

THE EVENTS OF THE SECOND COMING OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
And
THE JUDGMENT OF THE LOST
Revelations 20

Revelation Chapter 20 in time covers a period of over a thousand years. The chapter continues the events of Jesus' Second Coming and continues through the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ involves a series of events beginning with the destruction of the nations of earth at the battle of Armageddon. The events as follows:

1. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST. (Rev. 19:11-16) Christ returns to earth coming in judgment to put an end to Satan's reign on earth through the Antichrist and the false prophet.

2. THE NATIONS DESTROYED. (Rev.19:17-21) The armies of the nations gathered in Palestine to attack Israel will be destroyed in the final action of the Battle of Armageddon. (Read Zechariah 14:1-4, 12, which is a parallel account of Revelations 19:17-21)

3. THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET CAST INTO GEHENNA. (Rev. 19:20) At the Second Coming, the Beast and the False Prophet are cast into Gehenna, the Lake of Fire. They are the first to inhabit the Lake of Fire. After the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment this will be the final abode of all the unsaved people of the earth.

4. SATAN CAST INTO THE ABYSS. (Rev. 20:1-3) Next, an angel cast Satan and His demons into a bottomless pit where they will remain for a thousand years. This is a special place, a prison prepared for the Satan and the angels in heaven which rebelled against God. The word bottomless pit means an abyss, (the Greek word "abyssos") and can be correctly translated "pit." In Luke 8:31, the word is translated "deep." (References: Luke 8:31, Rev. 9:1, 2, 11, 11:17, 17:8, 20:1-3, also Romans 10:7. It means a place in the depths of the earth.)

5. THE "RAPTURE" OF THE LOST. (Matt. 24:40-41) These two verses record the "catching away" of the unsaved that are alive at the end of the Great Tribulation. This is not a reference to the Rapture of the Church, as the believers saved during the Church Age will be raptured before the Tribulation and be in heaven with the Lord. The believers who are still alive on earth when Christ returns will be left on earth and will go into the Millennium in their natural bodies. They will inhabit and populate the earth during this one thousand year time of peace on earth. There will be believers from all nations of earth going into the Millennium in their natural bodies.

6. THE SHEEP AND GOAT JUDGEMENT. (Matt. 25:31-46) The Sheep and Goat Judgment will take place at the Second Coming. This will be the judgment of those who are alive at the end of the seven year Tribulation. Those who are unsaved and

alive at the end of the Tribulation are judged as unbelievers and "raptured" as recorded in Matthew 24:40-41 and cast into Hades, which is the temporary abode of the lost. The sheep are the believers who have survived until the end of the Tribulation. The goats are the lost taken from the earth at the end of the seven year Tribulation. The saved will be judged according to their works and rewarded accordingly. In Matthew 25:35 Jesus says the sheep include Gentiles who helped the Jews during the Tribulation when they were under persecution from the Antichrist. These were Gentile believers who aided the remnant of the Jews when they were hungry, thirsty, and needed help being pursued by the Antichrist.

Please note: This judgment is of two already divided groups. The saved (sheep) are on the right and the lost (goats) on the left. They are both to receive the just reward for their deeds on earth. They are not judged as to whether they are saved or not. A person will stand before the proper judgment seat determined by the fact of his salvation or the lack there of. The Bible does not teach anywhere that there is a judgment to determine if one is saved or lost. A person either dies saved "in Christ" or is lost in darkness is stands condemned. Every judgment is a judgment to determine reward. The Bema judgment takes place after the rapture of Church Age saints is where Christians are rewarded for serving the Lord. The unsaved or goats are judged to determine the degree of punishment. (Rev. 20:11-15)

7. CHRIST SETS UP HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM AND THE THOUSAND YEARS BEGIN. (Rev. 20:4) Finally, after these many centuries, God's promises to Israel are fulfilled. The remnant of Israel, who survive the seven year Tribulation go into the Millennium and repopulate the world.

