

REVELATION 20: Session 12

Intro to Biblical Prophecy teaching series - Bethany Mootz - February 21, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION TO JESUS' 1,000 YEAR REIGN

- A. The Millennium is a 1,000-year time span where Jesus reigns physically as King in Jerusalem. We will be teaching from the perspective that the 1,000-year reign of Jesus is literal and future and will begin after His return to the earth.
- B. Another perspective is called Amillennialism, which states the 1,000 year kingdom is spiritual and was initiated at Jesus' ascension to heaven. The negative to this perspective is that it spiritualizes Bible prophecies, assumes the Great Tribulation was in 70AD, and removes Israel's significance in God's eternal plans.
- C. The purpose of the Millennium is to initiate Jesus as King over the earth and to disciple the nations under His direct leadership. He will heal and transform the earth in preparation for the Father and heaven to fully join the natural realm (Ephesians 1:10; 1 Cor 15:23-28) During the 1,000 years, Jesus will naturally and progressively transform the earth in partnership with humans.

D. Main themes of the Millennial Kingdom:

- a. Jesus will restore His people Israel and will fulfill every prophetic promise for Jerusalem, making them the praise of the earth (Isaiah 62). Jerusalem will be restored as the Garden of Eden and extend into the nations. (Isa 51:3, Ezek 36:35)
- b. Jesus will resurrect and reward the saints in the first resurrection at His return. This allows the saints to be dynamically involved in helping Jesus transform the earth. Ruling and reigning with Jesus is part of the reward of the saints' faithfulness in their life.
- c. Jesus' kingdom will manifest in every nation and in every sphere of society (political/governmental, economic, spiritual life, educational, law enforcement, agricultural, family, media, social institutions, etc)
- d. All the nations will worship Jesus and come to receive teaching from Him in Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:1-3, Zech 8:21-23, 14:16)
- e. During the 1,000 years, it seems that the New Jerusalem will descend and only partly join the natural realm, resting over Jerusalem and the Middle East and be connected in some way to the earth. It will join the earth fully when the Father comes to dwell on the earth after the Millennium.
- f. Non-resurrected humans will repopulate the earth. Scripture describes humans being alive on the earth after the Great Tribulation. These people will be survivors from the Great Tribulation who did not take the mark of the beast and who did not put their trust in God either. The Bible refers to these people as those "who are left", those "who have escaped" those who "survived" or "the remnant of His people". (Isa. 4:3; 10:20; 11:11; 49:6; 65:8; 66:19; Jer. 31:2; Ezek. 20:38-42; 36:36; Amos 9:9-10; Joel 2:32; Zech. 12:14; 13:8; 14:16)

II. SATAN BOUND AND IMPRISONED

- A. After Jesus appears in the sky at His coming, He will come down and march through Jordan (Jordan surrounds Israel on the south and east) on His way to take over Jerusalem. He will begin to deliver the Jewish people and will destroy the enemy armies that surround Jerusalem (Revelation 19; Isaiah 63; Zechariah 14). The battle of Armageddon refers to Jesus' military victory over the international armies surrounding Israel in the valley of Megiddo/Armageddon (Joel 3:2, 12; Zech. 12:3; 14:2; Zeph. 3:8; cf. Ezek. 38:4; 39:2; Rev. 16:14-16).

Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet....These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:20-21)

- B. The Antichrist and false prophet will be captured by Jesus or His army. This entire process will take time. At some point after the battle, the lake of fire will either be created or made visible, and these two men will be the first ones thrown in. Then, the evil armies who surround Jerusalem will all be killed by Jesus and will be eaten by birds.

