

The day is coming when Satan will no longer be able to tempt us. He will be "bound... for a thousand years." Revelation 20:2. Today, this 1,000 year period is often referred to as the millennium, even though this term is not actually found in the Bible. It is a word made up from two Latin words which, when combined, mean "a thousand years." During the 1,000 years Satan will be forced to take a holiday from tempting, deceiving and destroying.

REVELATION AND THE 1,000 YEARS

Revelation 20 is the only place in the Bible that refers to a specific 1,000 years. There are two other verses that refer to "a thousand years," however, neither is referring to a specific period of time. These two references simply emphasize the eternal nature of God. Peter wrote, "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." 2 Peter 3:8. The psalmist declared, "For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night." Psalm 90:4. The millennium, which has been a subject of much speculation and many theories, can only be understood by studying Revelation 20.

The reason why...

The reason for examining the 1,000 years of Revelation 20 at this point in the Revelation Seminars is that this section of Revelation discusses events that are closely related to the second coming of Jesus Christ, the fate of the wicked and the ultimate deliverance of God's people. Revelation 19:11-21:5 will answer many of the questions that have been raised during our last few seminars.

THE SETTING FOR THE 1,000 YEARS

Revelation 19 sets the scene for the 1,000 years. The glorious second coming of Jesus Christ as "*KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS*" is described for us in Revelation 19:11-21. "With justice he judges and makes war." Revelation 19:11.



Q1 **What three pictures are given to describe the way Jesus Christ will judge the wicked when He comes the second time?** Revelation 19:15

A

The Lord Jesus Christ will:

1 Strike the nations with "a sharp sword": The sharp sword of destruction is the word of God. (Compare Hebrews 4:12. Compare John 1:1-3.) It brings life to the believer but damns the wicked.

2 Rule the nations with "an iron sceptre": Jesus Christ is King. The iron sceptre denotes justice, equity and righteousness. (Psalm 45:6; Hebrews 1:8.) As King Jesus Christ will judge and destroy the wicked. (Compare Psalm 2:9 and Isaiah 11:4.)

3 Tread the "winepress of the fury of the wrath of God": The day of God's "vengeance" will come. (See Isaiah 63:1-6.) It will be a day of bloodshed and damnation. (Compare Revelation 14:17-20.)



Q2 **What will happen to unbelievers when Jesus Christ returns?** Revelation 19:15,21. (Compare Matthew 13:24-30,36-43; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 6:12-17; 14:17-20.)

A

Q3 **What will happen to the beast and false prophet at that time?** Revelation 19:19,20

A

The destruction of these agencies of evil was revealed to Daniel. (Read Daniel 8:25) This was foreseen by Paul who

declared that "the lawless one" would be destroyed with the splendour of the coming of Jesus Christ. (See 2 Thessalonians 2:8.) The glorious second coming of Jesus Christ, with the destruction of the antichrist and wickedness, is the setting for the 1,000 years of Revelation 20.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1,000 YEARS?

At the second coming of Jesus the wicked and the antichrist will be destroyed. Satan is dealt with next.



Q4 **What will happen to Satan at the beginning of the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:1-3

A

Q5 **What will Satan not be able to do during his imprisonment?** Revelation 20:3

A

Quite clearly the 1,000 years have not yet started. However, time is running out for Satan. He knows that he will soon be put under arrest and held captive in the Abyss for 1,000 years. (Compare Revelation 12:12.) The Greek word for Abyss is the same as that used in Genesis 1:2 in the Greek version of the Old Testament where it describes the earth as "the deep." Genesis 1:2 NIV. Although he will be released for a short time at the end of the 1,000 years, (Revelation 20:3) Satan knows his ultimate fate. The Lord Jesus became a man "so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil." Hebrews 2:14.

Q6 **What happens to the believers when Jesus Christ comes?** Revelation 20:4

A

Believers in Jesus Christ who have died will be raised to life when He comes. These are the martyrs "under the altar" (Revelation 6:9) or the

great multitude who have "come out of the great tribulation." (Revelation 7:14.)



Q7 **What is this resurrection called?** Revelation 20:5,6

A

Q8 **Who are not raised to life until the end of the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:5

A

There will be two resurrections:

1 The *FIRST RESURRECTION* - the *RESURRECTION OF THE RIGHTEOUS*. This will occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ at the beginning of the 1,000 years. (Also see 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17. Compare Matthew 24:30,31; John 6:39,40,44,54; 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Philippians 3:20,21.) The big event that will mark the beginning of the 1,000 years will be the second coming of Jesus Christ.

2 The *SECOND RESURRECTION* - the *RESURRECTION OF THE WICKED*. This will occur at the end of the 1,000 years.

Jesus Christ referred to these two resurrections when He said, "Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned." John 5:28,29.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING THE 1,000 YEARS?



