

## The Millennial

### Revelation 19:11 — 20:1-15

#### The Second Coming

Christ, "The One" who ascended into heaven in **Acts 1:9-11** "And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10** And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, **11** and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." and had been seated at the right hand of God **Hebrews 8:1** "Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven" will return to take back the earth from Satan and establish His kingdom.

#### Revelation 5:1-10

#### This differs from the Rapture...

- Christ meets His own in the air —
- There is no judgment —
- Unknown of occurrence —

#### ... The Second Coming

- He comes with them to earth
- Its all judgment
- Preceded by blackness
- darkened sun, moon gone, stars fallen, smoke
- lightning & blinding glory as Jesus comes.

In verse 11, John's vision portrays Jesus as the conqueror on His war horse, coming to destroy the wicked, to overthrow the Antichrist, the defeat Satan, and to take control of the earth. Jesus' first coming was in humiliation on a colt ...

*"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."* **Zechariah 9:9**

Here, we see Jesus "makes war" which is the holy wrath of God against sinners and God's patience is coming to an end. Nothing escapes His vision as His judgments are always just and accurate. Even John could not comprehend the written name given, being a mystery to us but known to only Himself. (v 12)

Jesus is known as "THE WORD". Only John uses this title for the Lord — "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." **Colossians 1:15**

And there is an accompaniment of the Church, the Tribulation Saints, OT believers, and even angels. We do not fight with Jesus in battle, but we are to reign with Him after He defeats His enemies.

*"Let the godly exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their beds. 6 Let the high praises of God be in their throats and two-edged swords in their hands, 7 to execute vengeance on the nations and punishments on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron, 9 to execute on them the judgment written! This is honor for all his godly ones. Praise the Lord!"* **Psalms 149:5-9**

In verse 16, Jesus emphasizes his absolute sovereignty over all human rulers at the battle of Armageddon by wearing a banner across His robe and down his thigh. During this battle, the remaining rebels are killed by the Lord Jesus. This Day of the Lord was seen by Isaiah, Joel, Ezekiel, Paul and Jesus himself. God will declare His victory before the battle even begins.

*“For behold, the Lord will come in fire, and his chariots like the whirlwind, to render his anger in fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire will the Lord enter into judgment, and by his sword, with all flesh; and those slain by the Lord shall be many.” **Isaiah 66:15-16***

*“Let the nations stir themselves up and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. 13 Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Go in, tread, for the winepress is full. The vats overflow, for their evil is great. 14 Multitudes, multitudes, in the valley of decision! For the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. 15 The sun and the moon are darkened, and the stars withdraw their shining. 16 The Lord roars from Zion, and utters his voice from Jerusalem, and the heavens and the earth quake. But the Lord is a refuge to his people, a stronghold to the people of Israel. 17 “So you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who dwells in Zion, my holy mountain. And Jerusalem shall be holy, and strangers shall never again pass through it. 18 “And in that day the mountains shall drip sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the streambeds of Judah shall flow with water; and a fountain shall come forth from the house of the Lord and water the Valley of Shittim. 19 “Egypt shall become a desolation and Edom a desolate wilderness, for the violence done to the people of Judah, because they have shed innocent blood in their land. 20 But Judah shall be inhabited forever, and Jerusalem to all generations. 21 I will avenge their blood, blood I have not avenged, for the Lord dwells in Zion.” **Joel 3:12-21***

*“And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. 2 And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel. 3 Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand. 4 You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey of every sort and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.” **Ezekiel 39:1-4***

*“And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.” **2 Thessalonians 2:8***

*“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” **Matthew 25:31-46***

**READ, Revelation 19:20-21; 20:1-3**

Chapter 19 ends with the Battle of Armageddon and Christ's Second Coming — closing the Tribulation. Now in chapter 20 — the binding of Satan, Christ's 1,000 year earthly kingdom, Satan's final rebellion and the Great White Throne Judgment.

