

As a result **'the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose'**. (Isa.35:1)

Even among the animal creation there will exist a peace and harmony unknown since the days of Eden:

'The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the falling together; and a little child shall lead them... 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'. (Isa. 11:6,9)

We can have complete confidence in the coming of this new age. Paul declared:

'God hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead'. (Acts 17:31)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ also assures us, that if we will, we can be with him and enjoy the blessings of this perfect order. He has promised:

'To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne'. (Rev. 3:21)

We have the opportunity of sharing with Christ this great work of establishing God's kingdom on earth, when;

'The meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace'. (Psa. 37:11)

The Christadelphians

Please be assured that anything connected with the Christadelphians is entirely free, and based wholly upon Christ's precept, "freely ye received, freely give". Christadelphians, or as the name implies, brethren in Christ, are a body of people (established initially in the mid-nineteenth century) bound together by a wholehearted belief in the Bible. We do not profess to have received any new revelation, but hold that the Bible itself is able to make one "wise unto salvation" (2 Tim. 3:15-17). Believing in the Divine Authorship of the Bible, we do not accept any interpretation which does not harmonise with its teaching as a whole. Finding that the creeds and practices of those who claim to be Christian are in many ways opposed to this teaching, we feel compelled to stand apart from them. We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ to the earth, to establish his throne and reign thereon, and we seek to share this knowledge with others. However we guarantee that we will not pressurise you in any way, if at any time you wish to discontinue contact.

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The Age to Come

Watchman Christadelphians - Leaflet 24

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The Age to Come

A great change is to take place in the earth, a change described simply but dramatically in the last book of the Bible:

‘The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever’. (Rev. 11:15)

600 years before Christ was born, the prophet Daniel spoke of a time when the God of heaven should set up a kingdom, which should break in pieces and consume all human kingdoms and which should stand for ever.

(Dan.2:44) When the angel spoke to Mary, the mother of Jesus, he told her that her son would be great and that **‘the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end’. (Luke 1:32,33)**

None of these prophecies have yet been fulfilled.

They all refer to the age to come and tell us one of the essential characteristics of that age. The nations of the world will be united under one ruler. But this will be no ordinary human king: it will be Jesus Christ, ruling by divine right and having divine authority and power. The outstanding feature of his reign, will be the honouring of God his Father. When the angels announced the birth of this King to the shepherds in the fields about Bethlehem, they proclaimed:

‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men’. (Luke 2:14)

Again, these words have not yet been fulfilled. They can only refer to the age to come when Christ, having returned to the earth and overthrown the kingdoms of

men, will establish his throne in Jerusalem, ‘the city of the great King’. That is the time when the wicked will be destroyed in the earth. Then, as the prophet Isaiah proclaimed;

‘Many people shall go and say. Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem’. (Isa.2:3)

This is a characteristic of the age to come, which will distinguish it from all preceding ages of mankind; for here at last will be the realisation of God’s intention from the beginning:

‘As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord’. (Num. 14:21)

Truly, **‘the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together’. (Isa.40:5)** All peoples will unite under this one king in honouring God and obeying his will. The prophet Ezekiel described in detail a magnificent temple to be built in Jerusalem, where men and women can gather together in pure and united worship of their Creator;

‘For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent’. (Zeph.3:9)

This honouring of God will result in unprecedented blessings for the human race. Harmony with their Creator will lead men to live in harmony with each other: ‘The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance

for ever’. **(Isa.32:17)** No longer will the world be divided into huge armed camps. No longer will the resources of the earth be squandered on expensive weapons and fruitless research:

‘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’. (Isa.2:4)

Economic and social problems, poverty and injustice, will be things of the past. We are told that this great King will;

‘Judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment... he shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor’. (Psa.72:2,4)

The whole creation will be affected by this complete transformation of the relationship between God and man. The curse which came because of disobedience will be greatly eased. Sickness will be healed with the same power that Jesus used in the past; life will be prolonged, so that at 100 years of age a man will be but as a child. **(Isa.65:20-22)** The earth will be wonderfully fruitful. Isaiah describes these blessings of the age to come in simple but sublime words:

‘Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing; for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water’. (Isa.35:5-7) ►►