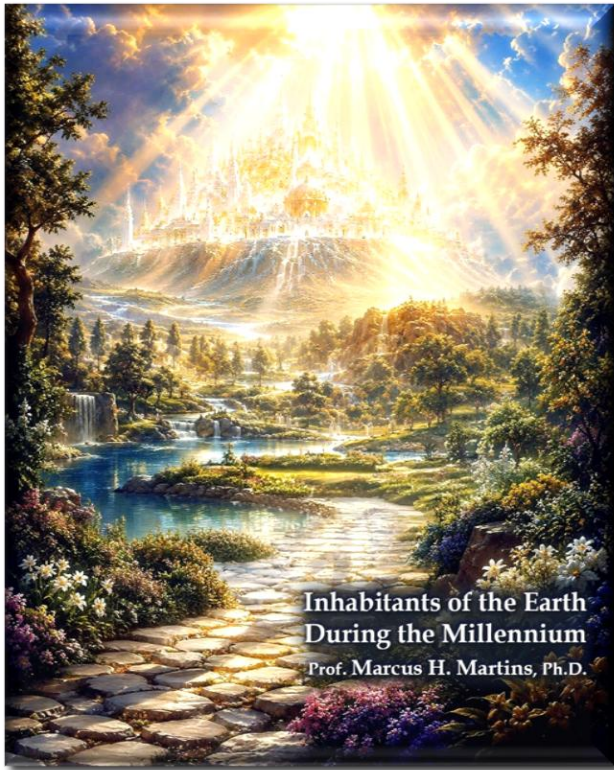




Inhabitants of the Earth During the Millennium

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From time to time, I receive questions about who will reside on the Earth during the “Millennium”—the 1,000-year period during which the Savior Jesus Christ “will reign personally upon the earth; and ... the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory” (Pearl of Great Price – Articles of Faith #10; Doctrine and Covenants 63:20–21). In this way, the Earth will be transformed, elevated to the condition of a “terrestrial world” (“world,” not “kingdom”), and no longer the “telestial world” in which we currently live.

The scriptures currently available lead us to identify certain categories of righteous men and women who will “be” (i.e., exist, live, etc.) on the Earth—or “near the Earth”—during the 1,000 years, the 100 decades, or 10 centuries of the Millennium:

- 1) Righteous men and women alive at the time of the Second Coming
- 2) Translated men and women
- 3) Righteous men and women who still live as premortal spirits
- 4) Righteous men and women living as post-mortal spirits
- 5) Men and women resurrected with celestial glory

1) Righteous men and women alive at the time of the Second Coming

1a) Millions (perhaps billions?) of righteous men and women (2 Nephi 9:18, 40; 26:8; Doctrine and Covenants 45:54; 49:10; 90:10-11) will remain here on Earth for “a long (?) time” as mortal beings, bearing children (Malachi 4:1-2; 1 Nephi 22:24-27; 3 Nephi 24:1; 25:1-2; D&C 45:58; 63:50-51; 101:22-34) and consequently providing food, schooling, and everything else needed to prepare these sons and daughters for their endowments, eventual matrimonial sealings, and the formation of their own families—who, in turn, will also remain here on the earth for a “long time” (D&C 101:30-31), generation after generation.

1b) Millions (perhaps eventually billions?) of “Millennial Day Saints”—men and women—will receive “specifications” (“explicit details”) about their own ordinances and endowments (D&C 29:30; 76:10; 131:5-6; 133:45) and will officiate and serve as proxies in ordinances of salvation and exaltation on behalf of billions of men and women who will hear the fullness of the gospel in the “post-mortal Earth”—the spirit world (D&C 128:8, 15; 138:32-34, 58-59—see [#4b.1](#) below).

2) Translated men and women

2a) The city of Enoch and its inhabitants—“translated beings” (a number of men and women currently unknown to us)—will return to the “surface” of the planet (D&C 84:100; Moses 7:62-64). At present, we do not know how long they will remain on the earth before ascending to their thrones and exaltations (D&C 7:1-6; 3 Nephi 28:6-8, 37-40—see **#2b** below).

