

THE MILLENNIUM

At the Day of the Lord, Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit so that he will not be able to deceive the earth's inhabitants for one thousand years. During these one thousand years, Christ, Himself, will establish His righteous rule as He reigns over all the world in a literal, earthly, Kingdom, rather than the *spiritual* Kingdom as He does in this day and age within men's hearts and lives, as they allow Him to. (See: Luke 1:32-33; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah, chapter 14; 1 Thessalonians 1:7; Jude 14; Revelation 17:14; and 19:11 through 20:7).

The prophet Isaiah has much to say concerning this glorious time of Christ's reign on earth. Read Isaiah, chapters 11, 35, 52,54, 60m 65 and 68.

At the beginning of Christ's ministry, the Apostles preached, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." Did this mean that the Kingdom (that is, the Millennial Kingdom on earth) was beginning at that time? No! It simply meant that the Kingdom was "*near*" due to the presence of the King Himself and that the establishment of Christ's Kingdom on earth would be dependent on Israel's repentance and her acceptance of Christ as her King. If the Jews had repented, and had accepted Christ as their King, then, when Christ came the first time, His Kingdom would have been restored. [God, of course, knew what they would do and determined is eternal program around it] Christ's Kingdom was "*at hand*," and was rejected by the Jewish nation it will not be "*at hand*" again until the King returns to earth. It was after the Jewish nation rejected Christ as their King that He announced His eternal purpose in the building of His Church, when He said, in Matthew 16:16, "*I will build My church.*"

The last time Jesus preached, "*The Kingdom of heaven is at hand*," was in Matthew 10:7 an in the very next chapter, Matthew 11:20, it states, "***Then*** began He to upbraid the cities wherein most of His might works were done, because they repented not." As we read on in Mathew, we find that the focus of Jesus' message moves from announcing that His Kingdom was at hand to addressing the fact of "*the times of the Gentiles*" and His, subsequent future Second Coming.

See the study on "*The Kingdom Parables of Matthew 13*"

Even though God knew all along that Israel would reject their king, He, nonetheless, made them responsible for whether or not they would accept, or reject, Jesus Christ as their King, and, to give them every chance to do so. This present "*Church Age*," was unknown by the Old Testament writers. Paul writes that it was first made know to him by revelation from God – in Ephesians 3:1-10.

As one reads the Old Testament it is almost impossible to note the distinctions between Christ's first coming and His second coming. Now that we have the New Testament we can note these distinctions. This "*Church Age*," the time period Christ's first coming and His second coming, was a "*mystery*," veiled from the prophets of old. Some of the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled at Christ's first coming, while others are waiting His second coming to be fulfilled. There is no way one can tell, just from reading the Old Testament alone, that the prophecies concerning Christ's first and His second comings would not be fulfilled all at the same time – as a simultaneous event.

In Jesus' endeavor to teach that, when He came the first time, He did not, at that time, receive His Kingdom, but rather, went, "*into a far country, until the Father will give Him the Kingdom, and then He will return to earth to reign.*" He gives the parable of Luke 19:11-27, and Matthew 25:14-31 also tells us about Christ's Kingdom.

When will this take place? Matthew 25:31 says, "*When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory.*"

ISRAEL WILL POSSESS PALASTINE DURING THE MILLENNIUM

One of the earliest promises, as well as one of the greatest themes, in the Bible is that Israel is to possess the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession. Read Genesis 12:1-3, when God first promised Abraham this land.

We are reminded again, and again, throughout the Word of God, that Israel has been called, and selected, of God to be a blessing to the whole world. This land, the land of Israel, [Now known as "*Palestine*"] has been given to Israel, Abraham's seed to possess *forever*. Read Genesis 13:14-15; 17:7-8; Jeremiah 7:7; and 25:5.

Because Israel disobeyed the Lord, and forsook His Laws, they were to be first *dispersed* from their homeland, and then, at a later date, *regathered* back into their homeland. Read Deuteronomy 26:63-66.

