

## Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (Revelation 16:15-21)

### I. Introduction

#### A. *This Week in Clear Living*

1. David's Throne Is Eternal (II Samuel 7:12-17)
2. Isaiah Described the Final Details (Isaiah 14:1-17)
3. The End of Time (Mark 13:1-37)
4. Jesus Appeared to the Apostle John (Revelation 1:1-20)
5. The Letters to the Seven Churches (Revelation 2:1-29 and Revelation 3:1-22)
6. The New Heaven and New Earth (Ezekiel 40:1-4 and Revelation 20:2-9)

**Question:** Who will someday sit on David's throne? How long will His reign last?

#### B. Armageddon – the beginning of the end of the Vial Judgments

1. In Revelation 16:12-16, the sixth angel poured out his vial and the Satanic Trinity were brought to Armageddon.
  - a. Satan
  - b. The Antichrist
  - c. The False Prophecy
2. II Thessalonians 2:7-8 says, "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 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:***"
3. In Revelation 16:17-21, the seventh angel poured out his vial, and indicated that God's judgment and overthrow of Satan were done.

#### C. The Millennial Reign of Christ

1. The Literal Return of Jesus
  - a. Some theologians believe that Christ will return secretly in the clouds, so as to catch those who are not ready by surprise.
  - b. Others say that the Bible has provided clues of events that will happen prior to the return of Christ.
    - 1) When one examines Scriptures, it is difficult to know if the signs which appear are totally objective.
    - 2) Some of the so-called signs have been around for years, even centuries, such as rumors of wars.
    - 3) Others, like earthquakes, are becoming more and more plentiful.
2. I believe in a literal Millennium Kingdom because Old Testament prophecies were almost always fulfilled literally.
  - a. Genesis 13:14-15 says, "And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For ***all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it***, and to thy seed for ever."

## Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (Revelation 16:15-21)

- b. Genesis 13:16 says, "And ***I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth***: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered."
- D. During the Millennium, people will live in a perfect environment and be ruled by Jesus. Still, man will fail to please God's high standards.
  - 1. God will use the one thousand-year time to reward the saints of all time (I Corinthians 3:14).
  - 2. He will fulfill the Abrahamic, the Davidic, and the New Covenants (Genesis 13:14-15, II Samuel 7:25-26, and Isaiah 9:6-7).
  - 3. The Millennium will also complete the reign of Christ.
  - 4. Satan will be restrained (Revelation 20:2).
  - 5. There will be universal king.
  - 6. The Temple will be rebuilt.
  - 7. Christ will rule with a rod of iron from Jerusalem (Revelation 19:15).
  - 8. Righteousness will be the order of the day.

**Question:** What will happen at the end of His reign? How does Isaiah describe the end of the Tribulation?

### II. When the Millennium Kingdom Ends

- A. Satan will be loosened for a season (Revelation 20:7).
  - 1. He will try to tempt those that were born during the Millennium because he will not have yet had a chance to afflict them.
  - 2. ***Those that were born during the Millennium will have an opportunity to reject Christ, and some will.*** It will be a final test of obedience, and the result will be the White Throne judgment.
- B. There will be a final battle against the devil (Revelation 20:8)
  - 1. Dr. James Borland believes the Battle of Armageddon corresponds to the battle presented in Ezekiel, chapters 37 and 38.
  - 2. Some people think that the battle mentioned in Revelation 20:8 corresponds to Ezekiel, chapters 37 and 38.
  - 3. The devil is quickly defeated (Revelation 20:9).
  - 4. The White Throne judgment comes next. Those not listed in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake of fire.
  - 5. Revelation 20:14-15 says, "***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.***"
- C. Isaiah wrote about the devil's demise.
  - 1. In Isaiah 14:15, the devil will be brought down to hell (sheol or hades) and into a pit (or cistern (bowr)).
  - 2. In Isaiah 14:16-18, people will see Satan as nothing.

## Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (Revelation 16:15-21)

**Question:** In Mark 13:33, what did Jesus tell His disciples to do? How does that affect Christians today?

### III. The disciples were curious about the future.

- A. Jesus did not tell them everything that they wanted to know.
  - 1. He did not know when He would come again (Mark 13:32).
  - 2. He simply told them to always be ready.
  - 3. Mark 13:35 says, "Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:"
- B. From an unsaved person's point of view, does Jesus' response take away some of His credibility?
  - 1. *Some unsaved people might say that His remark was a scare tactic.*
  - 2. *Some unsaved people might say that His remark sounds allegorical, like He's not really God and not really coming back.*
  - 3. *Does His not knowing when the end would be show that He was not and maybe is not deity?*
- C. How does Jesus' remark affect most Christians today?
  - 1. Is there too much emphasis on the signs that He gave?
  - 2. What should be the focus for Christians in the world today?

**Question:** How have John's letters to the churches played out in history?

### IV. The two view of John's letters to the churches

- A. The Apostle John was writing to seven literal churches.
- B. Dr. Oliver B. Greene wrote, "The seven churches represent the church age from Pentecost to the Rapture."
  - 1. The letter to Ephesus
  - 2. The letter to Smyrna would have been for the period about 316 AD, a time of great persecution.
  - 3. The letter to Pergamos would also have been for the period about 316 AD, but it was referring to the church settled in the world. This condition has continued and will continue until the Rapture.
  - 4. The letter to Thyatira would have been for the period between 500 AD and 1500 AD *before the Reformation*. The church was controlled by corrupt teachers and children born from wickedness.
  - 5. The letter to Sardis would have been for the period after 1500 when Protestantism came into power (Martin Luther).

## **Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (Revelation 16:15-21)**

6. The letter to Philadelphia would have been for the period from 1750 until just after World War II.
7. The letter to Laodicea would represent the current church as many claim that we have lost our first love. *Is that really true?*
- C. Dr. Greene wrote that this church would coexist until the Rapture. *Do you agree or disagree?*
- D. Will there be an apostate church? How do you interpret II Thessalonians 2:3?
- E. II Thessalonians 2:3 says, "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;"

**Question:** At what point in time did John see the new heaven and new earth?

- V. In Ezekiel 40:1-4 and Revelation 20:2-9, the two authors wrote about the new heaven and new earth that will come into existence at the end of the Great Tribulation.
  - A. Ezekiel 40:4 says, "And the man said unto me, Son of man, behold with thine eyes, and hear with thine ears, and set thine heart upon all that I shall shew thee; for to the intent that I might shew them unto thee art thou brought hither: **declare all that thou seest to the house of Israel.**"
    1. From here to the end of the book, God's glory is revealed.
    2. These chapters describe the new temple that will be built.
      - a. God's glory will fill the new temple.
      - b. A sacrificial system for worship in the temple will be instituted.
      - c. Priestly functions will be defined.
      - d. The tribal land will have been allotted.
    3. Interpreting these chapters is difficult because some of the things done seem more Old Testament than New Testament.
    4. Dr. Ralph H. Alexander favors a future fulfillment.
      - a. The context supports a future fulfillment. These chapters follow the valley of dry bones and the Gog and Magog battle.
      - b. These chapters present the development of God's redemptive program as it pertains to Israel.
  - B. Revelation 21:1 says, "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."
    1. John saw the new heaven and earth after the Tribulation and Millennium.
    2. At this point, Satan and the lost had been to the White Throne judgment and cast in the lake of fire.

## **Armageddon and the Millennial Reign of Jesus (Revelation 16:15-21)**

Next week's lesson: "The Great White Throne Judgment" (Revelation 20:1-15)

### Five Day Recommended Reading:

Monday:	John 14:1-6, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, and Jeremiah 30:1-10
Tuesday:	Luke 19:1-10 and Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday:	Mathew 28:16-20, Mark 16:9-20, and Luke 24:46-48
Thursday:	John 21:15-25 and John 15:1-8
Friday:	John 21:1-19 and Revelation 21:1-27

### Study questions:

1. Based on Jeremiah 30:1-10, how can Christians know that the Great Tribulation is not intended for them?
2. Why was Jesus incarnated, and what should the church do because of it?
3. How does the Lord treat Christians that fail to produce fruit?
4. Why were Peter and the others fishing when Jesus came to see them? How do we know?
5. What did He tell Peter to do, and how did Jesus possibly hint that Peter would have a long life?
6. Based on Revelation 21:1-27, how does time end?