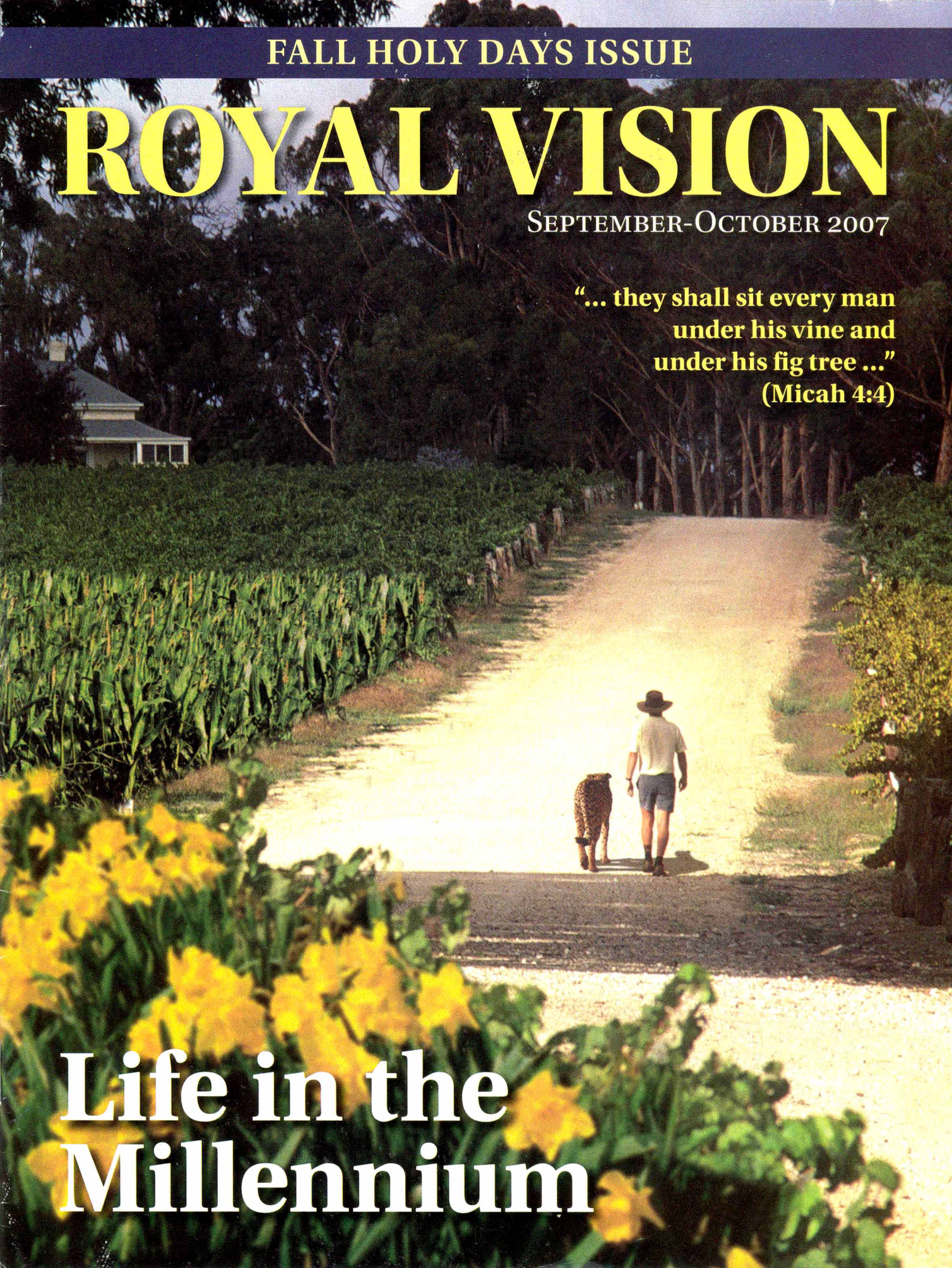


FALL HOLY DAYS ISSUE

# ROYAL VISION

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2007

**"... they shall sit every man  
under his vine and  
under his fig tree ..."  
(Micah 4:4)**

A photograph of a man in a hat and shorts walking a dog on a dirt road. The road is flanked by a vineyard on the left and trees on the right. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers. The background shows a house and more trees.

