

The End Times and Fulfillment of the Covenants

Jesus taught about the Kingdom of God/heaven, or the gospel of the Kingdom. This was the primary focus of Jesus' teaching.

Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:45-46

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

He spoke often about life in the world to come.

Mark 10:28-30

Peter began to say to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You." Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel's sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life."

Everlasting, eternal (αἰώνιος - *aiionios*) comes from the Greek word "age" (αἰών *aion*). "Age's life" or "life in the age to come" (Hebrews 12:12 - "*eternal* redemption;" Hebrews 19:15 - "promise of *eternal*" inheritance")

Definition of Terms:

Eschatology – study of the end times

The End Times

The Scriptures speak of many things that will take place prior to the return of Christ. Perhaps the greatest presentation about the end times and Christ's second coming is the Olivet discourse from Matthew chapter 24.

Matthew 24:1-3 His disciples asked him about the end of this age.

Matthew 24:4-14 The beginning of sorrows

Beginning of Sorrows – Birth Pangs

- Wars and rumors of wars
- Famines and earthquakes in various places
- Killed and hated for Christ's name
- Many shall fall away, betray and hate one another
- False prophets shall arise and mislead many
- Lawlessness will increase
- People's love will grow cold
- The gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all nations

The event that begins to trigger the final end we find in the words of Jesus Christ, beginning in verse 15.

Matthew 24:15-22 The abomination of desolation

In the book of Daniel, a king of fierce countenance will rise in power over the city of Jerusalem and set up the abomination of desolation (Daniel 8:23). This king is also called the little horn in the book of Daniel (Daniel 7:7-8, 11, 19-21). He is called the beast in the book of Revelation (Rev. 13:1-2). He is called the son of perdition in the book of Thessalonians (2 Thes 2:1-4). He is called the Assyrian (Isaiah 10:5-6; 24-25) and the king of Babylon (Isaiah 14:4-27) in the book of Isaiah. Although many people today call this man "the antichrist," this is not the primary biblical term for this beast. The term antichrist appears only in the epistles of 1 and 2 John and is a term for an individual that is a deceiver; one that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh. It says that there are many antichrists in the world (1 John 2:18, 22; 4:3; 2 John 1:7). The beast is definitely an antichrist, but not all antichrists are this beast.

Apparently, it is through this king, through this Gentile rule of Jerusalem, that the great tribulation is orchestrated. During this time of tribulation, there will be affliction such has not been since the creation.

Mark 13:19

For those days will be a *time of* tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.

Daniel 12:1b

And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time;

The great tribulation is not the same as the wrath of God. Most often, when the Scriptures speak of tribulation, affliction, and persecution, men (usually tyrant kingdoms or religious leaders) bring it on. Although tribulation will be great, the promise of God is that the time will be shortened. Many references in Scripture indicate that the period of time will be only three and a half years. This time period is presented in the Scriptures in three different ways. It is presented in years, months, and days. A time, times, and dividing of times is a description in years (Daniel 7:25; 12:6-7; Revelation 12:14). The Scriptures talk of this time as being 42 months (Revelation 11:2; 13:5). In days, it is shown in one instance as 1,260 days (Revelation 11:3). Another place in Scripture, regarding a different aspect, 1,290 days are described (Daniel 12:11). The day and the hour are not exact, but putting all these Scriptures together, we have a general understanding that this time period will last approximately three and a half years.

If these times of the end should occur in our lifetime, the word of God has given us assurance that this tribulation does have an end and should give us strength to patiently endure.

Sometime during the time of tribulation and the wrath of God that follows, there are many events that transpire. The Scriptures describe devastation of the planet. The stars will fall from heaven (Matthew 24:29; Revelation 6:13); the heavens being on fire will dissolve (loosen or break up – 2 Peter 3:10, 13); the earth will also break up and melt with liquid heat (2 Peter 3:10, 13; Micah 1:4); one third of the vegetation on the earth will burn up (Revelation 8:7); a third part of the sea and the creatures therein will burn up and die (Revelation 8:8-9); and a third of mankind will be killed by fire, smoke, and brimstone (Revelation 9:18); the heavens will roll like a scroll, and every mountain and island will be moved out of their place (Revelation 6:14; Isaiah 34:4); it will be a day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness; and the sun and moon will not give light (Joel 2:1, 2, 10; Ezekiel 2:7, 8; Revelation 6:12; Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24).

Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after this time of tribulation Jesus Christ will return, at the last trumpet, the dead in Christ will rise, and he will gather his elect (Matthew 24:31; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

Outline of Millennial Kingdom

The thousand year reign of Christ begins with Jesus Christ's return. Jesus Christ will return from heaven, the dead in Christ will rise in the resurrection of the just, and he will cast the beast into the lake of fire and begin to rule from Jerusalem along with the saints over all the earth. The reign of Christ will last 1,000 years. It begins with Satan being bound in the bottomless pit and ends with Satan being loosed for a little season, again deceiving the nations. Then, the devil will be cast into the lake of fire. Then comes the second resurrection – the resurrection of the unjust, when all the dead will be raised and given final judgment from the great, white throne. All those that are not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. Death and hell will also be cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. Those in the first resurrection, the resurrection of the just, will be saved from the second death.

Then comes the eternal age when the New Jerusalem will come down from heaven. Jesus Christ will deliver the up the Kingdom to God, and then Christ himself will be subject to God, so that God may be all in all. The tree of life will be in the midst of the garden and will provide life and healing to all the nations.

Forty days after Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, he ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives outside of the city of Jerusalem (Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-12).

Today, as the high priest, Jesus Christ currently is seated at the right hand of God, the Majesty on high (Hebrews 1:3; 4:14).

He will stay at God's right hand until the day He makes his enemies his footstool. (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 10:12-13; Acts 3:19-21).

He will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, at the last trump, and the dead in Christ shall rise and meet the Lord in the air. Those saints who are still alive when Christ returns will be changed (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Matthews 24:30-31).

Christ will then come back to the Mount of Olives to take the city of Jerusalem, and all the saints will come with him. When he comes back, an earthquake will split the Mount of Olives in two (Zechariah 14:3-5).

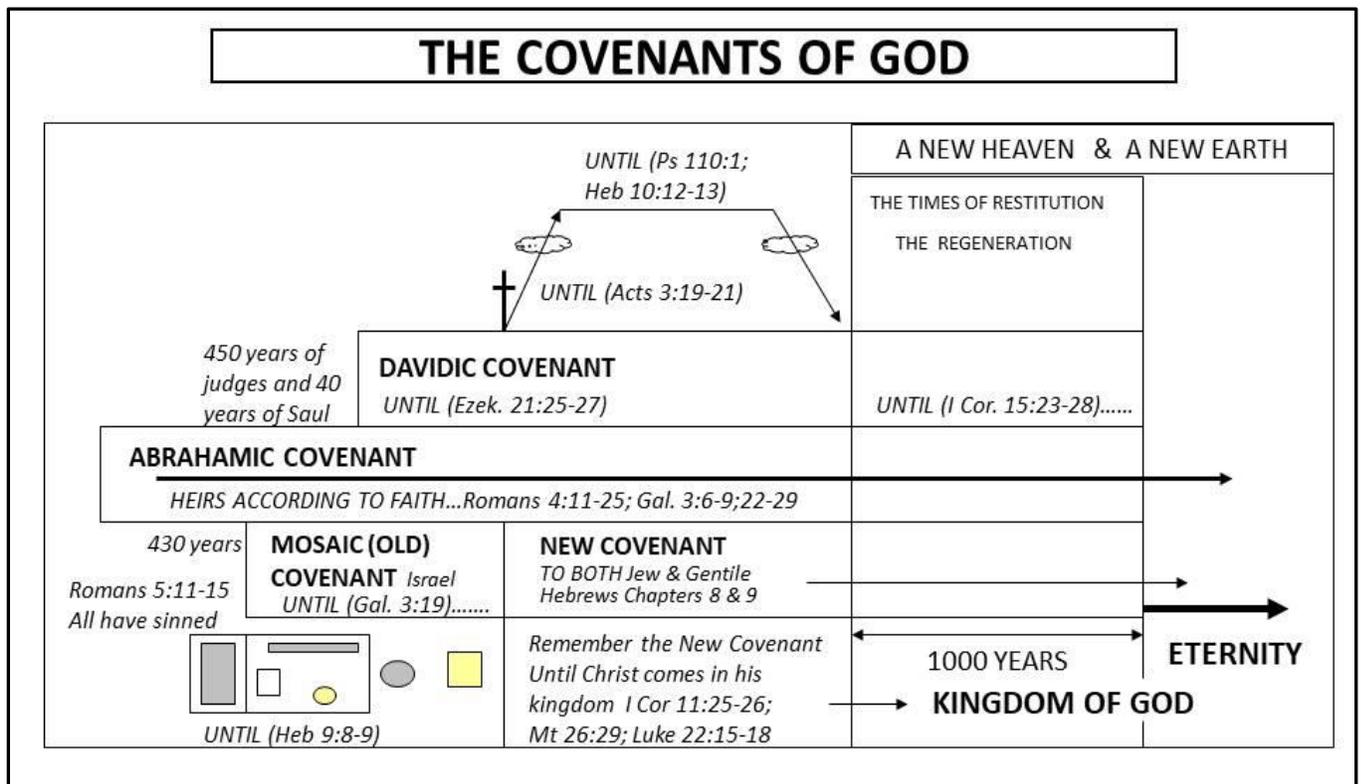
Out of Jerusalem – Zion – Jesus the Messiah will begin to rule all the nations of the world (Psalm 110:2; 72:8, 11; Daniel 7:13-14).

