

# THE MILLENNIUM I

Scripture Reference: Revelation 20:1-6

In the past two sessions, we examined the Battle of Armageddon that culminated the 30-Day Reclamation period and then the 45-Day Restoration period.

<b>QUESTION?</b>	<b>From last session, what five things happen in the Restoration period?</b>

With the close of this 45-Day Restoration period, with the temple rebuilt by Jesus Himself and with His absolute rule established on the earth, we now come to the glorious yet mysterious 1000-year reign of Christ known as the “Millennium.”

What will the Millennium be like? We can hardly begin to fathom the glory and splendor of what life will be like for God’s people during this time. Words will probably fail miserably to describe this incredible period.

Read **Revelation 20:1-3**.

### DIFFERENT THOUGHTS:

There is much discussion on the Millennium. This is the first of 6 references to the length of the millennial kingdom. There are three main views of the duration and nature of this period:

- 1) **Premillennialism:** This school of thought sees this as a literal 1000 year period during which Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of numerous OT prophecies reigns on the Earth. Using the same general principles of interpretation for both prophetic and non-prophetic passages leads most naturally to the Premillennialism view. Another strong argument supporting this view is that so many biblical prophecies have already been fulfilled in a natural, normal, literal sense – suggesting future prophecies will be fulfilled likewise. (See Session 1 and 2)
- 2) **Postmillennialism:** This school of thought understands the reference to the 1000 year period as only symbolic of a golden age of righteousness and spiritual prosperity. It will be ushered in by the spread of the Gospel during the present church age and brought to completion when Christ

returns. According to this view, references to Christ’s reign on earth primarily describe His spiritual reign in the hearts of believers in the church.

- 3) **Amillennialism**: This school of thought understands the 1000 years to be merely symbolic of a long period of time. This view interprets OT prophecies of a Millennium as being fulfilled spiritually now in the church (either in heaven or on earth) or as references to the eternal state.

Using the same literal, historical, grammatical principles of interpretation so as to determine the normal sense of language, one is left with the inescapable conclusion that Christ will return and reign in a real kingdom on earth for 1000 years. There is nothing in the text to render the conclusion that “a thousand years” is symbolic in any way. **Never** in Scripture when “year” is used with a number is its meaning not literal.

Back to **Revelation 20:1-3**

What does the angel descending hold in his hand? \_\_\_\_\_

What does he do with the Devil? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this mean for the inhabitants of the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

So at the onset of the Millennium, Satan is bound for the one thousand year period, he’s cast into the bottomless pit, he is shut up and sealed so that he can bring no deception for this time.

This will have an incredible impact on the people on the earth. Just think of it – no temptation by the devil! This brings up some interesting questions:

Will there continue to be sin on earth? \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible teaches us that we have three enemies: Let’s look at some Scriptures to determine those:

Read **1 Peter 5:8**. Who is the enemy according to this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **1 John 2:15-16**. Who is our enemy mentioned in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Galatians 5:16-18**. Who is our enemy according to this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

So, in conclusion, we have three enemies:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>How do you see these three enemies affecting humanity during the Millennium?</b>

Now read **Revelation 20:4-6**.

This is an incredibly interesting passage. John writes he sees “*thrones*”. He then mentions he sees “*them*” sitting on these thrones and “*judgment*” is committed to them.

After reading this passage, to whom is John referring? \_\_\_\_\_

Most hold that those to whom judgment is given are none other than those who John says he sees next - those who had been “beheaded” for their witness to Jesus and for God’s Word, who had not worshiped the beast nor received his image. These are specifically referred to as “*reigning with Christ for one thousand years.*”

We know, without any doubt that those who are martyred for their faith during the Tribulation will be ruling with Christ during the Millennium.

Now, let’s read **Matthew 19:27-30**. According to this passage, who will also be ruling with Christ over the Twelve tribes of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Daniel 7:22**. Who is it to whom Daniel refers to that will inherit the kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**. According to this verse, who will also judge even the angels? \_\_\_\_\_

So far it reads as though not only will the martyred be ruling and reigning with Christ in the Millennium, but also all the saints. Does Revelation agree with this?

John writes in **Revelation 20:5** that the rest of the dead will not live again until the Millennium is over. Many have assumed that this refers to the rest of believers! But there are several keys to suggest this is faulty.

- 1) The First Resurrection: This is Evidence #1 against the notion that all believers won't be here. The first resurrection is when God's people are raised. This happens at the rapture when "*the dead in Christ will rise.*" At the time of the start of the Millennium, you and I will have already been raised. The first resurrection includes us. The Scriptures only teaches two resurrections – the resurrection to life (**John 5:29**) and the resurrection to condemnation. John MacArthur writes this:

*The resurrection to life is described as "the resurrection of the just" in Luke 14:14, the resurrection of "those who are Christ's at His coming in 1 Corinthians 15:23, and the "better resurrection" in Hebrews 11:35. It includes only the redeemed of the church age, the Old Testament, and the Tribulation. They will enter the kingdom in resurrection bodies, along with believers who survived the Tribulation.<sup>1</sup>*

- 2) The Second Death: The second clue as to the faultiness of the thinking not all believers will be here lies in the reality of the second death. John here writes, "*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.*" The second death is the resurrection to condemnation Jesus mentions in **John 5:29**. This takes place at the Great White Throne Judgment which we will spend a session on later. In a nutshell, the second death is the death of death and the casting of all those into the lake of fire whose names are not written in the Book of Life. Obviously, true believers have their names in the Book of Life, so the second death will have no effect on any believer of any age.

So, in conclusion, all believers of all ages will join the saints who endured the Tribulation to rule with Christ. Here John says we are "*priests of God and Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years.*"

There is much more about the Millennium. So, we'll save that for next session.

---

<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F. *MacArthur Study Bible*. (Word Bibles: Nashville, Tennessee, 1997) pg. 2021.