



Truth For These Times



6. THE MILLENNIUM

After Jesus' Second Coming tremendous events take place. Before the complete restoration of this sinful planet is accomplished, a period of 1,000 years must pass. What happens on the earth during this time? Where are God's people? What about the devil? The Bible provides very clear answers to these questions. The period of 1,000 years is commonly known as the 'millennium'. This word is not found in the Bible, but is an English word made up of two Latin terms, 'milli' (1,000) and 'annus' (a year), meaning simply 'one thousand years'.

John 5:28,29

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which ALL WHO ARE IN THE GRAVES will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the RESURRECTION OF LIFE, and those who have done evil, to the RESURRECTION OF CONDEMNATION.

Here is clearly shown two resurrections – one for the righteous, and one for the wicked. But when do these resurrections take place?

1 Thess. 4:16,17

For the LORD HIMSELF WILL DESCEND from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the DEAD IN CHRIST WILL RISE FIRST. Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And **THUS WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WITH THE LORD.**

The resurrection of the righteous takes place when Jesus comes the second time, and the righteous living are caught up with the Lord. Also it is clear that the righteous now enter into Christ's presence, which joy will last for eternity.

Revelation 20:4

....And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

It is obvious that the saved of God are especially privileged during this thousand years, in that they not only live with Him, but also reign.

Revelation 20:5

But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

The millennium is bounded by two resurrections. The resurrection of the righteous at the beginning, and the resurrection of the wicked at the end. "The first resurrection" in this text refers to those who live and reign with Christ, mentioned in verses 4 and 6. Obviously, the righteous are with Christ during the millennium, being already raised, so the "rest of the dead" refers to those who will be raised at the end of the 1,000 years – the second resurrection.



The First Resurrection at Second Coming.

Revelation 20:6

BLESSED AND HOLY is he who has part in the FIRST RESURRECTION. Over such the SECOND DEATH HAS NO POWER, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Only those who take part in the first resurrection receive the reward of everlasting life. The “second death” suggests a second resurrection; otherwise one could not die the second time. Total and final destruction is the fate of all who suffer the penalty of the second death.



Wicked destroyed at Second Coming.

2 Thess. 1:7,8 and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us **WHEN THE LORD JESUS IS REVEALED** from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire **TAKING VENGEANCE ON THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW GOD**, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At Jesus’ Second Coming the wicked are slain, and remain dead until the end of the one thousand years.

Jeremiah 25:33 And at that day **THE SLAIN OF THE LORD** shall be from *one* end of the earth even to the *other* end of the earth. They shall **NOT BE lamented, or GATHERED, OR BURIED**; they shall become refuse on the ground.

Jeremiah 25:30-33 is a prophecy foretelling the destruction of all nations. Here we see a picture of complete destruction. The wicked are slain, and as we noted previously, the righteous are in heaven. Consequently, during the one thousand years there will be no human beings living on the earth.

Isaiah 24:1 Behold, the **LORD** makes **THE EARTH EMPTY** and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants.

This is a prophecy originally addressed to literal Israel, but will finally be fulfilled at the Lord’s Second Coming. It parallels with the predictions of Revelation Chapter 20.

Jeremiah 4:23-27 I beheld **THE EARTH**, and indeed *it was* **WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID**; and the heavens, they *had* no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed *there was* no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land *was* a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down **AT THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**, by His fierce anger. For thus says the **LORD**: “The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I **WILL NOT MAKE A FULL END.**”



Earth desolate during 1000 years.

Here is a prophecy with a dual application. Jerusalem was destroyed, thus fulfilling the prediction, but a deeper application is evident, for the earth was without form and void. Also, these things would occur “at the presence of the Lord”. Just as Israel returned from captivity to

Jerusalem (God did not make a full end) so the one thousand years desolation is only an interim, and not the final destruction.

Luke 17:28-30 Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of **SODOM** it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and **DESTROYED THEM ALL. EVEN SO WILL IT BE IN THE DAY WHEN THE SON OF MAN IS REVEALED.**

Jesus Himself was quite clear about the earth's complete destruction at His coming. It parallels the wiping out of Sodom and Gomorrah when God brought about total annihilation. Any suggestion that life will continue as normal during the one thousand years is unthinkable. When Jesus comes, this planet will be rendered completely uninhabitable.

Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to THE BOTTOMLESS PIT and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and SATAN, AND BOUND HIM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE TILL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED. But after these things HE MUST BE RELEASED FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



The term “bottomless pit” comes from the Greek word ‘Abussos’, which means a dark, waste, desolate region, a state of chaos. The same word from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament described the earth before God created life – “without form and void”. Most modern translators use the word ‘abyss’. This place of emptiness is Satan’s prison house during the thousand years.

Literal chains cannot bind a spirit being such as Satan; Satan is bound by a chain of circumstances. The saints are in heaven, the wicked are dead, and therefore the devil has no person to tempt. He is bound to this earth with nothing to do but reflect upon the results of his corrupt work.

Notice, however, that his deception is not yet over, for when the thousand years are expired, he is set free for a short time. This indicates the loosing of his chains by having people to tempt once again. He cannot deceive during the millennium because there is no person to tempt, but now, at the end of the thousand years, the “second resurrection” of the wicked takes place, and he carries on his work.



Holy city descends at close of 1000 years.

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw THE HOLY CITY, New Jerusalem, COMING DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM GOD, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

The descent of the city is not described in Revelation 20, but evidently the event has occurred, as the city is mentioned as being on the earth in Revelation Chapter 20 verse 9.

Revelation 20:7-9 Now WHEN THE THOUSAND YEARS HAVE EXPIRED, Satan will be released from his prison and will GO OUT TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and SURROUNDED THE CAMP OF THE SAINTS and the BELOVED CITY. And FIRE CAME DOWN from God out of heaven and DEVoured THEM.

The second resurrection has now taken place and Satan loses no time in deceiving the nations. He encourages them to make war with the saved of God and take the holy city by force. The wicked are fighting a lost cause, but make a last desperate attempt to secure the reward that they do not deserve. As they prepare for a takeover, God steps into the picture and destroys them by fire.

Revelation 20:10 The DEVIL, WHO DECEIVED THEM, WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.



Not only are wicked consumed, but the devil himself, and his associates are cast, into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14,15 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH. And ANYONE NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Sin and sinners are destroyed forever.

Revelation 21:1,4 Now I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the FORMER THINGS HAVE PASSED AWAY.

God now creates all things new. Every trace of sin is gone. As it was when God first made a perfect world, so all is perfect and happy once again. The way of sin and death is gone forever, and we enter into the period called Eternity.



Paradise forever with Jesus.

When the holy city descends from heaven, we will either be on the inside looking out, or on the outside looking in through those transparent walls of jasper. It will be too late to decide then. If Jesus is first in our lives today, He will guide us to victory. Shall we not respond to this gracious invitation while there is still time?

CHART

LAST DAYS	1 st Resurrection	1,000 YEARS	2 nd Resurrection	ETERNITY
Jesus returns		Righteous in heaven		Christ, saints and city descend
Righteous dead raised		Wicked remain dead		Wicked dead raised
Living saints caught up		Satan bound by chain of circumstances		Satan loosed
Wicked slain		Earth at rest		Last judgment
Satan bound				Satan and sinners destroyed
Earth desolated				Earth cleansed and renewed

Review Sheet – The Millennium

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. How many resurrections are recorded in John 5:28,29?
The resurrection of _____ and the resurrection of _____.
2. What resurrection takes place at Jesus' second coming? 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17
The dead in _____.
3. After Christ's return, where are the righteous for the next 1,000 years? Revelation 20:4
and they lived and reigned _____.
4. When does the resurrection of the wicked occur? Revelation 20:5
Did not live again until _____.
Note: the first resurrection mentioned in this text, refers to those who were raised at Christ's Second Coming, at the beginning of the one thousand years.
5. What is the condition of the world during the one thousand years? Isaiah 24:1
Behold the Lord makes _____.
6. What vision of the earth did Jeremiah see? Jeremiah 4:23-27
I beheld the earth, and indeed it was _____, _____ – And all its cities were broken down _____.
7. Describe the earth's desolation during the millennium as predicted by Jesus. Luke 17:28-30
it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and _____ even so will _____.
8. What happens to Satan during the millennium? Revelation 20:1-3
the devil and Satan, and _____;
9. What great event occurs at the end of the millennium? Revelation 21:2
The holy city, new Jerusalem _____.
10. What opposition to God occur, at the end of the one thousand years? Revelation 20:7,8
Satan will be released from his prison. And will _____ ...
and surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and _____.
11. When does sin come to a final end? Revelation 21:14,15
This is the _____ And anyone _____.
12. What does God create after sin is finished forever? Revelation 21:1,4
And I saw a _____ and a _____ ... for the former _____.

When God makes all things new, is it your desire to be safe inside the Holy City? _____.