

The Millennium Kingdom – the Theocratic Kingdom
(Revelation 20:1-15)

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken; 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 (Matt. 24:29-30). We see here the exact time when the millennium kingdom will be established. It will be at the end of the seventieth week prophesied in Daniel chapter nine, a prophecy concerned primarily with the Jewish people – Daniel’s people. The prophecy of the seventy weeks found in the verses 24-27 of chapter nine of Daniel gives us a frame for the establishment of the Messianic kingdom in a chronological order. We must realize that the “seventy weeks” of Daniel’s prophecy are weeks of years. The beginning of the first week took place at the “The issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (vv.25). The sixty-ninth week took to “Messiah the Prince”. After the sixty-ninth weeks two events took place: the death of Messiah (vv. 26) and the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70. (vv.27). The Jewish nation is approaching its last seven week of years, which will take place in the seven years of tribulation. The main events of this last seven years will be (1) seven-year covenant with the Jews by the prince that is to come from Rome (the little horn of 7:8); (2) in the middle of the week there will be the abominations that render the sanctuary desolate; (3) persecution against the Jews; (4) judgment upon the desolator and the everlasting righteousness – the Messianic Kingdom (vv.24).

The Millennium form of government will be theocratic government. That is, YAHWEH will rule in the person of His Son YAHSHUA, as we read in Luke 1:30-33: Then the angel told her: Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with YAHWEH. Now listen: you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will call His name Jesus (YAHSHUA). He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end; and in Jeremiah 23: 5 we read the following: The days are coming says the Lord when I will raise up a righteous Branch of David. He will reign wisely as king and administer justice and righteousness in the land. Jerusalem, the city of the great King will be the place where the millennium kingdom will be established (Isaiah 2:2-4; Matt. 19:28). The prophet Isaiah defines the conditions of the kingdom as peace among the animals (Isaiah 11:7-9); peace among men (Isaiah 2:4; 54:13-14). There will be one language (Zachariah 3:9); all creation will be delivered from the curse as the result of the fall (Rom. 8:19-21; Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:1-2). All the events mentioned in our previous studies are premillennial, that is before the return of YAHSHUA to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. This chapter of Revelation is millennial pertaining to the plans and purposes of YAHWEH, which will run their course with the millennium period merging into the eternal state. The five major emphasis of this chapter are as follow: (1) Satan chained up and thrown into the bottomless pit (20: 1-3); (2) the saints given authority to reign (20:4-6); (3) Satan is released from prison (20:7); (4) he deceives the nations and gathers them to battle (20:8-10); (5) the second and last resurrection (20:11-15).

Satan imprisonment for a thousand years will bring peace to the world, but will not change the sinful nature of men, for men's heart is, according to the Word of YAHWEH, more deceitful than anything else and desperately sick; who can understand it? I, the Lord examine the mind and test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to his actions deserve (Jeremiah 17:9-10). Although from the beginning of history Satan has shown to be man's enemy in a form of a serpent to deceive him, man's nature leans toward evil apart from him. Satan however holds the evil power over man; YAHSHUA called him a murderer and a liar (John 8:44); the name devil, means a slanderer and a malignant liar. At the tribulation time he will control this world through the anti-Christ's and the false prophet's power. But Satan's power over men will end when he will be chained up by an angel, who will come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand and will lay hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil, and Satan, and he will be bound for a thousand years, and cast into the bottomless pit and shut up with a seal upon him, so that he should not deceive the nations anymore, till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season (Rev. 20:1-3). Although he will be free for a while, his end will come soon after that.

The Reign of the Saints (Rev. 20:4-6)

Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about YAHSHUA and because of YAHWEH'S word, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads, or on their hands. They came to life and reigned with the Messiah for a thousand years. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection; blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over these, but they will be priests of God and the Messiah, and they will reign with Him for a thousand years. We see here a group who will live and reign with Christ a thousand years. They are those who will take part on the first resurrection; they are the saints of the Old Testament, Church saints, and tribulation saints, those whom YAHWEH has made "kings and priests" (Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10). The first resurrection is the resurrection to everlasting life (Daniel 12:2); YAHSHUA called it the resurrection of life (5:29); the resurrection of the just (Luke 14:13-14); the writer of the book to the Hebrews called it a better resurrection (Heb. 11:35). There are three stages of the first resurrection: the first, Christ's resurrection; second the resurrection of the saints of the Church age (I Thess. 4:16); third the resurrection of the tribulation and the Old Testament saints.

Satan Is Released from Prison (20:7-8)

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle. Satan's time was not yet completed for his final judgment. He will have yet another short time to deceive the nations and gather a large number (like the sand of the sea) for battle against Messiah and the saints. In spite of a thousand years of peace and tranquility on the earth under the ruling of YAHSHUA, with Satan being held prisoner for that span of time, there was not a change of men's heart. The unregenerate heart of man will not be moved toward the righteousness of YAHWEH, and like the heart of the devil it will be destined to destruction. The carnal mind will always be enemy of YAHWEH, for it is not subject to the law of YAHWEH,

neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please YAHWEH (Romans 8:7-8).

Satan Gathers the Nations to Battle (20:8-10)

The large number Satan deceives after he is released from his prison is amazingly large. When Satan and his followers surround the encampment of the saints- the beloved city (Jerusalem), fire comes down from heaven and destroys them all. After that Satan, the beast and the false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire to suffer torment day and night forever and ever (20:9-10). Satan's time had come to an end; the deceiver will be condemned forever. At last the kingdom of YAHWEH will be with men, as the new order of things takes place in the eternal state.

The Second Resurrection (20:11-15)

Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up its dead, and death and hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. Death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death; any one not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

The second resurrection is for the purpose of condemnation and judgment. It is followed by the second death via the lake of fire. These verses are most grave verses written in the Bible. How dread will it be the end of those who reject Christ! Before the white throne of YAHWEH they will appear to receive their sentence when the books will be opened, as John saw: 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 (20:12). We read in these verses "books" in the plural and "book" in the singular. The difference between the two is that one contains the record of those who reject Christ. This is most compelling reason to reach out to those who are ignorant of YAHWEH'S love. The "book of life" has the names of those who received Christ and were saved. May the light of His Word lead us closer to Him and to His leading to righteousness; may we be found worthy of Him!

The book of Revelation traces history of Israel, the Church and the Gentile nations through the end up to the millennium age and the eternal state. The old order will be no more (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. The new order will be in (21:2) and I John saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. There are two Jerusalems: one earthly and the other heavenly (Gal. 4:25-26; Heb. 12:22). The millennium kingdom will be established in the earthly Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is the place which our Lord went to prepare for us (John 14:3). The holy city Jerusalem descending from heaven is the bride, the Lamb's wife. The presence of YAHWEH will be among men: and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of

YAHWEH is now with men, and He will dwell with them and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God (21:3).

The end of all things and the beginning of the new things are very near to be fulfilled. This is the time for all true born again believers to be taking the position of readiness to meet our Lord YAHSUA. The book of Revelation is the mystery of end times revealed to us; it is all about YAHSUA and His promise to be fulfilled to His Bride- His Church. John finished the book of Revelation by saying, Even so, come Lord Jesus (22:20). May this be the prayer of His saints. **The grace of our Lord Christ Jesus be with you all. Amen!**

(References from the book Revelation by Lehman Strauss and the Scofield Reference Bible)