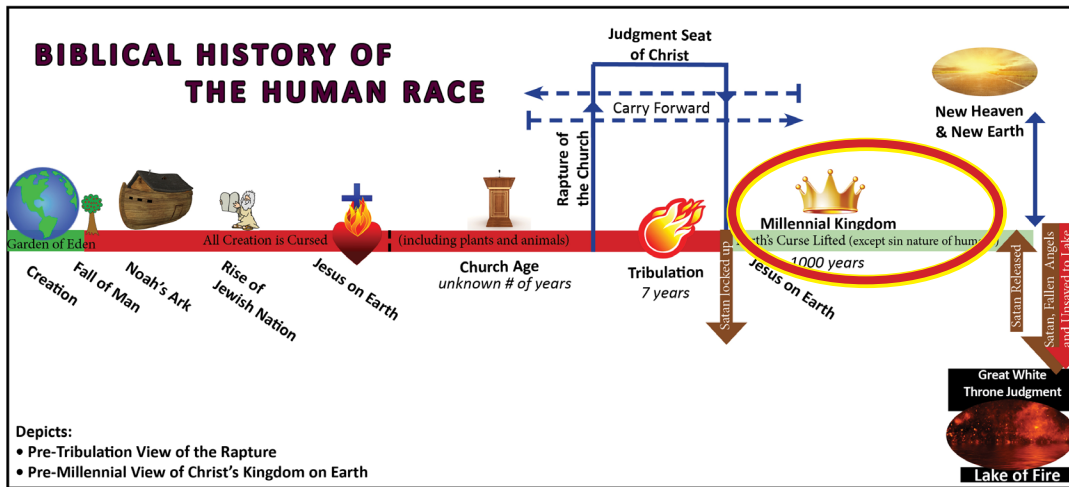


Preparing for the Rapture and Beyond



THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM - Part 1

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Time to get back in the time machine and travel even further forward in time - to the next era, the Millennial Kingdom.

See page 183 toolbox for full-page image.

The Millennial Kingdom Begins

This will, indeed, be a **very interesting time in human history**. When I began to think about what to write in this section, I started by gathering as many Scriptures as I could about the topic. The list I prepared soon grew to over 60 pages. I've heard it said that approximately 30% of the Bible is prophetic with only about 6% yet unfulfilled. Many prophecies have both "near" and "far" fulfillment (meaning they may prophesy about two or more events occurring at different times). So, 60+ pages did not surprise me.

THE PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

As I understand it, the Millennial Kingdom serves several purposes. Here are three to consider:

1. A time for God to fulfill (complete) His promises to Abraham, Jacob, David and the Jewish people.
2. A time to create/birth the remaining number of humans who will serve God throughout the rest of eternity.
3. A time to prove that some of humanity will

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No doubt a massive “united” rebuilding process will begin almost immediately. People (surviving humans) will need homes to live in, places to buy food, etc. As believers, they are our brothers and sisters as well.

I enjoy watching TV shows where individuals and groups get together to help someone else rebuild their home. It just feels good to help someone in need. And they will need us to help as well.

Read the book of Nehemiah if you want a Biblical reference for people helping each other rebuild their lives. In my mind, I can see this happening at the beginning of the Millennium - it will probably be needed, and it will feel great to be a part of it.

still choose rebellion even if Satan (and his demons) are not present to tempt them.

You may know of other purposes as well. Feel free to discuss your thoughts with others in your group.

WHERE WILL THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM BE LOCATED?

Right here on earth, the earth we know. **Truly devastating things happen on and to the earth during the Tribulation period (see *After the Rapture: Hell on Earth*).** Many of those things will need to be cleaned up and cured during the 75-day interlude period between the end of the Tribulation period and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. The curse on the earth and animals (because of original sin) will be reversed as well:

*^{17b}“Cursed is the ground because of you;”
Genesis 3:17b*

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Romans 8:22

I suspect that much of this will happen “supernaturally” requiring nothing more than Jesus to speak it into existence. But I also believe that there will be some things He will require us (as Saints in our glorified bodies) and the humans who remain (sheep who survive the Tribulation period) to do. It will be our home for 1000 years, after all.

HOW LONG WILL THIS ERA LAST?

