



Vision 7 – Part 1: Millennium and Judgment

Rev 20

1000 Years

Rev 20:1 – Holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit.

Rev 1:18 – I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Rev 20:2

1. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan

Rev 12:9 – And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

2. Bound him

- a. Matt 12:26-29 – And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. 28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

- b. Luke 10:17-19 – The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”

- c. John 12:31-32 – Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.

- d. 2 Pet 2:4 – For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment

- e. Jude 6 – And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day

- f. 2 Thes 2:3-8 – Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

3. For a thousand years



- a. Ps 90:4 – For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.
- b. 2 Pet 3:8 – But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.
- c. Objections to a literal interpretation: (Kistemaker, 2001)
 - i. The word *millennium*, derived from the Latin words *mille* (thousand) and *annus* (year), occurs six times in this chapter and nowhere else in any other New Testament eschatological teachings (vv. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).
 - ii. In his eschatological discourse (Matt 24), Jesus says nothing about a thousand-year reign with the saints on this earth, and Paul and Peter mention no millennial interim reign of Christ on earth.
 - iii. The New Testament teaches only one return of Christ and not two.
 - iv. The first mention of a thousand-year period is “the devil’s millennium” extending from Satan’s stay in the Abyss until he is thrown into the lake of fire forever.
 - v. A literal interpretation of this number in a book of symbolism and especially in this chapter filled with symbols is indeed a considerable obstacle.
 - vi. One thousand is ten to the third power and denotes fullness. It is therefore more in line with the tone and tenor of Revelation to interpret the term metaphorically.

Rev 20:3

1. So that he might not deceive the nations any longer
 - a. Ps 2:7-8 – I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
 - b. Ps 72:8-11 – May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth! 9 May desert tribes bow down before him, and his enemies lick the dust! 10 May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts! 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!
 - c. Ps 72:17 – May his name endure forever, his fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in him, all nations call him blessed!
 - d. Acts 14:16 – In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.
 - e. Matt 4:8-9 – Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”
 - f. Luke 10:17-19 – The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” 18 And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.”
 - g. John 12:20-32 – Now among those who went up to worship at the feast were some Greeks. 21 So these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” 22 Philip went and told Andrew; Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. 23 And Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 24 Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the



earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. 25 Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. 26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him. 27 “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. 28 Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven: “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” 29 The crowd that stood there and heard it said that it had thundered. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” 30 Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not mine. 31 Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. 32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”

- h. Col 2:15 – He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
 - i. Matt 28:18-20 – And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - j. Acts 17:30-31 – The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.
2. After that he must be released for a little while
- a. Rev 11:7-10 – And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, 8 and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. 9 For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, 10 and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth.
 - b. Rev 13:7 – Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation
 - c. Rev 20:7-9 – 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. 9 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.
 - d. Matt 24:21-22 – For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. 22 And if those days had not been cut short, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.
 - e. 2 Thes 2:3-8 – Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, 4 who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be



God. 5 Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? 6 And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. 7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. 8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.

Rev 20:4

1. Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed
 - a. Dan 7:21-22 – As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
 - b. Matt 19:28 – Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
 - c. Luke 22:28-30 – You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, 29 and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, 30 that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - d. 1 Cor 6:1-3 – When one of you has a grievance against another, does he dare go to law before the unrighteous instead of the saints? 2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!
 - e. Rev 3:21 – The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.
 - f. 2 Tim 2:12a – if we endure, we will also reign with him
2. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God.

Rev 6:9 – When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.
3. Those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands (Rev 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20)

Rev 20:5 – This is the first resurrection

1. Eph 2:4-6 – But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus
2. Col 2:11-12 – In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.
3. Col 3:1 – If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.
4. John 5:24 – Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.



5. The first resurrection cannot be a physical resurrection before the millennium (as premillennialists maintain). (Johnson, 2001)
 - a. The introduction of the thrones is in heaven, not earth.
 - b. The adjective first in this section of Revelation is used to designate elements that belong in one way or another to the present, sin-cursed creation order, in contrast to the new heaven and new earth. The new heaven and earth will appear before John's view when "the first heaven and the first earth passed away" (21:1; cf. 20:11), and with them "the first things," namely, tears, death, mourning, crying, and pain(21:4). The "first resurrection" granted to deceased saints in Revelation 20:4-6, since it belongs to the present, preconsummation order, is not their reception of the bodies made like Christ's glorious body, fitted for immortal residence in the curse-free new earth (Phil 3:21).
 - c. If death is, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, the last enemy, the return of Christ and the resurrection of the dead in him must occur at the end of the thousand years, when the rebel nations are destroyed (20:8-9) and the devil, along with the beast and false prophet and with death and Hades, is thrown into the lake of fire (20:10, 14).

