



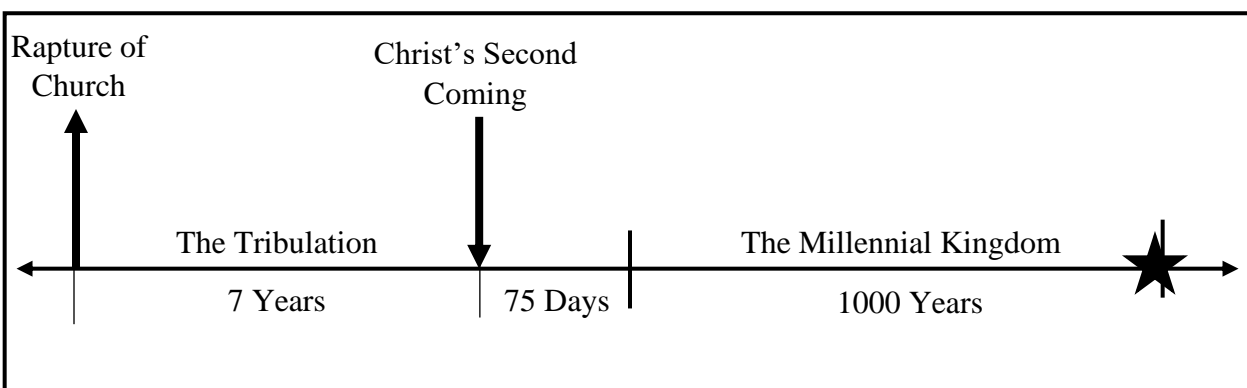
Eschatology – A Study of the End Times

Lesson 24: After the Millennial Kingdom

Introduction

The millennial kingdom is the one-thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth where Christ will rule from the throne of David that was promised in 2 Samuel 7. This will be a glorious time on earth where there will be longevity of life although there will still be death, and sin will be suppressed but not fully absent. Therefore, there will still be a longing for the eternal state where sin and death will be no more. For this to happen, there must be some things that take place at the end of the millennial kingdom before the eternal state is established. In this lesson, we are going to look at what takes place at the end of the millennial kingdom but before the eternal state.

Timeline of End Times



Satan Leads a Final Revolt¹

In Revelation 20, Satan is bound for a thousand years in the abyss so that he would not be able to deceive the nations (Rev. 20:2–3). This quarantine of Satan will effectively remove a powerfully destructive and deceptive force in all areas of human life in the millennial kingdom. However, Revelation 20:7–8 warns us that “when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations.”

¹ The following is adapted from *The End Times in Chronological Order* by Ron Rhodes.

Deception has always been at the heart of Satan’s activities because that is his character. John 8:44 says, “He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” All the way back in the Garden of Eden, Satan used a lie to bring about spiritual and physical death to mankind (Gen. 3:4, 13).

Things won’t be different when Satan is released from the abyss at the end of the millennial kingdom. At this time, he will continue to do what he has always done—deceive people. Since Christ’s throne will be in Jerusalem during the millennial kingdom, Satan will move his forces against Jerusalem with fervor.

Who will join forces with Satan?

Even though the millennial kingdom will involve the perfect government of Christ, it will also include mortal and fallen human beings. Matthew 25:31–46 tells us that only believers are invited into Christ’s millennial kingdom. But these people will give birth to babies and raise children, some of whom will not follow Christ and be saved. Although these unbelievers may live in obedience outwardly to the reign of Christ in the kingdom, inwardly they will desire to live rebelliously against Him.

Once Satan is released at the end of the millennium, he will deceive these unbelievers and lead many of them in a massive rebellion against Christ. Revelation 20:8 says, “the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.” These people will stand with Satan for one final attempt to overthrow Christ.

The Attack Against Jerusalem

Since Jerusalem will be the headquarters of Christ’s government in the millennial kingdom (Isa. 2:1–5), this will be the target city of Satan’s final revolt. Revelation 20:9 says, “And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.” The ‘beloved city’ is Jerusalem. However, when they seek to attack Jerusalem, John tells us what happens. He continues in Revelation 20:9 and says, “fire came down from heaven and devoured them.” This final revolt by Satan and his followers will be instantly squashed and have no chance of success.

