

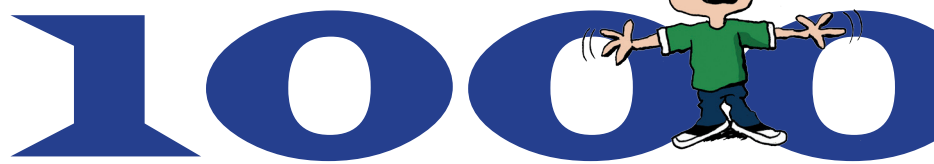
The Millennium & the End of Sin

Bible texts from NIRV unless noted (NIV, NASB).

DID YOU KNOW?

“Millennium” is a big word that means “1,000 years.”

MILLU... MILLNU... MEELIN...



WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE

- The millennium starts at Jesus’ second coming.
- For 1,000 years God’s people live with Jesus in heaven.
- Meanwhile the earth is desolate and empty, wrecked by end-time disasters (Revelation 16; 19:21). All the evil people are dead.



SATAN GOES TO JAIL



The millennium isn’t a good time for Satan. He’s stuck on earth with nothing to do and no one to tempt. It’s as if he’s chained up and put in prison!

Satan’s giant time-out gives him plenty of time to think about all the misery he’s caused the whole universe.

WELCOME TO THE ROYAL PALACE!



During the millennium God’s people from all over enjoy the “rooms” that Jesus has made

for them in His “Father’s house”—heaven (John 14:2). We rule as princes and princesses with Jesus. We even get to sit with Him on His throne (Revelation 3:21).

We have a big job to do during that time. The millennium is a time of judgment, and we’re the judges.

“Don’t you know that God’s people will judge the world? . . . Don’t you know that we will judge angels?” (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3).



YOU BE THE JUDGE

Why does God need another judgment? Obviously He has already decided who will be saved (see FUN-da-Mental #24).

This is the cool part. God wants to make sure we agree with His decisions. He gives us a chance to look over everyone’s records and find out why some people didn’t make it to heaven.

God wants us to be 100 percent sure that He’s been fair to everybody.

	When It Happens	Who Sees God’s Justice
Judgment #1	Before Jesus comes	Heavenly beings
Judgment #2	During the millennium	God’s people
Judgment #3	After the millennium	Evil people Satan and his angels

SIN NO MORE

At the end of the millennium, sin finally meets its doom (Revelation 20:7–21:2).

1

God and His people return to earth, along with the New Jerusalem.

2

The evil people come back to life.

3

Satan leads them to attack the New Jerusalem.

4

God stops their attack and conducts Judgment #3.

5

Sin and sinners are destroyed.

6

God recreates a perfect new earth (see FUN-da-Mental #28).

SATAN ON THE LOOSE

When Jesus resurrects the evil people, Satan’s prison sentence ends. He’s free to tempt and deceive them again.



Clearly Satan didn’t learn anything from his time-out. The evil people haven’t changed either—they join right in with Satan’s scheme to take over the New Jerusalem.

The attackers surround the city, but they stop in their tracks when they see God sitting on an enormous white throne. It’s time for Judgment #3.

JUDGMENT TIME AGAIN

Judgment #3 is such a big deal that Jesus raises the evil people from the dead just so they can be there.

Every human who has ever lived is present. God’s record books show what each of us has done. We see how God has done everything He could to save each person, but some rejected His love.

Everyone—even Satan and his angels—admits that God was right all along. “Every knee in heaven and on earth and under the earth will bow to worship him [Jesus]” (Philippians 2:10).



God doesn’t want sin to ever start again. That’s why He goes to so much trouble to make sure everyone sees His love, patience, and fairness. Sadly, those outside the city still don’t want to love Him back.

THE WAR IS OVER

Now God can safely put an end to the rebellion that Satan started in heaven thousands of years ago (see FUN-da-Mental #8).

Fire from God burns up everything on earth, destroying every trace of sin (2 Peter 3:10). The earth becomes one big “lake of fire”—also known as “hell.” Satan, his angels, and his human followers burn up in this fire as well.

This will be one of God’s saddest days. He says, “When sinful people die, it does not give me any joy. But when they turn away from their sins and live, that makes me very happy” (Ezekiel 33:11).

Eternal death isn’t God’s wish for any of His creatures. But He can’t allow sin to keep messing up the universe.

FOREVER AND EVER AND . . . EVER?

Some verses in the Bible make it sound like Satan and his followers will burn for all eternity.

- They will go “into the fire that burns forever” (Matthew 25:41).
- “They will all suffer day and night for ever and ever” (Revelation 20:10).
- “The smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever” (Revelation 14:11, NIV).

Other verses help us understand that in the Bible “forever” and “eternal” don’t always mean “never ending.” For instance, Sodom and Gomorrah suffered “the punishment of eternal fire” (Jude 1:7, NASB). But those cities aren’t burning today.

The fire of hell “can’t be put out” (Matthew 3:12). But it will go out when there’s nothing left but ashes (Malachi 4:1-3).

THE WAGES OF SIN

The destruction of the rebellious people and angels is called “the second death.”

Their punishment is “eternal” because the results are permanent. Sinners are gone forever, never to live again.