let me also ask: when God wants the nations – or at least the representatives from all the nations – to come to Jerusalem for the Feasts (**Zechariah 14:16-17**), how would they get there without roads? Or for that matter, without high speed transportation systems, unless you assume we will somehow be their transportation or assume that somehow God is against high speed transport except when He needs it? That doesn't even make sense to me.

**I'm assuming of course, that if there is rapid transport, it will be unlike anything we see today.** No doubt, if we have rapid high-tech transportation, it will be clean, quiet, efficient, non-polluting and high quality. You may disagree with me, but I see no reason either why we wouldn't have instant communications capability, clean and efficient air travel, high speed transoceanic ships and so forth – IF they're designed not to pollute, not to damage, not to endanger anything. Why not?

Those who assume that horse-and-buggy and no modern technology is somehow better, forget this: **even the world that had nothing except horse and buggy was still Satan's world and still corrupted by him.** During low-tech millennia, there was still a ton of evil and violence and wickedness with the low-tech that was extant at that time. So it's not the *thing* that is evil, but an evil usage of the thing that is evil. A knife is great. But don't use it to stab people. A computer is great for countless reasons, but don't use it for evil either.

**Some things will become totally a thing of the past.** Military hardware like tanks, fighter jets, bombs, land mines, missiles, AK-47's or M-16's – and you get the point. Those examples of modern technology *are* designed for war and violence and will be a thing of the past forever.

### **FAST MOVERS**

But having said that, God is not against moving fast, real fast, when He needs to. Here are a couple examples to mull over:

Remember the time Jesus walked on water and then got into the boat with the disciples, do you remember what happens next? **John 6:21** gives the often overlooked answer: John 6:21 “Then they willingly received Him into the boat, ***and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.***” Did you get that?

That boat – and the people in it – traveled so fast through time and space that they were not even aware of the passage of that time and space, but just that they were not at the shore!

Another case: when the deacon Philip taught the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8, notice what is said:

#### **Acts 8:38-40**

“So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.”

Azotus was the name for the ancient Philistine city of Ashdod, near the coast. It was some miles away. God wanted Philip back on schedule, and wanted him in Azotus *now*, so he had a flesh and blood human being disappear and reappear somewhere else, miles away.

Of course you remember the example of Elijah being taken up in a *whirlwind* (**2 Kings 2:11**). **For some reason, by the way, people think scripture says Elijah was taken up in a fiery chariot. It doesn't say that, by the way!** It says fiery horses and a flaming chariot *separated* Elijah from

Elisha and then **Elijah went up in a whirlwind! Later on, Elijah wrote a letter**, by the way – see that in **2 Chronicles 21:12**. That was quite some time later. I don't believe that Elijah was caught up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven where God is. He was simply moved to somewhere else, for now it was Elisha's time to shine.

We certainly know angels and spirit beings can move quickly. Jesus saw Mary Magdalene in the morning on Sunday and by that night had ascended to the Father in heaven, returned, and was talking to his 11 remaining male disciples that evening (**John 20**). We know God's "heaven" is some distance away because of the story in **Daniel 10**, when God had sent an angel to tell Daniel something, but the angel was hindered by the powerful evil spirit over Persia stopping him from coming to earth, until Michael the archangel came to his aid. **Read Daniel 10:10-14** sometime.

Now sure, we could conceivably move masses of people through a Star Trek-like kind of "beam me up Scottie" – but I doubt it. But still, **what would be wrong with having some form of rapid transport that is, get this – totally unlike anything we know of today!?**

So the way I see it is this: God *will* want the nations settled in their lands, but in the new covenant times, there is no such thing as forbidding nations from intermingling and visiting and having fun together at feast sites and so on. When He wants the representatives to come together, I see no problem with them doing so in rapid and efficient ways. We know He says in Zechariah 14 that He wants at least representatives in Jerusalem at the Feast.

**God is not against moving quickly when it is necessary.** Would He want people taking months to travel by horse and buggy or by walking across entire nations to go to Jerusalem? That would not be good for relationships either, brethren!