The Clarification of Gog and Magog

In Revelation 20:8, it says Satan “will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war.” This is not the first time Gog and Magog are mentioned in the Bible. Gog and Magog are mentioned in prophetic detail in Ezekiel 38–39. So, what is the Gog and Magog war and when does it happen?

There is much debate around Gog and Magog. Those who hold to a dispensational, premillennial understanding of Scripture seem to view Magog as a reference to a northern kingdom who will invade Israel. Ezekiel 38:15–16 says, “You will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, all of them riding on horses, a great assembly and a mighty army; and you will come up against My people Israel like a cloud to cover the land.”

This northern kingdom will be led by Gog who is described in Ezekiel 38:2 as “of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal.” Who exactly is Gog? No one knows. However, he will be revealed when this future battle occurs.

When will the Gog and Magog war occur? There are five different views.²

- View #1: This invasion of Israel will take place right before the rapture of the church. The strength of this position is that it accounts for the burning of the weapons of war for seven years as mentioned in Ezekiel 39:9.
- View #2: This invasion will take place after the rapture of the church, but before the tribulation begins. It will be during the interval of days, weeks, months or years between the rapture and the start of the seven-year tribulation. This view also accounts for the seven years of Ezekiel 39:9.
- View #3: Perhaps the most widely held view put forth within dispensational literature is that this invasion will take place around the middle of the seven-year tribulation. This view often identifies Ezekiel 38–39 with an invasion of the king of the north in Daniel 11:40. Another major argument is based upon the statement that Israel will be “living securely, all of them” (Ezek. 38:8), which is the result of the false peace brought by the antichrist in the first half of the tribulation.
- View #4: A significant number of Bible teachers believe that the Gog and Magog event is synonymous with what the Book of Revelation calls the Campaign of Armageddon. Since Armageddon is a huge invasion of Israel around the time of the second coming and the invasion of Israel described in Ezekiel 38–39 is said to be in “the latter years” (Ezek. 38:8) and “in the last days” (Ezek. 38:16), then they must be the same event.
- View #5: The last view is that the invasion will take place after the millennial kingdom but before the eternal state. The basis for this is that Revelation 20:8 mentions Gog and Magog during this final battle when Satan is released.

Although Gog and Magog are mentioned in Revelation 20:8, there are many reasons why this final battle is not the Ezekiel 38–39 Gog and Magog war. First, chronologically it does not fit with Ezekiel 38–39. The invasion described in Ezekiel is part of the larger section of Ezekiel’s book that deals with the restoration of Israel (Ezek. 33–39). It is then followed by another large section that deals with the Jewish millennial temple and the restoration of sacrifices (Ezek. 40–48). Therefore, the invasion of Gog and Magog must be before the millennial kingdom.

Second, there will be seven months required to bury dead bodies after this war. This cannot take place at the end of the millennial kingdom because at the end fire will come down in incinerate those who stand with Satan (Rev. 20:9). Burial will not be necessary.

Third, Ezekiel 39:9 says it will take seven years to burn the weapons from the war. In the chronology of Revelation 20, right after the final battle with Satan comes the great white throne

² The five views are taken from Thomas Ice, “Ezekiel 38 & 39 (Part 1)”, <https://www.pre-trib.org/ezekiel-38-39/message/ezekiel-38-39-part-1/read>, accessed May 1, 2025.

judgment and then the eternal state. It does not make sense that there would be burning of weapons in the first seven years of the eternal state.

Why does John mention Gog and Magog in Revelation 20:8?

It seems that John was using the terms Gog and Magog to describe the postmillennial revolt by Satan against Jerusalem. He was simply using the terms Gog and Magog as a shorthanded metaphor to refer to this final revolt. When John's readers see the terms Gog and Magog they would draw the right connection and understand that the invasion of Jerusalem at the end of the millennium would be similar to what Ezekiel described. In other words, this invasion will be a Gog-Magog-like invasion.

Satan Is Cast into the Lake of Fire

Revelation 20:10 says, "And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever." Satan will join the antichrist and false prophet who were thrown into the lake of fire prior to the beginning of the millennial kingdom. They will have been in torment for one thousand years and Satan will join them to be tormented for all eternity. They will receive justly what is due.

Along with Satan, the antichrist, and the false prophet will be the demons who served Satan. Matthew 25:41 refers to "the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels." All demonic spirits who have been against Christ and His people will one day be judged and receive a just judgment.

