

# THE MILLENNIUM...

## Fact or Fiction?

We bring you here, in print, the full text of the recent  
Coast-to-Coast Telecast on this vital subject.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**HIS WORLD is changing fast. What would Abraham Lincoln think, or, even later, Queen Victoria, if they could see our world today?

Science and industry are working feverishly to usher in the fantastic push-button world that they promise by 1975.

Today, we begin to hear increasing talk about a millennium—and it's *no fiction*.

### WHERE Are We Headed?

Now I have before me a clipping out of a magazine that I was reading on a non-stop flight from Chicago to Los Angeles not so long ago. It's intended to be funny, but it set me to thinking. The caption is, "The Millennium." Here is what it says:

"A poor farm has been shut down because of the shortage of inmates." Here is another part: "A light and power company asked the state's Public Service Commission for permission to reduce its rates about 15%."

That is a common conception of a *millennium*.

But here is even a better one: "The United States Post Office Department has purchased 20,000 ballpoint pens to be installed in post offices." If you have had the experience I have had with cloggy thick ink, and the worn out, scratchy old pens in post offices, maybe you would think that *WOULD be a millennium!*

But the truth is much more serious than that. Take a look at what is happening today. We're witnessing a spurt in the development of modern science, technology, inventive genius, and of industry such as never occurred before in history. American industry has grown to *tremendous* proportions.

We have made this **THE MACHINE AGE**. There has never been anything like it in the world's history. Our mass-assembly line production is the marvel of the world. But where is it leading? Is all of *this* leading to utopia? to the millennium?

Is *man* really bringing about a *millennium*? Is all this bringing us *happiness* and *peace*?

I once knew a country doctor who was also quite a philosopher. He startled me by saying that every particle of God's creation that man has ever put his hands on, he has ruined or perverted, or turned into a wrong use.

I didn't believe him then. It just **SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE!** But the longer I live—the more I have observed, the more it appears to me that he was right.

### TODAY—

*Today*, we are in a transition out of the machine age **INTO THE ATOMIC AGE!** But what do we do with these new forces we produce? Man invents motor cars and trucks, and he then begins to make *tanks*. Man invents the steam ship, and soon, he turns it into a *warship*. Man invents airplanes, and he turns them into *warplanes*.

And *today*, in this atomic age, we find ourselves a divided world in a race to see *which* power can produce and invent engines of destruction capable of *laying waste an ENTIRE CONTINENT—BEFORE an enemy wipes us off the map*.

*Today*, world famous scientists tell us that it is becoming possible to *annihilate* human life from off the face of this planet. *Today*, we find ourselves in the throes of world revolution, though many of us don't *realize* that fact.

*Today*, we have **MAD** men in seats of irresponsible power with vast armies and with the terrifying **HYDROGEN BOMB** in their possession.

*Today*, while modern industry is working on a peaceful pushbutton world that they hope is coming, we're facing a *revolution in the weather*. Do you know what **THAT** means? What one factor more than any other controls the economy of a nation? The answer is the weather, believe it or not!

All production, everything that we use or consume in our economy comes out of the ground. Material **LIFE** *grows* out of the ground. It requires both rain and sunshine. Yes, the weather has more to do with our prosperity than perhaps we realize. And when Assistant Chief of the nation's Weather Bureau, Mr. Tannahill, tells this nation that he is worried

about the coming **TOTAL DROUGHT** of 1975, and when prophecy tells us that it's coming *sooner* than that, then it's time that we realize we are headed in less than 20 short years for the **biggest** economic "bust" any nation ever had.

*Today*, *all nature* is beginning to shake with *convulsions*, preparatory to the mightiest events of earth's history.

*Today*, we are being hurled straight into the **CATASTROPHIC END** of this present world. Today, we're in the very crisis at the **CLOSE** of this age. **BUT, WE ARE ALSO BEING HURLED INTO THE DAWN OF THE HAPPY, PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS WORLD TOMORROW!**

A **MILLENNIUM** is coming, but not in the way that men think. It isn't a millennium that **MEN** are going to be able to produce.

### Behind the Scenes

There is a meaning behind today's chaotic world events, and it's time that we wake up to what it all means.

There is only one source of understanding, and that's the source that almost everyone neglects—**THE BIBLE**. Yes, the world's best seller, and also the world's least understood book.

Most of you have never understood the Bible. Nearly everybody says, "Well, I just can't understand the Bible." And yet it's the *only* source of *understanding* **WORLD CONDITIONS** — of **KNOWING what's coming in YOUR life!** It explains the meaning of all this fast-mounting crescendo of *revolution*, of *crime*, this *march of science*, this coming **WORLD CATAclysm!**

It tells **WHY**, and it tells *the outcome*. It tells of the **REAL MILLENNIUM** that is going to *follow!* This is more important than anything in your life. Let's understand this.