**God is against vehicles that pollute the environment and waste vital resources.** That we can take for granted, for God says He is *against* those who "destroy the earth" (**Rev. 11:18**) Having said that, can we not invent rapid transportation that does *not* pollute? I saw on the news just a few days ago that the French have invented a prototype of a car that runs on *air* and is totally non-polluting! Do we have to use *nuclear* energy? No! Why can't we harness the wind – like the modern windmills that generate electricity? Why can't we harness heat and steam from the earth, or unheard of energy schemes that do not pollute, are not noisy, and give *back* to the environment?

So my take on it is this: God's will be done. I will gladly submit to whatever kind of world the King of kings decides we need to have. **But I won't at all be surprised if in fact we see technological advances that will boggle our minds some time in the future. I believe, since we don't even use 5 or 10% of our mental power, that we are yet to see mankind accomplish – righteously and under God's guidance – some pretty incredible things in the world ahead!** You don't have to agree with me... hey, you can disagree with these points because I am speculating. And our track record as humans, when it comes to explaining prophecy, frankly has not been all that good. But it's my take on it. We'll see what God says.

## FARMS AND AGRICULTURE

The same principle will apply, in my view of things, in farming, agriculture, business, everything we know will be different than they are now. Farming, for example. **Though huge mega-farms are more efficient, I would be totally surprised if that practice continues.** There are many problems with having mega-farms. It's much better for the soil, for the land, and much more effective in preventing the spread of bugs and viruses if there are many small farms, with each planting something different perhaps than the field next door.

Many of you know a whole lot more about godly farming principles than I do. And perhaps you'll help teach the world what you know. In any case, farms and farmers will once again be honored – instead of looked upon as country bumpkins.

I'm sure many of the practices we have today will be outlawed: same crop, year after year. That's very hard for the soil. Also, the land will get to have its **land sabbath every 7<sup>th</sup> year**, in which it can rest and even be enriched during that year off, with natural manure fertilizer, the planting of legumes and plants that feed the soil, and so forth.

Israel in the Middle East has turned much of its desert-like land into verdant, productive land by planting thousands of trees and paying attention to the soil. We'll do that all over the earth.

Other aspects: **business?** This could be a very interesting discussion. I'm sure God will reward the hard worker. Competition as we know it, will be a thing of the past. However, I'm not entirely convinced that all competition per se is evil.

Will we have huge shopping malls? We'll have to see. I don't personally think so.

Will there be massive and endless freeways with millions of commuters every morning and evening? Certainly not, I'm sure.

**Will we have competitive games in other words?** I know many ministers who have taught that all competitive sports are ultimately wrong and Satanic. No doubt, as in everything else, sports have been heavily contaminated by Satan's evil attitudes too. But is there anything wrong per se with having a game of golf, or team sports like basketball, soccer, football, baseball – if we play hard but respectfully of one another, and with an air of camaraderie rather than "win at all costs"? If we do play these games then, the referee will be respected and his calls honored. I'm sure we'll play hard, and play to win. But not at the expense of our health and limb. If a runner is racing back to home base, I don't think the catcher will have to fear his life is at stake!

There will be playing, and there will be streets, and there will be young and old, and there will be aging in this temporary millennial world:

### **Zechariah 8:1-5**

Again the word of the LORD of hosts came, saying, 2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts:

'I am zealous for Zion with great zeal; with great fervor I am zealous for her.'

3 "Thus says the LORD:

'I will return to Zion, and dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. Jerusalem shall be called the **City of Truth**, The Mountain of the LORD of hosts, **The Holy Mountain**.'

4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts:

**'Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, Each one with his staff in his hand because of great age. 5 The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.'**

All in all, we know it will be a wonderful time. Exactly how it will be, no one knows, beyond the clear words of scripture. We haven't seen a world under Christ – and so we'll see it then. In the meantime, as converted adults, we can discuss these things and agree to disagree on these non-salvational issues if we choose. That's fine. Let's move on.

### **AN UNPRECEDENTED WORLD – then a final rebellion**

By the end of the thousand years, this planet will be incredibly beautiful. You'd have to wonder how and why anyone would reject it. But apparently, Satan is released at the end of the thousand years and deceives millions into forming an army to come fight God and the people going happily God's way.

