

## “THE MILLENNIUM” - Revelation 20:1-15

### Lesson 27

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This study through Revelation has been like a roller coaster ride for me. I love the Book of Revelation but I don't like roller coasters - unless it's Winnie the Pooh ride at Disneyland.

Like a roller coaster, this study has been both exciting and frightening. Exciting because I know we believers are nearing our time to be with Jesus. Frightening to know what will happen to those who are left behind.

Steve Mood told us that when a passage starts with the word “and”, it means that what happens next follows the prior event. Chapter 20 starts with “and”, meaning it follows what Dellena Ludwig taught last week about Revelation 19:

- Jesus is praised for judging Babylon and avenging Tribulation martyrs
- Jesus is the groom at the marriage supper of the lamb
- Jesus defeats the beast and the false prophet

As David Jeremiah would ask, “Can I hear an amen?!”

All is well, right? Well...it's certainly getting there as Chapter 20 tells us:

- The Millennial Kingdom begins
- Satan instigates his last rebellion and his own elimination
- The unsaved will be judged

When Revelation 20 opens, we witness another exhilarating look at God's Revelation. An angel descends from heaven with the key to the Abyss, holding a massive chain. The angel is given authority to seize Satan, chain him up, throw him into the Abyss and seal it for 1000 years to prevent him from infecting the world with his evil.

Don Stewart says the Abyss is the place of unsaved dead and the abode of demons located in the lowest part of the Earth. It's also known as the bottomless pit - a place for fallen angels who rebelled against God. Revelation 9 says smoke comes from the Abyss like a gigantic furnace.

Henry Morris describes the Abyss this way: "Deep in the center of the Earth reserved in the recesses of the bottomless pit, is a prison cell. That will be the place of Satan's confinement during the Millennium as he will be as far removed from human

beings as is possible to be on this planet." We're used to the word "quarantine" these days. Satan is quarantined for 1000 years to remove his destructive and deceptive influence in this world.

The word Millennium is Latin for "mille" (thousand) and "annum" (years). John used the term "thousand years" six times in Chapter 20 which leads me to believe he meant it literally. Robert Jeffress wrote, "Every time a number is used in Revelation, it's used literally. John wrote of 1260 days or 42 months, two olive trees, two witnesses, seven heads, ten horns. Therefore, 1000 years is literally 1000 years."

Tim LeHey wrote: "The idea of a literal kingdom of God on Earth is central to all Biblical teaching. The prophets predicted it. Jesus announced it. And the apostles foretold it."

The Millennial Earth won't be as spectacular as eternal Earth will be but will have some of its coming attractions as we're given a glimpse of Christ's thousand-year reign. At the end of the Millennium, that idyllic period will be interrupted, but only briefly.

The Old Testament prophets wrote prolifically about Messiah's Millennial Kingdom, a time when God fulfills promises He made to His Son, to the Jewish people, to Israel, to Jerusalem, to the Church, and to His creation.

This on-line version of my lecture contains numerous Scriptures references and reference material to support the descriptions of Christ's Millennial Kingdom.

## **GOD'S PROMISE TO HIS SON**

Jesus will be glorified by all mankind. He will have dominion and reign over the world from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem. He will be the source of all law. The nations will be given to Him as His inheritance and His possession.

"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11:2) "The government of the world will be on His shoulders." (Isaiah 9:6)

Jesus will rule with a rod of iron, meaning He will enforce righteousness. His reign will be a theocracy because He is Messiah, King above all kings, sole Legislator and Judge. Christ is given all authority, glory and sovereign power and all nations will worship Him.

**[Psalms 2:7-9; Isaiah 2:1-4; 9:7; 11; 14:9-17; 24:23; 33:17-22; 66; Daniel 7:14; Zech. 14:9](#)**

## **GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE**

God will bring back the remnant to Israel and His Spirit will be poured upon them. He will expand their population and their land. Israel will be made holy and God's sanctuary will be there forever.

Israel will be the world's superpower – the leading nation in all the earth. All their enemies will be destroyed, and the Lord will execute judgments upon all who scorn them. Through Israel, God will bless the nations.

