

BEWARE THE LAMB



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST **REV 20 – The Millennium**

Revelation 19-22

Return of the King – The Final Chapters:

- Chapter 19 The Return of the King
- Chapter 20 The Millennium
- Chapter 21 Eternity
- Chapter 22 Conclusion

Revelation 20 – The Millennium

- Essential: (fulfillment of promises to Israel and Christ).
- Promised to David (*2 Sam 7:12-17; 23:5*) under oath (*Ps 89:34-37*).
- Predicted in the Psalms and the Prophets (*Ps 2; 45; 110; Isa 2:1-5; 4:1-6; 11:1-9; 12:1-6; 30:18-26; 35:1-10; 60, 61:3-62; 66; Jer 23:3-8; 32:37-44; Ezek 40-48; Dan 2:44-45; 7:13-14; 12:2-3; Mic 4:1-8; Zech 12:10-14:21*).
- Promised to Mary (*Lk 1:32; Mic 5:2; Isa 9:6, 7; Dan 2:44*); reaffirmed to apostles (*Lk 22:29-30*).
- Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come"; "For thine is the kingdom (*Mt 6:10, 13; Acts 1:6; Ps 45, 46, 47, 48*).
- Melchizedek → type — King and Priest (*Zech 6:13*).
 - at Millennial Temple (*Isa 3:17, 22; Ezek 43:7; 44:2; 46:1-3*).
 - in Zion (*Isa 2:2-4; Jer 23:3-6*).
 - David? (*Ezek 37:24, 25; 34:23, 24; Jer 30:9; Hos 3:5*).
 - [Walk of Prince? *Ezek 46:4-12*.]

Revelation 20 – The Millennium

- Rule (*Ps 2; 110*) with a "Rod of Iron" (*Rev 12:5; 19:15*).
 - Every knee must bow (*Phil 2:6-11*).
 - Preview of this in *Mt 17*.
- The entire creation will be changed:
 - Physical changes (*Zech 4:9,10; Isa 35:1-10*);
 - Curse lifted (*Isa 11:6-9*);
 - Creation redeemed (*Gen 3 => Rom 8:20-22*);
 - Earth full of knowledge of the Lord (*Isa 11:9; Hab 2:14*).

Yet, it is *not* eternity:

- There is death and sin (*Isa 65:20*);
- Each to have land (*Micah 4:15*);
- Fruitful (*Amos 9:13*).

REVELATION 20:1-3

- 1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.*
- 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,*
- 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.*

REVELATION 20:4-6

- 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*
- 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.*
- 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

REVELATION 20:7-10

- 7 *And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*
- 8 *And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.*
- 9 *And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*
- 10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

REVELATION 20:11-15

- 11 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that 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, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*
- 13 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*
- 14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*
- 15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Revelation 20 – The Millennium

'... a thousand years ... the thousand years ... a thousand years ... the thousand years ... a thousand years... the thousand years ... (Rev. 20:2-7)

Man has dreamed (and tried to achieve) a “utopia” and failed.

Only Jesus, on David's throne, will establish this perfect kingdom.

This view on this passage divides eschatological views into basic divisions:

Post-millennialism (now rejected by all but a few)

A-millennialism: (allegorical view)

Pre-millennialism: (literal view)

Millennium: from Latin → *mille* (1000) and *annum* (year).

chiliasm, Greek, the way the early church spoke of it.

Christ will reign over the nations of the earth and Israel will enjoy the blessings promised through the prophets.

There is more prophecy in the Scripture concerning the Millennium than of any other period.

Post- Millennialism

It is generally agreed that during the Millennium – whenever and whatever you believe it to be - righteousness would rule upon the earth.

The main division between theologians concerned the matter of how the millennial reign of Christ would be brought about.

Post-millennarians believe

- The Church, little by little, would bring righteousness on the earth, until the whole world would be converted,
- All living would be under the sway of the church,
- Christ would rule the earth spiritually through the church on earth during this period.
- After (post) the millennium, Jesus would come from Heaven to judge the world,
- He would then bring in the new Heavens and the new earth for the eternal state.

Revelation 20 – The Post-Millennial View

Jesus returns in His Second Coming AFTER a 1,000 period of peace established and ushered in by a world made better by His followers and their influence...

Popular a century ago when optimism assumed that the world was getting better and better. But, during the 19th century and the first third of the 20th century saw the post-millennial 'theory' die.

The realities of the 20th century has rendered this view obsolete. It is a belief rarely encountered today;

There is perhaps one denomination that still holds the Post-millennial view.

Those who still hold this idea have adopted so many ideas of unbelief surrounding the person and the work of Christ, and have preached "a social gospel", excluding the gospel of grace, to such an extent that they no longer have a place in conservative, evangelical circles.

To hold this theory it is necessary to throw away great sections of the Bible.

All the promises made to literal Israel would have to be nullified and explained in terms of some supposed spiritual application to the Church also then contradicting many other promises to the Church.

The Amillennial View

In place of post-millenarianism there arose a new school -- Amillennialism.

Amillennialists, like the pre-millenarians, believe:

- That conditions will continue much as they are today,
- Good and bad will continue side by side until the end of the present age,
- Then Christ will come from Heaven, personally;

Amillennialists say that there will be no 1,000 year (a-) millennium at all.

- They claim the phrase "millennium" is merely a figure of something spiritual

But, the Old Testament contains 100's of references to a kingdom over which Messiah is to rule.

Amillenarians attempt to take all of these passages and apply them to the church.

The Amillennial View

For Amillennialists there is no literal 1,000 year period of rule during which Christ reigns.

It is just a symbol representing the present age and time since the fall of the Roman Empire of Jesus' and the Apostles' time.

Amillennialism is usually accompanied by a post-tribulational view.

Amillennialism makes God guilty of not keeping His unconditional covenants to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: The Jews.

- Promise of the Land ([Gen 12:7](#); [13:15-16](#); [17:7-8](#)).
- Promise of the land, a kingdom, and a greater Son of David (Messiah) as King ([Ps 89:27-37](#)).
- Promise of restoration to the land of Israel from worldwide dispersion and the establishment of Messiah's kingdom ([Jer 31:37](#); [Ezek 36,37 38, 39, etc.](#)).
- Promises that a remnant of the Israelites will be saved ([Rom 11:25-29](#); [Zech 13:8,9](#); [Isa 10:20-22](#)).

The Amillennial View

History: From Augustine to Auschwitz

Amillennialism began with Augustine (A.D. 345-430), drawing upon the allegorizations of Origen.

The foundation for anti-semitism ([Jer 31:35-37](#)), this view is becoming widespread again.

On the conversion of Constantine, the Edict of Toleration made Christian Church legal throughout the Roman Empire. Constantine's successors made it the official state religion.

The "premillennial" view — that the Lord Jesus Christ was going to return to rid the world of its rule of evil — became unpopular with Roman leadership!

Allegorical methods, adopted by 3rd century theologian Origen, led to Augustine developing the "amillennial view"— that Jesus was to rule "spiritually" rather than literally. This view ultimately became the dominant view of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Reformation, dealt with many doctrines in its "back to the Bible" emphasis. It failed to re-examine the eschatology of the Medieval church. As a result amillennialism became the view assumed by most mainline Protestant denominations.

