

before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah." Such being the case, his government could not be completely restored until the *ten tribes* who revolted from the house of David in Rehoboam's reign should be united again with the house of Judah. To bring this great thing to pass our Lord established His church and sent her forth on her appointed mission. To this restoration of the kingdom to Israel gave all the prophets witness.

Jere. 3:18, "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel and they shall come together out of the land of the North." And again, Hosea 1:11, "Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together and appoint themselves one head."

Q. This seems to be clear enough. Will this ruler be our Lord Jesus?

A. No, he will be a descendant of David, who will rule subject to Christ as David did. It cannot be our Lord because Ezekiel tells us that he shall be married and beget children and receive a revenue from the people which it would be blasphemous to suppose of our risen Lord. Eze. 46:16, "Thus saith the Lord God; If the prince give a gift unto any of his sons, the inheritance thereof shall be his sons'; it shall be their possession by inheritance. Again, Eze. 37:24-26, "And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever. Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them: and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore." And besides our Lord, being a child of the resurrection, cannot be supposed to rule over sinful mortals, and furthermore we are told that when we shall see him we shall be like him.

Q. Why then do the pre-millennialists say that Christ will reign on earth a thousand years?

A. Because they mistake the millennium for the new heaven and new earth promised at our Lord's coming.

Q. What then do you think the millennium is?

A. Clearly the establishment of the kingdom of Israel over the whole world. It is said that Satan is bound during that time which plainly means that all idolatrous powers will be in subjection and nothing can be put in the way of