The Old Testament is faithful in relating Israel's shortcoming because God does not fail to expose the sins of even her greatest heroes, however, in spite of Israel's dark past, while the world wallowed in the orgies of sin, and gross darkness, Israel still remained Jehovah's only champion. She was not perfect before God, and, God chastised many, many times, yet, in the dark hours of universal idolatry, Israel was the one that faced the lion's den and the fiery furnace because of her faith in God, Jehovah! In comparison to the depraved nations that surrounded her, Israel was a heavenly people!

When Israel disobeyed God, God kept His word, and she *was* dispersed! Read Ezekiel 36:17-19; Leviticus 26:3-36; and Luke 21:20-24.

History records the fulfillment of this prophecy when, in 70 A.D. Titus and the Roman hordes ruined the Temple, burned the city of Jerusalem, and, scattered its inhabitants.

Though Israel was dispersed, one of the greatest miracles in the history of mankind is that God has *miraculously preserved* her. Even though Israel has been broken into fragments and scattered to the four corners of the earth, nevertheless, for almost 2000 years, he has remained as homogeneous as any race on the face of the earth. Why? Because God is not through with Israel yet!

Romans, chapter 11, tells us that, at the present time, Israel is merely being, "*cast off for a period.*"

2 Peter 3:7-10, that tells us that this earth, as we now know it, will cease to be – because it will be purged by fire, however, it will not pass out of existence because God has promised that Abraham and his see will possess the land of Canaan throughout eternity.

The restoration of Israel to her own land is a truth that is emphasized in Hebrews 11:8-13 and Acts 7:5.

It was God's promise to Abraham and his descendants, that they would possess the land of Canaan that Nehemiah had in mind when he took the remnant of Israel to Jerusalem. It was also this promise that Daniel had in mind when, in Daniel, 9, spoke of God fulfilling His promise. And it was this same promise that the apostles had in mind when they asked Jesus, "*Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom of Israel?*"

Read the following promises of God to Israel: Leviticus 26:42; Deuteronomy 30:3; Isaiah 14:1; Jeremiah 16:14 and 23:7-8; and Amos 9:14-15.

There can be no doubt that this "*restoration of Israel*" is in full swing today! Don't minimize the importance of the momentous even of May 14, 1948. Ben Gurion said, of that day, "*Ezekiel has been fulfilled and the nation of Israel is hearing footsteps of Messiah.*"

In the last 2000 years, this event has been the most prophetically significant one because, after two millenniums of being buried among the world's nations, the "*Gentiles*" relinquished their power over the land to Israel, and the Jewish people, from all over the world, returned to their homeland. **Israel became a nation after almost 2000 years!**

God has not cast away His people, Israel, note the following Scriptures: Deuteronomy 30:1-6; Ezekiel 34:11-13 and 36:22-28.

Because God's Word states that the "*dry bones,*" of Ezekiel 37:11-14 represent "*the whole house of Israel,*" the truth of Israel's restoration is also declared in this passage.

When will this "*regathering of Israel into her own land*" take place? The answer is that, because Scripture repeatedly connects Israel's restoration with the conversion of the **entire** remnant of the nation of Israel, this restoration will occur at the beginning of the millennial reign of Christ on earth. – Read Isaiah 11:10-12; Jeremiah 23:3-6; Matthew 24:29-31; Deuteronomy 30:5-6; Ezekiel 34:11-13; 36:22-28 and 37:23; Romans 11:25-27 and Zechariah 12:10-10-14.

Three companies of people during the Millennium

1. THE RAPTURED SAINTS

The saints, after coming back with earth **with** Christ, will reign as kings and priests with him over the earth during this 1000 years period – Revelation 3:21; 1 Corinthians 6:2; 2 Timothy 2:12; 1 Peter 4:13; Revelation 2:26-27; Daniel 7:22, 27.

The saints will, of course, have their glorified bodies, like unto the resurrected body of Christ – Philippians 3:20-21

Some saints will reign over more than others because of their faithfulness while working for God during this present Church Age. Luke 19:11-18 records a parable that Jesus used to illustrate what God will do for those who work faithfully for Him when He (Christ) has received His Kingdom.

