

## **The Millennium**

The word millennium is not found in the Bible; it is a Latin word for "1000". It is a word used to refer to the one thousand year period spoken of in Revelation chapter twenty. There are many different views about the Millennium. The three major views are:

- 1. Amillennialism** - The 1000 years is figurative of the "Church Age" between Christ's first and second coming. The "*binding of Satan*" is a symbol for Satan's defeat at the cross; therefore his activity is so limited that he cannot prevent the spread of the gospel.
- 2. Post-millennialism** - The world gets better and better and eventually ushers in the 1000 years of peace, at the end of which Jesus comes and sets up His kingdom on earth.
- 3. Pre-millennialism** - Christ returns to gather his people at the beginning of the millennium and returns with them to Heaven.

A study of scripture will help us determine which one of these is truth. We begin in Revelation chapter twenty, the only chapter in the Bible that specifically details the 1000 year period.

**Revelation 20:1-5** - *And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived** and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead*

***lived not again*** until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

The words “*they lived*” in verse 4 is translated from the Greek word “*zao*” which means “came to life”, in other words these people were resurrected in the first resurrection. Those in verse 5 “*lived not again*,” or did not come to life until a thousand years later.

### **The Bible speaks of two resurrections -**

**Daniel 12:2** - “*And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.*”

**John 5:28,29** – “*Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup> And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.*”

**Acts 24:15** - *And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*

The dead in Christ are raised first. Since the Son of God is Saviour in the Old Testament period as well as the new, this would include all those who have trusted in God for their salvation, not just New Testament Christians.

**I Thessalonians 4:16** - *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

**The second coming of Christ and the first resurrection begins the 1000 period.** If the saved are resurrected first that means that the “*rest of the dead*” are the lost that will not be resurrected until the 1000 years are ended.

**Revelation 20:5** – “*But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*”

**The Millennium begins with the resurrection of the righteous and ends with the resurrection of the lost.**

**The following is a list of the events that mark the beginning of the 1000 year Millennium:**

1. The second coming of Christ
2. The resurrection of the righteous
3. The righteous taken to heaven
4. The wicked slain by the *"brightness of His coming"*

We learned the details of this in the last lesson – The Second Coming of Christ, lesson # 8

**The events that take place during the millennium –**

1. Satan is *"bound"* in the *"bottomless pit"*.

**Revelation 20:1,2** – *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.”*

*"The bottomless pit"* is the Greek word *"abyss"* which means a dark desolate place. Abyss is a symbol of the desolated earth after the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ as we learned in the last lesson.

**Jeremiah 4:23-28** - *“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. <sup>24</sup> I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. <sup>25</sup> I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. <sup>26</sup> I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. <sup>27</sup> For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. <sup>28</sup> For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.”*

The "chain" that binds Satan is a chain of circumstances. As one may say "I can't go to the mall with you, I'm all tied up". That is a figurative way of saying circumstances will not allow them to go. The binding of Satan is figurative as well; there is no literal, earthly chain that will bind Satan.

Satan is not allowed to freely travel the universe, he is “sealed” and “bound” on this planet by a chain of circumstances. Note the following text’s that help us understand the circumstance that causes him to be bound or unable to do what he would otherwise do.

**Revelation 12:9** – *“And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:”*

Satan’s goal is and always has been to deceive the whole world about God.

**Revelation 20:3** – *“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

Now due to the circumstances, he is unable to deceive because he is restricted (bound) to the now desolated earth, there is no one to deceive, all the righteous are in heaven and all the wicked are dead.

**Revelation 20:7,8** - *“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”*

At the close of the 1000 year period and the resurrection of the wicked, he can resume his work of deception, *“he is loosed”*, circumstances now allow him to deceive once again. “Gog” and “Magog” are symbols of the enemies of God’s people from ancient times. See Ezekiel 38:2.

2. In heaven during the millennium a judgment process takes place. This process is for the benefit of the redeemed.

**Revelation 20:4** - *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them.”*

Since it is obvious at this point in time who is saved and who is lost, what is there to judge? "Judgment" in this verse is the Greek word "krima" meaning "a sentence pronounced / ratified or confirmed."

The righteous will be able to "confirm" the decision previously made by each individual who is lost because of their rejection of God during their life on earth. They will also see the record of the fallen angels who sided with Satan and were finally cast out of their heavenly home. The Bible refers to this in I Corinthians.

**I Corinthians 6:2,3** - *Do ye not know that **the saints shall judge the world**? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? <sup>3</sup> Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more things that pertain to this life?*

By the evidence recorded in the heavenly records, the redeemed will clearly understand the lost were truly unsafe to save. They would be miserable in heaven where there is only righteousness. As they "examine the books", they see all the details of the lives of the lost, and how God had done all He could to save them, but they resisted. God had no choice but to give them up.

