

Utopia on Earth?

We now live in a world of unbridled selfishness, greed and violence. A world of poverty, misery and fear, but will world conditions always be so bleak or does the future hold real hope for mankind?

In 1516, British author Sir Thomas More published what has since become a literary classic – Utopia, a book about an imaginary island with an ideal and perfect society. His work is the origin of our word “utopia,” meaning a “place of ideal perfection, especially in laws, government, and social economy” (Merriam Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th edition).

Interestingly, the name Utopia was formed by combining two Greek root words – ou, meaning “no” or “not,” and topos, meaning “place.” It essentially then, means “not a place” or “nowhere.” And how appropriate that is – since such an ideal society exists nowhere on earth.

Indeed, after nearly 6,000 years of recorded history, with seemingly endless corruption, oppression, violence and general immorality, most of mankind has become disillusioned with the concept of utopia. Sadly, man has written a very ugly and violent history. And some of the worst chapters depict the events of the 20th century, during which millions of lives were blotted out by genocidal purges, massacres and war.

And conditions aren’t getting any better. Humanity is in dire straits. The suffering of our young people is particularly distressing. *Time* magazine stated that “the catalog of death, neglect, degradation and exploitation affecting children is long and disheartening: Every day, more than 40,000 youngsters under the age of five die of preventable causes. About 150 million under five are malnourished, 23 million severely so. More than 100 million children of school age, 60% of them girls, never step inside a classroom. More than 30 million children live in the streets. About 7 million are refugees from war or famine. In Central and East Africa, 10 million would lose at least one parent to AIDS by the year 2000” (Oct. 1, 1990, p.43). And unfortunately, the plight of children has only worsened since that alarm was sounded.

Even in the “civilized” world of the West, human government hasn’t been able to solve the terrible problems besetting mankind. As bad as things are, then, it should come as no surprise that the Scriptures refer to the time we live in as “this present evil age” (Gal 1:4). And it reveals who is behind the evil – Satan the Devil. For he is the “god of this age” (2 Cor 4:4) who now “deceives the whole world” (Rev 12:9). Amanuwal Ha’Mashyach Himself did not deny the fact that “all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them” are under Satan’s control (Matt 4:8).

Surrounded by such a wayward civilization, is the idea of a utopian world an imaginary pie dream? Not at all! For Amanuwal is actually going to set up the perfect government on this earth – one based on just laws that will bring about global economic prosperity and universal peace for all time.

Kingdom Yet Future

The Prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of Ha’Mashyach. “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called... Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom... even forever" (Isa 9:6-7)

Though the first clause of this passage came to pass with Amanuwal's first coming, the rest of it remains unfulfilled. Notice that Amanuwal will sit upon the throne of David. Jeremiah sheds more light on the matter: "At that time Jerusalem shall be called the Throne of Yahuwah, and all the nations shall be gathered to it: (Jer 3:17)

Indeed, hundreds of future events foretold by the Hebrew prophets concern the establishment of Mashyach's Kingdom, which is to rule earth from Jerusalem. Zechariah speaks of Mashyach returning to this city and waging war against those Gentile nations who fight against His people (Zech 14:1-16). After defeating their armies (vv 12-16; cf. Rev 19:11-21), He establishes His Kingdom over the entire earth: "And Yahuwah shall be King over all the earth... And no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited" (Zech 14:9-11).

Isaiah says, "Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of Yahuwah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains... And all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the ... house of the Aluhym of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of Yahuwah from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall rebuke many people; 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 anymore" (Isa 1:2-4).

The same book also tells us, "And it shall come to pass that from one New Moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says Yahuwah (66:23).

Zechariah foretold that during that Golden Age "many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek Yahuwah of Hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before Yahuwah (Zech 8:21). He continues, "In those days ten men from every creed of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Yahuwdim male, saying, 'Let us go with you, for we have heard that Yahuwah is with you'" (v23). It's wonderful to know that there will then be no more feelings of racial superiority or inferiority. No more anti-Semitism. In fact, no more "anti-anyone-ism." All people will then learn to love and respect one another!

