

QUIZ 15

The Bible Millennium

Our heavenly Father has so much He longs to teach us! Think of each seminar session as one in a series of steps leading upward—a series of “lessons from heaven.” May we learn our lessons well, so we in turn can teach others. God’s Word, the Bible—our Textbook for this seminar—offers **Learning Unlimited!**

1. The Millennium is bounded on each end by a _____ of the dead, first of the _____ people, and then—a thousand years later—of the _____ people. (REVELATION 20:4-6, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:22-23)

2. WHERE did Jesus promise to take His faithful followers when He returns? _____ (JOHN 14:1-3)

3. T F The Bible makes clear that the redeemed saints will somehow participate in God’s Judgment process. (REVELATION 20:4, LUKE 22:30, 1 CORINTHIANS 6:2-3)

4. Where will the WICKED remain during this thousand-year period? _____ (JEREMIAH 25:33)

5. What condition will the EARTH be in during the thousand years? _____ (JEREMIAH 4:23-27)

6. During the thousand years of the Millennium, Satan will be “bound” by a chain which is: (MARK 5:1-4)

- A. A figurative “chain of circumstances.”
- B. A literal, actual chain of material links.

7. When the WICKED are raised to life at the end of the thousand years, Satan is effectively _____, for he again will have subjects to tempt. (REVELATION 20:3, 7)

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We’ve heard the word “millennium” so much this past year, I’m sure it’s in all our vocabularies. As you know, just as 10 years is a DECADE and 100 years is a CENTURY, 1000 years is a MILLENNIUM—coming as it does from two Latin words: mille meaning “thousand” and annus meaning “year.” Many of us remember the Y2K “crisis” that never happened. What about the BIBLE millennium? What does the book of Revelation teach about that? Actually, the specific word millennium appears not at all in the Bible, but the idea of a special thousand-year period does. In fact, the expression a “thousand years” appears six times—once in each verse from **Revelation 20:2 to 7**. It’s an important concept, for the Millennium is, in a sense, God’s timetable of final events—it reveals the schedule God plans to use when He brings down the curtain on the drama of this world’s history.

God says in **1 Corinthians 14:40**, “Let all things be done decently and in order.” And the Lord, being a God of order, has

everything organized in a beautiful way. For instance, any study of the future must account for four groups of people: the righteous living when Christ comes, and the wicked living. And the righteous already dead, and the wicked dead. The Bible Millennium neatly accounts for all four groups. Now let’s consider events under three headings: Events before, during, and after the Millennium.

A. EVENTS BEFORE THE MILLENNIUM

Event #1 - The Mark of the Beast Is Given

Revelation 13:16-17—The Antichrist Beast enforces his Mark with coercive threats.

Revelation 14:9-10—But God warns us against taking it.

Event #2 - Our Probation Closes

Revelation 22:11-12—Jesus accepts each one’s decision as final and says He’ll return quickly.

Event #3 - The Seven Last Plagues Fall

Revelation 15:1, 8—Seven angels pour out the wrath of God.

Revelation 16:1-17—The Seven Last Plagues punish those who have the Mark of the Beast.

Event #4 - The Second Coming of Christ Is Spectacular

Matthew 24:30-31—Christ returns “with power and great glory” to gather His faithful people.

Matthew 25:31—When the Son of man comes in His glory, all the holy angels accompany Him.

Revelation 1:7—As Christ gathers His redeemed in the rapture, “every eye shall see Him.”

Event #5 - The RIGHTEOUS DEAD Are Resurrected

1 Thessalonians 4:16—The dead believers in Christ rise “first”—before the living faithful.

Revelation 20:6—“The first resurrection” is for those “blessed and holy,” who are “with Him [Christ] a thousand years.” The word first implies a second, and there are two resurrections, 1000 years apart.

John 5:28-29 KJV—“The resurrection of life” is opposed to “the resurrection of damnation,” 1000 years later. that time “all the cities” WILL be “broken down,” completely leveled from the devastation of the final one of the Seven Last Plagues which brings the most terrific **earthquake** ever and pulverizing hail. **Revelation 16:17-21**.

Event #6 - The RIGHTEOUS LIVING Are Caught Up

1 Thessalonians 4:17—The living saints are then caught up “to meet the Lord in the air.”

Event #7 - The WICKED LIVING When Christ Comes Are Struck Dead

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10—Christ will take “vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey.” **2 Thessalonians 2:8** — Christ will “destroy [the wicked with the brightness of His Coming.” **Isaiah 13:9** —The Lord will lay the land desolate and destroy the sinners out of it. **Isaiah 66:15-16** — “Behold, . . . the slain of the Lord shall be many.”

