

Millennium could adequately fulfill its meaning. Yet it should be pointed out that there is no reason to think that the blessed conditions of the Millennium will cease at the end of the thousand years.

This is a good place to call attention to one of the most important cautions needed by all who try to interpret the Bible. We should always remember that for every question the Bible answers, there could be many that it does not answer. The knowledge of God is infinite; that of every human being is extremely limited. Whatever the Bible clearly teaches can be accepted as true and dependable, but it is easy to go beyond what is taught and build theories that have no foundation. The Bible contains answers to many questions that no one has yet asked, but interpreters have assumed answers to many questions with which it does not deal. We should stand solidly on everything that the Bible clearly teaches, but we should be careful to avoid reading into any verse or section an answer to a question that that verse or section does not answer.

In verse 21 the righteousness touched upon earlier in the chapter is mentioned again: "Thy people also shall all be righteous." Verse 17 predicted that the tax collectors would be righteous. What a promise this must have been in the eyes of the Jews at the time of Christ, when the very word "publican" had become a synonym for dishonesty! In the millennial kingdom all the agencies of government will be free from graft or injustice. The promises contained in this chapter are by no means a mere hope of material prosperity apart from ethical considerations. While the material aspects are greatly stressed, much emphasis is laid upon the ethical and spiritual aspects, for every portion of the work of God's people in the Millennium is to be thoroughly righteous.

The latter part of verse 21 points once more to the purpose of it all -- "that I may be glorified." Verse 16 already showed the ultimate and here it is stressed purpose, again -- the glory of God.

In verse 22 we read the promise of great extension and increase for the nation. "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation." This is the opposite of the judgment described in Isaiah 30:17: "One thousand shall flee at the rebuke of one: at the rebuke of five shall ye