The saints, those who have faith and believed in the Messiah, will be part of the resurrection of the just. In the millennial Kingdom, they will reign with Christ as kings and priests in the earth (Daniel 7:27; Revelation 20:6).

The nation of Israel will finally realize its hope, and those of Israel that have faith will be part of the resurrection of the just and will return to the land promised to Abraham and his genealogical seed (Ezekiel 37:11-14).

Many changes will occur during this time, which we will look at in more detail. In the Scriptures, this time period beginning with the return of Christ is referred to as the day of Christ, the Lord's day, the resurrection, the age or world to come, the times of restitution, the regeneration, the end, the wrath to come, the coming of Christ, and the day of vengeance of our God. At this time, the Kingdom of God will be established on earth with the Lord's anointed, Jesus the Messiah, sitting on the God's throne ruling the world from Jerusalem as God's regent over the earth.

During this thousand-year reign, all the kingdoms of the world will come into subjection to God by way of Jesus the Messiah. After he has put down all rule and authority and all enemies are put under his feet, at the end of the thousand years, death itself will be destroyed, and Jesus himself will be under the subjection of God that God may be all in all (1 Corinthians 15:23-28).



During these thousand years, the covenants will begin to be fulfilled. The Abrahamic, the Davidic, and the new covenant all begin to find their fulfillment with the return of the Messiah. Jesus Christ instituted the new covenant at the last supper and ratified it on the cross (Matthew 26:28-29). As often as we eat and drink, we are to remember this covenant and what the Messiah accomplished until the Lord returns (1 Corinthians 11:25-26).

All the covenants of God will begin to be fulfilled when Christ returns. The Mosaic covenant ended when the new covenant was ratified. Both the Abrahamic and new covenants begin to be fulfilled in the millennial age and continue into the eternal age. The Davidic covenant, the promise that his heir would sit on his throne, ceased with the last king of Judah and was held in until he came who had the right to the throne (Ezekiel 21:27). The Messiah Jesus came, fulfilled all that was required, and has now ascended up to heaven. He will stay there until the times of restitution of all things (Acts 3:21). It is at this time, at the return of Christ, that the millennial Kingdom will commence and the true fulfillment of the covenant to David will begin. Christ will then reign for 1,000 years, sitting on the throne in the tabernacle of David, and will rule until all enemies are put under his feet. Christ will then deliver up the Kingdom to God, and the covenant to David will be fulfilled at the end of the millennial reign.

The Structure and Nature of the Millennial Rule

Central to the Millennial Kingdom is the man that will rule – the Messiah. Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah, the Christ of the seed of David. He will return to earth from heaven and begin to rule as King over all the earth as promised to David.

All that the prophets spoke regarding the first coming of Christ was fulfilled.