2. THE ISRAELITES

Because they will have been “*thoroughly purged*” as a result of the Tribulation and “*a remnant*” will be brought into the fullest possession, and most happy realization, of the promises made to Abraham, she will experience a state of indescribable blessedness that has never been known on the face of the earth. This state of blessedness will include:

- (A) Israel's land, cursed under God 's judgment as a result of her disobedience, will again become fruitful and be fully restored to them. – Deuteronomy 30:9; Isaiah 65:21-23; Ezekiel 34:27-30; 36:29-30; Joel 2:24-27; 3:18; Amos 9:13-15; Malachi 3:12 and Isaiah, chapter 35;
- (B) Israel will be exalted above all nations – Deuteronomy 28:13; Isaiah 11:14; 19:20; 25:10-12; 60:12-14; Jeremiah 30:16; Ezekiel 34:28; Micah 4:8; 5:7-8.
- (C) David will be Israel's “prince” and the disciples will be judges over Israel - Hosea 3:5; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Psalms, chapter 89; Isaiah 1:26; Isaiah 11:1-12; Jeremiah 30:9; Ezekiel 34:23-38; 37:24-25; Matthew 19:28; Luke 1:32-33; and 22:30.
- (D) Jerusalem will be rebuilt and it will be the capital of the world – Isaiah 2:2-4; 62:6-7; Zechariah 14:10-11 and Acts 15:16.
- (E) Israel, as she renews the sacrifices and feasts of the Old Testament (Ezekiel, chapters 40 through 48), will then understand the true meaning of those sacrifices and how they point to their messiah, Jesus Christ.
- (F) Israel will be God's means of spreading the gospel of the Kingdom during this period of 1000 years – Isaiah 2:2-4; 40:9; 52:7; 66:19; Zechariah 8:23

3. THE EARTH'S INHABITANTS

Despite the fact that the antichrist, and his armies, will be slain at the Day of the Lord, nonetheless, there will be many potholes left alive in the world who will enter into the millennium and who will populate the earth during these 100 years – Isaiah 2:2; 65:20; Micah 4:3; Zechariah 14:16-21; Revelation 11:15 and 20:1-10.

During this period of the Millennium, God will provide the same eternal salvation, that is, *redemption through Jesus Christ*, as He has provided in all previous ages. Some of the earth's inhabitants will accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. However, many others will not be genuinely converted, but will simply yield feigned obedience to Christ for the sake of temporal advantage that will be dependent upon their subjection to Christ during this time. These rebels who have not surrendered their *hearts* to Christ will be given a chance to rebel, *openly* at the end of the 1000 years. Satan will be loosed out of the pit to try the hearts of men. These rebels, under the leadership of Satan, will make battle against God Himself, Who will devour them with fire from heaven – Revelation 20:3-7.

The earth's inhabitants will live under the most favorable environment because:

1. Christ, and His saints, will rule over them, encouraging righteousness and punishing sin *immediately* upon its appearance.

2. Universal peace will prevail throughout the world, because it is a peace that is enforced by Christ, Who will rule with a rod of iron.- Isaiah 2:4; 45:8; Daniel 2:44; 7:4 and 22; Zephaniah 3:9; Revelation 19:15 and Psalm 2:9.
3. The earth's inhabitants will prosper according to their obedience to Christ. Now, in this day and age, it seems that it is the wicked who prosper and, often, the righteous who suffer.
4. Every inhabitant on earth will know the Lord
– Zechariah 8:22-23 and Isaiah 11:9
5. The earth's inhabitants will live to a great age
– Jeremiah 31:24; Isaiah 65:20-21; Zechariah 8:7 and Luke 1:33.
6. All the nations of the earth must send a representative to Jerusalem at least once a year – Zechariah 8:18-23 and 14:16-18

General conditions during the Millennium

1. With the curse removed, the earth will become like the Garden of Eden once again
– Isaiah, chapter 35; Isaiah 41:18-19; 51:3 and Micah 4:4
2. During this time, there will be plenty of trees, grass, cattle, sheep, gold, silver and other material blessings, according to: Isaiah 29:17; 30:23-24; 32:15; 35:1-7; 41:19; 49:9-10; 55:13; 60:5-17; 62:8-9; Jeremiah 31:27-28; Ezekiel 34:27; 36:25-35; Joel 3:18 and Amos 9:13.
3. The intensity of the light of the sun will be increased seven times, according to:
– Isaiah 30:26 and 60:18-22.
4. The ferocity of the beasts will be removed and all different species of animals will be at peace with one another, according to: - Isaiah 11:6-8 and 65:17-25.

