

## The Millennium: A Purpose for God

Stand - Read Revelation 20:1-10 – Pray

In the last two weeks we have seen that this Millennial Kingdom is a literal kingdom where Jesus will rule and reign for a thousand years. This kingdom is the promise for Israel and a place for you. It is the hope that we have as we live in this time of man's rule.

We left off last time in verse 4 where we spent most of our time dealing with the "who" of the Millennium. But what about the why? Is there a purpose? We know that God always has a purpose for everything. Let's pick up in verse 5...

***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.***

The first thing we learn is that there is a thousand years between the first resurrection and the second death. Just from the sound of it you do not want to be part of it. Another of the seven beatitudes of Revelation is for those that are part of the first resurrection and the "Second death" has no power. Do you know that death has no power over you? I know, I know, it sure doesn't feel like it! Every day it gets harder to wake up. Getting over a cold or flu gets harder and harder. Pain seems to be a way of life.

2 Corinthians 5:1-5

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 **For in this we groan**, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. 4 For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

Yes, we may suffer, but it is not the end for us! If we have put our faith and trust in Christ death no longer has power over us at all!

Hebrews 2:14-18

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. 17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Jesus was our forerunner. His death on the cross defeated death for us once and for all! We may die in these physical bodies, but we don't have to fear it anymore.

John 5:24-29

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Do you want to live a life without fear of death? Put your trust in Him! Faith is the only antidote for fear. We are saved by grace through faith!

Now let us move into the last of these verses...

***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.***

I guess the question we have to ask is why? What would be the purpose, if any?

The first thing we need to remember is that Satan is not the opposite of God. Yes, he is evil, and God is good. But God is God and Satan is not. They are not opposing equals. Not only that God uses all of His creation for His purpose even Satan. Remember Job?

Open your bibles to Job 1 and let us take a look.

As we see God used Satan for His purpose. Not to find out something new about Job, as if He didn't know, but to show Job that His faith was real.

James 5:10-11

10 My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

You mean to tell me that the spiritual battles I fight are for a purpose? That God is using these things to fulfill something in my life? YES!

1 Peter 1:3-9

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen

you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; 13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

But how will God use Satan for this?

We need to remember that there will be those that make it through the tribulation period and will enter into the Millennium and have children and so on...we know this from two places.

Matthew 24:22

And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved...

Matthew 25:31-34

31 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...

Now these that come through the tribulation period and live and populate through the Millennial Kingdom will still have a sin nature. This sin nature will be in check though as they live in the rule of Jesus. They will live in a perfect environment and in perfect harmony. They won't have a choice as... "He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron." Revelation 19:15 They still have to make a choice and so this is where Satan comes in. God will use Satan to show that man's heart is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9. At this point in human history no one will be able to make an

excuse. No one will be able to say it was not their fault. As we will see next week when the second death comes.

But how does Satan do it? We see the use of “Gog and Magog” again. Some try to put Ezekiel 38 & 39 in here but that is impossible as there are distinct differences here. These come from all directions and in Ezekiel they come from the north. Most likely as in most bible prophecy this is speaking of location. Names used for Genesis 10 are speaking of geography not necessarily genealogy. Also, we need to remember that Satan never creates anything original. Just like with Nimrod and Antichrist he will find a “Gog” and use him to lead this band of rebels against God. After a thousand years he still thinks, he is going to win! His pride has blinded him for eternity!

Isaiah 14:12-17

“How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
You who weakened the nations!  
13 For you have said in your heart:  
‘I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.’

**15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol,  
To the lowest depths of the Pit.**

16 “Those who see you will gaze at you,  
And consider you, saying:  
‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,  
Who shook kingdoms,  
17 Who made the world as a wilderness  
And destroyed its cities,  
Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

Let’s see what happens to old slufot...

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.**

Don't worry he will pay for his deeds. And that will be forever! How long is that?

The Greek word for forever and ever is "Aion" where we get are word for eons which is "an indefinite and very long period of time, often a period exaggerated for humorous or rhetorical effect." To the Jewish reader and those from that time looked at as "the vanishing point to the vanishing point" The idea is to think back as far as the human mind can think and past that is the beginning of the "Aion" and as far in the future you can imagine just past that is the end. There is no such thing as annihilation. We will see next week that this is the fate of all those who refuse to believe in the gospel. You do not want to be part of this crowd. You want to be part of the First Resurrection. Jesus said...

John 10:1-4

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. 2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

10:7-16

7 Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who ever came before Me are **thieves and robbers**, but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, **he will be saved**, and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 **The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.** I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd;

and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 **And other sheep I have** which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

10:27-30

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And **I give them eternal life**, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one."

If you can hear the voice of Jesus calling you, you must respond today! Time is short and the rapture is a hand. The longer you put it off the harder it will be. Take God's offer for eternal life today and be saved forever!

Stand-Pray