Some of the prophecy in the Hebrew Scriptures regarding the coming Messiah	New Testament prophecy fulfilled by the man, Jesus of Nazareth
<i>The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah, of the seed of David</i> Genesis 49:9-10; 1 Chronicles 5:2 2 Samuel 7:12-17; 1 Chronicles 17:11-15 Psalm 89:28-29, 35-36; Psalm 132:11 Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 33:14-26)	<i>From the tribe of Judah</i> Hebrews 7:14; Matthew 1:3 <i>Of the house and lineage of David</i> Luke 2:4 <i>Genealogy through David</i> Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38
<i>The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem</i> Micah 5:2	<i>Jesus was born in Bethlehem</i> Matthew 2:1-6 John 7:42
<i>The Messiah, God's Son, would be called out of Egypt.</i> Exodus 4:22; Hosea 11:1	<i>As a child, Jesus went down and came out of Egypt</i> Matthew 2:14-15
<i>Great light would shine on the nations around the sea of Galilee</i> Isaiah 9:1, 2	<i>Jesus departed into Galilee, fulfilling the prophets' words</i> Matthew 4:12-16
<i>Moses spoke of the prophet like unto him that would speak all he was commanded</i> Deuteronomy 18:18-19	<i>Jesus was this prophet</i> Acts 3:22-26
<i>The Lord's anointed would preach the good news, proclaim liberty to the captives, bind up the broken hearted, free the prisoners</i> Isaiah 61:1	<i>Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled these promises</i> Luke 4:16-21; Matthew 4:23; 9:35; Acts 10:38; John 7:31; 20:30-31
<i>The prophets spoke of the suffering and death of the coming lamb of God</i> Isaiah 53:1-12; Ps 22:16-18	<i>Jesus the Christ fulfilled all that was spoken</i> Matthews 27:35; John 12:32-36; 19:28-30; 35-37
<i>The Messiah would be raised from the dead, never to see corruption</i> Psalm 16:10	<i>Jesus Christ was raised from the dead</i> Acts 2:22-32

Jesus, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead. The resurrection of the dead marked him out as the Son of God – the one the Scriptures declared would come that would be the King to rule over the uttermost part of the earth.

Romans 1:2-4

which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

The name “Joshua” in the Hebrew Scriptures (Hebrew *Yeshua*) is the same name as “Jesus” in the Greek Scriptures (*Iesous*). The name means “Yahweh is Salvation.” He was named “Jesus” by the angel of the Lord (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31). [Note: in the King James Version of the Bible, there are other uses of “Jesus” in the New Testament: (Acts 7:45, Hebrews 4:8; Colossians 4:11).]

He is “**The Branch**” that would grow out of the root of Jesse, the king and high priest. Isaiah 11:1,10; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 33:14-17; Zechariah 3:8-9; 6:12-13

Zechariah 3:8-9 (New International Version)

Listen, O high priest Joshua (*Yeshua*) and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See the stone I have set in front of Joshua (*Yeshua*)! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it, says the Lord Almighty, and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

He is the “**Lord’s Arm**” that shall rule for God.

Isaiah 40:9-11; Isaiah 52:7-15; Isaiah 53:1, 2; Psalm 98:1-9

He is the “**Horn of David**” that will bud and be exalted, whose crown will flourish.

Psalm 132:17-18; Psalm 89:17; Psalm 148:13-14; 1 Samuel 2:9-10

The Messiah’s Kingdom will be over all the kingdoms of the earth.

Daniel 7:13-14, 27; Daniel 2:35, 44; Psalm 2:6-9; 67:1-7; 72:8, 11; 102:22; Isaiah 2:4; 42:1; Zechariah 8:21, 22; Zechariah 9:9-10; 10:11, 12; Acts 17:31; Revelation 11:15

Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world.

Isaiah 2:2-4; Matthew 5:35; Psalm 2:6; Psalm 148:1-2, 8; 110:1-3; Jeremiah 3:14-18; Micah 4:1-8; Zechariah 14:8,9. Wars will cease. Weapons of warfare will be changed to tools of agriculture.

The Messiah will rule over a re-gathered Israel.

The nation of Israel will come back to their land.