**Life in the  
Millennium**



# ROYAL VISION

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**ABOUT OUR COVER** Christ's 1,000-year reign will be marked by global abundance and peace. (Index Open/Royal Vision)

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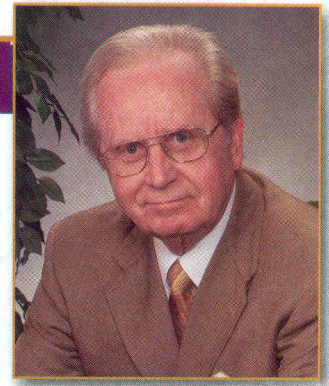
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# The Place of Safety: The World Tomorrow in Embryo!



**GREAT LEADERS LIKE WINSTON CHURCHILL AND Douglas MacArthur** made statements about how we must solve the problem of nuclear power if we are to survive. Jesus Christ also prophesied that there would be serious nuclear problems in this end time—that it would get so bad that no flesh would live unless He intervened and personally stopped it.

Jesus Christ promised His very elect that He would protect them from this terrible crisis, this holocaust, if they would heed His Word and do what He said.

## A VISION FROM THE WILDERNESS

If you knew God's people were to be in a place of safety, what do you think they would be doing? God has a great plan wherever He has His people, and He always has a tremendous work for them to do. This place of safety will not be an exception.

During the Great Tribulation, many people will be hopeless, suffering as never before—and *they're going to need hope*. God has a plan to give them this hope, certainly when He begins the Millennium, but also *even during the Tribulation*. God has a vision for this world, and the people in the place of safety during the Tribulation will be developing this vision as it has never been developed before on this Earth. It will cause the whole world to see how to build and beautify this Earth—to make it blossom as a rose. This will all begin while God has His people in a place of safety.

"And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God ..." (Revelation 12:6). The Church has a place in the wilderness prepared by God Himself. God can't lie. If He makes a promise, He'll fulfill it. If He tells you there is going to be a nuclear holocaust that would destroy every man, woman and child if He didn't stop it, you can stake your life on His word. Notice verse 12: "... *Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! ...* Woe to the *whole Earth*. Revelation 3:10 states, "... I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall

come upon *all the world*, to try them that dwell upon the earth."

"And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent" (Revelation 12:14). God says He will nourish His people; He will protect them and *work* with them. All this has been prepared by God, because there will be a work. There is always a work with God and His people. People can scoff if they want, and a lot of people certainly do. But they are scoffing at Jesus Christ!

## PRAISE IN THE ISLANDS

One thing we know about the place of safety just from reading Revelation is that it's in the *wilderness*.

Isaiah was written so we could understand this book in these latter days (Isaiah 30:8). Notice this prophecy: "Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that *Kedar* doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the *rock* sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains. Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands" (Isaiah 42:11-12). *Kedar* refers to the Bedouin Arabs. "Rock" in the Hebrew is *Sela*, meaning a great rocky fortress. *Sela* translated into Greek is *Petra*.

This passage in Isaiah goes on to talk about the return of Christ. There is a chronology here. God says there is going to be a work going on in this great rocky fortress—this place of safety. His people are in a wilderness where there are Bedouin Arabs. The inhabitants of this rocky fortress are going to give glory to God. This means they know the true God; that's why they are there. They trusted the true God to take them there, and they are singing and shouting to Him.

In this place of safety, this great rocky fortress, God's people "declare his praise in the islands." There certainly are no islands in the wilderness areas of the Middle East—especially in the area of



The heights of Petra, Jordan



ROYAL VISION

*On a clear day in Petra you can see the land of Israel. These people are in an area where they can see the Holy Land. So the place of safety has to be up high, and it has to be where you can see Israel.*

Jordan. So there's some kind of a work going on *from* the wilderness, something more than just what the two witnesses are doing during the Great Tribulation (Revelation 11:3-12). God has a message, and these people are declaring it, probably via satellite and other technological means. A powerful work will be done somehow.

