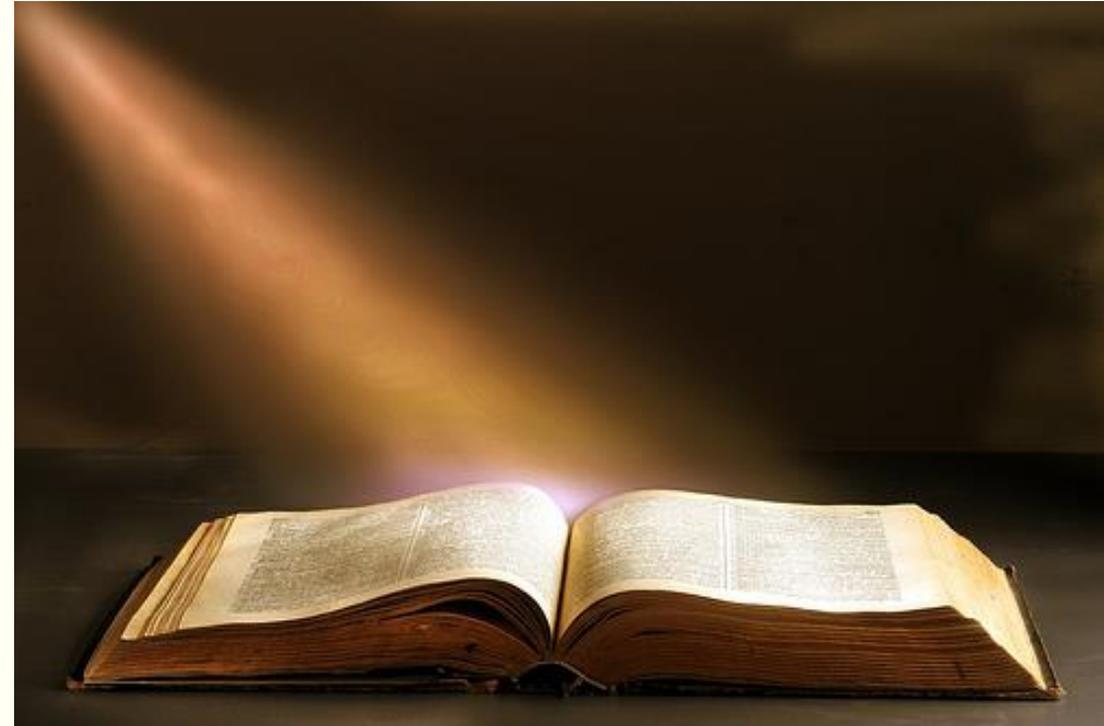
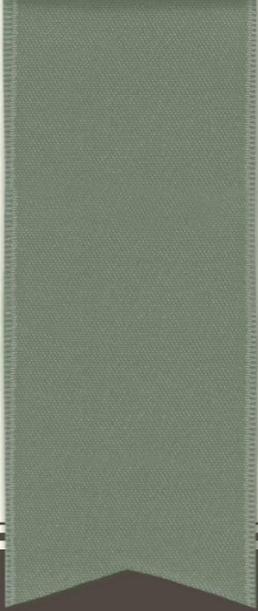


Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

Chapter 20





CHAPTER 20

The 1000 years of peace and the White Throne Judgment

Chapter 20



Primary purpose of our Bible study is to understand Jesus' message to His church AND its personal application for us today

Introduction

Events of the Second Advent

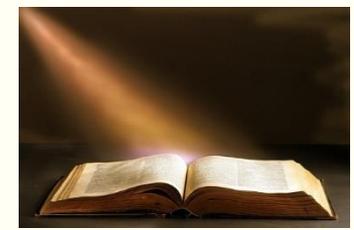
Before the 1000 years

During the 1000 years

After the 1000 years

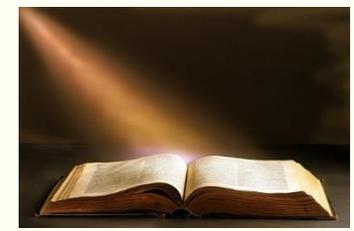
Hell: The Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:1-6



1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. **4** I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:7-15



7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Introduction

Millenarianism (from Latin word meaning “containing a thousand”) is the belief in a coming fundamental transformation of society after which all things will be changed cataclysmically

Millennialism (from Latin word **mille** meaning “one thousand” and **annus** “year”) is the belief in a coming peaceful one-thousand-year utopia apocalyptic expectation

Postmillennialism sees Christ's second coming after the millennium. In this view "Christ's reign" (during the millennium) will be spiritual in and through the church. It will be a period of peace and prosperity. This view was popular among Protestants in the 19th century but has been abandoned.