As the name suggests, **1000 years**. The Latin word for 1000 is Milla or Millia. In general, there is no reason to believe that these 1000 years will not pass exactly as our time does now. However, it MAY not “feel like” 1000 years to some (especially those already living in glorified bodies). And it may not “feel like” 1000 years to humans either since their lifespan will go back like it was prior to the flood with some people living hundreds of years.

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It is my understanding that all saved people (even though still in human bodies) will live until the end of the era. They will not die but they will not get glorified (imperishable) bodies until the end of the millennium. More on this in a bit.

WHO WILL BE THE LEADERS OF THE WORLD GOVERNMENT DURING THE MILLENNIUM?



See page 189 in the toolbox for full-page image.

HIS Kingdom will be an **absolute monarchy**, not a democracy or a republic nor socialistic or communistic. Of Jesus' government, Scripture says that He will rule (some translations say shepherd) **"with a rod of iron"** (Revelation 12:5, Revelation 19:15, Psalm 2:9 and others).

Why? Because sin will still be present even though Satan and his demons are locked up during the entire 1000 years.

Again, why? Because people will exist in human form that includes the "sin nature" they are born with just like we were.

As previously noted, **all humans who enter the Kingdom will be believers (still in their original sin-nature form)**. This "pure believer state" will only last a few years. As these humans begin having children

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once again there will be unbelievers present in the Kingdom as well. “The natural outworking of this sin nature will have to be restrained. The reign of the Messianic King will be a strict one, and the righteous and just laws emanating from Jerusalem will have to be obeyed.”¹ Even though Satan and his companions will be locked up, unable to influence people toward evil, there will still be ample opportunity to rebel against the King, openly or in secret won’t matter, rebellion is rebellion, and He will know. The Millennium will demonstrate that humans still have free will and will be held accountable for their decisions.

Although there will be **no more war between nations** (Jesus won’t permit it), there will still be conflicts between people:

^{4a}He will judge between the nations and will settle _____ for many peoples
Isaiah 2:4a*

*^{4c}Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for _____ anymore.
Isaiah 2:4c*

***No doubt to settle disputes within the gentile population** will be one of the best jobs/positions of the Bride and the Tribulation Saints on a local (governmental) level. It will be considered a great honor to be trusted to work on behalf of our Savior in His government. **To get this honor requires something of us NOW (today) – again the primary focus of this study.**

¹⁷‘Well done, my good servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of _____.’ Luke 19:17

¹⁹His master answered, ‘You take charge of _____.’ Luke 19:19

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Jesus will have predetermined who will serve in His government to co-rule with Him based on our loyalty and service to Him while in our earthly bodies (post salvation). It is His decision alone to determine the hierarchy of His government (no “running for office” or lineage rulership will occur). Although the final decision is His, **He predetermined that we (believers) have significant input into this decision.**

²⁸Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:28

Here Jesus was speaking to His Apostles. This particular pledge is to them, but the pattern exists in general.

Complete these verses:

²¹To the one who is victorious, I _____ to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne. Revelation 3:21*

¹²if we endure, we will also _____. If we disown him, he will also disown us; 2 Timothy 2:12

Note that this is to believers - not unbelievers.

Scripture is not clear as to whether Israel, the church, and the other believer **groups** of history will maintain their **distinctions** after the Millennial Kingdom and throughout the rest of eternity.

Will we be able to earn a higher position during the Millennial Kingdom? I don’t know, but I don’t think so mostly because we will be unable to sin or earn rewards in our new bodies. Several notable Bible Scholars hold this same opinion. I suppose we will find out together when the time comes.

*Jesus was “victorious” by doing the work He was assigned by His Father to do while on earth (John 17:4).

That is how we are victorious as well, doing the work Father has assigned to each of us (individually).

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THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM – WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

THE POPULATION: WHO IS NOT THERE?

Unbelievers who manage to survive the Tribulation will be prevented from entering (they will be killed).

1. **Many of the non-believers** (those who worship Satan, the Antichrist and the false prophet – who bear the mark of beast) **will be killed in the Battle at Armageddon.** But this is **only some of the unbelievers** living on the earth at that time.

²¹*The rest [along with the beast and the false prophet] _____ with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh. Revelation 19:21*

2. **The rest of the unbelievers** who survive the Tribulation period are dealt with and killed in the period between the end of the Tribulation and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom (the 75-day interlude between the two periods) – see *The Separation of the Sheep and Goats* in Chapter Two.

