

End-times Revealed through Bible Prophecy Pt. 7

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Subtitle: The Millennial Reign of Christ

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We are journeying through a series of messages on the subject of End Times to gain understanding of certain events that will take place in the future.

Last Sunday we spoke about the Second Coming of Christ.

Today we will study God's Word concerning the Millennial Reign of Christ.

A. The beginning of the Millennial Reign of Christ

One of the main reasons why Jesus Christ will return to earth, besides judging and removing the wicked, is to set up His literal Kingdom on the earth.

Revelation 20:1–10 (NKJV) *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years**; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more **till the thousand years were finished**. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again **until the thousand years were finished**. This is the first resurrection. 6 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**. 7 Now **when the thousand years have expired**, Satan will be released from his prison 8 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. 9 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. 10 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.*

At the Second Coming of Christ:

- Satan will be bound for 1,000 years and thrown into the bottomless pit
- Jesus Christ sets up His throne in Jerusalem to rule over the whole earth

Revelation 11:15 (NKJV) *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!**”*

- This announcement will be made in the middle of the Great Tribulation, but its enactment will take place when Christ returns to earth

Zechariah 14:9 (NIV) *The Lord will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one Lord, and His name the only name.*

Besides the initial conquests that Christ will achieve immediately after His Return (discussed in previous session), He will judge the nations of the world.

B. The judgement of the nations

Matthew 25:31–46 (NKJV) *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. **32 All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ 37 “Then **the righteous** will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? 38 When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? 39 Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’ 41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, **into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:** 42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; 43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not***

*clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’ 44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’ 46 **And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.**”*

All the people who survive the Great Tribulation will be gathered before Christ as He sits on His throne:

- Those who are righteous (sheep) are invited to enter His Kingdom
- Those who are wicked (goats) are thrown into everlasting fire (hell)

Remember, a person can only become righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

- The righteous people are tribulation saints who demonstrated their faith through their good works (they are not saved by works but by faith!)
- Those called “cursed” (goats) are unsaved people who demonstrated their unbelief & rebellion against God through their evil works

Only righteous people will remain on earth when the Millennium begins, including the Jewish people who will be saved when Jesus returns.

- These righteous people will all be in their natural, mortal state and continue to procreate and re-populate the earth

Revelation 20:7–8 (NKJV) *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 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.*

- Take note of the heavily reduced world population at the beginning of the Millennium
- Take note again at the “sand of the sea numbers” at the end of the Millennium
- There will be a massive increase of the world population, from the beginning of the Millennium onwards, right through to its end

C. The resurrected saints of God will rule over the nations

Revelation 20:4 (NKJV) *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had*

*been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And **they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.***

We, the saints of God (previously died or raptured) will be in our resurrected state, and we will rule and reign with Christ over the nations of natural people.

2 Timothy 2:11–12 (NKJV) *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him. **12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.***

The dispensation of the Millennium will be marked by:

- Universal peace
(satan & demons bound & removed. The Prince of Peace rules and reigns)
- World-wide harmony (Isaiah 11:6-9)
- World-wide prosperity (dependant on observing the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem [Zech. 14:16-19])
- Annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem to worship King Jesus (Zech. 14:16-19)
- Longevity (Isaiah 5:20-22)

D. The end of the Millennium and the rebellion of the nations

- At the end of the Millennium, satan will be released again for a short while
- He will go out to deceive the nations again & gather them together to battle against Jerusalem & the saints of God (2nd Armageddon)
- Fire will come down from God out of heaven and destroy them
- Then satan will be cast into the lake of fire where the beast & the false prophet are
- They will be tormented day and night forever and ever

E. The Great White Throne Judgement

- After satan is cast into the lake of fire, all the unsaved dead will be resurrected and brought before God who sits on a great white throne
- They will all be judged according to their works and finally cast into the lake of fire to be tormented day and night forever and ever
- This is the second resurrection resulting in the second death

F. The new Heaven and the new Earth and the new Jerusalem

- After that, God will make a new heaven and a new earth (Rev. 21:1-
- Then the New Jerusalem will come down out of heaven from God
- Thus we enter into the uninterrupted Eternal State where we serve God throughout eternity