

LAUNCH OF THE MILLENNIUM

A Study of Chapter 2

Let's Get Started

2 Thessalonians 1:10—[Christ will return] to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

A Chronology of Events Surrounding Christ's Second Coming (Zechariah 14:1-9)

The Tribulation ("a day of the Lord"—a term for God's wrath against unbelievers) (v. 1.)

¹ A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

The Battle of Armageddon (v. 2)

² "I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city."

The Second Coming (vv. 3-8)

- Christ will _____ and stop the Battle of Armageddon when Jerusalem is besieged.
 - ³ Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.
- A massive _____ will create an east-west valley running through Jerusalem.
 - ⁴ On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.
- The half of Jerusalem's population that are not captured in the siege of Jerusalem will escape through the valley.
 - ⁵ You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.
- Apparently, a supernatural transformation of the _____ will take place, at least in the vicinity of Jerusalem, in preparation for the Millennium.
 - ⁶ On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost. ⁷ It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime—a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light.
- A spring-fed _____ will burst forth in Jerusalem, and will run East-to-West in the newly-created valley from the Dead Sea to the Mediterranean.

⁸ On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.

The Millennium begins (v. 9)

⁹ The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

One Thousand Years—Christ’s Second Coming will change the world and alter the course of human history more drastically than any other event will have done since Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden (p. 18).

Revelation 19:11-15 reveals more of what Christ will do immediately after His Second Coming:

¹¹ I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

One Thousand Years—Some Bible interpreters believe the armies John saw are angels, but most likely they are redeemed human beings who have died, and are returning from heaven with Christ. . . . It seems reasonable . . . to identify these armies in John’s vision as the souls of believers who have died throughout the centuries and who come with Christ to participate in His earthly kingdom (pp. 18-19).

(1 Thessalonians 4:14—We believe that . . . God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.)

Events That Occur After the Second Coming, in Preparation for the Millennium

1. The Imprisonment of _____

Revelation 20:1-2—¹ And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ² He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years.

The location of the Abyss is not given in Scripture, but it is probably apart from the Earth.

A primary reason for Satan’s removal is that his presence during the Millennium would _____ with the righteous reign of Christ.

One Thousand Years—Satan’s absence will result in a dramatic decrease in sin on the part of earth’s mortal human inhabitants, although mortal humans will still possess a fallen nature that is prone to sin (p. 20).

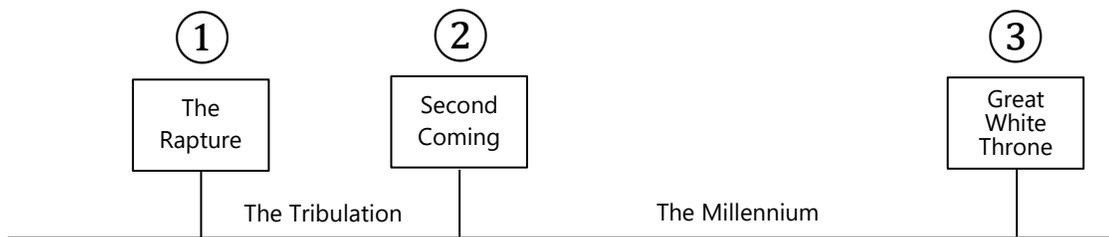
Another reason for Satan’s removal is that he must be _____ as “the prince of this world” and “the god of this age” (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:4).

2. Resurrection of Old Testament Saints and Tribulation Saints (see ② below)

Isaiah 26:19—But your dead will live; their bodies will rise. You who dwell in the dust, wake up and shout for joy. Your dew is like the dew of the morning; the earth will give birth to her dead.

One Thousand Years—In Daniel 12, [Old Testament believers’] resurrection is foretold to occur after the “time of distress” ((v. 1), which is an obvious reference to the Great Tribulation. Their resurrection will presumably occur in conjunction with the resurrection of believers who will have been martyred by the Antichrist’s regime during the Tribulation (p. 21).