No longer will Israel be a place of desolation. The Lord will shower blessings on them, including agricultural abundance so beautiful those who see it will proclaim: "This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden." (Ezekiel 36:35) "Waters will burst forth from the wilderness and there will be streams in the desert." (Isaiah 35:6) The Dead Sea will be changed from being uninhabitable to having fish living in it! But don't go to the Dead Sea and buy a fishing license just yet or the locals will think you're crazy!

For God's chosen people, their mourning will be turned into joy. They will enter into a new covenant with Him that will be written on their hearts.

**Psalms 72:11; 126:1; Isaiah 2:2-3; 4:2 9:3,4,7; 11:11-12,15-16; 32:14; 44:3; 49:6,22-23; 35:6-7; 60-62; Jeremiah 30:9, 11; 31: 13, 31-34; 32:37-40; Ezekiel 11:19-20; 16:60-62; 28:26; 34, 34:26-29; 36:10-11; 37:28; 47.8-10; 48:1-29; 35; Zechariah 8:23; Amos 9:11-15; Nahum 2:2; Luke 1:32-33. Acts 3:21. Romans 11**

## **GOD'S PROMISE TO JERUSALEM**

The law and the Word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem which will be the economic and religious center of the world. Its streets will be filled with joy and its gates will never be shut.

God's Shekinah glory will hover over the city like a canopy to protect it from heat and storms. Jerusalem will have its name changed from "Yerushalyim" to "Yahweh-Shemmah", meaning "The Lord is there."

The temple will be rebuilt in Jerusalem. It will be magnificent because it will be built under the supervision of Messiah. All nations will stream to it to learn God's ways. Each year, nations will be commanded to go to Jerusalem to worship the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of Israel, and celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles. Israel might consider forming Messiah Airlines for the world's annual trips to their country! I look forward to those annual trips to Jerusalem because their coffee is out of this world, well at least until the new Earth makes it even better!

Jerusalem will be called The Throne of the Lord. All nations will gather there to honor Him and “no longer follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.” (Jer. 3:17) **2 Samuel 7:11-16; Psalm 2:6-8; 89:20-37; Isaiah 2:2-4; 4:5-6; 35:10; 56:5-8; 60:7,13; 62:1-7; Jeremiah 3:17; 30; 33:11; Malachi 4:1-7. Ezekiel 4:2; 20:39-44; 37:26-27; 40-48; 37:26-28; Amos 9:11; Joel 3:16-17; Zephaniah 3:14-20; 60:11,12 Micah 4:2; Zech. 14:16**

## **GOD’S PROMISE TO THE REDEEMED**

With Christ, believers will reign as administrators, judges, spiritual teachers, perhaps presidents, governors or mayors, and will be given “authority over nations.” (Revelation 2:26) I heard Chuck Smith say once he was going to ask Jesus if he can reign over Hawaii.

Although righteousness will prevail, any sin that exists will require judicial attention of those who reign with Christ. Perhaps church-age saints are the judges Apostle John saw sitting on the thrones. (Revelation 20:4)

John also saw the martyrs, who had been killed during the Tribulation be resurrected and reign as “priests of God and of Christ.” (Revelation 20:6) They are part of the first resurrection which is all those who die in Jesus: church-age saints, Old Testament saints and believers martyred during the Tribulation.

David Jeremiah believes although Jesus Christ will be the supreme King, there may be a hierarchy of rulers and judges. The man after God’s own heart, King David, in his glorified body, will also rule, and the Apostles are given thrones to judge Israel. **Ezekiel 34:23, 24; 37:24-25; Hosea 3:5. 20:4,6; Daniel 7:18,12, 18 , 27; Isaiah 2:1-4; 40:10; 65:20; 66:18-21; Jeremiah 3 :15; Zechariah 5:3–4; Matthew 19:28; 25:34; Luke 19:11-27; Colossians 3:24; 1 Cor 6:2; 2 Tim 2:12; Revelation 2:26-28;5:10; 22:12**

## **GOD’S PROMISE TO CREATION**

Chuck Smith once said, “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth, and then something went wrong.” Creation was cursed because of sin. In the Millennium, God will transform His creation to its original beauty, balance and harmony.

All animals will live in peace with each other and with mankind. "In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all. The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm." (Isaiah 11:6-8)

Animals will no longer be predators or poisonous. Animal enemies will eat together instead of each other, so maybe animals and humans will all be vegetarians! Although when I look at cows, buffalos and elephants, it seems it's impossible to lose weight by eating just grass, salads and walking all day.

