

Bible Study—Review of Millennium

Fred R. Coulter—October 7, 2012

Here we are on the seventh day of the Feast of Tabernacles, which is technically the last day of the Feast. Yet because there is still more to God's plan we have the Last Great Day tomorrow. Let's take a review of the Millennium and then we will answer some questions concerning the things that we find in the book of Revelation.

We also have something very similar to this in Ezek. 36, but let's come to Jeremiah 31:31: "'Behold, the days come,' says the LORD, 'that I will make a New Covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.'" This covenant is not the Church covenant. That is the New Covenant that includes all people. This is the covenant that God is going to make after He brings Judah and Israel back from captivity.

Verse 32: "'Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which covenant of Mine they broke, although I was a husband to them,' says the LORD." {put in Rom. 7}

We find that God gave to Judah and to Israel a bill of divorcement. But a covenant cannot be broken unless the covenant-maker dies. The choice for God was either cause all of Israel and Judah to die or He could die. That's one of the reasons He came in the flesh.

But also the ministry of Jesus goes clear back to the time of Adam and Eve. That's why you have the two genealogies: one in Matthew and one in Luke. The one in Matthew is the legal genealogy coming down through the king line to Joseph. But Joseph was not the father of Jesus. Nevertheless, God fulfilled His promise. I suspect that it was because of the sin of Solomon that it ceased at that point. Then you come to Luke 3 and what you find is that Joseph was the son-in-law of Eli. Eli was the father of Mary. When you come down to David in that chronology, it doesn't come through Solomon; it comes through Nathan the brother of Solomon. Then it goes all the way down to Adam the son of God.

Both of those things had to be taken care of. The covenant that God is going to make with them is going to be very similar to the New Covenant, that we call the New Covenant for the Church, which rightly could be called the 'Church Covenant.' I would think perhaps maybe technically that would be more accurate.

Though, what was the requirement of God with all the prophecies and everything that took place? *To the Jew first and then the Gentile!* The covenant with the Church, though it started out with the Jews and the Israelites, soon brought in the Gentiles.

This covenant that He's going to make with Israel and Judah—we're going to see He starts with Israel and Judah first when the Millennium begins. Verse 33: "'But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel: After those days,' says the LORD..." What did He say of the first covenant? He said, 'Oh, that there were such a heart in them that they would fear Me and keep My commandments always.' (Deut 5).

He's going to cure that problem with Israel and Judah. This with the covenant that they had out of Egypt did not have this provision. This provision came with the Church covenant first. Now it's going to be with Israel and Judah.

Verse 33: "...I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.... [God is going to work with Israel and Judah first.] ...And they shall no more teach each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD'; for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,' says the LORD. 'For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sins no more'" (vs 33-34). This is the covenant that He's going to do with them.

Let's see some other things concerning what God is going to do; then we will see what happens, Zechariah 8:12: "For they shall sow in peace; the vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. And it shall come to pass, that as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel..." (vs 12-13). That came upon the Jews from 70_{A.D.} forward. Look how it is coming upon us today, exactly the same thing.

"...so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, but let your hands be strong." For thus says the LORD of hosts, 'As I thought to punish you when your fathers provoked Me to wrath,' says the LORD of hosts, 'and I did not repent; so again I have thought in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. Fear not'" (vs 13-15). This is really quite a thing—isn't it?

Verse 16: “These *are* the things that you shall do. *Each* man speak the truth to his neighbor...” Quite a change in society—right? How is that going to be accomplished? Those in the first resurrection are going to administer the Kingdom of God as kings and priests.

“...Execute the judgment of Truth and peace in your gates. And let no one imagine evil in your heart *against* his neighbor; and do not love a false oath, for all these are things that I hate,’ says the LORD” (vs 16-17). So there’s going to be the change in human nature. There’s going to be a change in everything that takes place.

