

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JESUS COMES?

**Introduction** When we have learned what the Bible teaches about the Second Coming of the Lord, the next logical question is: "What happens AFTER Jesus comes?"

The simplest way to answer this question is to read from Revelation 19:11, which describes the Second Advent, right through to the end of chapter 20.

From these verses we learn that the Second Coming will be followed immediately by a period of 1,000 years, which is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:1-9, and is commonly known as "The Millennium". This word is not found in the Bible, but is an English word, made up by joining two Latin terms, "Mille" (1,000) and "Annus" (a year), and meaning simply—"one thousand years".

**Discussion** Our study of the Millennium will fall into three parts:

(See Chart No 10—The Millennium Prophecy—First Part)

### 1.—EVENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM

**The Return of Jesus:** Rev. 19:11. Compare I Thess. 4:16. This, as we have seen, is the obvious starting point.

**The Righteous Dead Raised:** Rev. 20:4, 6. Compare I Thess. 4:16.

**The Living Saints Caught Up:** I Thess. 4:17. See also Matt. 24:31; John 14:3; 13:36; 17:24; which show that all the righteous are gathered and return to heaven with Christ at the Second Advent.

**The Living Wicked Slain:** Rev. 19:11-16, 21. Compare II Thess. 1:7, 8.

**The Earth Desolated:** Rev. 16:17-21. See also Rev. 6:14-17; Jer. 25:30-33; Jer. 4:23-26; Isa. 24:1, 5, 6, 17-22, which describe the stupendous changes which will take place in the physical world at the Second Advent. Any suggestion that social life, industry, commerce, agriculture, education, sport, travel, etc., will continue as usual during the thousand years is unthinkable. This planet will be rendered completely uninhabitable when Jesus comes.

**NOTE: THE "BOTTOMLESS PIT"**—These two puzzling words are translated from a single Greek word "ABUSSOS", which means a dark, waste, desolate region; a state of chaos. In the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament, "ABUSSOS" is used to describe the earth in its original chaotic condition before light and vegetation appeared, when it was "without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the DEEP" (Greek "ABUSSOS") Gen. 1:2. Compare Jer. 4:23-26, which shows that at the Second Advent, the earth will again be reduced to a similar condition of chaos. The term, "bottomless pit" is not used in the Revised Versions of the Bible, or by most other modern translators. They use the more appropriate and understandable word, "ABYSS", which describes the earth as it lies completely devastated and emptied of human inhabitants after Christ comes. This will be Satan's dreary prison-house during the thousand years.

**Satan Bound:** Rev. 20:1-3. Literal, material chains cannot be intended here. They could not bind a supernatural being. Satan will be bound by a chain of circumstances. The saints are in heaven, beyond his reach, and the wicked are all dead, to remain in that condition for a thousand years, so that the Devil has no one to tempt. No prisoner was ever more effectively chained!

### 2.—EVENTS AND CONDITIONS DURING THE MILLENNIUM

(Chart No. 10—Second Part)

**The Saints Reign in Heaven "with Christ":** Rev. 20:4, 6; 3:21.

**The Saints Assist in Judging Wicked Angels and Men:** Rev. 20:4; I Cor. 6:2, 3. Other translations of v 4 are illuminating—Weymouth: "To whom judgment was entrusted". Goodspeed: "Who were empowered to act as judges".