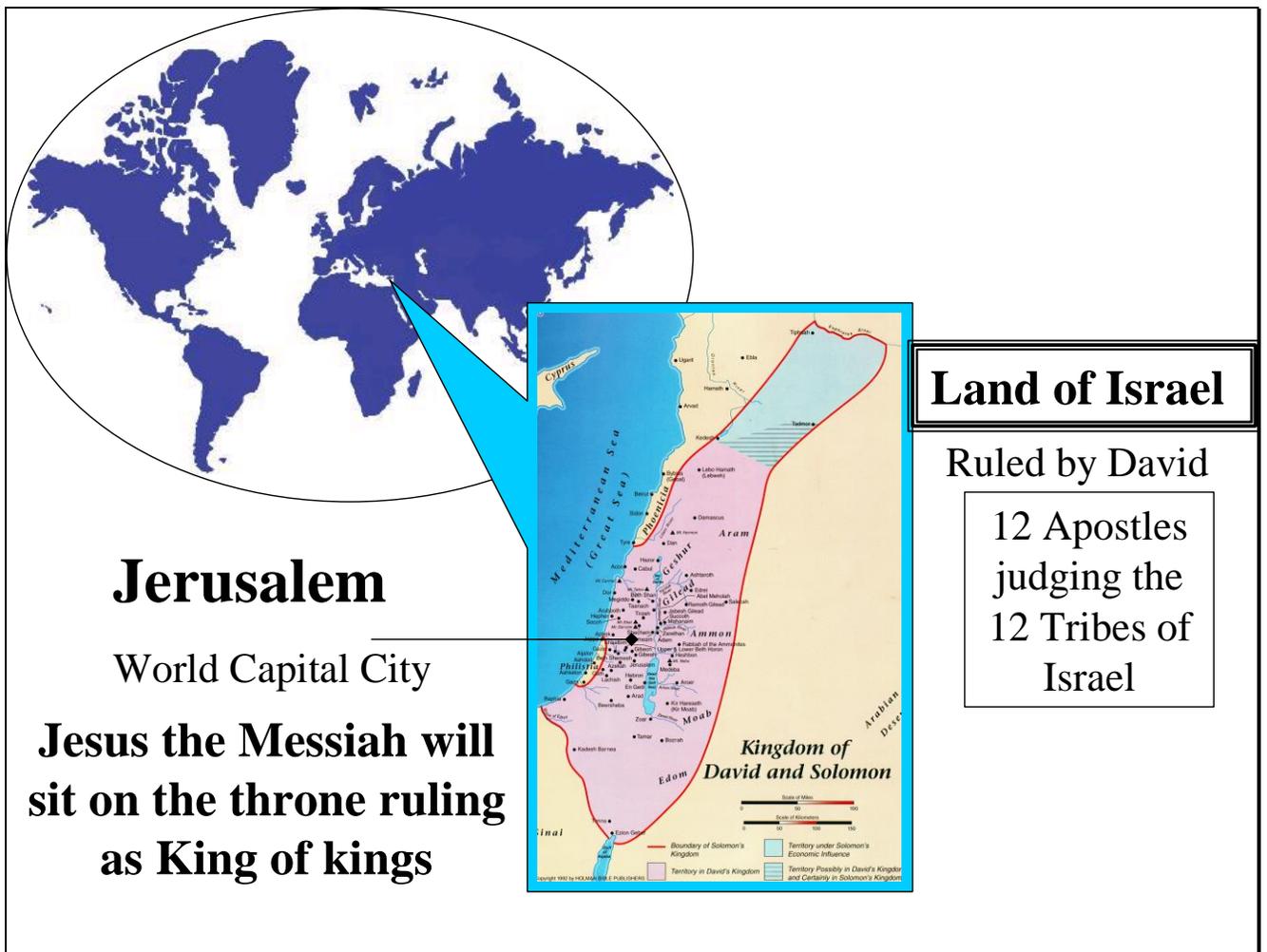
Ezekiel 37:12, 21-23; 39:25-29; Jeremiah 3:14, 18; 23:5-8

David will rule as vice-regent over Israel.

Ezekiel 37:24-25; Ezekiel 34:23-34; Hosea 3:4, 5; Isaiah 55:3, 4; Jeremiah 30:3, 7-9

The twelve apostles will judge the twelve tribes of Israel.

Isaiah 1:26-27; Psalm 122:5; Matthew 19:28; 20:20-28; Luke 22:24-30 - Servant Leaders



Jerusalem
World Capital City

Jesus the Messiah will sit on the throne ruling as King of kings

Land of Israel
Ruled by David
12 Apostles judging the 12 Tribes of Israel

Kingdom of David and Solomon

The historical map shows the Kingdom of David and Solomon in the Middle East, with various regions and cities labeled. The Mediterranean Sea (Great Sea) is to the west, and the Arabian Desert is to the east. The map includes a legend for boundaries and territories, and a scale bar.

All the saints will reign with Christ as kings and priests on the earth.

Revelation 1:5, 6; 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:9-10; 20:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; Psalm 149:5-9; Daniel 7:18, 22, 27; Luke 19:11-17

Revelation 1:5-6; 20:6

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood -- and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father -- to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

There will be a rule of law, judgment in righteousness, equity, and justice.