Speak to every sort of bird...“Assemble yourselves...to My sacrificial meal...on the mountains of Israel, that...you shall eat the flesh of the mighty, drink the blood of the princes... (Ezekiel 39:17-18)

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and having a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on Him. (Revelation 20:1-3)

- C. Here Satan is called 4 different names: the dragon, the serpent of old, the Devil, and Satan. He will be captured by a mighty angel sometime after the battle is over. He will be chained into the “abyss” or the bottomless pit for 1,000 years; unable to influence and deceive the nations. Demonic spirits and evil kings are also imprisoned in this pit (Isa. 24:21-22)

The Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones [demonic principalities, demons etc], and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished. Isa. 24:21-22

III. SAINTS ENTHRONED

And I saw thrones and they sat on them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and the word of God....And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4)

- A. ***I saw thrones and they sat on them*** - The saints of Revelation 19:14, 19 are the subject of the phrase: “they sat” on thrones (20:4). John saw thrones, that represent God's government and authority, given to the saints similar to Daniel in Daniel 7.

I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated... I was watching; and the same horn was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them, until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom... (Daniel 7:9, 21-22)

He [The Antichrist] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High, and shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time. 'But the court shall be seated, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever. Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Daniel 7:25-27)

- B. *Those who had been beheaded... lived and reigned with Christ for 1,000 years-* John specifically saw the end-time beheaded martyrs reigning with Jesus in the 1,000 years. The martyrs here will be considered the largest group in history who will be called faithful in their witness to Jesus until their death. God specifically wants to honor them and mentions them as those who will reign as kings. Revelation 7:9-14 and 14:13 also highlight those killed during the Great Tribulation.
- a. This verse doesn't negate that there will be others who will get to reign with Christ because we see Biblical precedent for resurrected saints reigning and ruling in partnership with Jesus in His Kingdom (Matthew 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Luke 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor 6:2-3; Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; 2 Tim. 2:12).

But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:5-6)

- C. *The rest of the dead* - At His 2nd Coming, Jesus resurrects all dead believers and transforms the bodies of all alive believers, so "the rest of the dead" are the unbelieving humans throughout all of history that did not love God.
- D. *The first resurrection* - The first resurrection occurs at the beginning of the 1,000 years, and the second resurrection occurs after the 1,000 years. Those who have done evil will be raised at the second resurrection or the "resurrection of condemnation" (Daniel 12:2, John 5:29, Acts 24:15)

For the hour is coming in which all who are in the grave will hear His voice and come forth - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. (John 5:28-29)

"I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust." (Acts 24:15)

- E. *The second death* - Those who will be raised in the second resurrection are those who will experience the second death. The second death is when Death and Hades are thrown

into the Lake of Fire as well as anyone not found written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:14-15). Saints who believe are not subject to the power of the second death.

- F. ***Priests of God who reign with Him for a thousand years*** - Jesus and His people will rule the earth from the place of Priestly ministry (prayer and worship).

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. (Rev 1:5-6)

IV. SATAN RELEASED

Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10)

- A. Satan will be freed from the bottomless pit after the 1,000-year earthly reign of Jesus to deceive a large number of people. Revelation 20:8 says that the number of those who gather against Jesus to battle will be “as the sand of the sea.” There will be unsaved people on the earth during Jesus’ earthly reign who will be deceived by Satan after his release from prison.
- B. It’s interesting that Satan is called “***that serpent of old***”- because God again allows the snake of Genesis 3 back into the “Garden” of the Millennial Kingdom to try to offer the human race independence from God. It’s a repeat of the same story, but worse.
- C. God’s leadership will be proven righteous in light of the end of millennium rebellion.
1. **The mystery of sin** - with no demons to deceive, with Jesus visibly reigning, and optimal life circumstances, people will still choose to resist God. Pride and sin are at the core of humanity.
 - a. The human heart is utterly depraved. The same wickedness that is in the heart of the rebellious people at the end of the Millennial Kingdom is the same wickedness in our own hearts.
 - b. Man will always be in need of Jesus the Savior.
 - c. It is impossible for Satan to be rehabbed. After 1,000 years in prison he will not change at all.
 2. **Jesus’ judgments will be justified** - People will have the full opportunity to choose to not go to hell, yet will still choose to reject Jesus’ leadership. During and at the end of the Millennium, Jesus’ judgments against the rebellious, and the existence of hell, will be proved to be right and just.