

PURPOSE OF STUDY: To show that the millennium commences with the second coming of Jesus; it is a period of judicial preparatory to both the destruction of the wicked and the meek inheriting the earth.

THE TEXTS:

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| 1. 2TH 1:7-9, 2:8 | 7. PS 149:5-9 |
| 2. REV 19:17-21 | 8. REV 15:2-4 |
| 3. REV 20:1-3 (MK 5:3) | 9. REV 20:7-9 (21:9-11) |
| 4. GE 1:2 (JR 4:23) | 10. REV 20:9 |
| 5. REV 20:5-6 (JN 5:28-9) | 11. 2PE 3:13-14 |
| 6. REV 20:4 (1CO 6:2-3) | 12. REV 20:15 |

THE STUDY:

- 1. What happens to the wicked at the coming of Jesus? 2TH 1:7-9, 2:8**
In our last study we learned that when Jesus comes again, there will be a class of people on the earth who will look upon His coming with dread because they have put off their preparation until it was too late; they will be slain by the brightness of His coming.
- 2. What does the Bible say will happen to their dead bodies? REV 19:17-21**
The birds will be filled with their flesh. Whether figurative or literal, the simple point is that there will be no living person left to bury them. Their dead carcasses will lie on the ground.
- 3. Where will Satan and his angels be during this time? REV 20:1-3 (MK 5:3)**
The devil will be “chained up” and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. This period of time is often referred to as the “millennium”, which simply means “thousand years”. Of course, we know the devil cannot be physically chained. The Bible speaks of a demoniac man who they tried to chain, but could not; he simply broke free. The devil will be chained due to the circumstances of having no one to tempt, confined in the “bottomless pit” for a thousand years.
- 4. What is the “bottomless pit” that the devil is cast into? GE 1:2 (JE 4:23)**
“Darkness was on the face of the deep.” In the Greek version of the OT called the Septuagint (sep-too-uh-jint), the Bible uses the same Greek word for “deep” in Genesis 1:2 (“abussos”) as it does for the phrase “bottomless pit” in Revelation 20:1. In other words, the same word to describe the earth when it was “without form and void” in Genesis is the word translated “bottomless pit” in Revelation 20:1. In Jeremiah 4:23 the Bible actually describes the earth after the second coming of Jesus as “without form and void.” Clearly, the “bottomless pit” the devil is “chained” to it this earth in the state of upheaval it is left in after the coming of Christ.
- 5. What events mark the beginning and end of the thousand years? REV 20:5-6 (JN 5:28-9)**
The Bible says there will be a resurrection of the righteous and a resurrection of the wicked; a “resurrection of life” and a “resurrection of condemnation” (Jn. 5:28-29), and these two resurrections will be one thousand years apart. This means that when the righteous are resurrected at the coming of Jesus and go to heaven with Him, the wicked will remain dead until the end of the thousand years; therefore the devil will have no one to tempt or torment during this time, and will be confined to this earth to meditate on the results of his rebellion.

6. What will God's people do during this thousand years? REV 20:4 (1CO 6:2-3)

The Bible says we will reign with Christ if faithful, and we will take part in a work of judgment. We will even judge angels. This refers to the angels who have sinned with Lucifer, including Lucifer himself.

7. Will the saints be deciding who is saved and who is lost? PS 149:5-9

Not at all. The Bible says the saints will execute "the written judgment." We already know from previous studies on the judgment that every case has been decided. It appears that God wants His people to have a thorough understanding of why certain decisions have been made. It has been said that there will be three surprises when we get to heaven. First, that we are there! Second, that people are there who we were sure would never be there! And third, that people will not be there who we were sure would be! Imagine if some of our loved ones don't make it while some of our enemies do. God wants us to have confidence in His judgments.

8. What is the outcome of the saints reviewing the judgments of God? REV 15:2-4

The saints will declare that God's judgments are true and just. All the defamation of character that Satan has placed upon God will be cleared up, and every question that has ever been about why God has done what He has done, or allowed what He has allowed, will be answered. God will be vindicated in the eyes of the universe.

9. What is Satan's strategy at the end of the thousand years? REV 20:7-9 (21:9-11)

The rest of the dead are raised to life, and Satan is consequently released from his prison because he has people to deceive again. He leads the wicked who have been raised to life in a revolt against the holy city, the New Jerusalem, which has now come down to rest on the surface of the earth (Rev. 21:9-11). Note that none of the wicked take the opportunity to repent, merely demonstrating their total impenitence and God's justice in not saving them.

10. How does God prevent Satan's overthrow of the Holy City? REV 20:9

Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

11. What will God do after the destruction of the wicked? 2PE 3:13-14

God promises to make a "new heavens and a new earth" where righteousness dwells. We are admonished to be diligent to be found without spot or blemish, that we may inherit that "new earth".

12. Who will be saved from the second death? REV 20:15

Everyone whose name is written in the Book of Life.

APPEAL:

The destruction of the wicked will be final, but not one person needs to experience it. God has made full provision for all humanity through the sacrifice of His Son. "He who has the Son has life." (1 Jn. 5:12). Is your name written in the Book of Life?