Amillennialism basically denies a future literal 1000-year kingdom. This view has been widely held throughout Christian era since Augustine (3rd century) and it is the official view of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, Anglicans, Lutherans. They believe in a symbolic period of the reign of the church on the earth in which "Christ's reign" is in and through the church.

Premillennialism sees Christ's second advent occurring before the millennium. The early church Christians were premillennialists. However, under the influence of Augustine, premillennialism was gradually replaced by amillennialism. Today, there are three various beliefs of premillennialism: dispensational, historic and the Seventh-day Adventist belief.

Dispensational Premillennialism believe in the rapture of the saints before the 7-year worldwide great tribulation which precedes the millennium. In US, this teaching was propagated through the Scofield Reference Bible and popularized through Hal Lindsey's bestseller (The Late Great Planet Earth) and the Left Behind series by Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins. It believes that Israel and the Church are distinct entities. **Historic Premillennialism** sees no theological distinction between Israel and the Church and believes the rapture of the church will occur after a period of tribulation



Introduction

Alice Bailey, the **mother of occult** and modern New Age movement, **taught that Christ would return after AD 2025** and that this would be the New Age equivalent to the Biblical concept of the Second Coming of Christ. Bailey's famous writings include Problems of Humanity and **The Reappearance of Christ** as she received messages from the Tibetan Master, D.K. These writings were to prepare the world for a one-world government, one world religion, and universal acceptance of the false Christ—Satan masquerading as an angel of light. D. K. also said that secret societies such as the Freemasons and the Illuminati would infiltrate the economies of the world, and prepare the great religious movements for unification, with acceptance of the bishop of Rome as the supreme religious ruler of the 20th century. Information as to how this should be achieved would be channeled by the Ascended Masters through selected individuals who would keep governments informed and allow for the planning of strategies.

In 1932, theosophist Alice Bailey and her husband, 32-degree Freemason Foster Bailey, started World Goodwill (Lucis Trust—formerly called Lucifer Publishing Company) an official non-governmental organization within the United Nations. World Goodwill has three stated aims including: **To cooperate in the work of preparation for the reappearance of the Christ.** Initiatives such as the UN's Millennium Development Goals are bringing the world closer to the universal political and religious peace the New Age Christ is calling for.

https://www.lucistrust.org/about_us/support_un

https://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception_New-Age-Alice_Bailey_Theosophy
https://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception_UN-Alice-Bailey_World-Goodwill



“The popular view of the spiritual reign of Christ—a temporal millennium before the end of the world—is not sustained by the word of God. This doctrine, pointing to a thousand years of righteousness and peace before the personal coming of the Lord, put far off the terrors of the day of God. But, pleasing though it may be, it is contrary to the teachings of Christ and His apostles. It was not generally accepted by Christians until about the beginning of the eighteenth century. Like every other error, its results were evil. It taught men to look far in the future for the coming of the Lord and prevented them from giving heed to the signs heralding His approach. **It induced a feeling of confidence and security** that was not well founded and led many to neglect the preparation necessary in order to meet their Lord...The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and Satan determines to unite them in one body and thus strengthen his cause by **sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism**. Papists, who boast of miracles as a certain sign of the true church, will be readily deceived by this wonder-working power; and Protestants, having cast away the shield of truth, will also be deluded. Papists, Protestants, and worldlings will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in this union a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the **ushering in of the long-expected millennium.**”

GREAT CONTROVERSY, PAGES 320 & 588

Events of the Second Advent

Second Coming of Jesus: The Bible teaches that it will be literal, worldwide, visible and personal appearance of Christ in the clouds and not a secret rapture where the saved will disappear from the earth quietly (Rev 1:7, Matt 24:27-31, Acts 1:9-11)

Resurrection of the saints: There will be a mighty resurrection of all God's sleeping saints who have died faithfully believing in Christ. This is the first resurrection which begins the 1000 years. (1Thess 4:16, 1 Cor 15:12-23, 51-57)

Translation of the saints: All God's people are translated and changed to glorious, immortal bodies. They ascend with Christ to heaven to reign with Him for a 1000 years. (1Thess 4:17, Rev 20:4)

Destruction of the unsaved: Those who have refused to give their allegiance to Christ, cling to sin and are unprepared at His coming will be destroyed (Isa 11:4, Jer 25:33)

During the millennium, the earth is emptied of life. The unsaved dead will not be lamented or buried as God's people have been translated to heaven.