Psalm 96:10; 98:1-9; Isaiah 2:3-5; 11:1-5; 26:4-9; 42:4; 51:4, 7; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15
Ezekiel 45:9, 10; Micah 4:2, 3

A throne will even be established in loving kindness, and a judge will sit on it in faithfulness in the tent (tabernacle) of David; Moreover, he will seek justice and be prompt in righteousness

Isaiah 16:5 (NASB)

Those that rule during the millennial Kingdom will not be as corrupt leaders or politicians of today. In that day, those that reign will be righteous rulers.

Behold, a king will reign righteously, and princes will rule justly. Each will be like a refuge from the wind and a shelter from the storm. Like streams of water in a dry country, like the shade of a huge rock in a parched land.

Isaiah 32:1-2 (NASB)

There will be learning and understanding of God in all the earth.

Isaiah 11:9; 26:9; 29:24; 32:4; Jeremiah 3:15, 23:1-4; Habakkuk 2:14

And 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.

Isaiah 2:3

How will the law and the word of the Lord go forth out of Jerusalem unto the entire world? This could possibly be part of the responsibility of the priests in the millennial Kingdom. During the time of restoration, the priest Ezra taught the people distinctly and caused them to understand the law. (Nehemiah 8:1-8).

There will be peace and safety in the earth.

Psalms 46:9; 85:6-13; 122:6-8; Isaiah 9:6, 7; 32:1, 16-18; 54:13, 14; 60:17, 18, 21; 65:21-23

Isaiah 66:10-13; Jeremiah 23:5-8; 31:23-26; Ezekiel 28:24-26; 34:25-28; Hosea 2:18; Micah 5:2-5, 10-15 Witchcraft and Idolatry will be destroyed

Micah 5:4-5a (New Living Translation)

And he will stand to lead his flock with the Lord's strength, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored all around the world. And he will be the source of our peace.

There will be deliverance for the poor and needy.

Psalms 72:2, 4, 12, 14; Isaiah 11:3, 4; 29:18-19; 35:1-10; Ezekiel 45:9, 10; Jeremiah 33:6

Isaiah 29:18-19

On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see. The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

There will be joy, rejoicing, and singing.

Psalms 47:1-9; 67:1-7; 96:9-13; 98:1-9; Proverbs 29:2; Isaiah 12:1-6; 25:6-9; 26:1-4, 19; Isaiah 35:1, 2-10; 42:10-12; 51:3, 11; 52:8, 9; 61:3, 7, 10, 11; Jeremiah 30:18, 19; 33:7-11 Zechariah 2:10-12

Isaiah 12:4-6

And in that day you will say, "Give thanks to the LORD, call on His name. Make known His deeds among the peoples; Make *them* remember that His name is exalted." Praise the LORD in song, for He has done excellent things; Let this be known throughout the earth. Cry aloud and shout for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, For great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 32:1-3; 5-8; 33:5-6, 17, 20-22; 35:3-10
(New Living Translation)

Look, a righteous king is coming! And honest princes will rule under him. He will shelter Israel from the storm and the wind. He will refresh her as a river in the desert and as the cool shadow of a large rock in a hot and weary land. Then everyone who can see will be looking for God, and those who can hear will listen to his voice.

In that day ungodly fools will not be heroes. Wealthy cheaters will not be respected as outstanding citizens. Everyone will recognize ungodly fools for what they are. They spread lies about the Lord; they deprive the hungry of food and give no water to the thirsty. The smooth tricks of evil people will be exposed, including all the lies they use to oppress the poor in the courts. But good people will be generous to others and will be blessed for all they do.

Though the Lord is very great and lives in heaven, he will make Jerusalem his home of justice and righteousness. In that day he will be your sure foundation, providing a rich store of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge.

Your eyes will see the king in all his splendor, and you will see a land that stretches into the distance. You will see Zion as a place of worship and celebration. You will see Jerusalem, a city quiet and secure. The Lord will be our Mighty One. He will be like a wide river of protection that no enemy can cross. For the Lord is our judge, our lawgiver, and our king. He will care for us and save us.

With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those who are afraid, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will shout and sing! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the desert. The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived.

And a main road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil hearted people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God's ways; fools will never walk there. Lions will not lurk along its course, and there will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will follow it. Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return to Jerusalem, singing songs of everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be overcome with joy and gladness.

