

Things to Come

#24 The Millennium and the Great White Throne

Rev. 20:1-15

I. Introduction

Once the major judgments have been meted out, there are seven "last things" yet to be accomplished:

The return of Christ, the defeat of Satan, the binding of Satan, the Millennium, the final end of Satan, the last judgment and then the new heaven and the new earth.

The second coming of Christ and the defeat of Satan occurred at the end of chapter 19 (vs. 11-21).

In chapter 20, we will see the binding of Satan, the millennial reign of Christ, the final judgment and end of Satan and the Great White throne Judgment.

II. The Millennium (vs. 1-7) Consider Isa. 11:6 and Psalm 72

A. The millennial kingdom is referred to by many different kinds of names in the scripture:

1. "The regeneration" Matthew 19:28
2. "Times of refreshing" Acts 3:19
3. "An administration suitable to the fullness of the times" Eph. 1:10

B. This is a very difficult subject to understand: "One of the most controversial and intriguing questions of eschatology." (Berkouwer)

1. Views of the Millennium
 - a. Postmillennial-teaches that Christ will return before the millennium. They do not see a literal 1000-year period of time, but rather see it as a golden age of prosperity during the Church age.
 - b. Amillennial- believes that there is a kingdom but it is being fulfilled right now. We are in it right now.
 - c. Premillennial-a literal interpretation of the OT will lead one to a premillennial position. Israel does have a future and all the myriad of OT prophecies regarding their coming kingdom will be fulfilled in the millennium.
2. A few features of the Millennium:

Jerusalem will be the capital: Isa. 2:3. *"Many peoples will come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."*

All wars will cease: Isa. 2:4, *"He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore."*

Justice for all Isa. 11:3-5 *"and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist."*

C. The Binding of Satan (vs. 1-3)

As God starts to set up his reign on earth, He needs to get rid of "the god of this world" (II Cor. 4:4)

1. Note his names: the dragon, the serpent (see Gen. 3), the devil (the slanderer), Satan (adversary)
2. Chained in the abyss (hell) for 1000 years (see 9:1, 2, 11; 11:7; 17:8)
3. Set free for a short time

D. The First Resurrection –the resurrection of the righteous (Luke 14:14, Acts 24:15)

This resurrection includes OT saints (Dan.7:27), NT believers (I Cor. 6:2, II Tim. 2:12), and tribulation martyrs (beheaded=cut off with an axe).

A word about their bodies: "only the redeemed from among the Jewish and Gentile survivors of the Tribulation will go into the kingdom in their normal, physical bodies." (MacArthur)

"Second death" -the spiritual death...all eternity in the lake of fire.

III. The Judgment of Satan vs. 8-10

The battle of "Gog and Magog" -not be confused with the battle described in Eze. 38-39

This is Satan's last attempt to conquer the world.

IV. The Great White Throne Judgment vs. 11-15

- A. This is a just judgment of unbelievers...because God is just (Deut. 32:4, Job 37:23-24)

Ps. 81:11 *"But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me."*

John 5:40 *"... yet you refuse to come to me to have life."*

John 8:24 *"I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins."*

- B. "The great and the small" will be judged: all unbelievers
- C. The condemned are summoned from the sea, from the dead (grave) and from Hades: from everywhere
- D. The books: a record of every thought, word and deed. Remember, God's justice demands payment for every one's sins. (Luke 8:17 and Matt. 16:27)
- E. "The book of life":
 - Ancient cities kept a registry of citizens. This book keeps a record of those who have their citizenship in heaven (Phil. 3:20).
 - Referred to several times in Revelation: 3:5, 13:8, 17:8 and 21:27).
 - See Dan. 12:1, Mal. 3:16, Luke 10:20 and Phil. 4:3.
- F. They are sentenced to the lake of fire.

V. So What?

Remember, this judgment is for unbelievers...

Rom.8:1 *"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,"*