There will be a famine of the word of God in the nations of Israel (Amos 8:11). But prophecies in Daniel and Revelation show that the beast power is comprised of iron mixed with miry clay, or Gentiles mixed with Israel. There should be no doubt that God would want to warn those people of Israel first of all, and then also the Gentiles, of what lies in store for them.

Isaiah 41:1 mentions "islands" as well. Verse 8 shows that they are Israel—those islands in north-western Europe, essentially the democratic parts of Europe; after all, there are 12 nations of Israel. God is undoubtedly going to warn those people through His very elect even at that time because they need to be warned. The Gentile-led European power needs to be warned too, because it will be destroyed by the powers out of the north and the east—the Russians and Chinese (Daniel 11:44).

Just think: A great many more people are going to be listening to the message at that time because of the intense problems—*worse than ever on Earth in all of man's history*. That is what Christ says; if people want to scoff at that, let them scoff. But virtually every time Christ talks about the worst time of suffering, in the same context He talks about a little group of people going to a place of safety. Nobody is going to stop these prophecies from being fulfilled.

Now *who* will declare His praise in the islands? The Bedouin Arabs? No. God's Laodicean people? Of course not. God will spew them out of His mouth and into the Tribulation because of their rebellion toward Him.

God says, "Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. The beast of the field shall honor me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness,

and rivers in the desert, *to give drink to my people, my chosen*. This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise" (Isaiah

43:19-21). In context, you'll see this is during a time of great suffering. God is giving drink to His chosen, and He is making the desert blossom as a rose, even before the Millennium.

"But thou hast not called upon me, O Jacob; but thou hast been weary of me, O Israel" (verse 22). Jacob was Israel's name before he was converted. "Jacob" is referring to Israelites who were never converted; "Israel" is referring to God's own Church—spiritual Israel, which grew weary of God. You can't grow weary of God if you never knew Him. Just as the Israelites were overthrown in the wilderness, most of God's own people have been overthrown in this end time because they grew weary of God.

God is talking about a single wilderness and a single desert, and about "*my chosen*"—in the context of the rest of Israel, with whom He is not happy. There are three groups of people here—God's very elect doing His Work; Jacob, or the Israelites who have never really known God; and then, of course, spiritual Israel who grew weary of God. So this cannot be during the Millennium; it must be in a place of safety, where God is going to start a "mini-Millennium."

There will be a message going out from the place of safety, and there will be miracles in that place, and the desert will blossom as a rose. There will be a message of hope to this world, which will have very little hope—especially those who become victims of the beast power.

But there is a positive side to it: There is a very elect, and God is making their habitation like a Millennium. They are giving the world great hope—a *physical* vision of hope, because that is what the world needs. There is always hope for those people who respond—*always*.



Verse 21 says, “they shall shew forth my praise.” In the Revised Standard Version, it says they are going to *declare* God’s glory to people. One Bible dictionary says “declare” means “to speak, to utter words, to narrate; like a military scribe.” So there is a message involved here. A message has to be delivered and a work has to be done.

### DWELLING ON HIGH

Isaiah says the ambassadors of peace are going to weep bitterly (Isaiah 33:7). It is in the context of the Great Tribulation, and again, this is an end-time prophecy. “The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the *hypocrites*. Who among us shall dwell with the *devouring fire*? who among us shall dwell with *everlasting burnings*?” (Isaiah 33:14). God’s own hypocritical Laodiceans in Zion are going to have to live through the devastation of devouring nuclear fire because they grew weary of God. And half of them are going to lose their eternal lives because they refused to repent.

