

14) The Millennium

In our last lesson, we saw that when Christ returns the unrighteous, unrepentant sinners do not have a second chance. The time to make decisions for eternity is now, while we are living before He returns! There are some who teach that there will be a 1,000 year time of peace on earth before Christ returns. The word millennium comes from a Latin word meaning 1,000 years

Lets discover what the Bible really teaches about the millenium....

There are several events that happen at the start of the millennium just as there are several at its end.

Lets start with what happens when it begins:

1) The Return (Second Coming) of Christ

1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. Scripture teaches that all the repentant/redeemed will meet Jesus in the cloud at the same time – at His second coming. In Paul’s day apparently the concern was that the living would get to heaven first. In our day, a false teaching is that the dead get to heaven first. Yet Scripture is very clear: at Christ’s return, the righteous dead are resurrected and along with (at the same time) the righteous living, we are all taken to meet Christ and the angels in the cloud. And then the righteous/redeemed will be with Him together for eternity!

John 14:3. Jesus promised that He would return for His followers. You can take heart, He keeps His promises!

Philippians 3:20,21. God considers those who give Christ their heart as citizens of heaven and His kingdom. Heaven is where Jesus went to when He left earth to return to His Father, and it is where He will come from when He returns to earth to gather His followers.

Revelation 6:15-17. While Christ’s return will appear as a sudden event to those who are unprepared, the return of Christ cannot and will not be missed by anyone when it occurs. The wicked will attempt to flee in terror before Christ’s holiness and brilliance.

2) The Destruction of the Wicked/Unrepentant. While the living wicked/unrepentant are slain at Christ’s return, this is not yet the final destruction of sin, Satan, and the wicked, which we will study in another lesson.

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10. When Christ returns, His glory and holiness slays the antichrist and the wicked/unrepentant.

3) Satan is bound on earth

Revelation 20:1-3. The righteous, repentant saints are with Christ in the cloud and later in heaven, and the wicked/unrepentant are all dead. Satan, and presumably his fallen angels too, has no one to tempt and is “bound” on this earth by this chain of circumstances. He will have 1,000 years to contemplate the consequences of His rebellion and the destruction he has ultimately caused.

Jeremiah 4:23-26. Due to the final plagues including the earthquake that rocks the entire earth at Christ’s return, the earth is left in a very desolate condition during this 1,000 year period. A condition to what it was in just prior to the beginning of the creation story – void, without form, desolate.

2 Peter 3:9. Christ has not yet returned because He wants everyone to have ample and fair opportunity to hear the gospel and, preferably, choose Him and eternal life, if they would.

What happens during the millennium?:

Revelation 20:4-6,7-10. Once the saints arrive in heaven, we will no doubt wonder why “certain” people were or weren’t there too. So over the course of the next 1,000 years, we will have to opportunity to review the books, the records, of every person! As we review God’s judgment we are in essence doing our own “judgment as we will see why each person either is there or isn’t. That the worst sinner there truly repented, or that those we certainly thought were the best Christians were actually harboring, cherishing their secret sins. We will conclude that God did everything thing possible to reach every heart, and every person either chose to surrender their heart to Christ and His truth, or hardened it. In essence, the redeemed are also judging God, His character, and behavior in how He sacrificed to save all and was true to His truth.

During this 1,000 years of “judgment review” by the redeemed in heaven, all the wicked people remain dead back on earth. Friend, please plan to be a part of that first resurrection, when Christ returns to gather His redeemed and take them back to heaven, they shall be given the gift of eternal life!

What happens when the millennium ends?:

Revelation 20:4-6,7-10. The wicked are not resurrected until the end of the millennium. And they come out of their graves and death’s sleep, in the similar condition as to how they went in. When they are resurrected by God, Satan and his angels once again have people to deceive, and he deceives them and rallies them into thinking they can overthrow God’s new city – the New Jerusalem – they He built in heaven and transported to earth at the end of the millennium. They surround the city and the redeemed who are inside, but before they can storm the walls God will show the unrepentant their record and His attempts to save them. We will see in a future lesson how every unrepentant sinner will conclude that God did everything possible to redeem them, but they made the choice to reject Him and His salvation. Then, God will rain

down fire from heaven which devours or consumes them. Hell fire is not to perpetually torture, rather God brings it to consume and bring a final end to sin and unrepentant sinners. Even Satan and his angels are consumed in this lake of fire. We will study further the Bible's meaning of phrases like "forever and ever", and "unquenchable fire" in a future lesson, but rest assured, Satan is not in charge of the fire of hell, it is simply God's means to destroy Satan, sinners, sin, and all its effects forever.

Psalm 89:14. The repentant and unrepentant alike will conclude that God's character, His throne, His government is a perfect blend of righteousness, justice, mercy and truth. Please don't come to that realization after it is too late.

Revelation 15:2-4. The reward of the redeemed is wonderful, to spend a blissful eternity with God in person.

Revelation 21:1. After the hell fire has finished its work and has consumed all traces of sin and sinner, it will go out. And God will recreate this world – a new earth, with the New Jerusalem as its capital.

My friend, is there anything preventing you from being a citizen of that new city, that new earth? Is your heart fully surrendered to Christ? If not, now, today, is the time, before it's too late.