

Revelation 20 11-End

Last week we filled in some of the details regarding the very beginnings of the Millennial Reign.

1. We saw satan bound for 1000 years.
2. We saw the Millennial Temple and all the surrounding area being set up. It was a 1-sq.mi. area for the Temple that was situated within a 50-50 sq-mile area in support of it.
3. We saw that Jerusalem was 10-sq.mi and within the main complex.
 - a. Not everyone sees it this way but when you are presented with multiple choices, pick one that seems right. When we get to heaven, we can ask.

But what will the Millennial Kingdom be like? Why is it only 1000 years? Will it be “perfection on earth” and if so, why does it end? I think there are answers to these questions.

With Satan bound and the preparatory work done, we get back to Revelation 20 verse 4.

(Revelation 20:4) And I saw thrones, and **they** sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. **And they lived** and reigned with Christ for a **thousand** years. (5) **But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.** (6) **Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.** Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a **thousand** years.

John sees thrones. How many and who exactly was sitting on them isn't revealed but the best info we have is from Scripture:

2 Timothy 2:12a NKJV If we endure, **We** shall also reign with *Him*.

Revelation 2:26 NKJV **And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—**

(see also Revelation 3:21; Revelation 5:9-10; Matthew 19:28 and 1 Corinthians 6:3; The Matthew verse has to do with the apostles judging the tribes of Israel and the Corinthians verse speaks of us judging angels!).

John also saw the myriad of Tribulation Saints that were martyred for Christ's sake. These, he said, lived and also reigned with Jesus in the Millennial Kingdom. The word "lived" truly does speak of their resurrection after the Tribulation ends. But in verse 5 there's a bit of confusion because it seems that John is speaking of the "first resurrection" as a time after the 1000 years is over. The best way to deal with this is to understand that the first part of verse 5 is parenthetical and not in the flow of thought. The second part of verse 5 refers back to the end of verse 4.

We know from 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 that the rapture is an orderly event.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NKJV For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.** (16) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. **And the dead in Christ will rise first.** (17) **Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.** And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1. First is Jesus who is called the firstfruits of the dead in 1 Corinthians 15:20.
2. Then the dead **in Christ** will rise. These are those in the Body of Christ that went on to be with Him in heaven.
3. Then, those in Christ who are alive for the rapture will ascend to meet Jesus in the clouds.

The above 2 groups could be thought of as “Resurrection Phase I”.

Since this is an orderly event, the addition of a later phase of the First Resurrection isn’t contrary to the Scriptures. Now some believe that the OT saints will be raptured along with the church. Perhaps they believe this because they were saved by grace through faith like us. However, if we look at Daniel 12:2, we can see that it’s more likely that they will be resurrected with the Tribulation Saints (who are Jews and Gentiles).

Now the context for Daniel 12 verse 2 is verse 1 which is all about the Tribulation. Then we read in verse 2, “**And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt**”. This verse also teaches the two main resurrections: those believing Jews who sleep in the dust, that is, have died before the time of Christ, will be raised after the Tribulation and then, at a later time (after 1000 years), there are those who will rise to “everlasting contempt and shame” at the final Judgment.

Therefore, the Tribulation and OT saints will be in the “Resurrection Phase II”.

And the third group, the condemned, will rise in Second Resurrection after the 1000-year Kingdom comes to an end. More on this in a “little while”.

So, who exactly will be in the Kingdom?

Certainly, all of us and the others mentioned above will be there in our glorified bodies, just as Jesus was after His resurrection. Everyone who survived the Tribulation and who believed on Christ Jesus will be there. But remember, these are still in their fleshly bodies. They will give birth during this time and their offspring will also have to be saved just like everyone else. And, given that they are in their flesh, this may or may not happen. More on this later.

But what exactly will the Kingdom be like? This information exists elsewhere because this chapter is silent on it. As a matter of fact, Revelation 20 only reveals one facet of the Kingdom, namely, that it will last 1000 years.

