

The Millennium

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What exactly is the millennium and where does it fit into the overall plan of God? What does the millennium represent? What will take place during the millennium? The millennium is a period of one thousand years that will occur at the end of this age. God has set a period of time, for man to live freely on this earth. God has allowed man to have his own way during this time and to follow whatever path that he chooses. It has to be this way, so that those who choose to follow God do so of their own free will. God does not force anyone to follow Him against their will. It has to be our choice and it has to be made freely.

The time of man's dominion on this earth has an expiration point. God has fixed a point in time and in His plan, when man's rule and man's possession of this earth will end. God has a definite purpose for allowing all of this to play out and it has been carefully planned. If we go back to the beginning, we can begin to see how God put this in place from the start.

Genesis 1:26-31

²⁶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion (dominion means supreme authority, or absolute ownership; man was created to have dominion, to be in charge over God's creation for this time, or age) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸ Then God blessed them (God wanted man to be successful God did not put man here to fail), and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion (so again God is reiterating here that man is to be in charge) over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

²⁹ And God said, "See, I have given you every herb *that* yields seed which *is* on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. ³⁰ Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for food"; and it was so. ³¹ Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God created and put everything into place during the six days of creation. God had a very definite time frame in which He wanted to accomplish everything that He was going to do. It was all accomplished and carried out exactly as God had planned it.

God had a deadline that He had established for the creation. There was a definite point and place in time where the creation portion of God's plan would cease. God had this all carefully planned out before He even began and this period of creating and putting everything into place went according to that plan and within the timeframe that God had established for it to be accomplished.

God was pleased with everything that He had done. It was whole and complete and good, it was pleasant to God. Everything had been completed on His timetable and He was happy with it, He was satisfied and content. Notice that the entire time of creation was six days and that man was created on the sixth day. Six is the number of man. What about the next day? There was something very special about the next day.

Genesis 2:1-3

¹ Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. ² And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. ³ Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

God set apart the seventh day and made it special, it had significance to Him and He blessed it and sanctified it. God made the seventh day holy; it is holy time and special to God. God rested on the seventh day, because all of His work which was done. The creation was complete. This seventh day did not just happen! The seventh day was also part of God's plan. God worked and He created for six days and then He rested and set apart the seventh day as being special.

God always does things in a very deliberate and precise way. Everything God does tells us something and there is also something we can learn from the creation week. There is a sequence of seven days here. Six days were for the work of creating and the seventh was for a rest. God does not need to rest, yet He did. He wanted to show us something and leave us with an example. Seven is God's number of completion, or perfection. It is God's mark on the things that belong to Him.

No one really knows the exact date and time that God began His work of creating. It is generally accepted that it took place approximately around 4,000 BC. Of course there is some debate as to the exact date and time and there will never be complete agreement. BC stands for "before Christ", or sometimes BCE is used, which stands for "before common era". Even though we cannot pinpoint the exact time, roughly four thousand years transpired before Christ was born.

The present Gregorian calendar that is used throughout most of the world, is supposed to be numbered from the first year of Christ. The Gregorian calendar starts with the year 1 AD. The AD stands for "Anno Domini", which is Latin for "in the year of the Lord". The Gregorian calendar is now in the 2,000 year range. By taking the four thousand years before Christ and adding the two thousand years after His appearance, it totals roughly six thousand years. Even though there are no exact dates to rely on, approximately a little less than six thousand years have transpired since the creation.

Exodus 20:8-11

⁸"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day *is* the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who *is* within your gates. ¹¹For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that *is* in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.

God gave man six days to labor and to do his work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath and man's work is to cease on that day. God set the example during the creation week, God did all of His work on the first six days and then rested on the seventh day. Using the creation week as an example, God has allotted man six days, or six thousand years for his work. Each day of the creation week represents a one thousand year span of time.

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day *is* as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Peter is giving us a principle here. The whole context of 2 Peter 3, is about preparing for the return of Christ and making ourselves ready. The six days represent six thousand years that God has set aside in His plan for man. What happened after the six days of creation? The seventh day came and God rested. It was a time of rest for God, from all the work that He had done.