Schedule of Resurrections:



① _____ who have died prior to the Rapture will be resurrected at the Rapture and taken to heaven, along with all Christians who are alive on Earth at that time. They will return to Earth with Christ at the Second Coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17).

② All people who were saved _____ the advent of Christ (Old Testament saints), and those who were converted to Christ during the Tribulation, will be resurrected at the Second Coming (Job 19:25-27; Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:1-2; Hosea 13:14; Revelation 20:4).

Note: Revelation 20:5 calls this “the first resurrection,” probably to distinguish it from the resurrection of unbelievers that will occur later.

③ The resurrection of all _____ who die prior to the end of the Millennium will occur at the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:5, 11-15).

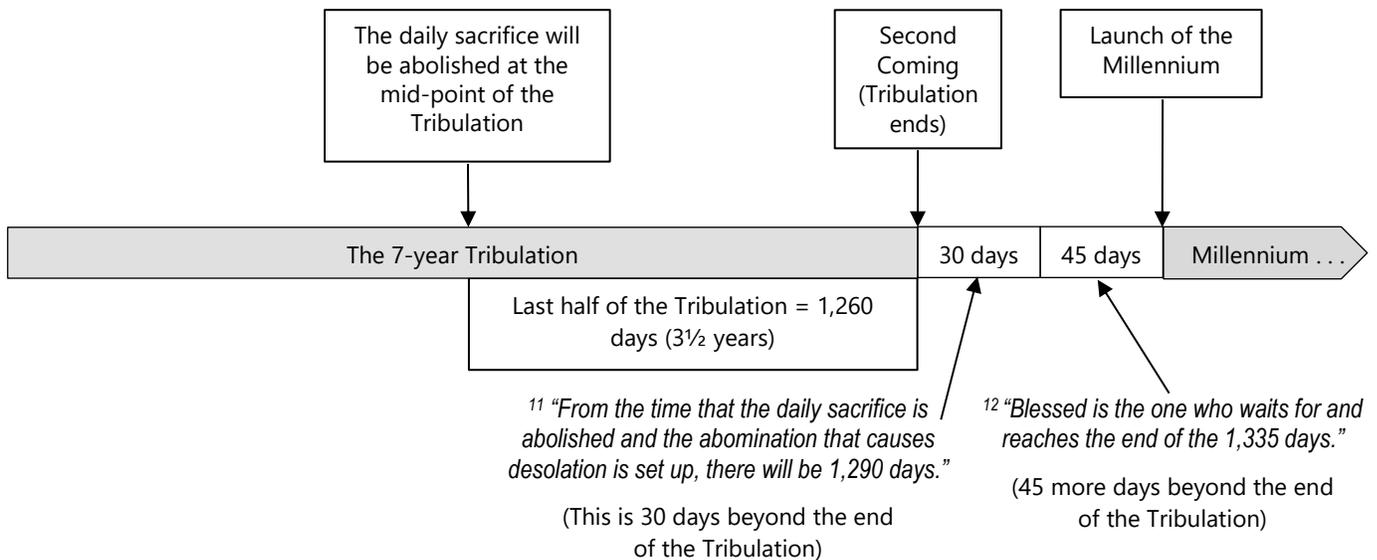
Revelation 20:11-15—¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

John Walvoord—These descriptions of the resurrections show that before the Millennium all the righteous dead will have been raised in one resurrection or another and will enter the millennial kingdom in their resurrection bodies. Only the wicked will remain in their graves to be subject to resurrection at the end of the millennial kingdom.

Millennial Preparations

Daniel 12:11-12 indicates there will be a ____-day gap (“interregnum”) between the Second Coming and the launch of the Millennium.

Daniel 12:11-12—¹¹ “From the time that the daily sacrifice is abolished and the abomination that causes desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² Blessed is the one who waits for and reaches the end of the 1,335 days.”



This 75-day (2½ month) delay of the launch of the Millennium will allow for several transitional events to occur.