Isa. 30 says your teachers are not going to be in a corner anymore, but you are going to see them. That’s going to be us. We’re going to teach them. If they start going to the right hand or the left hand, we’ll say no don’t do it. But I also think something is going to be very important that is going to take place every Sabbath. They are all going to be taught the way of God. When they are taught the right way; when they are given the Holy Spirit; when the laws and commandments of God can be written in their hearts and in their minds there will be conversion. There will be salvation. There will be peace and plenty and prosperity.

Zechariah 10:6: “And I will strengthen the house of Judah, and I will save the house of Joseph, and I will return to save them; for I have mercy upon them. And they shall be as though I had not cast them off; for I *am* the LORD their God, and I will answer them. And Ephraim shall be like a mighty one, and their heart shall rejoice as through wine. And their children shall see and be glad; their heart shall rejoice in the LORD.... [that’s quite a thing] ...I will signal for them and gather them; for I have redeemed them. And they shall increase as they formerly increased. And I will sow them among the people, and they shall remember Me in distant countries; and they shall live with their children and they shall return. I will bring them again also out of the land of Egypt, and I will gather them out of Assyria; and I will bring them into the land of Gilead and Lebanon; until no more *room* shall be found for them” (vs 6-10). That’s going to be quite a time!

The thing that’s important with this is that we are going to work directly with Christ. How are we going to work also with the angels? That will be interesting to find out—won’t it? There are a lot of new things we’re going to have to learn.

Isaiah 27:12: “And it shall come to pass, in that day the LORD shall thresh from the stream of the river Euphrates to the river of Egypt...” That was the original territory given to the twelve tribes of

Israel. How many people will be left after coming through the Tribulation? *We don’t know!* In the book of Micah we’re given the indication that maybe there will be one tenth left; a hundred go out into captivity, ten come back. So, there will be plenty of room in that area. You look at that on a map from the Euphrates to the Nile that is really a tremendous piece of real estate.

When you have the blessing of God instead of the curse of God when all the land is productive, then it can hold all kinds of people. I think about this many times when I’m flying and I’m up there at 33,000 feet. I think the highest we flew one time was 41,000 feet to get over the top of a storm.

You look down on the earth and you see all the land. Most of it is vacant. So how many billions of people can the land really hold? We don’t know. But it’s going to be a time of peace and prosperity. It’s going to be a time of plenty for all.

Here’s how it’s going to happen, v 13: “And it shall come to pass, in that day a great ram’s horn shall be blown... [I wonder if Michael is going to blow the horn.] ...and those perishing in the land of Assyria shall come, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt shall come and shall worship the LORD in the Holy mountain at Jerusalem.”

Obviously, just like it says that all nations are going to come to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Tabernacles (Zech. 14), obviously, all the nations can’t come to one geographical location. What’s going to have to happen? They are going to have to have chosen representatives come to represent that country in Jerusalem while the rest of the country keeps the Tabernacles at home. Couldn’t be any other way. That’s how I’m sure it’s going to happen.

Now here’s the greatest thing that is going to occur. How many wars have been fought to bring peace on this earth? WWI, after so many wars prior to that, they said this is the war to end all wars. It didn’t take very long and Hitler came up and this was the war to bring democracy to the whole world.

Now we have the United Nations and look at what they are trying to do with that. How many wars have we had since then? *A lot of them!* It’s not in the nature of man and woman to naturally have peace. You add on top of that, that they are not converted and that Satan the devil is ‘the god of this world’ and he’s the one who is ‘deceiving the whole world.’

Satan has got a lot of people working for him, a lot of organizations. As Bob and I were discussing concerning some of the things that they’re doing, the different organizations and different programs that they have to try and bring world government, it’s so saturated and it has

reached a point that really only God, by sending Christ and resurrecting the saints to work with Him, can solve the problem.

We don't know how much time is left. There may be a lot of time left. We don't know how God-like that the society can be. We don't know the powers and things that they're going to be able to do and execute. I imagine when the Church first received the book of Revelation from John they were bewildered. Maybe when they first received it John had not yet died.