### Man Must CHOOSE

I have explained before that **GOD** is the Creator. Almighty God is the Creator not only of the static matter and of the material things you see, but of force and energy, of every power, every energy, every law that operates. And God con-

trols and rules over the entire universe by these forces, these energies, these laws that He controls.

When God put man on this earth, He also established the principle of free moral agency. He said to our first parents, "CHOOSE." He said to ancient Israel, "I set before you *life and death*—on the ONE hand, *peace*, and *blessings* and *eternal life*; and on the OTHER hand, *curse* and *death*," and He said for man to *choose*.

Our first parents and all mankind after them have chosen *rebellion* against God. Somehow, the mind of man seems to believe that the ways of God are all wrong. Man thinks he knows a better way.

God, of necessity, *allows* this rebellion. The only way that we can come under the government of God and let *God rule* our lives, our economy, yes, our society, and enjoy the blessings of that rule, is to do it *VOLUNTARILY*. We can only be governed by God if we *CHOOSE* to be governed by God. Otherwise, God Almighty allows us to reject Him, to reject His laws, to reject His government, to set up our own type of society.

### The Day of Man

We live in the *END* of THE DAY OF MAN! God has set aside 6,000 years to allow man to be a free moral agent, to allow him to resist the laws of God—to defy God, and to set up *his own* society upon this earth.

But *now*, in perhaps only another 20 years, we're going to come to *the day of the Eternal*, a 1000-year day of the Eternal. We're now almost at the *END* of the 6000-year day of man!

We're coming to the time when world-famous scientists tell us that soon it will be possible to wipe human life from off the face of this planet.

Do you realize that Jesus Christ said that same thing 1900 years ago? Today, world famous scientists tell us that the only hope of preventing that is *WORLD GOVERNMENT*. Unless we can have world government in the *very near future*, there will not be a human life left on this planet. Jesus Christ also said that same thing 1900 years ago. He said in Matthew 24:21-22:

"Then shall be *GREAT TRIBULATION*." That's a time of world upheaval, a time of world revolution, of world chaos such as the world has never known before. He said, "great tribulation *such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time*, no nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved alive." The word "alive" you will find in the Moffatt translation. "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved *alive*." But, He said, "For the elect's sake, those days *shall be shortened*."

God Almighty is going to intervene, and that is precisely what Jesus Christ foretold. MAN is not going to be able to bring about the millennium. It's going to take the divine *SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION OF ALMIGHTY GOD!*

Jesus also said in the 14th chapter of John and the 3rd verse—when He was still on this earth 1900 years ago—that He was going away, that He was going to heaven; but He concluded:

"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will *COME AGAIN* and receive you unto myself. That where I am," when He comes, to *EARTH*, again, "*there ye may be also*."

WHY DID Christ come? He came, first of all to challenge Satan the Devil, to unseat him, and to *qualify* to rule this world. He came to proclaim a *message*, and He came to call out and to train disciples. He also came to bear the sins of the world.

But He said He was coming again. Now *why* is He coming again?

### Why the Second Coming of Christ?

Jesus is coming again *TO RESTORE*—to restore the *RULE OF GOD* on this earth.

Notice in Acts 3:20-21, Peter said—and he was thrown in prison for saying this: "And God the Father, God Almighty, shall *SEND* Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you, whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken of by the mouth of all of the holy prophets since the world began." The heavens *have* received Jesus Christ *UNTIL* the times of *restitution* of all things.

The second coming of Christ is pictured in the nineteenth chapter of Revelation. It's in symbolic language. John is recording the things he saw in vision. Beginning with the 11th verse, John says, "I saw [of course, *in vision*] heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and He that sat on him was called Faithful and True." This is a picture of Jesus Christ. "And *IN RIGHTEOUSNESS*, He doth judge and make war." If we only had that kind of government upon the earth today, then we might have a *millennium*.

"His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns, and He had a name written that no man knew, but He himself. And He was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood, and His name is called the Word of God." That is always applied to Christ.

"And the armies which were in heaven, followed Him upon white horses," and those armies, you will find in Matthew 25 are all the holy angels—*more powerful than MEN*, "clothed in white linen, white and clean"—that's the symbol of *righteousness*. "And out of His

mouth goeth a sharp sword that with it He should smite the nations." Not a physical sword of steel, but the sword, as other scriptures explain, *the WORD OF GOD, the Bible—the words of the Bible*.

Jesus is the *living* Word of God, and the Bible is the *written* Word of God.

"And He shall *rule* them," that is, all of the nations of the earth, "He shall rule them with a rod of iron." It mentions, also, that He had on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, *King of kings*, and *Lord of lords*." That means a *world ruler*, king of kings, king over ALL the kings of *all* the world.

