

**THE MILLENNIUM**

The last two studies surveyed some of the information in the Bible concerning the second coming of Christ--Christ's own promise, the manner of His return, the purpose of it, and some of the "signs" by which we can know when it is near. Certainly the evidence points to the fact that it is very near today. Skeptics will continue to scoff, rebels will continue to rebel, sinners will continue to sin. But the promise of Hebrews 9:28 still boldly says that just as Christ came the first time "to bear the sins of many," so "shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

The questions now arise, What happens when He comes? And, What happens after He returns? The Bible answers these questions very clearly. Just as the third chapter from the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 3) reveals how sin began on this earth, so the third chapter from the end of the Bible (Revelation 20) will help us not only to see how sin will end, but also the events connected with, and following, Christ's second coming.

1. First, we should note that there will exist two classes of people at Christ's second coming. How does Jesus describe them in Matthew 25:31-34?

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2. The people who are called the "blessed of my Father" in Matthew 25:34 are said to "inherit the kingdom" of God. What else can we learn about these blessed ones in connection with Christ's promised return?

- (a) Matthew 24:31 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17 \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) 1 Corinthians 15:51-54 \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) John 14:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What about the group that Jesus called the "goats" or wicked ones? (Matthew 25:32,33.) What can we learn about their destiny in connection with Christ's second coming?

- (a) Revelation 6:14-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: At the time of Christ's second coming the Bible clearly teaches a resurrection of the righteous dead, but no general resurrection of the wicked dead. The righteous of all ages will then be alive and taken to heaven, while the wicked of the past remain in their graves, and the living wicked die.)

4. What contrast does John picture between the righteous and the wicked at Christ's second coming?

- (a) Revelation 19:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) Revelation 19:11-18 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Study carefully Revelation 20:1-4. What can we discover about where, time, conditions, during the millennium?

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- (a) What is the "bottomless pit" in verses 1,3? (Compare Genesis 1:2 and Jeremiah 4:23-26; 25:31-33.) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) For how long is the devil bound in verse 2? \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) What is he unable to do, and why, in verse 3? \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Where are the righteous during the 1,000 years, in verses 4-6? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the Bible say then happens at the end of the 1,000 years? (we often call this Christ's "third" coming.)
- (a) What happens to the righteous? Revelation 21:2. \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) What happens to the wicked dead who have all slept through the 1,000 years? Revelation 20:5a, John 5:28,29. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Revelation 20:5b and 6a clearly refer to the resurrection of those mentioned in verse 4, John 5:29a, and 1 Thessalonians 4:16 which occurred at Christ's second coming, 1,000 years earlier.)
- (c) What two things happen to the devil Revelation 20:7,8. \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) Where do the devil and the wicked then go? Verse 9a. \_\_\_\_\_
- (e) What finally happens to all the wicked? Verses 9b,10,14,15. \_\_\_\_\_
- (f) When God finally destroys all of the "tares," what happens to the earth? Revelation 21:1. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Compare Revelation 21:7 and Revelation 2:7. Will you accept God's invitation to be there?