Remember the rumor that went through the Church, when Jesus said to Peter when Peter said, 'Lord, what is going to happen to him?' and he was pointing to John. He said, 'What is it to you if I desire that he remain until I come?' (John 21). So, everyone thought, the rumor went out: Christ is going to return before John dies. God gave John the vision of the book of Revelation. Sent it by His angel. John wrote it down.

What do you think that they could make out what the *mark of the beast* would be? What do you think that they could have thought when it was no *one can buy or sell*? It was reported in some other of the histories of the Church that at first some of the Churches did not accept the book of Revelation because it was to be understood in the end-times in conjunction with Daniel which says 'at the end.'

In order for everything in the Bible, all the prophecies to be fulfilled, it's got to hang on the structure of the Sabbath and Holy Days and in particular the book of Revelation. Without the book of Revelation the Bible becomes more closed. With the book of Revelation and the Spirit of God things open up.

Micah 4:1_[corrected]: "But it shall be in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains..." That's going to be Jerusalem at the end of the Millennium. Michael talked about this a little bit, so we'll just repeat it here:

Revelation 20:1: "Then I saw an angel descending from heaven, having the key of the abyss, and a great chain in his hand. And he took hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent, who is *the Devil* and Satan, and bound him *for* a thousand years" (vs 1-2). Why not just get rid of him all at once? We'll see. He has a mission to do.

Verse 3: "Then he cast him into the abyss, and locked him *up*, and sealed *the abyss* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer until the thousand years were fulfilled; and after that it is ordained that he be loosed *for* a short time." Why? *We'll find out!*

We have seen the two things. Let's go back and see what some of the nations do to fight against Christ after the children of Israel and the children of Judah have been brought back to the land. I wrote of this in the last letter so I won't go through every verse, but these two chapters are very important concerning Gog and Magog. As we will see in Rev. 20 something happens with Gog and Magog again at the end of the Millennium. Let's see what happens at the beginning of the Millennium. Let's tie that together with Micah 4 that He's going to have to rebuke nations afar off.

Here we see the nations that are named. These are the Biblical names of the modern nations that are east and north of Jerusalem. I think a major one in there is going to be Russia and in particularly China. They are not going to want to submit after all the years of being oppressed by the 'Occidentals,' as they look at it, and the House of Israel, which they don't understand who they are. They are going to have a really difficult time accepting the fact that Christ is ruling from Jerusalem. Remember, those nations are the most atheistic of the nations of the world.

Ezekiel 38:1: "And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, set your face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief ruler of Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him. And say, "Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Rosh... [a lot of people think that's Russia; could be.] ...Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you back, and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed most gorgeously, a great assembly *with* buckler and shield, all of them swordsmen; Persia...'"'"' (vs 1-5). Iran today. You think Ahmadinejad, if Christ came back, would go up there and say, 'Oh, I worship you, Lord Jesus.' *No!*

"...Ethiopia... [comes from the Hebrew, I believe, 'foot', which then is the straight-haired Ethiopians of India] ...and Libya with them, all of them *with* shield and helmet; Gomer and all his bands; the house of Togarmah *from* the uttermost parts of the north, and all his bands; *and* many people with you. Be prepared; yea, prepare for yourself, you and all your assembly that are assembled about you, and be a guard for them. After many days you will be summoned. In the latter years you shall come into the land restored from war..." (vs 5-8).

Let's stop and think what happens when Christ returns. All nations come and fight against Jerusalem, representative armies of all nations. It happens twice. What happens? *We have the second*

woe, the armies of 200-million from the east! It's not until Christ puts His feet on the Mount of Olives and brings back the children of Israel and the children of Judah out of captivity and puts them in the land that the land is restored from war. This is going to be the ministry of Christ as the Millennium begins, first of all dealing with Israel and with Judah.

"...gathered out of many people, on the mountains of Israel, which have always been waste. (But she has been brought out of the nations, and they shall dwell securely, all of them)" (v 8). We're going to see this has to take place after the Millennium has begun with Israel and Judah and not yet with all the nations on the earth. This is going to be a signal event that is going to help bring all the nations of the earth into subjection.

