

WHEN Is the Thousand Years ?

Revelation chapter 20 makes 6 statements about

“a (or ‘the’) thousand years”.

(FYI, the articles ‘a’ and ‘the’ are not in the Greek text.)

The purpose of this study is to establish - by scripture -

WHEN the thousand years ‘is’ or ‘will be’.

It is commonly called ‘the millennial reign of Christ’.

The word ‘millennium’ is a Latin term meaning 1,000 years.

It is from the root words [mille] meaning ‘thousand’,

and [annum] meaning ‘years’.

Some people believe that Jesus Christ will return from heaven

to sit upon the throne of David,

in a re-built temple on earth,

in the middle-eastern city of Jerusalem,

to govern the Gentile nations through the nation Israel

for 1,000 physical years,

during which time some people on earth will be resurrected saints

and others will be sinners who happen to be alive at His coming.

They think Satan will be bound during this 1,000 years,

and that the Jews will evangelize the world in great number.

Paul applied the prophecy that 'NOW' is the day of salvation.

Would these verses lead anyone to feel as if they had 'a thousand years' more to trust Christ, even after He returns to earth? No, they would not!

2 Cor 6:2 (**For he saith,** (in Isa 49:8) I have heard thee
in **a time accepted,**
and in **the day of salvation** have I succoured thee:
behold, **now is the accepted time;**
behold, now is the day of salvation.)

These scriptures present a sense of 'urgency' to trust Christ 'TODAY'
.... not to think there will be at least another thousand years to repent

AFTER Christ comes:

Heb 3:7-8 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith,
To day if ye will hear his voice, (also Heb 3:12-15)
8 **Harden not your hearts,** as in the provocation,
in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

When the Lord comes, people who had no love of the truth will perish
.... because, when they heard it, they did not receive it. They will not get
another opportunity. Time is up, and they will be judged and damned:

2 Thess 2:8-12 And then shall that Wicked be revealed,
whom **the Lord** shall consume with the spirit of his mouth,
and shall destroy with the brightness of **his coming:**
9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan
with all power and signs and lying wonders,
10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in **them that perish;**
because they received not the love of the truth,
that they might be saved.
11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion,
that they should believe a lie:
12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth,
but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Let us follow the steps to see the **lack of** logic for those who think the 'thousand-year millennial kingdom' will be set up on earth when Christ comes.

Some think that Christ will come not to the earth, but just to the clouds to take His saints out of the world in a 'secret-resurrection-rapture' BEFORE great tribulation comes. This is a 'PRE' (before) TRIBULATION coming.

NOTE: There are 3 different ideas about 'WHICH' saints they think will be resurrected here:

1 - Some think it will be only the NEW testament saints.

2 - Others teach it will only be PAUL's CONVERTS.

3 - Some say it will be ALL the saints who have died.

But Jesus 'prepared' His disciples for tribulation in the world:

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that **in me ye might have peace.**

In the world ye shall have tribulation: (also Matt 24:21, Luke 21:22-28) **but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**

Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6), is the only Source of peace

not 'worldly' peace but peace of God (Phil 4:7-9, Col 3:15, 1 Thess 1:1):

John 14:27 **Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you.**
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

The gospel that was preached (Isa 52:7, Nah 1:15), which is the gospel that 'we' preach is "the gospel of peace" (Acts 10:36, Rom 10:15, Eph 6:15).

Then they think that there will be a period of 7 years of tribulation during which time they think the saints, who have converted AFTER Jesus raptured the other saints (of which they were a part), will go through intense persecution and be killed for their faith.

Although God's saints have always been persecuted, no explanation is given for WHY they think 'they' will be pulled off the earth in a 'special group' of saints that God does not want to be persecuted while all the other saints of history and future are taught to endure persecution (Mark 4:17, Matt 24:13).

Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles (Rom 11:13), taught that believers are NOT exempt from persecution. In fact, they WILL go through it:

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and **all** that will live godly in Christ Jesus **shall suffer persecution.**

2 Thess 1:4 So that we ourselves glory in you **in the churches of God for your patience and faith** **in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:**

After the 7 year tribulation, they think **Jesus will come AGAIN** (but this time, to earth) to resurrect the dead saints who were killed during the tribulation (and any 'other' saints they thought were not already raised when Jesus came to the clouds) and to set up His kingdom on the earth. They think the earth will be inhabited by saints in **GLORIFIED** bodies as well as by **SINNERS** in natural, physical bodies, who will have a **THOUSAND** years to convert. This is a 'PRE' (before) **MILLENNIAL** coming.

AFTER Christ's **THOUSAND-year kingdom on earth is up** they think Christ will have leave and to go back to heaven - and then come back to earth yet another time, this being the **LAST** time, to make war, take vengeance, and judge His enemies at the great white throne judgment. In Summary:

This view has 3 MORE 'FUTURE' comings of Christ:

1 - Before the tribulation

2 - Before a 1,000 year kingdom

3 - After a 1,000 year kingdom.

I submit to you that Christ is only coming back **ONE** more time.

Thus, there is no room for a THOUSAND years afterward.

It will be His 2nd and 'FINAL' coming:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time** without sin unto salvation.

