

05 – A WORLD RULED BY JESUS – (the Millennium)

- ✓ We've been talking about what happens to the Tribulation survivors after the Second Coming. We Said: The unbelievers are thrown into hell, and the believers enter the Millennium.
- ✓ Today, I'm going to add a detail that we haven't seen yet. After the angels gather everyone together – (before the *unbelievers* are thrown into hell, and before the *believers* enter the Millennium) – they all stand before Jesus at what's called ...

The Judgment of the Nations

- ✓ Nearly everyone has heard of "Judgment Day". What a Lot of People Don't Understand Is: There are several "judgment days" mentioned in Scripture. (There's at least four. We saw two of them in another series.)
 - The Judgment Seat of Christ – Immediately following the Rapture, believers stand before Jesus to receive their rewards.
 - The Great White Throne Judgment – After the Millennium, the *lost* stand before Jesus (to determine the degree of punishment they'll face in eternity).
- ✓ A *third* judgment is seen in Matthew 25, called The Judgment of the Nations. This has to do with how the nations treated Israel.

Matt. 25:31-34 – "When the Son of man shall come in his glory (2nd Coming), and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations (Trib. Survivors): and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats ..."

- ✓ Sheep, in the Word of God, represent believers (Ps. 100:3). Goats represent unbelievers (Matt. 25:41).

"...and he shall set the sheep (the believers) on his right hand (the hand of favor), but the goats (the unbelievers) on the left ... Then shall the King (Jesus) say unto them on his right hand (the sheep), 'Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom (Millennium) prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For, when I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no place to stay, you welcomed me into your home. I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me ...'"

- ✓ We need to be careful how we interpret this. He's not saying that they're saved because they helped people. (Nobody gets in that way!) They weren't saved because they *helped* people. They *helped* people because they were saved. (The love of God was shed abroad in their hearts, and it showed up in their actions. Jesus *points* to those actions as proof that their faith was genuine. True faith has actions – Ja. 2:18-20.)

"Then the righteous will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you food? When did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers (Israel), you did it to me.'"

- ✓ So, the believers are granted entrance into the Millennium. Now, before we talk about the goats, there's a lesson we should learn. Even though this isn't the Church's judgment, there's still a principle that *applies* to us. How we treat Israel MATTERS to Jesus!

Matt. 25:41,46 – "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand (the goats / unbelievers), Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ..."

The "goats" *didn't* show love. (They didn't have the *fruit* of the Spirit, because they didn't have the *Spirit*.) They weren't born again.

"And these (the goats) shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous (the sheep) into life eternal."

The Millennium

1. Satan Will Be Bound For 1000 Years

Rev. 20:1-3 – “And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, which is the devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years.**”

- ✓ I think it's significant that it only took one angel to bind the devil. One! Satan's not *nearly* the spiritual “hot shot” that he pretends to be. In fact, on the day that he's bound, the Bible tells us how those that are watching will respond.

Isa. 14:15-16 – “You'll be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, will carefully consider you, saying, “Is this the one Who terrorized earth, that shook kingdoms?” (“Seriously? That was him?”)

- ✓ So, he's bound for 1000 years. After that, Satan will be loosed for a little season. (I'll tell you why, later. But, for now, just imagine it! For 1000 years, people will live free of the devil's influence!)

2. A Perfect Environment

- a. Universal Peace – Isa. 2:4 – “They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: **nation shall not lift up sword against nation**, neither shall they learn war anymore.”
- b. Longevity is Restored – Isa. 65:20-22 – “**There will never be a baby who lives only a few days, and every older person will live for a long, long time** ... People will build houses and live in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They will not build a house and have another person live in it. They will not plant and have another person eat the crop, for **the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands.**”

- c. Universal Prosperity – Zech. 8:12 – “The seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce, and the heavens shall give their dew ...”
 - d. Perfect Justice – Isa. 9:6-7 – “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and **the government shall be upon his shoulder**; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of **his government** and peace there shall be no end, **He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness** from now on and forever.”
 - e. Joy – “Joy to the World” is not a Christmas song. It's a song about the Millennium. (“Joy to the world! **The Lord is come**; let earth receive her **king** ... **He rules the world** with truth and grace ... No more let sins and sorrows grow, **nor thorns infect the ground** ...”)
 - f. Full Knowledge of God – Habakkuk 2:14 – “For **the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord**, as the waters cover the sea.”
 - g. Universal Worship of God – Zephaniah 3:9 – “I will purify each language and make those languages acceptable for praising me. **Then, with hearts united, everyone will serve only me.**”
 - h. Absence of Physical Problems – Isaiah 29:18 – “And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the blind, who have been living in darkness, will open their eyes and see.”
Isa. 33:24 – “And no inhabitant shall say, ‘I am sick’.”
 - i. Removal of the Curse – (Isa. 11:6-9 – “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and ... the lion shall eat straw like the ox. A nursing child will play on a cobra's hole, a toddler put his hand in a viper's nest. **They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain** ...”)
- ✓ If things are *that* good, then why loose the devil? (Rev. 20:2-3)

Why Is Satan Loosed?

- ✓ The Millennium *begins* with believers only. They go into the Millennium, still in their natural bodies. For 1000 years, they continue to marry and have babies. Many of the children born at that time accept Christ. But, surprisingly, some don't.
- ✓ By the end of 1000 years, there's a vast number of people on earth that never had a tempter. So, Satan is released from his prison and is allowed to tempt them one time. (This temptation doesn't affect us. Only those born in the Millennium who didn't receive Christ will be tempted.)
- ✓ After a thousand years in a perfect environment, you wouldn't think that *anyone* would follow the devil. But some do.

Rev. 20:7-10 – “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And **shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth ... to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.**”

- ✓ Satan will lead an army of his new followers toward Jerusalem. (Apparently, attempting to overthrow Christ.) But, this time, the battle never gets off the ground. Fire comes down from Heaven and ends the rebellion, once and for all.
- ✓ The Final Rebellion is put down (Rev. 20:9), Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire (v. 10), the unsaved dead (from all ages) are raised to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment, where their eternal punishment will be determined (v. 11). After that, there's a New Heaven and a New Earth – (Rev. 21:1-2).

Why Have a Millennium? (Why bother?)

- ✓ God is proving that man, even in a perfect environment, is corrupt without the new birth. And that Satan, even after 1000 years in the Abyss, is unreformable.