Verse 9: "And you shall go up, coming like a storm. You shall be like a cloud to cover the land, you and all your bands, and many people with you.' Thus says the Lord GOD, 'And it shall be in that day that things shall come into your heart, and you shall devise an evil plan. And you shall say, 'I will go up to the land of unwalled villages. I will go to those that are at rest... [that describes the millennial reign of Christ and His rest shall be glorious] ...who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, and there are no bars nor gates to them'" (vs 9-11).

Completely defenseless! They are going to send their spies up there and they're going to see 'after all this war and all the devastation we've had, we're going to go and attack them and we're going to take the spoil. We're going to take the things from them. After all, maybe we can succeed against the aliens this time.' Because it is true, there's a lot of war that goes on—angels and demons and things like this. Those are all aliens to people on the earth. So they're still going to think, 'We've got one more chance to get rid of the aliens.'

Verse 12: "In order to take a spoil, and to steal a prize; to turn your hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, who have gotten cattle and goods, who dwell in the midst of the land." Then it lists some more of the nations that are with them.

Verse 13: "Have you come to take a spoil? Have you gathered your company to steal a prize, to carry away silver and gold... [Remember, when Christ returns silver and gold is all going to come to Jerusalem.] ...to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil? Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "In that day when My people of Israel dwell securely... [Micah 4] ...shall you not know *it*? And you shall come from your place out of the uttermost parts of the north,

you and many people with you, all of them riding on horses, a great company and a mighty army, and you shall come upon My people Israel like a cloud, to cover the land. It shall be in the latter days, and I will bring you against My land... [God has a purpose for doing this] **...so that the nations may know Me...**" (vs 13-16).

They're not yet ready to submit to the power of God. They don't know God. Israel having been through the Tribulation, having known of God and God granting them repentance and giving them a new heart and everything, they're going to be changed. They're going to be physical people, but their human nature is going to be modified back to what it was originally with Adam and Eve, no longer hostile to God. How long was Jesus' ministry for His first ministry? *Three and a half years!* Could this be the second three and a half years to be with Israel, to bring them back?

"...so that the nations may know Me when I shall be sanctified in you, O Gog, before their eyes.' Thus says the Lord GOD, 'Are you he of whom I have spoken in former days, by the hand of My servants the prophets of Israel, who prophesied in those days for many years that I would bring you against them?... [Quite something!] ...And it shall come to pass at the same time, when Gog comes against the land of Israel,' says the Lord GOD, 'My hot anger will be aroused. For in My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath I have spoken, "Surely in that day there shall be a great quaking in the land of Israel'" (vs 16-19). Then it talks how it's going to shake the sea and the heavens and everything again.

Verse 21: "And I will call for a sword against him upon all My mountains,' says the Lord GOD. 'Each man's sword shall be against his brother.'"

What's going to happen? Remember what happened when Hezekiah was confronted with the Assyrians coming to invade the land of Judah. God said, 'I will fight the battle for you.' How did He fight it? *They all rose up and killed each other, in one case!* In another case the general woke up in the morning and everyone was dead. So, we're going to see something very similar to this. The children of Israel are going to know that God is there to protect them. They have no weapons, not going to learn war anymore. What are you going to do with a massive army coming like this? *God is going to show His power!*

Here's what He's going to do. How's this for surprise? Remember the weapons of God are always the same. Verse 22: "And I will judge him with pestilence and with blood. And I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people with

him, an overflowing shower, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone. Thus I will magnify Myself and sanctify Myself. And I will have Myself known in the eyes of many nations and **they shall know that I am the LORD**” (vs 22-23). This is, I think, the final rebuke against those nations that will not submit. After this takes place, they will.

