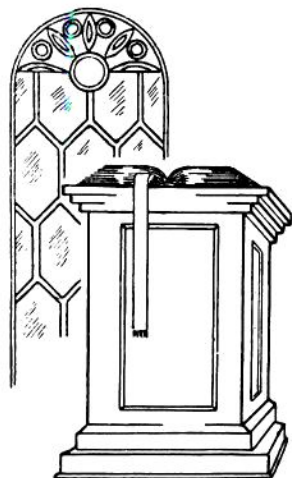


PART II

So far we have examined the Scriptural proof of the certainty of the millennial kingdom of Christ. We have noticed that it is taught in the Bible as something which God has absolutely promised. In the second place we have noticed four features of the nature of this coming kingdom. We have seen that it is to be an earthly kingdom. It is to be a time of external peace and safety. It is to be a universal kingdom, covering the entire earth. It is to be a time when the curse shall be removed from this earth, so that nature shall no longer be cruel and the bodies of the redeemed shall be freed from all infirmity and weakness. I believe that the Scriptural evidence at which we have looked is sufficient to render these statements absolutely undeniable. Let us look forward with hope and joy to that which God will surely bring to pass.



It remains for us to examine the very important question of the time of this kingdom. When may we expect our Lord to fulfill these glorious promises? Regarding this we note, in the first place, that the exact time has not been revealed. This is made very clear in the first chapter of Acts. After the risen Christ had been with his disciples forty days, "speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God," just before he ascended into heaven from their midst, they asked him a question. The question was: "Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" It is important to note that Jesus did not criticize their phraseology at this point. We have not the slightest sign that he was dissatisfied with it. Instead we find that he said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power." Then he proceeded to tell them what their duty was to be in the immediate future. So it is clear that we are not to know the exact time of the promised kingdom.

It is interesting to note that in the Gospels similar statements are