2b) Besides the people of Enoch, the Lord has other “translated beings” from other dispensations--such as the Apostle John and the Three Nephite-Lamanite Disciples. At present, we do not know if Moses and the Prophet Elijah still remain in this state, and it is possible that other translated beings exist as well (D&C 49:8), though this lacks confirmation. These individuals will “live through the Millennium” (or part of it) on the mortal earth; and like the people of Enoch, we can imagine that they will all fulfill assignments and tasks within the Plan of Salvation and Exaltation that only translated beings possess the power, authority, and gifts to carry out (D&C 7:1-6; 3 Nephi 28:6-8, 37-40). At present, we do not know how long they will remain on the earth before ascending to their thrones and exaltations (3 Nephi 28:6-8, 37-40; D&C 76:5-10, 94-95; 121:29; 132:19, 29, 49; Moses 7:59—see **#2b.1** below).

2b.1) We do not yet know the nature of the assignments and tasks within the Plan of Salvation and Exaltation that translated beings will have while here on Earth during the Millennium, but we can imagine (or, for now, speculate) that they will minister to the righteous men and women (2 Nephi 9:18, 40; 26:8; Doctrine and Covenants 45:54; 49:10; 90:10–11) of the world—those who will have witnessed and survived the magnificent and unparalleled displays of divine power accompanying the Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 16:20; D&C 29:11–12; 38:8; 45:57; 61:39; 128:24; 133:23–29)—and will help them adapt to a modified planet and a “terrestrial” lifestyle (D&C 38:22; 45:59; 51:1–2), rather than the “telestial” one that prevails in the world in which we currently live.

3) Righteous men and women who still live as premortal spirits

A countless (to us) number of premortal spirits will still be waiting in the “premortal Earth” to be born onto the “mortal Earth” through righteous fathers and mothers (see **#1a** above) during the years, decades, and centuries of the Millennium (D&C 45:56–59; 63:50–53; 101:23, 30–32).

4) Righteous men and women living as post-mortal spirits

4a) We also understand that billions of other men and women will “live through the Millennium” in the spirit world (the “post-mortal Earth”) while awaiting the divinely decreed times for their respective resurrections (Revelation 20:5; D&C 88:95-102).

4b) We do not yet have details regarding the “schedule of dates and times” for the resurrection of righteous men and women throughout the centuries following the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (Alma 40:2-10—see **#4b.1** below).

4b.1) It is conceivable that many righteous men and women might not be resurrected immediately, so that they may remain in the spirit world ministering the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ to billions of men and women who did not hear or did not “receive” (comprehend) the fullness of the gospel during their mortal journeys (D&C 138:30-34, 57-59), and also so that they may “administer

bureaucratic tasks” of the Plan of Salvation and Exaltation in that post-mortal environment (D&C 128:7-9, 14; 132:8-14).

4c) Although we cannot confirm this at the moment, it is nonetheless conceivable that, due to divine goodness and mercy, these ministering men and women in the spirit world might be permitted to visit mortal family members (and perhaps dear friends?) in the “terrestrial world” as “spirits of just men [and women] made perfect” (D&C 129:3—*brackets added*). However, we currently do not know what the criteria and regulations for such visits would be—timing, purpose, duration of the visit(s), etc. But we can “safely expect” (or “safely speculate”) that some of those visits might be to convey genealogical data about ancestors.

5) Men and women resurrected with celestial glory

5a) “Many saints” (we do not know how many men and women) rose shortly after the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:52-53; 3 Nephi 23:9-10), and we assume they were raised so they could fulfill assignments and tasks within the Plan of Salvation and Exaltation that only immortal, celestially glorified beings possess power and capacity to perform (D&C 128:20-21).

5b) Many others—perhaps thousands, or tens/hundreds of thousands—both men and women will rise again at the time of Christ's Second Coming (D&C 133:56) and will also fulfill assignments and tasks within the Plan of Salvation and Exaltation that only immortal, celestially glorified beings possess power and capacity to perform.

5c) Resurrected and glorified beings do not reside on Earth, but rather in another “environment”—the “presence of God” (D&C 63:49; 129:1; 130:5-7).

5d) Although we cannot confirm it at this moment, it is nonetheless conceivable that, through divine mercy, these men and women resurrected with celestial glory might also receive permission to visit mortal family members in the “terrestrial world”; however, we currently do not know what the criteria and regulations for such visits would be—such as the timing, purposes, or duration of the visits.

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