

# **The Millennium**

## **Revelation 20:1-10**

The word "millennium" is simply referring to the 1000-year reign of Christ on earth. There are many differing opinions on this chapter which have led many astray in interpreting prophecy. It is not going to be the intent in this message to explain all of them but just to mention the three main views and then go on and explain the text given here. The three main views are: pre-millennialism (which is what we are) – that is, that the return of Christ happens at the beginning of the 1000 years, and He reigns, literally, for 1000 years; post-millennialism – that is, that Jesus will return at the end of the 1000 years, but not to reign (they see Him reigning for 1000 years through a revival of the Gospel on earth); and a-millennialism, which says there really isn't going to be a "millennium," and that we will just basically evolve into a higher state of existence with Christ.

The reason we are pre-millennialists is because we take the Bible literally, and we take Rev. 19-20 literally. The events that began in chapter 19 and continue through this chapter are events that happen in succession, one after the other, in chronological order. If seen as such, the difficulty of the passage vanishes.

### **I. HOW IT BEGINS – VS. 1-3**

#### ***A. Another angel is seen***

1. He comes "down from heaven" – indicates he comes to earth in human form
2. He has the "key of the bottomless pit"

### 3. He has a "great chain in his hand"



### ***B. He has a purpose and he is empowered to accomplish that purpose***

#### 1. To lay hold on Satan

- a) "The dragon" – what his true form is – what he is seen as in the Tribulation
- b) "That old serpent" – his original form in the Garden of Eden
- c) "The Devil" – the false accuser – his true purpose with God – to accuse God's people
- d) "Satan" – the adversary – his true nature

#### 2. To bind him for 1000 years



3. To cast him into the "bottomless pit"
  - a) Literally, the abyss
  - b) Seen as a different place than the lake of

fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are

- c) It is a place of confinement for the devil and some of his angels (demons) – Luke 8:31

Luke 8:31

<sup>31</sup> And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep.

- 4. To “shut him up” – to prevent him from leaving
- 5. To “set a seal upon him” – apparently making it obvious to those that might try and free him that he could not be freed until the time was right
- 6. The angel was then given the authority to loose him for “a little season”

## II. WHAT TAKES PLACE DURING IT – VS. 4-6

***A. The verses before us show just basic details of the events during the Millennium. For a more detailed view we need to go to the OT, where much is written by several of the prophets for the reign of Christ was prophesied by several and looked forward to by many.***

Isaiah 2:2-4

<sup>2</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD’S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

<sup>3</sup> And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to

the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

#### Isaiah 11:4–9

<sup>4</sup> But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

<sup>6</sup> The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup> And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup> And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

### ***B. Some of the details in the above passages about the Millennium:***

1. Jerusalem will be the capital of the millennial kingdom – Is. 2:3

2. War will be no more – Is. 2:4
3. Is. 11 describes the righteous reign of Christ and the peace and tranquility of His kingdom
4. There will be justice for all, the wicked will be punished, and even the natural ferocity of beasts will be abated
5. Israel will be regathered from the various parts of the earth and brought back to her ancient land rejoicing in the fulfillment of God’s prophetic word

***C. The first thing John saw were "thrones, and they sat upon them" – it doesn't state who it is sitting upon them, but it can be determined with some accuracy that it is the 24 elders seen previously sitting on the thrones***

**Revelation 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

**Revelation 5:8–10**

<sup>8</sup> And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

<sup>9</sup> And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

<sup>10</sup> And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

***D. He then saw the "souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God" – this is the tribulation saints, as seen in the next phrase in vs. 4***

***E. It then says that "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years"***

1. This is referring to the tribulation saints
2. There is a special place of service for them in the Millennium. Nothing more is really said about it than this, and what is said in vs. 6
3. The reference to "they lived" means they were resurrected from the dead – just like we will have been at the rapture, so will they be, at some point, at the beginning of the Millennium (it will most likely be the event that begins the 1000 years)
4. They will reign – not as the Age of Grace saints, the Bride of Christ, necessarily, but they will most certainly have a special place with Christ for what they endured

***F. Vs. 5 mentions those that didn't accept Christ during the Tribulation as being dead for that 1000 years – they will be in the place of torment that all other lost souls go to before the Great White Throne judgment***

***G. Vs. 6 is another of the beatitudes in the***

## **Revelation**

1. It is for those that take part in the “first resurrection”
2. That is not the same as the resurrection at Jesus’ resurrection nor the resurrection the Age of Grace saints will be taken in – this is the first resurrection in relation to the Tribulation period dead

Matthew 27:52-53

<sup>52</sup> And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

<sup>53</sup> And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

3. The Tribulation saints are said to be “priests of God and of Christ” – this could very well be their special place during the Millennium – the teachers of the Word of God to the people born during that period

### **III. HOW IT ENDS – vs. 7-10**

***A. At the end of the Millennium Satan is loosed to deceive the nations***



***B. His purpose is the same as at the beginning in the Garden of Eden – to deceive***

1. For 1000 years he has been bound and banned – there has been no temptation on earth and people, although still born in sin, will live, many of them, the entire 1000 years without ever facing the choice of accepting or rejecting Christ
2. At the end of the 1000 years the devil is allowed to go throughout the earth and deceive the people – and many will follow him

***C. Vs. 8 - There are so many that follow Satan that they are considered as innumerable as the "sand of the sea" when they gather around Jerusalem to fight against Israel, and against the King of kings***

***D. Vs. 9 - This isn't much of a battle – in fact, all that is seen is fire coming down "from God out of heaven" and devouring them***

***E. Vs. 10 – the final end of the Millennium is the final end of Satan – he is taken and "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" where the beast and the false prophet already are, and where all the rest of those that rejected Christ will one day be***

Conclusion: The end of the Millennium begins with the eternal destruction of the Devil – this is a blessing for us, for one day he will be gone!!

