

Prophecy Sermon #12

Turn in your Bibles to Revelation 20

Prophecy

Jesus took the disciples to the door in Matthew and I'm going to take you on into the Millennial Kingdom.

The Bible speaks of a glorious period of time we refer to as the *Millennium*. We refer to it as the Millennium because the Bible states six times in six successive verses of Revelation 20, verses 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, that this period of time will last for 1,000 years.

I've entitled this two-part series – “The Kingdom Cometh”

Revelation 20

Let us stand for the reading of God's holy and prophetic Word

Revelation 20:1-15

Let us pray

You may be seated

1. Israel will be regathered and judged – Matthew 24:31-25:30
2. Rest of the nations will be judged – Matthew 25:31-46
3. Satan will be bound and confined to the bottomless pit

Text deals with something the Lord does at the beginning and at the end of Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10)

I. The Forceful Restraint of Satan

Revelation 20:1-3

Where is Satan today? First Peter 5:8 says, . . .

How are we living, knowing he is on the loose? Hopefully, we are living in a sober and vigilant spirit—just like we would be living if a real lion were on the loose in our neighborhood!

According to God's Word in Revelation 20, there is coming a time when this roaring lion will be chained and cast into prison. The court will meet. The final gavel will fall. And the arch criminal, Satan, will be pronounced guilty for murder and every other conceivable evil committed in this world. And he will receive the longest prison sentence in history—one thousand years.

I. First, he will be sentenced for murder. He brings spiritual, physical, and eternal death to youth, happiness, purity, and holiness. . . . He was a *murderer from the beginning* and has not stood in the truth . . . John 8:44.

II. He will also be sentenced for being a thief. Since his fall from heaven, he has robbed men and women, boys and girls of joy, contentment, and peace in his mission to bring despair and discouragement. Jesus said . . . John 10:10

III. The judge will also hand down a thousand-year sentence for the crime of extortion. He has deceived the minds of millions with his false advertising of fulfillment and prosperity. Why do you think the Bible refers to him as a serpent? The word *serpent* in

the Bible speaks of deception, Revelation 12:9 . . . He is *the one who deceives the whole world*.

Can there be any more crimes with which to charge the devil?

. . . he is now judged guilty and cast into prison.

Actually, God's Word calls this prison a bottomless pit. That will not be Satan's final destination; it will be a holding tank until he is finally cast into the liquid lake of fire.

Isaiah 14:12-17 gives us a brief overview of Satan's biography and a prophecy of his end in the bottomless pit.

I love the phrase Isaiah uses—that people will “narrowly look upon” Satan. They will have to squint to see him.

II. The Future Reign of the Savior Revelation 20:4-6

After the Great Tribulation and the battle of Armageddon, Jesus Christ will literally reign on earth for a thousand years and the saints will reign and rule with Him. How do I know that? Because Jesus taught us to pray: “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). Has His will been done on earth as it is in heaven? No. Will it be? Yes, when He returns for His millennial reign.

A. The Changes That Will Take Place

And when Jesus returns to rule and reign, many glorious, global, miraculous changes will take place.

Interrogative Question:

Now notice something in verse 3: When the thousand years are fulfilled, the old Devil “must be loosed for a little season.” Why must he be loosed?

The messianic kingdom will be inaugurated at the second coming of Christ. At that time the land promise made to Abraham and his descendants will be fulfilled (Gen. 15:18-21). Then the promise made to David that his descendant (Messiah) will sit on the throne of the kingdom forever will be fulfilled.

The word *millennium* means “one thousand years.” Theologians are divided on whether there will be a thousand-year. . . Just look at all the references to this thousand-year period in Revelation 20:

The latter part of verse 2 says, . . .

The middle part of verse 3 says, . . .

The last part of verse 4 says, . . .

The first part of verse 5 says, . . .

The second half of verse 6 says, . . .

Verse 7 says, . . .

Six times in Revelation 20:2-7 the length of the Millennium is stated to be 1,000 years. The repetition of this figure underscores both its literalness and its importance.

Those who object to the doctrine of an earthly Millennium often say that the term itself is not found in the Bible. They argue from this fact that the teaching is manmade, not derived from the Word of God. The words *trinity*, . . . *Rapture* are in the same boat. These are words not found in the Bible – yet we use them to describe Bible teaching.

“a thousand years,” just as *century* means “one hundred years,” or *jubilee* indicates the expiration of fifty years.

A millennium, then, is a time period of 1,000 years.

. . . There are basically three interpretations about the millennium: amillennialism, postmillennialism, and premillennialism . An amillennialist believes there will not be a literal millennium. If you put the alpha prefix in front of a word, it simply negates the meaning of the word. For instance, the word *amuse* means “not to think.” If you want to think, you go to a museum. (If you don’t want to think, you go to an amusement park.)

Amillennialists interpret Revelation as symbolism. They do not look for a literal fulfillment.

Amillennialists do not believe Christ will reign physically. They consider the Millennium to be a figurative, a picture of Christ’s reigning on earth through the hearts of His redeemed people.

Next is the postmillennialist view. The prefix *post* means “after.” These theologians believe that Jesus is coming *after* the thousand years of peace on earth. The postmillennialist believes that when the church fulfills its God-given mandate to evangelize the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ and fulfills – then Jesus will come.

I am a premillennialist, and that is what I hope you are (or will be before I finish this chapter). The premillennialist believes that Jesus must come before the earth can enjoy a thousand years of peace.

The gospel has not failed. We are not postmillennialists who are trying to make the world better so Jesus can come. We are not rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*. We are telling people about the lifeboat, whose name is Jesus.

Let me show the sequence of events.

