

Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 23

Earth's Millennial Night

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 20]

What a challenge it will be to live in earth's last hour! Satan knows his time is short, so he is rushing about "seeking whom he may devour." But, this too, shall pass! Satan will be bound!

Many Christians are eagerly awaiting the time when Satan will be bound. They anticipate a glorious time of peace. A golden millennium for Planet Earth! A time when millions will be converted to the Gospel.

Is this the kind of millennium pictured in the Bible, or is it a time of indescribable anguish and terror for Satan and his angels as darkness closes in and the deepening chill of the millennial night settles down on Planet Earth for 1,000 miserable years?

Let's take our Bible and discover what type of millennium God pictures in His Holy Word.

READ: Revelation 20:1-15.

1. How will the devil finally be controlled? Revelation 20:1, 2.

NOTE: John sees an angel with a chain binding Satan for 1,000 years. This has to be symbolic, because you cannot chain a spiritual being with a material chain! We use the same terminology when we say, "I would like to help you, but I can't-my hands are tied." Satan's hands are tied because there is no one left on earth for him to destroy.

The "bottomless pit" comes from the Greek *abussos*, from which we get our English word *abyss*. This is the same word used in the Bible to describe the earth at creation (Genesis 1:2). In other words, the earth will be in a chaotic condition.

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2. How long will the devil be imprisoned? Revelation 20:3.

NOTE: Unlike the "golden age millennium" projected by some, according to Bible prophecy Planet Earth will be a dark, dismal place during the thousand years! Satan and his angels sit it out and contemplate the horrible disaster they have created on earth-and their own coming destruction. It surely will be all gloom and doom!

3. How many of the dead will be resurrected? John 5:28.

4. What did Jesus call the two resurrections that will include all the dead? John 5:29.

- a. Resurrection of _____
- b. Resurrection of _____

5. When will the righteous dead be raised, and what will happen to the living righteous? 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

- a. "and the dead in _____ shall rise _____."
- b. "shall be _____ up to meet the _____ in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

6. What does the Book of Revelation call the resurrection of the righteous that occurs at the coming of Christ? Revelation 20:6.

7. What affect will the second coming of our Lord have upon the UNSAVED? Revelation 6:14-17.

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8. What happens to the wicked who are living when Jesus comes? Revelation 19:21; Jeremiah 25:31-33.

9. When will the "rest of the dead," or the wicked dead, be raised? Revelation 20:5.

10. What happens to Satan when the righteous are in heaven and the unsaved are all dead? Revelation 20:2.

NOTE: Well, he probably won't be doing anything! Except, perhaps, bitterly regretting the loss of his position in heaven, or trying to control the fury of his angels who realize they have sold out to a deceitful, conniving devil and that they soon shall be no more!

11. How many people are alive on Planet Earth during the thousand years? Jeremiah 4:23-26.

12. What indicates that this is not the final end of this planet? Jeremiah 4:27.

13. What will the righteous do during the millennium? Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:1-3

NOTE: The judgment which the saved will carry on during the thousand-year period in heaven is highly significant. Paul said they will judge the world. He also says they will judge angels! Well, the holy angels are in heaven. The redeemed are in heaven. Only the wicked dead and the evil angels are left to be judged. However, this judgment does not decide who among the dead are to be saved or lost! That decision has already been made. Those who are dead and the evil angels are irretrievably lost. So the righteous will be auditing the books to vindicate God's decisions concerning the fate of the lost. In other words, they will be checking to see why an aunt or grandmother or some friend isn't there when they thought that loved one should be in heaven.

14. When will Satan be loosed again? Revelation 20:7, 8.

NOTE: You will notice that Satan hasn't changed a bit! He's still the old deceiver that he has always been!

15. What two events set Satan free?

a. Revelation 20:5 _____

b. Revelation 21:2, 10 _____

16. What does Satan now do that shows he hasn't repented or changed after thinking over all the devastation and misery he has caused? Revelation 20:8, 9.

NOTE: Don't let the "four quarters" or "four corners" throw you. This phrase refers to the whole world. Language is full of metaphors! No doubt you have heard people say, "I want three square meals a day."

17. How does God end the attempt by Satan and his followers to destroy the Holy City and its inhabitants? Revelation 20:9 (last part).

NOTE: Every person who has ever lived on earth will be there. God and the righteous will be safely inside the city, and Satan and the lost will be outside the city. May God help us all to be inside the city when the fire falls.

18. What is the final destruction called? Revelation 20:13, 14.

NOTE: Death is the last enemy to be destroyed! The good news is that "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9. The New International Version states it this way: "Trouble will not come a second time." Thank God for that promise!

19. Who will be cast into the lake of fire? Revelation 20:15.

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20. What does God do after this earth is purified by the fire? 2 Peter 3:10-13.

NOTE: The fires purify the earth, and then they go out. The devil and his unrepentant angels will be as though they had never been. And the best part is the promise: "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

God promises to make all things new. Revelation 21:5. Don't you want to be there and watch God as He recreates earth in all its Edenic splendor?

My Response

___ Yes, I want to make reservations to be in that New Earth with God and all the redeemed.

___ I want to be ready when Jesus comes so I can be in heaven during the thousand years.

___ I want to join with God's people and be baptized soon.

