

The Millennium and the End of Sin

"They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:4, 5).

Revelation 20 speaks about the millennium—the thousand years during which Satan will be bound on the Earth and Christ will reign with His saints in Heaven. **(Revelation 20:1-4.** At the end of this period God will bring about the end of sin, by bringing into effect His final judgment. That judgment will end all that is associated with sin—Satan, his angels, sinners, and even death. So open your Bible to Revelation 19 and 20 for the final events of this sinful world, the end of sin, and glorious climax of God's perfect plan.

Preview

The Millennium is a biblical teaching. Although the word *millennium* does not appear in the Bible, Revelation 20 speaks about one thousand years of Christ's reign. Two views are prevalent on this important teaching of the Bible.

Firstly, post-millennialists teach that the thousand years come before the second coming of Christ. It will be a period of peace on Earth, when all will be converted.

Secondly, premillennialists teach that the Millennium follows the second coming of Jesus. In this second group are two main divisions. One teaches that Jesus will come in secret, rapture the church and there will follow a great tribulation on Earth. The other holds that at the literal, visible second coming of Jesus, both the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will ascend to meet their Lord in the clouds and go to Heaven, where they will reign for a thousand years.

Points to Ponder

Seventh-day Adventists are **premillennialists**. They believe that the second coming of Christ takes place before the millennium. If you read **Revelation 19 and 20** as describing the events for the end-time in a sequence, it is clear that the second coming inaugurates the millennial reign, not on Earth but in Heaven **(Revelation 20:4)**. When Jesus returns, the first resurrection takes place, in which all the saints rise. They, along with the living righteous, are taken up to meet Jesus in the clouds and go with Him to the Heavenly courts **(1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)**.

1. During the millennium the Earth remains desolate, Satan is bound, and the saints reign in Heaven. The second coming of Jesus destroys the wicked on Earth. The resurrected saints and the living saints are taken up to be with Jesus. Satan and his angels are on Earth, bound in desolation **(Revelation 20:1-3)**. The saints in Heaven reign with Jesus. To them is given the work of judgment. **(Revelation 20:4; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.)** They will review the plight of the wicked and be satisfied that the work of a living God is just and fair.
2. After the millennium, this Earth will be cleansed from sin and its effects, and the New Earth will be established. At the end of a thousand years, the New Jerusalem, with Jesus and the saints, will descend to Earth **(Revelation 21:1)**; The resurrection of the wicked will take place **(Revelation 20:5)**, and Satan

will be let loose (**Revelation 20:3**). God's judgment will destroy Satan, sinners, and all evil. The New Earth will be established (**Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13**).

Nuts and Bolts

1. The millennium begins with the second coming of Jesus. Read **Revelation 19:11-21**.
2. Before Christ comes, however, what events take place?

Revelation 22:11 _____
Daniel 12:1 _____
Revelation 16 _____

3. When Christ comes the second time, what happens to the righteous?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 "The _____ in Christ shall _____ first."

Revelation 20:5 "this is the _____."

1 Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we which are _____ and remain shall be _____ up together with them in the _____, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we _____ be with the Lord."

4. When Christ comes, what happens to the wicked?

Revelation 19:21 NKJV The wicked "were _____ with the _____ which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse." The wicked dead do not rise again "until the _____ years were finished." (**Revelation 20:5**)

5. When Christ comes, what happens to Satan? (**Revelation 20:1-3**)

The binding of Satan means putting him out of action. With saints in Heaven and with sinners all dead, there will be no people on Earth. Thus, Satan will be bound by a chain of circumstances—without anything to do.

Events during the millennium:

1. Christ reigns in Heaven with saints.

Revelation 20:4 The saints "lived and _____ with _____ for a _____ years."

2. Saints will sit in judgment.

Revelation 20:4 "And I saw _____, and they sat upon them, and _____ was given unto them." This is the judgment Paul refers to in **1 Corinthians 6:2, 3**

"Do ye not know that the saints shall _____ the world?...Know ye not that we shall judge _____?"

