

# Millennial Kingdom

Revelation 20:1-15

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## Review: Rev 19, Return of the King

The blessing in this revelation of Jesus returning to earth:

- That He returns to rule!
- Justice will be done
- We will return with Him to rule with Him.
- God will fulfill His promises to the church

## Revelation 20:1-3 – Satan Bound 1,000 Years

*Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*

## v1-2 – What happened to Satan when Jesus returns?

An angel from heaven locked him up in the bottomless pit.

## Is Satan the only fallen angel locked up in the bottomless pit when Jesus returns?

- No, all of the fallen angels will be. While only Satan is mentioned here, his fate is representative of all the fallen angels because he is their leader. Satan is the most powerful of the fallen angels and that power is augmented by the other fallen spirit beings who follow him.
- The fallen angels certainly knew about the abyss and dreaded the day when they would be incarcerated there... see the story of Jesus healing a man possessed by many demons called "Legion" (Luke 8:26-31).

## Why is Satan referred to as a dragon?

It is symbolic of a terrible and destructive creature that was loathed by humankind.

## Why was Satan only locked up for 1,000 years?

The abyss was only a temporary lock-up for bad angels. The 1,000 years corresponds to the Millennial Kingdom when most of the curse is removed and fallen angels will not be allowed to oppress mankind. The Millennial Kingdom will be as perfect an environment for mortal people as possible with Jesus Christ ruling on earth.

## v3 – What would fallen angels do if they were not looked up during the Millennial Kingdom?

They would deceive the nations.

## Are fallen angels deceiving the nations today?

Yes, there are numerous deceptions that have caused the nations to make bad decisions and will only get worse until Jesus returns to restore truth.

## What are some things that nations are deceived about today that demons are no-doubt behind?

- "The cosmos is all there is, was, and ever will be."
- Life exists because of evolution.
- Mankind's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are destroying the earth
- Global collaboration will solve man's problems
- Socialism is the fairest economic system
- Religious faith is an opiate of the masses, a placebo
- There is no hell
- If there is eternal life, all people have it
- People are bad because of their environment (people are born good)

## Revelation 20:4-6 – Saints Reign with Christ

*<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*

## v4 – Who are on the thrones John saw?

Those who are ruling with Christ... recall the song of the church in heaven:

Revelation 5:9-10 – *"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

### **What will we be judging?**

- As representatives of the Lord's Millennial Kingdom government, we will each have an area of responsibility that we will be the proxy judge over.
- See the Parables of the Talents & Minas
- I also think we will have some role to play in mopping up the fallen angels that may be at large at least in the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom...  
1 Corinthians 6:3 – *Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*

### **Who else will be ruling with Christ?**

The martyred Tribulation saints in their resurrected bodies.

### **Why would the government of the Antichrist behead the followers of Jesus during the Tribulation?**

It is their preferred method of execution for enemies of the state and perhaps there is a strong Islamic influence in the government of the Antichrist.

### **v5 – Who are “the rest of the dead”?**

Those who died without knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

### **When will “the rest of the dead” be resurrected?**

After the Millennial Kingdom is over at the beginning of the Eternal State.

John 5:28-29 – *Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.*

### **What is the “first resurrection”?**

All who trusted in God for their salvation... (1) the church, (2) the Old Testament saints, and (3) the saints who died during the Tribulation.

### **v6 – What is the blessing of the first resurrection?**

These are the ones who will spend eternity with the Lord. All in the second resurrection will spend eternity separated from the Lord in the lake of fire (hell).

### **How is it that all in the first resurrection will be holy?**

- Our sanctification will be realized in a resurrected soul that can no longer sin.
- We will be set apart for a purpose of God

### **What is the second death?**

It is spiritual death... being confined to the Lake of fire:  
Revelation 20:14 – *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

### **How is it the second death has no power over those in the first resurrection?**

The righteousness of Christ covers us... His death on the cross paid the penalty of our sin debt.

### **How is it that those in the first resurrection will be priests?**

There will be mortal people during the Millennial Kingdom who need to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and also grow in Christ. We will represent God to them and them to God.