Rev 20:6

1. Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power
 - a. Dan 12:2 – And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
 - b. John 5:28-29 – Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
 - c. Acts 24:15 – having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
2. But they will be priests of God and of Christ and they will reign with him for a thousand years
 - a. Ex 19:5-6 – Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.
 - b. Is 61:6 – but you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.
 - c. Rev 1:6 – and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
 - d. 1 Pet 2:9-10 – But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Those who belong to Christ die once but rise twice (spiritually and physically), whereas those who have rejected him rise once but die twice (physically and spiritually). (Kistemaker, 2001)



Believers	Unbelievers
First (spiritual) resurrection	
First (physical) death	First (physical) death
Second (physical) resurrection	Second (physical) resurrection
	Second (spiritual) death

Tribulation

Rev 20:7 – And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison (see Rev 20:3)

Rev 20:8 – and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog (Ez 38, 39)

The expression “Gog and Magog” is borrowed from the book of Ezekiel, where the term undoubtedly indicates the power of the Seleucids especially as it was revealed in the days of Antiochus Epiphanes, the bitter enemy of the Jews. The center of his kingdom was located in Northern Syria. Seleucus established his residence there in the city of Antioch on the Orontes. To the east his territory extended beyond the Tigris. To the north the domain over which the Seleucids ruled included Meshech and Tubal, districts in Asia Minor. Accordingly, Gog was the prince of Magog, that is, Syria. Therefore the oppression of God’s people by “Gog and Magog,” refers, in Ezekiel, to the terrible persecution under Antiochus Epiphanes, ruler of Syria. The book of Revelation uses this period of affliction as a symbol of the final attack of Satan and his hordes upon the Church. Observe the resemblance.

1. The attack of Gog and Magog (Syria under Antiochus Epiphanes) was the last great oppression that the people of God had to endure in the old dispensation. It is therefore an appropriate symbol for the final attack of antichristian forces upon the Church during the new dispensation.
2. The armies of Gog and Magog were very numerous. So they could adequately symbolize worldwide opposition to the Church in the days just preceding Christ’s second coming.
3. The tribulation under Antiochus Epiphanes, though very severe, was also of very brief duration. Hence, it was well adapted to foreshadow the brief final tribulation, which will occur at the close of our present dispensation.
4. The defeat of the armies of Syria (Gog and Magog) was most unexpected and most complete. It was clearly the work of God. Also for that reason the onslaught of Gog and Magog against Israel could serve as an excellent symbol of the final struggle of the godless world against the Church.

(Hendriksen, 1967)

Rev 20:8 – To gather them for battle (literally, *the* battle. Rev 16:14; 19:19)

Rev 20:9

1. Surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city



- a. Dt 23:14 – Because the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and to give up your enemies before you, therefore your camp must be holy, so that he may not see anything indecent among you and turn away from you.
 - b. Heb 12:22-23 – But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect
 - c. Rev 3:12 – The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.
2. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them
- a. 2 Ki 1:10 – But Elijah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.
 - b. Ez 39:6 – I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the Lord.

Rev 20:10

1. Rev 17:16 – And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire
2. Rev 19:20 – And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
3. Matt 25:41 – Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’

There is a purposeful repetition in the Apocalypse with reference to the lake of fire and sulfur. This is the presumed place where the great prostitute was burned with fire (17:16); the beast and false prophet are cast into this fiery lake (19:20); and as the last one, Satan shares a similar destiny. In the second half of Revelation (chapters 12-22), Satan is mentioned first (chapter 12), the beast out of the sea and the beast out of the earth (chapter 13), and last the great prostitute (chapter 17). With respect to their destruction, Babylon the great as the prostitute who suffers defeat and destruction is mentioned first (chapter 18), then the beast and the false prophet (chapter 19), and last Satan (chapter 20). Satan being first and last reflects an imitation of Christ, who is the first and the last, the beginning and the end (1:17; 2:8; 22:13). The difference, however, is one of life and doom. (Kistemaker, 2001)