The Final Resurrection: The Great White Throne Judgment

Every person from the beginning of time will experience a future resurrection. In that resurrection, each person will either experience life eternal with Christ or they will experience judgment and separation from Christ. John 5:28–29 says, "an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment." Revelation 20:5–6 speaks of the "the first resurrection," which is the resurrection of the saved. However, there will be a second or final resurrection which is the resurrection of the unsaved at the great white throne judgment.

We could break the first resurrection of the saved down into four parts or phases. 1) The resurrection of Christ. He died and rose again never to die again. 2) The saved at the rapture of the church. These saints will be raptured to be with Christ forever (1 Thess. 4:17). 3) The tribulation and Old Testament saints at the second coming of Christ. This will most likely happen in the 75-day period between the end of the tribulation and beginning of the millennial kingdom. 4) The millennial saints. Any believer who dies during the millennial kingdom will most likely be raised either during the millennium or at the end of the one-thousand-year kingdom.

At the end of the millennial kingdom there will also be a resurrection of the unsaved. All the unsaved people of all time will be resurrected and judged at the great white throne judgment. The

bodies of these unsaved people will also be imperishable and immortal and will suffer eternal torment for denying Christ.

At this final judgment of the unsaved, these people will be judged according to their deeds (Rev. 20:12–13). At this moment they will already be unsaved, and it will be too late for them to repent. Once they stand before the Judge they will be judged according to their works not only to justify their condemnation but also to determine the degree to which each person will be punished throughout eternity. The Scriptures indicate that there will be degrees of punishment in hell (Matt. 10:15; 16:27; 26:24; Luke 12:47–48; 20:47; Rev. 20:12–13). These degrees of punishment will be determined at the great white throne judgment when Christ examines each person's work.

The Lake of Fire

The best English translations of the Old Testament don't include the word *hell*. Instead, they transliterate the Hebrew word *Sheol*. *Sheol* can have different meanings in different contexts. Sometimes the word means “grave.” Other times it refers to the place of departed people in contrast to the state of living people. The Old Testament portrays *Sheol* as a place of horror (Psa. 55:15) and punishment (Job 24:19; Psa. 9:17).

When we get to the New Testament, we find that several words relate to the doctrine of hell. *Hades* seems to be the New Testament counterpart to *Sheol*. *Hades* is a temporary abode and will one day be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14). In the future, the wicked in *Hades* will be raised from the dead and judged at the great white throne judgment and cast into the lake of fire, which will be their permanent place of suffering throughout all eternity.

Another word related to the concept of hell is *Gehenna* (Matt. 10:28). This word has an interesting history. For several generations, ancient Israel committed atrocities in the Valley of Ben Hinnom—including human sacrifices, and even the sacrifice of children to the false Moabite god, Molech (2 Kings 23:10; 2 Chron. 28:3; 33:6; Jer. 32:35). Jeremiah appropriately called this valley a “valley of slaughter” (Jer. 7:31–34). Eventually the valley came to be used as a public rubbish dump into which all the filth in Jerusalem was poured. Not only garbage but also the bodies of dead animals and the corpses of criminals were thrown on the heap, where they perpetually burned. The valley fires never stopped burning. And there was always a good meal for a hungry worm. This place became an appropriate and graphic term for the reality of hell. Jesus Himself used the word eleven times in reference to the eternal place of suffering of unredeemed humanity.

The *lake of fire* is another term for hell. The lake of fire will be the eternal abode of Satan, demons, the antichrist, the false prophet, and unbelievers throughout all history (Rev. 19:20; 20:10–15). It will be populated by the unsaved following the great white throne judgment. Those who are in the lake of fire will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Scriptures assure us that hell is a real place. But hell was not part of God's original creation, which He called good (Gen. 1). Hell was created later to accommodate the banishment of Satan

and his fallen angels who rebelled against God (Matt. 25:41). Everyone who rejects Christ will join Satan and his fallen angels in this infernal place of suffering.

Application:

1. Practice discernment. Satan's greatest tactic is to lie and deceive people. Stay grounded in the truth of God's Word so that you won't be deceived by the lies of the enemy.
2. Praise Christ for being our conquering King. Although Satan will give one final attempt to overthrow Christ, he won't succeed. Praise God!
3. Thank the Lord for saving you from an eternity in the lake of fire. Because of the work of Christ in every believer's life, they will be saved from eternal torment and will enjoy eternal life with the King.