

How the meek will inherit the earth!

In a glorious vision John saw *"ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands", saying ... 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!'" - Revelation 5:11.* It was Jesus, while he was being arrested in Gethsemane, who told Peter, *"Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide me with more than twelve legions of angels?" - Matthew 26:53.*

Jesus' use of the term "legion" was surely made with good reason, when referring to the "hosts" of which Yahweh is Lord. See for example where God is called in *Psalm 46:7, "the Lord of hosts"*, Hebrew, *Yahweh Tzva'oth*, from Strong 6635 *tsaba'* = "a mass of persons organized for war". At that time a Roman legion consisted of upwards of 7,000 men. The legion of the time was organized as follows. The chief tactical unit was the cohort (equivalent of the modern battalion) of 360 men, brought together under an officer. The legion was made up of four cohorts in the front line of battle, followed by two more lines of three cohorts each. These ten cohorts of heavy infantry were supported by cavalry and light infantry to bring the legion up to full strength.

Cornelius was *"a centurion of the Italian Cohort"* - Strong 4686 *speira*, a military cohort - *Acts 10:1.*

Claudius Lysius was a higher officer than a centurion, being a *chiliarch* of the cohort which guarded the precincts of the Temple Mount - *Acts 21:31.* Julius was a centurion attached to the crack imperial regiment, *"Augustus' Cohort"* - *Acts 27:1.*

The work of Jesus and the saints during the millennium will be to subdue all things to Christ, to destroy all opposition to him, and to bring all mortal survivors into willing subjection to the Creator - *1 Corinthians 15:28.* Now they will be joined together as God's new hosts or spiritual armies, organized into cohorts and legions. By Revelation 5 we may expect there to be upwards of a thousand new immortal legions of those who have been found worthy at the judgement, and made *"equal to the angels ...sons of God, being sons of the resurrection"* - *Luke 20:36.*

But the campaigns of these armies, after the subduing of all opposition to Christ by the incumbent rulers, will become non-military, as with the apostles - *"the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ"* - *2 Corinthians 10:4-5.*

*"Blessed are the meek"*, taught Jesus, *"for they shall inherit the earth"* - *Matthew 5:5.* To inherit is to receive property or rank as the successor of the former owner. After Christ's return both the ownership of all *terra firma* and the governing of all the people who dwell on it will be transferred from the current rich and powerful to those who willingly became *"poor in spirit"* - *Matthew 5:3.* Christ's then immortal brethren will not only rule as kings, but also officiate as priests - *"Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years"* - *Revelation 20:6.* Their priestly function will also include teaching - *"the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts"* - *Malachi 2:7.*

This work of the meek who will inherit the earth, as teachers, is noticed in Daniel's prophecy - *"many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever"* - *Daniel 12:2-3.* At the time when *"they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation"*, it will be because the immortal teachers see to it that *"neither shall they learn war any more"* - *Micah 4:3.*