There are parallels between chapters 11-14 and chapter 20. Both divide history into the same periods, though the approach differs. (Hendriksen, 1967)

Revelation 11-14	Revelation 20
Rev 12:5-12 – In connection with Christ’s birth, death, ascension, and coronation, Satan is hurled down from heaven. His accusations lose every semblance of justice.	Rev 20:1-3 – Satan is bound and cast into the abyss; his power over the nations is curbed. Instead of the nations conquering the Church, the Church begins to conquer



	(evangelize) the nations.
Rev 11:2-6; 12:14 – A long period of power and witness-bearing for the Church, which is nourished “away from the face of the serpent (Satan).” The devil’s influence is curbed.	Rev 20:2 – A long period of power for the Church, Satan having been bound. He remains bound for a thousand years, that is, during this entire gospel age. (In heaven the souls of the redeemed are living and reigning with Christ, Rev 20:4-6.)
Rev 11:7; 13:7 – A very brief period of most severe persecution. This is Satan’s little season: the most terrible and also the final manifestation of the persecuting power of antichrist.	Rev 20:7 – A very brief period of most severe persecution: Satan marshals the army of Gog and Magog against the Church. This is the battle of Armageddon.
Rev 11:17-18; 14:14 – The one and only second coming of Christ in judgment.	Rev 20:11 – The one and only second coming of Christ in judgment.

The obvious parallelism between chapters 12 and 20 of Revelation is important for a number of reasons. For one thing, this means that Revelation 12 and 20 are both speaking about the present period of time. Although they are not identical, “they depict the same events and mutually interpret one another.” If true, this is a serious blow to all forms of premillennialism, which place the events of Revelation 20 chronologically after the return of Jesus Christ described in Revelation 19. If John was giving a series of visions, depicting the present age from different theological vantage points, and if Revelation 12 and 20 describe the same events from different perspectives, then the thousand years of Revelation 20 is a description of a present millennial age rather than a future earthly millennium. (Riddlebarger, 2003)

Revelation 12:7-11	Revelation 20:1-6
Heavenly scene (v. 7)	Heavenly scene (v. 1)
Angelic battle against Satan and his host (vv. 7-8)	Presupposed angelic battle with Satan (v. 2)
Satan cast to earth (v. 9)	Satan cast into the abyss (v. 3)
The angels’ evil opponent called “the great dragon,...that ancient serpent called the devil or Satan, who leads the whole world astray” (v. 9)	The angels’ evil opponent called “the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil or Satan,” restrained from “deceiving the nations anymore (vv. 2-3), to be released later “to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth (vv. 3, 7-8)
Satan “is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short” (v. 12)	Satan to be “set free for a short time” after his imprisonment (v. 3)
Satan’s fall, resulting in the kingdom of Christ and his saints (v. 10)	Satan’s fall, resulting in the kingdom of Christ and his saints (v. 4)
The saints’ kingship, based not only on the fall of Satan and Christ’s victory but also on the saints’ faithfulness even to death in holding to “the word of their testimony” (v. 11)	The saints’ kingship, based not only on the fall of Satan but also on their faithfulness even to death because of their “testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God” (v. 4)

Here are reasons why Revelation 20 does not chronologically follow Revelation 19. (Venema, 2000)



1. The nations are completely destroyed in Rev 19:19-21 but nations are being referred to in Rev 20.
2. There are several striking parallels between Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 19 and 20. In Revelation 19:17-18, an angel issues an invitation to the great supper of God. This is almost an exact quotation of the invitation extended for the Gog-Magog conflict in the Prophecy of Ezekiel (39:17-20). However, in Revelation 20:7-10, when the Apostle John describes the great warfare that will conclude Satan's little season at the close of the millennium, the prophecy of Ezekiel regarding Gog-Magog is again drawn upon extensively. The nations in rebellion are termed Gog and Magog (verse 8; cf. Ezek. 38:2; 39:1, 6). The weapon used by God to destroy Gog-Magog is a fire coming down from heaven (verse 9; cf. Ezek. 38:22; 39:6). This means that the Apostle John, in his respective descriptions of the rebellion and defeat of the nations in Revelation 19 and 20, is drawing upon identical language and imagery from Ezekiel's prophecy. It seems hard to believe, accordingly, that the episodes described in these visions are different episodes in history, separated by a period of one thousand years duration. A much more plausible reading would conclude that these visions describe the same event and are to be read as parallel descriptions of the same historical period.
 - a. Rev 19:17-18 – Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, “Come, gather for the great supper of God, 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.” 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
 - b. Ez 39:17-20 – As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, ‘Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. 18 You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth—of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. 19 And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you. 20 And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,’ declares the Lord God.
 - c. Rev 20:7-9 – 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. 9 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
 - d. Ez 38:22 – With pestilence and bloodshed I will enter into judgment with him, and I will rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.
 - e. Ez 39:6 – I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the Lord.
3. The war between Christ and his enemies is described as “the battle” in Rev 16:14; 19:19, and 20:8. Rev 15:1 states that the seven angels had the last plagues “for with them the



