

THE MILLENNIUM

Rev. 20:1-10

Just before the Lord returns to the earth to establish His kingdom the wedding will take place in Heaven. **Revelation 19:7-9**, “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.”

The Lord will then make the journey to earth, end all the fighting and make the final preparation for the kingdom. This involves several major events which are revealed in Scripture. At this time He will finish the first resurrection. He was the first to be raised from the dead never to die again. The dead in Christ were raised at the rapture. Now those believers who died during the tribulation along with the Old Testament saints are resurrected.

The Lord will also call all the peoples of the earth who survived the tribulation to assemble before Him. The Jews will be gathered into the wilderness and judged separately from the Gentiles. There is a twofold result of this judgment. The unsaved are cut off and not allowed to enter the kingdom, and the saved enter the kingdom.

The Gentiles will be gathered into the valley of Jehoshaphat near Jerusalem and judged. The saved enter the kingdom. The unsaved are cast into everlasting fire.

Now we consider some of the things God has revealed to us about the millennium. The word simply means 1,000 years. What is the purpose of it? What will happen during that time and immediately after?

I. THE MILLENNIUM IS A DEMONSTRATION OF GOD’S RIGHT TO RULE THE WORLD.

A. God’s right to rule was challenged by Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15).

Lucifer, one of the created angles decided to make himself the ruler of this world. Note what he said:

1. “I will ascend into heaven.”

He thought to make his home in the third or highest heaven, above where God had assigned him.

2. “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.”

He thought to have a throne of his own and rule over the other angles.

3. “I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”

He thought to rule over the earth and ultimately over all men.

4. “I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.”

He thought to secure for himself some of the glory, which belongs only to God.

5. “I will be like the most High.”

He thought to gain authority over heaven and earth. “Most High” signifies possessor of heaven and earth.

This happened sometime after God had finished the creation and had made Adam ruler of the earth. As a result of all this Lucifer became Satan. He then led man to rebel against God, and he became the god of this world.

B. Lucifer, who became Satan, will be bound in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:2-3, 7).

1. He spoiled the beauty of Heaven (Ezek. 28:12-19).

2. He spoiled the beauty of the Garden (Gen. 3:1-6).

3. He spoiled the beauty of God’s plans through the centuries.

a. At Babel (Gen. 11:1-9); at Kadesh Barnea (Num. 13-14)

b. At Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37-39); and in the church (Rev. 3:14-22)

4. He will be locked in the abyss and not be allowed to spoil the millennium.

C. God’s Son, the Lord Jesus Christ will rule the whole world.

Isaiah 9:6-7, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his

shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

1. David will again rule as prince of Israel under Christ.

Jeremiah 30:9, “But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them.” **Ezekiel 34:23-24**, “And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd. And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David a prince among them; I the LORD have spoken it.” **Ezekiel 37:24-25**, “And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children’s children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.” **Hosea 3:5**, “Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days.”

a. The twelve apostles will rule the 12 tribes of Israel under David.

Matthew 19:28, “And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

b. Others will rule in lesser authority.

Luke 19:17, 19, “And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.” “And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.”

2. The bride who is now the Lord’s wife will also reign with Him.

2 Timothy 2:11-12, “It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him: If we suffer, we shall also reign with him...” **Revelation 5:10**, “And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” **Revelation 20:6**, “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” It seems that most of the government under Christ will be given to resurrected saints.

3. The seat of this government will be Jerusalem (Rev. 21:22-27).

II. THE MILLENNIUM IS A THOUSAND YEAR HOLIDAY ON EARTH (Isa. 11:1-10).

It will be one thousand years of peace, righteousness, justice, fairness, cleanliness, and prosperity. God will not allow sin to completely spoil what He planned for this world. He will establish His kingdom on earth and will allow it to run for 1000 years. He has promised that this will be a glorious and joyful time filled with activity that is challenging, fulfilling, and exciting.

A. It will be a time of righteousness, obedience and holiness.

B. It will be a time of truth.

C. It will be a time of the fullness of the Spirit.

1. There will be Peace, Joy, and Comfort.

2. There will be Justice, Economic prosperity.

3. There will be Freedom from oppression.

4. There will be no Curse, Sickness nor Deformity.

5. There will be Instruction, Full Knowledge, Unified Language.

6. There will be the Personal presence of God, Unified Worship.

7. There will be fruitful Labor.

III. THE MILLENNIUM WILL BE A FINAL TEST OF MAN (Rev. 20:7-10).

A. God did not force Satan to worship Him.

B. God did not force Adam to worship Him.

C. God does not force you and me to worship Him.

D. God will not force those born in the millennium to worship Him.

Those born during the millennium will need to be converted by submitting to Jesus Christ in their hearts and receiving His death on the cross as payment for their sins just as we have done. The difference is they will be able to see Him. Many will do this. They are the saints mentioned in verse 9.

During the millennium, man will be living under the most ideal circumstances. All outward source of temptation will be removed because Satan is bound in the bottomless pit. All of their needs will be met abundantly so there is nothing to covet. They will live in an environment that has had the curse removed. Their labors will be rewarded richly.

There will be perfect justice. There will be no oppression or abuse tolerated. There will be continuous blessing flowing from the Lord.

Yet, when the tempter is released for a short season, many will rebel against Christ and follow Satan. This will prove without question that these did not believe the truth about Christ. They refused to be born again and apart from conversion man's heart is corrupt and he is worthy of God's eternal judgment. Sin truly has ruined us and only the grace of God can make us fit for Heaven.

Are you prepared to meet Christ when He returns? The rapture may happen today. Only the saved will be taken. The rest will enter the terrible days of the tribulation.