

REVELATION 20 "MILLENNIUM"

Sandy Adams gives a great summary of Chapter 19...

When the marriage feast is over a feast of flesh will be served up. The Prince of Peace is no pacifist! In Revelation 19 He and His bride go to war. Here's the climatic conclusion of the galactic battle between God and Satan.

THERE'S NO DONKEY RIDE THIS TIME...VERSE 11 HAS HIM MOUNTED ON A WHITE STEED.

The war winds up for its grand finale in the valley of Megiddo. Antichrist and his allies appear a formidable force, stretched across the floor of the theater - until heaven opens and God's gladiator appears. It's been a long time since this wicked world has seen the Lamb. *What a surprise to hear Him roar like a lion.* He came the first time to save. He comes the second time to slaughter.

He's "Faithful and True". His eyes are like a flame of fire. On His head sits many crowns. His robe is dipped in blood. "His name is called The Word of God".

According to verse 15 He comes to strike the nations and rule them with a rod of iron.

He's bringing to earth the "fierceness and wrath of Almighty God".

Verse 16 climaxes John's description. He says of Jesus, "He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

In verse 17 an angel calls for the scavengers to feast on the corpses of the Antichrist's army. The flesh of kings and captains becomes food for vultures.

THE BATTLE TO END ALL BATTLES — THE BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON — IS NOT SUCH A BIG DEAL AFTER ALL.

The Antichrist and False Prophet are captured and tossed into the lake of fire.

The war between God and Satan is finally over! Blood has been shed. Lives lost. The Earth is in ruins and in need of restoration, but this is what it took...

Jesus now not only owns the Earth, He has possession. He can restore what sin has damaged. Chapter 19 closes with planet Earth “**UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT**”. **PRAY**

The glory of God will cover the dry lands of this earth like the waters cover the sea when Christ reigns with his resurrected followers in the millennium.

Let's join together as we stand and read Revelation chapter **20** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **2** He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; **3** 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. **The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years** **4** 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. **5** But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. **6** 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. **Satanic Rebellion Crushed** **7** Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **8** 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. **9** 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. **10** 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. **The Great White Throne Judgment** **11** 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. **12** 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. **13** 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. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **15** And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

In the “Lord’s prayer” or as I like to say “the disciple’s prayer” Jesus taught us to pray, **“Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as it is in heaven.”** In Revelation 20 this prayer is finally answered. God’s kingdom does come. His will prevails on earth as it always has in heaven. ***And note- John records the duration of God’s kingdom on the earth*** – it will last a period of 1000 years - or in the **Latin**, it’s the translation of the word **“*millennium*”**.

Revelation 20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **2** He laid hold of the dragon, **(grabbed the tiger by the tail)** that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; Hughes points out, **“After long years and bitter conflicts across two Testaments and all of church history, the enemy of God and his people are finally seized. And he cannot break the angel’s hold. Having seized him, we read at the end of 20:2 that the angel “bound him for a thousand years.” This is the first of six references to this thousand-year period, all in this chapter (vv. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).”**

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if there were no Tempter

3 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.

DECEIVER Seiss “Satan continues to effectively deceive. “People not only make falsehoods, speak falsehoods, print falsehoods, and believe falsehoods; but they eat them, and drink them, and wear them, and act them, and live them, and make them one of the great elements of their being.” But after these things he must be released for a little while. **Satan tried to imprison Jesus in a tomb, but couldn’t. Here, God has no problem restraining Satan, and this incarceration is not for punishment, but restraint. By implication, his demonic hordes are also imprisoned. The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years** **4** And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and

judgment was committed to them. Then / saw the souls of those who had been beheaded **Beheaded is actually broader word than it seems; the ancient Greek word really means executed** 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.

After great destruction, the Earth will enjoy a golden age! For 1000 years, or a millennium, the Earth will be restored to its original beauty.

Adam and Eve began in a garden called "Eden". The Earth will end up a garden. Romans 8:22-23 tells us all creation groans awaiting its redemption. When Jesus returns, the curse will be lifted and the planet Earth will be restored.

Revelation 20 provides only the duration of Jesus' Millennial Kingdom - but there are a host of Old Testament prophecies that provide us other details - the quality of life, changes in the earth's ecosystem - the lifestyle of folks in the Kingdom...

Remember- one of the plagues in the Tribulation is the poisoning of the waters. Ezekiel 47:8-9 describe how they'll be healed and rejuvenated...

Isaiah 30:23-26 says there'll be longer periods of sunshine to revitalize the planet's vegetation.

Isaiah 11:6 describes how God will remove the hostility between the animals, "The Lion will lay down with the lamb..."

Isaiah 11:8 tells us God will remove the natural hostility between animals and man, "The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den."

Isaiah 35:5-6, there'll be no birth defects.

Isaiah 65:20 comments on life -spans - a man 100 years old will be considered a child.

The best benefit of living in the Kingdom Age will be the access a person will have to Jesus. Isaiah 2:2-4 says people will flow to Jerusalem and Jesus will teach them His ways. Verse 4, "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Under Jesus' influence the world will finally know peace.

And the peace won't just be nationally, but locally. In the Millennium, there'll be **no dead bolts or security systems**. There'll be no crime. For one reason, there'll be no Satan. He'll be chained in the bottomless pit for 1000 years. The other reason is that **Jesus won't tolerate it** - He'll enforce righteousness, and punish evil swiftly.

In verse 4 John sees the people, who during the Tribulation, refused to worship the beast and rejected his mark – and as a result were beheaded for their faith in Jesus. He tells us, "they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years." We also will reign with Christ during the Kingdom age.

2 Timothy 2:12, Luke 19:17, and 1 Corinthians 6:2 are just a few of the verses that teach us the raptured Church will return to earth to rule with Jesus. Both the raptured saints and the Tribulation saints will help administer God's Kingdom.

During the Kingdom Age a strange mix of people will occupy the planet. Mortal men live alongside resurrected believers. The humans who survive the Great Tribulation will repopulate the earth. Their offspring will retain a sin nature, and even without the devil's influence, from time to time they will need to be corrected.

The resurrected saints will have glorified bodies and redeemed spirits. We'll have the supernatural capabilities Jesus had after His resurrection. We won't be confined materially and spatially. We'll pass through walls. We'll travel at the speed of desire. Want to go to Hawaii? Just think it and you're there!

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. **6** 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. **We were created to enjoy God as King in God's land in free obedience to God's law. Uncontaminated. UNDEFILED. Unsullied. No devil prowling about like a roaring lion. Freedom. JOY. Righteousness.**

Is this what you think of when you think of full JOY? **Oh how we need to soak ourselves in the Bible so that the Bible will define pleasure for us PLEASURE IS NOT SIN.** Pleasure is walking with God in unconstrained obedience to him.

Satanic Rebellion Crushed 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison **This is not an escape but a release. The statement is another divine passive, and we have seen so many of these in Revelation.**

8 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.

Revelation 20:3 closes on an ominous note. When he spoke of Satan's imprisonment John added, "But after these things he must be released for a little while." Verse 8 tells us why - he "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."

After 1000 years in hell Satan still lies and stirs up rebellion. Understand that, during the millennium, as before Noah's flood, people will live long ages - up to 1000 years. This will allow even the skeleton crew of survivors who make it through the judgment of the Great Tribulation to repopulate the earth. And among the survivors and their descendants Satan will manage to stir up a sizable rebellion. He gathers together a group of people to fight against God.

If Jesus has reigned so wonderfully for a thousand years, then why will the earth rebel? They will do it, and God will allow it, as a final demonstration of man's rebellion and depravity. **Outward conformity**

to Jesus' rule will be required during His reign, but seemingly, an inward embrace of His Lordship will still be up to the individual.

And why does God allow this to happen? There's an important reason... The Bible teaches that man sins because he's a sinner - our problem lies deeper than our behavior. Our very nature is corrupt. Whereas modern psychology denies this truth - it blames our deviance on a deficient environment. In other words, men and women resort to evil because they lack resources, or education, or culture.

But here mankind lives in a perfect, flawless environment for a thousand years. Jesus has taken care of their every need. They've had the best in provision and education and civilization - yet, when given the choice, man chooses to rebel! It'll silence the excuses in hell forever... "If I had a better education... or two parents... or wasn't on welfare... or didn't grow up in the projects..." **"Not so!"**

HOSTE REAFFIRMS, "IT WILL BE PROVED ONCE MORE THAT MAN, WHATEVER HIS ADVANTAGES AND ENVIRONMENT, APART FROM THE GRACE OF GOD AND NEW BIRTH, REMAINS AT HEART ONLY EVIL AND AT ENMITY WITH GOD."

