"THE FUTURE MILLENNIUM"

Revelation 20:1-10

11-13-2022



3 Views of the Millennium:

1. **Post-Millennialism**
2. **A-Millennialism**
* 3. **Pre-Millennialism**

Proofs for the literal establishment of the Millennial Kingdom:

a. The Scriptures **teach** it (Rev. 20:1-7)
b. Christ **promised** it (Mt. 26:29)
c. The Apostles **expected** it (Acts 1:6-7)
d. We are expected to **pray** for it to come (Mt. 6:10)
e. God **detailed** it (Is. 11, etc)
f. Creation **awaits** it (Rom. 8:19-22)

I. Before the Millennium, SATAN IS REMOVED (v. 1-3)

II. During the Millennium, SAINTS REIGN (v. 4-6)

III. After the Millennium, SINNERS REVOLT (v. 7-10)

Events to follow the Millennium:

1. **Final Rebellion** (Rev. 20:7-9; Ezek. 38-39 *38:8-16)
2. **Dissolution of Heavens and earth** (II Peter 3:12-13; Rev. 20:11)
3. **Resurrection of the wicked** (the "second Resurrection") (rev. 20:5, 6; 20:13)
4. **The Great White Throne Judgment** (Rev. 20:11-15)
5. **The Eternal State (Rev. 21-22)**

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"For many centuries, man has dreamed of a "Golden Age," a "utopia" in which the human race will be free from war, sickness, and even death. Men have tried to achieve this goal on their own and have failed." (Wiersbe, p. 620)

Chapter 20 is like the calm after the storm. This chapter is the second main section of Revelation -

1) Tribulation (ch. 4 - 19)
2) Millennium & New Jerusalem (ch. 20 - 22)

The phrase ***"thousand years"*** occurs 6 times in only 10 verses (v. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7).
God does not waste words. He is emphasizing a point. The point is that there is coming a thousand year kingdom (which is merely the first stage of Christ's eternal kingdom).

The Greek word ***"thousand"*** is "chilioi" which always refers to a literal thousand years. It is never figurative in the N.T. (II Pet. 3:8; Rev. 11:3, 12:6, 14:20, 20:2-7).
Our English word "Millennium" is the Latin translation of "chillioi" ["Mille" meaning "thousand" and *"annum"* meaning "years"] Note: Christ's kingdom will be eternal (Ezek. 37:24-28; Dan. 2:44); the Millennium is simply the first stage of His eternal Kingdom.

The time period after the 70th week but before the initiation of the Millennial Kingdom.

After the 1,260 days of the second half of the 70th week, Daniel 12:11-12 describes two additional blocks of time.

1,260 days (Rev.12:6) 30 45
1,290 days (Dan.12:11)
1,335 days (Dan.12:12)

-

1. The additional **30 days** apparently involve:

   a. The **REGATHERING** of Israel to Jerusalem (Is. 11:11-12, 15-16; Ezek. 20:37-38)
   Note: All nations (Gentiles) will also be gathered (Mt. 25:32; Joel 3:1-2)

   b. A time of **JUDGMENT** for those still living (but not raptured) after the Tribulation [Note the chronology of Mt. 25:1-13 [Rapture] and Mt. 25:14-46 [Judgment])

      1) The **Nature** of this Judgment
      This judgment involves the separation of the sheep (God's people redeemed after the Rapture) from the goats (the unsaved) (Mt. 25:31-46)
      2) The **consequences** of this Judgment
         a) The saved are accepted into the Millennial Kingdom in mortal bodies (Mt. 25:31-40)

b) The unsaved are rejected, and are slain, to await resurrection unto damnation (Ezek. 20;37; Mt. 25:41-46)

No unsaved person will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

2. The additional **45 days** (which transpire before the Millennium) apparently involve:

a. The **leveling** of Palestine's **topography** (Is. 35; Is. 40:4-5; Zech. 14:10; Is. 26:15)

b. The **building** of the Millennial **Temple** in Jerusalem (Ezek. 40-48)

c. The **purifying** of the earth and **preparing** for the Kingdom

1) Weapons will be beaten into farming tools (Is. 2:4)

2) Jerusalem will become a source for fresh (good, drinkable) water from the Dead Sea and Mediterranean Sea (Zech. 14:8)

d. The **binding** of Satan will conclude this time period just prior to the 1,000 year Kingdom (Rev. 20:1-3; Ezek. 28:13-19; Is. 14:4-17).