### For 1000 Years

Notice parts of Revelation 20:1-6. John wrote: "I saw [that is, *in vision*] *THRONES*, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, nor had received his mark upon their foreheads and in their hands, and *they lived*, and *reigned with Christ A THOUSAND YEARS*." This is speaking of a *resurrection* of those that have been dead, of those who were the saints in Christ.

And in the 6th verse it says that "they shall be *priests* of God and of Christ, and *they shall reign with Him a thousand years*." It says they're going to *reign* with Him when He comes to rule the world and to set up *WORLD GOVERNMENT, divine supernatural WORLD GOVERNMENT!*

The saints are going to be changed to immortality at that time. It will *not* be the government of *man!* It will be *the government of God!*

Why are *some* people *now* being called by God to be converted at this time? Many are predestined to be called *now*. Do you know *WHY*?

In Revelation 3:21 you find the whole thing explained. Jesus said, "To Him that overcometh," He didn't say to him that just has an *empty faith*, that just says, "I profess Christ," but *doesn't do anything* about it—you have to do something about it—He said, "To Him that *OVERCOMETH*, will I grant to sit with me in my throne" when He rules this world, "even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." Turn to Rev. 2:26, and here is Christ speaking again. He says:

"He that overcometh"—there's some overcoming to do in the Christian life—"and keepeth my works unto the end"—there you have *works*, though many today try to tell you that there are "*no works*" to a Christian life—the one who keeps HIS works unto the end, "*to him* will I give *POWER OVER THE NATIONS*, and *He shall RULE THEM* with a rod of iron."

There you have it! In I Corinthians 6:2 the apostle Paul said to the saints, the Christians at Corinth: "Do you not know that the saints shall judge the world, and if the world shall be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters?"

The saints are to JUDGE THE WORLD! Why do so few understand this?

Even the *religious world* has LOST the message of Christ. It has LOST the purpose of God. It has LOST the plan of God. I want you to notice it! In II Peter 3:8 you read that God has set aside a 6000 year period in which He has allowed man to do as man has pleased: "But Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as 1000 years, and 1000 years as ONE day."

### The Example of Creation Week

Now he is using here the idea of the original six days of re-creation, and then the one Sabbath day of rest. The six days of creation, then, are merely a type and a figure of the 6,000-year days that God has set aside for man in which He has made man a free moral agent, in which He allows man to resist Him, and to resist His government, His ways, His laws—to set up MAN'S OWN society upon this earth.

This world is NOT GOD'S WORLD! Have you thought it was? Oh, NO! This world is not run God's way. THIS is MAN'S world. This is the day of man, and now the seventh thousand years—the promised Sabbath millennium—is about to dawn.

That will be the REAL MILLENNIUM. That is going to be a real utopia. We SHOULD have it. Is there any reason why we SHOULDN'T have utopia?

God has allowed this 6000 years for man to learn A LESSON, by experience. We haven't learned it yet, but we've written that lesson, in human suffering and anguish.

"And to this agree the words of the prophets, as it is written, after this, I will return and build again the tabernacle of David which is fallen down," we find in Acts 15:17.

Now remember, a tabernacle is a place of worship. This verse, then, indicates a TIME OF SALVATION. "After this, I will return and build again the tabernacle"—or place of salvation or worship of David "which is fallen down, and I will build again the ruins thereof and set it up that the residue of men"—that's the remainder of mankind—"might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. Known to God are all His works from the beginning of the world." And it could be known to all of us, if we would only understand the Bible.

### A Blinded World!

Consider ISRAEL—they are mostly *spiritually blinded* at this time. And GOD has blinded them. I wonder if you realize that? That's all given in the 11th chapter of Romans. Do you ever read this wonderful 11th chapter of Romans? Paul says here in the first two verses:

"Has God cast away His people," speaking of Israel. "God forbid! God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew." But then, He goes on to show that they have *become blinded*. He says, "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for, but the election [those called now] hath obtained it"—just a *small portion* compared to the FEW that had NOT bowed the knee to Baal back in Elijah's time—which was one out of several hundred. And the rest were blinded. It's speaking spiritually—of spiritual blindness. Did they blind themselves?

Notice: "According as it is written, GOD hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, ears that they should not hear unto this day."

But does that mean that they are *lost*, and *lost forever*? He just said NOT! Turn to the 25th verse, and you will get the answer. "For he said, I would not brethren that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part," or to part, "is happened to Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"—only until a certain time! They're not *permanently* lost—not *permanently* blinded. And so he says here, "ALL ISRAEL SHALL BE SAVED. As it is written, there shall come out of Zion the deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob." That is at the second coming of Christ. That is one of the reasons that Jesus Christ is coming—to turn away ungodliness from Israel.