The metaphor "bound with a great chain" during the millennium, symbolize Satan and his evil angels' imprisonment on this desolate earth with no one to tempt. The only scene before them is the devastating evidence of their rebellion.

Resurrection of the unsaved: After the 1000 years are over, all the unsaved are resurrected who have ever lived on planet earth. This is the second resurrection which ends the 1000 years. (Rev 20:5, John 5:28,29)



Before the 1000 years

Revelation 20 begins the conclusion of human history when time is replaced by eternity

In the Septuagint (the Old Testament Greek translation), the word “**bottomless pit**” or “**abyss**” is used at least 19 times. Often translated as “the depths of the earth”, where there is no life.

The first time this is used is at Creation. “...and darkness was on the face of the deep” (Gen 1:2). The word “deep” is the same word translated “bottomless pit”.

At the Second coming of Jesus, the earth will return to an empty, lifeless, chaotic, wasteland condition as it was prior to Creation as a result of the seven last plagues

“I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and **there were no people**; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before His fierce anger. This is what the Lord says: **The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely.** Therefore, the earth will mourn, and the heavens above grow dark.” Jer 4:23-28



See, the Lord is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; He will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The Lord has spoken this word. The earth is broken up, the earth is split asunder, the earth is violently shaken. The earth reels like a drunkard, it sways like a hut in the wind; so heavy upon it is the guilt of its rebellion that it falls—never to rise again. It shall come to pass in that day that the **Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones**, and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, **as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished.**” – Isa 24:1,3, 19-22



“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” – Isa 14:12,15-17

“Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound, there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight. For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has “made the earth to tremble.” He has “made the world as a wilderness and destroyed the cities thereof.” And he “opened not the house of his prisoners.” For six thousand years his prison house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive forever; but Christ has broken his bonds and set the prisoners free. For a thousand years, Satan will wander to and fro in the desolate earth to behold the results of his rebellion against the law of God. During this time his sufferings are intense. Since his fall his life of unceasing activity has banished reflection; but he is now deprived of his power and left to contemplate the part which he has acted since first he rebelled against the government of heaven, and to look forward with trembling and terror to the dreadful future when he must suffer for all the evil that he has done and be punished for the sins that he has caused to be committed.”

Great Controversy, pages 659-660

During the 1000 years

“...and **judgment was given to the saints of the Most High**; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.” – Dan 7:22

“Do you not know that the **saints will judge the world**? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that **we shall judge [fallen] angels**? How much more, things that pertain to this life?” – 1 Cor 6:2,3

Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud on their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance on the nations, and punishments on the peoples; To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; **to execute on them the written judgment—This honor have all His saints.** Praise the Lord!
Psalms 149:5-9

During the 1000 years, between the first and second resurrection, the judgment of the unsaved takes place. **The saints of God will participate in investigate judgment**, examining the heavenly records and determining the degree of punishment for every unsaved person.

Christ’s priestly ministry ceases at the close of probation, just before His Second coming. Therefore, there will be no need for the priestly functions of offering sacrifices and making intercession. However, **the role of teaching is also a priestly function.**

“For Ezra [the priest] had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and **to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.** And thou, Ezra, after the wisdom of thy God, that is in thine hand, set magistrates and judges, which may judge all the people that are beyond the river, all such as know the laws of thy God; and **teach ye them that know them not.**” Ezra 7:10,25

Having an experiential knowledge of the truth of salvation, the redeemed of all ages who have experienced the grace of God will teach unfallen beings and reign as co-heirs with Jesus forever



After the 1000 years

“I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.” – Rev 21:2

At the end of the 1000 years, the Holy City with the saints descends from heaven to earth. The release of Satan from his chains is symbolized by the restoration of life to the planet when the second resurrection takes place as **billions of unsaved of all ages come back to life**. Satan immediately resumes his deceptive work.