No doubt saints will have an opportunity to understand, during this time, God's dealings with humanity. They will be satisfied that God is fair, loving, and just.

3. What happens to Satan during the millennium?

Revelation 20:1-3: _____

Satan has been at work on Earth ever since the Garden of Eden, deceiving the people. We see his work everywhere: shattered homes, ruined lives, sickness, suffering, disasters, hospitals, prisons and wars. But now God puts him out of work for a thousand years.

Revelation 20:2, 3: "He laid hold on the _____, that old _____, which is the _____, and **Satan**, and bound him a _____ years, and cast him into the _____ pit, and shut him up, ... that he should _____ the _____ no more, till the thousand _____ should be fulfilled."

4. What is that great chain?

A chain of circumstances—for Satan has no one to tempt or hurt. The saints are all in Heaven, and the wicked are dead, so Satan is bound in the sense that he has nothing to do, no one to deceive. He only has time to think of the horror his rebellion against God and His law has caused. He can only look forward for the dreadful prospect of God's final judgment on him and his followers.

Events at the end of the millennium.

1. Christ descends to the Earth again with the saints and the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 21:2: "and I John saw the Holy City _____, coming down from God out of _____, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

2. The wicked arise from their graves.

The thousand years begin and end with a resurrection (see **Revelation 20:5**). At the first resurrection, the _____ / _____ are raised. At the second, the wicked are resurrected.

John 5:29: "They that have done good, unto the _____ of _____; and they that have done _____, unto the _____ of _____."

3. Why does God raise the wicked only to destroy them again?

Romans 14:10, 11: "For we shall _____ stand before the _____ seat of Christ...saith the Lord, _____ knee shall _____ to Me, and every _____ shall _____ to God." All the lost, including Satan and his angels, will see God's justice and confess that Jesus is Lord. Never again will sin mar God's perfect universe.

4. Satan's captivity ends.

With the wicked resurrected, Satan will be busy again in his work of deception. In his attempt to rally the wicked against God, he "shall go out to _____ the nations which are in the _____ quarters of the _____" (**Revelation 20:8**).

Lesson 27 - The Millennium and End of Sin
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE . . .

5. Satan leads an attack on the Holy City.

Revelation 20:9: "They went up on the _____ of _____ and compassed the camp of the _____ about, and the _____ city."

6. All who have ever lived will meet before God's great white throne, some inside the city and others outside. **Revelation 20:12:** "And the books were _____..and the dead were _____ out of those things which were _____ in the books,"

7. Even though Satan and the wicked bow before God, they make one last, desperate attempt to take the city. At that moment God carries out His final act of judgment.

Revelation 20:9: "And fire came down from _____ out of Heaven, and _____ them."

Revelation 20:14: "And _____ and _____ were cast into the _____ of _____. This is the second _____."

8. The fire destroys Satan and sinners and purifies the Earth. Out of the ruins God will create "a new Heaven and a _____ Earth: for the first _____ and the first _____ were passed away;" (**Revelation 21:1**)

9. With the destruction of Satan and evil and with the establishment of the new Heaven and the New Earth, the great controversy between Christ and Satan will be over.

Read **Revelation 21:4, 5** and list below the new blessing that will be available to the saints:

Hell

1. Hell is the place and state of punishment and destruction of Satan and all the wicked ones. It is the wages of sin that is death. (**Romans 6:23**)

2. When will the hell-fire come to destroy evil? **Revelation 20:14, 15:**

"And _____ and _____ were cast into the lake of _____. This is the second _____. And whosoever was not found in the book of _____ was cast into the lake of fire."

Hell, as a punishment of the wicked, takes place at the end of the millennium. It is not a present place.

3. The Bible speaks of hell as eternal fire. What does this mean? **Jude 7** Sodom and Gomorrah suffered the "vengeance of _____ fire". If "eternal fire" means ever-burning fire, are Sodom and Gomorrah still burning? No. "Eternal" when it refers to hell means a punishment that will be eternal--not in time, but in its effect. So, when Christ spoke of "everlasting punishment" for the wicked (**Matthew 25:41**), He did not mean a punishment that is everlasting but a punishment that is complete and final, out of which the wicked cannot survive.