Literal interpretation, however, was favored by Irenaeus, Sir Isaac Newton, et al. Throughout the centuries, a minority of scholars have held to a literal approach to the Scriptures

Pre-Millennialism

Pre-millenarians believe

- Conditions will continue much as they are today,
- Good and bad will continue side by side until the end of the present age
- Then Christ would come from Heaven personally, before (pre) the millennium,
- Jesus would reign upon the earth personally, through the glorified church,
- After the 1,000 years the wicked will be judged
- Then the new Heavens and new earth would be established in their eternal state.

This view takes the “1000-year reign” literally, as the fulfillment of the numerous promises, in both the Old and New Testaments.

Gabriel committed the rule of the Throne of David to Mary at the Annunciation (*Luk 1:32-33*).

The prophetic destiny of Israel is also the issue.

The Bible indicates that the entire world is going to go to war over this issue (*Zech 12; Ps 2; et al.*).

It is about to begin. Read your newspapers

Most Pre-Millennialist believers also believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture

Tribulational View holders

Post-tribulationists:

Robert Gundry, George Ladd, Walter Martin, Pat Robertson, Jim McKeever.

Mid-tribulationists:

Norman B. Harrison, J. Sidlow Baxter, et al.

Pre-tribulation:

J. Dwight Pentecost, John F. Walvoord, Charles C. Ryrie, Feinberg, Fruchtenbaum, Charles Dyer, Grant Jeffrey, Chuck Smith, Tim Lahaye, Chuck Missler, et al.

Popularized by Hal Lindsey, et al.

Pre-Millennial / Pre-Tribulational View

Did *not* begin with

- Emmanuel Lacunza (Ben Ezra), 1812;
- Edward Irving, 1816;
- Margaret McDonald, 1830; or
- J.N. Darby, 1820

The issue of the Imminence of Jesus return for His Church is supported and discussed in 80 anti-Nicene references dating from 325 A.D.

Imminent: an event that is expected to happen at any moment

Pre-Millennial / Pre-Tribulational Views

Other early writers believing Christ's return for His Church was imminent include:

- Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*;
- Hippolytus, a disciple of Irenaeus (2nd Century), *Ante Nicene Fathers*, Vol . p.182.);
- Justin Martyr, *Dialogue with Trypho*.
- Peter Jurieu, 1687, *Approaching Deliverance of the Church*, (courtesy of Grant Jeffrey);
- Philip Doddgridge's *Commentary on the New Testament*, 1738;
- Dr. John Gill's *Commentary on the New Testament*, [1 Thess 4:15-17](#), 1748;
- James Macknight's *Commentary on the Apostolical Epistles*, 1763;
- Thomas Scott's *Commentary on the Holy Bible*, 1792.

Pre-Millennial / Pre-Tribulational View

The perception of the “gap” of Dan 9:26 appears in the *Epistle of Barnabas*, A.D. 100 and other early writings.

Dan 9:26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:

Time from the command to rebuild Jerusalem and Jesus innocent death during His first coming

and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary;

Speaking of the people of the prince that shall come; not the prince Roman destruction of the Temple 70A.D. and Jerusalem, circ. 110 AD

and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

-- THE GAP --

The time between the Roman Empire and the coming prince and the Revived Roman Empire ~ 2,000 years

The diaspora – the worldwide dispersion of the Jews

The desolation of Israel as a nation and the Temple in Jerusalem

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rapture Time

Greek, *harpazo*, Latin, *rapturo*.

- 1) 70th Week is defined by the enforcement of a covenant with the Coming World Leader (*Dan 9:27*)
- 2) The Leader cannot “enforce the covenant” until *after* he appears in power.
- 3) He cannot even appear until *after* the Restrainer (the Holy Spirit as He indwells the Church) is removed (*2 Thes 2:7-9*).

There must be some interval—a day, or possibly several decades— between his initial appearance and ascending to the power implied in his “enforcing the covenant.”

- 4) Therefore, the rapture of the Church precedes (by an indeterminate amount) the entire 70th Week, not just the Great Tribulation.

There is some basis (*Mt 24:32-34*) that the entire series of events—from the rapture to the close of the 70th Week—occur within one generation: less than 40 years.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rapture: the starting gun – Why Now ???

Israel Now Regathered as a Nation:

On May 14, 1948, Israel was re-established exactly as the Bible predicted.

On June 6, 1967, Israel regained control of Biblical Jerusalem, the “Old City.”

Jerusalem:

Zechariah 12 indicates that Jerusalem will become “a cup of trembling” and a “burdensome stone” to *all* nations of the world.

Here is a city with no harbor, no rivers, no natural resources.

Significant to a few Jews, of historical interest to Christians, and significant to Islam only because the Jews want it.

Yet Zechariah and other passages predict that the entire world will go to war over this seemingly irrelevant, little, religious location!

Temple Preparations Have Begun:

Explicitly predicted three times in the New Testament. (*Mt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 11:1,2.*)

This Temple is a prerequisite for the desecration described by Daniel and Jesus as the “Abomination of Desolation.”

After nearly 2,000 years preparations are underway to rebuild a Temple in Jerusalem

Rapture: the starting gun – Why Now ???

Babylon Being Rebuilt:

Isaiah 13 & 14, Jeremiah 50 & 51, and Revelation 17 & 18 all describe the destruction of the *city* of Babylon as a climactic event at the end of the “70th Week.”

Although *conquered* by the Persians, Babylon was never *destroyed* in the manner that the Bible has detailed.

Saddam Hussein spent over 20 years and over \$900 million rebuilding the city of Babylon on its traditional site.

European Superstate Emerging:

The confederation of almost 30 European countries (not just the 12 EC nations) is setting the stage for the very scenarios predicted in *Daniel 2* and *7*.

Rapture: the starting gun – Why Now ???

Russia and the Islamic Invasion Imminent:

Russia (“Magog” of [Ezekiel 38 & 39](#)) and the Moslem republics of Iran and those of Central Asia (which this passage has detailed) now appear to be setting the stage for the very events that Ezekiel so clearly described.

The apparent use of nuclear weapons in [Ezekiel 39](#) is also descriptive of current technology.

This battle *could* happen at any time, and would thus set up the need for the famous “peace treaty” of the Biblical scenario.

We believe it will occur after the Rapture but it could happen before...in any case, if the nations, weapons and technology are aligning, can the Rapture be far off ???

How does your interpretation affect YOUR life?

Does it do anything for you?

If your view has no effect on your life, then you might reconsider what you really believe...

The Millennium, Literal or Symbolic

There is a literal kingdom, announced in hundreds of passages in the Old Testament, and ardently expected by the Jews in the day of Christ, but announced as having been postponed until after the Church age.

Consider all the promises which refer to a literal gift of the land of Palestine to Israel. ([Gen. 15:7](#), et al).

In [Jeremiah 33](#), God gives to the prophet promises so literal concerning the earthly kingdom of Israel that it is impossible to get around them.

A literal, earthly kingdom is not built on six verses in the book of Revelation, but that it is a theme that runs through the entire Word of God.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Men are constantly evolving utopian schemes for bringing economic and social righteousness upon the earth.

Even many preachers state that there is good in human nature
a clear contradiction to the finality of the Word of God on the subject...

It is absolutely necessary that there be a period in which fallen man is left on this earth without any temptation from without.