During the Millennium, "all outward sources of temptation must be removed so that man will demonstrate what he (really) is apart from Satanic influence" (Pentecost, p. 477)
The depravity of mortal man will be evident, as his only source of temptation will be *"the flesh"* (not the world system or the devil)

3 Views of the Millennium:

1. **Post-Millennialism** - (social gospel view) Man through social reform will usher in a utopian period of peace on earth, after which time Christ will return

2. **A-Millennialism** - (covenant theology view) There is no 1,000 year kingdom. The 1,000 years of Rev. 20:1-7 are only figurative. They symbolize the time period from the cross until the imminent return of Christ. The "Millennium" refers to the church age of Christ's present rule from Heaven. At the cross Jesus defeated Satan and the Devil has been bound ever since.

This view which must employ an allegorical interpretation of Prophecy actually alters the literal meaning of words & phrases. This "spiritualizing" of the Bible strips the Scriptures of actual, literal meaning, generally discards rules of grammar and context, and imposes virtually any "hidden mystic" meaning into the Sacred Text. As someone has said: *"if the plain sense makes good sense, seek no other sense or you will have non-sense."*

A-Millennialism has it's roots in...

Greek Philosophy, Ancient Gnosticism or more specifically in "Neo-Platonic Mysticism"
(This Satanic philosophy taught that anything which was physical (material) was evil)

Philo (of Alexandria – a contemporary of the Lord Jesus Christ) taught that the Scriptures had two levels of meaning. The literal reading was some sort of a code that had to be decoded to determine the more significant and the hidden meaning.

Origen (185-254 A.D. - A Greek Philosopher who introduced the allegorical & typological method of interpreting Scripture; For example, he rejected the idea of a physical resurrection)

Dionysius (Died 264 A.D. - Due to his influence, the Greek church rejected Premillenialism)

Jerome (345-420 A.D.) and **Ambrose** (339-397 A.D.) brought New Alexandrian Theology to the West.

Augustine (354-430 A.D. - Baptized by Ambrose, then became the Bishop of Hippo) Augustine changed from a Premillennialist by developing his new view known as Amillennialism.
"In his book, *The City of God*, he became the first person to teach the idea that the organized Catholic (universal) Church is the Messianic Kingdom, and that the Millennium began with the first coming of Christ" (Israel My Glory, Oct. 1986, citing Harnack, "Millennium," XVI, 317)

The **Roman Catholic Church** maintained Augustine's amillennial view throughout the Middle Ages.

The **Lutheran, Reformed** and **Anglican reformers** maintained Amillennialism and still teach it today.

*3. **Pre-Millennialism** - (dispensational view) Christ will literally return for judgment and then will establish the promised, long-awaited Messianic Kingdom.

Proofs for the literal establishment of the Millennial Kingdom:

a. The Scriptures **teach** it (Rev. 20:1-7)

b. Christ **promised** it (Mt. 26:29)

Matthew 26:29
But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Proofs for the literal establishment of the Millennial Kingdom:

c. The Apostles **expected** it (Acts 1:6-7)

Acts 1:6-7
When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

d. We are expected to **pray** for it to come (Mt. 6:10)
(This implies that it hasn't come yet)

e. God **detailed** it (Is. 11, etc)

The 1,000 year Kingdom will be a time of:

1. Christ's sovereign reign (Rev. 20:4-7; Zech. 14:9; Haggai 2:7; Is. 9:6-7, 11:1-5, 10)

Zech. 14:9
And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.

Haggai 2:7
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts.

Isaiah 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. [7] Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:1-5
And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: [2] And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; [3] And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: [4] But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. [5] And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:10
And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

2. Believers reigning with Christ (Rev. 20:4-7; Obadiah 1:21)

And saviours shall come up on mount Zion to judge the mount of Esau; and the kingdom shall be the Lord's.