B. EVENTS DURING THE MILLENNIUM

Event #8 - On EARTH: Satan Is “Bound” with No One Left to Tempt

Revelation 20:1-3, 7—Satan is bound with “a great chain” and cast into “the bottomless pit . . . till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released a little while.”

Are (1) the “great chain” which binds Satan and (2) “the bottomless pit” which forms his “prison” literal? The Devil is real and literal enough. Jesus Himself said: “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.” **Luke 10:18**. But the angel Lucifer, who made himself into the Devil called Satan, is a supernatural being. As Paul put it: “We wrestle **not** against **flesh and blood**, but against principalities, against powers . . . against spiritual wickedness in high places.” **Ephesians 6:12**

Simple reason tells us that no actual, literal “chain” or “pit” or “prison” could secure a supernatural being. More important, sacred Scripture tells us the same thing. One day after sailing across the Sea of Galilee: “They [Jesus and His disciples] came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when He was come out of the ship, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces.” **Mark 5:1-9 KJV**.

Ask yourself, if a devil-possessed man could easily break apart a chain with superhuman strength, is it likely that the prince of devils himself could be bound with one? So what kind of “chain” is it that God uses to bind Satan? It’s a **chain of circumstances** which binds the Devil more securely than any literal chain ever forged. Note the circumstances in which Satan finds himself at this time: In the first place, all the righteous—who were unwilling to listen to him anyway—have been taken to heaven. And all the wicked have been struck dead. Thus **the entire earth is depopulated** with no one left for Satan to tempt! Old Testament prophets foresaw this unique situation:

Jeremiah 25:33—The slain wicked “shall not be lamented or gathered or buried”—for there are no survivors around to do any of



of these things!

Isaiah 26:21—When the Lord returns, “the earth . . . shall no more cover her slain.”

Isaiah 24:1, 3, 22—“The Lord makes the earth empty. . . . The land shall be utterly emptied.”

How very effective this **chain of circumstances** is! Satan is securely bound—“chained” by circumstances beyond his control. But what is “the bottomless pit”? The Greek word translated “bottomless pit” is *abyssos* from which we get our English word *abyss*. Modern Bible versions like the Amplified Bible, NASB, NET, NIV, TLV, and others translate “bottomless pit” in **Revelation 20:1** as “abyss.” *Abyssos* is exactly the same word the Greek translation of the Old Testament uses in **Genesis 1:2**, where it says “the earth was **without form, and void**.” The prophet Jeremiah directed divine light on this question when, centuries ago, he looked down the corridor of time with the eye of Inspiration and testified:

Jeremiah 4:23-27—The earth is desolate—without form and void—with no human inhabitant!

What period of history was Jeremiah seeing when he wrote, “Indeed, there was no man”? We might think it was at the start of Creation Week, because (1)

“there was no man” before God formed Adam, the first man, and because (2) Jeremiah said “the earth . . . was without form, and void” which was true at that time.

But although those two clues fit that time period, we note that God placed a third clue in this passage which does not fit: Jeremiah says he saw “all its cities this review of His judgment is completed. In other words, God makes sure that Event #14 will not take place until

Event #8 has been thoroughly completed.

C. EVENTS AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

Event #9 - The Wicked Are Resurrected, So Satan Is Loosed

Revelation 20:3, 5a, 7—Those “blessed and holy” had part in the first resurrection. “But the rest of the dead [the wicked] did not live again until the thousand years were finished. . . . now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison”—for once again he has people to tempt!

Event #10 - The Holy City Descends from God Out of Heaven

Revelation 21:2, 10—The New Jerusalem, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, descends.

Event #11 - The Wicked Surround God’s Holy City

Revelation 20:7-9—With the wicked alive again, Satan is loosed out of his prison and goes out to deceive them, to gather them to battle against the beloved city.

Event #12 - The Wicked Are Judged Before God’s “Great White Throne”

Revelation 20:11-13—Before the great white throne, “the books were opened” to judge the lost.

Romans 14:10-12—Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess and give account to God.

Event #13 - The Wicked Are Destroyed by Fire

Revelation 20:9, 14-15—When the wicked surround the holy city to attack it, fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them. This lake of fire is the second death.

Revelation 21:8—The wicked of every description have their part in this lake of fire.

Event #14 - The Earth Is Cleansed by Fire and Made New

2 Peter 3:10-13—“The elements shall melt with fervent heat....All these things shall be dissolved.” **Revelation 21:1, 5**—But “He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.” **Psalms 37:11; Matthew 5:5**—The blessed redeemed “shall inherit the earth,” the earth made new.

Isaiah 65:17, 21-25—The redeemed will build houses, plant vineyards, and enjoy the New Earth.

Isaiah 66:22-23—On the glorious New Earth, we’ll come to worship God from one Sabbath to another.