There will be no influence on men by the power of Satan or of his principalities and powers which now rule this world darkness (Eph. 6:12).

The millennium will be the final test of fallen man without any interference from outside of himself.

Man's failure under such conditions will be open for all to see.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

When Satan fell there were two ways God might have treated the rebellion.

1] He had the power to put it down with a word and to crush Satan fully and completely.

Had He done this, He could never have created another mighty angelic power that would not have been subject to the same spontaneous (*Ezek. 28:15*) outbreak of sin, unless He wanted to remain forever in a universe of automatons.

2] Give to the rebel a complete and free field to do as he pleased.

Demonstrate to the entire created universe that the enemy and his rebellion would be an utter failure.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

The field of the conflict has always been this world which was the original domain of the unfallen Lucifer.

He was "set" as the governing cherub (*Ezek 28:14*) by God Himself,

He was able to claim this to the very face of Christ (*Luke 4:6*).

It is on this ground that he has been called "the prince of this world" even by Christ (*John 14:30*).

Because of Satan's rebellion this world has seen three successive catastrophes.

1] The world was smashed to chaos and became without form and void, waste and desolate, at the time of the first introduction of sin (*Gen. 1:2 cf. Isa. 45:18*, same Hebrew words).

2] The refashioned world was cursed at the time of Satan's seduction of newly created man (*Gen. 3:17*), and has been dealing with its thorns and thistles from that time to this.

3] Finally, when Satan sought to corrupt the race with mass demon possession God sent the flood which probably swung the oceans from their beds and piled former seafloors on top of what are now mountain ranges and created all of the illusions of strata which confuse the modern geologists.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

The earthly reign of Christ a necessity from the point of view of:

- the conflict with the rebel Satan
- the redemption of the earth from its groaning curse,
- God's definite covenant with David.

The definite covenant promises to David of an earthly kingdom and an earthly throne that can be found throughout the Scriptures.

2 Samuel 7:11 17; Psalm 89:20 37; Jeremiah 33:20, 21

Luke 1: 32; Acts 2:25 31; 15:15 17; Revelation 3:21

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

The millennium - the literal kingdom rule of Christ - will be the clearest test of the natural heart of unbelief with all its enmity against God. It will be the trial period for every scheme the natural heart has imagined as a cure for the ills of mankind.

It is a period without the presence of any supernatural power of enmity.

Satan and all his hosts will be out of the way, bound for 1,000 years.

It will be a world from which all the curse upon the material world shall have been removed.

For the earnest expectation of the creation waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creation was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope. Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only the creation, but . . . even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. (Rom. 8:19-23).

This dates the prophecy as being fulfilled at the time of the first resurrection, and at the moment of the completion of that first resurrection in its various stages.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

There are many passages in the Bible which speak of the nature of that change and the removal of the curse. It is to affect the earth itself.

"For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isa. 55:12-13).

"I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together. That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it" (Isa. 41:18-20).

There are many passages corresponding to Isaiah's great revelation.

He who is able to subdue all things unto Himself (*Phil. 3:21*) will take care of the details.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

There are to be profound astronomical changes, since the powers of the sun and the moon are to be definitely changed (*Isa. 30:26*).

There will be definite geographical changes that will play their part.

The Mount of Olives is to be divided, and there shall be a "very great valley," probably bringing the Mediterranean to the doors of Jerusalem, and part of the land that is now below the sea shall be lifted up to a higher level (*Zech. 14:4, 10*)

A river shall flow out of the sanctuary at Jerusalem, dividing into two branches, one flowing to the Mediterranean (*Zech. 14:8*), and the other flowing down into what is now the Dead Sea, bringing those waters to a height where they shall flow into the Red Sea, healing the waters of the Dead Sea so that they shall be alive with fish (*Ezek. 47:8-10*).

The fertility of the ground and the productivity of crops will be enormously increased, possibly to the extent of a new crop each month (*Ezek. 47:12*).

This will make possible a vastly increased population, so that there may be billions and billions of people living on the earth.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

The nature of the animals on the, earth will be changed.

Those that are now carnivorous shall become herbivorous, the lion eating straw like the ox.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fawning together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox" (Isa. 11:6-7).

There shall be no more poison in those insects or reptiles that now have the power to kill

"the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain" (Isa. 11:8-9).

The only mark of the curse that will remain in the natural world is that the serpent will still go rampant (*Isa. 65:25*).

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

There are 2 kinds of peoples who inhabit the earth at the beginning of this kingdom age.

The judgment of the nations excludes from participation in the kingdom all of the nations which have rejected the Lord in His messengers during the tribulation period (the "goat" nations).

The "sheep" nations are taken into the kingdom, and thus are blessed of the Father (*Mat 25:34*).

There is no hint in scripture that these "sheep" nations are composed of individuals who are all redeemed.

Many are still "natural" men, receiving not the things of the Spirit (*1 Cor. 2:14*), with a carnal mind, which is enmity against God (*Rom. 8:7*) but who have not submitted themselves to or worshipped the anti-christ, have not taken his 'mark' and have aided Christ's brethren during the Tribulation.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Sin will exist in the millennial kingdom.

One of the purposes of the Millennium is the complete exposure of human nature under perfect conditions revealing its corrupt inwardness.

The Bible definitely teaches there will be sin, punishment and physical death during the period of Christ's reign.

The Lord shall break and rule with a rod of iron, and shall dash His enemies to pieces as a potter's vessel (Psalm 2:9).

Before the flood man lived for centuries.

Some will do so again in the millennial kingdom.

Anyone dying at a hundred shall be as a child, and the sinner, at a hundred years of age shall be accursed (*Isa. 65:20*).

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

There will be great economic and social advantages.

These grow out of the governmental aspects of the millennium.

The Lord will govern through the saints of the Old and New Testament periods, who shall be given exactly the same power that He received of the Father (*Rev. 2:27*), and who shall rule from the newly erected throne of Christ (*Rev. 3:21; Matt. 25:31*).

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?" (1 Cor. 6:2).

According to the capacities developed and faithfulness demonstrated during this life,

to the one shall be given rule over one city,
to another over five,
to another over ten, even as Christ said (*Luke 19:16-24*).

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Some have complained that this would be a step down from the glory enjoyed by the saints in their disembodied state in Heaven.

But, it is to the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ,

And, it is a preview of how God will use His saints in His government for ever and ever.

The New Jerusalem, a literal city 1,500 miles in length, in breadth and in height, will already hang suspended above the earthly Jerusalem, as the earthly residence of the resurrected and transformed saints.

The government of Christ will function primarily through the saints ruling as His agents.

A secondary delegation of power on earth will be through the born again Jews who will receive all the promises that were sworn to them in Abraham and David.

"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance . . . And so all Israel [living at the time of the Lord's return in glory] shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Rom. 11: 29, 26, 27).

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas.

There will be sinful, rebellious hearts, hating the government of God,

But, there shall be a prohibition of all evil,

Any outward manifestation's of evil shall be dealt with by the immediate presence and flashing power of God's righteous instruments of government.

It appears that for any who persist in sin, physical death will result.

The economic and social results of such a system of government are immediately apparent.

There shall be no more wars.

"He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:4).

But that does not mean that the selfishness, the true cause of war (*James 4:1*), shall have disappeared from the human heart.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

There will be no more economic exploitation.

