

6/21/18

What About The Eternal State

Rev. 20:1-21:8

We have seen that the Millennial Age is literal, lasting for one-thousand years.

1. The earth will go through a renovation bringing about abundant fruitfulness of the earth.
2. The ferocious nature of the animals will be reverted back to the pre-Adamic fall, a child will lead a lion and play with a serpent.
3. The nation of Israel will occupy the Kingdom in fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies and those who survived the Great-Tribulation turning to Jesus.
4. Jesus will rule and reign as King, Priest and Prophet, with possibly the vice-regency of David and delegated authority to lesser ruling governors.

And after the Millennium, there is to be the “Eternal State” but there must be a purging of three things prior to its inauguration.

- I. The judgment of Satan.
- II. The judgment of the unbeliever.
- III. The judgment of the earth.

I. The judgment of Satan. Rev. 20:1-10

- A. Satan has been bound for 1,000 Years. Rev. 20:1-6
 1. The time is at the start of the Millennium, “Then I saw an angel coming down from

heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.” vs. 1

- a. The angel could be Michael?
 - b. The angel has the keys to the bottomless pit “abuzo”, a shaft in the earth where demons are bound. Rev. 9:1-2; 11:7; 17:8
 - c. Satan is bound with a great chain, under Divine authority.
2. The time is temporary, “He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and **bound** him for a thousand years. vs. 2
 - a. The four-fold identification destroyer, deceiver, accuser and adversary!
 - b. The thousand years are literal, indicated six times between vs. 1-7 to spiritualize the Millennium or deny it is wrong!
 3. The time period is to remove the evil influence of Satan, “And he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. vs. 3a-d
 - a. Satan will not control nations.
 - b. Satan will not deceive nations.
 - c. Satan will not accuse nations.
 - d. All nations are deceived by Satan today, He being the god of this world and the prince and power of the air, having dominion, not ownership. 2Cor 4:4; Eph 2:2

4. The time fulfilled results in his release, “But after these things he must be released for a little while.” vs. 3e
 - a. This is at the end of the Millennial.
 - b. This is only for a short time.
 5. The tribulation saints beheaded for their faith, lived and reigned with Christ during the Millennium, being priest of God and Christ, the second death having no power over them, being blessed to be part of the first resurrection. vs. 4-6
- B. Satan will lead his final rebellion. Rev. 20:7-9**
1. “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.” vs. 7
 2. “And will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.” vs. 8
 - a. Gog and Magog are not the same as in Ezekiel, which occur at the beginning of the Tribulation. Ezk. 38-39
* The phrase represents rebellion and hatred of God!
 - b. This battle takes place at the end of the thousand years.
 - c. The number that follow Satan notice “is as the sands of the sea”.

3. “They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.” vs. 9
 - a. The place of attack is Jerusalem, “the beloved city”.
 - b. The plight of Satan and his followers is defeat, “fire coming down of heaven and devoured them”.
 - c. This should silence the sociologist and psychologist once and for all as they attempt to ascribe the evil of man to their environment, rather than the heart of man!
 - d. Though Jesus ruled with a rod of iron, holiness permeated the Kingdom and all external temptations were removed, the heart of man proves to be the evil! Jer. 17:9
- C. Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:10**
1. The place is the final abode of rebellious angels, “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.” vs. 10a-b
 - a. Jesus said the Lake of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Matt. 25:41

- * This is his own place, created for him and his angels due to rebelling against God!
- b. The tense indicates it was and is already in existence, ready to be occupied.
- 2. The place is the final abode of the Anti-christ and false prophet, “Where the beast and the false prophet are.” vs. 10b
 - a. The Beast is the Anti-christ.
 - b. The False Prophet was his P.R. man.
 - c. They both have been there for one-thousand years already.
- 3. The place is the final retribution for evil, “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” vs. 10c
 - a. The purpose is punitive by the word tormented “basanizo” to vex with grievous pain.
 - b. The period is for ever “aion”, the ages of the ages, perpetually.
 - c. Their personal choice has separated them from God eternally.

Illustration

Martin Luther said, “Satan is God’s ape”. Satan is under God’s control releasing his chain only as far as He allows, then God will chain Satan with that very chain and ultimately God will confined him to his own place!