One Thousand Years—Some interpreters have likened it to the span of time between a US president’s election in November and his inauguration in January, during which preparations for their taking office are made (p. 23).

3. Regathering and Judgment of Israel

According to Zechariah 13:8-9, _____ of all Jews in Israel during the Tribulation will be killed, but an overwhelming majority of surviving Jews will turn to Christ and be saved.

Note: This mass conversion of Jews will end the “times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

Christ will bring together all _____ who survive the Tribulation in one place and will purge from them all who are still unsaved. The remainder will enter the Millennium.

Ezekiel 20:34-38—³⁴ “I will bring you from the nations and gather you from the countries where you have been scattered—with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm and with outpoured wrath. ³⁵ I will bring you into the desert of the nations and there, face to face, I will execute judgment upon you. . . .
³⁸ I will purge you of those who revolt and rebel against me. . . .”

“The desert of nations” is probably some place outside of Israel, perhaps _____.

4. Judgment of the Gentiles

Jesus will also gather and judge all _____ who survive the Tribulation and will separate the saved from the unsaved. This is commonly called the “Sheep-Goat Judgment.”

Matthew 25:31-32—³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.” . . . ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

According to the prophet Joel, this judgment will take place in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, which probably refers to the _____ Valley that runs along the eastern side of Jerusalem (Joel 3:2, 12).

5. Groundbreaking for the Millennial Temple

The “_____ temple” that the Antichrist will occupy and desecrate will be destroyed, either during the second half of the Tribulation, or by the geologic upheaval that takes place at the Second Coming (Zechariah 14:4).

Ezekiel 40-48 describes a magnificent temple (“Ezekiel’s temple”) that is likely the _____ temple from which Christ will rule the world. It will be far larger and more ornate than any Jewish temple before it.

Christ will personally _____ its construction (Zechariah 6:9-15).

Its construction will begin during the 75-day interregnum, and it might or might not be completed by the time the Millennium begins.

Matthew 19:28—Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

6. Tribulation Cleanup

Ezekiel 39 describes the cleanup process that will take place in Israel.

Burials of corpses left over from the Battle of Armageddon will continue for _____ months.

A massive _____ will be established in a valley east of the Dead Sea in present-day Jordan.

An entire town, called _____ (“hordes”) will spring up for the workers (Ezekiel 39:16).

One Thousand Years—Graves will be so numerous and the burial site so enormous that travel in the area will have to be rerouted. The burial area will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog, or “The Valley of the Hordes of Gog,” and will serve as a sobering reminder of God’s awesome power (Ezekiel 39:11) (pp. 26-27).

Removal of armaments from the Battle of Armageddon will also take place during this time.

7. Marriage Supper of the Lamb

Revelation 19:6-7—⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: “Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. ⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”

The purpose of this event is to celebrate Christ’s _____ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

It will take place on Earth, perhaps as the inaugural celebration of the Millennium.

All _____ from throughout history will attend it.

Today, the Lord’s Supper not only memorializes Christ’s death on the Cross, but it also anticipates the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

Residents of the Millennium

_____ (Jews and Gentiles who survive the Tribulation and enter the Millennium, and the children they produce).

_____ believers (Saved persons from throughout history who have died and been resurrected.)

One Thousand Years—At the Millennium’s outset, no unbelievers will be present on earth, because all unsaved persons will have either died during the Tribulation or been removed by Christ at the Judgment of the Gentiles or the judgment of Israel. Every person in the kingdom will be a regenerate child of God. However, this initial spiritual equality will not last, because children born to mortals during the Millennium will need to believe on Christ for salvation, just as people do today, but many of them will not do so, and they will multiply into an ever-increasing population of unbelievers throughout the thousand years. Then, when Satan is released from the Abyss near the end of the Millennium, he will incite these unredeemed ones to rebel against Christ and attempt to overthrow Him. (p. 30).



Before next Sunday’s session read Chapter 3—*Life in the New World*