3. Holiness & righteousness

Zech. 8:3

Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts the holy mountain.

Zech. 14:20

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the Lord's house shall be like the bowls before the altar.

Isaiah 32:1-5

Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. [2] And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. [3] And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken. [4] The heart also of the rash shall understand knowledge, and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly. [5] The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful)

4. Justice & peace (Is. 2:1-4, 9:6-7; Micah 4:1-5)

Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. [2] And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. [3] And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. [4] And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Isaiah 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. [7] Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Micah 4:1-5

But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. [2] And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

[3] And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. [4] But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. [5] For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

5. Longevity of mortal life (Zech. 8:4)

Zech. 8:4
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; There shall yet old men and old women dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age.

Isa 65:20 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 an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

6. Worship via a new temple (Haggai 2:7-8 ; Ezek. 40)
Haggai 2:7-8
And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the Lord of hosts. [8] The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts. (sacrifices will be memorials of Christ's finished work)

7. Peace, spirituality, & prosperity (Micah 4:4-8; Is. 60:17-20; Joel 2:18-27)
Micah 4:4-8
But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. [5] For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever. [6] In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted; [7] And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.
[8] And thou, O tower of the flock, the strong hold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 60:17-20
For brass I will bring gold, and for iron I will bring silver, and for wood brass, and for stones iron: I will also make thy officers peace, and thine exactors righteousness. [18] Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise. [19] The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory. [20] Thy sun shall no more go down; neither shall thy moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be thine everlasting light, and the days of thy mourning shall be ended.

Joel 2:18-27
Then will the Lord be jealous for his land, and pity his people. [19] Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen: [20] But I will remove far off from you the northern army, and will drive him into a land barren and desolate, with his face toward the east sea, and his hinder part toward the utmost sea, and his stink shall come up, and his ill savour shall come up, because he hath done great things.
[21] Fear not, O land; be glad and rejoice: for the Lord will do great things. [22] Be not afraid, ye beasts of the field: for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength. [23] Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. [24] And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the fats shall overflow with wine and oil. [25] And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpiller, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. [26] And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed. [27] And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the Lord your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

8. Rejuvenated water (Ezek. 47:1-12)

Ezekiel 47:1-12

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. [2] Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. [3] And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ancles. [4] Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. [5] Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

[6] And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. [7] Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. [8] Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. [9] And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. [10] And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from En-gedi even unto En-eglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. [11] But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. [12] And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

9. Storms & rain (Is. 4:6; Zech. 14:18-19)

Isaiah 4:6

And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.

Zech. 14:18-19

And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. [19] This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles.

10. No external temptation or deception (Rev. 20:1-3)

11. No violence or destruction (Is. 11:6-10)

Isaiah 11:6-10

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. [7] And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. [8] And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. [9] They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

[10] And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

12. Spiritual blessing (Is. 32:15-19)

Isaiah 32:15-19
Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest. [16] Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field. [17] And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. [18] And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places; [19] When it shall hail, coming down on the forest; and the city shall be low in a low place.

13. Renovated land and desert (Is. 40:3,4; Is. 35:1-8)

Isaiah 40:3
The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:4
Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

14. Gentile & Jewish inhabitance (Is. 60:14-16)

Isaiah 60:14-16
The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. [15] Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. [16] Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MILLENNIUM
(specifically related to Israel)

For Israel, the 1,000 year Kingdom will be a time of:

1. Unity (among the tribes of Israel) (Is. 11:13; Ezek. 37:15-22; Jer. 3:19)

Isaiah 11:13
The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim.

Ezekiel 37:15-22
The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, [16] Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel his companions: [17] And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand.
[18] And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? [19] Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

[20] And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes. [21] And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: [22] And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:

Jeremiah 3:19
But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

2. Comfort & joy (Is. 12:1-6; 40:1ff)

Isaiah 12:1-6
And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. [2] Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. [3] Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. [4] And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. [5] Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. [6] Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

3. Rest (Is. 14:3, 7-8)

Isaiah 14:3
And it shall come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,

Isaiah 14:7-8
The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. [8] Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the cedars of Lebanon, saying, Since thou art laid down, no feller is come up against us.