Q9 **What will be Satan's fate during the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:2

A



Q10 **What will believers do during the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:4

A 1. **Believers will**

This work of judgement will not decide who will be saved and who will not, for that will have been settled before Jesus Christ comes the second time. Rather, it will give believers the opportunity to understand the judgements of God and be completely convinced that God has acted justly in each case before the final destruction of the wicked. (See Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:29,30 and 1 Corinthians 6:2,3.)

A 2. **Believers will**

This reign of believers begins after they have been raised and caught up to heaven, at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Believers will not reign over unbelievers on earth, for the wicked will have been destroyed. The wicked will lie in the devastation on earth until the end of the 1,000 years.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE END OF THE 1,000 YEARS?



Q11 **Who will be raised to life at the end of the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:5

A

Q12 **What will happen to Satan at the end of the 1,000 years?** Revelation 20:7

A

The resurrection of the wicked at the end of the 1,000 years will release Satan for he will then have someone to deceive.

Q13 **As soon as the wicked are raised to life, what does Satan deceive them to do?** Revelation 20:8

A

Neither Satan nor the wicked have experienced any change of heart. They are intent on destroying God's people. Satan leads them into the final conflict, which is called the battle of Gog and Magog. Gog and Magog had been a threat to literal Israel in Old Testament times. (See Ezekiel 38,39.) Now, in Revelation, they represent all the forces attacking God and His saved people. What happened at the battle of Armageddon at the beginning of the 1,000 years is repeated in the final battle of the ages at the end of the 1,000 years.

I Satan's Destruction



Q14 **What is the target of Satan's attack?** Revelation 20:9

A

Q15 **What happens to the wicked as they approach and surround the city?** Revelation 20:9

A

This is hell-fire. There is no hell-fire burning now. Hell-fire will burn on this earth at the end of the 1,000 years. The fire will fall upon Satan and the wicked. It will come down from God. Hell-fire will devour. The Greek word translated "devoured" (Revelation 20:9; compare Matthew 13:4) conveys the idea of destruction and being completely consumed.

Q16 **What is Satan's fate?** Revelation 20:10

A

Satan's FATE: The devil will be in the fire, not outside tending the fire or torturing the wicked who are in the flames.

Satan's *FATE* "*FOR EVER AND EVER*" (Revelation 20:10. Compare Revelation 14:11.): We must take the context into account to understand the statement that the devil, the beast and the false prophet will be "tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:10. The

terms "for ever" and "for ever and ever" are used in different ways in the Bible. In Psalm 21:4 "for ever and ever" refers to a lifetime, in Jonah 2:6 "for ever" refers to a period of three days, and in Philemon 15 (KJV) "for ever" refers to the duration of Onesimus' life. The context of Revelation 20:10, Revelation 20:7-21:5, reveals that hell-fire will burn until Satan and evil are consumed. Then "a new heaven and a new earth" will be created. The scriptures reveal that Satan will be consumed, reduced to ashes and be no more. (See Ezekiel 28:17-19.) Hell-fire on this earth will stop burning after Satan and all the wicked are devoured. The results of the lake of fire will be eternal.



Q17 **What is the lake of fire called?** Revelation 20:11-14; 21:8

A

Both the righteous and the wicked will be raised from the first death. (See John 5:28,29; Hebrews 9:27.) However, the judgement will exclude the wicked from eternal life and they will suffer the second death. There is no resurrection from the second death. (See Matthew 25:46.)

Q18 **In which book must our names be written if we are to escape the lake of fire?** Revelation 20:15

A

The judgement deals with the verdict of God in regard to the wicked. Because their names are not recorded in the book of life they will suffer the second death. Overcomers will not be hurt by the second death. (Revelation 2:11.) Overcomers will have their names in the book of life. (Revelation 3:5.)

2 God's Kingdom



Q19 **When the lake of fire on this earth has done its work what will God do with the earth?** Revelation 21:1-5

A

GOD'S KINGDOM ON THE NEW EARTH:

Jesus Christ promised that the meek "will inherit the earth." Matthew 5:5. This will happen at the end of the 1,000 years. Jesus Christ will not establish His kingdom of glory on earth in order to convert unbelievers. The kingdom of glory is established after the destruction of Satan and the evil world that he claimed as his. (Compare John 12:31; 16:8-11; 1 John 4:4; 5:19.)

GOD'S KINGDOM FOR BELIEVERS:

Jesus Christ said, "He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son." Revelation 21:7. The believer in Jesus Christ, who is the true Israelite or overcomer, will inherit the kingdom of God. God will dwell with His people. (Revelation 21:3.) "There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." Revelation 21:4. All will be new. There will be peace at last.■

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response...

Now is the time to choose to follow the Lord. You can choose to be inside the New Jerusalem with God, or outside with Satan. You can choose to live for eternity, or die the second death in the lake of fire around the New Jerusalem. You can choose to believe, follow and obey Jesus Christ, or you can choose to reject Him. What choice will you make? Now is the time to choose, for once the Lord Jesus comes the second time it will be too late. There will be no second chance during the 1,000 years. (Also see 2 Corinthians 6:2.)



What decisions have you made this week, about following and obeying Jesus Christ?