Hebrews 4:1-13

²Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. ²For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard *it*.

³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "*So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,'*" although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴ For He has spoken in a certain place of the seventh day in this way: "*And God rested on the seventh day from all His works*"; ⁵ and again in this place: "*They shall not enter My rest.*"

⁶ Since therefore it remains that some *must* enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, ⁷ again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "*Today,*" after such a long time, as it has been said: "*Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts.*" ⁸ For if Joshua (Should be Jesus) had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. ⁹ There remains therefore a rest (The word rest is a mistranslation in this verse. The Greek word that is used here is *sabbatismós* and it literally means a Sabbath rest.) for the people of God. ¹⁰ For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God *did* from His.

The Word Discovers Our Condition

¹¹ Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. ¹² For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

The millennium is a Sabbath rest. At the end of the six thousand years of man, Christ will return. After Christ has defeated the armies gathered against Him and the world system is removed from power, He will rule over this earth. Christ will set up His kingdom and rule from Zion. Satan will be locked away where he cannot influence people, or bring evil into the world. The entire earth will be at peace for one thousand years under the reign and control of Jesus Christ. It is the Sabbath rest pictured in the creation week, when God rested from all of His work. The entire earth and the people who will be there at that time will be in a Sabbath rest. The millennial rest will complete that portion of God's plan.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

There will be those who live through the tribulation and on into that world that will exist at that time. There will be a need for them to be taught and to learn God's way of life. Those who are part of the first resurrection will be placed in positions of administration and rulership. They are given thrones and they are given judgment. They will live and reign with Jesus Christ during the one thousand year period of the millennium.

Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ "For *the kingdom of heaven is* like a man traveling to a far country, *who* called his own servants and delivered his goods to them.

¹⁵ And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. ¹⁶ Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. ¹⁷ And likewise he who *had received* two gained two more also. ¹⁸ But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' ²¹ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' ²² He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' ²³ His lord said to him, 'Well *done*, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

²⁴ "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, *there* you have *what is yours*.'

²⁶ "But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. ²⁷ So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give *it* to him who has ten talents.

²⁹ 'For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

This parable is about those who will rule under Christ during the millennium. The man who travels to the far country is Christ, who has returned to the throne of the Father. The talents are the spiritual gifts and portion of God's Spirit that are given to his servants. After a long time the man returns to settle accounts with his servants, this is Christ returning to this earth and rewarding those who follow Him. Those who have increased what they have been given, are given rulership in proportion to their increase. This shows that we are to use the gifts that we have been given to grow spiritually and to overcome and purify ourselves and bear fruit.

We are expected to show an increase, we have to show growth. We cannot take what we have been given and then do nothing with it. If we do that, we will be rejected. We are being judged right now, in this life. God has given us understanding and opened our minds to understand His mysteries and the truth of His word. The man who buried what he was given is called the unprofitable servant. He did not take what he had been given and put it into use. Instead, he buried it. Because he did not do anything with what he had been given, it was taken away from him and given to him who knew how to make it increase and grow. Then the unprofitable servant was cast into outer darkness.

We have no excuse, we will be held accountable for what we know, for what we are given and for what we do with it. God will hold us responsible. It is an awesome thing to come to understand the mysteries and the truths of God, but it also comes with great responsibility and God expects us to grow and to overcome and to use what we are given.

1 Peter 4:12-19

¹² Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; ¹³ but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. ¹⁴ If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. ¹⁶ Yet if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ Now

***"If the righteous one is scarcely saved,
Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"***

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

Those who are called to understand and overcome now are being prepared for a special place and purpose in God's Kingdom. There is a greater reward for those who are in the first resurrection and they are called blessed. These people are called the firstfruits; they are the first harvest of mankind to be born into God's Kingdom. What an incredible and amazing thing to have the opportunity to be among those who are first transformed to spirit and to dwell in God's Kingdom.

James 1:16-18

¹⁶ Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. ¹⁸ Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures this millennial phase in God's Plan. We are to live in temporary dwellings during the feast and we are to celebrate before God. God wants us to have the best of everything during the feast. We are to get for ourselves whatever our heart desires, without sinning, and celebrate before God. When we observe the feast we are picturing and celebrating that one thousand year period when there will be absolute peace and tranquility on this earth.

