

# The Millennium of Messiah

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Revelation 20:1-10

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## Introduction:

The millennium of Messiah is none other than the literal-physical 1,000-year reign of Jesus Christ upon the earth.

Now, I emphasize the words “literal” and “physical” because some people take an allegorical approach to this clearly taught event/era in the Word of God; and I believe this is a big mistake.

It’s been said before that “if the plain sense of the text makes common sense, seek no other sense, lest you fall into nonsense”. This is like the golden rule of hermeneutics (Bible interpretation).

If it’s clear and not in need of being allegorized, DON’T DO IT! 6 times in Revelation 20, this period of time is said to be 1,000 years; and so, we should take God at His Word.

It is also clear in the chronology of Revelation that the millennium follows after the Second Coming of Christ.

The time of the millennium is synonymous with the kingdom that was promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob throughout the Old Testament.

The 1,000-year reign of Christ is one of the most immense and comprehensive topics in the entire Scriptures. There are hundreds of direct and indirect references to it in the Word, and it is a particular point of emphasis in the Old Testament.

In light of this, you can probably imagine how I felt when I began to seek the Lord on what to teach for tonight’s message and God put Revelation 20 on my heart.

It was back in July that Pastor Shadrach gave an excellent sermon on the Second Coming of Christ.

Well, tonight we’re going to pick it up with what directly follow’s Christ return to the earth, which is His 1,000-year reign.

To be clear, we will by no means be able to do total justice to *all* of what the Word has to say about the millennium tonight with the short 55 minutes or so that we have together.

But what we will do is most certainly exposit and unpack the incredible description of it found in Revelation 20.

### Setting the Stage

Now, before we get into our breakdown of the text, it is necessary that we examine some of what leads up to the millennium.

Firstly, the Church will be in heaven because the Rapture will have taken place. Jesus will have removed His precious Bride from the earth before the wrath of God is poured out on the world because His children will be “delivered from the wrath to come” (1 Thessalonians 1:10) and “are not appointed to wrath” (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

What follows this is the 7-year tribulation. This time period begins with the Antichrist’s signing of a peace treaty with the nation of Israel and consists of the holy wrath of God being poured out upon the unbelieving world.

Countless people will die through the various judgments of God and through the persecution caused by the Antichrist.

But what is also true is that many will come to faith in Jesus during this time! More specifically, Israel will finally awaken to the fact that Jesus is their promised Messiah!

The tribulation is actually referred to as “the time of Jacob’s trouble” because it’s main purpose is to unblind Israel and save them through Yeshua.

#### **Jeremiah 30:7 (NLT)**

<sup>7</sup> In all history there has never been such a time of terror.  
It will be a time of trouble for my people Israel.  
Yet in the end they will be saved!

#### **Daniel 12:1**

<sup>1</sup> “At that time Michael shall stand up,  
The great prince who stands *watch* over the sons of your people;  
And there shall be a time of trouble,  
Such as never was since there was a nation,  
*Even* to that time.  
And at that time your people shall be delivered,  
Every one who is found written in the book.

As the Lord used the Babylonian conquest, when Israel was taken into captivity, to purge out her idolatry, so He will use the 7-year tribulation to purge out the unbelief of Israel.

**Romans 11:26–27**

<sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

*“The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*<sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them,  
When I take away their sins.”*

The tribulation period will then conclude with the Second Coming of Christ. He will physically come back to earth and touch down on the mount of Olives.

As He descends from heaven back to earth on a white horse, we, the Church, will also return with Him riding on white steeds of our own.

But when He comes back, it is important for us to understand that He will be doing so to judge and make war against all of His enemies and slay them. By His return, He will effectively eradicate all unrighteousness from the earth.

Jesus will then gather those who managed to make it through the tribulation period alive to Himself for the judgment of the sheep and goats.

And following this judgment will be Jesus’ millennial reign, which is what we’ll now be diving into.

Through the judgment of God upon the world and the establishing of the earthly kingdom of Christ, the earth will essentially have a fresh start, similar to how it was in Eden.

Some have deemed the millennium as the “return to Eden” or “the reverse of the curse”. The millennium is indeed like a rolling back of the clock to reverse many of the damaging effects of the Fall that was brought about by humanity’s rebellion to God.

Who will be there during the millennial reign though? Well, Jesus will be there, and He will rule and reign on the throne of His father David in Jerusalem.

But it won’t just be Jesus there with an empty world, we, the saints of God, will be there too in our glorified immortal bodies! Believers over the generations, both Old and New Testament saints, will come back with Him to earth, which includes the martyrs for Jesus in the tribulation period.

There will also be living mortals from among the nations who survived the tribulation and were deemed as sheep by Jesus as the judgment of the sheep and goats.