THE POPULATION: WHO IS THERE?

A. PEOPLE NOW IN GLORIFIED BODIES

1. **The Raptured Church/“bride of Christ” will be there with Him.** We will be in our glorified bodies, not in our original human bodies. Review the section about the Rapture in Chapter 2 if you need to be refreshed on how and when this occurs. Remember that this includes Messianic Jews (Jews who came to believe in Jesus as their Messiah during the Church Age) starting with the Apostles and others that were there on the day of Pentecost at the birth of the Church. Recall that the Church was initially 100% Jewish.

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2. **Martyred Tribulation Saints** – again, in new glorified (resurrected) bodies.

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They _____ and reigned with Christ a _____. Revelation 20:4

This is obviously describing dead (martyred) Tribulation Saints because the two events “worshiped the beast or its image” and “not received the mark ...” only occur during the Tribulation period.

3. **Old Testament Saints** who trusted, worshiped and followed God before the arrival of the Messiah. Examples include Abraham, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, Joseph, the Prophets (including John the Baptist) and many others who trusted God for their salvation. And let’s not forget to go back to Noah, Job and others. I see no reason not to include Adam and Eve and Able. There will, no doubt, be lots and lots of them resurrected and given new bodies at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom. It is said of Abraham, *“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* (Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, James 2:23). God has His plans and His ways, even for some not specifically listed in the Scriptures.

Note that these verses say, “Abraham believed God” they do NOT say “Abraham believed IN God” - He believed God and acted accordingly. Consider:

¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder. James 2:19

This is believing IN God, that’s different.

NOTES**B. PEOPLE (BELIEVERS) STILL IN THEIR CURRENT HUMAN BODIES**

At the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom, a few believers (worshippers of Jesus Christ) are alive and still exist on earth **in their original human bodies (not glorified bodies)**. These are the ones who **survived the Tribulation period** and had pledged themselves to Jesus during the seven years. (Recall the “Sheep” in Matthew 25.)

HOW MANY PEOPLE (HUMANS) WILL INITIALLY ENTER THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM?

The only **humans** permitted to enter the Millennial Kingdom at its inception are **believers who survived the Tribulation period** – see *The Separation of the Sheep and Goats* in the Chapter 3. It is hard to tell how many people will be alive and “qualify” to enter the Kingdom. It is likely that those of us in new glorified bodies will outnumber the humans at the beginning of the millennium. But, since our numbers will be “fixed” and they will continue to increase, it probably won’t be long before they far outnumber us. Is this significant? I don’t know, but I think so.

WILL WE RECOGNIZE OTHERS THERE?

I believe we will recognize others there. We will take (keep) our personalities, our character, our memories including knowing who others are. In fact, based on the story of the three Apostles and Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration, we should be able to know who people are that we never met here on earth. Think about greeting the Apostles, Jesus’ mother, Mary, and many “modern day saints” like Hudson Taylor, George Whitfield, and others. What a treat that will be!

IT STARTS OUT GREAT!

Only followers of Jesus Christ are alive on the earth at the BEGINNING of the Millennial Kingdom. It will be

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“interesting” though, **because three “races” will co-exist:**

1. **“Good angels” will be there** to continue doing the work they presently do. They will be visible and active in God’s heavenly and earthly work. We won’t worship them in any way, but won’t it be a joy to share the earth with these amazing, strong, powerful, intelligent creatures? Will they have “bodies” – I don’t know. But I suspect we will be able to have enjoyable and fruitful relationships with them as we all serve and worship our Lord forever.
2. **Human believers who survived the Tribulation will be there**, no doubt grateful to have survived the Tribulation.
3. **“Humans” in glorified bodies will be there** – all of the raptured believers, all of the Tribulation Saints and all of the Old Testament Saints.

The two human (non-angelic) forms will have some things in common, but some things that are quite different.

RECAP: Those in glorified imperishable bodies will never die. For us, there will be no sickness, no death, no pain. Hallelujah! We will not marry nor have children.

We will, no doubt, have some other special attributes such as the ones demonstrated by Jesus during the period after His resurrection before He returned to Heaven. But **we can’t be certain exactly which ones we will have – we won’t BE Him.** His attributes of omniscience and omnipotency and others are reserved for the Godhead **but no doubt we will be like Him in many “tangible” ways.** The best of all --- **We will be incapable of sin!** For me, that’s one of the ultimate blessings!

