OCTOBER 15, 1969

Semimonthly

THE APPROACHING

PEACE

OF

A THOUSAND YEARS

"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES," SAYS JEHOVAH.—ISA. 43:12
world have refused to yield over peaceably their earthly kingship to him, even Christendom refusing to do so. (Luke 21:24; Ps. 2:1-6) Till this year, after more than half a century, the nations have refused to do so. What will this mean shortly for all mankind? This: the outbreak of the “war of the great day of God the Almighty” at the world situation called Har-Magedon or Armageddon. (Rev. 16:14, 16) That war will remove all human obstructors to peace.

“After this taking away of all human and demon obstructors of world peace there will come the reign of the Prince of Peace over all the earth. God’s fixed time for this is approaching, and along with it the peace of a thousand years. A thousand years equals a millennium. This reminds us of something said in the aforementioned inaugural speech of the American president on January 20, 1969. He remarked upon the approach of things of interest to Americans and to all Christendom. In the eighth paragraph of his speech the newly sworn-in president said: “Eight years from now America will celebrate its 200th anniversary as a nation. And within the lifetime of most people now living, mankind will celebrate that great new year which comes only once in a thousand years—the beginning of the third millennium.” The president was referring to A.D. 2001.*

The next remarks of the president showed that he expected there to be an America in the first year of that third millennium. But for God-fearing students of the Holy Bible containing both the ancient Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Greek Scriptures, there is a more important millennium that compels their attention. That is the seventh millennium! No, not the seventh millennium measured from A.D. 1, but the seventh millennium of man’s existence here on earth, the seventh millennium measured from God’s creation of perfect man and woman in the garden of Eden. This is usually measured according to the Anno Mundi rule or “In the Year of the World” calendar, the world of mankind being here meant.

Does this fact have any bearing on the approach of the peace of a thousand years or of a millennium? Very apparently Yes! According to the calendar of the Orthodox Jews, the new American president delivered his inaugural speech at the beginning of the fifth lunar month of the year 5729 A.M., this date being based on the ancient Hebrew Scriptures alone. But according to chronologers or time checkers who take into account also the inspired Christian Greek Scriptures, the Jewish calendar is more than two hundred years behind time. In certain editions of the Holy Bible, Catholic and Protestant, there have appeared dates according to the chronology of the noted Irish Anglican prelate, Archbishop James Ussher (1581-1656 C.E.). Ussher’s date for man’s creation is 4004 B.C.E. By this reckoning six thousand years or six millennia of man’s existence would end in the autumn of the coming year of 1996 C.E. after which the seventh millennium of man’s existence would start.

More recently earnest researchers of the Holy Bible have made a recheck of its chronology. According to their calculations the six millennia of mankind’s life on earth would end in the mid-

* Christendom measures time by the Anno Domini calendar, the Year of the Lord era, this starting with the year designated A.D. 1.

36. After removal of these peace obstructers, what time period begins, and how did the American president in his inaugural speech remind us of it? 37. In what millennium are God-fearing Bible students more interested, and from when does that millennium count?

38. (a) What does the Orthodox Jewish calendar reckon the time of the inauguration of the American president to be? (b) When, according to Ussher’s chronology, do six millennia of man’s existence end? 39. According to more recent research into Bible chronology, would the sixth millennia end?

10/15/1969
seventies. Thus the seventh millennium from man's creation by Jehovah God would begin within less than ten years.*


40. In commemoration of his resting on the seventh creative day, what law concerning sabbath did God give to his chosen people? 41. (a) On a certain sabbath day, to what greater Sabbath did Jesus point forward? (b) According to God's way of measuring time, to what does Christ's millennium of rule correspond? 42. (a) In order for Jesus to be 'Lord of the sabbath,' his millennial reign would have to be in what time period? (b) Why would the end of six thousand years of man's enslavement by Satan be the fitting time for a sabbath rest? 43. (a) What kind of day was the ancient weekly sabbath day as to activity? (b) During his sabbatic reign, will Christ or his subjects on earth be idle?