Lastly, there will be those whom Jesus called brothers of His, which are the Jewish born-again believers that make it through the tribulation.

Now, I know that was a lot up front, but it was necessary for us now to greater understand and appreciate the description of the 1,000-year reign of Christ that is contained in Revelation 20.

And so, firstly, the millennium of Messiah...

## 1. Will Commence with Satan Being Bound (vs 1-3)

*<sup>1</sup> Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> 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.*

We see here in the opening verses of chapter 20 that the millennial reign of Christ kicks off with satan being dealt with! This is one of the things that's going to make the millennium such a great time for the world!

**Illustration:** Make the Earth Great Again (MAEA)

Truly, Jesus is going to do just that during His millennial reign. The earth will be restored to its Edenic state!

It is interesting to me that it is actually an angel that comes and binds satan. Which angel you might ask? Well, we don't know for certain. It seems relatively fitting that it could be Michael given the ongoing feud between him and satan over the ages.

My question is though, why an angel? Why not Jesus Himself bind satan. The more I considered this the more I thought that this might be a flex on God's part.

I'm purely speculating here on this but is it possible that by using an angel to bind satan, it's like God's way of showing everyone just how much more powerful Jesus is than the devil? Could be.

May we never make the mistake of overestimating the power of satan and thinking that he's near equal to Jesus in terms of power. NOPE. The Word of God clearly states that the Son of God is immeasurably more powerful than the devil and has triumphed over him and cronies.

### **Colossians 2:15**

<sup>15</sup> Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

Jesus not only has defeated satan and all the other dark principalities and powers through His death and resurrection, but He has also disarmed them and publicly humiliated them! I LOVE THAT.

Nonetheless, the angel of God will come down from heaven holding a key and a great chain in his hand.

The key will be to open and shut the location where Satan will be sent bound, which is the bottomless pit (the Abyss). The great chain will be what the angel uses to bind the devil.

**Illustration:** I can't help but think of satan being put away into solitary confinement where he can't be heard or seen for 1,000 years.

Finally, the devil will be completely bound and shut up until the millennial reign of Christ is complete.

His binding means that he and his widespread deception will be completely inactive until the 1,000 years are complete. All the devil knows how to do is deceive, which is why he must be locked away in the Abyss.

**Illustration:** the Lord knows better than to buy his "I'll play nice if you leave me unbound" lie.

But what I find fascinating is that Christ will permit him to be released to return to his work of deceiving the nations at the conclusion of the millennium. We'll expound on this when we arrive at verse 7 later on in the message.

Well, because Satan is bound and Christ is reigning on the earth bodily, everything about the world as we know it will CHANGE in a radical way.

As I stated at the beginning of the sermon, there's no way we can look at all of the verses that describe the millennial reign of Christ tonight because there's just not enough time.

But there's also know way we're not going to look at some of those verses, because I'm sure so many of us are wondering "what's it going to be like?".

Due to His physical presence on the earth where He is ruling from the throne of David in Jerusalem, some of the main things that will characterize the millennium are peace, justice, righteousness, worship, and prospering (and that just to name a few things).

Because He reigns on the earth physically, He will actively govern and judge, and His reign will bring peace on earth.

#### **Psalm 72:7**

<sup>7</sup> In His days the righteous shall flourish,

And abundance of peace,  
Until the moon is no more.

**Isaiah 2:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> Now it shall come to pass in the latter days  
*That* the mountain of the Lord's house  
Shall be established on the top of the mountains,  
And shall be exalted above the hills;  
And all nations shall flow to it.  
<sup>3</sup> Many people shall come and say,  
"Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
To the house of the God of Jacob;  
He will teach us His ways,  
And we shall walk in His paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,  
And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations,  
And rebuke many people;  
They shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
And their spears into pruning hooks;  
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
Neither shall they learn war anymore.

Even the effects of sin's curse on the animal kingdom will be lifted!

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

<sup>6</sup> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,  
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;  
And a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
Their young ones shall lie down together;  
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,  
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
As the waters cover the sea.

Are you getting excited hearing about these things? You should be!

Jesus will reign in perfect justice over the **WHOLE EARTH** and He will be worshipped and revered as the **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**.

**Psalm 72:11–12**

<sup>11</sup> Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him;  
All nations shall serve Him.

<sup>12</sup> For He will deliver the needy when he cries,  
The poor also, and *him* who has no helper.

**Illustration:** I'm sure we all want the "swamp" in our nation's government to be drained, and I hate to be a pessimist about it, but I don't think that will ever fully happen because of how corruption is bound up in the human heart

Here's the good news though, there is a day coming when the GOVERNMENT WILL BE ON HIS SHOULDER. THE SWAMP WILL BE FOREVER GONE IN THAT DAY! Gone are the days of corruption because Christ will rule and reign!