²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made

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Like Him – Greek word = *homoios* (G3664) meaning like, similar, resembling, corresponding to a thing. From the base G3674; similar (in appearance or character)

known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be _____, for we shall see him as he is. 1 John 3:2

Believers who survived the Tribulation will enter the Millennial Kingdom in the human bodies they possess at that time. How they look, their age, etc., MAY still be the same, there is nothing said specifically about that. I believe it is highly likely that they will somehow transform to healthy, strong-bodied individuals even though they won't yet have "new glorified bodies." They will marry, have children, eat, drink, breathe air, just like now. **AND** they will still have the "sin nature" so they will have the ability to sin **despite the fact that they are saved.** Just like us today.

Who else will live during the Millennial Kingdom?

Many people will be **born** during the Millennial Kingdom (remember repopulation of the earth is one of the primary purposes of the Millennial Kingdom). Imagine how quickly the world will be repopulated when most people live hundreds of years in nearly perfect physical condition (no sickness, no infirmities, no war, etc.). **Will there be any death during this time?** Yes.

GENERAL PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

We are told in the Scriptures that **many things will be returned to their proper order** (like they were in the Garden of Eden) **but not everything.** As far as I can tell from many verses about this time period the following will be true:

1. **The earth will be removed from "the curse"** that began when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden (^{17b}*"Cursed is the ground because of you; _____ you will eat food from it all the days of your life."* Genesis 3:17b) and will be **returned to a garden-like condition.**
2. **Animals will no longer be predators.** They will not hurt or kill one another or humans for food – they will all be "**vegetarians**" like they were in the

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Garden (they were vegetarians in the Ark and for some time afterwards).

*³⁰And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and **all the creatures** that move along the ground—**everything that has the breath of life in it**—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. Genesis 1:30*

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion will feed together; Isaiah 11:6

²⁵The wolf and the lamb _____, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,” says the Lord. Isaiah 65:25

3. **Vegetation will be found everywhere** including in places that have had little or nothing growing since the fall of man. This will become increasingly necessary as the population continues to explode for 1000 years and both humans and animals become vegetarians once again. Prior to the flood all humans were vegetarians and it is likely that will become a reality once again.



*³Everything that lives and moves about will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I **now** give you everything. Genesis 9:3*

This verse occurs sometime after 1,650 years of human life on earth.

As I understand it, during the Tribulation period all the ocean life (fish) die (Revelation 16:3), and the oceans and mountains will disappear because of a great earthquake – I assume that will be necessary because that part of the earth will be needed for housing and to grow plants for food because of the rapidly expanding human population. Some scholars interpret Revelation 16:20 (*²⁰Every island ran away. The mountains*

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could not be found.) as symbolic, but that makes no sense to me since every verse around V20 reveals an actual event.

³*The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became blood like that of a dead man; and **every living thing in the sea died.***
Revelation 16:3

¹⁸*And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. ²⁰And **every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.** ²¹And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.*
Revelation 16:18, 20-21

¹*The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.*

^{2a}*Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom;*
Isaiah 35: 1-2a

⁷*The burning sand will become a _____; the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus _____. Isaiah 35:7*

²²*Do not be afraid, you wild animals, for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green. The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches. Joel 2:22*

²⁴*The threshing floors will be filled with grain; the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.*
Joel 2:24

That being said, we (us and humans) will still work just like Adam and Eve did in the garden.

¹⁵*The Lord God took the man and put him in*

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the Garden of Eden to _____ and _____ . Genesis 2:15

^{4b}They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Isaiah 2:4b

Note that working to harvest, distribute and prepare the food will still be a requirement. Even when the Lord fed the Jewish people in the desert for 40 years, they still had to go get it, pick it up, bring it back, prepare, eat and share with others.

4. Universal restoration and joy: Even though many of the verses about the physical restoration of the earth refer specifically to Jerusalem and Israel, that does not mean it isn't true around the world as well – at least to some extent. For sure, joy and gladness will prevail which leads me to believe that on some level these things are universally true.

The Scriptures definitely say that Jerusalem and Israel will be the most beautiful and joyful place on earth for many reasons. Many verses show that gentiles are included in the blessings and will worship Jesus. Some gentiles will settle in Israel and will have children there as well.