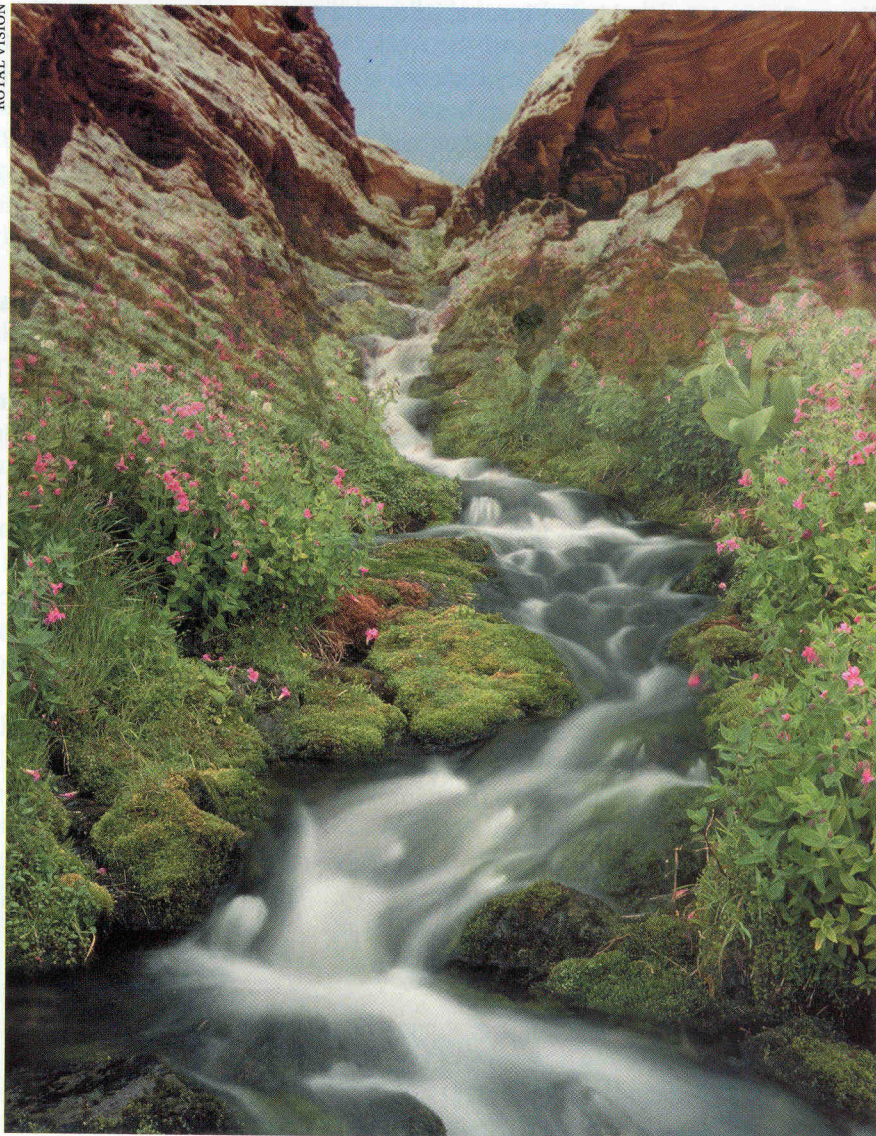
But there are two different groups here: those who are hypocrites in Zion, and those who did exactly what God said. This very elect group receives a reward. “He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; HE SHALL DWELL ON HIGH...” (verses 15-16). These righteous people will dwell *on high*, physically and spiritually.

“[H]is place of defence shall be the *munitions of rocks*: bread shall be given him; his

waters shall be sure” (verse 16). The Hebrew word for “munitions” means *a stronghold, castle or a fort*. And Sela (or Petra) is just that. “Munitions of rocks” means *strongholds of Sela*. And to these people, God says, bread shall be given. This is about supernaturally receiving bread and water from the great God. There is a wilderness where God will provide for His people, and it will serve as a place of safety. Can God do that? Of course. All we have to do is believe Him and be obedient.

Verse 17 completes the picture, and notice this inspiring picture: “Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.” On a clear day in Petra you can see the land of Israel. These people are in an area where they can see the Holy Land. So the place of safety has to be up high, and it has to be where you can see Israel. It is all so breathtaking and inspiring! These people will experience all of this in that great rocky fortress—and how many of those places are there in the bar-

*God’s people will make the desert blossom as a rose, as it says in Isaiah 35. That will begin in the place of safety even before the Millennium.*





ren Middle East within sight of the Holy Land? Such places are rare, and you can't find *any* like Petra. This scripture really does narrow it down.