THE MILLENNIUM. Revelation 20:1-6

The word "Millennium" is not found in the Bible. Millennium is a Latin word meaning, one thousand. It is generally the name used for the one thousand year literal reign of Christ on earth. (Isa. 3:2, Dan. 7:14, Zech. 14:9) The inhabitants of the earth during the Millennium will be the believers who survive the Tribulation. At the beginning of the Millennium everyone on earth will be believers. At His Second Coming the Lord take all the unsaved off the earth a "rapture of the unsaved." (See Matthew 24:37-42) Only those who were saved and have survived the persecution of the Antichrist are left alive on earth. (Joel 2:32) These Tribulation saints will have children born and these children will be born with a sin nature and will have to trust in Christ as has everyone since the Fall of man (Gen. 3). However, sin will not be rampant as it is today, because Christ will literally rule over all the earth. Also, Satan and his demons are bound in the bottomless pit and during this period do not tempt and deceive men. Men will continue to sin and be tempted by their sin natures, but they will have the great advantage of knowing that Jesus Christ is the Savior and that rules in Jerusalem. (See James 1:14)

The earth will be restored back to an almost Garden of Eden state in which even the animals will not be dangerous. It appears the carnivorous animals will no longer eat meat. Isaiah says the lion shall eat grass like a cow, the leopard shall lie down with the kid goat,

and the young child will not be bitten by the viper snake if it puts his hand into the snake's den. (Isaiah 11:6-8) Zechariah says that in Jerusalem even the pots in the city will be holy as will everything down to the harnesses on horses.

Other characteristics of the Millennium:

1. It will not be dark at night. (Zechariah 14:6-7) The statement that "the light shall not be clear, nor dark" seems to indicate that light will be changed and in some way diminished. (Zech. 14:6)

2. There will be longevity of life. (Isaiah 65:20) The life span of men will be so long that a person who dies at a hundred years old will be thought of as being a mere child. The person who dies being only a hundred years old will be thought of as a "sinner" who experiences the wrath of God. This verse shows that there will be death in the Millennium and men will be sinners and can rebel against God.

3. Animals will not kill people. (Isaiah 65:25) As it was before the Flood, animals will not be carnivorous and will live together without conflict.

4. It will be a time of great prosperity and no one will be stealing or living off the work of someone else. (Isaiah 65:21-24)

5. The cities will be abandoned and people will live in the fields. (Isaiah 32:14-20) Wild donkeys will find the cities a joy as will other animals; however, man will live in the fields in peace and prosperity.

6. It will still rain and there will even be hail, however it will only come down in the forests and the cities which are uninhabited by men. Yet, Isaiah says blessed are those that sow (and abide) by the waters of streams as they will not be affected. (Isaiah 32:19-20, Psalm 72)

7. Christ Jesus will reign and rule from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3-4) Revelation 20:1-5 tells us that an angel will come down from heaven with a key to what is called the bottomless pit or a depthless abyss. The angel also has a great chain and he binds Satan and casts him into this special prepared abyss and puts a seal on him so that he cannot escape for at thousand years. Verse 3 says that at the end of the thousand years Satan will be loosed for a short period.

8. Revelation 20: 4 is a scene which show the saints of God setting on thrones and judging or ruling from their positions of authority. These saints are those who believed in Jesus Christ and refused to submit to the Antichrist and the false prophet and did not receive the mark of the beast. Because of their testimony for Christ they were beheaded by the beast and false prophet. They will assist the Lord Jesus Christ and be a part of His government in ruling the world.

