

? The raising of the wicked will suddenly "loose" the devil from his chain of circumstance; he now has a large army of wicked that he can tempt, harass, and control. What happens next? _____



Rev. 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: ... And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city... (Rev. 20:3)



Satan sets about to deceive them into thinking that they can capture the New Jerusalem for themselves, so they form an army and surround the city of God. Here the whole human race meet for the last time - the righteous inside the city, and the wicked outside the city. Who did Jesus say the wicked would see? _____



Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.



The wicked see the reward of the righteous, they see the redeemed inside the New Jerusalem, glorified with their Redeemer, while they themselves are "cast out" - forever excluded from God's city and from eternal life!



Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Rev. 20:9-15; 2 Peter 3:10; Malachi 4:1-3) **Rev. 20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

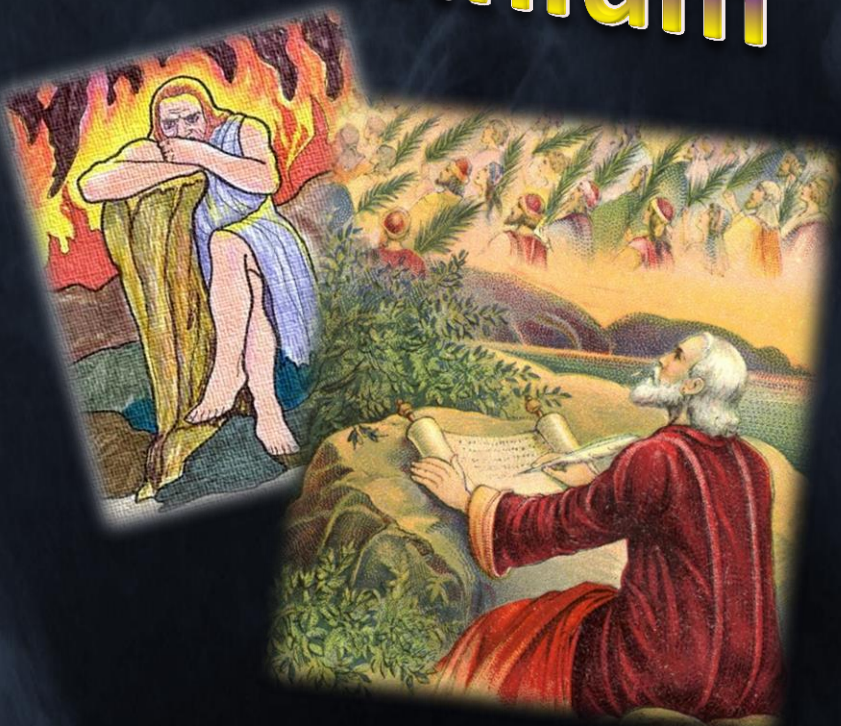
At this point, God pronounces the sentence of eternal death on the wicked and the devil and his angels, and fire comes down from God out of heaven and burns them all up - it turns them to ashes. This same eternal fire cleanses the earth from all traces of sin. The fire doesn't burn for eternity, it only burns till all the traces of sin are consumed - then it goes out. It is simply the "results" of the fire that are eternal, which is why it is called "Eternal Fire".

CONCLUSION

At the end of the millennium, every trace of sin and sinners is removed by fire. After the fire has gone out, God recreates the earth - restoring it to its original beauty and to the condition that it had before sin.

Rev. 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. (Rev. 21:1-5; Isaiah 11:6-9. Isaiah 65:17,21,22; Isaiah 25:8)

The Millennium



Bible Study Pathways Lesson 15

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A Story to Ponder...

Beyond question, William Miller was the leading Second Advent preacher of the middle 19th century. Originally a farmer and justice of the peace, he was called to preach. Believing that genuine doctrines are taught in the Scriptures; Miller made only one innovation new to the established religion of the day by suggesting that Christ would appear before (rather than after) the millennium. He preached that Christ would come the second time, before the thousand-year millennium spoken of in Revelation 20. *"One of pastor Miller's strengths was his decision to eschew the study of the works of theologians. So profound and accurate were his conclusions that permission was asked of him to view his theological library. That theological library comprised two books—A King James Version of the Bible and a Bible concordance."*

(The Rapture, the End-times and the Millennium--Standish, pg. 77)

Today the millenium still remains a disputed topic among theologians. Miller's methods are worthy of imitation. What does the Bible say?

After Jesus has rescued His people from planet earth - what happens next?



John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 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.



The Bible tells us that Jesus has been preparing _____ for us in His Father's _____, and that when He comes to 'receive' us, He is taking us to the place He has prepared for us.

When Jesus comes to get His people, what happens to the wicked people?



2 Thes. 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: (Rev. 6:14-17, Isaiah 24:17-22, Rev. 16:17-20)



So during the 2nd Coming of Jesus, the _____ is reduced to rubble and made a wasteland while the wicked are destroyed by the bright _____ that accompanies Jesus Christ. What happens to the devil?



Rev. 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 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.



The Bible describes how Satan will be bound by this chain of circumstances in the _____ for 1000 years.



Another name for 1000 years is "Millennium".

The Greek word that is translated "Bottomless Pit" is the word "abussos" which is where we get our English word "Abyss". It is the same word that is used in the Greek Old Testament to describe the without form and void condition of the earth in Genesis 1:2.



Jer. 4:23-27 I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate...



For the duration of the millennium, the devil and his angels are "exiled" on this wasted earth. For 6,000 years, they have devoted all their energies to tempting and destroying mankind - but now, all the righteous have been taken to heaven, and the wicked are all dead. This chain of circumstances leaves the devil with 1000 years of boredom - to wander over the broken surface of the destroyed earth with plenty of time for him to reflect on the woe and destruction he has caused, and look forward to his punishment at the end of the 1000 years.



Meanwhile, God's people are in heaven. What will they be doing there?



Rev. 20:4-6 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. (1 Cor. 6:2-3, Rev. 19:1, 2; Rev. 21:12)



As they go over the books, the righteous will have the opportunity to examine the judgment of God. They will be able to see for themselves why God judged the way He did in each individual's case. They will be able to look at the records of the wicked and the devil and his angels, and they will confirm that God's judgment of those individuals is just and true.



What do the righteous do when the 1000 years are over? _____



Rev. 21:10 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, (Zech. 14:3-4, Rev. 21:2)



Jesus comes down from heaven accompanied by all the redeemed and as His feet touch down on the Mount of Olives, the mountain splits in half and spreads apart to create a large plain and the New Jerusalem comes down from heaven and sits on that plain prepared for it. What about the wicked? _____



Rev. 20:5,6 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection...



So the first resurrection was at the beginning of the millennium - that was the resurrection of the righteous dead. But here, at the end of the millennium, there is a second resurrection. As Jesus descends from heaven, He calls the wicked dead back to life - for the specific reason of pronouncing the sentence on them that has been determined in heaven during those 1000 years.