

The Spiritual Realm

Lesson 21: The Millennial Reign of Christ

Revelation 20:1-3 *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.*

Satan must be bound for the kingdom to come

Some in the church today teach that Satan is already bound — that this binding happened at the cross or at Pentecost.

This binding is described in the most emphatic terms possible:

He is seized, bound with a great chain, thrown into the Abyss, is locked and sealed over him. He is confined so that he cannot deceive the nations anymore - *until the 1,000 years is over*

1 Peter 5:8 *Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*

Ephesians 6:12 *we wrestle against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

The purpose of the binding "to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore."

Isaiah 11:6-9 *The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 9 They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*

Isaiah 65:19-22 *I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. 20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.*

Micah 4:3-4 *He shall judge between many peoples, and shall decide disputes for strong nations far away; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; 4 but they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid, for the mouth of the Lord of hosts has spoken.*

The Millennial Reign of Christ

Revelation 20:4 *Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years*

A literal thousand years

- John mentions the thousand years six times in this passage.

Who reigns with Him?

- First, those given authority to judge — likely the apostles and saints of the church age.

Matthew 19:28 *Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

- Second, the Tribulation martyrs — those who were beheaded for their testimony about Jesus, those who refused the mark of the Beast.

The first resurrection

Revelation 20:5–6 *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.*

There are two distinct, physical resurrections separated by one thousand years:

- **The First Resurrection** — These are not the first to be resurrected, but the first resurrection is any believer who has died and is resurrected. All believers from the beginning of time.
- **The Second Resurrection** — the resurrection of the unrighteous. This occurs after the thousand years, at the Great White Throne.

What will the millennium look like?

- Christ will reign from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:3 says: *"The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."*

Zechariah 14:9 declares: *"The Lord will be king over the whole earth."*

The covenant God made with David, *"your throne will be established forever"* **2 Samuel 7:16**, will find its ultimate fulfillment when the Son of David sits on David's throne.

Israel will be restored. **Romans 11:26** promises: *"All Israel will be saved."*

The release of Satan and the final rebellion

Revelation 20:7–8 *And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.*

Why would God allow this?

- The root problem is the fallen nature of the human heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 *"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure."*

The rebellion is crushed instantly

Revelation 20:9–10 *And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

The Great White Throne Judgment

Revelation 20:11 *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*

The Throne

- Every knee that refused to bow in this life will bow in that moment.

- Every tongue that denied Him will confess Him. But for many, it will be too late.

The resurrection of the unjust

Revelation 20:12 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.*

- This is the second resurrection — the resurrection of all the unrighteous dead.
- Every lost soul that has ever drawn breath — standing before the throne.

The books of works.

- And here is the devastating reality: no one who stands at the Great White Throne will be found righteous by their works.
- **Romans 3:10** is absolute: "*There is no one righteous, not even one.*"
- **Romans 3:23**: "*All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.*"

The Book of Life

Revelation 20:15 *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- This is the Lamb's Book of Life — the registry of all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
- The Book of Life is searched for the names of those at the Great White Throne judgment - but their names are not found - they never trusted in Jesus.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Romans 8:1 *There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

- If you are in Christ, you will not stand at the Great White Throne for judgment.
- The Great White Throne is not the believer's judgment.
- The believer's judgment for works — not for salvation, but for rewards — takes place at the **Judgment Seat of Christ** (Bema Seat), which Paul describes in **2 Corinthians 5:10** and **1 Corinthians 3:10–15**.

The Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:14–15 *Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

- The second death. Eternal separation from God. Conscious, endless existence apart from His love, His grace, His mercy, and His presence — forever.

The urgency of the Gospel

- If Christ is coming literally and physically, if the Millennium is a real future event, if the Great White Throne is an appointment that every soul will keep — then how you respond to Jesus Christ right now is the most important decision you will ever make.

The Book of Life is still open.

Romans 10:9–10 *If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

Romans 10:13 *Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*