If you, in your mind's eye, will paint the beauty of Eden restored on earth as Isaiah so depicts it, or, if you sing the high harmonies of the messianic Psalms, then, maybe, you will catch something of the excitement that should thrill us all as we realize the consummation of the prayer, "*Thy Kingdom come!*"

Remember that the Millennium age will not be the perfect age because sin will still be present in some measure – Isaiah 65:20

Also, the fact of the existence of sin is evidenced by the fact that, when "*Satan is loosed*" at the end of the 1000 years (for the purpose of proving what is in the hearts of men), there will be a multitude who will follow Satan in rebellion and will meet swift judgment/ - Revelation 20:7-9.

Scripture tells us that, during the Millennium period, Christ will rule with a rod of iron, in some cases, righteousness and justice will exist only because people are *compelled* to be so. – Revelation 19:13 and Psalm 72:12-14.

Remember, the Millennium age is **NOT** the eternal age because the eternal age will follow the period of Millennium.

After the Millennium Kingdom, the one thousand year of Christ's rule on earth, Scripture teaches that all things will be made **NEW** – Revelation 21:1-6.

However, there is a process of transition and change from the millennial Kingdom to the Eternal state of the "*New Heavens and the New Earth*," with its unveiled presence of the Eternal Godhead. A purging, cleaning, changing conflagration is described in 2 Peter 3:10-13.

Revelation 20:1-3 tells us that Satan will be "*loosed for a little season*," at the end of the Millennium.

Satan is allowed to fan the age-old flame of revolt at the end of the Millennium because of the fact that man "*earth dwellers*" have only feigned obedience to Jesus Christ. All "*earth's inhabitants*" have showed **outward conformity** due to the fact that Christ has ruled with a rod of iron. These natural beings, who entered the Millennium Kingdom in their natural state, having survived the Tribulation period and the Battle of Armageddon or, because Christ had ruled with a rod of iron, have not been tested to exercise the sinfulness within their hearts.

The excuses which men use for not accepting Christ now, during this present Church Age, will all be shown to be futile.

1. The excuses that men use, that they *do not have enough time* to be saved, however, during the Millennial period they will live to be well over one hundred years old – (Scripture teaches that, "*a child will die at one hundred years old*" (Isaiah 65:20) and yet, many will not truly turn to Christ.
2. The excuse that men use, that they can't live for Christ because *conditions around them are too evil*, will be proven false during the Millennium Kingdom because *conditions*, the *atmosphere* of the earth, due to the fact that the curse will be removed, the earth having been redeemed and will absolutely righteous and perfect during this period of time
3. The excuse that men use, that I can't live for Christ because "*the Devil makes me do wrong, if it were not for Satan's influence, I could live for God*," will be shown for the lie that it is, because Satan will be bound during this time and still men's evil nature will exist.
4. The excuse that men use, that, "*If God wants me to do right, He would make, force me against my will, to do it*" will also be shown to be false because during this Millennial Kingdom **all mankind** will be forced to serve Christ and, still many will revolt the moment they have an opportunity to do so.

Satan bound in the bottomless pit during this Millennial period, will be "*loosed for a little season*," in his last attempt to dethrone Jesus Christ – Revelation 20:1-3.

God's answer to these rebels defiance, this final display of man's total depravity will be that "*fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them*" (Revelation 20:9-10).

Why hasn't God just destroyed the Devil?

Eventually, of course, God will bring Satan to an end once and for all; however, Scripture teaches that God **now** allows Satan to exist for the purpose of testing mankind. God displays all His attributes – His justice – holiness – righteousness – long-suffering – mercy – and undying love toward mankind.

God will vindicate any claims, or accusations, of Satan for all of eternity. Satan's last rebellion is put down and, for the first time in man's history, God's righteousness will reign supreme. Satan will meet his final end as he is "cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10).