Application

1. Many people today do not believe in God, especially the God of the Bible, consequently they do not believe in a real Devil, the one follows the other.
 - * “The fool has said in his heart, there is no God.” Ps. 14:1a-b
2. Many people do not believe in sin nature or sin, yet both are ravishing and destroying their lives.
 - * “The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life”. Rom. 6:23
3. People who do not believe in the Devil fall prey to His lies, schemes and stratagems.
 - a. John says, “You are of your **father** the devil, and the desires of your **father** you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the **father** of it.” Jn. 8:44
 - b. The believer in humility is to correct those apposing the gospel, “And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the **devil**, having been taken captive by him to do his will.” 2Tim. 2:26
 - c. Peter warns the believer, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” 1Pet. 5:8
 - d. God said to Satan after his threats, “Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.” Is. 14:15

The judgment of Satan will take place before the eternal state!

II. The judgment of the unbeliever. Rev. 20:11-15

- A. The particular event is called the White Throne Judgment. Rev. 20:11
1. The White Throne Judgment is distinct from the Bema-Seat of Christ. vs. 11a
 - * John said, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it.”
 - a. The Bema-Seat of Christ is for believers at the rapture of the church, to reward them for the motives of their heart for the works done, tried by fire. 1Cor. 3:12-15
 - b. The White Throne Judgment is for the unbeliever at the end of the thousand years reign of Christ to recompense them for their sins.
 2. The One sitting on the White Throne is Jesus, the judge of all mankind. vs. 11a
 - * “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son.” Jn. 5:22
 3. The White Throne Judgment is the prelude before establishing of the new heaven and earth. vs. 11b-c
 - * “From whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.”

- a. The Millennial Kingdom is a renovation only, removing the curse of the ground and the fierceness in animals. Is. 65:25
 - b. Sin nature and sin was still present in those in the Kingdom, death still occurred, a child dying at 100. Is. 65:20
- B. The particular event involves all who have ever rejected salvation. Rev. 20:12-13
1. The persons are indicated, “And I saw the dead, small and great.” vs. 12a-b
 - a. Small and great in economics or social statues, no one will escape.
 - b. God can not respect people.
 2. The position of the people is “standing before God.” vs. 12c
 - a. People today don’t believe this.
 - b. People think they just cease to exist.
 3. The permanent record of their lives is revealed “And books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.” vs. 12d-f
 - a. The “books” contain their works, deeds and sins, nothing will be omitted.
 - b. The “Book of Life” is for those saved, which their name are not found.
 - * Phil. 4:3; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
 4. The people are held accountable for their lives, “And the dead were judged according

to their works, by the things written in the books.” vs. 12g-h

5. The places that give up the dead are identified, “The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them.” vs. 13a-b
 - a. Death, the last enemy to be destroyed. 1Cor. 15:26
 - b. Hades is the Greek word and means the temporary **place** of the unseen or departed, appearing eleven times in the New Testament.
 - 1) Ten are translated “Hell” in the KJV and all are identified with Jesus.
 - 2) One translated “grave”. 1Cor. 15:55
- b. The Old Testament equivalent of “Hades” is the word “Sheol” in Hebrew meaning the temporary world of the dead and used to describe the place of the departed souls and spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a **state** of conscience existence.
 - 1) The word Sheol appears 65 times and in the Old Testament, translated in the KJV “grave” 31 times, “hell” 31 times and “pit” 3 times.
 - 2) The word is used prophetic of Christ the Psalms, “You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see or undergo corruption.” Ps. 16:10

6. The people are said to be judged justly again, “Each one according to his works.” vs. 13c-d
 - a. No one is compared to anyone else.
 - b. No one is held responsible for the sins of anyone else.

- C. The particular event results in three things cast into the Lake of Fire. Rev. 20:14-15
 1. The first to be cast in is death. Vs. 14a
 - a. Death is first mentioned by God as He warned Adam, not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Gen. 2:16-17
 - 1) The prohibition communicates a clear consequence, literally dying you shall die. Gen. 2:17b
 - 2) The reference to “dying” was spiritual death that would take place immediately. Gen. 3:9-11
 - 3) The reference to “you shall die” was to physical death. Gen. 3:19
 - 4) The first recordings about death is personal and historical, in the death of Abel by Cain. Gen. 4:8
 - a) Cain slew Abel in the field.
 - b) Cain must have been astonished as his brother, who just seconds before was able to move and express himself, then suddenly, was a lifeless shell.

