

Lesson 27

REGENERATION

Compiled by Darrell Crow based upon personal studies, notes and prayer.

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REGENERATION

The English word “regeneration” is the translation of palingenesia, from palin (again) and genesis (birth). It means simply a new birth, a new beginning, a new order. The word “regeneration” appears only twice in the New Testament of English translated Bibles.

It is interesting that each reference defines the Regeneration of man and the Regeneration of the earth.

Regeneration of man: Paul, used regeneration in referring to the regeneration of the individual man. Man being born again into God’s new order which is the Church, the Body of Christ.

- *Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

Regeneration of earth: Jesus spoke of regeneration in the wider sense in that He encompassed His coming kingdom, the regeneration of the world and the nation Israel. That is the restoration of all things, at His Second Advent.

- *Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Another word for *regeneration* is *rebirth*, related to the biblical phrase “born again.” Our spiritual rebirth at our salvation is different from our first birth, when we were conceived physically and thereby inherited our sin nature (dead to God, still born). This rebirth is a spiritual, holy, and heavenly birth that results in our being made alive spiritually, alive to God. Man in his natural state is “dead in trespasses and sins” until he is “made alive” (regenerated) by Christ at salvation.

- *Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*

Our study of Regeneration will follow this outline

1. Regeneration of Man
 - A. Rebirth Is A New Creation and Necessary
 - B. Washed Clean In Regeneration.
 - C. Man Reconciled To God
2. Regeneration Of The Earth
3. Summary