Daniel reveals that myriad spirit-composed, immortal saints (cf. 1 Cor 15:50-54| 1 Thess 4:13-18) will also assist Amanuwal in ruling the nations: "And in the days of [end-time Gentile] kings the Aluhym of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed... It shall break in pieces and consume all these [Gentile] kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Dan 2:44).

Further, Daniel says, "Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (7:27).

Amanuwal Ha'Mashyach reaffirmed that He would fulfill these prophecies – but it wasn't to be at His first coming. In fact, only hours before His crucifixion, He told Pilate, "My Kingdom is not of this world"

(John 18:36). He was willing to wait patiently until the Father gives Him power over the entire planet – at, as we will see, His Second coming.

Shortly before this, His disciples were concerned about when He planned to establish His Kingdom on earth. For “they thought the kingdom of Yahuwah would appear immediately” (Luke 19:11). So Amanuwal then gave them a parable: “A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return” (v12). Before leaving for this far country, the nobleman “called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas [units of currency], and said to them, ‘Do business till I come’” (v13).

In this parable, Amanuwal is the nobleman, who goes to heaven, the far country, after his crucifixion and ascension, and returns to earth at His Second Coming. The currency he gives his servants is the Ruwach Ha’Kadosh bestowed upon them at immersion, as well as innate abilities and spiritual gifts given on an individual basis (cf. 1 Cor 12:1-11).

Amanuwal then explained that each of his followers who made good use of the “money” he had given them would be given rulership over five or ten cities (vv 15-18). This was a clear reference to them being given positions of authority in His Kingdom. Amanuwal later explained to the Apostle John how this would occur: “And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations – ‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron’” (Rev 2:26-27). Amanuwal also said, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne” (3:21).

After Amanuwal’s resurrection, He made numerous appearances to His disciples and told them many things “pertaining to the Kingdom of Yahuwah (Acts 1:3). They asked Him, “Master, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel: (v6). He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority”! (v 7) – that is, regarding the restoration of this Kingdom. Notice that He didn’t deny their understanding that the Kingdom would be a literal government.

Amanuwal and the Saints Take Charge

When will Yahuwah’s government and perfect peace be restored to this planet? We’ve already seen the answer – when Amanuwal returns! The book of Acts tells us that “heaven must receive [Mashyach] until the times of restoration of all things, which Yahuwah has spoken by the mouth of all His righteous prophets since the world began” (3:21).

And powerful events will herald this incredible time. The book of Revelation shows that numerous global calamities 0 each signaled by an angel blowing a trumpet – will befall this world during the year before Amanuwal returns to this earth in power and great glory to establish His Kingdom.

The Apostle John reveals precisely when Amanuwal Mashyach will establish His world-ruling Kingdom on this earth. After the conclusion of those events which are yet to occur “the sixth trumpet” – and after 3.5 years of preaching by the “two witnesses,” followed by their death and subsequent resurrection to physical life (11:1-14). “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying,

“The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Sovereign and of His Mashyach, and He shall reign forever and ever!” (v 15)

According to Matthew 24, Amanuwal will seize the reins of world government at a time just before man would destroy himself with weapons of mass destruction (cf vv 21-22). Mashyach tells us in verses 29-31, “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened... the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man [cf Rev 6:12-17] will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet [the seventh trumpet we just referred to], and they will gather His elect from... one end of heaven to the other.”

According to the Apostle Paul, Amanuwal’s triumphant return from heaven will be in dazzling splendor. He says that “the Sovereign Amanuwal is [to be] revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know Yahuwah, and on those who do not obey the good news of Master Amanuwal Mashyach” (2 Thess 1:6-8).

The Apostle John witnessed this event in vision: “Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war... And the armies in heaven... followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron” (Rev 19:11, 14-15).

John then describes the last great battle of this age – a futile attempt to oppose the returning Mashyach: “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet... These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse” (vv 19-21).

