



# The Millennium and Beyond

History records that when people welcome a new “millennium,” public panic runs rampant. When society experiences a year with 000, it is common to hear people predict destruction and the end of the world. Then, when nothing of substance happens and a new millennium uneventfully arrives, the “prophets of doom” are labeled as fanatics and lunatics. Genuine warnings about God’s plan for the end of the world can go unnoticed by the very people who need to hear of His plan of salvation. Worse, sometimes Christians enjoy discussing the end of the world with unbelievers more than they enjoy discussing God’s plan for eternal life.



Consider the example from this familiar fable: Chicken Little was in the woods, and an acorn fell on her head. She met Henny Penny and said, “The sky is falling. I saw it with my eyes. I heard it with my ears. Some of it fell on my head.” Chicken Little met Turkey Lurkey, Ducky Lucky, and Goosey Loosey, and together, they ran to warn the king. On the way, Foxy Woxy lured the fearful travelers into his den, and they never came out again.

Chicken Little was wrong, and she led her friends into destruction. She had just enough information to scare the barnyard animals but not enough to help them. We must understand what God says will happen at the end of the world so that we do not desensitize people with false warnings. Christians must be prepared with the truth of God’s Word in order to be ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Our motivation must be to share biblical facts and not speculation with people who do not know Christ. Our desire should be to share the love and mercy of Christ with people so that they will want to know Him and spend eternity in His presence.

## Overview

At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will come with the armies of heaven, defeating the Antichrist and his armies. Jesus will then rule from Jerusalem for a millennium. At the end of the thousand years, Satan will

be loosed and will deceive many. The devil and his armies will surround Jerusalem. There will be one more great battle; the wicked will be defeated and Satan will be cast into the Lake of Fire where he will be tormented forever. Christ will judge

the wicked who will also be cast into the Lake of Fire. Then God will bring forth a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem in which true believers in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in fellowship with Him.

# DECLARATION OF FAITH

*We believe that the second coming of Christ is personal and imminent; that He will descend from heaven in the clouds of glory with the voice of the archangel and with the trump of God; and that at this hour, which no man knoweth beforehand, the dead in Christ shall rise, then the redeemed that are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord;*



## DURING THE MILLENNIUM

Satan will be bound for a period of one thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3). During this time temptation and deception will not be a problem for people who remain on the earth. Christians who died during the Great Tribulation will be resurrected, and their works will be evaluated (Revelation 20:4-6). They will rule and reign with Christ during the Millennium.

Early in the Millennial Reign, God will judge the nations of the world according to how they treated Israel during the Tribulation (Matthew 25:31-46). People who were objects of the Antichrist's persecution will be exalted, rewarded, and blessed.

Prior to this time, all creation suffered from the curse caused by man's sin (Romans 8:19-22). The absence of sin and the authority of Jesus Christ will bring several changes in the natural order of things. For example, wild animals will live in perfect harmony (Isaiah 11:6-9). Inhabitants of the earth will be ruled with true justice and righteousness (Jeremiah 23:5-6) and will experience great material prosperity (Psalm 72). At last there will be peace between the nations (Isaiah 2:4). The Millennial Reign will be a blessed time on the earth for all creation.

## AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM

Many people who were not Christians at the time of the Rapture but accept Christ during the Tribulation will be martyred. Those "tribulation saints" who survive will enter the Millennium in their natural bodies. As these people have children, and with no death, the

- Aimee Semple McPherson,  
Founder ICFG

population of the earth will grow considerably during the 1,000 year reign of Christ. The children of these Christians will live in an idyllic world without the temptation of sin.

It is likely that many of these descendants will outwardly submit to the rulership of Christ but will lack full inward surrender to His Lordship. At the end of the thousand years, those born during the Millennial Reign will have to make personal choices for or against Christ (Revelation 20:7-10). In fairness, every person should have to make a choice, while facing up to temptation, either to accept or reject Christ. Therefore, Satan will be released to test people born during the Millennium. Predictably, the devil will lose no time resuming his wicked activities and will plunge into a campaign to deceive the nations. Many will be convinced to turn against Christ. Fire will literally come down from heaven and will destroy those who oppose the Lord Jesus. Satan will once and for all be cast into the Lake of Fire.

The wicked dead will be resurrected to face the Great White Throne Judgement (Revelation 20:11-15). Since this is a judgement of those who are already eternally lost and have been in hell, it would seem that this is an assessment to determine the degrees of punishment they will face. Death and hell will culminate in the Lake of Fire and will cause no further threat to Christians.

Eternity for Christians will be perfect. The people of God will live with the One they love and the One who loved them more than an eternity can convey. The universe as we know it will be destroyed (2 Peter 3:10). A new heaven and a new earth will come down from God out of heaven (Revelation 21:1-2) where God will be the source of light (Revelation 21:23). The river of life, flowing from God's throne, will water the tree of life (Revelation 22:1-2).