Deuteronomy 14:22-27

²² "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. ²³ And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. ²⁴ But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, ²⁵ then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. ²⁶ And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. ²⁷ You shall not forsake the Levite who *is* within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.

Everyone will be living God's way of life. It will be an incredible time free from fear and worry. There will be no crime and everyone will treat each other with respect and people will deal with each other fairly. People will learn what it is like to live under God's Law and under God's Rule, instead of the mess that man has made of things when left to rule himself and under the influence and sway of Satan. There are prophecies in scripture that refer to the Millennium.

Isaiah 11

¹ There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD,
And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes,
Nor decide by the hearing of His ears;

⁴ But with righteousness He shall judge the poor,
And decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

(This is talking about Christ, He is ruling and judging here on the earth. This is not the final judgment being spoken of here. Who is doing the judging on the great day of judgment in Revelation 20? God, all are standing before God's throne to give account on that day.)

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins,
And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

⁶ "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse,
Who shall stand as a banner to the people;
For the Gentiles shall seek Him,
And His resting place shall be glorious."

¹¹ It shall come to pass in that day
That the Lord shall set His hand again the second time
To recover the remnant of His people who are left (Notice the wording that is used here, the people who are left),

From Assyria and Egypt,
From Pathros and Cush,
From Elam and Shinar,
From Hamath and the islands of the sea.

¹² He will set up a banner for the nations,

And will assemble the outcasts of Israel,
And gather together the dispersed of Judah
From the four corners of the earth.

¹³ Also the envy of Ephraim shall depart,
And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off;
Ephraim shall not envy Judah,
And Judah shall not harass Ephraim.

¹⁴ But they shall fly down upon the shoulder of the Philistines toward the west;
Together they shall plunder the people of the East;
They shall lay their hand on Edom and Moab;
And the people of Ammon shall obey them.

¹⁵ The LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt;
With His mighty wind He will shake His fist over the River,
And strike it in the seven streams,
And make *men* cross over dryshod.

¹⁶ There will be a highway for the remnant of His people
Who will be left from Assyria,
As it was for Israel
In the day that he came up from the land of Egypt.

This prophecy gives us some very specific information about things that will take place when Christ returns to this earth. All peoples will be gathered up and they will be taught. Knowledge of God's Law and His way of life will cover the earth completely. Everyone will learn and be taught. Even the animals will be changed when the whole world is united under Christ's righteous rule and the firstfruits will be there too, to live and reign with Christ for the thousand years, a millennial Sabbath.

Zephaniah 3:8-13

⁸ "Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD,
"Until the day I rise up for plunder;
My determination *is* to gather the nations
To My assembly of kingdoms,
To pour on them My indignation,
All My fierce anger;
All the earth shall be devoured
With the fire of My jealousy (This is talking about the Day of the Lord, when all the nations are gathered to battle. Christ returns and puts them down. Now beginning in verse 9, it is speaking of the millennium).

⁹ "For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language,
That they all may call on the name of the LORD,
To serve Him with one accord.

¹⁰ From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia
My worshipers,
The daughter of My dispersed ones,
Shall bring My offering.

**11 In that day you shall not be shamed for any of your deeds
In which you transgress against Me;
For then I will take away from your midst
Those who rejoice in your pride,
And you shall no longer be haughty
In My holy mountain.**

**12 I will leave in your midst
A meek and humble people,
And they shall trust in the name of the LORD.**

**13 The remnant of Israel (Notice this is a remnant, this is not the whole house
of Israel which is spoken of in Ezekiel 37) shall do no unrighteousness
And speak no lies,
Nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth;
For they shall feed *their* flocks and lie down,
And no one shall make *them* afraid."**

Here is another prophecy of things that will take place during the millennial rule of Jesus Christ. These things have not occurred up to this point have they? Some people claim that the return of the Jews to Israel is a fulfillment of many of these prophecies, but that is not true. The Jews are just a part of Israel and the state of Israel that exists today is not the same Israel that is spoken of in scripture. When God is speaking about Israel, He is talking about all of the tribes that make up Israel, not a geographic location, or piece of land.