Then what? In John’s vision, a mighty angel comes “down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold on the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished” (20:1-2).

With Satan taken out of the picture, the world at large can come to deeply understand Yahuwah’s truth and real peace can begin to be forged between nations – all under the direction of Amanuwal Mashyach and His saints. Notice what takes place following the banishment of Satan and his demons: “And I saw thrones and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.... And they lived and reigned with Mashyach for a thousand years... They shall be priests of Yahuwah and of Mashyach, and shall reign with Him a thousand years” (vv 4-6).

So for 1,000 years – an entire millennium – mankind will experience the perfect rule of Yahuwah through His divine Son Amanuwal Mashyach. This Millennium is what Acts 3:19 calls the “times of refreshing.” Chapter 17 tells us that Yahuwah the Father “has appointed A DAY [that is, a millennial “day” – cf. 2 Peter 3:8-9] in which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [Amanuwal] who He has ordained” (v 31; cf. John 5:20).

At this time, Mashyach will be “King of kings and Sovereign of sovereigns” – King and Sovereign of every ruler on this entire earth! (Rev 19:16; Zech 14:9). It appears that the patriarch Abraham, father of the faithful, will have a preeminent position under Amanuwal Ha’Mashyach (cf Romans 4:1-17; Luke 16:19-31). David will be king over all Israel (Ezek 37:25; Hosea 3:5). Mashyach told His disciples that they would each be given rule over one of the twelve tribes of Israel: “Assuredly I say to you... when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you... will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel” (Matt 19:28). The saints, then glorified with immortality, will rule over cities (Luke 19:11-19), assisting Mashyach in governing this earth as kings and priests (Rev 5:10).

Nearly 20 million people now serve in various governmental positions in the US alone! Yet Amanuwal’s global government will comprise a mere fraction of that number of capable rulers to bring good government to the entire earth. Eventually, however, hundreds of thousands, or even millions, will assist Him in equitably ruling all nations.

How will they govern? By what standard will they judge? The infallible yardstick by which they will judge all issues that come before them will be the WORD of YAHUWAH (Psa 149:1-9; Matt 4:4, Deut. 28:14-20). Like King David, they too will deeply realize that “he who rules over men must [himself] be just, ruling in the fear of Yahuwah”! (2 Sam 23:3). As glorified, immortal sons and daughters of Yahuwah, they will firmly believe that righteous character really does count – unlike so many of the rulers of this present evil world. By first yielding themselves to Yahuwah and His immutable laws, they, as spirit-composed rulers, will have qualified to govern other flesh-and-blood humans. Yahuwah will have written His law indelibly in their hearts and minds (Jer 36:26). They will have learned that “righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people”! (Prov 14:34).

Showers of Blessing

Perfect leaders will teach the world the way to real happiness and enduring peace. Isaiah writes, “Wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of your times, and the strength of salvation” (Isa 33:6). But how will this come?

First of all, in the wonderful World Ahead, we will no longer have today’s literally thousands of languages and dialects to cope with. Yahuwah says, “For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language” (Zeph 3:9). “All nations” will then, as we’ve seen, worship before Mashyach in Jerusalem (Jer 3:17; Isa 66:23-24). Instead of millions flocking to various cities, shrines or other sites they call holy, they will worship before the throne of the Prince of Peace in the true Kadosh City of Jerusalem.

Zechariah also shows that those who are “left of all the nations... [will then go up] to Jerusalem to worship the King... And it shall come to pass that everyone who is left of all the nations which came

against Jerusalem shall go up from year to year to worship the King, the Aluhym of Hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (v16). And those who refuse to obey Yahuwah in observing His Festivals will be divinely punished with drought and plagues until they learn to submit to Yahuwah's Government (vv 17-21).

This is one way in which Amanuwal and the saints will rule "with a rod of iron." Yes, there is great mercy with Yahuwah. However, when called for, action will be taken. Still, the first course of action will be an immediate warning: "And though Yahuwah gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction [now in this evil age], yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner anymore. But your eyes shall see your teachers, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left'"! (Isa 30:20-21; 66:24).