REGENERATION OF MAN

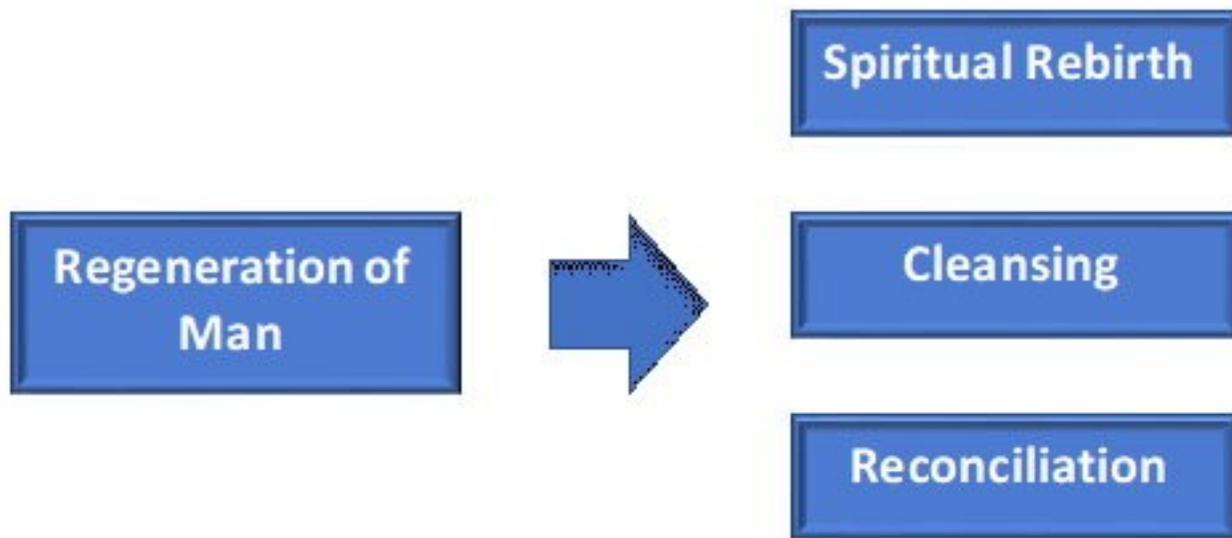
Regeneration of Man

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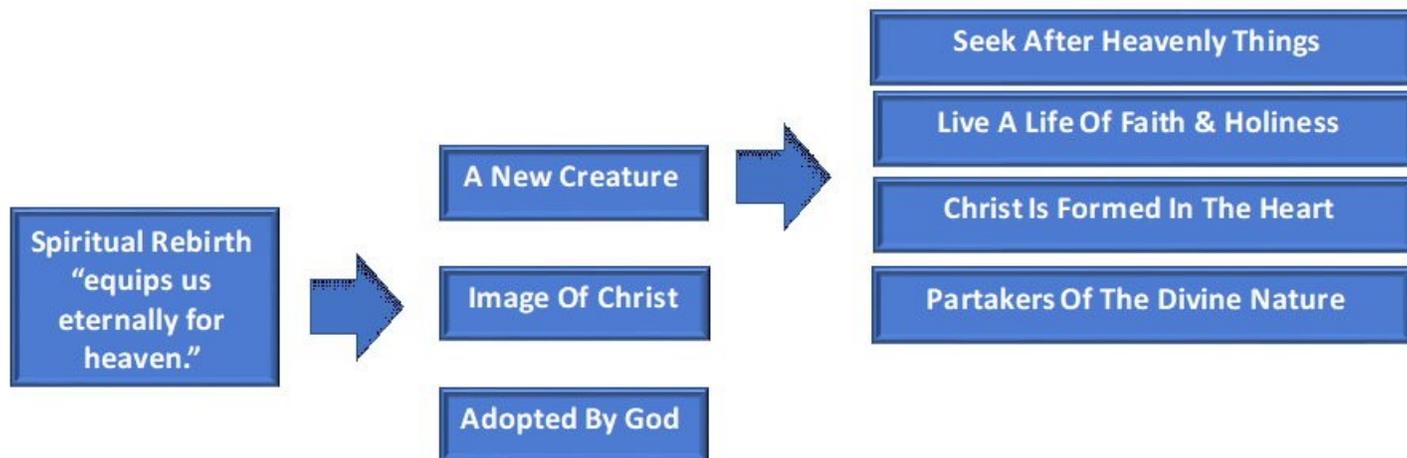
Rebirth Is Necessary

Paul used regeneration in referring to the regeneration of the individual man, his being born again into God's new order, man being washed clean through regeneration and man reconciled to God. This new order is the Church, the Body of Christ, not an organization, but a spiritual organism. No effort on man's part can bring him into God's order, for it is "not by works of righteousness which we have done", "Not of works, lest any man should boast".

- *Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*
- *Ephesians 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.*
- Just as our physical birth resulted in a new individual [baby] entering the earthly realm, our spiritual birth results in a new 'saved' person entering the heavenly realm.
 - *Ephesians 2:6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*
- At physical birth, we are members of our physical families, complete with their image, likeness and hereditary gifts and faults. At our spiritual rebirth, we are conformed to the image of Christ and adopted into the family of God. Our ties with our physical parents, the world and Satan are no longer legally binding. We are a new creature.
- After rebirth, we begin to see, hear and seek after divine things; we begin to live a life of faith and holiness. Now Christ is formed in the hearts; now we are partakers of the divine nature, having been made new creatures
 - God, not man, is the source of this transformation. *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*
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- God’s great love is His free gift to mankind. *Ephesians 2:1 & 8* *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. John 3:16* *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*
- God’s rich grace and abundant mercy, are the cause of the rebirth. The mighty power of God—the power that raised Christ from the dead—is displayed in the rebirth and conversion of sinners
 - *Ephesians 1:19–20* *and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.*
- Sinful human flesh cannot stand in God’s presence. In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus said twice that a man must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God
 - *John 3:3* *Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*
 - *John 3:7* *Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’*



Regeneration is not optional, for “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*” (John 3:6). Physical birth equips us for life on earth; spiritual rebirth equips us eternally for heaven.

- *Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,*
- *1 Peter 1:23 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God.*
- *John 1:13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- *1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God*
- *1 John 4:7 ⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God*

Washed Clean In Regeneration

Closely related to the new birth is the fact that the believer has been washed in regeneration.

- *Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*



The filth and guilt of the sinner must be removed before the pure robe of divine righteousness can be put on. Regeneration not only secures the new birth, but cleanses the sinner. This is a once-for-all cleansing. It cannot be repeated. Paul told the sinning, carnal Corinthian Christians, “*Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.*” (1 Corinthians 6:11).

When Jesus washed the feet of the twelve disciples in the upper room the night before His crucifixion, He said, “*Jesus *said to him, “He who has bathed (louloumenos) needs only to wash (nipsasthai) his feet, but is completely clean (katharos); and you are clean (katharoi), but not all of you.*” (John 13:10).

Jesus was making a play on words here. Note the different Greek words for wash and clean. He had just told Peter that washing of the feet was necessary in order to have daily fellowship with Him. To this, Peter requested a bath for the entire body. Jesus said that in order to have fellowship with Him, one does not need to repeat the complete bath of regeneration. (The same word is used above in John 13:10, 1 Corinthians 6:11, and Titus 3:5).

Man only needs to have daily cleansings of his soul that becomes dirty by walking in a sin-cursed world. That is why Jesus declared that eleven of them were clean (saved through the complete bath of regeneration), but not Judas (who never experienced regeneration). The need of sinning, carnal Christians is not to be regenerated all over again, but to experience the daily cleansing through confession of known sin.

