

My Bible School

Lesson # 7

The Millennium



“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:6

There are a whole cluster of breathtaking, world-shaking, and awe-inspiring happenings; all associated with the thousand year period of Revelation 20:1-9, called the millennium.

The word, "millennium," does not occur in the Bible. It comes from two Latin Words: *mille*, meaning "a thousand," and *annus*, meaning "a year": thus we have millennium, or one thousand years.

Some people think of the millennium as a thousand years of peace and prosperity here upon earth. This is quite different from the true Biblical idea.

Never forget that Satan's business is deception. He tries to get a man to believe that what is wrong is right. He does not tell a man to believe falsehood. He poses as an "angel of light," and he has ministers who help him (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).

There are five current teachings about the millennium. In substance, these teachings declare:

1. That Christ will not come the second time until the end of the millennium. This is post-millennialism. Those who believe this put Christ's coming at least one thousand years in the future. Satan is pleased thus to remove the thought and event far, far away.

2. That the millennium will be preceded by a secret coming of Christ known as the 'Secret Rapture' where God's people will be suddenly spirited away to heaven while the rest of the world goes on as usual. This is one of the cleverest deceptions Satan has ever spread among honest people. The enemy has certainly stolen a march upon men. Think of it! Although Jesus did everything, that words could do, to tell us that His coming would be open and public, before saints and sinners, we find a widespread inter-denominational teaching directly to the contrary.

3. That the millennium is to be preceded by a seven-year reign of Antichrist. This also is a deception. A great host of people today, with all the glorious light of prophecy shining upon world history, do not see the real Antichrist and are looking for one to appear after Christ has come. The truth of the matter is that this false idea came as a part of the Counter-Reformation, and was introduced to offset the mighty work of such men as Luther, Calvin, Knox, Wesley, and all the other great Reformers.

4. That the gospel will still be preached during the millennium, after the second coming of Christ. This lesson will clear up such a misconception.

5. That Christ has already come; and the dead will be raised from time to time during the millennium and given a second chance to accept the gospel while the devil is chained up.

If men can be led to believe any of the above five deceptions, Satan has a better chance to lead them to procrastinate. He says that Christ will not be here for at least one thousand years; so you can get ready after the secret coming of Christ. You can take a firm and glorious stand against Antichrist when he comes or, if you die unprepared, you will have a second chance.

And the pity of it all is none of these statements is true.

Dear friend, let the love of God and His holy truth be in your soul as you study this lesson. You will see the simple, clear, and beautiful Bible truth on the coming millennium.

1: WHAT FIVE EVENTS MARK THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM?

1. Second coming of Christ.

“For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 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.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16.

Jesus' advent is preceded by the seven last plagues-most fearful scourges to strike mankind in the long history of our race.



2. Righteous dead resurrected (the first resurrection).

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:6.

“The dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:16.

This is the "resurrection of life" to which Jesus referred in *John 5:29*. Only the "blessed and holy" come forth to life eternal in the first resurrection.



3. Wicked living slain.

“The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven With His mighty angels. in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8.



“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.”

2 Peter 3:10.

4. All the righteous taken to heaven



**“The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.**

Please remember that the hour is coming when mercy's voice will be hushed; and the seven last plagues will be poured out upon an unrepentant world. This follows after man's probation has closed.

5. Satan is bound.

“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.” Revelation 20:2-3.





Jesus said that He would return and take all the righteous to heaven.

The wicked living will perish. The wicked dead who are already in their graves will remain there.

Satan will be left alone in the ruined earth, his work of deception ended for 1,000 years. Satan is sentenced to a one-thousand-year term of imprisonment in this world, the very pit of destruction. He is truly bound, "that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled."

2: WHAT FOUR FACTS MARK THE 1,000 YEAR PERIOD?



1. The earth is desolate—a bottomless pit.

“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 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. For thus hath the Lord said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.” Jeremiah 4:23.



The desolation of the earth is brought on by a series of tragic events: (1) the Seven last plagues; (2) the advent of Christ in glory, at which time the wicked are destroyed by fire and the earth is broken up by a great earthquake.

2. The wicked are all dead
3. Satan is thus bound on a desolate earth.
4. The righteous are engaged in a work of judgment in heaven.



“I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement 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.” Revelation 20:4.

The Bible teaches that the saved will have a part in the judgment. But why have a judgment after all cases have been decided?



When Christ comes, He brings His reward with Him and takes His people to heaven. But the wicked are to raised from the dead at the end of the 1,000 years, to receive the punishment of the second death. Just how will God deal with these cases? Who will be beaten with many stripes and who with few?

Suppose you had a very dear friend on earth, but in heaven he was not to be found. Well, during the millennium you will find out just how God has dealt with his case and the cases of all others. God takes a thousand years for this work. He will run no risk of having one single doubt in any mind about His work for fallen man. When the wicked finally have sentence pronounced upon them, it will be clear to all that they deserve the punishment.

During this period God allows the saved to sit, as it were, beside Him and learn how hard He tried to save every person. I think we shall understand Him better and love Him more after we have learned from the Saviour, Himself, His story of salvation. Don't you? When it is all over we shall say. "True and righteous are Thy judgments." There will be no soil in our hearts for the growth of seeds of doubt. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

3: WHAT SIX EVENTS MARK THE CLOSE OF THE MILLENNIUM?



1. The wicked are raised.

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

Since the righteous dead were raised one thousand years earlier, the expression, "the rest of the dead," must refer to the wicked.