- c) Cain had seen animals die, through sacrifice, now for the first time he saw the reality of God's proclamation in his own brother.
- b. Hades is the second to be cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - 1) As explained Hades is the Greek word which means the temporary **place** of the unseen or departed, appearing eleven times in the New Testament.
 - 2) The Old Testament equivalent of "Hades" is the word "Sheol" is the Hebrew word which means the temporary world of the dead and used to describe the place of the departed souls and spirits of the righteous and wicked who had died and continued in a **state** of conscience existence.
- c. The Lake of Fire is where rebellious man and rebellious angels will be separated for all eternity.
 - 1) Gehenna and the Lake of Fire are the same place and used synonymously.
 - 2) Gehenna is equivalent to the Valley of Tophet, which signified "the place of burning" which was the place of idolatrous worship of Molech by the sacrificing of their children, Jer. 7:31-32; 19:2-10; 32:35; 2Kings 23:10; 2Chron. 28:3

- 2) Josiah cleansed the land of such worship and the Valley of Ge-Himon or Tophet became the site of the city dump.
- 3) Jesus referred to Gehenna often in the Scriptures, it appears 12x's N.T., 11 times uttered by Jesus!
- 2. Death is identified and qualified for us, "This is the second death." vs. 14b
 - a. The second death is the result of the second resurrection, eternal separation from God, cast into the Lake of Fire.
 - b. The first resurrection includes all who have trusted in God and been redeemed, the Old, New Testament saints and Tribulation saints. Rev. 20:5-6
* "Christ first, everyone else in their own order." 1Cor. 15:20-23
 - c. That is why there is a blessing, the fifth Beatitude in Revelation, because the second death doesn't affect the believer, eternal spiritual death. Rev. 20:6
- 3. The confirmation of their separation is stated, "And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire." vs. 15
 - a. Their names are not found in the Book of Life.
 - 1) "Anyone" refers to all who have rejected the gospel.

- 2) “Anyone” refers to all who have refused to repent of their sins.
- b. The Book of Life is the register of the saved, who have trusted Jesus for their salvation.
 - 1) Those have allowed the word of God to transform them.
 - 2) Those who proved to be disciples of Jesus by obeying His word.

Illustration

People often say, “I am good enough”, “I’ll take my chances, God can judge me for my works”. They have no idea of the horror that lies ahead!

Application

1. The condition of the dead before the cross is explained in the Gospel of Luke. Lk. 16:19-31
 - a. Hades was divided into two places, the bosom of Abraham a place of comfort for those who died in faith and the place of torment for those who died apart from faith. vs. 22-23, 25
 - b. The dividing line was clear and fixed, so both groups could not pass over to each other. vs. 26
* Limbo and purgatory are fictitious doctrines by the invention of man!
 - c. The plead for someone to return from “Hades” to warn the living was denied and also reveals consciousness and memory after death for those in torment. vs. 27-28

- d. The hardness of heart to believe is revealed by the rejection of the scriptures, even if one returned from the dead. vs. 29-31
 - 1) Hades can only be avoided by paying heed to the scriptures. vs. 31
 - 2) Jesus returned from the dead and people don’t believe.
2. The dead who died in faith before and up to the cross were claimed buy Jesus.
 - a. Peter tells us that Jesus went down to “Hades” and preached to the spirits in prison. 1Pet. 3:19
 - b. Paul tells us that Jesus led captivity captive as He ascended into heaven after He first descended into Hades. Eph. 4:8-9
 3. The dead since the cross are ushered before Christ at the moment of their death, they are never found naked. 2Cor. 5:1-8
 - a. The believer is goes to the third heaven where God dwells also called Paradise. 2Cor. 12:2-4
 - b. Jesus told the thief on the cross, “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.” Lk. 23:43
 - c. Paradise was the Bosom of Abraham, the place of comfort, but now has been transferred to the third heaven, where God dwells. 2Cor. 12:2-4
 4. The historical record of death is found in the genealogy of Adam, all die. Gen. 5
 - a. Eight times we read the phrase “and he died” after the length of the person's life. Gen. 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31
 - b. The longest living person was Methuselah, 969 years. Gen. 5:27

- c. The only exception regarding death was Enoch, for God took him. Gen. 5:24
- 5. The wicked remained in Hades and will till the White throne judgment. Rev. 20:11-15
 - a. Gehenna is a place of fire. Matt. 5:22
 - b. The whole body can end up there. Matt. 5:29
 - c. Both body and soul can end there. Matt. 10:28
 - d. It's better to lose a hand, a foot, or eye than to be cast into it with all your members. Mk. 9:43
 - e. Only Jesus has the power to cast into Gehenna. Lk. 12:5
 - f. The lake of fire is described as the place of eternal torment before the holy angels and the presence of the Lamb. Rev. 14:10-11
 - * "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27

The judgment of the unbeliever will take place before the eternal state!