But what if some nations still dares to begin building destructive weapons, or plans aggression against its neighbors? Amanuwal and the glorified saints will deal swiftly with such rebellion. Paralleling a scripture quoted earlier, Yahuwah "shall judge between many peoples, and rebuke strong nations afar off; [then] 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 anymore" (Micah 4:1-3). Make no mistake; world peace WILL come – even if it must be instituted by force.

What will be the end result of living in the world of peace? Micah says that "everyone shall sit under his [own] vine and under his [own] fig tree and no one shall make them afraid" (v 4). Yes, in a world without military expenditures, individuals will experience greater personal prosperity. And continual fear, which now plagues society and contributes significantly to many mental and emotional disorders will disappear forever.

Isaiah writes of the great millennial peace and security that will exist throughout the whole world – even in nature: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the lion... together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My kadosh mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Yahuwah as the waters cover the sea " (11:6-9).

Zechariah adds to this beautiful picture: "Thus says Yahuwah 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. The streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing" (Zech 8:4-5). And Jerusalem will be a model for all cities throughout the world at that time. Thank Almighty Yahuwah for His assurance that during the wonderful Millennium, children will live safely in their homes and play in secure streets, without fear of being harmed. No more child molestation, murder or abuse of any kind!

Ezekiel also describes the millennial blessings Yahuwah will pour out upon the nations, beginning with the modern Israelites: "And I will make a covenant of peace with them, and cause wild beasts to cease from the land; and they will dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods. I will make them and the places all around My hill a blessing; and I will cause showers to come down in their seasons; there

shall be showers of blessing. Then the trees of the field shall yield their fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase. They shall be safe in their land; and they shall know that I am Yahuwah... And no one shall make them afraid. I will raise up for them a garden of renown, and they shall no longer be consumed with hunger in the land, nor bear the shame of the Gentiles anymore" (Exek 34:25-29).

Indeed, in addition to peace and security, abundance and overflowing joy will prevail throughout the earth. Yahuwah will bless His people with good weather, bountiful crops and great prosperity. "Then He will give the rain for your seed with which you sow the ground, and bread of the increase of the earth; it will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed in large pastures.... There will be on every high mountain and on every high hill rivers and streams of waters... in the day that Yahuwah binds up the bruise of His people and heals the stroke of their wound" (Isa 30:23-26).

Amos also speaks of this millennial super-abundance: Behold the days are coming, says Yahuwah, when the plowman shall overtake the reapers. And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and all the hills shall flow with it. I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; they shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; they shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them" (Amos (:13-14). What a beautiful picture of the great abundance that the earth will produce during the wonderful Millennium.

Isaiah describes even more amazing blessings: "The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad... And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing.... Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.... Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.... A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Righteousness" (Isa 35:1-8; cf 19:23-25).

Utopia at Last!

This millennial peace, abundance and boundless joy will be the direct result of Mashyach's infinitely wise rule, assisted by His then-glorified, immortal saints. And with the devil and his demons banished from the earth, they will no longer be in a position to oppressively rule the nations! Satan will no longer have the power to tempt or in any way harm human beings!

Once Satan and his demons are restrained in the bottomless pit and perfect rule is exercised by Amanuwal and the saints, fantastic blessings will be poured out on this beautiful planet: "He who ruled the nations in anger is persecuted and no one hinders. The whole earth is at rest and quiet; they break forth into singing"!

Can we imagine a thousand years of love and peace? A thousand years of everything in abundance? A thousand years of sublime happiness? Jeremiah writes of those living during this incredible World Ahead: "Then out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of those who make merry; I will multiply them, and they shall not diminish.... Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, streaming to the goodness of Yahuwah – 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" (Jer 30:18-19; 31:12). Surely, here is utopia at last!

What joyous good news to know that Amanuwal Mashyach, the true Anointed One, will soon establish His wonderful Government upon today's sin-cursed earth – bringing overflowing peace and prosperity and abundant health and happiness to the peoples of all nations!