

#15 – The Thousand Years - The Millennium

Introduction/Purpose: To understand what Jesus has planned for us after He comes back for us. If we could choose between having laws and peace officers or not having them, what would we choose? We can't just let anyone get away with anything, or our lives would be total chaos. God is the law and peace Officer of the universe. Without Him, death would consume the whole universe.

1. Matthew 25:31-34, 30 When Christ comes the 2nd time, is it to unite, or to divide all humanity?

These scriptures alone destroy the theory of a worldwide spiritual awakening of unity. They disqualify the doom of the planet by any other means than that of the second coming of Christ. We are not to expect global peace and awakening. We are to expect the final global fruition of 99.9998% of earth's inhabitants; the wicked, in utter demonic possession.

2. Luke 13:24-30, Matthew 7:21-23, Matthew 25:1-12 Who will be going home with Jesus when He comes? Why are some denied entrance into Heaven? What evidence is used to judge this?

3. James 1:12 What must we endure in order to receive the crown Jesus wants to give us?

4. 1Thessalonians 4:14-18 The word translated here as 'prevent' (v.15) means 'to be beforehand'. Who will go with Jesus when He comes? In what order do we go? Where do we go? When is the resurrection of the righteous?

5. 1Corinthians 15:51-55 What will happen to our bodies when we meet Jesus in the air? (see also Philippians 3:20-21) For the righteous; the saved, what happens to death?

6. 2Peter 3:7-13 In what type of manner will Jesus come? What will happen to the earth at His 2nd coming? What words are used to describe the 2nd coming of Christ? (vs. 7)

7. Revelation 22:11-12 Jesus comes with His reward. Is it necessary that judgment is complete before He returns?

8. Exodus 33:20, Jeremiah 25:30-33, Isaiah 11:4, 26:21, 2Thessalonians 2:8, Revelation 19:15, 21 What happens to the wicked at Jesus' 2nd coming? (The wicked cannot exist in the presence of God; they will be slain upon Christ's arrival.)

9. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43, (see also vs. 49-50) What happens to the wicked during Jesus' 2nd coming?

There are 4 stages to the judgment criminals receive:

#1. The criminals are arrested by the authorities.

#2. The trial occurs. The judge gathers the evidence.

#3. A guilty verdict is made by the judge, and an appropriate punishment, or sentence, is chosen.

#4. The punishment, or sentence, is carried out. When the punishment is complete, the judgment is over. God's judgment of the wicked also occurs in 4 stages, as seen in the following overview:

#1. The wicked are arrested (killed) before Jesus' 2nd coming, or during.

#2. The trial will occur. The judges will gather the evidence.

#3. A guilty verdict will be made. Hellfire is accepted as the appropriate consequence.

#4. The consequence, or sentence, is carried out.

The wicked will be destroyed in hellfire. When the consequence is complete, the judgment is over. (Malachi 4:1-3)

Each one of these stages is a part of the 'judgment' of the wicked. God's judgment, or verdict, concerning the wicked, is revealed by the death of the wicked during the 2nd coming of Jesus. This destroys their physical bodies, and their soul ceases to be conscious (Ecclesiastes 9:5, Psalms 146:4), but they will be raised again after a thousand years; for another phase of judgment. Then their soul, including their body, will be destroyed in the lake of fire (hellfire). Next, let's look closer at the prophecies of when hellfire burns.

10. John 5:28-29 How many of the dead; righteous, and wicked, will be resurrected?

What and when is this 'resurrection of damnation'? – Let's find out....

11. Revelation 20:1-6, 9, 14-15 What and when is the 'second resurrection'; the 'resurrection of damnation'? (v.5) Who is the one in charge/control of hellfire? From Who is derived the origin of hellfire? (vs.9) When are the wicked destroyed by fire from God? (v.5; 15) The physical bodies of the wicked are destroyed, and their soul ceases to be conscious (Ecclesiastes 9:5, Psalms 146:4), but they will be raised again for another phase of judgment, and then their soul, including their body, will be destroyed in the lake of fire (hellfire). *1Corinthians 6:3* *Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?* The sequence of major events found in these verses parallel the 4 stages of judgment criminals receive:

#1. - The criminals are arrested by the authorities. #1 - Jesus comes. The wicked are destroyed (the 1st death). (Isaiah 11:4, 24:22, 26:21, Jeremiah 25:33) The righteous dead are raised to life, (1st resurrection) receive new bodies, and rise up to meet the Lord in the air, followed by the righteous who are still alive. (1Thessalonians 4:16-17) The earth is burned. (2Peter 3:10) The righteous go to heaven. (John 14:2-3, Revelation 20:4, 21:1-2) The devil is a prisoner on this planet for a thousand years (the millennium). (Revelation 20:1-3) The devil is thrown into the 'bottomless pit' (abussos in Greek, meaning an undefined place). This has a very similar meaning to the word 'void' in Genesis 1:2. The devil will have no humans to tempt during this entire millennium, so this will be a "time out"; a wandering in the wilderness for him.

#2. - The trial occurs. The judge gathers the evidence. #2 - The wicked dead are tried and judged by us during the thousand years (the millennium). (Psalm 149:1-9, Daniel 7:22, 1Corinthians 4:5, 6:2-3, Revelation 20:4, 12)

#3. - A guilty verdict is made by the judge, and an appropriate punishment, or sentence, is chosen. #3 - The guilty verdict implemented by the arrest/death of the wicked is agreed upon as just, and the 2nd death of hellfire is accepted as the appropriate consequence. (God is proven to be merciful and just.) The New Jerusalem comes down from heaven to earth. (Revelation 21:2, 20:9) The wicked dead are raised (the 2nd resurrection), are deceived by satan, and decide to destroy New Jerusalem. (Revelation 20:7-9) The wicked are shown their works and allowed to understand what they have chosen and what they have earned and deserve deserve. (Revelation 20:13)

#4. - The punishment, or sentence, is carried out. When the punishment is complete, the judgment is over. #4 - The consequence, or sentence of hellfire is carried out. The devil, his angels, and the wicked are destroyed on earth by fire that comes down from heaven from God (the 2nd death). (Revelation 20:9, 15, 21:8) When the fire is done, the final stage of judgment is over. (Revelation 20:14-15, Malachi 4:1-3)

The total process of judgment is not complete until the fourth stage is over.

Revelation 21:3-4 "...And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away..."