

DISCOVER PROPHECY



The Bible's Millennium

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Perspectives On The Millennium

There are different views on what the millennium will bring. Depending on your view, the millennium will usher in a time of great jubilation or final ending. Aside from the biblical view of the millennium, there are essentially three other views:

The Millennium Countdown. This view believes that the new millennium will usher in the age of Aquarius. This perspective assumes that there will be an opening of the minds and character of the world's people to peace and happiness. Related to this view is the harmonic convergence; the believing that everything will come into a work of harmony. Also related to this view is the idea that all of mankind will become gods.

The Christian Dominionists. This view, most widely accepted by the Christian population, is that the world will become a one world government. This will be achieved by Christians taking office and legislating morality.

The Rapture. Finally, there is the idea that there will come about a secret rapture (or taking away) of the righteous. When that occurs, all that will be left are the unrighteous and the Jews. The Jews will then once again reclaim their position of favor with God and prepare the world for the new millennium of peace.

Though each of these views sounds interesting and exciting, none of them are based in scripture. Truthfully, the year 2000 and the entering into a new millennium, has nothing to do with the Bible's millennium. The Bible instead, reveals the events that are surrounding the second coming of Jesus Christ. We've already learned that there is no foretelling of the exact timing of the second coming of Jesus Christ. The Bible does tell us what the millennium will be like.

Let's examine the scriptures for ourselves on this topic and learn more about the Bible's millennium and the events that surround it.

The Second Coming

What is the second coming going to be like? "For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and will recompense every man according to his deeds" Matthew 16:27. To begin with, when Jesus Christ returns, we see that the

righteous will receive their reward and the unrighteous will be destroyed. This event can not be a secret rapture because all will see it coming. "For just as lightning comes from the east, and flashes even to the west, so shall the coming of the Son of man be" Matthew 24:27. As lightning flashes, which can't be avoided, so Jesus will come. Every eye will see and know of His coming. It will be NO secret!

Righteous Dead Resurrected

The millennium begins at the second coming of Jesus Christ. Note all of the things that occur at the second coming of Jesus Christ (or the beginning of the Bible's millennium).

"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first" 1 Thessalonians 4:16. When Jesus comes, He will raise those who are asleep in the graves to eternal life. "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; those who did good deeds to resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment" John 5:28,29. The righteous dead are resurrected.

Righteous Living Ascend

"Behold, I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed" 1 Corinthians 15:51,52.

Jesus comes in the glory of His Father with His angels and He resurrected the righteous dead from sleep in the graves. But He does more at that moment too. "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" 1 Thessalonians 4:17. When Jesus comes He will resurrect the dead who sleep in the grave. We who are alive will join them. Notice where we meet them. We meet them in the air! Not at a church. Not in the field. Not in another country. Not on TV. When Jesus comes, all will know it. We will meet Jesus in the air with those who have risen from the dead.

Wicked Living Slain

When Jesus comes everyone will see Him. He will come audibly, visibly and some dramatic events will occur. The righteous dead will arise from the dead. The righteous living will ascend and meet them in the air. What about the wicked living? What does the Bible say will happen to those who are wicked at the second coming of Jesus Christ?

“Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the lamb,” the unrighteous cry at His coming, “for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?” Revelation 6:16,17. The unrighteous will not be able to stand in the sight of Jesus and will cry out to be destroyed. They are destroyed at His coming. “And then the lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming” 2 Thessalonians 2:8. “When the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus” 2 Thessalonians 1:8.

When Jesus comes, the unrighteous (those who chose not to take advantage of free salvation by His grace), because they chose to live a life of wickedness, will be destroyed by the appearing of a holy Jesus Christ. Because their lives are so identified with sin and because sin can not stand the presence of Jesus Christ, these people will be destroyed by the presence of Jesus.

Satan Bound

“And those slain by the Lord on that day shall be from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, gathered, or buried; they shall be like dung on the face of the earth” Jeremiah 25:33.

The righteous dead are resurrected. The righteous living ascend to the air to go to heaven with Jesus. The unrighteous living die. The unrighteous dead stay in their graves. Who else is here on this earth? The devil, Satan or Lucifer. What happens to him?

“And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years” Revelation 20:1,2. At the second coming of Jesus Christ, Satan will be held captive in the great abyss. “And threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a

short time” Revelation 20:3.

According to the Bible, the devil will be bound in the abyss. What is the abyss? The word abyss comes from the Greek word, “Abussos” meaning without form and void (see Genesis 1:2). This was the condition of the earth during the time before creation and will be the condition of the earth again after the second coming of Jesus Christ. Because there are no humans alive and the earth has seen mass destruction, this earth will be the prison for Satan.