III. The judgment of the heaven and earth. Rev. 21:1-8

- A. The New heaven and earth. Rev. 21:1
 - 1. The vision is communicated, "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth." vs. 1a
 - a. There are three heavens identified in the Scriptures.
 - 1) The first being where the birds fly.
 - 2) The second, the stellar heaven.
 - 3) The third, where God dwells.

- b. The word new "kainos", means new in quality not renovation as in the 1,000 year reign spoken by Isaiah. Is. 65:17-18
- c. This is the Eternal State, which is also mentioned by Isaiah. Is. 65:20-25; 66:22
- 2. The commentary on the vision confirms the time factor, "For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away." vs. 1b
 - a. There will be a disappearance of the Millennial earth and heavenly order.
 - b. Some teach that this event of the new heaven and new earth takes place at the beginning of the thousand year reign according to Peter. 2Pet. 3:10
 - 1) But John specifies the time line by telling us that the earth and heaven fled away at the end of the thousand years. Rev. 20:11
 - 2) This verse is also after the White Throne Judgment. Rev. 21:1
- 3. The particular detail of the vision reconfirms the time line, "Also there was no more sea." vs. 1c
 - a. During the Millennium there will be vast fishing as the Dead Sea is healed. Ezk. 47:10; Zech. 14:8
 - a. The present sea is necessary to cool the planet, rain, food and the purging of all the trash and sewage, occupying 2/3 of the earth.

- c. In the Eternal State, there will be no need for the sea.

* “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”, this is the eternal state, not the Millennium. 2Pet. 3:13

B. The Holy City, the New Jerusalem. Rev. 21:2

- 1. The city in the vision is identified, “Then, I John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem. vs. 2a-b

- a. It is a literal city.

- b. It is the city referred to in Hebrews.

- 1) “Abraham by faith dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country...for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” Heb. 12:8-10

- 2) “Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Heb. 13:13-14

- 2. The origin of the city in the vision is provided, “Coming down out of heaven from God.” vs. 2c

- a. The city is seen descending out of heaven from God.

* There are three heavens as we noted.

- b. Some believe this city will be suspended over the Millennial earth and be the dwelling of Christ and the church?

- 3. The purpose of the city in the vision is declared, “Prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.” vs. 2d

- a. As Babylon represented a system, people and city, so the New City is the abode of the church.

- b. The city is symbolic of a bride waiting and prepared for a specific day and person. Jn 14:1-3

C. The New relationship of God with man. Rev. 21:3-4

- 1. God will literally live among His people as before the fall in unbroken fellowship, there being no sin as in the Millennium. vs. 3

* “And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.”

- a. The word tabernacle “skene” , is used for the Incarnation of Jesus. Jn. 1:14

- b. The reference to His people “laos” is plural, indicating Jews and Gentiles

- 2. God will remove the former things. vs. 4

* There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

- a. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. vs. 4a; Is. 25:8
- b. There shall be no more death. vs. 4b; Rev. 20:14; 1Cor. 15:26; Is. 25:8
- c. There shall be no more sorrow. vs. 4c, Is. 65:19
- d. There will be no more crying or pain. vs. 4d-e
 - 1) As we have noted, Isaiah tells us a child will die at 100 in the millennium, the eternal state has no more death. Is. 65:20
 - 2) Some ask, will we remember our lost loved ones? I don't think so!
 - 3) Others ask, will I know my wife or husband? If you know them here, you will certainly know them there, perfectly.