Every man will be a land owner.

They shall all sit, every man under his own vine and fig tree (*Mic 4:4*)

So much for socialistic principles.

There will be no national power, whatsoever, in opposition to the kingdom power of the Messiah,

There shall be no spiritual or religious power in opposition to Him.

It will be impossible for there to be a 'philosophic' unbeliever on the earth.

Not one atheist, Not one agnostic, Not one skeptic.

There will be neither leader nor follower of any false cult.

The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord . . .

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Every human being upon the earth will know the Bible and that it is the Word of God.

Every human being will see the glorified saints as they go about their business governing for God.

Every human being will look upon the Lord Jesus Christ.

But many will still hate Him, even as they look.

The Gospel shall be preached, even as it is preached today.

There will be talk about sin and redemption.

The story of the fall and the curse will be told,

The serpent, though robbed of its poison (*Isa. 11:8*), will still crawl on its belly bringing a shudder and chill to hearts of all as they behold it.

The serpent will be visible as a reminder of the fall and the curse which some hearts, though knowing it to be true, will not wish to admit.

Why the Millennium Must Be Literal

Men and women, born in this time, shall be told and will know that Christ died – for them....

For some – for many - these words will have little effect.

They live in a world where there is no longer any violent death.

Therefore Temple sacrifices on the sacrificial altar in Jerusalem will continue to be the visible symbol of that death, seen by every soul on earth.

A young bullock, a kid, a ram and a goat will be killed at various times, and the nations of the world shall see the blood flow.

(Ezek. 43:19-27)

Rev 20:1

1] *“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand”:*

This is a continuation of Chapter 19.

The chapter divisions are not “inspired”;

they were devised by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 13th century

“Abousoo”: 7X in *Rev: 9:1 2,11; 11:7; 17:8; 20:1,3.*

Rev 20:2

2] *“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years”:*

Some (Amillennialists) believe the Millennium has already begun.

If so, Satan's chain is too long...

Paul was certain that Satan was loose *Eph 6:10*;

John agreed with him: *Rev 2:13; 3:9*

He was cast out of heaven in *Rev 12:9*;

Now he is cast out of earth.

[*Ps 90:4* and *2 Pet 3:8* are used to justify “allegorization”:

1000 yrs = 1 day, etc.]

“...a thousand years”:

This specific, measurable duration is specified 6 times in this chapter.

How many times does God need to say it before it is true?

Rev 20:3

3] *"And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season":*

Here is evidence that the deception of the nations comes from Satan.

Satan is not bound alone, but his demons with him (*Isa 24:21-23*).

Satan had said,

"I will ascend ... I will exalt my throne . I will sit . . . I will ascend . . . I will be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:13-14).

But the Word of God was written in the same moment, "

Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit."

How are the mighty fallen.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!" (Isa. 14:12).

Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

Satan's imprisonment is a direct result of the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the actual execution of the sentence passed upon Satan by God as one of the results of Christ's death.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:14).

Cf: (Gen 3:14-15)

The sentence is that the destroyer must be destroyed.

"destruction" in the Bible never means annihilation.

He is not immediately cast into the lake of fire along with the Antichrist and the false prophet. God has one more use for him.

The temporary prison of Satan is "the abyss."

Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

Satan and his hosts are not only put into the pit of the abyss, they are sealed there.

Since the seal is placed there by the messenger of our Lord, they will not come forth again until loosed by the same power.

During the 1,000 year period which follows – the Millennium - there will be no sign of Satan and his hosts at work in the world.

Individual sin rises from the heart of man

Mat 15:18-19 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. [19] For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

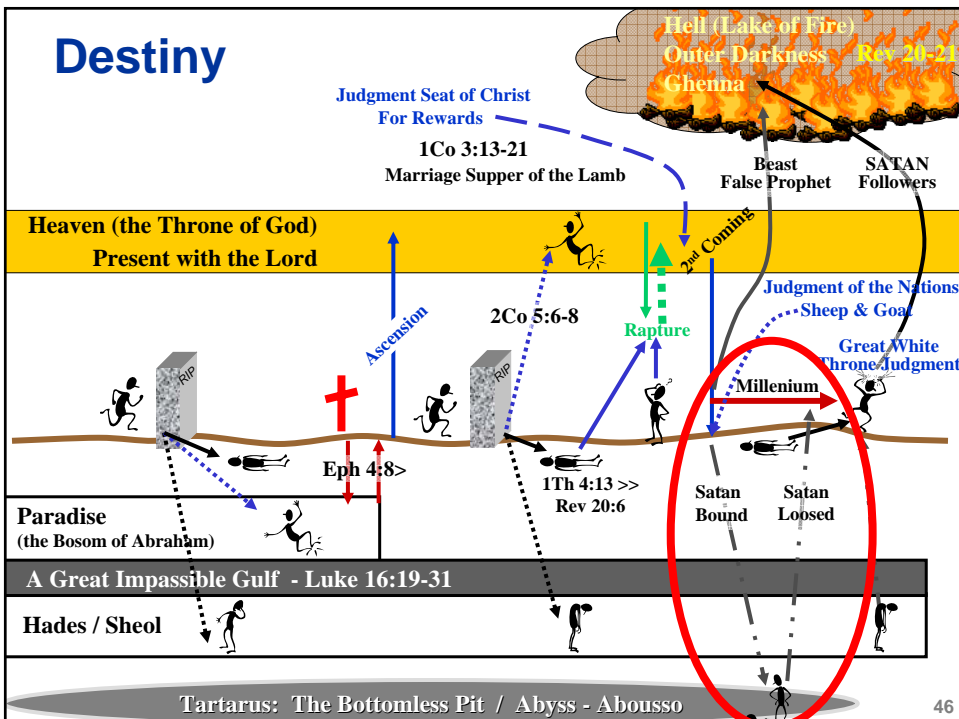
National sin comes from the deception of Satan.

The forces of the devil are:

"world rulers of the darkness of this world, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12, ARV).

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

Satan, who had been the terror of the nations and the prince of the demons is now led captive by one solitary messenger.

There is a definite order in power and might in the ranks of the angelic beings.

Ephes. 6:12-13 [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Common angels, if any angel can be called common:

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Heb. 1:14).

It is one of the 'common' messengers of God whom God uses to take hold of the former #2 angel in creation, the mighty prince, Lucifer.

A simple angel now lays hold upon the one of whom it was said,

*"Thou sealest up the sung, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty . . .
Thou art the cherub set apart for governing . . .
Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezek. 28:12, 14, 15).*

Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

In the past, Michael, the archangel, the mighty power of God who represents the Lord in all matters pertaining to the children of Israel (*Dan. 12:1*), had always dealt with Satan with great respect.

- When God buried Moses, Satan attempted to rob the grave.
- God sent Michael to take care of the matter
- There was some contention between Satan and the archangel.
- Satan, being of the higher order of the cherubim, was superior in might and power to Michael

"Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil, he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation., but said, The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9).

Here a simple angel comes in the power of the God of the universe and lays hold of the rebel Satan to bind him.

God could have done it at any moment had it suited His purpose.

Rebellion had to be fully tested:

It had to be shown clearly to all the universe that no one had the power or ability to govern except God.

Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

The enemy is named by four different names, all of them indicative of different qualities or offices of the rebel..

