

Sages of the Millennium

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Throughout world history there have been many sages, or wise men and women, some of whom became legends, like Thales of Miletus, Solon of Athens, Pittacus of Mytilene, and Bias of Priene.

However, some sages are not that well known, and they predate the individuals just mentioned by thousands of years. As we will see, these less known sages are forerunners of a group that will teach many people during the time of Christ's millennial rule on earth. This future period of time is described in the following scripture,

*And I (John) saw thrones, and they (of the 1st resurrection) sat on them, and judgment was committed to them (cf. 1Corinthians 6:3), and 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** (Revelation 20:4; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).*

A unique aspect of the sages who lived thousands of years before people like Thales of Miletus and Solon of Athens, is that they were average people who had experienced extraordinary and catastrophic events and survived to tell the story to generations that followed. Although these survivors would have been regarded as sages, in reality they were just law-abiding people who were given safe passage from one civilization to the next. However, without their firsthand account of what happened, future generations could only

speculate about their past history. So, who were these sages?

Now the sons of Noah who went out of the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth... (Genesis 9:18a).

These four men and their wives were the only witnesses with personal experience of what it was like prior to the cataclysmic flood that destroyed life on earth. Consequently, their descendants would rely on them for an accurate understanding of what led up to that event. As Shem lived for four hundred years after this flood, many generations would have heard his firsthand account of what occurred and, for this reason, he would have become known as a sage (cf. Genesis 11:10-11). This same principle would apply to Noah, Ham, Japheth, and their wives for as long as they lived.

Like Shem who lived hundreds of years after the flood, many people who survive through a future worldwide cataclysm, and into Christ's one-thousand-year reign on earth, will continue to live for hundreds of years which explains why they are compared to trees,

For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, and My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands (Isaiah 65:22b; emphasis added).

These people will be regarded as sages because they have personal experience of what life was like prior to Christ's return, including events that led up to a worldwide cataclysm. Again, most will probably be average citizens who were not previously famous. An example of this is mentioned in connection with the destruction of Jerusalem when the lawless leaders of Judah were killed or imprisoned,

while average citizens were entrusted with various responsibilities by their captors,

The king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah (king of Judah) before his eyes in Riblah; **the king of Babylon also killed all the nobles of Judah.** ⁷Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon (Jeremiah 39:6-7; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added)

Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the (Babylonian) guard carried away captive to Babylon the remnant of the people who remained in the city (of Jerusalem) and those who defected to him... (Jeremiah 39:9a; Ed. notes in parentheses).

But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left in the land of Judah the poor people, who had nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields on that day (Jeremiah 39:10; emphasis added).

So, God made sure that the main perpetrators of lawless behavior were either killed or imprisoned, while the average citizens who were powerless, were granted freedom and given property at no cost. A similar scenario will occur at the time of Christ's return,

The desolate land shall be tilled instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass by. ³⁵So they will say, 'This land that was desolate has become like the garden of Eden; and the wasted, desolate and ruined cities are now fortified and inhabited' (Ezekiel 36:34-35).

It shall be that you will divide the land by lot as an inheritance for yourselves, and for the strangers who sojourn among you and who bear children among you. They shall be to you as native-born among the children of Israel;

*they shall have an inheritance with you among the tribes (families) of Israel. ²³And it shall be that **in whatever tribe the stranger sojourns, there you shall give him his inheritance** (Ezekiel 47:22-23; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Many people who are given land after Christ's return will be the ones who were protected from harm because they did not agree with the lawless behavior that was going on all around them. Ezekiel recorded an example of this,

*And the Lord said to him (man with an ink-horn), "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and **put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it.**" ⁵To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have pity" (Ezekiel 9:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).*

Because God does not work in a haphazard manner, He will plan ahead to make sure those who are trying to do the right thing, despite all the odds against them, will be spared the death and carnage that is going to occur. And after the dust settles, they will receive further instruction to assist them in their role as "sages of the millennium." For generations to come, many will journey to receive a firsthand account of what life was like on earth before the planet was almost wiped out, and these sages will connect the dots and confirm that lawless behavior on a grand scale led to the catastrophe. This worldwide destruction is described in many prophecies, but the following provides some specific details including the fact that only ten percent of earth's population will survive. The context is Isaiah asking how long before mankind responds positively to God's law and commandments. And God's answer is

that they will not be receptive to His word until they are humbled as a result of their lawless behavior,

*I (Isaiah) heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send (to warn the people), and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."⁹ And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'¹⁰ "Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return (repent) and be healed (forgiven of their sins)."¹¹ Then I said, "Lord, how long (until they change their attitude)?" And He answered: **"Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without a man, the land is utterly desolate.**¹² The Lord has removed men far away and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.¹³ **Though a tenth of the people remain,** it will be stripped like a terebinth (tree) of which, once felled, only the stock remains. The stock is a holy (set apart for service to God) seed. (Isaiah 6:8-13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; verse 13 quoted from *The Jerusalem Bible*).*

This holy seed, which is compared to a tree stump, will consist of those who survive this future cataclysm. But some will claim that Isaiah's prophecy pertained only to his time and that it has no future fulfillment. If this were correct, Christ would not have quoted what Isaiah said and applied it to the people living in the first century CE (cf. Matthew 13:13-14; Mark 4:11-12; Luke 8:9-10; John 12:37-40). Therefore, Isaiah's prophecy is still "active" and has not reached its fulfillment, but given the current lawless trajectory on earth, we are getting close to it now.

Given our current lawless trajectory and corruption, the removal of mankind's archenemy appears imminent, which is very good news for our future.

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