Lesson 24 - The Millennium



The closing chapters of the book of Revelation describe the final events of this world's history and the plan of redemption. One of these events is the 1000 years, commonly referred to as the millennium. The word "millennium" comes from two Latin words joined together - mil, meaning a thousand and annum, meaning a year.

Unfortunately, like many last day events, there is much confusion within the Christian church regarding this doctrine of the millennium. The only way we can clearly understand the true meaning and purpose of this doctrine is to examine it in the context of the Day of Atonement (Lesson 22). This is how we will approach the study of this important doctrine.

The millennium is part of the final judgment scene revealed by the Day of Atonement, when sin will be eradicated and everlasting righteousness ushered in. God cannot eradicate sin nor usher in everlasting righteousness until all doubt about Him and His dealings with the sin problem is removed.

At the end of the Pre-Advent Judgment of the saints (Lesson 21), the vast multitude of God's angels, along with the unfallen worlds, will confess to God, "just and true are your ways." At the end of the thousand years (the millennium) the saints will confess to God, "just and true are your ways." Finally, after Satan, his angels, and the lost are personally judged, they too will confess to God, "just and true are your ways" (Romans 14:10-12).

Then, and only then, will God execute Satan, the originator of sin; the wicked angels who have joined him in the rebellion; and the lost - those who have deliberately, persistently and ultimately rejected the gift of salvation in Christ.

In this study, we will turn our attention to the thousand years, the doctrine of the millennium, when God will remove all doubt from the minds of the saints about Himself and His dealings with the sin

problem. For Christians, many questions about God's dealing with sin still remain unanswered. All this will be settled during the millennium, and our hearts will be full of praise to God.

1. What are the two kinds of resurrections that Jesus taught? John 5:28, 29

The Bible speaks of two resurrections. The first is the resurrection of the believers, the saved, and the second resurrection is that of the unbelievers, the lost. Between these two resurrections is the millennium, the 1000 years.

2. When will the resurrection of the believers take place? 1 Thessalonians 4:16

3. What will happen to the believers still living at the Second Advent? 1 Thessalonians 4:17

The resurrection of the believers sleeping in Christ will take place at the Second Coming of Christ. This is the first resurrection, the blessed hope of all believers. This is when the thousand years or millennium begins.

4. What change will take place in the believers at the resurrection? 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

According to the clear teachings of the New Testament, the last generation of Christians, those who go through the time of trouble, will not experience death but will experience a change.

5. Where will Jesus take the believers after they are resurrected? John 14:1-3

Until the Second Advent, Christians will still have sinful natures and mortal bodies. All this will change at the Second Advent. This is the blessed hope.

6. What were the disciples told who witnessed Christ's ascension? Acts 1:10, 11

Just as Christ's ascension into heaven was literal and physical, so also will be His Second Coming. It will be literal and physical.

7. How many who are alive will witness Christ's Second Coming? Revelation 1:7

Besides the living, God will also raise those who crucified Christ in a special resurrection, just before the Second Advent. This is to fulfill what Christ promised them at His trial (see Matthew 26:64).

8. What will happen to the wicked at the Second Coming of Christ? 2 Thessalonians 2:8

God is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29); therefore, when Christ comes in His divine glory all those who have accepted the deceptions of Satan and rejected the gift of salvation in Christ will be destroyed by His brightness.

9. What serious question did Jesus ask of those who rejected Him? Matthew 16:26

When the wicked face death at the Second Coming of Christ, they will realize what they have given up for the pleasures of sin. But it will be too late!

10. To what condition will this earth be reduced after the Second Advent? Jeremiah 4:23

This was the condition of the earth before creation (see Genesis 1:2). This will be the ultimate result of the sin problem. It will reduce the perfect world God created to the condition it was before creation.

11. What will happen to the vegetation and the cities when Jesus returns? Jeremiah 4:26

12. To what are the lost compared after the saints are taken to heaven? Jeremiah 25:33

13. What will God do to Satan during the millennium? Revelation 20:1-3

The “bottomless pit” describes the earth as it was before God created this perfect world: “without form and void.” Satan will have a thousand years to contemplate the disaster he has brought upon the earth, by introducing sin.

14. What will happen to Satan after the thousand years are over? Revelation 20:3b

At the end of the millennium, the wicked will be raised. This is the second resurrection. At this time the wicked, referred to as the dead, stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment. The books are opened and they are judged out of the things written in the books according to their works (Revelation 20:11, 12). The books reveal every sin they ever committed. As their lives flash before their eyes, they realize they have trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29). At that time Satan, who has shown no signs of repentance, will take the initiative to deceive them again (see Revelation 20:7, 8).

15. What will Satan and the wicked do and with what consequences? Revelation 20:9

When Satan uses the wicked to attack God and the saints, it clearly proves that the thousand years did not change his attitude toward

God. He and those who have joined him deserve to be destroyed. This is the end of Satan, the wicked angels, and the lost (see Revelation 20:14).

16. What will the saints be doing in heaven during the thousand years? Revelation 20:6

Reigning with Christ involves investigating and judging the lives of the lost. There will also be opportunity to see why God vindicated certain individuals whose lives did not appear to evidence a true conversion experience while on earth. This is what it means to be “priests of God and of Christ.” During this time, every doubt about God’s dealings with the sin problem will be removed.

17. How does Paul describe reigning with Christ during the millennium? 1 Corinthians 6:2

During the thousand years all the questions concerning God’s dealings with the sin problem will be answered, and the saints will be satisfied that God was just and true in all His ways.

18. What will the saints confess after they have judged the world? Psalm 119:7

During the thousand years, every opportunity will be given to remove any doubt concerning God. This has to happen if God is to be vindicated and sin is not to rise again the second time.

19. Before the final judgment takes place, what blame does God assume? Isaiah 45:7

Because God is sovereign, nothing can happen without His permission. For this reason He assumes all the blame for the havoc and atrocities that sin has produced in this world. It is only after the thousand years, when all will have had the opportunity to examine God's dealings with the sin problem, that all will confess "just and true are Your ways… for Your judgments have been manifested" (Revelation 15:3, 4).

20. On whom will God ultimately place the blame for the sin problem? Leviticus 16:20-22

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The live goat in this verse represents Satan, the originator of the sin problem. After God has vindicated Himself on the Day of Atonement, He will put the blame for the havoc that sin has produced where it really belongs, on Satan. Lesson 22: Footnote 1 addresses this further. Technically speaking, Satan takes only the (blame for) sins of repentant sinners, who were part of the first resurrection. Those who were part of the second resurrection had willfully, persistently, and ultimately rejected the gospel. Therefore, they themselves are to blame.

21. How will the righteous finally respond to God's judgments? Revelation 16:7

The whole purpose of the millennium is to clear all doubt from the minds of the righteous regarding God and His dealings with the sin problem. Only when this is done can He put the real blame for the sin problem where it belongs: on Satan. Only then can Christ usher in everlasting righteousness.

22. Will heaven be the permanent home of the saved? Revelation 21:2, 3

At the end of the millennium, Christ and all the saints dwelling in the New Jerusalem will return to earth. It is at this time that Satan and the wicked will be destroyed. Then Christ will create a new heaven and a new earth for the saints (see Revelation 21:1). This will be the topic of our next and final study.

My Response to Lesson 24

• The millennium is the 1,000 years between the 2nd and 3rd Comings of Christ. During this time the earth will be desolate, believers will be in heaven, and God will clear any doubts about His dealings with sin. Do you believe this is necessary to usher in everlasting righteousness?

Response: _____