**2. Satan is thus
loosed to
deceive.**



“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.” Revelation 20:7.

Now that the wicked have come forth to life again. the devil is free to pursue his evil work of deception.



3. The Holy City descends from heaven.

“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” Revelation 21:2.



4. Satan gathers the wicked about the city.

“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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city.” Revelation 20:8-9.



5. The wicked are destroyed.

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

This fire purifies the earth and burns up sinners and the last traces of sin.

**But the wicked shall perish, . . . into
smoke shall they consume away.**

Psalms 37:20 KJV

**They shall be as though they had not
been.**

Obadiah 16



This is the second Death

Rev. 20:14 KJV

6. A new earth is created.

“We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of Him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”

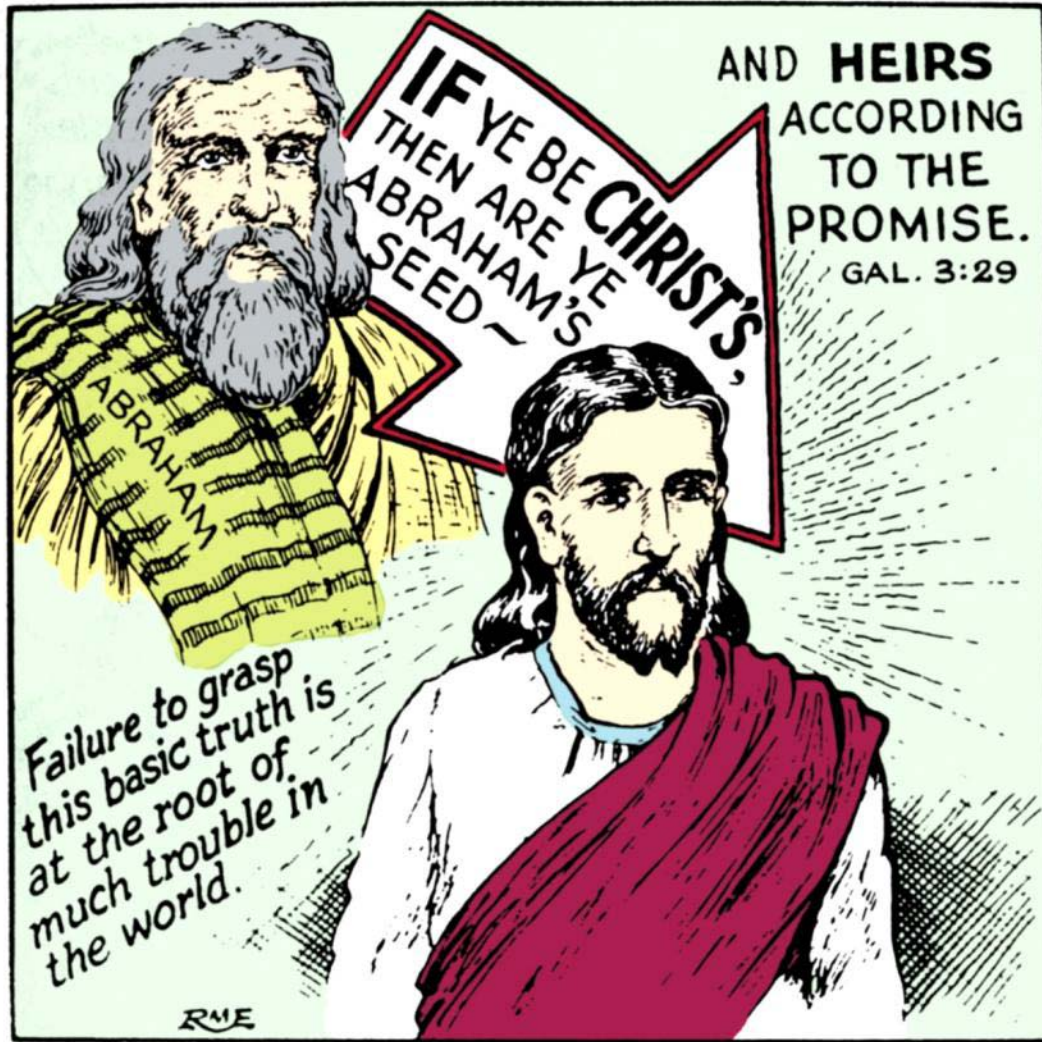
2 Peter 3:13-14.

Here is the sequence of events: The Holy City descends to earth with the saints:

The wicked dead are raised:

Satan mobilizes the vast multitude of the wicked against the Holy City and the saints; God destroys sin, sinners, death, and hell in that last, final destruction. This is the second death.

Then He creates a new earth with all the marks and tracings of sin erased, and He will dwell with His people forever. 0 what a wonderful future will be ours.



4: WHO WILL INHERIT A PLACE IN THE NEW EARTH?

“If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” Galatians 3:29.

If we are Christ's, we are heirs and shall inherit a place in the new earth. This means complete surrender to Him. It means not merely to profess Christ, but to possess Christ; to believe in Him, to build on His words, and to walk in His steps. Then, at last, we shall inherit and come into possession of the realities of eternity. We shall actually be there in person.

“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.” Revelation 21:7.

Whether we are to be among God's people in the Holy City depends upon whether we are overcomers now. Whether we have our names on the roll of that city depends upon whether we get them in the Book of Life now, and keep them there. Whether we serve God over there depends upon whether we obey Him now.