Ezekiel 39:1: “Therefore, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Behold, I *am* against you, O Gog, the chief ruler of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about, and lead you on. And I will bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and I will bring you against the mountains of Israel. And I will strike your bow out of your left hand, and will cause your arrows to fall out of your right hand. You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your bands, and the people with you. I will give you for food to the birds of prey of every kind, and *to* the beasts of the field. You shall fall upon the face of the open field, for I have spoken it,” says the Lord GOD” (vs 1-5).

With this battle, this is going to make Gog and Magog synonymous with rebellion. I don’t know exactly how God is going to do this when we come to the end of the Millennium. We know that salvation is going to be granted to all people. So, after this battle Gog and Magog and all those nations are going to have to submit. Salvation will be opened up for them. Nevertheless, they are going to be remembered as the last ones who rebelled against the Kingdom of God when Christ returns.

Let’s read something; this presents us a little problem and a little difficulty. If we misunderstand this, it will present a problem and a difficulty. So let’s read it and see if we can find the resolve of what’s going to happen here.

Revelation 20:7: “Now when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison... [we’re going to see what happens up to that time] ...and he shall go out to deceive the nations that *are* in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, of whom the number *is* as the sand of the sea, to gather them together for war” (vs 7-8). Again, we see as soon as Satan is let out war begins. But why does this have to happen?

Verse 5: “(But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were completed.)” So, when we come to the end of the Millennium there are some things we need to look at from a Biblical point of view. But also, how is God going to handle it?

Let’s talk about the people who live all through the Millennium. We’ve applied this to the

100-year period, but this could also apply to all during the Millennium. Let’s see what God says and let’s see if we can put it together and make some sense out of it. Why are there people in Gog and Magog and if it were just all the people of Gog and Magog, not including other people, then God surely would be discriminating against Gog and Magog big time—right? He would have been a respecter of persons.

However, that area is not referring to all of the people, but a geographical area of Gog and Magog. Just like today, a person could say, ‘I live in the United States of America. I am an American.’ But where did you come from? That’s a different story. So, we may find the same thing and we’ll see if we can put it together here.

Isaiah 65:17: “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth. And the former things will not be remembered, nor come to mind.” Of course, God’s going to have to redo the surface of the earth when Christ returns. Set the heavens back in order. He’s going to shake the heavens and the earth.

Verse 18: “But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and I will joy in My people; and the voice of weeping will no more be heard in her, nor the voice of crying” (vs 18-19).

Something unusual happens here. Here is a verse that is a little difficult to understand, but let’s see if we can put it together, v 20: “There will not be an infant who lives but a few days, nor an old man that has not filled his days... [there aren’t going to be any premature deaths] ...for the child will die a hundred years old... [going to live to be 100] ...but the sinner *who is* a hundred years old shall be accursed.” What do we make of that? We could apply this to the Millennium. We can also apply it to the meaning of the Last Great Day.

Verse 21: “And they will build houses and live *in them*; and they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build, and another live *in them*; they will not plant, and another eat; for like the days of a tree *are so will be* the days of My people, and My elect will long enjoy the work of their hands” (vs 21-22).

Verse 25: “The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox...” etc. That’s talking about the millennial setting.

What’s going to happen to people during the Millennium? *We have a 100-year period here!* Let’s look at this way, just exactly as it says. No premature deaths, v 20: “...nor an old man that has not filled his days, for the child will die a hundred

years old; but the sinner who is a hundred years old shall be accursed” What does it mean to be accursed? *That means rejected from receiving salvation!* Will there be those who will not accept the salvation of God during the Millennium? *There will be some* because there’s still free choice. God is not going to take away free choice.

What’s going to happen to those who are righteous? *The one who is accursed undoubtedly is going to die*, whether the punishment of the Lake of Fire for severe crimes or whether put in the grave. What is God’s decree concerning all the incorrigible wicked? *They have to die twice!* What is also the decree for those who are righteous? *Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God*—correct? Let’s see if we can answer both of these questions here and understand what is going to happen.

