

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 20

GOD'S MILLENNIUM—A THOUSAND YEARS WITH GOD

“If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”

Revelation 20:15; 21:1

1. All whose names were not in the book of life were cast into the lake of fire
2. Does this sound like God is having the final say on who will be in heaven?
3. This is the only hell spoken of in the Bible
4. This fire completely consumes the wicked
5. This is the second death

Try and make this lesson easier to understand. You might attempt to visualise the 1000 year timeline as you lead in the study. This can be done with a simple diagram—or even by outlining where events take place along a suitable length of wall.

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Revelation 20:6,4

1. We must be in the first resurrection in order to avoid dying in the second death
2. The righteous reign with Christ a thousand years.
3. Since the righteous are all raised in the first resurrection, it must be the wicked who are raised in the second
4. A work of judgement is committed to the righteous
5. Could humans be trusted with this task?
6. Why would God allow us to have a part in this judgement?
7. What happens to the earth?

I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. This is what the LORD says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. "

Jeremiah 4:23—27

1. The earth will be without form and void, there will be no light.
2. There will be no people—even the birds have fled
3. It will be like a wilderness, the cities will be in ruins. All will be desolate
4. Does this seem just of God?

"And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time."

Revelation 20:1—3

1. The devil will be bound to this earth. The cities will be broken down, and there will be no one to deceive
2. The devil will be loosed at the end of the 1000 years for a short time

"I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

Revelation 21: 2,3

1. The Holy City comes down from heaven
2. God will also come down and dwell with His people
3. Is this God showing He wants to be in relationship with us?

"When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death."

Revelation 20:7,9,14

1. Satan will be loosed
2. He will go out to deceive the wicked ones by marshalling them together to take the city of God, which has come down to this earth
3. Fire will come down out of heaven and destroy them
4. This is the only hell spoken of in the Bible
5. This fire completely consumes the wicked
6. This is the second death