Proponents of humanism say that man's depraved condition is a result of his bad surroundings. Yet even in the midst of the ideal environment of the Millennial Reign of Christ on the earth, many will turn away and align themselves with the devil when given the chance. Man, even under the most favorable circumstances, will still fall into sin when he is given a chance.



# Personal Response

Divide up into groups of two or three and discuss the following questions. Write down some of your observations and opinions, and then discuss them with the entire class.

Why do you think God would allow the devil to be freed for a short time at the end of the Millennium?

---

---

How would you feel if some people, who never had to face temptation and make a decision for Christ, made it into heaven? Why?

---

---

Read Joel 3:14 and 2 Corinthians 6:2, and respond to this statement -- "It is impossible to remain neutral about salvation through Jesus Christ; indecision about Jesus is a decision."

---

---



## HEART PERSPECTIVE

The Bible tells of only two destinations after death: one of blessedness in the presence of the Lord and the other of eternal punishment. Even though some people have tried to diminish the dreadfulness of hell, the fact remains that Jesus mentioned the concept of punishment and eternal torment more often than He did heaven. Jesus was not interested in scaring people. To the contrary, He cares about us and wanted to warn people of the severity of hell. Hell was prepared for the devil and His angels, but if we refuse the way of salvation that Christ offers, then we join ourselves with Satan and will partake of his eventual punishment. No one goes to hell because God wishes it but because he or she refuses the grace which the Lord freely offers. The desire of our Heavenly Father is that everyone receive salvation and spend eternity with Him (2 Peter 3:9).

"We believe that in obedience to His explicit command, 'Occupy till I come,' the work of spreading the Gospel, the sending forth of missionaries, and the general duties for the up building of the church should be carried on as diligently, and thoroughly, as though neither ours nor the next generation should live in the flesh to that glorious day" (Aimee Semple McPherson). One architect calculated that, on the basis of Revelation 21:16, there is room enough in heaven to house everyone who ever lived on planet earth and all the people who are alive today with ample space left over. God wants everyone to make it to heaven (1 Timothy 2:4). In light of this, we want to do our part to see that as many rooms in heaven as possible are filled.



## FAITH SHARING



## Lesson 16 Teaching Outline

# The Millennium and Beyond

### 1 REFERENCE POINT (15 points)

Begin by asking students to share the most bizarre “warning” they have ever heard. These may range from Y2K bug warnings to sightings of UFO’s that signaled the end of the world. After a few examples are shared, ask a volunteer to read the *Reference Point* aloud for the class.

The end of the world as we know it will be highlighted by a time of reward for Christians. God will also pronounce judgment upon people who reject Christ. The point to emphasize in this discussion is that all that is good will win out over all that is evil. The final chapter has already been written.

### 2 OVERVIEW (10 points)

Hand out the time line for this weeks lesson and then read the *Overview* section aloud. Have the class note that Satan is bound at the beginning of this time period. He will not receive his final punishment in the Lake of Fire until after the Millennium.

Finally, God will create a new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem. Since there will someday be a new earth, some Christians say we do not have to worry about ecology. This could be an interesting point of discussion for the class.

### 3 INSIGHT (20 minutes)

In your preparation to teach, review the events at the beginning, during, and at the end of the Millennium.

Emphasize that with the devil gone and Christ ruling and reigning, it is going to be the most wonderful time this world has ever known. It will only be topped by the coming of a new heaven, a new earth, and a new Jerusalem.

## TAKING IT HOME

### PERSONAL RESPONSE (Conclusion, 15 minutes)

As the discussion begins, circulate among the groups to keep this point in focus: No one can be passive when it comes to Jesus Christ. Every person must choose for or against Him. The lack of a decision is a rejection of Jesus. You might use the illustration that God votes for you; the devil votes against you; and it is up to you to cast the deciding vote.

### HEART PERSPECTIVE (Personal Devotions)

Encourage the students to keep their hearts right with God and to maintain an accurate understanding of the Word of God. A dependence on the Holy Spirit to know what the Word says and what it means is vital to a healthy outlook on our future in Christ.

### FAITH SHARING (Follow-Up)

Once we decide what position we take on biblical interpretation regarding the Second Coming, it is easy to get so dogmatic that we stop sharing our faith in Christ and begin to argue doctrine. Encourage the students to remain firm in their doctrinal convictions and to maintain a consistent passion for friends and family who need to meet Jesus Christ.

## The Rapture

Christians meet Jesus in the air

## The Tribulation

- Christians rewarded
- Marriage Supper of the Lamb
- Reign of Antichrist on earth
- Opening of Seals
- Trumpet judgements
- God's wrath revealed

## The Reign

- Battle of Armageddon
- Antichrist and false prophet cast into Lake of Fire

- Nations judged
- Satan bound

## The Millennium

Thousand year reign of Jesus on earth

## Satan Released

People deceived

## New Heaven and Earth

- Satan thrown into Lake of Fire
- Final judgement of the wicked

(The highlighted events are covered in this lesson.)