#### **Revelation 20:7-10 RSV**

**"And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be loosed from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations** which are at the four corners of the earth, that is, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; **their number is like the sand of the sea. 9** And they marched up over the broad earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city** [perhaps during the Feast of Tabernacles?] but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, **10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulphur where the beast and the false prophet were, and [they] will be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

(there is no "they" in the original Greek! The Beast and False Prophet were thrown in to a fire, and being human – were burned up! The wages of sin is death, not immortal life tortured by God. The one tormented forever is the spirit being called Satan. That's *Satan's* fate.

Anyway, millions once more are deceived. Perhaps many of these will be those born during the Millennium who had no knowledge or prior experience with Satan, his evil, the results of his way, and so forth. So these people also have to experience that alternative to God's way – and they get sucked into the wrong way and are destroyed.

Their future? I leave that decision to God.

After this last gasp battle, what happens next is covered in my sermon titled "The 8<sup>th</sup> Day". Go listen to it. It's an eye-opener!

After all the resurrections are done, we will get to witness The Almighty create new heavens and a new earth. The new earth will undoubtedly be *much* bigger than this present one, since just the city of Heavenly Jerusalem alone will be 1,500 *miles* high!

So once we have a new earth and new heavens, our beloved *Father*, God Almighty in the Highest, comes down to earth with His city reserved for the Bride of Christ. At that time, we're told in **1 Cor. 15:24-28** that everyone, including King Jesus, bow the knees and worship God the Father.

**Don't forget: God the father is also called "the God of Jesus Christ" (Eph. 1:3, 17; Romans 15:6; 2 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 11:31).** Jesus is not of the same rank as His Father. "My father is greater than I", He said. In **John 10:29-30**, Jesus says Father is "greater than *all*". He told Mary Magdalene after His resurrection that he was ascending to "my father and your father, *to my God* and your God" (**John 20:17**). There are other passages also – like Rev. 3:12 and others that teach that Jesus' God is His Father. God the Father has no God. **But God and Jesus are also one and both are considered fully GOD (John 1:1-3)**, so don't fall for the falderal out there that Jesus isn't fully God somehow. It's just that God the Father is higher than Jesus. My son and I are both flesh and both Shields, but I'm his father and wiser and make more money and so on than he does. But we're both human, both with each other – and both are Shields.

So Father returns with His city to set it up here on earth. And the universe starts over new. I know we're in for some very exciting times. Imagine watching the new creation of all things. I just bought a huge book from Barnes & Noble about our universe. It shows Hubble telescope pictures that are simply mind boggling. Imagine watching thousands of galaxies being created! Imagine perhaps being allowed to participate in it, much like a loving father lets his little boy or girl try to pound in a nail or two, or as they get more experienced, build a birdhouse or something. Wow. I can't wait. **Praise be to God almighty who has called me, forgiven me, and called me to share this wonderful truth about His love and the future we have with Him.**

We can only imagine beyond what we're told in Revelation 21 and 22. God is not against posh and lavish – at the right time and place. The heavenly Jerusalem is one lavish city and it's immense. And very high! In this city live those who make up the first resurrection and who are the Bride of Christ. It's a reward we don't want to miss or give up. Just go back and slowly read Rev 21-22. It's an incredible picture.

Brethren, we are commanded to pray "Thy kingdom come". No wonder the apostle John, at the end of the book of Revelation, can't help but exclaim....aw, let's read it in Rev. 22:20-21.

#### **Rev 22:20-21**

"He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."

Amen. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

We're also told in **Isaiah 42:4** that God will not fail or be discouraged until all this happens, and His zeal, He says, will perform it. In fact, we're actually commanded to give God no rest until He makes Jerusalem a joy in all the world (**Isaiah 62:7**). I can hardly wait.

But brethren, believe it. See the kingdom of God now in your mind's eye and in your heart. Be and live like a child of God now. We cannot be in Christ and remain unchanged. I preach to myself also.

Reach out to other believers. Let's stop the splitting up God's people and God's church and let's come together to worship our God and our King ....together. As one. This is what the world tomorrow is about: being one in Christ, and being one of one another. We are citizens now of that kingdom. We are just pilgrims in this life – awaiting our true country in heaven to come to earth. So let's live now like that truly is our hope, our dream, our purpose and our life.

My time's up, so until next time – help me spread the word. Pray for me and this little website that is growing month by month. I'd love to hear your encouragement and moral support. God bless you and be with you always. Until next time, your brother Philip Shields.....