

Millennium

The term “MILLENNIUM” refers to a period of 1000 years. The majority of Christians agree that the millennium spoken of in Revelation Chapter 20, will begin when Jesus returns in glory. But here the agreement ends. Some believe that Christ will immediately set up His kingdom on the earth where He will “rule the nations with a rod of iron” during this period. Others believe with me, that the earth will be desolate during the 7th millennium. The faithful will be removed from the earth. They will go with Jesus to the “Father’s House” to spend a thousand years with Him.

John 13:33, 36-37 “I’m going away,” Jesus said, “Where I am going you cannot come.” “Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.” “Why can’t I follow you now Lord?” Peter asked. Then Jesus explained about His Father’s house.

John 14:2-3 “In 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. And 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.”

NOTE: The “place” which Jesus would “prepare” was to be in His Father’s house - that is in Heaven. Christ promised to return, then receive us to Himself and take us to the place which He would prepare. Many Bible passages support Christ’s return to His Father in Heaven: “Now I leave the world and go back to the Father”(John 16:28). (Compare John 16:16-17, and Acts 3:21.) I believe Jesus was telling Peter that He would return for all of His followers at the end of this age, when He would transport them to the place which He would prepare. It’s called The Holy City!

ANCIENT HEBREW MARRIAGE CUSTOM GIVES US A CLUE.

Marriage was contracted between the father of the bride to be, and the father of the groom - each accompanied by a “witness.” This betrothal was as binding as the marriage. Adultery during this period of betrothal was punishable by death. The period of betrothal lasted about one year, during which time the groom would “prepare a place” for his bride. When this “home” (usually an apartment within the extended family compound) was completed - the date was set for the wedding. The ceremony was simple.

The groom’s attendant lifted the veil from the bride’s face. Draping it over the shoulder of the groom he pronounced, “The government shall be upon his shoulder” (*Isa. 9:6*). The bride then accompanied her husband back to his family home, where the wedding feast took place. (*The New Manners and customs of Bible Times*, by Ralph Gower, pub. Moody Press, Chicago. Pg65.; *The Lion Encyclopedia of the Bible*, edited by P.T.Alexander, pub. Reader’s Digest. Pg.166.)

QUESTION: If there “are many mansions “within the Father’s House, and Christ has prepared one mansion for us (the redeemed), then who already live in the others?

A SANCTUARY - AN ARK OF SAFETY

When the earth was covered by the waters of the flood, Noah and his family were safe inside the ark. When the earth is covered in flames - devastated by the last plagues, the people of God will be safe inside “a place” which Christ has prepared. It is clear that we must be removed from the earth for some period of time. The whole earth will be “burned up” (*2 Pet. 3:10*). Whatever remains on the earth during the final outpouring of God’s wrath will be consumed!

THIS EARTH WILL BE COMPLETELY DEVASTATED

Malachi 4:1 “For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,’ Says the LORD of hosts, ‘That will leave them neither root nor branch.’”

2 Peter 3:10 “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Mark 13:31 “Heaven and earth will pass away, . . .” (*Lk 21:33, Matt. 24:36*).

Hebrews 6:7-8 “For the earth . . . If it bears thorn and briers, it is rejected . . . whose end is to be burned.”

Deuteronomy 29:23 “The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.”

NOTE: This is the curse which the LORD prophesied would come upon the land of Israel, should they forsake the covenant. They are the type (symbol) for the whole earth. “Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate. Therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, And few men are left” (Isaiah 24:6).

Zephaniah 1:14-18 “. . . On the day of the Lord’s wrath; And all the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy, For He will make a complete end, Indeed a terrifying one, Of all the inhabitants of the earth.” NAS

NOTE: Zephaniah wrote in the days before the Babylonian destruction. When the Babylonians attacked Judea they did not kill every inhabitant. That fact tells us that this prophecy of destruction is a dual prophecy. It will have another - complete - fulfillment.

Genesis 6:13 “And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.”

Luke 17:26-30 “And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: . . . the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: . . . on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all. Even so will it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed.”

NOTE: In Noah’s day, the flood destroyed every human being outside of the ark. On the day that Lot was led out of Sodom, the fire destroyed every living thing in the city. “Even so” - just like that - the last plagues will destroy all life on earth.

