

Let us turn back to a verse that we briefly mentioned a few minutes ago. We noticed that in connection with the establishment of the kingdom of God that is described in Isaiah 11:6-9, verse 4 contains the words: "and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." Turning to the New Testament we find that Paul, in discussing the return of Christ, says in 2 Thessalonians 2:8: "And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."

The Hebrew word translated "breath" in Isaiah 11:4 could equally well be translated "spirit." The Greek word translated "spirit" in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 could equally well be translated "breath." There is no question that Paul is here referring to the event described by Isaiah and saying that it will occur at some later time when "that Wicked" shall "be revealed." Very evidently Paul considered the event described in Isaiah 11:4, which introduces the situation described in Isaiah 11:6-9 as being still in the future, and as being connected with Christ's return.

Now let us turn to Revelation 19:11-21, where we have an account of the events that will introduce the millennium described in Revelation 20:1-6. There is a description of One coming on a white horse. Verse 13 says of Him: "his name is called The Word of God." Verse 16 says: "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." There can be no question that this is a description of the future coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 15 we notice a peculiar phrase: "And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron." Then in verse 21 we read: "And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Chapter 20 immediately goes on to describe the millennium, using the term six times, and beginning with the description of an angel