The Kingdom is described in both the OT and the NT scriptures. All in all, there are more than 400 verses in more than 20 different passages in the Old Testament which deal with this time when Jesus Christ will rule and reign over the entire world He created. Let’s look at three from Isaiah:

Isaiah 2:4 He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; **Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore.**

Isaiah 11:6-9 NKJV (6) "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. (8) The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. (9) 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.

Isaiah 65:17-25 NKJV "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Pause: The Jewish Prophets didn't have a clear revelation of the eternal order. That was revealed in the NT. Even though the opening verse speaks of a new heaven and new earth, they are not the same as what God creates in Revelation Chapter 21. You will see this as we read the remainder of this passage:

(18) But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem *as a* rejoicing, And her people a joy. (19) I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. (20) "No more shall an infant from there *live but a few* days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; **For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner *being* one hundred years old shall be accursed.** (21) They shall build houses and inhabit *them*; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. (22) They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people, And My **elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.** (23) They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they *shall be* the descendants of the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them. (24) "It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. (25) The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, The lion shall eat straw like the ox, And dust *shall be* the serpent's food. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain," Says the LORD.

(BTW: You might also want to read Psalm 72).

Now, in the NT, Jesus spoke of the "Kingdom of God" in parables which gives us pictures and hints of what it will be like. When John the Baptizer's father was prophesizing in Luke chapter 1, He also spoke of Jesus:

Luke 1:32-33 NKJV He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. **(33) And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."**

Let's summarize what we learned from the Isaiah passages that I read about the Millennial Kingdom:

❖ *Israel will be the leading superpower of the world.* The Temple complex will be the center of Israel.

All nations shall flow to the “capital” of Jesus’ government. In Zechariah 14:16-19 we learn that even the Gentile nations will be required to observe the Feast of Tabernacles by coming to the Temple.

- ❖ *There will be no more war on the earth during this time.* There will still be conflicts between nations and individuals, but they will be justly and decisively resolved by the Messiah and those who reign with Him.
- ❖ *The way animals relate to each other and to humans will be transformed.* A child will be safe from all those who were once predators. For this reason, many think that in the reign of the Messiah (in the Millennium) humans will be vegetarians, as it seems they were before the fall.
- ❖ *The resurrected King David seems to have a prominent place in the millennial earth, ruling over Israel.* ([Isa 55:3-5](#), [Jer 30:4-11](#), [Eze 34:23-31](#), [Eze 37:21-28](#), [Hos 3:5](#)). However, the verses I site in these notes might just as easily be interpreted as being King Messiah.
- ❖ *During the Millennial Kingdom, people will live longer.* We read that an infant mortality will be non-existent. People will live 100 years. This and the verses regarding sowing and reaping seem to imply that the earth itself is no longer cursed and will not be a struggle as it has been after the fall.
- ❖ *All those who live at this time will acknowledge and submit to the Lordship of Jesus* It will be a time of perfect leadership and earthy government. Because we have read that Messiah will rule with a rod of iron, there will be **enforced righteousness** on this earth.

Overall, it sounds like Paradise. But, like Eden or even like the time of the Fall that survived thousands of years, or even like the 7-year Tribulation, the Millennial Kingdom will come to an end. Why?

The simple answer is that there still awaits something better. But there’s another answer as well. It’s related to that comment about “enforced righteousness”.

One might think that Messiah’s presence on earth would be enough to prove every single Word of Scripture and therefore cause all those born during the Millennia to be saved. But the flesh is strong and sin dwells in it. The heart of those who live in the flesh need to be tested.

Enter satan.

([Revelation 20:7](#)) Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison (8) and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. (9) They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. (10) The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

In these few verses we witness the demise of Satan after he is released from his chains for a “little while”. And for that little while, those born on the earth from the Tribulation survivors will have their time of testing as well. And even like today, there are those who profess Christ with their lips and even are seemingly obedient to His Rule but still have the issue of the flesh. And the fleshly nature will cause many to believe Satan’s lies. He has no other arrows in his quiver than fear, uncertainty and doubt. And, being a murderer from the beginning, his only desire is to destroy Messiah’s children and perhaps, as insane as it sound, Jesus. John mentions Gog

and Magog but this isn't the same as in Ezekiel 38-39 because that battle was from the north and this one comes from the four corners of the earth. It appears that John is using them symbolically for this battle.