D. The stamp of authority for the genuineness of the New eternal order. Rev. 21:5-6

- 1. God commanded the words to be recorded, without doubt for those who would read. vs. 5
 - a. He is the One sitting on the throne of total authority and power, "Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." vs. 5a-c
 - b. He declared the Scriptures to be reliable, "And He said to me, "Write, for these

words are true and faithful", the title for Jesus. . vs. 5d-f; Rev. 1:5; 3:14; 19:11

- 2. God declares three things. vs. 6
 - a. The completion of the new work, "And He said to me, "It is done!" vs. 6a-b
* The proclamation is "it is finished"!
 - b. The identity of the One who did it, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End." vs. 6c-d
* The person is Jesus. Rev. 1:8
 - c. The invitation to all, "I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts." vs. 6e
 - 1) The same promise was given by Jesus on several occasions. Jn 4:10; 7:38-39
 - 2) Isaiah says, "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Is. 55:1

E. The distinction of who partakes of the New eternal order. Rev. 21:7-8

- 1. The saints live with God for all eternity. vs. 7
 - a. The relationship is one of the family of God. vs. 7
 - 1) They are identified as overcomers "nikao", one who is victorious, the

- same words used for the seven churches. vs. 7a
- 2) They are heirs of the things of God, “shall inherit all things”. vs. 7a
 - 3) They are one with God, “I will be their God and he shall be My son”. vs. 7b
- b.** The abode of the saved will be with their heavenly Father.
- 1) By grace through faith. Eph. 2:8-9
 - 2) By believing in the atoning work of Christ. 2Cor. 5:21
 - 3) The characteristics of family are, love, honor and obedience.
- 2.** The aints live separated from God for all eternity. vs. 8
- a.** The relationship is one of the family of Satan.
- 1) The sharp contrast is marked by the word “But”. vs. 8a
 - 2) The various life practices that characterized them are listed, “The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars.” vs. 8a-i
- b.** The abode of unsaved is with their Father Satan. vs. 8i-j
- 1) The final declaration and confirmation of the abode of the unsaved is stated, “Shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone.”

- 2) The final affirmation of the separation, “Which is the second death.” vs. 8j

Illustration

The comparison of the Millennial heaven and earth to the New ones is like our present bodies to our glorified bodies!

Application

1. Makes sure you mark the sharp distinctions between the Millennium and the Eternal state, the context is important.
 - a. Some believe that what is being described from Rev. 21:9-22:7 is a recapitulation of the Millennium by going back and describing it more fully, but if you mark the important differences they can not be mistaken, you would have to ignore them to hold the view that the passage is describing the Millennium.
 - b. Therefore some believe and teach that the New Jerusalem, the Eternal State exists simultaneously with the Millennial reign on earth and that it is suspended over the Millennial earth, while Christ and the church dwell in the New Jerusalem, commuting back and forth to reign.
 - 1) I don’t see this concept at all in the text of Revelation anywhere, you can not teach from the absence of Scripture, though the concept may certainly be possible.

- 2) I see a chronological revelation of the termination of the Millennial Kingdom and then the New heaven and earth of the Eternal State, followed by the particular details. Rev. 21-22
- 3) I think that a failure to distinguish the Millennium from the Eternal state in the same Old Testament passage, will contribute to the interpretation of both existing together, such as Isaiah. Is. 65:17-18, 20-25
- a) This is the Eternal State. Is. 65:17-18; 66:22
- b) The word new “kainos”, means new in quality not renovation as in the 1,000 year reign spoken by Isaiah. Is. 65:20-25
2. The Lord promised seven things to the churches regarding eternity.
- a. “To him who **overcomes** I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” Rev. 2:7
- b. “He who **overcomes** shall not be hurt by the second death.” Rev. 2:11
- c. To him who **overcomes** I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it.” Rev. 2:17
- d. “And he who **overcomes**, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations.” Rev. 2:26

- e. “He who **overcomes** shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. Rev. 3:5
- f. “He who **overcomes**, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. Rev. 3:12
- g. “To him who **overcomes** I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” Rev. 3:21
- 1) They overcome by the new birth, their faith and the blood of the lamb. Jn 1:12; 1Jn 5:4, Rev. 12:11
- 2) Peter says, “Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells”, this is the eternal state, not the Millennium. 2Pet. 3:13

The judgment of the heaven and earth will take place, for the New heaven and earth to appear!

Conclusion

After the Millennium, there is to be the “Eternal State” by three things that must take place prior to its inauguration.

- I.** The judgment of Satan, cast into the Lake of Fire!
- II.** The judgment of the unbeliever, cast into the Lake of Fire!
- III.** The judgment of the earth, cleansed by fire!