This will be the only time on Planet Earth when every single person who have ever lived from the time of Adam to the Second coming will exist simultaneously

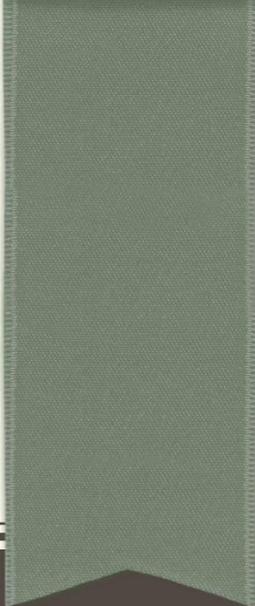
“There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.”
Luke 13:28

Imagine the bitter tears, disappointment, deep remorse and anguish the unsaved will experience to be outside the city and see the saints through the clear jasper walls

Taken from Ezekiel 38-39, “Gog and Magog” are used symbolically to represent a **vast conglomerate of the enemies of ancient Israel** from the North controlled by Satan which invaded and attempted to destroy God’s people

After the second resurrection, the unsaved will again be deluded and deceived by Satan. They will publicly take their stand with him against God. Marshalled under the great evil generals of the past, they will attempt to capture and possess the Holy City.





“At the end of the thousand years of the millennium, Jesus and His people, along with the holy City, the New Jerusalem, descend to the earth. All the wicked who have ever lived are now resurrected in “the resurrection of damnation,” and “Satan” is “loosed out of his prison.” After his long incarceration, he now has all his subjects, the vast multitude of the lost, to tempt, deceive and torment. He then goes out “to deceive the nations” and “to gather them together to battle.” He persuades them that he has resurrected them from the grave by his own power. He convinces them that together they can conquer the New Jerusalem and overthrow God. Now plans are made, instruments of war constructed, and the armies of Satan surround “the camp of the saints” and “the beloved city.” Before judgment is executed against the wicked, they are shown the charges for which they are condemned; they agree with the saints and the angels that God’s judgment is just.

https://amazingdiscoveries.org/S-deception-abyss_angel_judgment-Revelation-20-commentary

The White Throne Judgment

John sees the final judgment upon the lost interrupting the battle plan to take over the city. He sees a great white throne and sitting on the throne is God himself.

“We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ” - 2 Corinthians 5:10

“For the Father judges no one, **but has committed all judgment to the Son.**” – John 5:22

God opens the books of Heaven and shows each one of the lost the record of his life of rebellion against God. They also see the love of God in the effort He has expended to affect their salvation, and in the blood of the Son of God poured out on their behalf.

“God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil” - Ecclesiastes 12:14

The record books of heaven portray its unmistakable detail their selfishness, cruelty, and every particular of their rejection of God’s authority and disobedience. **They will see clearly why their names are not in the Book of Life.**

“For it is written: “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” – Rom 14:11

All the lost will be fully convinced of God’s justice in the sentence of eternal death pronounced against them. They will bow down and confess that God is just, even Satan. Then everyone receives their punishment in the lake of fire.



Hell: The Lake of Fire

The confessions of the unsaved does not imply a change of heart and character. They cannot enjoy God or spiritual things unless they were born again and experienced a transformation, possessing the mind and character of Jesus. They made the choice to cling to sin and will be destroyed with it as God makes a final eradication of sin.

Brimstone is the biblical name for sulfur which God used to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) When sulfur is burned, it turns into a gas called sulfur dioxide.

“Upon the wicked He will rain coals; **Fire and brimstone** and a burning wind shall be the portion of their cup.” – Psalms 11:6

The lake of fire occurs after the 1000 years when Planet Earth is set on fire. It not only consumes the unsaved (Mal 4:1,3), it will also annihilate Satan and his evil demons

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which 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...wherein the **heavens being on fire shall be dissolved**, and the **elements shall melt with fervent heat?**” - 2 Pet 3:7,10,12

Forever and ever is a Jewish idiomatic expression to denote continuity as long as life exists (Jonah 2:6, I Chron 28:4)

“You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; Therefore, I **brought fire from your midst; it devoured you**, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror and shall be no more forever.” Ezekiel 28:18-19



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