- He is called the dragon; "the monster"

Greek translate a Hebrew word used in the OT for various monsters.

27 passages using the Hebrew word reveals that uncleanness and foulness was a frequent characteristic of the 'monster'.

- He is called the old serpent.

Takes us back to Eden - the promised day of eating dust has come for him.

- He is called the devil, the slanderer, the false accuser of the brethren.

God vindicates His Word and silences the accuser for ever.

Rom 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

- He is called Satan, the adversary, the foe of God and all that God desired.

Satan dogged the steps of the Son of God when He was here on earth, tempting Him, working against Him, seeking to destroy Him before His time, and ultimately crucifying the Saviour.

Rev 20:1-3 Satan is Bound

The conquest of Satan and his powers does not come by any human efforts.

Some (amillennialists) have taught that evil will be put down through the slow spread of the truth.

But, just prior to the coming of the Lord from Heaven, truth has all but vanished from the earth.

"When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8

The enemy is not overthrown by the work of Gospel preaching...

Satan is put down by the lightning coming of the Lord in glory.

When the Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Satan had his minions seal the tomb in an attempt to keep the body of the Lord in the grave.

Acts 2:31 ...spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

When God brings Satan to his end, he and his host are put in the abyss and are sealed there so that they may not deceive the nations any more, till the thousand years should be finished.

Then God releases them for a short time to again unmistakably identify those who are of God and those who are not....

Shares in the family business

4] *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*

Saints of the tribulation period had sung a new song during their time of trial.

*"They sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests; and **we shall reign on the earth**" (Rev. 5:9-10).*

These who have been beheaded for the witness of Jesus, (the Greek word is that they were hatcheted) will live and reign with Christ.

All of the believers from Adam and righteous Abel down through the very last of the saints of God in the tribulation period will share in the triumph of the Son of God.

His is the victory. He won it at Calvary and now shares it with all of His redeemed.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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What about the suffering of today?

"I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18).

It is for His sake and in His name.

- Christ's sufferings for sin were completed at Calvary.
- Christ's suffering for righteousness' sake remains incomplete to this day. This is the suffering we share with Him.

Paul rejoiced in his share of it, filling up, or completing, that which was lacking in the afflictions of Christ

(Col. 1:24) Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

The body must not expect better treatment than that which the Head received.

But our light affliction is for a moment only, and it worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

(2 Cor. 4:17) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 20:4

4] *“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

Classes of participants, four groups of ‘elect’:

- OT Saints (*Dan 12:1-4; Isa 25:8-9*);
“Raptured” bodily at Jesus Resurrection
- Church (*Rev 5:10; 2:26-28; 3:12, 21; 1 Thess 4:13-18; 2 Tim 2:12*);
“Raptured” bodily at the Harpazo – THE Rapture
- Tribulation Martyrs (*Rev 6:9*);
“Raptured” bodily at Jesus 2nd Coming
- Tribulation saints, living, “worshipped not the beast”.
Still alive, bodily on the Earth

Rev 20:5

5] *“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection”:*

- The unrighteous dead from all ages
- Those who unrighteous who die during the Millenium

There are two resurrections:

Dan 12:2; Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Lk 14:14 (“of the just”).

The first and second resurrections are “categories,” not a single events.

- *First resurrection – those who are raised to participate in eternal life with Christ – works done in Christ judged for reward*
- *Second resurrection – those who are raised to be judged based on their works in the flesh – participate in the Second death...*

anastasei: “to stand up”; a bodily resurrection.

- The thrones are literal;
- The martyrs are literal;
- Jesus is literal;
- The resurrection is literal;
- The thousand years are literal.

Revelation 20:4-5 Where you from ???

4] *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5] "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection":*

Some fail to realize that "Hell"; the common English term used for the Hebrew Sheol and the Greek Hades, was divided into two compartments, one for the righteous (Paradise; Bosom of Abraham) and one for the lost (commonly known as Hell – Hades / Sheol), and that between the two there was a great gulf fixed (*Luke 16:22-26*).

- When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He told the believing thief that he would be in Paradise with Him on that very day (*Luke 23:43*).
- Peter quoted the Old Testament prophecies to the effect that Christ, though He would surely go to Hell (Paradise), would not remain there: *"Thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption"* (*Acts 2:25-31*).
- When He ascended on High (*Eph. 4:8*) He emptied Hell of Paradise and took it straight to the presence of God. Captivity was taken captive.
- A first sheaf of the believing dead was given resurrection bodies (*Matt. 27:52-53*) and the souls and spirits of all the Old Testament saints were taken to Heaven.

ACTS 17:11 1 THESS 5:21

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Revelation 20:4-5 Where you from ???

4] *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 5] "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection":*

From the moment of Christ's death onward there was to be no separation whatsoever for those who believe in Christ.

- Death can no longer separate us from Him (*Rom. 8:38*).
- "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (*2 Cor 5:8*);
- "to depart is to be with Christ which is far better" (*Phil. 1:23*).

We meet again...You look ma-a-velous !!

"Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him"; and also that "the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thess. 4:14, 16).

The first refers to the souls and spirits of the believers which are brought from Heaven with the coming Lord and that the second refers to the bodies of the believers which rise out of the earth.

At the same time there is a great transformation which takes place in the bodies of the believers which are living on the earth at the moment of His appearing for His own.

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed . . . the dead shall be raised incorruptible and we shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:52, 53).

Our earthly bodies are changed to be like the glorified body which the Lord Jesus Himself had after His own resurrection (*Phil. 3:21*).

Careful, take a breather ...

The phrase "this is the first resurrection" covers three distinct phases.

Our Lord taught us, when He Himself read the Scriptures, that we must be very careful to stop in the right places.

In the account of *Luke 4*, when He read *Isaiah 61*, He stopped at a point where there is now a comma, and where the passage definitely continues.

He refused to read the continuation, but rolled up the scroll, gave it to the priest, sat down in the place of teaching and said, "*This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*" (*Luke 4:21*).

We can often find thousands of years in a comma in the narratives of the Scriptures.

In Paul's passage covering the resurrection, in one great prophetic sweep covering all of the order of the resurrection it can be seen in the phases of the resurrection of the believers.

"For as in Adam all die [4,000 or 6,000 years in this comma!], so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ, the firstfruits [at least 1,900 years and still counting in this comma], afterward they that are Christ's at His coming [and this divided in two parts separated by the period of Antichrist's final rebellion]. Then [and there is a thousand years between the two] cometh the end" (1 Cor. 15:22-24).

Two Resurrections !!

5] *“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection”:*

Paul tells us that *“the dead in Christ shall rise first”* (1 Thess. 4:16).

There is no word about the dead out of Christ, the lost dead, the spiritually dead. The passage which describes the judgment of the believers specifically indicates that there are only two classes of people at the judgment and **that both are saved**.

One group of believers is saved plus a reward and the other group is saved, but minus the reward.

Any believer at this judgment who finds his works burned away is nevertheless told that *“he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire”* (1 Cor. 3:15).

Christ also promised rewards to be given *“(Luke 14:14) And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just.*

The resurrection cannot be a general resurrection of all souls at a single given time.

(2 Tim. 4:1) I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

There are two definite resurrections.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Two Resurrections !!

