

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?

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?

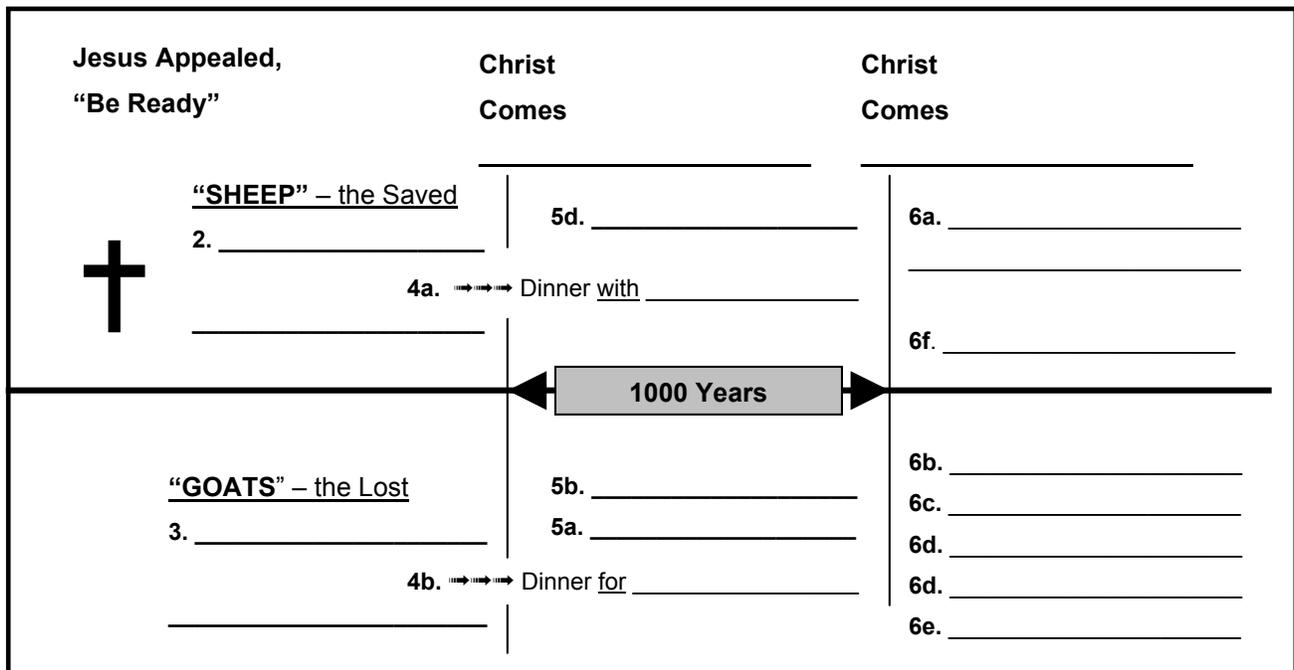
Unto A Perfect Man, Study Guides by Carl Coffman

- (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?



Introduction**Hebrews 9:28**

²⁸so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

Genesis 3**Revelation 20****1. Matthew 25:31-34**

³¹“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Answer: Sheep on his right hand (to be honored) and goats on His left (to be condemned).

2a. Matthew 24:31

³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Answer: Jesus will gather His people (“elect”) from around the world

2b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17

¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Answer: Jesus followers who have died will be raised first and be taken up into the cloud with those who are still alive when Jesus comes again.

2c. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54

⁵¹Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁵²in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “*Death is swallowed up in victory.*”

Answer: The effects of sin will be wiped away and our mortality will be replaced with immortality and death will be defeated.

2d. John 14:1-3

¹“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

Answer: Jesus is preparing mansions for those who wait and believe in His second coming.

3. Matthew 25:32, 33

³²All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

Answer: The goats are placed on Jesus left side.

3a. Revelation 6:14-17

¹⁴Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

Answer: Those on Jesus’ left are terrified at His coming and hid themselves in caves and beg the mountains and rocks to fall on them to hid them from seeing Jesus face (His glory).

3b. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁶since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

Answer: God will take vengeance on those who have persecuted His people and who have rejected His Plan of Salvation provided to save them and they will be eternally destroyed.

4a. Revelation 19:7-9

⁷Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

⁹Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”

Answer: God’s people are call to participate in the marriage supper of the “Lamb” – Jesus has come to take His people back to Heaven.