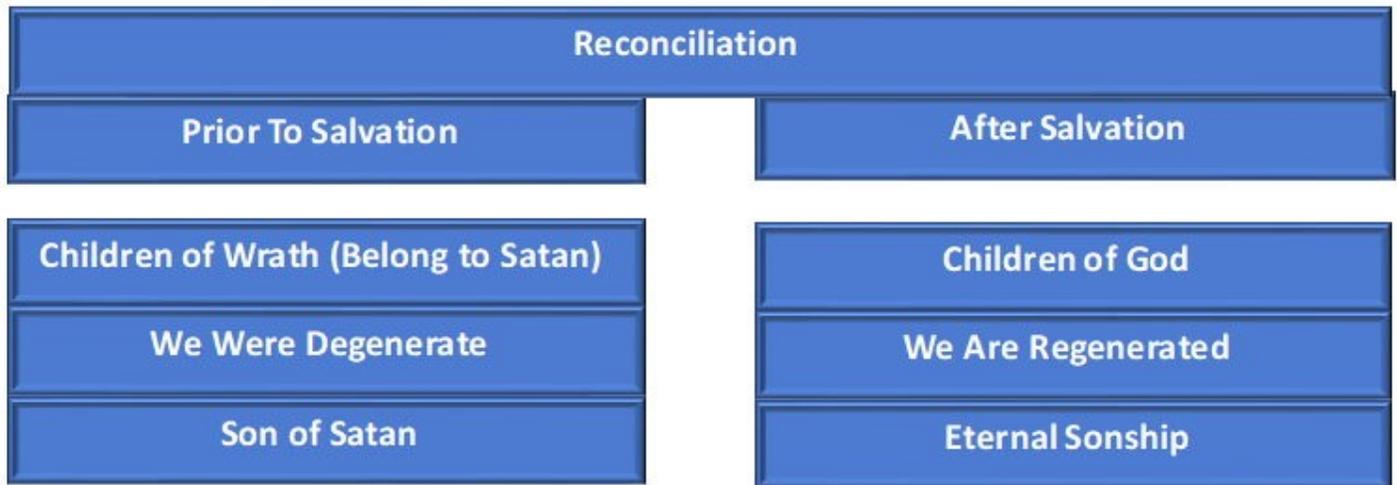
- *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- *1 John 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him*
- *1 John 5:4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*
- *1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him.*

The essence of God's divine nature is love and righteousness. He is the source of a divine love called "agape" love. This is a love of unmerited favor. It is a love that is offered to all of mankind through God's grace. God's divine nature is also the source of righteousness in the world.

Man Reconciled To God

The sinner has also been reconciled to God and by God.

Paul wrote, ¹⁸ *Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,* ¹⁹ *namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and* ^[a] *He has* ^[b] *committed to us the word of reconciliation.* ²⁰ *Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”* (2 Corinthians 5:18-20)



Man was God's enemy; God was not man's enemy. Sin estranged man from God. Adam went into hiding, not God. Reconciliation is man-ward, not God-ward. Calvary made possible a reconciliation, ¹⁰ *For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved* ^[a] *by His life.* (Romans 5:10)

The resurrection of Christ guarantees the permanence of the reconciled position. If Christ did so much for us when we were the enemies of God, just imagine what He can do for us now that we are His Children. Reconciliation has provided a way back for the sinner to God and for a sinning Christian to his father. Reconciliation gives access by the removal of the sin barrier.

- *Ephesians 2:16-18 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity. (17) AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR; (18) for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.*

To lose reconciliation, the enmity would have to be resurrected and the access turned into prohibition.

- *2 Corinthians 5:18–20 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

The Believer Is Positionally Close To God

It is said of the believer that he has been made nigh: ¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off ^[a] have been brought near ^[b] by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13).* This is especially true of Gentile Christians. In their racial heritage they were “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel,” “strangers from the covenants of promise,” “far off,” and “foreigners” (Ephesians 2:12, 13, 19).

Positionally, the Gentile sinner was once far from God, but now he is near. Practically, he is exhorted: ⁸ *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (James 4:8).*

A husband and a wife can live under the same roof and still be miles apart in their love relationship. Likewise, a Christian can be practically far away from God even though his position is near. We are made close positionally to God and we grow close to God in our daily experience.

The Believer Has Access To God

The believer has access to God by saving faith in Jesus Christ. (*Romans 5:2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.*) The believer has gained access into a grace position or standing, not of his own doing, but of His giving. The believer can rejoice because this access was gained and is maintained by God’s grace, and is not dependent upon his merit, either past or present. The believer also has access by the Holy Spirit: (¹⁸ *for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:18*)

This access assures the believer that at any time for any reason he can come before God. The door is always open before him. In ancient kings’ courts, one would not dare to enter into the king’s presence without being called first. In Israel, men were shut out of the direct presence of God in the holy of holies (both in the tabernacle and in the temple) by the inner veil. The high priest gained admission into that sacred place only once a year on the Day of Atonement, and then he stayed just briefly. But God’s presence is ever open to the believer.

