

REVELATION: A STUDY OF THE END OF DAYS**Study #14: WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE LATER**

-The Millennium Era-

OPENING

We ended Chapter 19 by seeing the return of Jesus Christ in all His might, authority, power and glory...riding a white horse with all of heaven's armies (which includes both the angels and the saints). He first takes care of the two most troublesome humans that have ever existed – the antichrist and the false prophet – and throws them into the final place of judgement, the lake of fire. Then all of the wicked armies that followed the antichrist were all suddenly slain by the power of Jesus' spoken word. All it took was one word! Now, chapter 20 opens up to what takes place next. Chapter 20 is one of the most controversial chapters in the Bible, not because it contains anything complex, but rather because there are several biases or views about what the 1000 years means.

A-MILLENNIAL: This position states that this 1000 years is figurative, or not literal. In other words, when the Bible says 'a thousand years', it doesn't really mean a thousand years. However, using sound principles of literal, historical, and grammatical interpretation... a 1000 years means 1000 years.

POST-MILLENNIAL: This position is popular amongst big churches that believe that God, through mankind, is going to usher in a Golden Age of righteousness and spiritual prosperity on earth. This will be paradise on earth where man has reached his full potential and there will be peace, no war, and everyone will be fair and kind to each other. Then at the end of that thousand years, Jesus will come. However, you have to be blind to see that mankind is not improving, but is becoming more and more anti-God.

PRE-MILLENNIAL: Jesus returns in fulfilment of numerous prophecies, and he straightens out the mess on earth, and sets up an earthly kingdom for 1000 years in which He will physically reign. Using sound principles of Biblical interpretation regarding prophecy, the most natural understanding leads to Premillennialism.

DISCOVER – THE REMOVAL OF SATAN – READ REVELATION 20:1-3

Describe what happens to Satan at the start of this period?

An angel with authority from Jesus literally arrests Satan with a great chain and throws him into the Abyss. So, the devil is not on earth to harass the Christians for the millennial period whilst Christ is on the earth.

Satan has four designations here. What are they?

1. The Dragon..... emphasizes his fierceness and cruelty
2. That Ancient Serpent... the one who deceived Eve in the garden and he is subtle
3. The Devil... 'diabolos' which means "slanderer" or "one who speaks against"
4. Satan... 'enemy' or 'adversary'

How long is Satan locked up for and where exactly is he?

Satan is bound up in a place called 'the Abyss' which is also called 'the bottomless pit'. This is not the burning hell, but rather some kind of prison for demons pending their final sentencing to the lake of fire.

DISCOVER – THE RULE OF CHRIST – READ REVELATION 20:4-6

Zechariah 14:8-9... The Lord will be king over the whole earth.

Isaiah 11:4a-9... The Messiah returns and brings justice and peace during his Messianic reign.

Micah 4:1-4... Jerusalem will be the centre of God's government during this future kingdom.

From your understanding so far of Scripture, what three groups of the redeemed will reign with Christ?

1. Old Testament saints – Dan. 12:2; Isa. 26:19
2. The Apostles and the Church – Matt. 19:28-29; 1 Cor. 6:2
3. Tribulation Saints – Rev. 20:3-5

Who exactly will the redeemed reign over during this time?

When Jesus comes back to the Battle of Armageddon, there will still be a whole population of people on earth who will still be alive and managed to survive the seven-year tribulation. So when Christ sets up His kingdom on earth, there will still be generations of people who will live and die.... Although the redeemed (us) will be in our resurrected, glorified bodies. It is over these people on earth that we will be reigning over in conjunction with Christ.

B. THREE PARTS OF THE FIRST RESURRECTION

1. The resurrection of Christ, the first fruits (1 Cor 15:23)
2. The resurrection of the church, the dead in Christ (1 Thess 4:16)
3. The resurrection of OT and Tribulation saints (Dan. 12:2, Rev. 20:3-5)

The rest of the dead (unbelievers) will be raised up in the second resurrection which is described in verses 12-13. The first resurrection is a resurrection to life but the second resurrection is a resurrection to death. The second death is eternal punishment in the lake of fire. Believers are blessed and holy and the second death has no power over you!

READ REVELATION 20:7-10.... WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN???

This is a strange part of Scripture that have many scratching their heads. Why on earth would God allow this again? Although difficult to grasp, I believe it all has to do with God's goodness, grace, mercy, and true justice. In the Millennial age, survivors will not be like the church, they will be mortal. They will live and repopulate the earth but without the devastation of sin and will enjoy the benefits and blessings of Christ reigning on earth. But they will still need to repent and believe on Christ...however as time goes on, some will begin to have doubts about the goodness of God. Satan will once again be released and be allowed to work again for a very short time to turn hearts against God. I believe the main reason God allows this is to show us just even though with Christ ruling and reigning on earth physically, there will still be sinful hearts that will still turn against Him. But God will be quick to judge this final rebellion of Satan and sinful man. I see that because of this final rebellion, God will be seen as even more righteous and just as he judges all sinners for their sin, because they willingly rejected the forgiveness available to them through God's Saviour, Jesus Christ.

DISCOVER – THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGEMENT – READ REVELATION 20:11-15

A. WHO IS THE JUDGE? Read John 5:22

B. WHO WILL BE JUDGED?

The dead, both great and small. This is the second resurrection. The moment an unbeliever dies, their body goes into the grave, their spirit returns to the God who gave it, but their lost soul goes to Hades, or hell. This is a place of torment is like a watch house cell where a prisoner awaits final sentencing. And on this day, whether an unbeliever believes it now or not, their soul will be ripped from hell and reunited with their resurrected bodies, and they will stand for judgement before Jesus Christ.

A. THE JUDGEMENT – AT LEAST THREE BOOKS WILL BE OPENED

1. The Bible... This book that has always been available will testify against them
2. The Book of Works... All man's good works will stand beside God's holy law, and the difference will be like mud and white snow. Man will see his good works are simply not good enough!
3. The Book of Life... Finally, is your name in the Lamb's book of life?

CLOSING THOUGHT:

This indeed is a chapter that can bring great joy to believers but should bring terrifying fear to those who dabble in religion or outright rebellion against God. When the final book is opened, the Book of Life... it won't make an ounce of difference if you claim to know about Jesus. What counts is whether you actually know Him personally and that that He personally knows you!