What happens at the end of these 1000 years is once - and-for-all proof - at the heart of man's problem is the problem in his heart! We're rebels from birth, and that's why to be a part of God's Kingdom, Jesus said, we must be born again!

Of course, Jesus puts down this final insurrection in short order. When the rebels surround Jerusalem, fire comes down out of heaven and devours them.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Guzik points out, "We don't know if the saints referred to here are glorified saints who reign with Jesus, or earth-inhabitants who come to faith in Jesus during the Millennium. Either way, the strategy of this vast Satanic army is clear: to destroy God's people, and the "headquarters" or "capital city" of His administration, Jerusalem (the beloved city)."

There will probably be more people in this period than any other due to the perfect environment: no disease or lack of anything, etc.

And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. **NO FIGHT OR BATTLE HERE... JUST VAPORIZED. INDIANA JONES, PULLS OUT GUN AND SHOOTS THE GUY.** **10** The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. **After 1000 years, the “terrible twosome” is still there** And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

20:10 reveals the devil’s final destination, “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...” **Is this really eternal punishment? Yes it is; the words mean exactly what they appear to mean.** Walvoord "There would be no way possible in the Greek language to state more emphatically the everlasting punishment of the lost than here in mentioning both day and night and the expression 'forever and ever,' literally 'to the ages of ages.'"

The Greek word translated “lake of fire”, or “Gehenna”, is different than the word “Hades”. Hades was the holding tank for the unbelieving dead at the center of the earth. The lake of fire is the final destination of the rebellious.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 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.

In 20:11 John sees the end of the world as we know it. He saw “the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.” After the Kingdom age, God dispenses with the old order, and ushers in the new. 2 Peter 3:10 describes the meltdown of the universe, “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.” As Sandy Adams reminds us, “One day it’s all going to burn! Don’t put your trust in the combustibles – or live for the flammables... Only the blessings of Jesus are all heat-resistant.”

JUDGMENT AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

John mentions the atomic incineration that extinguishes all matter, but what is more vital to him is the [great, white throne that he sees in heaven...](#) Look at verse 12 with me, 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.

This is the Great White Throne of Judgment... one of four biblical judgments...

- 1. The first judgment was at the cross. There sin was judged in the body of Jesus. He got what I deserved. Trust in Jesus and your sin has already been judged.**
- 2. The second judgment is the judgment seat of Christ – or the bema-seat in 1 Corinthians 3. Here the issue is not sin, but service. [Our motivation will be tested](#). Works done out of love will be rewarded. Things done selfishly will be burned up.**
- 3. The third judgment occurs in the Valley of Jehoshaphat at the return of Jesus. Joel 3 and Matthew 25 describe how Jesus separates the sheep from the goats. The people who are alive at the end of the age - who survive the Great Tribulation - will be separated - the sheep or the righteous, and the goats or the unrighteous.**
- 4. And the fourth judgment occurs here – the Great White Throne of Judgment. This is not for believers in Jesus. In Revelation 4 the believers were gathered around a throne, surrounded by a rainbow – a symbol of God’s faithfulness. Four living creatures – each representing different elements of the work of Jesus – were also present. Numerous features of that throne speak of God’s mercy and grace.**

[But not here!](#) All we have here is a stark, white throne - representing God’s holiness. Remember, if you’re in Christ your sin was judged at the cross. But notice in verse 12, people here are [“judged according to their works”](#).

Dearest brothers and sisters, the last thing I ever want to do is to stand before God on the merit of my own works. The Bible says, my righteousness is like filthy rags. If I'm judged according to my works then I'm in trouble! I'm resting - not in my work - but in the work of Jesus!

As one commentator notes, "This is not a *trial*, trying to determine what the facts are. The facts are in; here is the sentencing of someone already condemned. "Their standing posture means that they are now about to be sentenced."

13 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. **14** Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Satan has already been thrown into the lake of fire in 20:10. In 1 Corinthians 15:26, "The last enemy to be destroyed is death." This fits with what we now see in 20:14: "Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire."

THE LAST ECHOES OF SIN ARE NOW ELIMINATED.

Hades and its inhabitants are thrown into the lake of fire. "HADES" was the holding tank. "GEHENNA" is the final punishment. We're told, "This is the second death."

Physical death is the first death, but the lake of fire - eternal damnation - is the second death.

Remember dearest loved of God, "Born once, die twice; but born twice, die only once." You need to be born again.

15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.