

20 -- THE JUDGMENT CONTINUED

(Phase 2: Judgment of the wicked and the role of the righteous)

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In our study of the most holy place, we learned the astonishing truth that the judgment in heaven began in 1844. We have seen that this pre-advent judgment deals primarily with God's professed people. God has a judgment for the main purpose of ensuring that everyone will be satisfied with the way God deals with the sin problem. But two questions arise:

- 1.) If the righteous are judged in the pre-advent judgment beginning in 1844 and ending just before the second coming of Jesus, when will the wicked be judged?
- 2.) Will the saved ever have a part in the judgment?

In this lesson we follow the continuation of the judgment as we look at phase 2, the judgment of the wicked, and the role of the righteous.

1. When do the saints engage in judgment?

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. ...And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Note: Here is described a time when the saved shall sit on thrones and engage in work of judgment, reigning with Jesus for 1000 years. In order to get the full picture of this portion of the judgment, let us carefully study Revelation 20 and the 1000 years.

2. What events mark the beginning of the 1,000 years?

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Revelation 20:4, 5 ... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.

Note: The one thousand years of Revelation 20 is often called the millennium. The word "millennium" does not appear in the Bible. It is simply a Latin composite of two words: "milli," meaning "one thousand," and "annum," meaning "years." The second coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the righteous marks the beginning of the 1,000 years. The saints of all ages (described as "blessed and holy" in verse 6) will be raised in this first resurrection.

3. What else will happen at the first resurrection?

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--in a moment, ... at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

Philippians 3:21 ...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will...destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Revelation 16:18, 20, 21 ... and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ...Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not

found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent [about 75 pounds]. ...

Revelation 20:1, 2, 3 Then I saw an angel... 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,...

See the 1,000-year chart at the end of this lesson for the events that will take place as the 1000 years begin.

4. Who will be raised in the second resurrection, and when will it take place?

John 5:28, 29 ... all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Revelation 20:5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. ...

Note: The righteous will be raised at the first resurrection. The wicked will be raised at the second resurrection at the end of the 1000 years. The 1000 year period separates the two resurrections.

5. What is the condition of the earth during the 1,000 years?

Jeremiah 4:23-26 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, ... 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 25:33 And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground.

Note: The earth will be totally devastated by the earthquake and hailstorm that strike at Jesus' second coming. It will be left in complete darkness. Dead people will lie strewn across the earth's surface, with no one weeping or having funerals, because none will be left alive. The righteous will all be in heaven, and the wicked will all be dead. (See supplement on "The Bottomless Pit.")

6. Where will the saints be during the 1,000 years, and what will they be doing?

John 14:3 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.

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. ... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

1 Corinthians 6:2, 3 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? ...

Note: During the 1,000 years, the saints will be in heaven participating in phase two of the judgment. This phase is the sentencing stage of the judgment, during which the saved will audit the activities of the Investigative Judgment and examine the books to understand the level of punishment required in each case. The condemnation and punishment of the lost will be affirmed, as well as the rewards of the righteous (Revelation 22:11, 12).

The second phase of the judgment is for the benefit of the saints, and it vindicates God's dealings with the lost. The angels will guide us through the record books to settle any questions. At the end

of this phase of the judgment, all will be totally convinced of God's justice, His love, and His impartial dealings with the lost. They will declare, "For true and righteous are His judgments" Revelation 19:2. (See supplement entitled "The 1,000-Years Chart.")

7. What will happen at the close of the 1,000 years?

Zechariah 14:1, 4, 5, 9 Behold, the day of the LORD is coming...And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, ... Thus the LORD my God will come, And all the saints with You. ... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. ...

Revelation 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Note: At the close of the 1,000 years, the New Jerusalem with the saints inside, will descend from heaven and land on what is now the Mount of Olives. The Lord will flatten the hill to make a great plain for the city's landing site.

8. What will happen next that sets Satan free from his prison?

Revelation 20:5, 7 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. ... Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.

Note: After the wicked are resurrected, Satan will once again be free to deceive and manipulate them.

9. What will Satan do when the wicked are raised?

Revelation 20:8, 9 ... and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. ...

Note: Satan will deceive people into believing that together they can capture the city and take control. Realizing they are shut out of the holy city, the wicked will organize an attack to conquer the New Jerusalem.

10. At this crucial moment, what will stop everything?

Revelation 20:11, 12 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, ... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Note: God's throne will suddenly appear in the heavens above the city, and the third and final phase of the judgment begins. The assault on the city of God is thus brought to an instant halt. The books will be opened, and every person's life will be made to pass before him. Everything will be open for the wicked and righteous to see. (Luke 12:2, 3)

11. What will happen after the wicked are judged?

Romans 14:11 As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.

Philippians 2:10, 11 ... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 19:1, 2 ...I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ... “true and righteous are His judgments...”

Note: Phase three of the judgment, at the end of the 1000 years, will vindicate God before all the wicked. They will all freely admit that God has been fair and just and that He tried desperately to save them, but they openly chose to reject Him and to live a selfish life of sin. After this universal admission, the sin controversy will be forever settled, and it will be safe to bring an end to sin and the rebels.

12. What will happen next?

Revelation 20:9 ... fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Revelation 20:14, 15 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Note: God's fire will then fall upon the wicked and form a vast lake of fire all around the city of God. This fire will destroy them. There is no resurrection from this fire, which is called the “*second death*.” This is phase 3 of the judgment, the executive portion, which we will study further in our next lesson.

13. After the fire goes out, what will God do for His people?

Isaiah 65:17 For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; ...

Revelation 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. ...

2 Peter 3:13 ...we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Note: After the millennium, the saints will witness Jesus recreate new heavens (atmosphere) and a perfect new earth, where sin will never again rear its ugly head (Nahum 1:9). The paradise that Adam and Eve lost by sin will be restored in all of its glory. Peace, joy, love, and perfect happiness will rest upon God's people forever!

14. Where will God and the righteous finally live?

Matthew 5:5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

Revelation 21:3 ... Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them...

Note: Both God the Father and God the Son will live with their saints on the new earth; sin no longer separates God from those He loves!

Your Response to Jesus

Won't you now accept our loving Lord's offer to spend eternity with Him where there will be no sickness, pain, sorrow, fighting, or death? Won't you just now invite Jesus to enter your heart and prepare you for His kingdom?

ANSWER: _____

The 1,000-Year Chart



Events that begin the 1,000 years:

1. Jesus returns FOR His saints, and the righteous dead are resurrected.
2. Wicked are slain by the Lord's coming, plus devastating earthquake and hail.
3. Living righteous are changed, then caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
4. Cloud carries the righteous to heaven.

The Bottomless Pit

The words "*bottomless pit*" are the same words used in the Greek Old Testament to describe the earth before Creation was completed. "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.*" Genesis 1:1, 2. The word "*deep*" is translated from the Greek word "*abussos*." It refers to the earth empty of people, in total darkness, and without form and void. The word "*abussos*" is used again in Revelation 20:1, where it is translated "*bottomless pit*." During the 1,000 years, the world will be like it was before Creation was completed. So "*deep*," "*bottomless pit*," and "*abussos*" all refer to the same thing--the earth in a dark, torn-up condition with no people alive to possess it.