

PLANNED OBOLESCENCE - *Pastor Gordon Landry*

We sometimes tire of the short usage-span of material and/or equipment we purchase. Why do they not last longer? When we pay good money for an item – whether it be a house, an automobile, a TV set, or a new suit or dress – we think that item should last at least as long as the payments. But *obsolescence* may be built into the article. After all, the manufacturer, the wholesaler, and the retailer expect to have repeat business. If the item we buy lasts a lifetime, they may go out of business.

The ushering in of God's Kingdom upon this earth with the return of Jesus will see planned longevity replacing planned obsolescence. Indeed, the earth itself needs a drastic overhaul by the God who created it. Man's puny efforts to control his environment have met with dismal failure. The heavens, too, need a purging, and that also shall occur. "Of old hast Thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of Thy hands. They shall perish, but Thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt Thou change them, and they shall be changed" (Psa. 102:25,26; see also Isa. 34:4; 51:6; 65:17; 66:22; 1 Pet. 3:1-13; Rev. 21:1).

Infants shall no longer die before growing to maturity (Isa. 65:20). Never again will mothers and fathers mourn the death of their precious little ones such as occurred in and around Bethlehem within two years of the birth of Jesus (Matt. 2:16-18; Jer. 31:15-17). Never again shall sickness or accident or abuse cut short the lives of defenseless babies. Never again shall the fruit of the womb be destroyed ere the first breath is taken.

Crops will no longer fail, but abundant produce will become the norm (Psa. 72:16; Isa. 35:1,2; 65:21-23; Amos 9:13; Rev. 22:1,2).

Health-care givers will no longer be needed because the whole of mankind shall be made well (Isa. 33:24 - "The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick" ; Isa. 35:5,6).

Politicians, who have made such a mess of this world by "fixing" all its problems, will find other work in the Kingdom – if they are allowed in at all! Rulers will be appointed by the Son of God (Luke 19:12-19).

Law-enforcement personnel will have no one to guard; they will have no murders to solve; they will see no stores or banks or individuals robbed (Isa. 11:1-5).

Zoos will become obsolete because animals – even the most vicious and ferocious – shall be tame (Isa. 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25; Hos. 2:18; see Dan. 6:22 for a preview).

Once Jesus "shall have put down all rule and authority and power" (1 Cor. 15:24), wars will cease. The truth espoused in Isaiah 2:4 - "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks" - is emblazoned at the United Nations headquarters on Long Island, New York. But the peace Isaiah envisioned can never be brought about by mortal politicians or kings or military might. Only Jesus has been authorized by the heavenly Father to bring this to pass. The governments of this world will be taken over by the one on whose thigh is written, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords" (Rev. 11:15; 19:11-16).

Certainly, all present-day occurrences and systems and materials will not perish overnight. Jesus' thousand-year reign, though, shall bring it to pass, or usher it in when He turns the Kingdom over to his Father (1 Cor. 15:28).

To be allowed into that limitless Kingdom is the greatest and most meaningful hope of mankind!