THE FINAL REBELLION OF MAN. Revelation 20:7-9

Verses 7-10 explains Satan's final act of rebellion against God as he is allowed to come out of the bottomless pit and for a short period and once again deceives gullible and sinful men. This plainly shows it is not man's environment that causes him to sin. These who follow Satan have been born in a Garden of Eden type world. They have had every advantage in life and had God's truth always before them. They cannot plead that they do not know who Christ is as He is physically in Jerusalem and can be seen and know of all men. Yet, man with his carnal nature, refused sound wisdom and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and foolishly rejects Jesus and His free offer of grace. These men and women have the Bible God's word which clearly explains that Satan will be loosed and lead men against Jesus Christ. They know clearly that God says all these who rebel will be condemned forever. Yet, in spite of their knowledge of the truth...they rebel and follow Satan who has been condemned since the foundation of the earth. The devil leads in a rebellion against the Lord and is then cast into the Lake of Fire and no more will tempt men and bring destruction on the earth.

During the Millennium, man's environment and situation on earth could be better or more favorable. Many today promote the idea that if you put a man in the proper good environment that all the best in man will come out. This misguided idea blames man's sin on his environment. This is an absolute untruth. One reason many believe that Satan is loosed on earth again at the end of the Millennium is to prove this very point. From verse seven it is clear that when the one thousand years has been finished, that Satan will once again be given a free hand on earth to deceive men and promote rebellion against God. As soon as Satan is freed, he immediately sets out again to deceive and lead men all over the earth to turn against God. Sadly, Satan once again finds many who reject God and follow him.

The earth at the end of the Millennium will have been repopulated by millions of persons. Considering that the Scripture mentions the long life spans of man during this time, probably most people born on earth during the thousand years will still be living.

Verse 8, states those that rebel are as the "sands of the sea." This innumerable number will be as the majority of men today. Jesus said in John 3:19-20, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." (John 3:19-20) Those living in this age will have all the benefit of knowing who Jesus Christ is and that He is the Savior. Yet, Jesus stands for righteousness and truth, but carnal men are more interested in their sin and evil practices than doing what is right. When the opportunity to rebel comes, as Satan once again comes on the scene, man in great numbers will flock to follow him. Probably the reference to the rebellious being as the "sands of the sea," indicates that then, as today, the majority of men on earth will reject Christ.

The name "Gog and Magog" most believe is not a reference to Russia, but a term used like the term, "Waterloo" is today used in reference to someone meeting a disastrous

end. At the end of the Tribulation Gog and Magog are destroyed completely by the Lord. Those in the Millennium would certainly have remembered this. There are many differences between the reference here and the earlier reference in Ezekiel 38:39. In Ezekiel the reference is clearly to a nation in the north, which attacks from the north. Here in Revelations 20:8, the reference is from these enemies of God, called Gog and Magog, who come from the four corners of the earth. It is safe to assume that the reference is a symbolic one characterizing the enemies of God.

In Revelations 20:9, these enemies of God, led by Satan surround the Jerusalem, the Holy City. The word translated "camp," refers to the place of residence, such as the "camp of Israel." The phrase "beloved city" is certainly a reference to Jerusalem. God then, finally ends rebellion and destroys all the hosts those that rebel against Him. God sends fire from heaven and they are destroyed.

SATAN'S FINAL DOOM. Revelations 20:10

God begins by casting the Devil into Gehenna, the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. In Revelations 19:20 it was earlier stated that at the end of the Tribulation the beast and the false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. Now Satan joins them in this final judgment which will last eternally. This is not annihilation as some cults teach, but is a literal place of torment. Those cast into the Lake of Fire are tormented day and night forever and ever. There is absolutely no way anyone can honestly suggest that this is not a literal place and a literal torment that lasts for all eternity.

Jesus stated in Matthew 25:41, which the Lake of Fire was prepared for Satan and his demons. It was not prepared for man. Many verses in the Bible state clearly that God, does not desire that any should perish, but that I should come to repentance. (2 Pet. 3:9, Matt. 18:14) Ezekiel 18:32 states God's will on the matter, *"For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: Wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."*

THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT. Revelations 20:11-15

At this final judgment of those who have rejected Christ and the love of God their Creator. Everyone who is stands before this judgment is sentenced unto an eternal damnation. How tragic is this scene which takes place at the end of the Millennium and after the destruction of those of that period which refuse to receive God's free offer of Grace.