The Lord Jesus said,

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

To attempt to force all resurrection into one moment because of this use of the word hour ignores the fact that such words are often used in a sense covering a whole period of time. (Luke 22:53; Matt. 24:36, 42; John 4:21, 23, John 5:25).

Rev 20:4] “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Divides the saints into two groups.

The first phrase sees thrones and believers to whom is committed judgment sitting upon the thrones.

In the opening of the fourth chapter that there were four and twenty thrones for the four and twenty elders, typical of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve Apostles (Rev. 4:4).

“Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?” (1 Cor. 6:2).

0

Rev 20:6

6] *"Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years":*

Sixth of the seven beatitudes in Revelation. (Final: 21:7); cf. Rev 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8.

"...the second death": Twice dead? (*Jude 12*)

Physical Death (1st): Separation of the body and spirit;

Spiritual Death (2nd): Separation of the spirit from God.

"...shall be priests...shall reign with him":

Kings and priests. Reign-ing with Him; incredible!! [Cf. 24 Elders...]

Blessed and Holy

6] *"Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years":*

The saints are called "blessed" and "holy" which points us to the grace of God.

We are blessed. Blessed – found most often in the Beatitudes...

- We have been saved;
- We are the objects of God's love and mercy.

At the first resurrection, we enter into the fullness of all the promises made in the many beatitudes throughout the whole of the Word of God.

- Our delight will then be all in the Word of God.
- We shall be like planted trees.
- Our distinguishing mark in the midst of this world at the present day is that we are "meek."

We do not trust in anything of our own for our salvation.

We do not glory in man.

We have rejected any hope that is in ourselves and have clung to Christ alone, though He is the despised and rejected of men.

- We have become the meek who shall inherit the earth,

Carry on through every one of the beatitudes. At the first resurrection we shall realize the fulfillment of each one.

Holy

6] *“Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”:*

The word "saints" means "the holy ones."

Our holiness today is a position and choice that is ours in Christ.

Within ourselves we can lay no claim to holiness as the Word of God defines it.

At the very best we are unprofitable servants (*Luke 17: 10*).

But the day shall come when *"we shall be like Him" (1 John 3:2)*.

Then shall we will be truly holy.

There will be no more of the old nature left within us.

The old nature will have been taken out for ever

There will be nothing left within us but the divine nature of which we have already been made partakers (*2 Pet. 1:4*).

Power failure

6] *“Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years”:*

Several different words in the Greek which are translated into the one English word "power."

- dunamis → from which we get "dynamo," "dynamite," "dynamic." This power is that of great force.
- There is another word which is very similar to our word "energy."
- kratos → the power of ruling, as in our combined words like democrat, aristocrat, autocrat.
- exousia → translated "power" meaning "authority"

John 1:12, "power to become the sons of God,"

Exousia is the word that is used in our text.

- The second death has no "authority" whatsoever over those who are the blessed and holy ones through the work of Christ.
- The judgment of the Great White Throne cannot touch the believers.
- They have already been told by Christ that they shall not come into condemnation or judgment, but are passed out of death and into life (*John 5:24*).
- The believer shall never come into any judgment of condemnation, any judgment that might endanger his eternal state. (*Rom 8:1*)

4] *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years***
6] *"Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years**":*

When God takes the trouble to repeat something there is a purpose in it. This repetition is for emphasis of the literal fact that we shall reign with Christ.

On the whole Christians have been last and not first in earthly affairs

The world has hated us because of the great truth of our election by Christ (*John 15:19*).

The world has laughed at us and has not known us because it has not known Christ (*1 John 3:1*).

1Jn 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. .*

We shall be like Christ ...

We shall be like Him not only in His attributes of love and holiness, but in His power. Man, made a little lower than the angels, is raised through the redemptive death of the Lord who also was willing to be made lower than the angels (*Heb. 2:7, 9*), to a higher position.

We are not lifted back to the level from which Adam fell, but higher.

We are not lifted to the level of the angels, but higher.

We are not lifted to the eminence from which Lucifer fell, but higher.

We are lifted above all the principalities and powers to the very throne of Heaven.

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21).

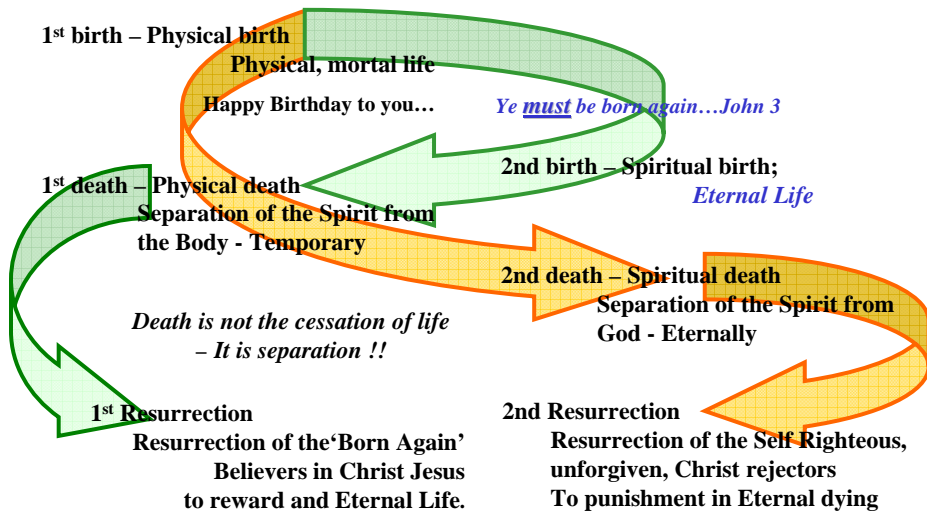
We shall be the instruments of God and reign over the universe with our Lord.

As A. B. Simpson once put it,

"As I look into the destiny of the saints I do not put it beyond God that someday He may permit us to create a world and govern it for Him."

Certainly there is more in the future than we dream.

**Born once – Die twice
Born twice – Die once**



Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 20:7

7] “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison...”:

Satan is bound 1000 years.

Amillennialists take note:

This must be in the future.

If Satan is bound now, his chain is too long!

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 20:8] "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea":

The nations are called "Gog and Magog."

Not Gog, the name of the man in the line of Reuben (*1 Chron. 5:4*).

Mentioned 9x in *Ezekiel 38-39*.

Magog's identity probably not closely linked with that of the grandson of Noah (*Gen. 10:2*)

Magog is mentioned 2x along with Gog in *Ezekiel 38-39*.

Both Gog and Magog must be looked upon as personalities, human or of the spirit realm remains to be seen.

The curse in Ezekiel is against Gog, the land of Magog, Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.

From Ezekiel it is clear that Gog and Magog personages who are active a thousand years before this scene in Revelation.

"The house of Israel shall know that I am the Lord their God from that day and forward" (Ezek. 39:22).

The thousand year Millennium follow the incidents concerning Gog and Magog in Ezekiel's prophecy.

Rev 20:8] "And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea":

In Ezekiel, that Gog and all his multitude is buried (*Ezek. 39:11*) at the time he is destroyed - a clear indication that a human being involved.

In Ezekiel we have two beings/personalities, Gog and Magog, who are leaders in the revolt against God and His people.

They come under the wrath of God and their forces are destroyed.

A thousand years later when Satan is loosed from his prison, he is somehow involved with characters with these same names.