4. What does tormented "*forever and ever*" mean? (**Revelation 14:11; 19:3; 20:10**) **Isaiah 34:9, 10** speaks of the fire that will destroy Edom, and says the smoke from that fire will "*ascend forever.*" **Exodus 21:6** says that a slave should serve his master "*forever.*" In each case, "forever" has a limitation—as long as Edom was destroyed or as long as the slave lived. Likewise, the torture of hell will remain until the wicked are destroyed.

Psalms 92:7: The wicked "*shall be _____.*"

Malachi 4:1: "*The day cometh, that shall burn as an _____ and all the _____ yea, and all that do _____, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall _____ them up, saith the Lord of hosts; that it shall leave them neither _____ nor _____.*"

Words to Remember

Millennium: The thousand-year period that comes after the second coming of Jesus, and during which Christ and His saints will reign.

Second death: The death of the wicked that comes as a result of God's judgment. This takes place at the end of the millennium. It is also called hell.

Hell: A place of punishment and destruction of the wicked. The second death.

The Difference Between

Everlasting punishment: Punishment that is everlasting, not in terms of time, but in terms of its finality. Total annihilation.

Eternal fire: Fire that burns until its work of complete annihilation is accomplished

Forever: As long as the person lives.

I Truly Believe

Everyone who is alive when Jesus comes will be praying. Check what your prayers are today:

- [] Thank You, God, for Your justice and mercy in saving sinners, but also for Your promise of cleaning up the universe so sin will never rise again.
- [] Help me to live in Your presence each moment, so that sin no longer has an appeal to me.
- [] Help me to allow the Holy spirit to transform my life, so that I can be with my Lord in the eternal home of the redeemed.

My Prayer

Dear Father,

Thank You so much for telling us in Your Word about the final end of Satan, sin and sinners. Thank You for the hope of Eternal Life. I'm looking forward to a new Heaven and a New Earth—my final home with You forever. Give me the power to live a life now that is spotless, blameless, and pure. Thank You in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Read the following Bible texts and with the help from the lesson above, answer the following questions by circling "T" if the statement is true or "F" if the statement is false. (Hint: there are 8 true and 2 false)

KEY TEXTS	John 14:2, 3	1 Cor. 6:2, 3	2 Peter 2:4-6; 3	1 John 4:8
	Jude 6, 7	Rev. 19-22	Psalms 16:11	Nahum 1:9

- 1 T or F The Millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in Heaven between the First and second resurrections (see pg 403)
- 2 T or F At the time of the second advent, when the kingdoms of this world are destroyed, God sets up His kingdom of glory—a kingdom that will last forever (see pg 404)
- 3 T or F The beginning of the Millennium occurs simultaneously with the resurrection of the righteous dead and the translation to Heaven of the living righteous who have placed their complete trust in Christ (see pg 404)
- 4 T or F Satan is bound and banished during the 1,000 years (see pg 406)
- 5 T or(F) The millennial judgment is to decide who is saved and lost and NOT to provide those in Heaven the opportunity to understand why the wicked were destroyed (see pg 407)
- 6 T or F At the end of the thousand years, Christ will end the great controversy by executing the decision of the millennial judgment, and He will purify and renew the Earth so that He can establish on it His eternal Kingdom there (see pg 408)
- 7 T or F According to the Scriptures, God promises eternal life only to the righteous (see pg 410)
- 8 T or(F) Punishment is everlasting in the sense that the wicked will burn forever (see pg 411)
- 9 T or F During the 1,000 years, the saints will reign with Christ and participate in the millennial judgment (see pg 407)
- 10 T or F At the end of the millennium a New Earth will become the home of the righteous (see pg 413)

All answers are based on the latest upgraded book, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .* 2nd Edition, 2005