

4 December 1992, Evening Sacrifice Londrina, Brazil

One Thousand Years of Rest

The prophet Jeremiah predicated that there would be a new covenant to bring the both houses — the house of Israel and the house of Judah together under the same covenant, and they would be one house without division. And we are the fulfillment of that in this age and then in the next age, of course, natural Israel will be raised up to be twelve tribes.

In the New Covenant for Israel, it says that there is a Sabbath keeping for the people of God — you must be a 'people', not divided in any way. They live together in unity, in community, and they have a life of love together. Anyone who is outside of that community is not part of Israel regardless of the information they have in their brain. You have to be part of His people to have the sign that they know the Creator God, the sign that they have the ten commandments in their heart. That sign is keeping the Sabbath as a people.

It says to strive to enter that rest. All day we have striven for that, working together in every way to enter that rest. It is a picture of the next age — one thousand years of rest that God has promised to His people in the next age (Heb 4:10,11). And the land promised to natural Israel will be restored at that time and it will be the predominant nation in the next age. We are told to strive to enter that rest — do everything possible in the Spirit to enter that rest. Regardless of what it costs us, we are to strive to enter that new age — one thousand years of peace. One thousand years is a long time. And if we don't enter that rest, we will be separated from Messiah for a long time. We have to strive to enter it. One thousand years comes to 9,760,000 hours. And our Father is telling us now, "Strive, be diligent no matter what the cost, to enter that rest." A day is going to be a thousand years. Don't miss that day. If you are wise, strive, be diligent to enter into that rest. The disobedient will not be allowed to enter that rest. Every week we have the opportunity to practice entering that rest. There is nothing like the preparation day. We never have as much to do as on Friday. It is a full day to prepare for the Sabbath. We do as much as possible so we have to do the absolute minimum on the Sabbath. The Sabbath is a queen. We receive it as you would a queen. That's what the Jews say.

Manoah — Our Father has so much mercy, He says prepare yourselves, giving us warning after warning so that when that day arrives, the wicked will not have an excuse, but the righteous will have enough oil.

Nathanael — The only way you can be the people of God is together in community with no divisions just like the first disciples. .. I'm so thankful to now be part of the living body of Messiah. When I was a Catholic and they would give me that wafer and say, "The body of Christ," I would think, "What is the body of Christ? Where is it? What does that mean?" The Body of Messiah is something concrete. It is His people.

[Nathanael is a former seminary student.]