**Isaiah 9:6–7**

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace  
*There will be* no end,  
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,  
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice  
From that time forward, even forever.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

The earth will be rejuvenated, and humanity will prosper because the curse of sin will be lifted. Crops will be yielded like before the fall and mortals will live incredibly long lives (death of someone who's 100-years old = death of an infant).

Again, there's so much more to say regarding what the millennium will be like, but hopefully that paints a beautiful picture in your mind as we continue through our text of Revelation 20.

The next thing we'll see is that the millennium of Messiah...

**2. Will Consist of Jesus Reigning with His Saints (vs 4-6)**

<sup>4</sup> *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. <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> 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.*

The prophetic vision of the apostle John continues with him not just seeing the throne that Jesus will be ruling and reigning from, but he actually sees “thrones”.

John refers to a certain group that occupies these secondary thrones while Jesus occupies the primary throne, but he only refers to them as a “they”. And so, we must ask, “who is the ‘they’ that John is seeing on these thrones?”

If we work our way backwards to examine the context in search of a group that could likely fit this description, we eventually will arrive at Revelation 19:14

#### **Revelation 19:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

These that are clothed in fine linen, white and clean, who follow Jesus on white horses are none other than the saints of God! If this were not enough proof, the totality of Scripture confirms that this group is indeed God’s “holy ones”.

But the saints won’t simply sit on these thrones as if they’re some really comfy Lazy-boy recliners! The saints will be given a job to do from this thrones which is the job of judging.

#### **1 Corinthians 6:2a**

<sup>2</sup> Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

#### **Daniel 7:27**

<sup>27</sup> 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.  
His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom,  
And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

So, what exactly will it be like when the saints rule and reign with Christ? Well, in some capacity, we will be making decisions about important things in the millennial reign. What a thought that is!

**Illustration:** If you’re anything like me, you might think “wow, is God sure that He wants to give me that much responsibility? I don’t know if I’ll do a good job of that. What if I mess up?”.

But God is absolutely sure about it, and the degree of our faithfulness in this life will contribute to the amount of responsibility that He gives us in His kingdom.

As we continue to move through verse 4, we observe that John sees another group that get to rule and reign with Christ. This group is still a group of saints, but they are a unique group: the tribulation martyrs.

These are they that were killed, in the most gruesome of ways, during the 7-year tribulation because of their steadfast faith in and allegiance to Christ and His Word.

Because of their allegiance to Jesus, they did not receive the mark of the beast, nor did they worship him, and for this they paid the ultimate price with their lives.

#### **Revelation 6:9–11**

<sup>9</sup> When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. <sup>10</sup> And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” <sup>11</sup> Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

These martyred saints will rule and reign with their Lord whom they loved, even unto death.

As we arrive at verse 5, we see an interesting detail about the rest of the dead. This is a reference to those who, over the ages of time, have died in unbelief: they are the souls of those who’ve rejected Christ as Lord and Savior.

The interesting detail about them is that they actually have a resurrection awaiting them at the end of the millennial reign for the purpose of eternal judgment. We’ll get into this more at the end of the message.

Verse 5 goes on to identify the bodily resurrection of the tribulation martyrs as the “first” resurrection. This resurrection is referred to as “first” in the context of how it precedes the resurrection of the wicked that will happen at the end of the millennium.

The Church will have already had her bodily resurrection moment at the Rapture, where we’re given a glorified immortal body; here’s where that happens to the multitude of the tribulation saints.

Those who are participants in this resurrection are deemed as “blessed and holy”. The greatest thing about this first resurrection though is that those who have part in it will not experience the “second death”. As we’ll see, this again is a clear reference to the Great White Throne Judgment.

Instead of being victims to the second death, those who have part in the first resurrection will be priests of God and of Christ who will rule and reign with Him for the millennium of Messiah.

### **Revelation 5:9–10**

<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:  
 “You are worthy to take the scroll,  
 And to open its seals;  
 For You were slain,  
 And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
 Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
<sup>10</sup> And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
 And we shall reign on the earth.”

Finally, the climax of the millennium of Messiah...

### **3. Will Conclude with a Failed Revolt (vs 7-10)**

*<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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 end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ, Satan will be released. And guess what, he will go right back to doing what he knows best, which is deceiving.

You might think, “well, who is he going to deceive?”, and that’s a good question. We know he’s not going to be effective in deceiving the now-glorified saints.

Here’s what we must remember: there will be mortals who make it into the millennial kingdom of Christ by surviving the 7-year tribulation. These mortals will experience the positive effects of the millennium, such as incredibly long life, and will procreate at an exponential rate.

Their offspring will be mortals too, in physical bodies that have a sin nature. And they will still have to make a conscious decision for Christ, just like we must do now.