Both the Old and the New Testaments declare that a "**Day of judgment**" for all mankind will come. Hebrews 9:27 states, "*Man is destined to die once and after that to face Judgment.*"

Scripture, as we have seen, does not teach in a **general** judgment, that is, that all mankind will be judged at the same time. We have seen the Christians has been judged at the *Judgment Seat of Christ*, immediately following the rapture of the Church, we now come to the *Great White Throne Judgment*, the judgment of sinners.

Revelation 20:5-6, "*This is the First Resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) Blessed and holy are those who share in the First Resurrection. For them the Second Death holds no terrors, for they will be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years*" (verses 11-15, "*And I saw a great white throne and the one who sat upon it, from whose face the earth and sky fled away, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, great and small, standing before God; and The Books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to the things written in The Books, each according to the deeds he had done. The oceans surrendered the bodies buried in them; and the earth and the underworld gave up the dead in them. Each was judged according to his deeds. And Death and Hell were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the Second Death--the Lake of Fire. And if anyone's name was not found recorded in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire* (Living Bible).

Scripture teaches that "*nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare from the eyes of Him to whom we must give account*" (Hebrews 4:13).

If one has accepted the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, then Christ has already paid for that judgment, taking man's place and paying the penalty for all of men's sin. Man's guilty record has been blotted out, his name is written in the book of life. However, "*if anyone name was not found written in the book of life, he is thrown into the lake of fire*" (Revelation 20:15).

Before we take up the subject of *the final state of mankind* in this study, it is important that we understand what Scripture teaches concerning *the resurrection of the body*.

Rather than repeating that subject here. Look up the study "*The Resurrection of the Body*," that is a through, complete, study of that topic.

Assuming that you have looked up, and studied “*The Resurrection of the Dead*,” let us proceed to the event that takes place immediately after Christ’s Millennial reign of 1000 years here on earth – *The Great White Throne Judgment!*

This judgment, that Scripture calls, “*The Great White Throne Judgment*,” will follow immediately after the Second Resurrection, the resurrection of the wicked – Revelation 20:11-15.

Revelation 20:5-6 states that those who are judged at the Great White Throne Judgment are “the rest of the dead,” that is, those who had no part in the First Resurrection, who are resurrected “*after the thousand years are ended*” to stand before the Judgment Throne. They are called, “*the dead*” because they have never been made alive, *spiritually*, in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:12 states, “*God has given us [those who have been “born-again”] eternal life, and this life is in His Son.*”

1 Corinthians 15:22 states, “*For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive*” – [that is, all who accept God’s redemptive sacrifice, Christ Jesus, as their Savior]

The basis of this judgment of the resurrected, *unbelieving*, dead, is their rejection of the only Savior, God’s own Son, who loved them and died to save them from sin, death, and the judgment they now must face. The “books” are opened, these are the records of, not only all the deeds of the unregenerate (those who have died in their sins), but also, every evil thing they ever entertained in their hearts while they lived on earth.

1 Timothy 5:24 states, “*The sins of some men are obvious...[clearly seen, conspicuous] ...reaching the place of judgment ahead of them...[obviously bringing them to judgment]...the sins of others trail behind them...[in some cases, sin only comes out afterward].*”

Everyone who had died in sin, died without Christ Jesus as his Savior, will have a searching biography set down to his account, for “*Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to Whom we must give account*” (Hebrews 4:13).

What a sobering thought it is to realize that the unrepentant sinner will have to give an account before God for every sinful thought and motive he ever conceived – every sinful act he ever did – every sinful deed he has ever been guilty of. On the other hand, the repentant sinner will, because in his lifetime he accepted the salvation made possible by the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, have all of his sins blotted out of “*the books*” and his name written in “*the Book of Life*” – because, the Book of Life is God’s book of *names*, not *deeds*.

The book of Revelation, where we see God giving the Apostle John a vision of the gathering crescendo of Divine wrath, states, “*If anyone’s name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire*” (Revelation 20:15). Such is the eternal doom, and destiny of “*the lost*.” At the Great White Throne Judgment, God will sentence the sinner with Divine finality to an everlasting, eternal Hell (the “*lake of fire*”) as penalty for his unrepentant sins, sins that he never allowed to be cleansed by the blood of God’s Lamb, Jesus Christ.