³The Lord will surely comfort Zion and will look with compassion on all her ruins; he will make her deserts _____, her wastelands like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of singing. Isaiah 51:3

⁴"Listen to me, my people; hear me, my nation: Instruction will go out from me; my justice will become a light to the nations. Isaiah 51:4

"The nations" almost always refers to gentile people groups (non-Jewish nations).

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⁶And _____ who bind themselves to the Lord to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant—⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them _____ in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all _____.”

⁸The Sovereign Lord declares—he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”
Isaiah 56:6-8

²¹“You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel.

²²You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners residing among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. Ezekiel 47:21-22

5. Shechinah glory in Jerusalem and Israel - The greatest manifestations of the Shechinah glory will be during the Millennial Kingdom and will be in Israel. “Altogether there will be a total of five simultaneous manifestations of the Shechinah glory:

1. It will occupy the Millennial Temple in the Holy of Holies and never depart again.
2. It will cover the entire New Mount Zion.
3. It will rest over and around Jerusalem.
4. It will be with all of Israel.
5. In the Messiah - Yeshua will again be a visible manifestation of the Shechinah glory in the form of the God-Man without the veiling.”²

This glory will outshine even the sun and moon.

6. A single language may be spoken throughout

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the world. It is not said what that language will be. It could be any one of our current languages (such as Hebrew) or it could be a totally new language that everyone will instantly know (think pre-Tower of Babel time). Another option I have heard is that each nation will maintain its own language but that we will all be able to understand it much like in the day of Pentecost and we will all use Hebrew as a second language that is used in Israel and in worship ceremonies (consider Zephaniah 3:9 and Isaiah 19:18). Either way our ability to communicate with one another will be returned to an optimal state.

7. The world will be filled with the knowledge and glory of the Lord. This is not just a statement of fact but also a prophetic promise of universal worship, moral transformation and the full revelation of God's character. As I understand it, one of our primary duties in the Kingdom will be that of a priest - to teach the people (humans) living in our area about the Lord.

8. Many kindhearted people will lead righteous lives.

9. Even in this time of peace and prosperity, not everyone will see Jesus as their rightful King and God. God will hold people and nations accountable for worship and obedience.

¹⁰But when grace is shown to the wicked, they do not learn righteousness; even in a land of uprightness they go on doing evil and do not regard the majesty of the Lord. Isaiah 26:10

A representative or delegation from every nation will be required to travel to Jerusalem once each year to participate in the Feast of Tabernacles (Booths).

In the Millennium, this feast will acknowledge Jesus as King and provider and will be a visible sign of worship. Nations refusing to participate in this worship will be viewed as rejecting Him as Lord. The

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After only one generation, Eden-like conditions will seem "normal" to almost everyone alive. No one born during the Millennial Kingdom will have any memory or idea of "what it used to be like" with weeds and mosquitoes and animals that hurt and kill other animals and humans. Food will be abundant and the weather ideal. So, gratitude toward Jesus for all He has done will not be as "normal" as we might think it should be. To "priest" these people will be one of our jobs.

Consider:

²³ They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean. ²⁴ "In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances. They are to keep my laws and my decrees ... Ezekiel 44:23-24

It is likely that much of this OT organization will begin again in the Millennium. Much to think about here.

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consequence for that country will be lack of moisture for one year causing crop failure, resulting in famine, misery and starvation perhaps even death of unsaved people from that country. According to Zechariah 14:16-19, should leaders of Egypt decide not to obey this statute, the lack of rain/moisture will be compounded by a plague, showing God's severity toward those who persist in disobedience.

As of 2026 there are 195 countries in the world, I don't know how many there will be in the millennium. No doubt some will (at least eventually) be led by "natural humans" not just those in glorified bodies which will increase the likelihood of some of them not being saved and thus not wishing to worship Jesus as King.



See toolbox page 189 for full-page image.



UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

1. Did you apply anything new last week from Chapter 3? What was it, how did you apply it? What difference, if any, resulted?
2. How does the presentation of the general conditions of the Millennial Kingdom in this chapter compare with what you previously knew? Does it encourage you to learn more and become active in planning and preparation for that time? _____ If so, what might you do to learn more?
3. Name one thing you learned in this chapter that will be beneficial in the days ahead. How will you apply it (be specific)?