Now, we might think, “well it seems like an easy choice to choose Christ then because He’ll literally be reigning on the earth and Satan won’t be free to deceive!”. To this I would say, that’s true, but we should not underestimate the wickedness and depravity of the human heart.

**Jeremiah 17:9**

<sup>9</sup> “The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,  
 And desperately wicked;  
 Who can know it?”

The reality is that the world will be insanely populated with mortals by the end of the 1,000 years and there will be a vast number of people that can and will be deceived by satan.

He will be released from his imprisonment in the Abyss and will effectively spread his deception worldwide. Sadly, many will eat up his lies, thinking that he actually can overthrow the Lord, and they will join in his revolt (as if this worked out well for him and those who followed him the first time).

The nations who rebel against Christ are referred to as Gog and Magog. This obviously points our eyes back to the Ezekiel 38-39 battle where we find Gog and Magog seeking to invade Israel from the north but being decimated.

In referring to these nations in the millennium as Gog and Magog, I believe this is a picture of outright rebellion to God and how that never goes well.

This revolt against the Lord that satan musters up will be significant. The amount of people that join in with satan are compared to the sand of the sea, which clearly tells us that there will be countless people who join this futile cause. They'll assemble together at Jerusalem to wage war against Christ.

But make no mistake, this isn't much of a battle at all. God literally sends down fire from heaven upon his enemies and they are all consumed.

Satan is then taken and cast into his permanent not-so-restful place: the lake of fire and brimstone that burns forever and ever. This is where the Antichrist and false prophet have been for some time and it's where satan will be tormented forever with them.

**AND THUS IS THE END OF SATAN! GOD WINS! JESUS WINS!**

If you are on Jesus' team, you're on the winning team. Even if things are hard right now, take heart because God wins in the end, which means that you win in the end too by being on his team.

Isn't it nice to know in advance who wins and that you're on the winning side? I think it is!

**Illustration:** sitting down to watch last year's Superbowl, knowing that Eagles are going to put a smackdown on the Chiefs. You already know how the game is going to play out!

## Conclusion:

In closing, I actually want to finish reading the chapter in hopes of waking up those who may be spiritually asleep because you're spiritually dead.

### Revelation 20:11–15

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Wow. After the failed revolt led by satan, John sees a great white throne that Jesus Himself is seated upon.

John sees “the dead” standing before God. As way of reminder, these are the unbelieving dead over the ages of time. They are resurrected from Death and Hades (temporary hell) for the purpose of standing before God in judgment.

There will then be books that are opened. What are these books though?

“Every thought, action, motive, and word of every person who has ever existed is logged in God’s supernatural library of books.” – **Jeff Kinley & Todd Hampson (Prophecy Pros)**, in their newest book that comes out next week, *A Visual Guide to the End Times*.

The unbelieving dead will then be judged according to their lives, as recorded in God’s books. Contrary to how some people think this moment might go for this, this will not go well.

Because of their rejection of Christ’s atoning sacrifice, their names are not found in the Book of Life and all unbelievers will then experience the “second death”, which is being cast into the lake of fire for everlasting torment.

Why anyone would reject what Christ has done for their sins to be forgiven is truly a mystery to me. Jesus has literally done everything to keep you from this “second death”. He bore the very wrath of God for your sin when He went to the cross. HE DID THAT SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO!!!

To reject Him and what He’s done for your sin is to willfully have the wrath of God abide on you.

### John 3:36

<sup>36</sup> He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

There is no middle ground. To be undecided about Jesus is to be decided about Jesus.

The Bible clearly says that there will be a day that every knee will bow and tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord...

**Philippians 2:10–11**

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Scriptures show that if your knee does not bow to Christ now and your tongue does not confess Him as Lord now, you will do both of those things at the great white throne judgment; but it will be too late for you to be saved then, your eternal fate will have been sealed. But it's not too late now!

"If every knee's gonna bow  
Why not here? Why not now?  
If every tongue will confess  
why not here in this breath?" – **Forrest Frank** in his new song *Jesus is Coming Back Soon*

Before we close, I want to speak to the atheist that may be here or watching. My friend, in light of what you've heard is going to happen as the Scriptures prophesy, what if you're wrong? Are you truly willing to take that risk? You'd be a fool to.

Jesus is real and He is LORD... AND HE LOVES YOU!

If you haven't received Christ yet, today's the day. Call out to Him, acknowledging your sin against Him, confess Him as Lord, trust that He died for your sin and rose again, AND YOU WILL BE SAVED.

Saints, let us live lives that are worthy of the kingdom of God that we will inherit. May we be faithful unto the Lord, knowing that He loves it and knowing that He will reward it in His kingdom.

We would all say and pray together tonight, as Jesus taught us to, "Father, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

**AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAID "AMEN"**