Satan entered into Judas (*John 13:27*), whether personally or through one of his mighty principalities and powers,

Satan clothed the human being called the wild beast, with his power, his throne, and great authority (*Rev. 13:2*), thus making him the Antichrist,

Satan likely also has some princeling, named Gog, one of his mighty angels.

A more striking example may be found elsewhere in Ezekiel where we see a being who is clearly a man, the prince of Tyre, leading us on to a description of another being, the king of Tyre, who is clearly Satan.

Satan's angels, principalities, or powers which rule the darkness of this world (*Eph. 6:12*), take hold of earth dictators, use them for their ends, and are defeated by God at the great Armageddon destruction.

The human 'hosts' are destroyed, but the demon forces live on, held back by the power of God until Satan is released after the thousand years. Then they again indwell some willing earthling and seek to lead the peoples against God in their final rebellion.

Rev 20:8

8] “And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea”:

This is not to be confused with *Ezekiel 38-39*: which is from the north, not from the four corners of the earth, and is before the Second Coming, etc.

The time, place, and participants are all different.

Gog and Magog show up again?

Magog is a people; but how can Gog still be alive after 1000 years?

He is a demon king.

Amos 7:1(LXX) “King of the Locusts” (vs. *Prov 30:27*; cf. *Rev 9* notes.)

Gog and Magog has become an idiom by then.

This is a second occurrence of the rebels attempt at a “final” battle.

Rev 20:8] “And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea”:

Satan loosed out of his prison, goes forth to deceive the nations which are spread over all the earth.

What form will this deception take?

Doubtful that Satan has any new devices,

Probably a frank offer of freedom from the restraints of God which must have become exceeding irksome to unbelievers during the 1,000 years.

Romans 8:7 *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*

Expect nothing new from Satan.

Satan cannot tempt or deceive you with what is not already in your heart.

Desirable to you

Attainable by you

Possible for you

Easily within your reach

Rev 20:8] “And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea”:

Millions and millions gladly join in this last desperate effort to strike at God.

The number is as the sands of the sea.

Rev 20: 9] “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them”:

They cannot, of course, reach the throne of Heaven to fight against the Creator, the Most High God, possessor of Heaven and earth.

They cannot reach the lower heavens where the cherubim and the hosts of holy angels are now united forever in faithfulness to God.

They cannot reach the Lord Jesus Christ who is ruling earth from above.

So they attack the one thing that is within their reach; the nearest thing to them that represents God.

Rev 20:9

9] “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them”:

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

Even after 1000 years of perfect rule, there is enough evil resident in the heart of man that, given an opportunity, he still rebels...

We belong to a fallen race, and every human being is born with an essentially evil nature.

A perfect environment still reveals the fallen nature of man.

A perfect environment cannot produce a perfect heart.

The serious nature of our own heart can only be known by the Word of God (*Jer 17:9*).

Rev 20: 9j "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them":

They surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

The camp of the saints is a phrase that covers the headquarters of the believers who are aiding the Lord in His government of the earth.

The hosts of men make war on these saints.

God had promised that Israel would be restored to lead human government.

Throughout the 1,000 years He governed the earth through a righteous human government composed of the children of Israel and centered at Jerusalem, fulfilling all of the scores of promises to that effect throughout the Old Testament.

Rebelling, natural men siege Jerusalem, symbol of the government of God, to make war upon these representatives of God.

Rev 20: 9j "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them":

The day of God's patience is over.

Earth has seen its last iniquity.

God will not tolerate them any longer.

Fire came down out of Heaven and devoured them.

No other rebellion shall ever break out in the universe.

God has all power and has always had all power.

He was neither astonished or nonplussed when Satan rebelled.

He had known it would happen.

He could have destroyed him with a word.

If He had done so at that time:

Every created being that had fallen with or since Satan would have been destroyed also

Every other created being could have also formed the idea of ruling independently of the unseen, invisible God, who is Spirit.

Rev 20: 9j “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them”:

God allowed Satan's rebellion to run the full gamut of its experiment.

Out of the fall of man and the redemption in Christ God raised a company of the redeemed who have received God's own righteousness and will be associated with Him in fellowship forever. (*1 John 1:3*).

This is the company of the overcomers have overcome by the blood of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony (*Rev. 12: 11*).

To them were all the promises made, and recorded in the letters to the seven churches.

Never again in all eternity will the thought possess any heart that it can act independently of God.

The failure and performance of Lucifer in his repeated attempts at rebellion have proven to creation that only God is worthy....

Though seated on the very throne of the reigning Christ (*Rev 3: 21*) they will have no desire for a glory apart from His.

A race of redeemed ones, a bride in truth, will govern the universe for God, with all power derived from Him and all glory going to Him.

Rev 20:10j “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet [are], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever”:

Satan is cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where after 1000 years, the “terrible twosome” is still “living”

They and Satan shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

There is no such thing as “annihilation” in the Bible...

The doctrine of conscious, eternal torment for impenitent men is clearly revealed in the Word of God.

Whether we can defend it on philosophic grounds or not, it is our business to believe it; and leave it to the clearer light of eternity to explain what we cannot now understand,

We must realize that God has infinitely wise reasons for doing things for which we in our ignorance can see no sufficient reason at all.

It is a ludicrous conceit for beings so limited and foolish as the wisest of men are, to attempt to dogmatize how a God of infinite wisdom must act.

All we know as to how God, who is just, will act
is what God, who is wise, has seen fit to tell us.

Rev 20:11

11] *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”:*

Not to be confused with the Bema Seat – judgment of the deeds of the Redeemed for rewards.

Great White Throne Judgment (Dead): vs. *Rev 4; Dan 7:9-11; Isa 6; Ezek 1; 1 Kgs 22:19; Ex 24:9-11.*

Judge = Christ: *Jn 5:22, 27, 29; Mt 19:28; Acts 10:42; 17:31.*

No believers here (*Jn 5:24; cf. Mt 7:22-23*).

Note: Ecologists are doomed to failure—you cannot save the earth (*Isa 65:17; Mt 24:35; 2 Pet 3:10-12; Heb 1:10-12*).

Great White Throne

11] *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”:*

The throne is called the Great White Throne.

This is to be distinguished from all other aspects of the throne of God, no matter in what part of the Bible they may be described.

This is something new, different. It has been well summarized as follows:

Great: it is the Infinite before whom the finite must stand;

White: it is the unveiled, undimmed blaze of the divine holiness and purity and justice;

Throne: it is majesty unlimited, in which inheres utter right to dispose of the destiny of creatures.

Great White Throne – by invitation only

11] *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”:*

John sees a great white throne and the Lord God, Jesus Christ who is sitting on it.

John 5:27 And he [the Father] has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

Very probably it is all three of the Godhead.

John 5:29 ... -- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

He warned His enemies would surely come.

The judgment of the believers has long since taken place. When this judgment of the great white throne takes place we shall already have been with the Lord Jesus for more than a thousand years.

Only one group will be presented for judgment at the Great White Throne, the spiritually dead from all times and ages.

this earth and its heavens disappear...

11] *“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them”:*

Isaiah 65:17 "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

Matt 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

2 Peter 3:10-12 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

[11] Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives [12] as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

Heb 1:10-12 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [11] They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. [12] You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Heb 12:26-27 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." [27] The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken--that is, created things--so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

Isaiah 34:4 All the stars of the heavens will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.