4. Respect (by other nations) (Zech. 8:23; Is. 60:14-16)

Zech. 8:23
Thus saith the Lord of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

Isaiah 60:14-16
The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the Lord, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel. [15] Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through thee, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. [16] Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

5. Much land (Obad. 1:19-20)

Obadiah 1:19-20
And they of the south shall possess the mount of Esau; and they of the plain the Philistines: and they shall possess the fields of Ephraim, and the fields of Samaria: and Benjamin shall possess Gilead. [20] And the captivity of this host of the children of Israel shall possess that of the Canaanites, even unto Zarephath; and the captivity of Jerusalem, which is in Sepharad, shall possess the cities of the south.

f. Creation **awaits** it (Rom. 8:19-22)

The Millennium

The Earth anxiously Awaits the Future Deliverance it will experience in the Future (See: Romans 8:19-22)

The CREATION anxiously awaits the believer's future glorification (v. 19-22)

A. An Expectant Wait (v. 19)

"Creature" = that which has been created; creation (same word as in v. 22)
"Earnest expectation" = lit. to intently watch with an outstretched head (EX: People sticking their heads out of the window anticipating the parade to begin).
Creation is pictured as being anxious for what is about to take place.
"Waiteth" = to wait it out with expectancy.
Creation is wiser than most men. Natural man does not expect God to reconstruct the present world system. Creation, however, knows it is absolutely certain; it is inevitable!
"Manifestation" = revealing (unveiling) as in v. 18.
Creation, as it were, sympathizes with us. Physical nature itself longs for the transformation of its inhabitants (Compare - the idea of the land of Canaan vomiting out its wicked inhabitants - Lev. 18:25 - "the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants"; cp. the idea of the stones crying out in praise - Lk. 19:40).
"The sons of God" - glorified saints of all ages. When the saints are all in glorified bodies, the resurrection will have taken place and the Messianic Kingdom will be established. At that time Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:1-3) and the curse removed from the earth. (Isaiah 11:6-9; 35:1-8; 40:3-4; Ezek. 47:1-12)
"The revealing of the sons of God" -
I Jn. 3:1-2 - "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."
Col. 3:4 - "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory."

B. A Long Wait (v. 20)

"Vanity" = futility; an inability to reach a desired goal.
Creation had an original ability to reproduce perfectly.
--The apple trees never produced a bad apple
--The orange groves never bore dried-out oranges
--The fields of grain, corn, strawberries, etc., never needed insecticide.
--The animal realm never reproduced deformed offspring.
--Mosquitoes were not flying vampires
--Snakes, rats, and cockroaches were among man's best friends.
--Thorns did not invest the ground
--Viruses and diseases did not exist.
Earth was a utopia; a perfect paradise until sin came. Since then, the earth has been longing for liberation from the curse.

"Not willingly" = Creation (outside of man) did nothing to deserve the corruption that it was subjected to.
The earth received a curse from God as the direct result of man's sin (SEE Gen. 3:17-19).
Everything we see, hear, smell, taste, and touch has been tainted by human sin.
The present conditions on earth (like the destruction of the ozone layer, oil spills, earthquakes, etc.) all point to the fact that things are not what they once were, nor are they what they shall be.

C. A Worth-while Wait (v. 21)

"Delivered" = freed from the slavery of deterioration into the same freedom that the children of God will experience.
When such a deliverance occurs, creation will rejoice (SEE Ps. 96:11-13; 98:7-9; cp. Rev. 5:13).
The Bible speaks of the coming "times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21).
One such prophet was Isaiah, who described the hard-to-imagine utopian conditions of the coming kingdom (Is. 11:6-9; 35:1, 5-7).