How animals will relate to humans will also be changed. Children will play in a viper's nest and lead the king of the jungle around like a pet. The animal creation will live under Eden-like conditions. Wild beasts will become tame and their dietary habits altered.

One more purpose for the Millennium may be for God to prove that the source of all evil is man's inherent nature to sin. God's righteousness will flourish when He places mankind in a 1000-year environment without Satan's influence, and yet, at the end of that thousand years when Satan is released, unbelievers will follow him to rebel against Jesus. Warren Wiersbe wrote, "A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart." Hearts are changed **only** through the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Isaiah 11:5-9; 65:25; Jer. 17:9-10; Eze. 34:25-31; Mark 7:20-23; Rom. 10:9; Rev. 20:7-10](#)

## **WHAT THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE LIKE**

It's believed that those in the Millennium who are not in glorified bodies will live everyday lives, eating, sleeping, going to work, marrying, having children. There may be cities, schools, farms, stores, probably even shopping malls. While life in the Millennium will be ideal, it will not be heaven. However, with Jesus ruling in person, there will be an unhindered spread of the Gospel and a time of peace, righteousness and justice.

I could go on and on about all that the prophets foretold about Christ's Millennial Kingdom, but Mark Hitchcock sums it up this way: "The world will flourish under the hand of the King of heaven."

## **WHO WILL ENTER THE MILLENNIUM**

No unbelievers will enter the Millennium. At the end of the Tribulation when Jesus returns at His Second Coming, those who remain unsaved will be consigned to death and Hades. Those who **do** enter Christ's Millennium Kingdom will be:

- The redeemed who will come with Jesus at His Second Coming
- Old Testament saints and Tribulation martyrs resurrected at Jesus' Second Coming
- Those who became believers and survived the Tribulation. They enter the Millennium in their mortal/flesh bodies.

## WHO WILL POPULATE THE MILLENNIUM

In the Millennium, believers who survive the Tribulation will produce offspring who will have mortal bodies and be born with the same sin nature as all mankind has. To live eternally with God, they will need to choose to accept Jesus as their Savior. By the end of the Millennium, because of long lifespans, ideal living conditions, no war or abortions, the world's population will explode, and there will be more people on Earth than ever before in history. Sounds like there will be a lot of baby showers.

Jesus said His Kingdom would be a "time of renewal." (Matthew 19:28)

## A TIME OF SOCIAL RENEWAL

The quality of life will be unlike anything we've ever experienced or can even imagine. Everyone will have his own home and their land will be fruitful. There will be no rescue missions, welfare programs, relief agencies, prisons, lobbyists, political parties, homeless or hungry. You won't have to lock your doors. Although I love law enforcement, there'll be no need for police departments because God said, "people will be secure in their land." (Ezekiel 34:27) Public services and schools will be based upon God's righteousness. Can you imagine universities without atheist professors turning students away from God?

[Ezekiel 34:25; Amos 9:13; Isaiah 35:1; 55:13; 65:21](#)

## A TIME OF BIOLOGICAL RENEWAL

The lifespan of those in mortal bodies will be as it was before the Great Flood, perhaps living to be over 900 years old! They better stock up on Oil of Olay! But think about those in mortal bodies who live to be 1000. If couples have a child every year or two, they could have hundreds of children!

God said He will restore health and heal wounds. Disease will be curtailed with few, if any, physical maladies, handicaps or diseases. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will leap, the mute will sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6) Yet, although rare, there will still be death for those in mortal bodies.

[Isaiah 2:4; 33:24; 35:5-6 49:19-20; 65:20,22; Jeremiah 30:18-20; Micah 4:1-5; Zachariah 8:4-6; Ezekiel 36: 29-35](#)

## A TIME OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

The whole world will know who the Lord is and there will be a constant sense of His presence. God said, "No longer will they teach their neighbor or say to one another,

‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest.” (Hebrews 8:11)

Those in mortal bodies will have to make their own decision for Christ but there will be no false religion or satanic opposition to dissuade them. Christ will be in charge so there won't be immoral forms of destructive media to blind people's minds to the gospel. “The earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:9)

## **A TIME OF PEACE**

A dream of the world, as well as every beauty pageant contestant, is for world peace. There's a sculpture at the United Nations of a man using a hammer to make his sword into a farming tool. The sculpture symbolizes man's desire for a war-free world, and it comes from the Book of Isaiah where there will be a time when people will “beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.” (Isaiah 2:4)

I think it's ironic this sculpture about peace was donated to the U.N. by the U.S.S.R. Peace throughout the globe will only be achieved in the Millennium Kingdom of the Messiah.