3. The millennium will also be a time the redeemed will "grow up" –

**Malachi 4:2** says – *"But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."*

All believers are at different levels of knowledge and spiritual maturity, but during this time all will sit at the feet of the Jesus and learn and understand things that while on this earth were great mysteries, or many had no time or opportunity to learn.

During the millennium God will prepare the redeemed to witness the "Great White Throne Judgment" and the destruction of those who are lost outside the holy city.

**The following are the events that take place during the 1000 years –**

1. Satan bound

2. Earth is dark and desolate
3. Wicked are dead
4. Judgment
5. The redeemed “grow up.”

### **The events that close the millennium period –**

At the end of the 1000 years the wicked are resurrected; they come back to life the same as when they died, the subjects of Satan’s clever deceptions.

**Revelation 20:5** – *“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”* **Verses 7 – 9** – *“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, <sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:”*

In this verse the “*beloved city*” is the “*New Jerusalem*” which is made up of all God’s people described in detail in Revelation 21.

### **It is at this time the stage is set for the final judgment – the “Great White Throne Judgment.”**

**Revelation 20:7-9** – *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”*

Satan deceives the nations into believing because of their great numbers that they can take the “*beloved city*” by force. They surround the city, and now everything is in place for the third and final phase of judgment, the “*execution*” phase.

This is the only time in all the history of mankind that everyone that has been directly involved in the great spiritual conflict on earth is in the same place at the same time.

Inside the beloved city is the Godhead, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit with all the Holy Angels, as well as all those redeemed from the earth. Outside the city are Satan and his fallen angels with all the lost.

The Prophet Isaiah prophesied of this as recorded in -

**Isaiah 40:5** – *“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.”*

*“All flesh shall see it together”* - The “glory” that is revealed to them is more than God’s omnipotent power and majestic beauty.

**Exodus 33:18,19** - *“And he (Moses) said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. <sup>19</sup> And he (God) said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee”*

**compare Exodus 34:6** – *“And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,”*

When the Lord passed by Moses, Moses didn’t see the literal presence of the Lord described in the Bible as “consuming fire.” Rather the Lord proclaimed His “*name*,” that is His character – His merciful, good, righteous and gracious nature.

All the universe will see this together as a great scene will be portrayed at the Great White Throne Judgment – There the truth about God’s character, His love, goodness, and righteousness is seen clearly by all. There will be no way anyone can question or doubt God then. God’s great name, that is, His character of goodness and love is vindicated. All will bow in agreement, even Satan! The Scripture will be fulfilled that says :

**Romans 14:10,11** - *“We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (some will be standing inside the city and some will be standing outside the city) For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

**Philippians 2:10,11** - *“ That at the name (character) of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

As those outside the city look at Jesus seated on the Great White Throne they will clearly see the contrast between His unselfish, self-sacrificing love for all mankind and their sinful love of self over others. They will then remember every sin they have committed, they will see just where their feet diverged from the path of right, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in violation of God’s law of love. The blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by their stubborn, hardened heart. And with an overwhelming sense of remorse and condemnation they realize there is no hope, that the *“wages of sin is death”*. But it is not God that condemns them - they condemn themselves. (This will be studied in the next two lessons.)

**Psalm 9:16** – *“The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands.”*

This final phase of judgment is for the benefit of all the universe -God wants all his creatures to know and to understand that life and every good and perfect gift come from our gracious God....but the day by day decisions of those outside the Holy City have led to the hardening of their hearts until there is no remedy.

The purpose of the second resurrection is that the universe may see that if the wicked are given a second chance and are shown all the evidence first hand, they still will not repent! The hardened heart is incurable! There’s nothing else God can do for them! He will forgive them, but forgiveness will not heal the damage done – they are not safe to save!

**Revelation 20:9** – *“And fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”*

The wicked are devoured by a fire that comes down from heaven. The execution of the sentence is carried out - the wicked suffer the horrible second death! (This will be studied in the next lesson).

After the Great White Throne Judgment, God will create a new heaven and new earth. –

**II Peter 3:10 - 13** – *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. <sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, <sup>12</sup> Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? <sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”*

#### **The events that close the Millennium:**

1. The second resurrection
2. New Jerusalem comes down from heaven
3. The wicked surround the city
4. The execution of final judgment
5. God creates new heavens and new earth

**Where will you be in that final judgment day? Safe, inside the city with Jesus or outside looking in - with the condemned!**

**The same choice Moses gave God’s people long ago is still available to God’s people today –**

*“I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days”*  
(Deuteronomy 30:19)

**It is your choice! Today is the day of salvation - but the “day of the Lord” will come – are you ready?**

**Response questions:**

1. I understand the word millennium means one thousand years.  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
2. It is clear to me that the millennium begins with the first resurrection at the second coming of Christ. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
3. It is clear to me that the millennium ends with the resurrection of the wicked and the Great White Throne Judgment.  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_
4. It is my choice to be with the righteous inside the beloved city on that day.  
Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_