Revelation 19:11, 17

The “and” with which this chapter begins suggests that it continues the sequence of events begun in 19:1

“Postmill” and “amill” are not Biblical

Only in the Millennium the Lord Jesus Christ will personally and visibly reign over the affairs of all mankind (Dan. 7:14). His rule will be as a benevolent despot (Rev. 19:15). As a result, there will be perfect and complete justice for all, and sin will be immediately punished (Isa. 11:4; 65:20).

The type of government will be a theocracy. It is the same kind of government God used for Israel in the Old Testament.

The city of Jerusalem will be the center of government (Isa. 2:3). That city will be exalted (Zech. 14:10); it will be a place of great glory (Isa. 24:23)

Jerusalem, scene of so much war and turmoil both in the past and present and victim of future judgments during the Tribulation, will never again need to fear for her safety (Isa. 26:1-4).

The Rapture will occur before the Tribulation, removing all the redeemed who are living on the earth at that time. But many people will be saved during the Tribulation including a specific group of 144,000 Jewish people. Of those saved during that horrible time, many will be martyred but some will survive to enter the Millennium.

The first subjects of the rule of Christ during the kingdom will be the believing Jews and Gentiles who survive the Tribulation and enter the kingdom in earthly bodies. At the very beginning of the Millennium all the people on earth will be redeemed, for all unsaved will have been judged at Christ's return and sent to Hell. Of course, babies will be born right away so that in a few years there will be many who will be of age to decide for themselves their own spiritual relation to the King. They will have to be subject to Him at least outwardly, but whether they give heart allegiance will be a matter of personal choice. All will have to accept Him as King; some will also accept Him as personal Savior. All of these people will be living in mortal bodies.

The initial group who will enter the Millennium will not only enter with natural bodies but will also be redeemed people who willingly submit to the rule of the King. In due time, babies will be born and grow up. Some will receive Christ into their hearts; others will not. But all will have to give allegiance to the King's government or suffer the consequences.

. . . the original parents of the millennial kingdom will come from the redeemed (but unresurrected) survivors of the Tribulation, the "sheep" of Matthew 25:32-34 and the faithful Jewish survivors of Ezekiel 20:38.

Since resurrected people do not propagate, there would be no way to populate the kingdom unless some unresurrected people enter the Millennium.

Adults who survive the Tribulation who are not taken to heaven at the end of the Tribulation but who enter the Millennium in unresurrected bodies become the first parents of the millennial population.

People will have children during the millennium. And when they have children, many of these children will not repent and believe upon Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. God has millions of children, but He has no *grandchildren*. Just because one generation is Christian doesn't mean the next generation will be.

The Millennium not only involves the reign of Christ with His Church, who will then have resurrected bodies, but also the reign of Christ over people on this earth who will not have resurrected bodies. If there were only resurrected saints in the millennial kingdom, then there would be no death, no increase in population, and no differences in the ages of millennial citizens (all of which are indicated as characterizing the kingdom—Isa. 65:20; Zech, 8:5; Rev. 20:12).

The Millennium

Rogers, pages 240-248

The wolf and the lamb, the calf and the lion, and the little child and the serpent will all play together. The implements of war will be relics of the past. Israel will be restored to

her land. Jerusalem will be the world's capital. The resurrected saints will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The prophets of the Old Testament revealed that the Millennium, among other things, will be a period:

1. **Of unbelievable prosperity** – Isaiah declared that the desert would blossom abundantly (Isaiah 35:1-2)

The plant and mineral kingdoms will change. About the King's reign, Isaiah said, . . . Isaiah 35:1. The Sahara Desert will be a veritable garden abloom with every imaginable flowering plant.

Prosperous

The earth will be increasingly productive throughout the Millennium as wilderness and desert places become useful (Isa. 35:1-7). . . . (Amos 9:13-14) . . . (Ps. 72:12-13).

2. **When righteousness will be the order of the day** – Isaiah again declared that the poor and meek would be judged with righteousness (Isaiah 11:3-4)

3. **Of world peace among both mankind and animals** –

- a. Men will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4)
- b. The cows and bears shall feed together and the sucking child shall play on the hold of the asp [cobra] (Isaiah 11:7-8)
- c. Peaceful

As a consequence of righteousness, the Millennium will be an era of peace. (Isa. 19:23-25) . . . (Zech. 8:4-5) Indeed, the whole earth will be at peace (Isa. 2:4).

4. **When resurrected saints will actually inhabit this earth in their glorified bodies**

5. **When Jesus Christ personally reigns over this earth!**

The human kingdoms will change. . . . Isaiah 2:2-4

The animal kingdom will change. Once again Isaiah prophesied . . . Isaiah 11:6-9

Revelation 20 tells us that there will be a first resurrection.

Read pages 245-247 – Rogers, First Resurrection

Jesus Christ can come at any moment.

This . . . puts our focus on *evangelism*. . . . Is there a passion in your heart to bring people to Jesus Christ so they might be saved? Do you have the heart of a soul winner? If not, ask God to give you one.

Do you *know* that you *know* that you are saved? Are you sure you are saved? Your soul is too precious for you to play loosely with it. If you are not sure, I have good news for you—Jesus can save you today. There is nothing to buy; it is a gift. There is nothing to earn; it is a gift. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you are saved through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast.”

Grace is God reaching down to you and saying, “I love you. I sent My Son to die for you. I want to save you. Here is My hand of grace reaching down to you.” Faith is your hand reaching back up to God. When you put your hand of faith in God’s hand of grace, that is when you are saved.

. . . Satan is bound . . .

Jesus returns to the earth, defeats His enemies at the Battle of Armageddon, and He is received by the Jews, and establishes His kingdom on earth (Rev. 19:11ff; Zech. 12:7-13:1). And He will reign on earth for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-5).