But God didn't even toy with them, there are no warnings, there are no second chances anymore. He simply sent fire from heaven and it destroyed them all. And then to top it all off, Satan was cast into the Lake of Fire to join the antichrist and the false prophet to be tormented forever and ever.

[Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV](#) (11) Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. (13) **The sea gave up the dead** who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. (14) Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** (15) And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The absolute purity of this Supreme Court is symbolized by the colour of the Throne – pure white light.

The phrase in verse 11 *“from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them”* is certainly interesting. First, understand that we are back in Heaven where God's Throne is. If one considers that in the next chapter the “Eternal Order” arrives as the New Heaven, the New Earth and then the New Jerusalem, verse 11 can be a literal description. “Out with the old, in with the New”!

Aside from [Isaiah 51:6](#) and [Mark 13:31](#) where the present heavens and earth are said to vanish, there's the passage in [2 Peter 3:10-13](#) that states, *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. (11) Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, (12) looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? (13) Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

The White Throne Judgment is not the same as the Sheep and Goats judgment because this takes place after the 1000-year reign of Christ but the other at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

This final judgment of the those who died without Christ isn't a trial where all the resurrected wicked will have a chance to defend themselves. In their silence, Jesus will judge according to their works because there was never any faith in Him. Since righteousness apart from Christ is as filthy rags, they truly have no hope and no excuse. There will be no doubt as to their guilt.

And we know from [1 Corinthians 15:26](#) “The last enemy *that* will be destroyed *is* death.”. Death and Hades are symbols of the fall of mankind. They are destroyed along with everyone whose name was not written in the Book of Life.

BTW: The Book of life is referenced 4 times in the OT as “Your Book”, meaning God’s. [Exo 32:32-33](#); [Psalm 56:8](#) and [Psalm 139:16](#) which says “Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your **book** they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them”.

It is referenced as the Book of Life seven times in the NT, Once in [Php 4:3](#) and six of which are in the Book of Revelation [Rev 3:5](#); [Rev 13:8](#); [Rev 17:8](#); [Rev 20:12](#); [Rev 20:15](#); and [Rev 22:19](#).

I don’t believe that it is necessary to spiritualize this. I believe it is an actual Book. My puny brain, however, has no idea what it looks like but it’s most likely a scroll.

Perhaps with all the descriptions of the demise of the wicked, we might have missed something important. For all intents and purposes, life as we have always understood it, is over, done, kaput. At this moment in our reading, we are about to see the greatest, truest “reset” of all time. **A new heaven and a new earth!!**

Are you ready for it today? First and foremost, you must be born again of the Holy Spirit. But there’s one more thing that will be a big help for you today: Many of us are still clinging to this life. Many of us are trying to fix this life. But if this Book and the rest of Scriptures have proven, it can’t be fixed by our efforts but only by God’s. Am I saying we should stop doing good? No. But I am saying be selective about where your “good” is being done. The best good we can do is to share the life of Christ with others. Our testimonies are part of that but I think the greatest part should be our sharing about Jesus Himself, who He is and what He has done and certainly what He is going to do.

And yet, let me restate what I just said: Are we still clinging to this life? Are we still clinging to the idea that some former president will return triumphant and we will reset the reset? Are we clinging to the idea that in this life, good will always win over evil? Are we clinging to the idea that we can find true satisfaction that leads to a lasting peace in our hearts? Are you getting upset by these questions? Good. Nothing on this earth, nothing in this life is more important than our relationship with Christ Jesus because without that relationship we will spend eternity without Him. Without that relationship we will not be sufficiently prepared for what the “god” of this world has planned for his enemies. Without that relationship, we will continue to seek what we need in this world instead of from Him. I want you all to enjoy life, but I want you to enjoy it without the agape love, the sacrificial love, the fully committed love that is to be reserved for the ONLY True Love of our lives: Jesus who paid the complete penalty for our sinfulness, not so that we can lust after this life but to devote ourselves to Him and the new life only God can create!