D. A Painful Wait (v. 22)

"Whole creation . . . together" = all aspects of creation and all things that have been created like an harmonious choir of lamenters let out, as it were, continual groans and agonizing sounds of suffering even up to the present day.
In Romans 8, God describes 3 groans: 1) Creation groans (v. 22); 2) Believers groan (v. 23); 3) The Spirit groans (v. 26).
"Travaileth" = the suffering of birth pains.
Like a pregnant woman in agony as she delivers her child, "Mother Nature" has longed for deliverance from the various forms of undesirable corruption that she bears.
Creation feels the burden (weight) of man's sin. (Pollution, natural disasters, the curse - weeds, thorns, poison ivy, dry deserts, disease, etc.).

What the earth needs is not merely the ecological improvements of man's efforts to clean up the air, waters, and natural habitats for wildlife, etc.
Nature needs the core of the problem to be solved. The problem is Man, and the answer is God's salvation and glorification before such utopian kingdom conditions can exist.

The early Church preached Premillennialism

The Epistle of Barnabas (120 A.D.) (Chapter 15)

Justin Martyr (100 -165 A.D.) Dialogue with Trypho, Chpt.80 & 81

Irenaeus (178 A.D.) Against Heresies, Book V, chpt. 33, section 3, I, 562-63

Tertullian (160-220 A.D.) Against Marcion, Book III, chpt. 25

Lactantius (240-320 A.D.) The Divine Institutes, Book VII, chpt.14
(The above cited from Israel My Glory, August, 1986 p.23-25.)

I. Before the Millennium, SATAN IS REMOVED (v. 1-3)

The **A**millennialist - Augustine said the "abyss" is not a literal location or place, but rather refers to the deep wicked hearts of unbelievers. He said that the binding and shutting up of Satan in the abyss "means his being more unable to seduce the Church." Augustine was convinced that this binding of Satan in the abyss is a reality during this present church Age. (Augustine, *The City of God*, Book XX, chpt.7, p.722 & chpt.8, p.723)

If Satan is bound today as some claim:

--Why do we need armor to defend ourselves against him? (Eph. 6:10ff)
--Why are we told to resist the devil? (Jms. 4:7)
--Why are we told to be aware of his tempting power? (I Cor. 7:5)
--Why should we be aware of his devices? (II Cor. 2:11)
--How did he fill Ananias and Saphira's heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? (Acts 5:3)
--How did he hinder Paul? (I Th. 2:18)
--How does he have such control that he can send "messengers" to buffet God's people? (EX: Paul - II Cor.11:7)
--How will he give the Antichrist his seat and his authority? (Rev. 13:2; II Th. 2:9-10)

Today, Satan is busy blinding men's eyes to the truth (II Cor. 4:4). He is busy opposing God's people (Rev. 2:10).
Satan has not been chained yet! Rather, he is "alive and well on planet earth" today.
I Pet. 5:8 - *"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"*
"If Satan is bound today, it must be with a terribly long chain!" (Dr. James M. Gray)
Before the Kingdom begins, Satan will be bound
(SEE Is. 14:7-17).

V. 1

"An Angel" - possibly God will give "Michael the Archangel" the honors (the deserved privilege) to bind Satan, especially since it has been Michael warring against him previously (Rev. 12:7; Jude 9; Dan. 12:1)

"The key" - a key is no doubt given to the angel by Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:18).

"The bottomless pit" - this is a reference to hell (a "prison house" of torment for the unbelieving dead and fallen angels - cp. II Peter 2:4).

--This pit is the abode of demons (Lk. 8:31; Rev. 9:1ff)
--This pit emits smoke (indicating a place of burning) (Rev. 9:2)
--This pit is that which the Antichrist will descend into when he is killed and ascend out of when resurrected (Rev. 11:7).

The "bottomless pit" stands in sharp contrast to the "Lake of fire." (19:20; 20:10).

"A great chain" = not a physical chain, since Satan is a spirit-being; Satan will be literally bound up by this powerful chain.

God does not want us to miss the identification of the one to be bound, so He calls him:

1. ***"The dragon"*** - indicating the fierce nature of Satan (Rev. 12:3ff)

2. ***"That old serpent"*** the crafty nature of Satan (Gen. 3)

3. ***"the Devil"*** - the accusing character of Satan ("dia bolos" = to place in between" . . . he is one who divides the brethren)

4. ***"Satan"*** - the opposing character of Satan (He is the adversary (or enemy) of God and Christ, as well as the believer.

