

The Kingdom of God #11: The Millennium and Great White Throne (Rev. 20)

So far in our studies of the Kingdom of God, we have seen that

- God is, and always has been, King of all the earth, and all creation
- He is King over a specially chosen people, the Jews (Israel)
- He instituted an earthly line of kings under David and his descendants
- There was a promised son of David (Messiah) who would reign over the nation of Israel, deliver her from her enemies, and reign out of Jerusalem over all the earth in righteousness and peace
- That Jesus came and is this Son of David, and he stated quite plainly that “the kingdom of God is at hand”.
- That there was a distinction between Christ’s first and second comings – the first as the “Suffering Servant” who was to suffer and die as the Lamb of God, the perfect sacrifice for the sins of His people, and the second, to come in righteous anger to destroy the enemies of God, and to begin the prophesied earthly Messianic reign.
- That between the first and second comings, the kingdom of God really is here, but it is in our hearts (“the kingdom of God is within you”). Those who hear and respond to the gospel have already entered into the kingdom. If we do not have Christ ruling in our hearts now, we will not enter into His kingdom when it comes in its earthly fulfillment.
- That there will be a great “marriage supper of the Lamb”, followed by Christ’s triumphant return with all the hosts of heaven (angels and resurrected saints) to wreak horrible death and destruction on those who have allied themselves with the “Antichrist” and his false prophet against Israel.

So now we get to what happens after His return, which is the physical restoration of the earth, and the establishment of Christ’s kingdom on earth – literal, physical, and based in Jerusalem. It is a time when Satan is bound and unable to deceive the nations.

Isa. 40:10 - ... his reward is with him, and his work before him. What is that work?

Review of Millennial conditions: Mic. 4:1-8, Isa. 11:4-9, Isa. 35 (right after the destruction of 34)

After the Messiah delivers them from enemies, they rebuild the waste cities, Messiah reigns over the whole earth out of Jerusalem, nations come up to worship and be taught, complete peace (no war, no violent animals), desert blossoms like rose, no weeping, extraordinarily long and healthy life, abundant harvests, a fountain flowing from the house of the Lord, ...

Rev. 20:1-10 - The Millennium

- 1-3 – An angel binds Satan, throws him into the bottomless pit, and seals it (with the key) for 1000 years. This shows that in spite of his incredible evil and his powers of deception, Satan is not the most powerful of God’s creation.
- The bottomless pit is referred to earlier in the book – 9:1-11 – when the fifth trumpet sounds, the bottomless pit opens and apparently demonic creatures come forth to torment those on the earth. Their king is “the angel of the bottomless pit, named Apollyon. 11:7 – the two witnesses are warred against and killed by the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit. Also in 17:8, where he is the beast that carries “the woman”.
- 2 – Satan is identified as “the Devil” (not just a demon), and “that old serpent”. This is interesting because in Genesis, the account of the Fall does not SAY that Satan was the tempter, just “the serpent”. Here it is explicitly stated.
- 4 – Thrones and judgment given to faithful martyrs, who did not worship the beast. They “lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years”. See also 2:26-27, 3:21, 5:9-10
- 5 – only the righteous redeemed are raised from the dead. This is the “first resurrection”. The unrighteous have to wait (in Hades) for the second resurrection at the end of the Millennium.
- 6 – Those who are in the first resurrection are “safe” – beyond the danger of the “second death”. They also reign and rule with Christ during the Millennium.
- Why do we call it the Millennium? Because the word means a thousand years. Satan is bound a thousand years (20:2), The resurrected martyrs live and reign with Christ a thousand years (20:4). The rest of the dead aren’t resurrected until the thousand years are finished (20:5). Those in the first resurrection are priests of God and reign with Christ for a thousand years (20:6). When the thousand years are finished, Satan is loosed from the pit (20:7).
- 7-10 – at the end of the thousand years, Satan is loosed from the pit and deceives the nations again, resulting in the final rebellion and war against Christ and his saints, and Satan’s final defeat and condemnation to the lake of fire to be tormented day and night for ever.
 - Who gets deceived? Surely not the saints of the first resurrection. They have been confirmed in righteousness. But there are people in the Millennium who were survivors of Christ’s Second Coming, and apparently children will still be born during that time. Just because someone is living in Christ’s kingdom doesn’t mean they don’t need to be regenerated. The problem is they may not see the need as clearly, because the tempter and deceiver will be out of the way. The fact that they would turn against Christ in the end, after living under his righteous and benevolent rule for so long, shows the depth of the Fall and man’s inherent corruption. The numbers involved are staggering (“as the sand of the sea”). But numbers don’t matter when fire comes down from heaven to devour them.