

Everlasting Gospel Bible Studies

Lesson 23

THE MILLENNIUM



The word *millennium* is derived from the two Latin words *mille* (thousand) and *annus* (year). The terms "one thousand years" and "millennium" are therefore used interchangeably in this study of end-time events. There are different theories regarding the millennium. Pre-millennialism is the belief that the Second Coming of Jesus marks the beginning of the thousand years. Post-millennialism declares that Christ does not return to earth until after the thousand years. Amillennialists believe that the thousand years are simply symbolic of a long period of time. These views are mutually exclusive, and the lack of agreement has resulted in the doctrine of the millennium being often controverted. The Bible provides the only true answers.

A. THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM

1. **How will mankind's moral condition change during the last days? 2 Timothy 3:1, 13**

NOTE: The Bible does not support the belief that the world will be converted to Christianity before the return of Christ. Neither does it support the belief that mankind will achieve one thousand years of world peace and prosperity before Jesus' Second Coming. Instead, "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse" (2 Timothy 3:13).

2. **What will happen to the wicked who are living at Jesus' Second Coming? 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Jeremiah 25:31**
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I Thessalonians 4:15-17

4. What position will be given to those who take part in the first resurrection? Revelation 20:4, 6

NOTE: The wicked are raised at the second resurrection, "the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29). This event occurs at the end of the millennium. The phrase "This is the first resurrection" at the end of verse 5 belongs in verse 6, to which it refers. (The Bible was divided into chapters and verses by a man on horseback, on his way to a conference.)

**6. Where is Satan chained, to remain during the thousand years?
Revelation 20:1-2**

~ NOTES ~

judging the wicked by allowing Christ to bring my mind into harmony with its precepts (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Signed: _____

services on the Day of Atonement, this captivity was represented by the scapegoat being led into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:20-22). During this time, Satan has nothing to do but think about the part he has played in the rebellion against God.

7. What responsibility is "given unto the saints" when the thousand years begin? Revelation 20:4

NOTE: The saints have already been judged, declared righteous, and made kings and priests with Christ (Revelation 20:6). Now they are given the responsibility of judging.

8. Whom will the saints judge? I Corinthians 6:2-3

NOTE: All judgment is committed unto the Son (John 5:22). When the redeemed sit with Christ on His throne (Revelation 3:21), He will share with them the duty of judging both fallen men and fallen angels. The inhabitants of the universe have watched the struggle between Jesus and the devil. They know that God has been completely just. Now the redeemed will have their opportunity to praise the justice of God. God will not destroy one sinner until the saints have reviewed every case with Jesus and testified that justice has prevailed.

9. By what are the wicked judged? Revelation 20:13

NOTE: The works of man will be measured against the Ten Commandments. This Law is the great standard that details right from wrong. However, every human has committed both good and evil deeds. We can be thankful that salvation is not determined by comparing the number of righteous acts with the number of transgressions. Ezekiel points out that the righteous are only judged by their righteous deeds. Their past evil lives have been forgiven

them (Ezekiel 18:21-22). On the other hand, the wicked are punished only for their evil deeds. All their righteous acts will not be mentioned (Ezekiel 18:24).

10. What must be brought into captivity before the saints are prepared to judge the wicked and revenge all disobedience? 2 Corinthians 10:4-6

NOTE: Before anyone can judge righteously, he must have the principles of God's law written in his heart. This process is sanctification, the bringing of every thought and feeling into harmony with Jesus.

C. EXECUTION OF THE JUDGMENT

11. At the end of the thousand years, what happens to Satan? Revelation 20:7-10

NOTE: The nations that Satan goes forth to deceive are made up of the wicked who have been resurrected in the second resurrection. Some of them were destroyed by Christ's Second Coming before the thousand years (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10) and they "lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5). Now they are awakened in the second resurrection, the "resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29).

12. From where does the New Jerusalem descend after the thousand years are over? Revelation 21:2

NOTE: The New Jerusalem is the home of the saints during the millennium. While Satan spends one thousand years in exile, the saints will perform their duties in heaven. It is only after the thousand years that they come back to receive the earth made new (Revelation

21:2-4).

13. What happens to the wicked when they surround the city of God? Revelation 20:9

NOTE: When the Lord comes to the earth with His saints He will execute judgment on sinners for their ungodly deeds (Jude 14-15). The devil, his angels, and the wicked are cast into the lake of fire where they will die the second death (Revelation 20:10, 14-15).

14. How does God feel about destroying the wicked? Ezekiel 18:23

NOTE: God does not delight in the destruction of the wicked. We are told that this destruction is God's "strange act" (Isaiah 28:15, 18, 21). Unlike the first death, the Bible never calls the second death a "sleep," for the second death offers no hope of a resurrection. Only those who have rejected God's grace will die the second time.

SUMMARY

The Bible makes clear that there are two resurrections and a thousand-year period between them. The first resurrection occurs when the righteous are raised at Christ's Second Coming. During the thousand-year period Satan is bound to the earth without anyone to tempt. Then the New Jerusalem descends and the wicked are raised to behold the splendour of the heavenly city. They are destroyed, and the earth is made new. Blessed are those that will take part in the first resurrection.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I will study the Ten Commandment law given in Exodus 20:3-17, incorporate its principles into my life, and prepare for the responsibility of