**The Millennium | The Great Worship Circle**

## READ Revelation 20:4-10

There are three major views of this period of the Millennium. Each belief rests upon the end of time events leading to the Tribulation, the Return of Christ, the Reign of Christ, the Final Judgment and that Satan will be defeated. 1) A-millennialism — A symbolic 1,000 year period where all end of time events happen at once immediately after Christ's return during the present Church age. 2) Post-millennialism — A symbolic 1,000 year period as Christ will return after the millennium. 3) Pre-millennialism — A literal 1,000 year period as Christ will come back before the millennium and after or before the Great White Throne Judgment. There is a 4th view for those who choose to not look at the biblical futuristic events in-depth that is PAN-MILLENNIALISM – it's all going to pan out how God wants it to.

1. **A-millenn-ialism** – understands the 1,000 years to be merely symbolic of a long period of time. This interprets OT prophecies of a Millennium as being fulfilled spiritually now in the church. Revelation 20:1-10 is interpreted as the present church age.

- Revelation 20 is **currently being fulfilled** and the 1,000 years is a figure of speech.
- **Satan's influence** over the nations has been greatly reduced so that the gospel can be preached to the whole world.
- Those who are to be reigning with Christ for 1,000 years are Christians who have died and are **already reigning** with Christ in heaven.
- Christ's reign is **not a bodily reign** on earth but rather the heavenly reign he spoke of.  
*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" Matthew 28:18*

- When Christ returns, there is **one resurrection of both** believers and unbelievers.
- Believers will rise and enter into full enjoyment of heaven forever and face the judgment seat of Christ to determine degrees of reward in heaven.
- Unbelievers will be raised to **face the final judgment** and eternal condemnation.

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil." 2 Corinthians 5:10*

2. **Post-millenn-ialism** – understands the reference to a 1,000 year period as only symbolic of a golden age of righteousness and spiritual prosperity.

- The progress of the **gospel and the church will gradually increase**, making larger proportion of the world's population Christian.
- Society functions according to God's standards and slowly a **millennial age of peace and righteousness** will occur on earth.
- It will last for a long time, but **not a literal 1,000 years** and **then at the end**, Christ returns.
- **Both believers and unbelievers** will be raised
- The **final judgment** will occur and there will be a **new heaven and earth**.

This is optimistic about the power of the gospel changing lives and bringing much good into the world. Belief in this tends to increase in times when the church is experiencing great revival, absence of war or conflict and overcoming evil.

3. **Pre-millenn-ialism** – understands this as a literal 1,000 year period during which Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of numerous prophecies will reign on the earth. (**2 Samuel 7:12-16; Psalm 2; Isaiah 11:6-12; 24:23; Hosea 3:4-5; Joel 3:9-21; Amos 9:8-15; Micah 4:1-8; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Zechariah 14:1-11; Matthew 24:29-31; 36-44**)

- **Classic or historic view**; long history from the earliest centuries
- Some take **1,000 years literal** and some do not.
- **Present church age will continue until** the great tribulation comes upon the earth.
- Believers who have died are raised bodily during Christ's return and will reign on earth.
- Those believers who were raised on earth **will receive glorified bodies** while on earth.
- Many (not all) **unbelievers will turn** to Christ and be saved at this time
- Jesus will reign and **millennial age of peace and righteousness** will occur as the new heaven and new earth; and some do not believe in a literal heaven & earth
- **Satan's influence** over the nations has been greatly reduced so that the gospel can be preached to the whole world.
- After 1,000 reign, **Satan will be loosed** and join forces with unbelievers in a **rebellious effort of war against** God that result in defeat.

This belief becomes popular as the church has experienced persecution, and as suffering and evil has increased in the earth. **Pre-Tribulation Pre-millennialism (or Dispensational Premillennialism)**: Gained widespread popularity in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries particular in the UK and US.

### **The Millennium Study** **READ Revelation 20:4-10**

The "souls" are tribulation martyrs "beheaded" was a general term for execution discussed in chapters **6:9, 18:24;19:2** for refusing the mark of the beast. NOTE: people will know for certain what the mark of beast is and what it is for. The Mark of the beast will be a distinct tool to identify with the Anti-Christ and deny the allegiance to the true Christ.

Here, we see the Tribulation believers, along with the redeemed from both the OT and NT eras, will reign with Christ during the 1,000 year kingdom.