The chains that bind him are the chains of circumstance. Satan then will be bound to this earth by chains of circumstance. Because there are no humans here (the wicked dead, the righteous in heaven) Satan will be bound to this earth for a period of 1000 years.

That is where we come up with the Bible’s Millennium. Millennium as a word, is not found in the Bible but comes from the words, “mille” meaning 1000 and “annus” or years. Satan will be bound to this earth, with no one to tempt or hurt, for the duration of the millennium. Later after the millennium (or 1000 years), Satan will be released from his prison once again, but only for a short time.

“I looked on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked to the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were pulled down before the Lord, before His fierce anger” Jeremiah 4:23-26.

1000 Years Judging In Heaven

What happens to the righteous during the 1000 years? We know the unrighteous are dead and Satan bound, but what will we be doing?

“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection, over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years” Revelation 20:6. Those who have a part of the first resurrection are those who were raised from the dead at the second coming of Jesus Christ. These people will be with Jesus in Heaven during the millennium. We will not be on the earth, it is left empty for Satan to ponder. We will be in heaven as priests of God and Christ.

What need will there be of priests in heaven once we’ve received salvation? What is a priest? A priest is one who judges! We will be judging! “Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world! And if

the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts? Do you not know that we shall judge angels?" 1 Corinthians 6:2,3. Yes, we shall be judges in heaven; judges in the courts of heaven. "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them" Revelation 20:4.

We won't be judging who is saved and who isn't. That has already been decided by God. (But this is the part that I like the most of the character of God!) We will have the opportunity to review the books of heaven and discover why someone is or isn't in heaven.

Let me illustrate. Say a friend or family member wasn't there in heaven with you. You could trust God and assume that he's not there for a good reason (and most will) but we will be able to review the books during that millennium for ourselves and discover why some are and some aren't there. We will review heaven's records and see that God is right; that God is just!

We will have 1000 years to discover for ourselves that God is who He claimed to be: a righteous, just and holy God. All of the saved will join in glad tidings of praise to God for His righteousness. "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments" Revelation 16:7.

Satan Released

After dwelling in heaven with Christ and God for the thousand years and reviewing heavens records of salvation, we will all have come to the conclusion that God was a just and righteous God. We, as heaven's redeemed, will know why all of the wicked will be lost and ultimately destroyed, before God executes final judgment upon all of them, including Satan. So after the thousand years were over, Satan was released from his prison. If his prison was circumstantial (not being able to tempt or control anyone) how could those circumstances change? For the lost to be resurrected.

"And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth" Revelation 20:7,8. "The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed" Revelation 20:5. So the unrighteous are resurrected from the grave and Satan once again will go out to deceive the people.

The New Jerusalem

How is it that Satan is going to deceive the wicked? What is He going to convince them to do?

"And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming

down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband" Revelation 21:2. For the 1000 years, we have been living in the holy city in heaven. Now the city comes down to the earth, in the presence of the unrighteous. "And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them'" Revelation 21:3.

At the conclusion of the 1000 years, the Bible says that Satan is released from his prison, the second resurrection (the wicked resurrected), and New Jerusalem comes to earth with us in it.

But Satan now deceives the people by convincing the wicked to try an attempt to take over the city of God. "And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city" Revelation 20:9.

There we are in the city, safe in the presence of Jesus. We have spent 1000 years with Him in heaven and now we come to the earth. We see the unrighteous, the people we know had a chance at salvation, but chose otherwise, being led by Satan once again. This time, they are completely in the control of the devil. We see them now as they really were. We know that it is best that they are destroyed. The unrighteous and Satan both!

Wicked Ultimately Destroyed

"And fire came down from heaven and devoured them" Revelation 20:9. At that moment, God executes judgment upon the unrighteous and Satan with his angels. "And death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" Revelation 20:14,15.

It is then, after the millennium that final judgment will be executed on the unjust. "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment" 2 Peter 2:9. The day of judgment has finally come.

As the fire burns the wicked and destroys them, it consumes all sin. Satan, his angels, the wicked and anything else associated with sin is ultimately destroyed by the fire. The fire proves to be a cleansing agent that rids this horrible world once and for all of all sin, leaving no trace of the deadly disease to ever raise it's ugly face again.

Now as the earth burns out its dreadful fire, God then recreates the earth and makes it new.

Everything New

“But according to His promise we are looking for a new heavens and a new earth; in which righteousness dwells” 2 Peter 3:13.

The redeemed then can put sin in the past and throughout eternity never again see it or its horrible effects. God remakes everything new and better than we have ever seen “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away” Revelation 21:1.

No more pain, no more heartache, no more death or separation, no more disease. Just unreserved happiness! The entire universe beating in a harmonious heartbeat of love and joy!

Don't you look forward to that day? I do too.