### **How long will those in the first resurrection reign with Christ?**

A thousand years during the Millennial Kingdom.

### **What happens after the Millennial Kingdom is over and there are no more mortal people on earth, are we done reigning with Christ?**

No, the reigning during the Millennial Kingdom foreshadows the Eternal State...

Revelation 1:6 – *To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

There may no longer be mortal people to minister to but we'll have each other and a whole universe to be stewards over. And who is to say that God is done creating?

Isaiah 9:7 – *Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end*

### **Revelation 20:7-10 – Satanic Rebellion Crushed**

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### **v7-8 – What happens at the end of the Millennial Kingdom?**

Satan is released to again deceive the nations.

### **What is the role of Gog and Magog?**

The spirit of Antichrist that was around during the Tribulation will be rekindled for the final collective rebellion of mankind.

**How many people will be involved in this final rebellion against Jesus?**

*whose number is as the sand of the sea – too many to count. Most of the population of the planet will rebel...*

*Matthew 7:13-14 – Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*

*<sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

**v9 – What will the Millennial rebels do?**

*surrounded the camp of the saints – Surrounded Jerusalem where the Lord rules (the beloved city)*

**How will God respond to this rebellion?**

He smote the rebels; destroyed them by fire from heaven.

**v10 – What became of Satan?**

*He was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are.*

**Will that be the end of Satan?**

Pretty much... the lake of fire is where he *will be tormented day and night forever and ever*

**Is the eternal torment of the lake of fire to be taken literally or figuratively?**

There is no reason to take this figuratively. If we take the promise of eternal life literally, we need to also take the threat of eternal torment literally.

**Revelation 20:11-15 – Great White Throne Judgment**

*<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

**v11 – What happens at the great white throne?**

The final judgment of mankind by God

**What does it mean the *face the earth and the heaven fled away from the One who sat on the throne*?**

This will be the re-creation of heaven and earth for the Eternal State

*2 Peter 3:10 – the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.*

**v12 – Who are the dead who stand before the great white throne?**

The spiritually dead who did not trust in God provision for eternal life

**What are these books used during the judgment of the great white throne?**

The Book of Life which as written in it all who are saved; none of the spiritually dead will be found in it.

The other books record the works of those being judged.

**What does it mean that the dead will be judged on the basis of their works?**

They do not have Christ to represent them so they have to stand on their works.

**How will that work out for them?**

Pretty bad. No one is perfect and that is God's standard for salvation by works.

*Matthew 5:48 – Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

*Romans 3:23 – all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

**v12 – Where are the dead taken from?**

The sea, Death and Hades... people have died at sea and the atoms of decomposed bodies have made it to the sea. The souls are in Hades, the place of the dead. The point is that no one will be overlooked by the resurrection of the dead.

**What criteria will be used to judge those in the second resurrection?**

They will be judged on the basis of their works.

**v14-15 – What is the second death?**

Being cast into the lake of fire... this is permanent, eternal separation from God (hell).

**Who is cast into the lake of fire?**

Those not found in the Book of Life who are judged on the basis of their works at the Great White Throne.

### **Why would a loving God send people in His image to eternal torment in hell?**

God is not sending them there so much as they are sending themselves there by their rejecting a relationship with their Creator...

*John 3:18 – He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

God loves us so much that He made us in His image which includes a free will so that we may experience the depth of love that is only possible if we are free to accept or reject our relationship with Him.

- God is remaining true to the gift of a free will in honoring the choice that people made in rejecting Him by separating them from Him in eternity.
- The worst part of hell will be for people made to have an eternal relationship with their Creator to be separated from Him for eternity.
- This mortal life is a test to see who will accept or reject a relationship with their Creator. And for those who accept, to what extent they merit being involved in the Lord's work in eternity (rewards).

### **What is the comfort in this revelation of the Great White Throne judgment?**

In knowing that as a follower of Christ, we have Jesus Christ as our advocate that that we will not have to go before the Great White Throne.

*1 John 2:1 – My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*