*"Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?"* **1 Corinthians 6:2**

*"if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us;"* **2 Timothy 2:12**

Here is where we will see the Resurrection of the Dead and the Intermediate State, which refers to the condition of people "rest of the dead" between their bodily death and their bodily resurrection. The first resurrection is taught in two kinds of resurrections:

The "resurrection of life" and "the resurrection of condemnation"

*"and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."* **John 5:29**

*"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."* **Daniel 12:2**

*"And as he reasoned about righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment, Felix was alarmed and said, "Go away for the present. When I get an opportunity I will summon you."* **Acts 24:25**

- The **resurrection of life** is described as one that is just, better, and of those who are Christ's at His coming. It includes only the redeemed of the church age, the OT, and the Tribulation. They will enter the kingdom in resurrection bodies, along with believers

who survived the Tribulation. John says in verse 6, "Blessed is he who has part in the first resurrection."

- The **resurrection of condemnation** will be described as one of the unconverted who will receive their final bodies suited for torment in hell. The first death is only physical, the second is spiritual and eternal in the lake of fire, the final, eternal hell as read in verse 14.

**Secondary doctrine that should not waver your salvation, should not divide the church, should not confuse you to the point of exhaustion. The purpose always leads us to all scripture teaching us who He is, and that He is glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.**

In Revelation 19:11-15, we read about the Great White Throne as a judgment throne that is elevated, pure and holy. God sits on it as judge in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is where we see all people, including all creation in heaven and on earth will be affected.

## **The Great White Throne Study** **Revelation 20:11-15**

*When is the Final Judgment*

The final judgment will occur after the millennium and the rebellion that occurs at the end of it. John pictures the millennial kingdom and the removal of Satan from influence on the earth in Rev. 20:1-6. When the thousand years are ended, <sup>7-8</sup> Satan will be loosed from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations... to gather them for battle" <sup>9-10</sup> John tells after God decisively defeats this final rebellion that judgment will follow.

"And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day" **Jude 6**

**READ, Revelation 20:11-15**

### **I. Jesus Christ Will Be the Judge**

"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom" **2 Timothy 4:1**

*"And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead."* **Acts 10:42**

**This right to act as judge over the whole universe is something that the Father has given to the Son.**

"For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. **27** And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man." **John 5:26-27**

### **II. Unbelievers Will Be Judged** (v 12-13)

<sup>12</sup> All unbelievers, whether dead, great or small, will stand before Christ for judgment.

“ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.” **Romans 1:18-19**

This is not an outburst of anger aimed at people whom God does not like. It is the settled, determined response of a righteous God against sin. In this court room type-of-setting, the guilty, condemned prisoners will stand before an elevated, pure, and holy Jesus as their judge.

- **INDIRECT Judgment:** God allows the natural CONSEQUENCES of violating His universal moral law
- **DIRECT Judgment:** God personally INTERVENES to reveal His wrath and hatred against sin. (*Adam and Eve; flood; CROSS*)

These books record every thought, word, and deed of sinful men – these books are evidence to one’s eternal punishment.

**12-13** The judgment of unbelievers will include degrees of punishment based to what people had done. We are being evaluated by God of the works that we have done compared to God’s holy standard.

“But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. **6** He will render to each one according to his works:” **Romans 2:5-6**

Every word spoken, every wrong deed done will be remembered and brought to light and receive judgment. On the Day of Judgment, the secrets of people’s hearts will be revealed and made public.

“Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.” **Luke 12:2**

- Jesus, who is the true LIGHT and the true judge, EXPOSES those who are living in DARKNESS.
- Men choose to RESIST and OPPOSE God’s TRUTH by holding fast to their sin.

**14** **You see there is no room for us to live half-heartedly for God, doing what we want.** All the unrighteous dead will appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and none will escape this second death. The first death is only physical; the second is spiritual and eternal in the lake of fire, eternal hell.

### **III. Believers Will Be Judged** (v 15)

“Anyone’s name was not found written”... implies that there are some names written. To Christians, “We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God... Each of us shall give account of himself to God” **Romans 14:10, 12**. Jesus in **Matthew 25:31-46**, portrays the separation of unbelievers and believers, and rewarding those who receive his blessing. We, believers, should never fear that we will be eternally condemned.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.” **John 5:24**

On the Day of Judgment, Paul says it best for us followers of Christ,

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.” **Romans 8:1-2**