Christ will settle disputes between nations and war will be eliminated. Jews and Arabs will be at peace and they will both worship Jehovah God. There will be no armament plants, no soldiers, military training or military budgets. Peace will be worldwide because Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

**Genesis 5:25,26; 35:5,6; 41:18-20; 65:19-25; Isaiah 2:1-5; 4:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:3-5,9; 19:23-25; 33:20-24; 35:1-2, 5-6, 10; 40:3-5; 42:3-4; 52:13-15, 61:3; 65; 66:18; Jeremiah 30:1,17, 20; 31:34; Micah 4:15; Amos 9:13**

At the end of the idyllic thousand-year reign of Christ, Satan is released from his prison for a short time, to “deceive the nations in the four corners of the Earth.” (Revelation 20:8) The people whom Satan deceives are the unsaved offspring born to believers during the Millennium. It's hard to imagine that God gives mankind 1000 years without the influence of Satan, yet there will still be those who rebel against the Lord.

Satan gathers an army from Gog and Magog, a generic reference to nations around the world, "whose number is as the sand of the sea." (Revelation 20:8) Satan's massive army marches across all the Earth and surrounds Jerusalem, the capital of the world, and Satan's target. Think about this. In the Millennium, the King of kings, Jesus Christ Himself, is ruling from His throne in Jerusalem, and Satan **still** believes he can win!

Satan's army doesn't get far: "Fire came down from heaven and devoured them." (Revelation 20:9) This can't be called a battle because it's over before it begins. God sends fire from heaven and Satan's armies are destroyed, more specifically, "devoured" by fire.

And now it's Satan's turn to burn. He's thrown into the lake of burning sulfur where the Antichrist and False Prophet were tossed a thousand years earlier. All three will remain there "tormented day and night forever and ever." (Revelation 20:10) Never again will they influence God's creation.

John then takes us into the greatest court hearing ever held where he sees "a great white throne and Him who was seated on it." (Revelation 20:11) It has been called "the judgment of the damned" and occurs at the end of human history.

Jesus Christ will be the Judge on the Great White Throne. "The Father judges no one but has entrusted all judgment to the Son." (John 5:22) The Throne is "great" because the Lord Jesus is the Judge. It is "white" because it is holy and pure. It is a "throne" because Jesus Christ, the King of kings, sits and rules upon it.

David Jeremiah believes this Judgment cannot take place on earth because, "The earth and the heavens fled from His presence." (Revelation 20:11) Albert Barnes noted: "Creation shrinks back with awe at the presence of God." Perhaps the judgment takes place somewhere in space – somewhere between heaven and earth. It cannot take place in heaven because no sinner can enter the presence of God. While we can only speculate **where** it takes place, it **will** take place.

There will be a vast multitude of people who died throughout history without a relationship with God or salvation from His Son and it is they who are resurrected and appear before the Great White Throne.

This Throne Judgment is not for believers. "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:1) No child of God will be there because, "Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies." (Romans 8:33) Here, "justifies" means, "to render innocent." Through Jesus, God rendered a verdict of "innocent" for believers because His Son set us free. God sees us through His Son's blood and all charges against us are dropped.

We then learn what happens to the "rest of the dead" from verse 5. "And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them." (Revelation 20:12,13)



Based on Luke 16, it is believed that Hades/Hell holds the spirits of unsaved dead until the Great White Throne Judgment.

The state of the unsaved deceased's body will not prevent them from appearing before the throne. Regardless how they died, whether they were buried in the ground, died at sea, were cremated, mummified, decayed, whatever condition. Every possible location, including Hades/Hell, will yield the bodies and souls of the unsaved dead. The power of Almighty God will gather their remains and change them to a resurrected body to be judged.