These things also do not take place after the earth has been cleansed and the New Jerusalem comes down to this earth. There will not be any flesh and blood in God's Kingdom. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. You have to be spirit to exist there.

1 Corinthians 15:50

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

Another reason why these things take place before the earth is cleansed, is because Jesus Christ has to prepare and purify the earth before God the Father can dwell here. Christ will conquer the earth and put down man's rebellion against God that is inspired and instigated by Satan. All of the corruption and evidence of man's sin will be removed. That cleansing fire that will encompass the earth will purify it. Once that final cleansing takes place, then Jesus Christ will hand the earth over to God the Father. Christ will reign until all of the things in this part of God's Plan are complete, then He will relinquish control back over to God the Father. That shows the incredible trust and love that exists between God, the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

²⁰ But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead (Because Christ came in the flesh. Adam as a man brought death to mankind, Christ as a man brought life to mankind). ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming. ²⁴ Then *comes* the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy *that will be destroyed is* death (When does this occur? Not until the great judgment in Revelation 20. Christ will continue to rule until death is destroyed). ²⁷ For "*He has put all things under His feet.*" But when He says "all things are put under Him," *it is* evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. ²⁸ Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The understanding of the Millennium and where it fits into God's Plan is very important. It is only through the correct understanding of the Holy Days and the Feasts of God that we can understand His Plan. The Feast of Tabernacles pictures this time of the Millennium. The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the Feast of Ingathering too. This truly will be a time of ingathering when Christ gathers up all of the people who are left on the earth at this time.

Leviticus 23:39-43

³⁹ 'Also on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, when you have gathered in the fruit of the land (Notice this is when all of their work was done for the year, this is the end of their harvest, the end of man's work), you shall keep the feast of the LORD *for* seven days; on the first day *there shall be* a sabbath-rest, and on the eighth day a sabbath-rest. ⁴⁰ And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹ You shall keep it as a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. *It shall be* a statute forever in your generations. You shall celebrate it in the seventh month. ⁴² You shall dwell in booths for seven days. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, ⁴³ that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God."

Notice how interesting it is that God, at the very end here, mentions that they are to remember that they had to dwell in booths when He brought them out of Egypt. Why is that? When they came out of Egypt, they did not have a home did they?

But, they did have God's promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. That was a type of God's Kingdom! All of their needs were met while they were in the wilderness. God took complete care of them, all they had to worry about was living by God's Law and obeying Him and God took care of all the rest. They were in the wilderness, which pictures this world and God was leading them to the Promised Land, which pictured His Kingdom.

They had to dwell in tents, or booths, because they had no permanent home. The place where they were living was only temporary. We are only in this world temporarily, this is not our home. Our home is the same home that they were going to, the Promised Land, God's Kingdom. Even though the Feast of Tabernacles is a time of great celebration and rejoicing, we are to dwell in booths, or temporary dwellings. That seems to be a contradiction, but God has a reason and a purpose for that. Even though the Millennium will be a wonderful time and there will be peace and the earth will be a paradise to live in, it will still come to an end. It is still temporary and we need to keep that in mind.

God specifically tells us to rejoice and to celebrate during this Feast, because it pictures that incredible world that will exist during the Millennium.

Deuteronomy 16:13-15

¹³ "You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. ¹⁴ And you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter, your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who *are* within your gates. ¹⁵ Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.

The Millennium will be an incredible time of peace and it will be an example of the wonderful blessings that come from living God's way of life in contrast to man living by his own means. The Millennium pictures an incredible Sabbath rest of one thousand years free from Satan's influence and evil. It will be a world at peace and full of the knowledge of God. A world that will be ruled righteously and fairly by Jesus Christ and all of the firstfruits, who overcome in this life now, will have a part in that. That is truly something to celebrate and rejoice in.

(All scriptural references cited from the New King James Edition of the Holy Bible)