4b. Revelation 19:11-18

¹¹Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

¹⁷Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, ¹⁸that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great.”

Answer: The birds are called to the supper of the Great God and to feast on the bodies of the wicked.

5. Revelation 20:1-4

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

⁴And 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.

5a. Revelation 20:1, 3**Genesis 1:2**

²The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Jeremiah 4:23-26

²³ I beheld the earth, and indeed *it was* without form, and void;
And the heavens, they *had* no light.
²⁴ I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled,
And all the hills moved back and forth.
²⁵ I beheld, and indeed *there was* no man,
And all the birds of the heavens had fled.
²⁶ I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land *was* a wilderness,
And all its cities were broken down
At the presence of the Lord,
By His fierce anger.

Jeremiah 25:31-33

³¹ A noise will come to the ends of the earth—
For the Lord has a controversy with the nations;
He will plead His case with all flesh.
He will give those *who are* wicked to the sword,' says the Lord."
³² Thus says the Lord of hosts:
"Behold, disaster shall go forth
From nation to nation,
And a great whirlwind shall be raised up
From the farthest parts of the earth.
³³ And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from *one* end of the earth even to the *other* end of
the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the
ground.

Answer: A totally destroyed world that doesn't even have light anymore.

5b. Revelation 20:2

²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Answer: 1000 years.

5c. Revelation 20:3

³and 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.

Answer: He can no longer deceive the nations (the people who lived on the earth).

5d. Revelation 20:4-6

⁴And 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. ⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed 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.

Answer: They are in heaven reviewing (judging) the verdict against the Satan and the wicked.

6a. Revelation 21:2

²Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Answer: They will return to earth when God brings the New Jerusalem down from heaven to the earth when he comes the third time.

6b. Revelation 20:5a

⁵But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

John 5:28, 29

²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice
²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Answer: They will be raise at the sound of God's voice at the end of the 1000 years.

Revelation 20:5b and 6

This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed 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.

John 5:29a

²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

1Thessalonians 4:16

¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

6c. Revelation 20:7,8

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and 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.

Answer: Satan will be released from his prison (the bottomless pit) and he will once again deceive people to follow him in his fight against God.

6d. Revelation 20:9a

⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

Answer: They take up battle positions around the New Jerusalem in anticipation of attacking and conquering God and His followers.

6e. Revelation 20:9a, 10, 14, 15

And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The 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.

¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Answer: The devil and his followers are cast into the lake of fire to die the second death.

6f. Revelation 21:1

¹Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Answer: God created a new heaven and a new earth to replace the old, sin-scarred earth.

7. Revelation 21:7

⁷He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Revelation 2:7

⁷“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.”

THE MILLENNIUM

Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 12: Many are the errors taught today in connection with the events at the beginning, and during, the millennium. The real purpose to be achieved in this lesson is to move slowly and clearly through some well-known and well-worn texts, in order to let the teaching of truth expose the many errors. Do not deal with the errors as such in this lesson (rapture, tribulation, second chance, etc.), unless questioned by the student. See Unto a Perfect Man, pages 98,99, if you are not too clear on the various concepts of the millennium.

During the study itself: The first area that needs extreme clarity is in question 2. Make it clear that all righteous end up alive, and are taken away from this earth at the second coming. Christ comes FOR His saints. Then make it just as clear in question 3 that all the wicked end up dead, on the earth. Note on the visual aid the use of question 4. In questions 5(a) and 5(c) stress the point that Satan lives on an uninhabited earth. In connection with question 6, contrast the fact that, whereas Christ comes FOR His people at the beginning of the millennium, He comes WITH His people when the New Jerusalem descends. Enter this on your visual aid under "second coming" and "Holy city descends." In connection with question 6, the question could be discussed, Why does a God of love resurrect, and then destroy, the wicked at the close of the millennium?

Appeal: With visual aid completed, read passages in question 7 and make the appeal. The illustration and appeal come together beautifully.

Illustration: Note the shift of the cross in the visual aid, in order to allow room for the details of the millennium. Let your visual aid make doubly clear the circumstances, the conditions, the home of the righteous and the destiny of the wicked and the devil and his evil angels. You could use the illustration three times: (1) After questions 1-4; (2) after question 5; and (3) after question 6. Then make appeal.