We look for Jesus to appear the 2nd time:

Phil 3:20-21 For our conversation is in **heaven;** **from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**
21 **Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,** according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

When Jesus comes, we are looking to receive a glorified body, like His:

1 John 3:2 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.

Peter described in great detail what we're looking for when Christ comes:

2 Peter 3:3-14 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is **the promise of his coming?** for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But **the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.** (this FIRE and day of JUDGMENT will both happen at His coming) **This next verse tells us that God does not 'count time' the same way we humans 'figure years':**

- (2 Pet 3) 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing,
that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years,
and a thousand years as one day. (also Psa 90:4)
- 9 The Lord is not slack (slow) concerning his promise, (what promise?
the promise of His coming - from vs. 4) as some men count slackness;
but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish,
but that all should come to repentance.
- 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night
(also 1 Thess 5:2, Matt 24:43-44);
in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat,
the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.
(this will ALSO be what happens at His coming)
- 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of
persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,
- 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God,
(the day of God = the day of the Lord - from vs. 10)
wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved,
and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?
(this matches vs. 10 about the day of the Lord)
- 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, (what promise? in the
immediate context, the promise of His coming from vs. 4 and 9) look for
new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.
- 14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent
that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

What things are you looking for?

- the promise of His coming, and all such things as come with it:
- the fire and judgment of the wicked,
- the (now present) heavens and earth will be burned up,
- the new heavens and new earth will come with righteousness.

The new heavens and new earth have been God's promise for a long time:

Isa 65:17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth:
and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isa 66:22 For as the new heavens and the new earth,
which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD,
so shall your seed and your name remain.

After the heavens and earth, that are now, are burned up there will be
new heavens and a new earth -- which is the very same thing as John saw:

Rev 21:1-4 And I saw a new heaven (Greek <ouranos> translated both
'heaven' singular, here and 'heavens' plural, in 2 Pet 3:13 that we just
read) and a new earth:
for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away;
and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem (the mother of us all -
Gal 4:26), coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband (also 2 Cor 11:2, Rom 7:4, Eph 5:30-32).

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle
of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be
his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.
(also 2 Cor 6:16)

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be
no more death, (the last enemy destroyed) neither sorrow, nor crying,
neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

What will happen after Christ comes? Then comes the 'THOUSAND
year millennial kingdom'? NO! Then comes THE **END:**

1 Cor 15:20-26 But now is Christ risen from the dead,
and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death,

by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits;

afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end,

when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God,

even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 **The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.**

When Christ comes, then comes the END. That's when we will get our glorified body and death will end. There is no space for 1,000 years there:

1 Cor 15:51-54 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep (also **Matt 16:28, Luke 9:27**), but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump:** (that would be the 7th trumpet) for **the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible,** (**Rev 11:15-18**) and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, **then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.**

Paul used prophecy to explain a mystery of the resurrection he quoted:

Isa 25:8 **He will swallow up death in victory;** (**Rev 20:14**)

and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces (**Rev 21:4**); and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it.

What are we looking for? Our hope will be realized when Jesus appears:

Titus 2:13 **Looking for that blessed hope,**

and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

What is that blessed hope? It is **the hope of eternal life** (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**).

When the Lord appears, that will be the day of judgment:

2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which **the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day:** and not to me only, but unto all them also that **love his appearing.**

The last trump is the 7th trump. It announces the beginning of the end:

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

When Christ appears and brings His kingdom, it will be His day of judgment:

2 Tim 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

At the last trump Christ will return from heaven to claim His own.

He will catch the saints up in the air (1 Thess 4:15-17) and pour the flaming fire of His holy wrath upon His enemies (2 Thess 1:4-10). It will be

His day of judgment, both for the saved and the unsaved. **There is**

no place for a THOUSAND years, followed by REBELLION:

Rev 11:15-18 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,

17 Saying, We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. **The 'time of the dead' is the resurrection of the just and the unjust to judgment (also Matt 25:31-46):**

18 And the nations were angry,
and thy wrath is come,
and the time of the dead, that they should be judged,
and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets,

and to the saints,
and them that fear thy name,
small and great;

and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

What John taught in 'the Revelation of Jesus Christ' is what Paul taught:

Acts 24:15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Jesus taught that, too. At the last day, both good and evil will resurrect:

John 5:25-29 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming (the 2nd resurrection), and now is (the 1st resurrection), when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

27 And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming (the resurrection at the last day), in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

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.

The resurrection at the last day, is when ALL the dead will be raised:

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

When Martha asked Jesus to raise her brother from the dead, He said:

John 11:23-26 Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother (Lazarus) shall rise again. 24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

God will avenge His own elect when the Son of Man cometh (Luke 18:7-8).

In 'that day' the day of the Lord,
the day of Christ,
the day of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the day of God)

when Christ comes from heaven

He will destroy His enemies and reward His saints:

2 Thess 1:5-10 Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

6 Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; (also see Rev 6:10; Luke 18:7; Psa 35:17, 74:10, 94:3;)

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us,

when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven
with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God,
and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction
from the presence of the Lord,
and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints,
and to be admired in all them that believe

(because our testimony among you was believed)

in that day.

