

**Revelation**  
**A Wednesday Night Bible Study**

Lesson #78  
4/16/2008

**Following Armageddon Comes the Millennium: Part 14**  
**19:21-20:10**

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As we came to the end of the last lesson, which was about our Lord's **Spiritual Theocracy**, the church, we concluded by looking at what God said in Revelation 21:8 and 27. There God lists several of the characteristics of those who will not be allowed into heaven:

***“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”***

In these statements God emphasizes that heaven is a **“holy”** place and nothing that is unholy will be allowed into it. In reality heaven is so different from this world that we find it is extremely difficult to understand what it is like even though the desire to know more is present in the hearts and minds of many, particularly God's people.

Though heaven is beyond the abilities of our mind to fully comprehend, God has given us more information than we sometimes realize. We began this current line of study attempting to gain some understanding of what God meant when He told us that **“the Devil, Satan, was bound and cast into the bottomless pit ... until the thousand years should be fulfilled”** (Rev. 20:2-3). This period is known as the **Millennial Kingdom**, our **Lord's Theocracy**, during which the subjects of that **Kingdom** enjoy heaven's blessings upon this earth to the greatest extent possible. It is because of God's uncontested reign over all things in His **Millennial Kingdom** that nothing unholy is allowed to interfere with the flow of His heavenly blessings to earth's residents. God is **“holy”** and each thing in His heaven is **“holy,”** but everything influenced by Satan becomes unholy and is polluted by his rebellious nature.

To understand the meaning of the word **“holy”** is essential. It means **“to be separate from that which is common or secular,” “to be clean,” “to be pure.”** Because the nature of God, and the things of heaven, are so far beyond our understanding, God has used this word to emphasize that He is the opposite of Satan and all things related to Satan. Everything that God does, and everything that belongs to God, is **“holy”** — it is antithetical or opposite from Satan and from whatever has been influenced by Satan, such as the things of this world.

Therefore, prior to the establishment of the **Millennial Kingdom**, Satan is bound, cast into the bottomless pit, and not allowed to pollute **our Lord's Millennial Theocracy** with the contamination of his sinful rebellion. **The**

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**Millennial Kingdom** will be such a “**holy**” place that everything in it will be totally “**holy**” as a normal and natural part of this “**holy**” environment. Through the prophet Zechariah God describes what it will be like in the Millennial Kingdom: *“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD**; and the pots in the Lord’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the Lord of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the Lord of hosts”* (Zechariah 14:20-21). Even the most mundane utensils of daily use will be “**holy**” and characterized by this total separation from all things unholy or polluted.

**We have also learned that some strong similarities exist between our Lord’s Spiritual Theocracy, His church, and His Millennial Kingdom.** One of those similarities is the matter of “**holiness,**” a critical characteristic which is often under-emphasized in the church today.

Note that, when God called His people out of the bondage of Egypt and began to organize them into a nation, He said to them:

*“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: For thou art a holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth”* (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 7:6).

The expressions “**peculiar treasure**” (Exo. 19:5) and “**special people**” (Deu. 7:6) are translations of the same Hebrew word which means something which has been purchased and become a valued possession. God used the same Hebrew word in Deuteronomy 14:2, Deuteronomy 26:18, Psalm 135:4 and Malachi 3:17 to refer to how special Israel was to Him. Interestingly, in Malachi 3:17 it is translated “**jewels**” where, according to the KJV translation, God says: *“And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.”*

Israel was so “**special**” because God desired to exhibit His “**holiness**” to all the world through them. He purchased them to make them His “**special**” exhibits of His “**holiness.**” The books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy basically present God’s plans for how He would use Israel to display His “**holiness.**” However, these same books, along with the rest of the Old Testament, are also full of references as to how Israel rebelled against God and refused to display His “**holiness**” to an unholy

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world. However, because of God's unconditional commitment to Israel, He will still display His "*holiness*" through Israel, but it will be done in the **Millennial Kingdom** as is indicated by the passage in Zechariah.

At the present time, before the **Millennial Kingdom**, Jesus Christ has established **His Spiritual Theocracy** in those who have received Him as their King. God uses the same description to describe those who are subjects of **His Spiritual Kingdom** as He used to describe Israel: "*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; THAT YE SHOULD SHOW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light*" (1 Peter 2:9).

Even as He chose Israel to be an exhibit of His "*holiness,*" Christ has chosen the church for the same purpose. He even uses the same expressions in reference to the church that He did in reference to Israel — "*chosen,*" "*holy nation,*" "*peculiar people,*" adding to it the expression "*royal priesthood.*" God specifically says that He took these actions for the purpose of these subjects in **His Kingdom** "*showing forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*"

In 1 Peter 2:9 God sets His statement in the context of a passage in which, through Peter, He is addressing the need for those whom He has "*called of darkness into His marvelous light,*" i.e., converted and regenerated to be "*holy*" and separate from the pollution of sin which saturates their environment. He says, "*... as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (life styles)*" (1 Pet 1:15). Having already used the expression "*peculiar*" to mean that Israel became His prized possession through His purchase, He explains His right to use the subjects in **His Spiritual Kingdom** as His "*peculiar people.*" Notice the sequence of God's statements:

**1. The Purchase Price:**

*"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:"* (1 Peter 1:18-19)

**2. The Nature of the Possession:**

*"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever"* (1 Peter 1:23). To enable the "*peculiar people*" to display His "*holiness*" God has put His Holy Spirit, with His eternal life, into each person so that each one is enabled and empowered to exhibit God's holy character.

**Revelation**  
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Lesson #78  
4/16/2008

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19:21-20:10

### 3. The Charge to the Possession:

*“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation”* (1 Peter 2:11-12). **“Abstain”** is a command in the present tense, meaning that the subjects are commanded by God to stop having anything to do with **“fleshly lusts”** (James 1:14-15) which is their enemy for they **“war against the soul.”** It is not only unreasonable for a subject of the King to serve the devil, His enemy, by allowing himself to be attracted to the temptations of Satan offered through the lust of the sin-polluted flesh, it is also unnatural, abnormal and a perversion of reality. One who is a subject of the King should not have to be commanded to separate him, **“abstain from,”** the unholy things of Satan. It is unnatural for him to have an appetite for them.

In Paul's letters we find similar passages such as the following:

*“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God”* (Romans 8:5-8).

*“This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:*

*Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;”* (Ephesians 4:17-23).

*“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what*

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*is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.*

*For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.*

*See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Ephesians 5:8-21).*

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1-2) .*

**Several conclusions are appropriate:**

1. God's purpose for those in His church today, the subjects in His Spiritual Theocracy, is to exhibit His holiness. It is obvious that a distinct separation must exist between those who belong to Christ and those who belong to Satan (2 Corinthians 4:6-7; 6:14-7:1).
2. God has given us clear instructions about how to exhibit His holiness in this sin-polluted world.
3. God has commanded us to separate ourselves and to be faithful in exhibiting His holiness. To fail to be obedient is to reproduce Satan's act of rebellion against our King.
4. God has given to us the resources, power and abilities needed to be obedient to Him. (Philippians 2:12-16).

In the **Millennial Kingdom** the **“holiness”** of God will be exhibited with being contested. Here, we who are the subjects of the King, have the privilege and the power to exhibit His **“holiness”** in victory over the enemy.