### What About the Gentiles?

Turn to Isaiah 66:16 where you notice this: "For behold, the Lord will come with fire, and with His Chariots like a whirlwind to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire." Now notice the 19th and the 20th verses:

"And I will set a sign among them, and I will send them that escape of them unto the nations to Tarsus, to Pul, to Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, to Javan, the islands afar off, that have not heard my fame." In other words, the *heathen*, the *Gentiles*. Many of them have never heard the name of Jesus Christ—"that have never heard my fame, neither have seen my glory, and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles."

I don't think you've heard much of that part of your Bible, but that's in your

Bible. When Christ comes, He is coming to turn away ungodliness from Israel, and from Judah. He is coming to save all Israel from their enemies and He's coming in order that the *Gentiles* that have never heard His name *may hear it!*

When He comes, is the world just going to receive Him with open arms? as the Saviour? as the Messiah to bring us world peace? Are they going to rejoice in His coming?

No, they are not! Most of the world is going to *fight* Christ at His coming.

You find them described in the 17th chapter of Revelation.

### A Time of War FIRST

"These shall make war with the Lamb"—that is Christ at His second coming—"and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings" (Rev. 17:14). Jesus Christ will never be the Lord of lords, the King of kings until His second coming. He is now the High Priest up in heaven. Do you know *what He is doing, now*? You should read the book of Hebrews and see what Christ is doing right now.

When Christ comes, He is coming in supernatural power. So, He is going to *put down* these forces that will rebel against Him.

Read the *picture of the millennium*, in Micah the 4th chapter, the first three verses. "But in the *last days*, it shall come to pass that the mountain of the Lord," which is the Kingdom of God, "will be established in the top of all the nations." Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the Kingdom of God"—the mountain of the Lord—"and to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will teach us His ways."

The only reason we don't have WORLD PEACE now is that we're going *man's* ways, and *not* GOD'S ways. THEN, they are going to want *God's* ways; they are going to seek them. "And we will walk in His paths, and the law"—the law of God, *God's rule*, *God's government*—"shall go forth from Zion, and the Word of the Eternal from Jerusalem, and He"—that's Christ, at His second coming—"shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off till they beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

That's a *time of world peace!* That's the time of the *millennium*, and it's going to be a happy time.

### What's Wrong with PEACE?

I want you to notice Isaiah 11. This is the companion chapter with *Romans 11*. Notice just quickly the 3rd and 4th verses, speaking of Christ at His second coming. "He shall not judge after the

sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears." He isn't going to judge the world in *His* ruling, according to *hearsay*, and *circumstantial* evidence, and the type of thing that we use today, "but with *righteousness* shall He judge the poor, and reprove with *equity* the meek of the earth."

He has the power to know men's minds and to read their hearts.

And now, notice the 9th and 10th verses: "They will not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Eternal." Notice that. The earth is going to be FULL of the knowledge of God. In our educational institutions today, God has not been retained *in their knowledge*. Not very much of the truth is disseminated.

"And in that day, there shall be a root of Jesse, and it shall stand for an ensign of the people, and *to it shall the Gentiles seek*." Christ is the root of Jesse. Jesse was the Father of David, and Jesus Christ was the Maker of all things. All things were made by Him, as you read in the first chapter of John. He is, therefore, the root of Jesse, the Father of David.

To him, when He returns at His second coming, will *the Gentiles* seek.

"In that day, the Lord set His hand again *the second time* to recover the remnant of *His people*"—Israel!

But did you notice the 6th verse? At that time, "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf, and the young

lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them."

Yes, THE MILLENNIUM IS COMING, the World Tomorrow. It's a different world—it's The WORLD TOMORROW.

#### What's Wrong with Today's World?

Now what's wrong with the world today? Just one thing. *Rebellion* against *the law* and *the rule of God*. God does rule the entire universe, but in His rule He has allowed man to rebel. Look what we've brought upon ourselves. Look at the *unhappiness*, the *suffering*, the *sorrow*, the *heartaches*, the *headaches*, in this world today.

GOD rules this universe. God hasn't gone way off as some people seem to

think. He hasn't lost interest in this earth or in humanity. God has just *allowed* us to go *our own way*. That's all! God *rules* for *our own good*. Soon He's going to make us learn our lesson! That's the lesson that most of humanity *still has to learn*, but we have written it in human blood and sorrow, and suffering.

Now when God soon steps in and *intervenes* in world affairs and sends Jesus Christ *in all the power and the glory that upholds and sustains and rules this universe*, then all men shall learn the lesson that has been written in 6000 years of human suffering.

Yes, thank God THE MILLENNIUM is coming, mighty soon! The WORLD TOMORROW—*it's coming soon!*