Jeremiah 4:23-26 [After the great day of the Lord] “**I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.** I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. 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.”

THE “TRUMPETS” (*Revelation Chapter Eight*)

Note: In ancient Israel, trumpets were sounded to warn of impending attack, or as a call to battle. Trumpets were also sounded on the first day of the 7th month, to warn the people to prepare for the Day of Atonement - coming in just ten more days. The trumpet events of Revelation serve to warn the inhabitants of earth, that the “day of the LORD” - Judgment Day - is imminent.

Just think about the effects.....

First Trumpet: One third of all the trees and all green grass are burned up.

Second Trumpet: One third of all creatures alive in the ocean are destroyed, and one third of all ships are destroyed, probably by the asteroid hit. A “mountain burning with fire” is “thrown into the sea” (*Rev. 8:7-8*).

Third Trumpet: One third of all rivers are contaminated. Men are made sick and many die after drinking the bitter tasting water.

Fourth Trumpet: One third of sunlight and one third of moonlight is darkened. Dust may have been thrown into the atmosphere by an asteroid hit, blocking the sun OR perhaps by massive volcanic eruptions OR by a massive nuclear exchange. Growth of plant food will be limited.

Sixth Trumpet: One third of mankind is killed by “fire, smoke, and brimstone (melted earth) after “four messengers headed for the river Euphrates” are released.

Seventh Trumpet: Christ will return in glory. Those in covenant with Him will be removed from the earth, THEN the 7 last plagues (bowls) will be poured out.

Those in covenant are removed to safety BEFORE the final destruction.

In the TYPE, Lot (who was in covenant with God) with his family, was led out of Sodom by the hand of angels BEFORE it “rained fire and brimstone.” Noah (a type of Christ) with his family (the redeemed), was safely inside the ark and the door shut by an angel, BEFORE it began to rain.

SEVEN LAST BOWLS OF WRATH - Universal in effect.

The seven vials (or bowls) of wrath are poured out as the 7th trumpet sounds. These plagues ARE universal. These are said to be the full “wrath of God” “poured out without mercy” (Rev. 15:1-7; Rev. 16:1).

Remember: Any person who “worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark” “will drink of the wrath of God which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation” (Rev. 13:11).

The wrath of God is said to be “complete” in the seven last bowl judgments (Rev. 15:1). Only those whose names ARE written in the Book of Life will refuse to worship the beast, or to take his mark. These only will escape the 7 last plagues, because they are removed from the earth on the day that Christ returns.

Revelation 18:8 “Therefore let her plagues come in one day.”

*The seven last plagues begin on the day that Jesus returns.
These final plagues begin AFTER His people have been removed!*

First Bowl: A plague causing “loathsome sores” (Rev.16:2).

Second Bowl: Every living thing in the ocean dies (Rev. 16:3).

*If the ocean no longer supports life, there is no food chain.
There is also little oxygen, because sea vegetation produces oxygen.*

Third Bowl: All of the rivers and all of the springs of water become like blood.
They will not support life (Rev. 16:4).

Fourth Bowl: The sun gets hotter and scorches men with fire (Rev. 16:8). Possibly a gamma ray burst, or the result of the earth being knocked into a different orbit around the sun. Many will die of the intense heat or of radiation.

Fifth Bowl: Darkness will cover the “kingdom of the beast” (Rev. 16:10).

*The beast power rules the entire earth - therefore this plague of darkness will be universal.
If a large asteroid were to impact earth, dust would be thrown into the atmosphere, blocking the sunlight. Scientists believe a similar hit wiped out the dinosaurs. The plague of “sores” continues because everything is set in motion on the day that Christ removes His people and His Spirit from the earth.*

Sixth Bowl: Demonic powers gather “the kings of the earth and of the whole world” for a global war, against the LORD, who they probably believe is an invading alien force (*Rev.16:14*).

Seventh Bowl: The greatest earthquake the world has ever known. **“Every island fled away and the mountains were not found.** Great hail from heaven fell upon men, every hailstone about the weight of a talent [100pds]” (*Rev. 16:18-21*).

*The surface of the earth would need to be broken up to an incredible degree - an earthquake with the power to break apart every known fault over the face of the entire earth. I do not see a universal flood of sea water here. If the “sky” is parted, or “rolled up like a scroll,” (*Rev. 6:14, Isa. 34:4*) that suggests our atmosphere may be disrupted. If the oceans are vaporized by an asteroid hit, the water vapor may be dispersed into outer space - leaving the planet dry and lifeless.*

NOTE: With no clean air, no water, no food, severe heat then darkness, and then an asteroid shower, while the surface of the earth is broken up - do you really think there would be any human life left on this planet!? Many teach that the saints will reign with Christ, during the 7th millennium, over the nations who survive these last plagues. I disagree!

Revelation 6:12-14 “There was a great earthquake and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll which is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.”

Imagine the forces it will take!

Matthew 24:35-37 [Christ speaking] “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”

Isaiah 24:18-20 “For the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth are shaken. The earth is violently broken. The earth is split open. The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut.”

NOTE: The stars will not literally “fall” to earth. John may be describing an asteroid shower, or the stars may have the appearance of falling when the earth reels to and fro.

Micah 1:3-4 “For behold, the LORD is coming out of His place; He will come down and tread on the high places of the earth. The mountains will melt under Him, and the valleys will split like wax before the fire, like waters poured down a steep place.”

Isaiah 13:13 “Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, [*out of her orbit*] in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger.”

II Peter 3:7, 10-12 “But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men . . .” “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

PLEASE TELL ME!
HOW COULD ANY HUMAN LIFE CONTINUE ON THIS PLANET
AFTER THESE EVENTS?

Sunlight Oxygen - Water - Vegetation (Food) Temperate Climate ALL GONE!!!
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WITHOUT FORM AND VOID

The earth is wholly devastated.
It lies waste and empty of human habitation.

**Jeremiah the prophet saw the earth after “the great day of the Lord.”
Here is his description:**

“I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void;
And the heavens, they had no light.
I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled,
And all the hills moved back and forth.
I beheld, and indeed there was no man,
And all the birds of the heavens had fled.
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 4:23-26).

NOTE: “Without form and void” (Strong’s # 08414 & #0922) – these are the same Hebrew words that were used to describe the earth on the first day of creation, before God made anything (Gen. 1:2). The earth was dark, and without life.

NOTE: This prophecy was given just before the Babylonians destroyed Judea, and Jerusalem. That destruction was a type. The Babylonians did not kill every human being in Judea. I believe this is a DUAL prophecy. It was for them - but it is also a warning for us in these last days: “Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they are written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Cor. 10:11).

Isaiah 2:17-21 “And the loftiness of man shall be lowered down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; and the Lord alone will be exalted in that day. But the idols He shall utterly abolish. They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily.”

COMMENT: All of ISALAH, it is claimed is only a prophecy of the Babylonian destruction of Judea, but these verses speak of the “glory of His majesty” which was not seen at the destruction of Jerusalem of old. The whole earth did NOT “reel like a drunkard” nor was it “clean dissolved” at that destruction. Men hid themselves from the Babylonians - yes. At the Second Coming, men will hide themselves from “the glory of His majesty” (Rev. 6:15).

Zechariah:2-3: “I will utterly consume all things from off the land, Says the Lord. I will consume man and beasts; I will consume the birds of the heaven, the fish of the sea, and the shrines with the wicked; and I will cut off man from the face of the earth,’ Says the Lord.”

NOTE: Zechariah was a prince descended from King David. He was the great, great, grandson of King Hezekiah, and second cousin of King Josiah. He was also a prophet of God. The warning given to Israel before the Babylonian destruction - a warning of impending doom - is a DUAL prophecy. It was for them - but it is also for us.

Zechariah 1:14-18 “Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy; for He shall make a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land.”

NOTE: At the time of the Babylonian invasion, not “all” were killed or taken captive. The Babylonians left a large number of the poor unharmed. After Jesus removes His own to safety, the plagues which follow WILL “rid” the earth of “ALL” inhabitants. “Walk like blind men” (v.17) might refer to the plague of darkness or to the effect of the intense brightness of His coming, as when the guards at the tomb of Christ were struck blind, or as Saul was struck blind by the glory of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

Nahum 1:5,6,8 “The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him. But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.”

DESTRUCTION OF THE NATIONS

Isaiah Chapter 34

34:1-2 “Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, the world and all things that come forth from it. For the indignation of the LORD is against all nations, And His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them, He has given them over to the slaughter.”
(See also Revelation 16:14.)

34:3 “Also their slain shall be thrown out; Their stench shall rise from their corpses, And the mountains shall be melted with their blood.”

34:4 “All the host of heaven shall be dissolved, And the heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll; All their host shall fall down As the leaf falls from the vine, And as fruit falling from a fig tree.” (See also Revelation 6:14.)

34:8-10 “For it is the day of the LORD's vengeance, The year of recompense for the cause of Zion. Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; Its land shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever. From generation to generation it shall lie waste; No one shall pass through it forever and ever.”
(See also Revelation 14:10-11 & Revelation 19:3.)

NOTE: Verses 5 - 6 of this chapter tell us that this is a prophecy concerning “Edom” the kingdom of Esau's descendants. The LORD calls them “the people of My curse.” But the “land of Edom” is not still burning today. The ancient destruction of Edom by the Babylonians was the type. The rest of the passage tells us that this prophecy concerns the whole earth - burned with unquenchable fire.

34:11 “And He shall stretch out over it the line of confusion [meaning ‘without form’] and the stones of emptiness [*meaning ‘void’*].”

ISAIAH'S DESCRIPTION DETAILS THE EFFECTS

Isaiah Chapter 24

24:1 “Behold the Lord makes the earth empty, and makes it waste, distorts its surface and scatters abroad its inhabitants.”

24:3 “The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered; for the LORD has spoken this word.”

24:6 “Therefore, the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate; therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned and few men left.”

24:13 “It shall be like the shaking of an olive tree, like the gleaning of grapes when the vintage is done.” (See also Rev. 6:13 & Rev 14:19-20.)

24:18 “And the foundations of the earth are shaken.”

24:19 “The earth is violently broken. The earth is split open. The earth is shaken exceedingly.”

24:20 “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

24:21 “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish on high the host of exalted ones, [*Satan and his angels*] and on the earth the kings of the earth. They will be gathered together as prisoners are gathered in the pit [*death*], and will be shut up in the prison. After many days they will be punished.”

NOTE: The “second death” in the “lake of fire” does not take place until after the 1000 years. That is why the “kings of the earth” are said to be gathered in the pit, but not finally punished until “many days” have passed. We will look at the “lake of fire” in a later chapter.

THE LAND WILL “REST”

The Lord commanded that every 7th year the land should rest - no crops were to be planted. Nothing from the field or vine was to be harvested. It was called the sabbatical year (*Lev. 25:2-7*). They were to again sow the land in the eighth year.

This cycle of planting for six years followed by a year of rest was a prophecy. The earth has groaned under a load of sin for almost 6000 years. The earth will soon rest for 1000 years. The gospel will not be sown during that time, and no souls will be “harvested.” We will begin anew, to share the good news of salvation, with those raised to life at the 8th millennium.

NOTE: The seventy years of Babylonian captivity during which the land lay desolate, were to fulfill 70 sabbatical years which Israel had not kept. Israel had been in rebellion for 490 years (2 Chron. 36:21).

Leviticus 26:33-35 “I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. **Then the land shall enjoy its sabbaths as long as it lies desolate** and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest – for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.”

DESOLATION *is* REST
Leviticus 26:33-35

WHERE DOES SATAN SPEND THE 7TH MILLENNIUM?

Isaiah 24:21 “The host of exalted ones” are “gathered in the pit.”

Revelation 20:1-3 “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of **the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years, 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.”

Revelation 20:7-8 “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth . . .”

*In the Septuagint (an ancient translation from Hebrew to Greek) the word “abussos” (Strong’s #12 - meaning bottomless or boundless) was used to translate the Hebrew “bohuv” (#0922 - meaning emptiness, void or waste) in Genesis 1:2 & Jeremiah 4:23. The same Greek word “abussos” is translated “bottomless pit” in Revelation 20:1-2. **Satan is thrown into the abyss - the emptiness, the void, the waste - a perfect description of earth after the seven last plagues.***

(Hebrew) “bohuv,” ⇔⇔ (Greek) “abussos” ⇔⇔ (English) “bottomless pit”

THE EARTH HAS BEEN TURNED INTO AN UNINHABITED WASTE.
IT IS AN ABYSS - A “BOTTOMLESS PIT” - “WITHOUT FORM AND VOID.”

Satan wanted the earth for his kingdom. He will spend a thousand years on the dark and empty earth, bound by those circumstances which he caused. Everyone and everything is dead except the Devil and his angels.

THE SCAPEGOAT

As noted earlier, I have long believed that events connected with Christ’s return in glory will fulfill the ancient Day of Atonement prophecy.

Leviticus 16:21-22 On that day, two goats were chosen by lot. The first goat was sacrificed and its blood used to “cleanse” the Sanctuary and the alter in the courtyard.

*Thru the year, the sins of the congregation were “transferred” to the priest (or to the sanctuary thru the priest). On the Day of Atonement, the sins of the congregation were AGAIN confessed over the head of the second goat - the “azazel” goat. This **azazel goat was then led into the “wilderness”** (uninhabited place - Strong’s #4057) by a “fit man.” The goat was not killed. It was released in the “uninhabited place.” The goat carried the confessed sins of the entire congregation of Israel.*

I believe that the “scapegoat” symbolized Satan - who is banished to the “uninhabited place” by Christ - the “fit man.” Some object to this interpretation, wondering how Satan could ever be said to “bear” upon himself “all their iniquities.”

I would explain that this is supported by the picture of a judgment scene (Daniel 7:10-22, Rom. 3:4, Psa. 51:4). Jesus carried our sins, as the Lamb of God. He bought us time. He assumed the guilt - UNTIL the judgment sits. Then Satan will be found guilty of all the sins which he has caused God’s people to commit. He is the prima and original cause.

Satan is left alive during the 7th millennium. After the 1000 years there will be a great resurrection. Those raised to life at this time must be tested, just as every man and woman before them are been tested. Satan will try to deceive, but many of the resurrected will choose Christ. Satan must be found guilty of their sin also. When he is at last cast into the “lake of fire and brimstone” he will carry their guilt with him (Rev. 20:10).

THE REST OF THE DEAD

Revelation 20:1-6 Satan is bound for 1000 years. “And I saw thrones and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. And 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** [7th millennium]. But, the rest of the dead did not live again until the 1000 years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 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** [during the 8th millennium].”

This passage may address two millennia. First: The 7th millennium, during which redeemed reign in Heaven with Christ, while the rest of the dead continue to sleep. Second: The 8th millennium, during which the redeemed will “reign with Him on the earth,” as priests of God and of Christ, ruling the nations who are resurrected at The 8th Day.

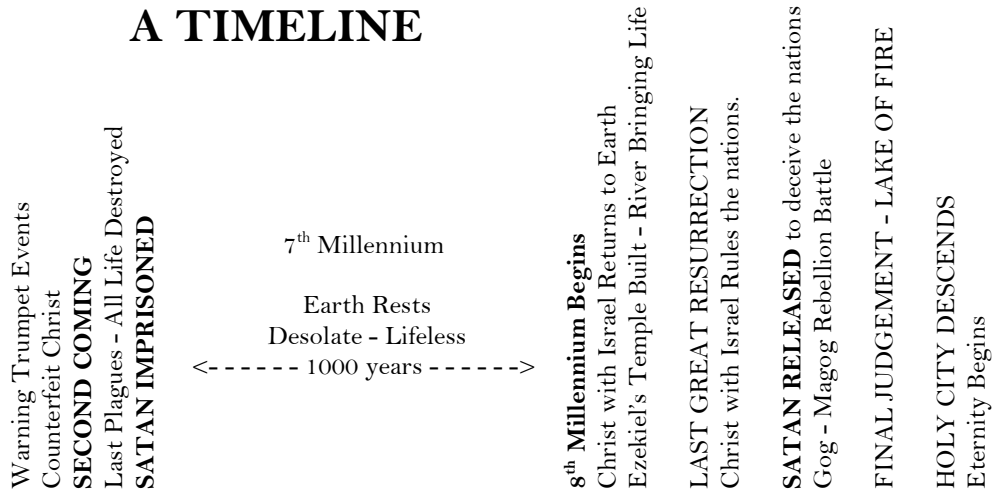
NOTE: Some students of prophecy believe that only those who were martyred will rise in the “first resurrection” and “reign with Him for a thousand years.” While I have no problem believing that those who gave their lives for Christ will be given an exalted place in the kingdom, other Bible passages support my belief that all of the “dead in Christ” will rise when the last trumpet sounds at His return (1 Thess. 4:16, Matt. 24:30-31). When the 7th angel sounds, the time has come to “reward your servants the prophets and the saints, and those who fear Your name, small and great” (Rev. 11:15).

RELEASED FROM HIS PRISON

Revelation 20:7 “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth . . .”

When the “rest of the dead” are resurrected after the 7th millennium, they will constitute “nations” - “in the four corners of the earth.” Satan will again have someone to tempt. He was bound to the desolate earth for 1000 years. Now the battle for souls will continue. Each person must choose whom he will serve.

A TIMELINE



CHAPTER SUMMARY

1. There will be a resurrection of both righteous and wicked at the Second Coming.
2. The righteous will go with Christ when He returns in glory. They will spend the sabbath (7th) millennium in the "Father's House."
3. The wicked will die in the plagues. They will never be resurrected again - forever.
4. The earth will be completely devastated by the seven last plagues. The earth will be burned up. It will no longer support life.
5. Christ cannot rule over "the nations" during the 7th millennium because they do not "live again" until 1000 years are finished.
6. The nations (every person who lived in ignorance of God) will be resurrected at the 8th millennium (The 8th Day).

MASTERPIECE of DECEPTION

A counterfeit Messiah - A counterfeit Second Coming

Satan got the one thing he wanted most - to kill the Son of God. But his satisfaction was short lived, because the Father simply raised Christ from the grave (*Gal. 1:1, 1Pet. 1:3, Acts 3:15*). The second thing Satan wants is to steal souls from Christ. If he can bring the whole world to worship him, then maybe God will have to give up - and hand the world over to his rule. This won't happen either, but that won't stop him trying.

“He will deceive - if possible, the very elect” (*Matt. 24:24*). He will seek to deceive Israel - those in covenant - the LORD's “elect” - according to Isaiah 45:4. They are looking forward with eager anticipation, and longing to the return of Messiah. How could Satan deceive them? Well - what about a counterfeit? Satan is master of the counterfeit. But how would he counterfeit the Second Coming? That would be huge!

Most of the believers I know expect that when Christ returns in glory, He will immediately set up His kingdom on this earth. They believe that He will then rule for 1000 years of peace. But what if that is NOT CORRECT? What if Christ will NOT set up His Kingdom on earth until AFTER the 7th millennium? What if a Messiah figure were to appear - a glorious, powerful being - who beings to rule the nations.

That would be the Antichrist, you're thinking. We would recognize him. Ok - but what if Satan placed a counterfeit Antichrist, so that he could show up to overthrow him?

Even the average “man on the street” knows that there will be “seven last plagues” at the end of this age, but not that many understand that the seven trumpet judgments come before the last seven “bowls of wrath.” What if the trumpets are mistaken for the 7 last plagues, and then the “Messiah” appears following the trumpets?

The trumpets are just like the plagues - except that the trumpets are limited in effect, to one third of everything: one third of the rivers, the trees, the sea, the sun, etc. The trumpet plagues are not universal but they will be the worst disasters that the world has ever seen - up to that point.

What if a humble, soft spoken and charismatic man were to suddenly “appear” - in a newly rebuilt Temple on the Mount - just at the end of the 5th trumpet? What if he were to overthrow an evil regime, especially an evil religious system? What if he made “fire come down from heaven in the sight of men?” Would you believe in him? What if he then demanded that all men serve him - finally on pain of death for refusal?

*NOTE: The “**third**” part destroyed by each trumpet disaster gives us a clue. “The tail of the dragon (Satan) drew a third of the stars (angels) of heaven” (Rev. 12:4). **I believe that Satan will deceive men into believing that these trumpet events ARE the 7 last plagues** (seven bowl judgments). He will then appear - claiming to be Messiah. The Abomination of Desolation will stand in the holy place,” (Matt. 24:15, 2 Thess. 2:3-4) on holy ground - the Temple mount at Jerusalem. “You will see an enemy in My dwelling place” (1 Sam. 2:32).*

Matthew 24:15-23 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes . . . For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened. Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it.”