If men really wanted to know the meaning of these verses and would put them together, they would understand. But men really do not want to understand. However, you *can* put them together, and you *can* understand this: The place of safety has to be near Israel. This is not difficult to figure out.

The statement "Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty" is dual. God will be there, *maybe* in a fiery cloud that will hover over the place of safety as it did over the children of Israel when they wandered through the wilderness. Ancient Israel was in Petra, and so was that fiery cloud.

But these scriptures also indicate that Jesus Christ is going to be more *personally* involved with His people while they are in the place of safety.

HERBERT ARMSTRONG USED TO SAY THAT THE PLACE OF SAFETY WOULD BE AN EMBRYO OF THE WORLD TOMORROW. And it may be more of an embryo than even he realized because of the work God is going to do in the place of safety that will give the whole world a vision. He is going to use this small group, a very elect, to usher in the wonderful World Tomorrow—a beautiful paradise where *all* the world and *all* the deserts will blossom as a rose. There will be hope like this world has never even dreamed of. The word *paradise* doesn't describe it. It is *far more* than just a paradise: It's a glorious vision!

This vision ought to mean so much in this wretched world of suffering, if people would just *believe*. This is God talking! This is the fiery cloud! The God who made rivers flow out of rocks and gave manna to eat. The God who created all of us! Yet man has chosen not to believe Him. Certainly, there is bad news, but look at the good news—look at the *hope*. If only man would see what God wants to do with this world and quit *fighting* Him and *rebellng* against Him. Even His own people fight against Him! What a great and dreadful wilderness it is when God's people rebel against Him.

### EMBRYO OF THE MILLENNIUM

There should not be a chapter break to Isaiah 34. Verse 2 shows that this is still in the context of the Tribulation. Notice what God says: "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: *let the earth hear ...*" (verse 1). This is a message for the whole Earth: "let the earth hear." He doesn't mean just hear the two witnesses. It will be bigger than that. There will be a message emanating from the place of safety to this entire Earth. *God will continue to do a work during a time of great slaughter.*

We do not set dates, but if you want an idea about the time period, look at verse 8. "For it is the day of

the LORD's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the *controversy of Zion*." Is there a controversy in Zion today, in God's own Church? Indeed! It is so bad that God will have to send most of His own people into the Great Tribulation.

Only a little group is going to escape. That group will make the desert blossom as a rose, as it says in chapter 35. That will begin in the place of safety even before the Millennium. God's people will beautify that place just as they will beautify the whole Earth in the Millennium. They will do it because they are in subjection to the fiery cloud, that spiritual Rock. What a beautiful picture this is!

The embryo of the World Tomorrow will be established in the place of safety. Great joy and abundance will be given in the place of safety, and *then* ALL PEOPLE OF THE WORLD will have a vision to look upon, one that will inspire them to fill the Earth with the same kind of beauty and character. "For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (Isaiah 51:3). Think about the WHOLE EARTH filled with that kind of joy! Of course, this has a spiritual application, but it also has a *physical* application: There will be a Garden of Eden in the place of safety, and God's people will make it that way.

"And this is the blessing, wherewith Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death. And he said, The LORD came from Sinai, and rose up from Seir unto them; he shined forth from mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints: from his right hand went a fiery law for them" (Deuteronomy 33:1-2). *Seir* is the mountain range where Petra is located. *Paran* is the wilderness where Petra is located. And these 10,000 coming from there with Christ are people who learned that God's law—His Ten Commandments—applied to *them*, and they heeded the government of God based on that fiery law. They heeded the God who spoke out of that fire as He did to ancient Israel.

Christ will come from Paran. There will be a work in this mountain range of Seir, and God's saints will be involved in it. The expression "[shine] forth from mount Paran" also means God will shine forth *through His Work*. After all, these people are declaring His glory. And look at the context of all of this: CHRIST IS APPEARING IN THAT PLACE OF SAFETY.

This place of safety is what the World Tomorrow will be like in character, physical beauty, joy and abundance. Following these 3½ years, Christ will return and restore this kind of beauty to the whole Earth! ■