Nothing is more pitiful, sorrowful, and utterly tragic, that God loved man so much, that even though He knew most men would rejected His love, He still came and died a cruel death on Calvary's cross and made total complete atonement for every sin and act of rebellion ever done by man on earth. Yet, sinful man, corrupted by his own warped sense of self worth and love of sin chooses to die in his sins and goes to the Hell that was prepared for the Devil and his angels. (Matt. 25:41)

No one ever born on this earth and given the precious gift of life itself should be

here standing in this judgment! Why, oh why does man reject God? Why does he willingly sin enjoying a moment's pleasure that will be paid for eternally in the horrible torment of the Lake of Fire? It makes no sense none at all!

THE FACTS OF THIS JUDGMENT:

1. It is Jesus Christ who is the Judge and sits on this great white throne.¹ (Revelations 20:11) His position, might and power are shown in that He is the One *"from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."* Before Jesus Christ the Holy and Righteous Almighty God stands those who have rejected His majesty as our Creator. What an awesome event this is as the lost world of all the ages stand before their Creator naked in their sins. Paul in addressing believers and their promise of heaven mentions this scene saying, *"If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked."* (2 Corinthians 5:3) Yes, the whole unsaved earth will wish to flee away and to turn from Him in shame, but it is too late. They are about to receive their just reward for rejecting God's grace.

At this time, the current heaven and earth will be destroyed. This world is stained with sin, and will have no place in the new heaven and earth. But first before the new heaven and earth, the grim task of judging the lost must be dealt with. At this time the lost from all ages since the world one by one will be judged. At the end of this judgment the earth will forever be rid of sin and all rebellion and those that choose to reject God. There is no place for sin and rebellion in the new World God has made from His children.

2. None will escape this judgment that refused God's salvation. (Revelations 20:12) . John says, he saw the *"small and great,"* on an equal plain now standing before the Christ in all His righteousness. Now those who in their pride and supposed superiority ridiculed those who trusted in Christ stand in shame with the magnitude of their error exposed before their Creator. Can you even imagine the regret these lost souls are feeling and the humiliation. Now the rich, and affluent, who looked down their noses at those who love the Lord and wished only to serve Him, have their evil ways revealed. Philippians 2:10, now becomes the vivid reality as every knee bows to Christ, and every tongue confesses that He, Jesus Christ, is the "Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Isa. 45:23)

Now too, the words of Christ in Matthew 7:22-23, come truth, as the many "religious" of this world, knowing their end, plead for mercy, claiming to have, "done many wonderful works:, in Christ's name. Yet, the One who is pure and true confesses to their damnation, *"I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* Finally, the tares are forever separated from the wheat, and only those made righteous by faith in Christ Jesus, remain at Christ's side forever. God's truth is forever exonerated and false teachers, cults, churches and pagan religions stand naked before God's truth.

The books are opened, and the dead will be judged according to their "works." How proud are so many religious individuals and churches of this day who bask in

¹ See Matt. 19:28; 25:31, 2 Cor. 5:10

their supposed good works and self righteousness? Now the works they were so proud of, is shown for what it really is, that being, "works of iniquity" (Matt. 7:23). They choose in life to be proud in the work of the flesh, instead of accepting God's free offer of salvation, now they are judged by the standard they chose and are condemned to the Lake of Fire.

3. Revelations 20:13. None will escape this judgment that died without Christ. Those that were not buried, such as died at sea as well as those who were buried now are brought up from "Hades", or Hell to be judged according to their works or deeds on earth.

4. Revelations 20:14. They all, without exception, are cast into the Lake of Fire. God warned man in the Garden of Eden that if he sinned he would surely die. (Genesis 2:27) Now the final or the "second death" takes place as the lost are judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, to be tormented forever and ever.

5. Revelations 20:15. There is now no offer of God's grace and mercy and no hope of redemption from this Great White Throne Judgment. How stark, real, final and final are the horrible closing words of this Chapter:

"And whosoever, was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire."