

The Study of the Book of Revelation

Revelation's 1000 Years of Peace

Chapter 20

PREVIEW:

Have you ever wondered what will happen when Christ returns to earth? When and how will the judgment(s) occur? When will the wicked be punished? When will the “*saved*” be with Christ? What will occur just before, during, and after, the “*millennium?*” God has a specific plan for the last days of earth. And, isn’t it reassuring to know that the God who created us with a built-in curiosity about the future, also has provided answers for us, if we will but seek His Word? Isn’t it comforting to know that He Loves Us and wants us to have a certainty about “Tomorrow” -- that He provides us a “*more sure word of prophecy.*”

Amos 3:7

*“Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he **revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.**”*

2 Peter 1:19-21

*“We have also a **more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a **light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.**”*

With the assurance that God wants us to know the “*big picture*” of what is going to happen, let’s investigate the topic of the Millennial period of earth. Let’s see what we can learn about what God has revealed will take place during that time. Instead of looking at theories of human reasoning, we will use scripture to help us understand scripture. The Bible gives us the method of understanding the scriptures in Isaiah 10:28.

Isaiah 28:10

*“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; **here a little, and there a little.**”*

To put it simply, we need to study what the Bible says on any subject by taking a close look at what the scriptures say from different text on the same subject. Since the Bible is in harmony from Genesis to Revelation, by following this method of Bible study we will understand the Bible Truth, and not be deceived.

REVIEW:

In our last study, out of Revelation Chapter 19, we looked at the topic of THE LAST HOURS and THE 2ND COMING. We saw that Chapter 19 presents a prophetic picture of the last hours of earth’s history just before the Second Coming of Christ and leading up to the Second Advent. We saw reference to the final judgment of Babylon, the Beast and the False Prophet, a description of

Christ and the armies of Heaven preparing to return, and of the destruction of the wicked at His return.

In this study, we will focus our attention upon Revelation's 1000 Year period, popularly referred to as the Millennium (a word which, by the way, does not occur anywhere in Scriptures), which comes from two Latin words, "*Milli*" meaning one thousand, and "*Ennium*" meaning years. We will see that Revelation Chapter 20 is a key to understanding this much discussed, and often misunderstood, time period.

This Study - Revelation 20

Our study of Revelation 20 and the Millennium can be divided into three main sections:

1. What takes place at the BEGINNING of the 1000 years?
2. What takes place DURING the 1000 years?
3. What takes place at the END of the 1000 years?

This corresponds to the Three Phases of Judgment.

1st – The investigative judgment, to decide who is on the Lord's side.

2nd – The sentencing which takes place during the 1000 years.

3rd – The execution of Judgment or the meting out of the penalty, which takes place at the end of the 1000 years.

Revelation 20:1-6

"And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Key Points:

"bound him a thousand years" - Satan is bound at the beginning of the 1000-year period. He is not able to deceive anyone because at the second coming of Jesus, Christ takes the righteous back to heaven and the wicked have all been slain by the brightness of God's Shekinah Glory.

"Loosed a little season" – At the end of the 1000-year period Satan will be loosed. Since during the millennium, everyone on earth is dead, *"the rest of the dead lived not again*

until the thousand years were finished,” therefore, there was no-one to deceive. But at the end of the millennium, Satan is loosed, which means there will be people to deceive. The second resurrection will have taken place. Jesus spoke of these two resurrections in John 5:28-29, the resurrection of life at His second coming and the resurrection of damnation at the end of the millennium.

John 5:28-29

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

“Judgment was given unto them” – During the millennium the second phase of judgment (the sentencing) takes place. The saints together with Christ will mete out the sentencing for each of the lost.

“They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years” – The righteous, those that have found shelter in Christ and His truth, will go to heaven at the second coming and live *“with Christ a thousand years.”*

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection” – John wouldn’t have said, *“first resurrection,”* if there was only one. Therefore, we know that there will be a second resurrection. Jesus spoke of these two resurrections in John 5:28-29.

John 5:28-29

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

Key Point:

The first resurrection that John is talking about in Revelation 20:6, happens at the second coming of Jesus. That is why he says, *“Blessed and Holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:16

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first”

Key Point:

When “the dead in Christ shall rise first” is at His second coming. This corresponds with John 5:29, *“the resurrection of life,”* and also, Revelation 20:6, *“Blessed and Holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.”* Since John says that the millennium starts with the “first resurrection” and the “first resurrection” happens at the second coming of Jesus, therefore, the millennium starts at the second coming of Jesus. (Jesus’ first coming was at His birth)

Since we know that the millennium starts at the second coming of Jesus, let's look at the four groups of people that will be affected by His second coming.

1. The Righteous Dead
2. The Righteous Living
3. The Wicked Dead
4. The Wicked Living

We will build a graph as we go to put it all in perspective. We start our graph with the obvious things we have learned from Revelation chapter 20 so far. We know we are talking about a 1000-year time period. We know it starts with the second coming of Christ, and at the beginning Satan is bound and at the end he is loosed.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ's 2nd Coming

1000 Years

Satan Bound

Satan Loosed

THE BEGINNING OF THE 1000 YEARS:

The first phase of judgment has already taken place when Christ returns to get His people. The Investigative part of judgment took place starting in 1844 when Jesus moved into the Most Holy Place to begin the judgment process. When the first phase of judgment is done, Jesus comes to get His faithful saints. (For more information on the judgment, see the studies on Daniel chapters 8 and 9)

The Return of Christ:

The 1000 year, period begins with the return of Christ. Several scriptures tell us Christ will return, and all the living will see Him, both the righteous and wicked. Christ's return will not be something only a few will know about, with the righteous being "*secretly raptured.*" The Bible says, ALL mankind will know when He returns:

Psalms 50:3

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him."

Revelation 1:7

*"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."*

Matthew 24:30

*"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall **all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**" (See also Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27)*

Key Point:

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence:” “Every eye shall see him,” “all the tribes...shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds.” Christ’s second coming is not a “secret or silent” event, but rather this time Christ is coming as King of kings and Lord of lords! With trumpets blowing, it will be loud and visible! Everyone will see Him.

The First Resurrection:

At Christ’s return, the righteous dead, all those who have died “in Christ” since the beginning of time, will be resurrected from the grave, and gathered by the Angels to meet Him in the air. Then, the righteous that are living at His return will be “caught up with them.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Key Points:

“the dead in Christ shall rise first.” - This refers to the first resurrection, the resurrection of life that Jesus spoke about in John 5:28-29. John refers to this same resurrection when he says, “Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:” in Revelation 20:6

Here we see the first (Righteous Dead) and second group (Righteous Living), from our group of four that will be affected by the second coming of Jesus.

“the dead in Christ shall rise first” – This is our first group, the Righteous Dead. At the second coming of Jesus, the Righteous Dead will be raised to go to heaven with Jesus.

1 Corinthians 15: 52-53

*“In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: **for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.”*

“Then we which are alive” – This is group number two, the Righteous Living. At the second coming of Jesus, the Righteous Living will join the Righteous Dead that were raised to meet Jesus in the air. Then together, at the same time, all the Righteous go to heaven.

Matthew 24: 31

*“And he shall send his angels with **a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**”*

SIDE NOTE:

On the Mount of Transfiguration, when Jesus took Peter, James and John up on the mountain to pray and the disciples saw Moses and Elias (Elijah) talking with Jesus. While

this was a real event that took place, it is also represents the two group of Righteous that will be with Jesus, the resurrected dead, and the translated living:

Moses represented the resurrected dead. In Jude 1:9, we learn that the Devil disputed with Christ over the body of Moses, but Christ won, and Moses was resurrected).

Elijah represented the translated living. In 2 Kings 2:11 we are told that Elijah was taken up to heaven alive in a chariot of fire.

QUESTION: Where will the resurrected righteous dead and the translated righteous living go to?

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 unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Revelation 20:6

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”

Where does Christ Reign, until the Heavenly Jerusalem comes down to earth? Jesus is in heaven, at the “*right hand of God*”

1 Peter 3:22

“Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.” (See also Acts 7:55-56, Rom. 8:34, Heb 1:3, Heb. 8:1, Heb. 10:12, Heb. 12:2)

So, let's continue to add to our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ's 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised

Righteous Living-caught up

w/ those just raised

All Righteous go to Heaven

1000 Years

Satan Bound

Satan Loosed

The Bible very clearly points out that the Righteous Dead (raised at first resurrection) and the Righteous Living will meet the Lord in the air and go to heaven to live and reign with Christ for 1000 years. **We now turn our attention to what will happen, when Jesus comes, to the third group: The Wicked Dead**

Wicked Dead Remain Dead:

The righteous dead are “*raised first*” (1 Thess. 4:16) corresponds with the statement that “*the rest of the dead lived not again until the 1000 years were finished*” (Rev. 20:5). As we have already studied, the wicked dead are not part of the “*first resurrection*” (Rev. 20:5-6).

Revelation 20:5

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

If the Righteous Dead were raised at the second coming of Jesus and taken to heaven with Him, then the only other dead are the wicked.

Key Point:

Remember, Christ taught there would be two resurrections:

John 5:28-29

“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

We have covered three of the four groups that will be affected by the second coming of Jesus. Let's do a quick review:

1. **Righteous Dead** – will be raised at the second coming of Jesus
2. **Righteous Living** – will be caught up together with those raised and meet Jesus in the air and then go back to heaven to live in the heavenly mansions for 1000 years.
3. **Wick Dead** – will stay dead until the end of the 1000 years.

Now we turn our attention to the final group: The Wicked Living

Wicked Living Are Destroyed:

We have previously studied that the wicked cannot exist in the “*fire of God's glory*” (Daniel Chapter 3 study), and how that at Christ's return, the wicked will be slain by the glory of His presence.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8

*“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, **In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:**”*

In **Revelation 19:17-21** we saw that the wicked were slain. (Reference the Seventh Plague - Rev. 16:16-21). Jeremiah refers to the same period:

Jeremiah 25:31-33

*“A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; **he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And **the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.**”*

Revelation 6:14-17

*“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and **every mountain and island were moved out of their places.** And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, **Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?**”*

So, let’s continue to fill in our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ’s 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised

Righteous Living-caught up

w/ those just raised

All Righteous go to Heaven

1000 Years

Satan Bound

Wicked Dead stay dead

Wicked Living slain by

The brightness of God’s

Shekinah Glory

Satan Loosed

Let’s now turn our attention to what the earth will be like during the 1000 years.

The Earth Is Desolated:

At Christ’s return, all human and animal life upon the earth will be eliminated for the 1000 years. The righteous dead, that have been resurrected, and along with the translated righteous living, will go to heaven to live and reign with Christ for 1000 years. (Rev. 20:6). The wicked dead (those already dead, and those destroyed at Christ’s Coming) **“lived not again until the 1000 years were finished.”** (Rev. 20:5) Jeremiah and Isaiah describe prophetically the condition of the world during this time as desolate:

Jeremiah 4:23-27

*“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was **no man**, and **all the birds of the heavens were fled**. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all **the cities thereof were broken down** at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, **The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.**”*

*“**The whole land shall be desolate**”* – Because of the last plague of an earthquake and hail (Rev. 16:18-21), the cities will be broken down, the birds will be gone, it will be dark and no man will be alive. It will be desolate.

*“**Yet will I not make a full end.**”* - Christ does not make the “*full end*” of the earth at this time, or of the judgments. The earth is desolate, but it is not fully destroyed. The judgments on the wicked remain to be carried out, after the 1000 years, after the second resurrection-the resurrection of damnation.

Isaiah 24:1, 3

“Behold, the LORD will lay waste the earth and make it desolate, and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.” ... “The earth shall be utterly laid waste and utterly despoiled; for the LORD has spoken this word.”

Satan Is Bound:

Revelation 20:1-3 describes the final event associated with Christ’s return at the beginning of the 1000 years, Satan is bound in the “*bottomless pit*.”

Revelation 20:1-3

*“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the **bottomless pit** and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**, And cast him into the **bottomless pit**, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled**: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”*

Key Point:

The word translated “*bottomless pit*” or “*pit*” in these verses is the Greek word “**Abussos**,” (Abyss) and is the same word used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) for “**the deep**” in Genesis 1:2, where the surface of the earth as it appeared on the first day of creation (i.e. “*without form and void*”). Note the correlation to Jeremiah’s description of the world after Christ’s return (See Jeremiah 4:23-27 above).

People try to apply this literally, saying that Satan is literally placed in a bottomless pit (if it has no bottom, how can Satan be contained by it), with a literal chain and lock. Because the book of Revelation is a Prophetic or Symbolic Book, we understand the fallacy of trying to apply part of it symbolically (spiritually) and then trying to apply other parts, such as this, literally. The symbolism here is that, at the beginning of the Millennium, Satan is “*bound*” to the “*Abyss*,” the void and

formless, lifeless earth, for 1000 years. Because only Satan and his angels are alive, and no human beings are alive upon it, Satan has no one to tempt or lead into sin for the 1000 years. He can only wander about the “abyss” and see the outcome of his rebellion against God, and ponder God’s final judgment upon him (Satan) for all the destruction and death he has created. Satan is “chained” by circumstances to this earth, he can’t leave.

Key Point:

The symbolism of the Great Day of Atonement Imagery -- At the end of the judgment process of the Great Day of Atonement, all of the sins were symbolically placed upon the “Scape Goat,” and the Scape Goat, which represents Satan, was led out into the wilderness, “unto a land not inhabited,” far away from the Camp of Israel.

Leviticus 16:21-22

“And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness.”

DURING THE 1000 YEARS:

The Righteous Are in Heaven:

Revelation 20:4

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

As we already noted in the previous section, the righteous will live and reign with Christ in Heaven for the 1000 years. During this time “**judgment was given unto them**”. **This begins the Second Phase of Judgment.** The saints will be shown the “*records of the wicked.*” They will be able to see the opportunities that the wicked had to make the right decision to love and serve Jesus, but chose not to, and how those choices had determined their eternal destination. The saints will join together with Christ to choose the fairest sentence “*According to that they had done.*” Through the 1000 years we will declare that God’s “*Judgments are righteous and just.*” The saints in Heaven will even have the opportunity to “*judge angels*” - those fallen angels who followed Satan in starting the Great Controversy that has plagued the earth and man for so long.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3

*“Do ye not know that **the saints shall judge the world**? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that **we shall judge angels**? how much more the things that pertain to this life?”*

Satan during the 1000 Years:

In the Bible, we have seen that Satan, and his evil angels, are bound upon the desolate earth for the 1000 years, with no one to tempt, and nothing to do but to consider the “*fruits*” of their rebellion. (Rev. 20:1-3)

So, let’s continue to fill in our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ’s 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised

Righteous Living-caught up

w/ those just raised

All Saints go to heaven

All Saints in Heaven

1000 Years

Satan Bound

Wicked Dead stay dead

Wicked Living slain by

The brightness of God’s

Shekinah Glory

All Wicked Dead

No-one to Deceive

Earth Dark & Desolate

Satan Loosed

AT THE END OF THE 1000 YEARS:

New Jerusalem Comes to Earth:

At the end of the 1000 years, Christ will return to earth, with his saints (the righteous that have been with Him in Heaven), and with the New Jerusalem.

Zechariah 14:4-5

*“And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: **and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.**”*

Rev. 21: 2, 10

*“And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, **the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,**”*

It appears that perhaps the Prophet Zechariah was predicting the very scene that John the Revelator presents. That the Heavenly Jerusalem, the City where Christ had gone “*to prepare a place ... that where I am you might be also*” (John 14:1-3), where the saints had lived for the 1000 years (Hebrews 11:8-10, 16) comes down in the valley cleaved out of the Mount of Olives.

Hebrews 11:8-10, 16

*“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.**” “But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called **their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**”*

So, let’s continue to fill in our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ’s 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised
Righteous Living-caught up
w/ those just raised

All Saints in Heaven
1000 Years

2nd Resurrection

New Jerusalem
comes down
with Jesus &
the Saints

Satan Bound

Wicked Dead stay dead
Wicked Living slain by
The brightness of God’s
Shekinah Glory

All Wicked Dead
No-one to Deceive
Earth Dark & Desolate

Satan Loosed

The Wicked Dead:

At the end of the 1000 years, the Wicked Dead are resurrected, at the second resurrection-the Resurrection of Damnation. (John 5:29)

Revelation 20:5

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

John 5:28-29

*“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which **all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**”*

Key Point:

Christ is the one who is the author of life and the only one that can resurrect the dead. This means that Christ must be “*present*” when the dead are resurrected.

It is interesting to note that the 1000 years both begins with a resurrection (of the righteous) and ends with a resurrection (of the wicked). While Revelation Chapter 20, with its overview of the events around the 1000 years, does not specifically tell us that Christ returns at the end of the

millennium. The fact that the wicked dead are raised at this time does indicate this. This corresponds then with the coming of the Heavenly Jerusalem to earth.

Satan Is Released and Deceives the Resurrected Wicked:

Revelation 20:3

“And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

Revelation 20:7-9

“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:”

Satan is “loosed” from the pit (the Abyss) because now that the wicked dead have been resurrected and are alive on the earth, he (Satan) once again has someone to tempt and deceive. And, as noted in Verse 8, Satan immediately sets out to “deceive the nations.” All the wicked, from all of earth’s history, are resurrected. Satan gathers them together in preparation for one “last ditch” effort to overthrow Christ and the saints, by attacking the New Jerusalem.