What is going to happen to those who are righteous, live 100 years and then enter the Kingdom of God? {put in Heb. 9:27—‘it’s given unto men once to die, then the judgment.} The same question comes up concerning those who are alive when Jesus returns. What’s going to happen to them? We have it answered here in 1-Thes. 4. It talks about the return of Christ. Those who are in the grave are resurrected (v 14).

1-Thessalonians 4:15: “For this we say to you by *the* Word of *the* Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of those shall in no wise precede those who have fallen asleep... [those who are in the grave] ...Because the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout of command, with *the* voice of an archangel and with *the* trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (vs 15-16). And all of those who are still alive, they’re going to be looking around and say, ‘What about me, Lord?’

Verse 17: “Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in *the* clouds for *the* meeting with the Lord in *the* air; and so shall we always be with *the* Lord.” They are going to be changed from flesh to spirit. It says back there that the righteous will live a hundred years and die. If they’re righteous, would there be any need to put them in the ground in the grave? *or* Would it not be much like it is here, ‘We who are alive and remain will be changed’?

I think it’s going to be like v 17. The ones who are righteous and live to be a hundred years and are qualified for the Kingdom of God through the requirements of God and the blessing and grace of God, since it is given to everyone to die, we all have to die in Adam, that there will be an instantaneous death and change.

Whereas the wicked, they are accursed. They are put in the ground and they wait for the second resurrection, the part that raises the wicked. So, we come down through the Millennium. Every year there are people reaching 100-years-old who are righteous. What about the wicked? If the wicked die and are put in the ground, everyone knows that they are accursed. What happens when you come to the last generation of the Millennium when there’s not enough time for them to live to be 100-years-old? What are you going to do with the wicked when it’s not time for them to die but they can’t receive eternal life either? We find in the Bible a very important precedent here:

- What happened when Adam and Eve sinned? *They were removed from the Garden of Eden!*
- What happened when Cain sinned? *He was sent further away from the line of Adam to the land of Nod, or the land of wandering!*
- What happened to the children of Israel when they sinned? *They were sent into exile!*
- What happened to the children of Judah? *Sent into exile!*
- What happened to other nations, the nations that they succeeded? *They were driven out!*

Could it be—and I think this is how it will be—that at the end of the Millennium those who refuse salvation will be given the choice to repent or you can go to the geographical area of Gog and Magog and they can live there? However you want to live, you can live. You’ve rejected what is offered by the Kingdom of God; you have rejected the plan of salvation that God has. You go live over there.

How many people will be doing that? *Don’t know!* But what has to happen to every sinner that God has decreed is going to happen? In a case of Gog and Magog (Rev. 20) we would have to conclude that this would have to be *nations in the area of Gog and Magog* rather than the *people* of Gog and Magog.

Revelation 20:7: “Now when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison; And he shall go out to deceive the nations... [that is more than just Gog and Magog] ...that *are* in the four corners of the earth...” (vs 7-8). Who knows, maybe that’s Siberia. Maybe the Russians have it right, that’s a place of exile. When they didn’t want to kill the ones who were against them, they sent them by rail out to Siberia.

“...Gog and Magog... [the geographical area] ...of whom the number *is* as the sand of the sea...” (v

8). Why is it listed that way? *Because there's free choice* and no one knows what an individual is going to do and choose, except even God. God has given it that we must all, each of us individually, choose. Same way with people during the Millennium. They are going to have to choose. It's going to be easier, but nevertheless they still have to choose.

Why is Satan sent out? "...to gather them together for war" (v 8). What is the purpose? *There wasn't time for them to live 100 years and die and be buried!* But yet they all have to have a first death in order to have the second death. There can't be a second death unless there is a first death. He gathers them together for war.

Verse 9: "Then *I saw* them go up upon the breadth of the earth and encircle the camp of the saints..." Again, let's go up and Satan is going to convince them that we, altogether, all you sinners, you're really not sinners. He's going to tell them, 'I love you.' They're going to prepare for war and he's going to convince them. 'Listen, Jerusalem is the capital city. It's unprotected. There are no defenses. There are no armies.' It's going to be a delusion. It's going to be a lie. They will be deceived and they will come.