Satan, like an apprehended criminal, will be:

1)	***"laid hold"*** of	(grabbed and taken into custody)
2)	***"bound"***	(hand cuffed)
3)	***"cast"***	(hurled into prison)
4)	***"shut him up"***	(locked up)
5)	***"set a seal"***	(securely restricted)
6)	***"loosed"***	(freed temporarily before final sentencing)

V. 3

"A seal" - indicative of security. Satan will be securely bound for 1,000 years. *"The purpose of sealing the entrance to a prison was to prevent any attempt at escape or rescue to pass unobserved"* (Reinecker, citing Swete, p. 857).

"That he should deceive the nations no more" - Satan will be bound and sealed with the result that he will NOT deceive (lead astray) the nations any more until the 1,000 years are ended.

"And after that he must be loosed" = Why a must? Answer: to fulfill prophecy. The destruction of Gog and Magog according to Ezek. 38-39 will be fulfilled as God has said.

II. During the Millennium, SAINTS REIGN (v. 4-6)

V. 4

"I saw thrones and they that sat upon them"

Rev. 3:21 - *"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."*

--The 12 apostles will judge the 12 tribes of Israel during the Millennium (Mt. 19:27-28).
--The saints of God will also judge the world (I Cor. 6:2) and angels (v. 3)

"The souls of them" = A specific group in addition to the "throne sitters" just mentioned.
These include the "souls under the altar" who were beheaded during the opening of the fifth seal (Rev. 6:9-11).

"Beheaded" - reference is to the Roman form of execution by cutting one's head off with a double-edge ax blade.

Those beheaded are those who will be martyred during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 13:15, 16)

Why will they be executed?

1. Because of ("dia") their ***"witness of Jesus"***
   (They will have an undeniable testimony)

2. Because of ("dia") the ***"Word of God"***
   (They will cling to the written Word of God)

These are people who will not bend (on their convictions), break (God's Word) or bow (To the Antichrist), when the most intense pressure in history is turned on.
They would rather die than switch allegiance.

"Mark upon their foreheads or in their hands" - the option between "forehead" and "hand" shows the mark to be a literal mark (an actual branding or implantation upon the skin).
"They lived" - they came to life again (They were resurrected after the Tribulation, but before the Millennium)

> [Note: The Allegorist, Augustine wrongly interpreted the first resurrection "not as a future bodily resurrection" but as "the present spiritual resurrection of the soul which takes place at the new birth."
> (*The City of God*, Book XX, chpt.6, p.717; cited by Israel My Glory, Oct., 1986, p.29]

"They . . . reigned" - in order to rule or reign, there must be subjects to rule over. Who are the subjects over which we will govern?
Answer: Those Jews and Gentiles who live through the Tribulation and trust Christ for salvation (SEE: Is. 4:2-4).

Jesus promised such a reign to the church of Thyatira: *"And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron: as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers, even as I received of my Father."* (Rev. 2:26-27)
Throughout history, God's children have been the subjects of rulers, despotically dominated, often unfairly treated, many times the victims of injustice, etc. . . . One day, however, they will rule.

In a spiritual sense, we are presently "more than conquerors," but one day in a physical sense, we will rule and reign with Christ in a utopian society. The best is yet to come for God's people.

V. 5

"The rest of the dead" = the unbelieving dead. They will not be resurrected until after the Millennium, only to appear before Christ for eternal sentencing at the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).

"This is the first resurrection" = referring to those who live and reign (v. 4).

The Bible teaches 2 major resurrections:

John 5:29 - *"And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."*

Dan. 12:2 - *"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."*

These two resurrections are differentiated by subjects and time.

NOTE: the resurrection of the "just" is distinguished (Luke 14:14 - *"And thou shalt be blessed, for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just."*).

NOTE: the difference in time (a 1,000 year difference) between the two resurrections (Rev. 20:5).