So WHEN is or will be the THOUSAND years?

The scriptures about the coming of the Lord do not evidence

- a 'literal thousand years' on earth,
- wherein Jesus Christ sits on a literal throne,
- in a literal rebuilt holy temple,
- with literal animal sacrifices,
- with the literal nation of Israel ruling the Gentiles.

Here is THE passage, where the 'thousand years' is taught:

- Rev 20:1-10** And I saw an angel come down from heaven,
 having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
- 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent,
 which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,
- 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up,
 and set a seal upon him,
that he should deceive the nations no more,
till the thousand years should be fulfilled: (see John 12:31)
and after that he must be loosed a little season.
- 4 And I saw thrones, (reigning) and they sat upon them,
 and judgment (ruling) was given unto them:
 and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus,
 and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither
 his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their
 hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
 (Notice, it does NOT say that the 'thousand years' will be on earth.)
- 5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years
 were finished. (That will be the resurrection at the last day.) This is the
first resurrection. (Coming from vs. 4, I believe the 1st resurrection is
the RESURRECTION OF THE SOULS IN CHRIST, as Jesus taught
 Martha, and as Col 2:12, 3:1-3; Eph 2:4-6, 5:14; Rom 8:11, 6:8-11, 7:4.)
- 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:
 on such the second death hath no power, (also Rev 2:10-11)
 but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, (Isa 61:6-10)
 and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- 7 And when the thousand years are expired,
Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
- 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations (what he was 'bound' from
 doing during the 'thousand years' - vs. 3) which are in the four quarters of
 the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle:
 the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.
- 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp
 of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out
 of heaven, and devoured them.
- 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and
 brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tor-
 mented day and night for ever and ever.

Sometimes God used the word 'thousand' to REPRESENT

not the 'literal' number 1,000 but to describe being 'complete' or 'full'.

Would God stop being faithful to the 1001st or 1002nd generation? No!

Deut 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

God's word will be good for 'longer' than an 'actual' thousand generations.

'A thousand' here REPRESENTS 'completeness' - not a 'literal' 1,000:

Psa 105:8-10 He hath remembered his covenant for ever,
the word which he commanded to a thousand generations.

9 Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac;

10 And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law,
and to Israel for an everlasting covenant:

Again, 'a thousand' REPRESENTS a 'fulness' of cattle not 'exactly' 1,000:

Psa 50:10-12 For every beast of the forest is mine,
and the cattle upon a thousand hills.

11 I know all the fowls of the mountains:
and the wild beasts of the field are mine.

12 If I were hungry, I would not tell thee:
for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof.

One day inside God's house is better than 'over' a thousand days outside:

Psa 84:10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand.

I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God,
than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

God does not consider 'length of time' in the same way man sees it:

Psa 90:4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.

God's kingdom is already on earth 'spiritually' and saints are in it now.

(Matt 12:28; Luke 17:20-21; John 3:3; Acts 14:22, 19:8, 20:24-25, Acts 28:23, 31; Rom 14:17; 1 Cor 4:20)

Then in the end, when Christ "cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him" (Rev 1:7), God's kingdom will be set up on earth 'visibly' not just for 'a thousand years' - but for ever with NO 'MUTINY' 1,000 years later:

Dan 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall **the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:** and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

When saints possess the kingdom it will be eternal. They will NOT be in "flesh and blood" bodies (1 Cor 15:50) but will have "flesh and bones" as Jesus had after His resurrection (Luke 24:39):

Dan 7:18 But **the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.**

Luke 1:33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and **of his kingdom there shall be no end.**

I believe the **thousand years** represents the fulness of the times of the Gentiles during which time the New Testament church is being built and the Devil is bound from being able to deceive the nations to prevail against it. After that time is complete, I believe the Devil will be loosed to make assault upon the saints, unlike any that has ever been in the history of the world (Matt 24:21). Then Christ will come from heaven with salvation:

Rom 11:25-27 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits;

that **blindness in part is happened to Israel,** (Rom 11:5)

until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (Luke 21:24)

26 And so **all Israel shall be saved:** (Rom 9:6-8, Rom 2:28-29)

as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

I believe the **1st resurrection** is

the resurrection of the SOUL in Christ (Rom 6:4, 8:11; Eph 2:5-6; Col 2:12-13, 3:1-3; Phil 3:20; 1 Cor 15:21-22; Matt 22:31-32),

when we believe to be saved,

since we were 'dead' in sins (Eph 2:1, Col 2:13),

who reign with Him NOW

both while we are alive on earth,

and when we die physically and our soul goes to heaven.

I believe the **2nd resurrection** will be (1 Cor 6:14, 15:42-44,52; Phil 3:10-11,21 1 Thess 4:14; Luke 20:34-36)

the resurrection at the last day,

the resurrection after 'the thousand years' is finished,

when Christ comes in power and great glory

to punish His enemies and reward His saints.

1 Thess 3:13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father,

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

We will be covering these issues more thoroughly in the weeks ahead.

This is David Dowell saying, "Think about it!"