- *Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, (21) and since we have a great priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Prior to salvation we were not God’s children, we were children of wrath

- *John 1:12-13 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were ^lborn, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*
- *Ephesians 2:3 Among them we too, all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest*
- *Romans 5:18-20 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness here resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. The Law came in so that the transgression would increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.*

- Prior to salvation, we were degenerate; after salvation we are regenerated (reborn, made new). The result of regeneration is peace with God that passes all understanding.
 - *Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- New life
 - *Titus 3:5 He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*
 - *2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*
- Eternal sonship (John 1:12–13 ¹² *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,* ¹³ *who were ^[a]born, not of ^[b]blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.; Galatians 3:26 ²⁶ *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*).*
- Rebirth Regeneration or rebirth begins the process of sanctification wherein we become the people God intends us to be. The only means of regeneration or rebirth is by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. No amount of good works or keeping of the Law can regenerate the heart.
 - *Romans 8:28–30 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*
 - *Romans 3:20 because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*

Regeneration OF The Earth

When our Lord used the word, He said to His disciples, “*Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*”

Jesus used the word in a wider sense when referring to His coming kingdom on earth. It is the time of the earth’s regeneration, the new order about which the prophets wrote, when Jehovah will set His King upon His holy hill of Zion

- *“Psalm 2:6 “But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”,*
- *Isaiah 2:4 “And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.”*
- *Micah 4:3 And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war.*

Regeneration of Earth

Matthew 19:28 And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

The coming kingdom of Christ on earth is the day of the earth’s regeneration, “the times of restitution (restoration) of all things”.

- *Acts 3:21* whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

This re-birth of the earth in the coming Millennial Age will also fulfill God’s covenant with Abraham concerning his descendants, for Israel too will experience a re-birth at that time (See Ezekiel 37).

The kingdom of Christ on earth will be a time of world-wide subjection to the authority of Christ, when sin, sorrow, sickness, suffering and strife will not touch earth’s inhabitants. In that day God shall renew His creation.

- *Isaiah 11:6* And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.
- *Isaiah 11:9* “They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”

SUMMARY

In summing up “the regeneration of MAN,” ...

Regeneration then, may be defined as an act of God whereby He bestows upon the believing sinner new life. This life is God’s own life, the imparting of His own nature. God Himself is the Source and Bestower of His life, so that believers are said to be “partakers of the Divine nature”, “created in Christ Jesus”, “born of God”, “born again”, “a new creation”.

- *2 Peter 1:4* For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
- *Ephesians 2:10* For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.
- *John 1:13* who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- *John 3:3* Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
- *John 3:7* Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’
- *2 Corinthians 5:17* Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Only Christ offers rebirth transforming us into a new creation before God to spend eternity in fellowship with God.

In summing up “*the regeneration of the earth,*” it is that time still future when ...

1. Christ shall rule on the throne of David

- *2 Samuel 7*
- *Luke 1:32-33 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; (33) and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”*
- *Luke 2:11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

2. Satan will be incarcerated

- *Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

3. Israel will be spiritually re-born

- *Isaiah 66:8 “Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once? As soon as Zion travailed, she also brought forth her sons.*
- *Ezekiel 37*
- *Matthew 24:8 But all these things are merely the beginning of birth pangs.*
- *Romans 11:1-2 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. (2) God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?*
- *Romans 11:26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”*

4. Peace, prosperity, social justice and equality will prevail

- *Isaiah 42:1-4 “Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. (2) “He will not cry out or raise His voice, Nor make His voice heard in the street. (3) “A bruised reed He will not break And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. (4) “He will not be disheartened or crushed Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law.”*
- *Micah 4:2-7 Many nations will come and say, “Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths.” For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. (3) And He will judge between many peoples And render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they train for war. (4) Each of them will sit under his vine And under his fig tree, With no one to make them afraid, For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. (5) Though all the peoples walk Each in the name of his god, As for us, we will walk In the name of the LORD our God forever and ever. (6) “In that day,” declares the LORD, “I will assemble the lame And gather the outcasts, Even those whom I have afflicted. (7) “I will make the lame a remnant And the outcasts a strong nation, And the LORD will reign over them in Mount Zion From now on and forever.*

This is the golden age, the utopia for which man has sought in vain. It is God’s coming great society, the Theocracy in the earth.