They're going to encircle the city, the beloved city. With this kind of protection you don't need an army: "...and fire came down from God out of heaven and consumed them" (v 9). First death! Everyone, regardless of their age, right at that point they all die. That's Satan's final mission. All of those who die from this war will be resurrected at the end of the Great White Throne Judgment and cast into the Lake of Fire for the second death.

Verse 10: "And the Devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast...*" Stop here for a minute. For those people who don't understand this and in particular for those who believe in the immortal soul and believe in an ever-burning hell:

- The *beast and false prophet* were human beings.
- They were cast into the Lake of Fire *at the beginning of the Millennium.*
- How long do you suppose that they remained alive in the Lake of Fire? *Their torment was quick! They died!*

"...where the beast and the false prophet *had been cast*; and they..." (v 10). This is very interesting and in translating this from the Greek this is plural 'they.' *This has to be Satan and the demons*, rather than the beast and the false prophet, because they were burned up instantly. Demons and Satan are

composed of spirit so they can be "...tormented day and night into the ages of eternity" (v 10). Not human beings.

Let's come to the book of Jude and here it talks a little bit about the fate of Satan and the demons. Behind everyone who is evil, what have they accepted? They have accepted the way of Satan the devil and the devil has been leading them. They are all given a time to repent, but they don't.

Jude 11: "Woe to them! For they have walked in the way of Cain; and for gain, they have wholly given themselves up to Balaam's delusion, and have perished in the rebellion of Korah. These are subversive stains in your love feasts, feasting in person together *with you*; fearlessly they are feeding themselves. *They are* clouds without water, being driven by the winds; trees of late autumn, without *any* fruit, uprooted, **twice dead**" (vs 11-12). Those are the incorrigible wicked. They have to die twice.

Verse 13: "Raging waves of the sea, casting up like foam their own ignominious shame... [It switches here, the wicked now to the force and power behind the wicked.] ...wandering stars... [Stars have been likened to angels. When there was a rebellion of Lucifer and the angels he took a *third of the stars of heaven!*] ...for whom has been reserved the blackest darkness forever!"

Somewhere out there in the universe God has prepared a place for them. It has been reserved. Today scientists think they understand about black holes in galaxies. They can understand that the gravity is so intense in those black holes that once something is caught in it, it never gets out. So the blackness of darkness forever is the greatest torment, worse than being cast into the Lake of Fire. That's the first part of Satan's punishment and that's also part of the punishment of the demons.

The Lake of Fire is going to consume the whole earth and then there's going to be the new heaven and a new earth and Satan isn't going to be around. They are going to have to be out here in the blackness of darkness forever somewhere in the universe as a perpetual witness to all of those who are in the Kingdom of God and spirit beings. That **never again** will there be rebellion and sin tolerated.

We will have learned the lesson, no, we don't want to. We'll answer the question tomorrow, what happens to the rest of the dead.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Jeremiah 31:31-34
- 2) Zechariah 8:12-17
- 3) Zechariah 10:6-10
- 4) Isaiah 27:12-13

- 5) Micah 4:1
- 6) Revelation 20:1-3
- 7) Ezekiel 38:1-19, 21-23
- 8) Ezekiel 39:1-5
- 9) Revelation 20:7-8, 5
- 10) Isaiah 65:17-22
- 11) 1-Thessalonians 4:15-17
- 12) Revelation 20:7-10
- 13) Jude 11-13

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ezekiel 36
- Luke 3
- Romans 7
- Deuteronomy 5
- Isaiah 30
- Zechariah 14
- John 21
- Hebrews 9:27
- 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Copyright 2012—All rights reserved. Except for brief excerpts for review purposes, no part of this publication may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means without the written permission of the copyright owner. This includes electronic and mechanical photocopying or recording, as well as the use of information storage and retrieval systems.