“**Gog & Magog**” (verse 8) - This is a reference back to Ezekiel 38, which gives a literal account of Gog and Magog attacking God’s literal Israel, and of God’s wrath and intervention on their behalf. This prophetically paints a picture of the final attack upon God’s people at the end of time.

So, let’s continue to fill in our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ’s 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised
Righteous Living-caught up
w/ those just raised

All Saints in Heaven
1000 Years

2nd Resurrection

New Jerusalem
comes down
with Jesus &
the Saints

Satan Bound

Wicked Dead stay dead
Wicked Living slain by
The brightness of God’s
Shekinah Glory

All Wicked Dead
No-one to Deceive
Earth Dark & Desolate

Satan Loosed

Wicked are Raised
Gathered together
to battle the city

The Last Phase of Judgment Occurs: The execution of the penalty

Revelation 20:11-12

*“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were **judged every man according to their works**. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

At this time the heavenly Court is convened, to judge the wicked, and to show them the judgments by which they were unworthy to enter Christ’s Holy City. They are lost by their own choices!

“Great white throne” - “judged every man according to their works”

Jude 1:14-15:

*“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, **Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.***

Romans 14:10-11

“... for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”

The wicked dead will be judged. They will see the righteousness of God’s judgments upon them and will have to acknowledge the righteousness and justness of God’s judgments: Even Satan will have to acknowledge God’s righteous judgment:

Philippians 2:9-11

*“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”*

Satan & Wicked (Sinners) Destroyed:

Revelation 20:9-10

“... and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

Revelation 20:14-15

“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

At the end of the 1000 years, we see **the Third Phase of Judgment**, which is the execution of the penalty or sentence that had been determined at the second phase of judgment during the 1000 years. Satan and the wicked are cast into the lake of fire, which is the second (and final) death.

So, let’s continue to fill in our graph the things we have learned.

Graph:

1st Resurrection-Christ’s 2nd Coming

Righteous Dead Raised

Righteous Living-caught up
w/ those just raised

All Saints in Heaven
1000 Years

2nd Resurrection

New Jerusalem
comes down
with Jesus &
the Saints

HELL
FIRE

Satan Bound

Wicked Dead stay dead
Wicked Living slain by
The brightness of God’s
Shekinah Glory

All Wicked Dead
No-one to Deceive
Earth Dark & Desolate

Satan Loosed
Wicked are Raised
Gathered together
to battle the city

The Earth is Cleansed and Renewed:

2 Peter 3: 7, 10-12

*“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.” “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which **the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.** Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, **wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.**”*

Micah 1:3-4

*“For, behold, the LORD cometh forth out of his place, and will come down, and tread upon the high places of the earth. And **the mountains shall be molten under him, and the valleys shall be cleft, as wax before the fire, and as the waters that are poured down a steep place.**”*

Key Point:

The fire that comes down from God will cleanse the earth, and then Christ will make a new earth.

Revelation 21:1

*“And I saw **a new heaven and a new earth**: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.”*

2 Peter 3:13

*“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.**”*

So, in review we see that the Bible points to three phases of Judgment.

THREE PHASES OF JUDGMENT:

1. From 1844 to Second Advent: The Investigative Judgment:

Christ is judging the righteous in the Heavenly Sanctuary, just like He did on the Day of Atonement. During this time, the Heavenly Beings are given the opportunity to see that God’s judgments are righteous and just.

2. During the 1000 Years (The Millennium):

The resurrected righteous dead and the translated righteous living spend the 1000 years in Heaven with Christ. During this period, the righteous join with Christ in the sentencing process. At the end all will say *“Just and true are Thy ways.”*

3. At the End of the 1000 Years:

Satan and the resurrected wicked are judged. They see that God’s judgments have been righteous and just at this time. At the end of this third phase, all of the universe will see that God’s judgments have been righteous and just, and EVERY KNEE WILL BOW in acknowledgment of that. God will execute the final judgment, the final destruction of the devil, his angels, the wicked and of sin, through Hell Fire. Then He will create the new Heavens and the New Earth. Sin and the result of it (tears, suffering, death, etc.) are destroyed, and the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan will finally be ended!

Summary:

The Bible teaches that the 1000 years will be in heaven, not on this earth. There will be no second chance to change sides after Jesus comes. The saints will be in heaven, while the wicked will all be dead on this earth. This is why Jesus says, *“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.”* As we consider this time, where do we want to be, with Jesus in heaven or dead on this broken down, desolate earth? Today, Jesus calls out to you saying, *“Today if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts,**”* (Heb. 3:15) He invites you to live with Him forever! What will your answer be?