

III. That the present dispensation will terminate, and the millennial dispensation commence, by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

IV. That, by the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, Israel will be converted; restored to the possession of their own land; and made the head of all the nations of the earth; which shall be blessed in them.

V. That our Lord and His glorified saints will reign over the earth; and that great spiritual and temporal benefits will be enjoyed by the inhabitants of the earth under their government.

VI. That the time for the fulfilment of the prophecies draws near, from the reckonings of chronologists and the signs of the times.

VII. The practical uses of the subject, as exhibited in Scripture.

VIII. The opinions of the ancients on this subject.

I. A TIME OF UNIVERSAL RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HAPPINESS IS PREDICTED IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

For nearly six thousand years the earth has been a scene of iniquity and misery. Death has reigned over the creatures, from man to the meanest insect; and the short term of existence allotted to creatures, has been associated with toil and suffering. The toil, suffering, and death, to which the creatures are subject, are the melancholy consequences of human transgression; and before the consequences of the transgression can terminate, the transgression itself must cease. It is therefore cheering to remember that an atonement for human guilt has been made by the blood of the crucified Redeemer. An agent is appointed in the person of the Holy Spirit, to appropriate the benefits of atoning mercy to the heart of the repenting and believing sinner. And though for nearly two thousand years these benefits have been offered to men, with only partial success, it is consoling to rest in the assurance of an approaching period when they will be received by all. "And men shall be blessed in him; ALL NATIONS shall call him blessed."