wrath of God is finished.” The last of the bowls of wrath describe “the battle” in Rev 16:17-21.

4. We see the shaking of the cosmos in reference to judgment upon the nations (Rev 6:12-17; 16:17-21; 19:11-21; 20:9-11). This confirms that these visions describe the same end-time event, but from a slightly different vantage point. Since the shaking of the earth at Christ’s coming is elsewhere said to be the last instance of such shaking, after which nothing shakeable will remain to be shaken further (Heb 12:26-27), it would not make sense to say that the shaking of the cosmos at Christ’s second coming in Revelation 19 would still have to be followed by a further shaking of the cosmos at the end of the millennium (Rev 20). A more likely reading would take these two visionary descriptions of this shaking to refer to the end of present history at the second coming of Christ.

The Judgment Day

Rev 20:11

1. Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it
 - a. Rev 4:2 – At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.
 - b. Rev 5:1 – Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.
 - c. Rev 6:15-16 – Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.”
 - d. Dan 7:9-10 – As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.
 - e. Matt 25:31 – When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.
 - f. Acts 10:42 – And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead.
 - g. Acts 17:30-31 – The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.
 - h. Rom 2:15-16 – They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.
 - i. 2 Cor 5:10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
2. Earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them



- a. Rev 6:14 – The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.
- b. Rev 16:20 – And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.
- c. Rev 21:1 – Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- d. 2 Pet 3:7 – But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.
- e. 2 Pet 3:10-13 – But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Rev 20:12

1. 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.
 - a. Ex 32:32 – But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.
 - b. Dan 7:10 – A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.
 - c. Dan 12:1-2 – At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
 - d. Luke 10:20 – Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.
 - e. Phil 4:3 – Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
 - f. Rev 3:5 – The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.
 - g. Rev 13:8 – and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain
 - h. Rev 17:8 – The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.
 - i. Rev 21:27 – But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.



2. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done (Rev 20:13)
 - a. 2 Cor 5:10 – For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.
 - b. Matt 25:31-33 – When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left.

Rev 20:13

1. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them
 - a. John 5:28-29 – Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.
 - b. Acts 24:15 – having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.
 - c. Dan 12:2 – And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
 - d. Matt 25:32 – Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
 - e. Here is the one, general resurrection of all the dead. The entire Bible teaches but one, general resurrection (John 5:28-29). This one and only and general resurrection takes place at the last day (John 6:39, 44, 54). Nowhere in the entire Bible do we read of a resurrection of the bodies of believers, followed, after a thousand years, by a resurrection of the bodies of the unbelievers. All arise at the same time. Death, the separation of soul and body, and Hades, the state of separation, now cease. Neither in the new heaven nor upon the new earth nor even in hell will there ever be a separation between body and soul after Christ's second coming for judgment. (Hendriksen)
2. Death and Hades (Rev 1:18; 6:8; 20:14). How do we understand the terms *Death* and *Hades*? First, Death is a state and Hades a place. Next, these two are intricately connected, as in the fourth seal where the rider on the pale horse is Death, and Hades is following closely behind him (Rev 6:8). Hades as the place where the souls of unbelievers are kept is not to be identified as the grave in which the bodies of both believers and unbelievers repose. By contrast, hell is the place of endless suffering. When both Death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire, the authority they exercised in cosmic time has ended. (Kistemaker)

Rev 20:14

1. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire
 - a. 1 Cor 15:24-26 – Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
 - b. 1 Cor 15:50-57 – I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a



mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Lake of fire

- a. Rev 19:20 – And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
- b. Rev 20:10 – 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.
- c. Rev 20:15 – And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- d. Rev 21:8 – But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.