

Revelation
A Wednesday Night Bible Study

Lesson #84

5/28/2008

Following Armageddon Comes the Millennium: Part 20

The Resurrection

19:21-20:10

It might seem, with the searching, examinations and explanations of various aspects of the **Millennial Kingdom** which we have pursued that we would have exhausted the information regarding what is to be **“fulfilled”** during the **“thousand years.”** Though our efforts have been extensive, we have not yet exhausted all of the important matters God has told us — matters that are important to address to more fully comprehend what happens when God allows **“Satan to be loosed out of his prison and goes out to deceive the nations.”** Even as when we discovered that the Greek word **teleo** (5055), translated **“fulfilled”** in verse three, motivated us to pursue what God wanted us to learn elsewhere in His Holy Word about **His Millennial Kingdom**, we now discover that same Greek word in verse seven, but now it is translated **“expired.”** From what we have already learned we know that it is telling us more than just that the **“thousand years”** have **“expired,”** or ended. Understanding what is suggested by the second use of this word is important in answering questions about how Satan is once again able **“to deceive”** multitudes into following him, even *after* they have lived in the idyllic and marvelous **Millennial Kingdom**.

Therefore, in preparation for studying the following verses and learning about what happens when **“Satan is loosed out of his prison,”** it is imperative that some important matters be considered. Among the things which have only slightly been alluded to, if at all, are those things which contribute to making the **“thousand years”** such a blissful time for the subjects of the **Millennial Kingdom**.

Only against the backdrop of a proper understanding of these matters can a person expect to comprehend the horrific things which are to take place upon **“Satan being loosed out of his prison and going out to deceive the nations.”** If ever there were to be an environment which supported the supposition advanced by many, i.e., if you simply improve the environmental and cultural living conditions of people they would be satisfied, behave and commit crimes no more, then the conditions afforded those born during the **“thousand year” Millennial Kingdom** should be the evidence long sought. However, such suppositions are dashed and destroyed upon the rocks of reality. God says that the very opposite results will be seen. To better comprehend this, several statements and descriptions from God’s Word will be examined.

First, we need to know something about those whom Satan is able to deceive into following him in rebellion against God when he is released from prison. While the resurrected believers are God’s servants, ruling and reigning with Him in **His Millennial Kingdom**, they are not residents there because they no longer have earthly bodies. **The residents in the Kingdom** are (1) those who survived the Tribulation Period in their natural bodies,

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thusly enter the **Millennial Kingdom** with their sin-diseased bodies, and (2) the descendants of these survivors.

Those born during the Millennial Kingdom, are descended from individuals who each made a personal decision to accept Jesus as their Lord, Master, King and Savior. These choices were usually made in an environment which involved great risks (Rev. 13:7,10, 15-17) and costs to themselves as they chose to reject Satan, refusing to yield to his temptations. Instead, each of them made a deliberate choice to submit to Jesus and were converted, receiving from Him a new nature in which dwelt the Holy Spirit. They were saved just like any person of any age is saved. However, while each of the individuals born during the **“thousand years”** inherited a sin-diseased nature from their parents, none of them could inherit a redeemed, born-again nature. Though those born during this time cannot inherit new natures from their parents (John 3:3-6), they are born to live in as perfect a spiritual atmosphere as can ever be had on this sin-affected earth. Consider the following conditions which will at least partially characterize their lives:

- (1) God’s law resides in their hearts (Jer. 31:33);
- (2) The knowledge of God and His ways also resides in their hearts (Jer. 31:34) and they will not have to study to learn about God.
- (3) A restored and complete atmosphere of adherence to God’s directions about worship which He gave to Moses including the observance of all of the feast days, and all of the ceremonies related to the Temple, which once again is full of the glory of God, is the environment in which they live and function (Zechariah 14:16-21; Ezekiel 40-44); and
- (4) There is a total absence of temptations from Satan since he is not present in the world.

Such characteristics, among others too numerous to mention, provide an extremely favorable, godly and blessed environment in which to live. Also, it should be noted, God will tolerate no rebellion or violation of His laws. Before this section is concluded it should still be noted that each individual person born during the **“thousand years”** has a sin-nature and must choose to receive Jesus as his King, his Lord and Savior in order to have a redeemed and born-again nature in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Apparently, in spite of the most favorable of all conditions, many will not so choose or else, Satan, when he is allowed out of his prison (vv. 7-10), would not be able to deceive multitudes into following him in his rebellion against God. Since, as we have learned in our consideration of **God’s Theocracies**, the blessings of God flow uninterrupted and most fully in direct correspondence to His absolute rule over mankind and the earth, the **Millennial Kingdom** overflows with the blessings of God.

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Second, since Satan is bound in prison, he no longer can freely produce the destructive results which naturally flow from his activity such as illness, lawlessness, war, atrophy of life and death. Hospitals and medical personnel will not be as necessary as they are today. As a result of the conditions upon the earth being restored that support well-being and long life, antediluvian longevity will be commonplace: *“There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die a hundred years old; but the sinner being a hundred years old shall be accursed”* (Isaiah 65:20).

Third, the conflicts, which now exist between the wild creatures and between them and man, will be replaced with a peaceful and enjoyable co-existence:

“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’s den”
(Isa 11:6-8).

Fourth, God used His resources of nature during the time of His judgment upon the wicked to not only punish them, but to also reshape the topographical features of the earth. The earthquake recorded in Rev. 16:18-20 is but one example of how God not only judged the wicked, but also prepared the earth for **His Millennial Kingdom**. Paul, in Romans 8:19-22, tells us that, at the present time, nature is under the bondage of sin and waiting for God to change this condition:

“For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.”

The causes of the chaotic traumas of our present atmosphere and climate will be corrected by God even as He uses nature to judge the wicked during the **Tribulation Period** and the anticipated changes are wonderful: *“...The desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched*

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ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water” (Isa. 35:1, 6, 7; Isa. 41:18-20). This will indeed be a different world in which to live!

These are but a few of the almost indescribably marvelous characteristics which will be common in the Millennial Kingdom. Even a casual reading of these leaves one puzzled over how and why people, who experience such blissful living for such a long time, would ever allow themselves to be deceived into following Satan in his rebellion against God, which makes it impossible for them to experience the similar blessings of heaven for eternity.

The answer is possibly found in a true evaluation of the sin nature of man. Not only has God told us that *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Rom. 3:23), but He has also told us that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom. 6:23). What many men have not understood is that the *“death”* which results from sin includes, but is not limited to, physical *“death.”* When a person sins he also experiences spiritual *“death,”* i.e., separation from God, his Creator, and the sustenance God provides for him. In the Romans three passage which goes before the verse quoted (3:23), a horrible picture of the devastation of sin is pictured. Also, in Romans 1:18-32 another even more graphic and horrifying picture is painted by God. Man’s mind, as a result of his rejection of his Creator and separation from Him, becomes confused and unable to think logically.

Among the results of this experienced by man is a desire to be deceived by Satan’s servants as is declared in Isaiah 30:9-10: *“...this is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord: Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.”* This is true because as God says in Jeremiah 17:9 *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”*

Sin does that to the human heart. No amount of cultural, sociological or environmental solutions can remedy the sin problem man has. Only the powerful cleansing blood of Christ is able to cleanse a man of his sin-disease and only the Holy Spirit is able to convert him into a *“new creature in Christ Jesus.”* God proves that by giving us this example of what will happen at the time He sets Satan free to go about his work of deadly deception one last time. Thank God — after this Satan is done, finished, and cast into the *“lake of fire that burns with brimstone for eternity.”*