A COUNTERFEIT

To the Hindu - The 10th Great Avatar

To the Muslim - The Imam Mahdi

To the Jew - Messiah

To the Christian - Christ

To the Atheist - A Beneficent Alien

NOTE: Our Star Trek generation is prepared for the appearance of a beneficent alien. It will be easy for many to believe that he visited our planet two thousand years ago. He was crucified, but was beamed up to his spaceship and revived. Now he has returned because the planet is on the verge of collapse and chaos.

The Beast power is “given authority over EVERY tribe, tongue, and nation. And ALL who dwell on the earth WILL worship (serve) him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (*Rev. 13:7-8, 16*). The “false prophet” of Revelation 13:11-18, will encourage all men to cooperate with the beast system. The “false prophet” will prepare the way for the false messiah, just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Christ.

Only those who hear the Lamb speaking to them, will recognize this being as the “abomination” because he will demand that they break the Commandments of God. This is why the “saints” living during the time of “Babylon” and Antichrist are described as “those who keep the commandments of God, and have the faith of Jesus (*Rev. 14:12*).

ARE YOU READY FOR SUCH A DECEPTION?

Satan will deceive the whole world. He will likely incite a counterfeit “Battle of Armageddon,” a Gog-Magog type battle for Jerusalem. Islamic forces along with Russia and perhaps others will attack Jerusalem, and in this attack the Dome on the Mount will be destroyed - leaving the way open for a third Temple. Satan may actually appear to “save” Jerusalem by making “fire come down from heaven.” When this Temple is completed (over 70 weeks) the “abomination of desolation will stand in the holy place.” This Temple will probably be modeled after the Temple seen by Ezekiel.

NOTE: According to Revelation 20:8, the Gog-Magog battle does not take place until AFTER the 7th millennium.

I believe that Satan will use the current nation of Israel as the focal point of his grand deception. Many believe that the present nation of Israel is the fulfillment of the promised return. They see Israel as “dry bones” brought back to life (*Jer. 16:14-21, Jer. 23:3-8, Ezek. Chapter 37*), but the present nation of Israel does not fulfill the prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The “return” of Jews to the land which became the modern nation of Israel following WWII was not an event brought about by miracles which rivaled those of the first “exodus” from Egypt. We saw no plagues, no opening of a “red sea,” no water brought from a rock, no manna from heaven. We saw only a persecuted, war weary people fighting their way into a portion of the ancient homeland of their ancestors. The Temple has not been restored to the Son of David. The lion does not lie down with the lamb. No. We must look to the future for a full and forever deliverance and return of the “whole house of Israel.” Daniel was to receive his inheritance (*Dan.12:13*) but there has been no resurrection.

Those who believe that Messiah will reign on the earth during the approaching 7th millennium - those who believe that Messiah will rule over the nations who survive the last plagues - those who believe that the faithful today should go up to the Temple at Jerusalem (as soon as it is restored) to worship or to offer animal sacrifices - ARE BEING SET UP! The LORD is not there. He will not return to His Temple until The 8th Day.

Please know that I do believe that Jews deserve to have a homeland. They have been persecuted and despised for almost two thousand years. It is right and appropriate that they be given at least some portion of their ancestral home. I also know that most Jews living in Israel today are secular (non-believers). This has left them open to being used of Satan for his purpose of deception. His deception will be so perfect that ONLY those whose names are “written in the Lamb’s Book of Life,” who are illuminated by the Spirit of Christ, will see through the deception and refuse to worship the Beast or to take his mark (*Revelation 13:7-8, 16*). Many will die for the truth.

TWO MAIN GOALS

I had two main goals in writing this book.

First: I wanted to explain how the Lord would provide for all of those people who lived and died without ever hearing of His Law or His love. I believe that He will resurrect them to continue their lives during the 8th millennium, when they will have an opportunity to choose Christ as their Savior and LORD. Revelation 20:5 says clearly, “the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.” The “rest of the dead” will be those who are not judged as belonging to Christ at the second coming, but are not raised to condemnation either. They were innocently ignorant - and as such never rejected the LORD.

Second: I wanted to show that Christ will NOT set up His kingdom on the earth at His Second Coming. I wanted to explain this from Scripture so that the students who read this study may be prepared for Satan’s masterpiece of deception.