There is to be an end of the material heavens and earth which we know.

The end of the heavens and earth we now know

11] *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them":*

They are not purified and rehabilitated, but the reverse of creation is to take place.

They are to be uncreated.

They came from nothing at the word of God, they are to be sucked back into nothingness by this same word of God.

Science says: matter cannot be created (made) and that matter cannot be destroyed; it can only be converted to energy...

True for us, not true for God who is the creator

Matter, everything we can sense, is dissolved, folded up, perishes.

"The things which are seen are temporal" (2 Cor. 4:18).

There will be nothing left to support the unsaved men and women whatsoever when they appear before the throne of God.

This is not for a trial. The trial is over.

This is the sentencing, mitigating evidence will be considered – not to determine guilt or innocence but to determine the severity of the eternal sentence. They all come to be plunged to their doom.

Eternal Indigestion

Back in the garden of Eden, God had said to Adam,

"In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17).

Satan gave the lie to God and said to the woman,

"Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4).

But death did pass upon all the race

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: " (Rom. 5:12),

Now the moment of the condemnation comes upon those who died in Adam and who were never made alive in Christ.

This is the moment of their resurrection, for **verse five** tells us that they were to be raised at the close of the thousand years, and now that time has passed and the hour of the condemnation has come.

Rev 20:5] "But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection":

The dead, The dead, The dead → Death

12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened...":

Note "dead" occurs 7X in v.12-14.

Again and again the word appears, "the dead," "the dead," "the dead," "the dead," coupled with the similar word "death," "death."

We may be sure that only lost souls are before this throne of judgment.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said so in definite terms.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Attendance Mandatory – No Excused Absences

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; ...

All are there - God is no respecter of persons

the fact that some men have been kings or emperors,

the fact that they have commanded armies and ruled peoples will not hold any comfort for them in this hour.

The fact that some have been preachers and prophets will not avail anything.

"Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out demons? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

.... "I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Mat 7:22-23).

The fact that others were insignificant in their places in this world will not avail anymore than the greatness of the mighty availed for them.

No one can get by God on the ground that his life was not important.

God placed every man in the circumstances in which his life was lived.

Those who lived for self or Satan will come to their doom at last.

Rev 20:12

12] And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened...”:

What books? [note the plural.]

God's Word: *“the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (Jn 12:48).*

“Works” do not save; they simply mitigate sentences and establish rewards

There is a judge, but no jury;
There is a prosecution, but no defense;
There is a sentence, but no appeal.

Wondering Why I Called You Together ...

Having rejected the Lord Jesus personal payment of our sin debt, their ‘tab’ has now been called.

Refusing Christ’s payment, they now must pay what they own themselves.

God opens the books and men are judged for failing to live up to even their own standards.

(Mat 7:1-2) Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2) For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

(Luk 6:37) Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

(1Co 11:31) For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

Even on the low level of their own knowledge and their own standards, no man has ever lived up to the light that he has had.

All the secrets of men will be made known.

(Rom 2:16) In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

Books – not a Book ...

There is more than one set of books kept in Heaven.

One is the roll of the elect, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world called "the Lamb's book of life" (*Rev. 21:27*) or simply, "the book of life" (*Phil. 4:3; Rev. 13:8, etc.*).

Luke 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

There is another book concerning the believers which is the record of all of their thoughts and meditations concerning their Lord.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name" (Mal. 3:16).

It is very possible that this book contains the difference between those who are saved and who receive a reward and those who are saved but who have all their works burned away (1 Cor. 3:14-15).

1 Cor. 3:14-15 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. [15] If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Another set of Books...

12 ... and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Another book concerns the unbeliever. This is a different book from "the Lamb's Book of Life."

The names of all who have ever been conceived – all who have been given the gift of created, physical life – are initially listed in the Book of Life

Unbelievers have had their names blotted out of the Book of Life

It is a promise to the overcomer - the born again ones - (*1 John 5:4-5*), that their names shall never be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life (*Rev 3:5*)

With their names blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life, these remaining men are judged based on their deeds in life.

There is another set of book which list all the deeds of men.

It is the record of all men's deeds.

God's standard is 'be ye holy as I am holy...'

No one on his own merit can be justified.

Rev 20: 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

The sea, in Scripture, often signifies the Gentile nations (e.g., *Dan. 7:3, etc.*).

- All Israel is saved before the thousand years (*Rom. 11:26*).

- All the unsaved in the millennial kingdom will be from among the nations.

This may refer to the all remaining lost from across the gentile nations of the earth which has just been dissolved.

The other possibility:

- This may refer to the vast numbers of demons who followed Lucifer in his fall and who throughout the ages have sought embodiment,

The Lord rebuked demon forces that had agitated the sea (*Matt. 8:26*),

The demons who took refuge (for a very short time) in the swine which immediately rushed into the sea (*Matt. 8:30*),

There is more than the mere raising up of the bodies of those humans who have been buried at sea.

Rev 20:13

13] "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works":

Judged by works—deadly!

Even by their own standards, they fail.

[Pember, et al:

demon forces agitated the sea (*Mt 8:26*);

demons took temporary refuge in the sea (*Mt 8:30*);

disembodied spirits from earlier inhabitants??...]

*Rev 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death":*

The death of death (see v.6).

Hades, sheol, is temporary.

Gehenna is "permanent"; that is, outside our time domain.

Death and Hades are bracketed together, yielding up their dead...

From our Lord's teaching in the story of the rich man and Lazarus, that the spirits of the lost are conscious in the torment of Hades,

We know from many passages of Scriptures that their bodies have gone back to the dust of the earth, just as God announced after the entrance of sin.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Death and Hades are to yield their dead.

The bodies (death) and the spirits (hades) of the lost will be united in a resurrection body.

The resurrection of Christ guaranteed that all should be made alive.

1 Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Timing is everything ... Count Off...

*Rev 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
This is the second death":*

The promised "order" fulfilled.

Those who are in Christ were raised at the first resurrection,

Now, those that are not Christ's, who rejected Him are raised.

1 Co 15:23-26 ... But every man in his own order:

Christ the firstfruits;

afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Earlier in Revelation we saw that the judgments are poured upon the earth in consequence of the death of Christ (*Rev. 8:5*);

Resurrection to eternal doom comes to the lost in consequence of the resurrection of Christ.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

The death of death...

In their eternal bodies of shame the doomed stand before the judgment bar of God to receive their sentence.

Every mouth is now stopped, and all the world is brought guilty before God

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

And in their eternal bodies (raised from death), united with their eternal spirits (raised from Hades), are cast into the lake of fire.

This is the second death – separation, isolation, torment forever

The Antichrist and the false prophet were there first.

Satan and his host of high ones were next,
and the lost of earth are last.

It is all over. God has finished casting out of His kingdom all things that offend and them that do iniquity.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Rev 20:15

15] "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire":

God does not send people to hell: they send themselves by rejecting the Saviour (*Jn 3:16-21; Mt 25:41*).

Hell is a witness to the righteous character of God;

Hell is a witness to man's responsibility.

If we saw sin as God sees it, we would understand why a place such as hell exists.

Are you written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

Or are you planning on defending yourself before the final judgment?