The Great White Throne Judgment will be nothing like our court hearings. Warren Wiersbe wrote, "There will be a judge but no jury, a prosecution but no defense, a sentence but no appeal." Those that appear there are already condemned. This judgment is their sentencing.

God must have a gigantic storage facility because He has a set of books for every soul He created. "The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books." (Revelation 20:12) Unbelievers stand before Christ and God's books are reviewed. Contained in the books may be every thought, motive and action in the life of the unsaved. "God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:14). "Everyone will give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken." (Matthew 12:36)

Since everyone at this judgment is already condemned, what might it mean that the dead were judged "...according to what they had done..."? (Revelation 20:12) Most theologians believe that in Hell there are degrees of punishment based upon what the person did with the knowledge of the gospel they had during their lifetime. But because every unsaved person standing before the Great White Throne will be thrown into the lake of fire, even the least degree of eternal punishment in Hell is too horrible to comprehend.

**That hell has different levels of punishment is found in Jesus' words:**

- Truly, I say to you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town" (Matthew 10:15); Luke 10:12,14)
- "But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you ... But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you" (Matthew 11:22, 24).
- "And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to

**whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more” (Luke 12:47–48).**

- **“Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. 47 They devour widows’ houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. These men will be punished most severely.” (Luke 20:46-47)**

#### **Additional Scripture references:**

- **“How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29)**
- **People are judged “according to what they had done as recorded in the books” (Revelation 20:12).**
- **“Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” (James 3:1)**

Because of God’s holiness, there are only two destinies for human souls. One is to be forever with the Lord and the other is to be forever separated from Him. Jesus clearly taught: “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on them.” (John 3:36) and “Whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” (John 5:24)

At the Great White Throne Judgment, there is one more book that is opened - the Book of Life. (Revelation 20:12) “Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

In Dan Leppo’s lecture a few weeks ago, he taught that the Book of Life, “... is a book God prepared before the foundations of the world and it lists those who will live at peace with God in His kingdom for eternity. If you’re a confessed believer in and follower of Jesus Christ, your name is permanently written in this glorious book.”

Robert Jeffress writes that if one dies without receiving God's gift of forgiveness, their name is blotted out of the Book of Life. The destiny of those who stand before the Great White Throne is based on the absence of their name in the Book of Life. “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” (1 John 5:12)

When the Book of Life is reviewed, what horror it will be when the unsaved hear, "No, Lord, their name is not in Your Book." Is your name written in the Book of Life because, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."? (Romans 10:13)

The lake of fire is the second death and the ultimate destination of Satan, the Beast, the False Prophet, and all the unsaved. Following the Great White Throne Judgment, death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire. The last residue of sin is destroyed.

The wicked are judged, assigned their punishment, and Christ's enemies are put under His feet, including death and Hell itself. "For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:25-26)

Regardless how glorious the Millennium Kingdom will be, it is only a prelude to heaven. David Jeremiah said the Millennium is, "The overture of eternity - the overture of heaven. It gives us a limited snapshot of what heaven will be like."

What a glorious picture God has shown us of what we have to look forward to! "Your eyes will see the King in His beauty." (Isaiah 33:17). Christ's earthly kingdom will merge into God's eternal rule – "an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away." (Daniel 7:14)

It's one thing to accept the truth of God's promises, but it's another thing to **anticipate** their fulfillment. I hope you anticipate reigning with Jesus in His Millennial Kingdom and then spending eternity with Him!

So, what's on the eternal horizon? That, my brothers and sisters, is the rest of HIS-story, to be continued in the last two exciting chapters of Revelation!

**Additional reference material:**

*40 Days Through Revelation – Ron Rhodes*

*Understanding Bible Prophecy for Yourself – Tim LaHaye*

*The Day Approaching – Amir Tsarfati*

*Future Glory – Ed Hindson*

*Exploring Bible Prophecy from Genesis to Revelation - Tim LaHaye and Ed Hindson*

*Agents of the Apocalypse – David Jeremiah*

*Final Conquest – Robert Jeffress*

*The Basics of Bible Prophecy – Darryl Nunnelley and David Reagan*

*Wrath and Glory – David Reagan*

*God's Plan for the Ages – David Reagan*