Most Pretribulationists say that the first resurrection occurs "in stages"

1) Christ
2) those that arose after Christ did (Mt. 27:52-53)
3) Rapture of Church
4) Two witnesses
5) Resurrection of O.T. saints

NOTE: While Scripture does describe some unique [out of the norm] resurrections (EX: Lazarus), the Bible is very specific when speaking about the general resurrection of the saints

I Cor. 15:23,24 - *"But every man in his own order:*
Christ the firstfruits;
afterward they that are Christ's at his coming;
Then cometh the end (last) when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom..."

Important Note: If the "**first resurrection**" is indeed **"first"** and if this resurrection will include tribulation martyrs (v. 4), then **the Rapture cannot be pretribulational** (since the Rapture and resurrection occur at the same time - I Cor. 15:51-52; I Th. 4:16-17).

V. 6

The ***"second death"*** means eternal doom to multitudes involved in the second resurrection (Rev. 20;11-15).

To be raised in the second resurrection means to stand before the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev.20:11-15).

In which Resurrection will you arise? If you are "in Christ" you will be raised at the first resurrection (I Th. 4:16).

Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die [spiritually & eternally]." (Jn. 11:25-26).*

"They shall be priests of God" - In the Millennium, there will be a temple (Ezek. 40 - 43), temple ministers (Ezek. 44 - 45:17), and animal sacrifices (Ezek. 45:18 - 46).
[NOTE: The animal sacrifices will NOT be efficacious to forgive sin, but memorials of what Christ did on Calvary]

III. After the Millennium, SINNERS REVOLT (v. 7-10)

What is God's purpose for the Millennium?
To demonstrate the **depravity** of man.
Even with Satan bound, with a perfect environment, man will have an unbelieving heart.
". . . as in every age, He [Christ] will not compel them to believe with their hearts. Consequently, there will be many living (born during kingdom) who have never turned to Christ for salvation, though they have obeyed Him as head of the government. These will seize on the chance to give expression to the rebellion of their hearts, when Satan arises to be their leader in this last revolt." (Ryrie, p. 116).

V. 7
Why would Satan be loosed? To fulfill Scripture, namely, Ezek. 38-39. This is why verse 4 says that ***"he must be loosed a little season"***
As if Satan did not learn his lesson when he (via the Antichrist and the world's armies) tried to conquer Christ and his armies at Armageddon (19:19-21), he will again attempt a vain conquest at the end of the Millennium (v. 7-10).

V. 8
Satan will deceive the people of ***"God and Magog"*** into thinking that Israel will be vulnerable and conquerable (SEE: Ezek. 38:10-19).

V. 9
"The beloved city" = Jerusalem (Mt. Zion - Ps. 87:2).
"Fire came down" - specifically, "fire and brimstone" (Ezek. 38:22); the same way Jesus destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah (Rev. 19:24).

V. 10
"The devil . . . was cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone" - Satan was the reason why the Lake of Fire was created (Mt. 25:41 - *"Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*).
One day he is going to go to his home, where he belongs.
"The Beast & False Prophet" have been burning for 1,000 years prior to Satan's final doom (cp. Rev. 19:20).
"Tormented day and night forever and ever" -
"Day and night" = relentless torment (no breaks or seasons of solace)
"For ever and ever" = eternal torment (no end)
*The same torment is in store for the beast worshippers (Rev. 14:10-11)

*The same torment is in store for everyone who rejects Christ (Jn. 3:36; Rev. 21:8).

Events to follow the Millennium:

1. **Final Rebellion** (Rev. 20:7-9; Ezek. 38-39 *38:8-16)

   The off-spring (children) of those living who originally entered the Kingdom will have to accept Christ; those who do not will follow Satan in his final, vain attempt to overthrow Christ.

2. **Dissolution of Heavens and earth** (II Peter 3:12-13; Rev. 20:11)

3. **Resurrection of the wicked** (the "second Resurrection") (rev. 20:5, 6; 20:13)

4. **The Great White Throne Judgment** (Rev. 20:11-15)

5. **The Eternal State** (Rev. 21-22)