

ent walls of jasper. It will be too late to decide then. If Jesus is first in our lives today, He will guide us to victory. Shall we not respond to this gracious invitation while there is still time?



When God makes all things new, is it your desire to be safe inside the Holy City? _____

A large, colorful illustration for a lesson. At the top left is a lit candle. The title "Life's VITAL ANSWERS" is written in large, bold, yellow-green letters. Below it, "1000 Years of Peace." is written in a similar font. The word "Heaven" is written in large white letters. The central part of the image shows a globe of the Earth with various scenes of people and animals (like a tiger) around it. To the left, the words "Second Coming" are written in white. To the right, "New Earth" is written in white. At the bottom right, "Lesson 5" is written in yellow.

After Jesus' Second Coming tremendous events take place. Before the complete restoration of this sinful planet is accomplished, a period of 1,000 years must pass. What happens on the earth during this time? Where are God's people? What about the devil? The Bible provides very clear answers to these questions. The period of 1,000 years is commonly known as the 'millennium'. This word is not found in the Bible, but is an English word made up of two Latin terms, 'milli' (1,000) and 'annus' (a year), meaning simply 'one thousand years'.



John 5:28,29 "Do not be amazed at this, _____

_____—those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."

Here is clearly shown two resurrections – one for the righteous, and one for the wicked. But when do these resurrections take place?

1 Thess. 4:16,17 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

The resurrection of the righteous takes place when Jesus comes the second time, and the righteous living are caught up with the Lord. Also it is clear that the righteous now enter into Christ's presence, which joy will last for eternity.

Revelation 20:4 . . . They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

It is obvious that the saved of God are especially privileged during this thousand years, in that they not only live with Him, but also reign.

Sin and sinners are destroyed forever.

Revelation 21:1,4 Then _____,

for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."



God now creates all things new. Every trace of sin is gone. As it was when God first made a perfect world, so all is perfect and happy once again. The way of sin and death is gone forever, and we enter into the period called Eternity.

When the Holy City descends from heaven, we will either be on the inside looking out, or on the outside looking in through those transpar-

	First Resurrection	Second Resurrection
LAST DAYS	1,000 YEARS	ETERNITY
Jesus returns	Righteous in heaven	Christ, saints and city descend
Righteous dead raised	Wicked remain dead	Wicked dead raised
Living saints caught up	Satan bound by chain of circumstances	Satan loosed
Wicked slain	Earth at rest	Last judgment
Satan bound		Satan and sinners destroyed
Earth desolated		Earth cleansed and renewed

Revelation 21:2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.



The heavenly city descends to earth

The descent of the city is not described in Revelation 20, but evidently the event has occurred, as the city is mentioned as being on the earth in Revelation Chapter 20 verse 9.

Revelation 20:7-9 When the thousand years are over, _____ and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

The second resurrection has now taken place and Satan loses no time in deceiving the nations. He encourages them to make war with the saved of God and take the holy city by force. The wicked are fighting a lost cause, but make a last desperate attempt to secure the reward they do not deserve. As they prepare for a takeover, God steps into the picture and destroys them by fire.

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown.

Not only are the wicked consumed, but the devil himself, and his associates are cast, into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14,15 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. _____. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:5 (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection.

The millennium is bounded by two resurrections. The resurrection of the righteous at the beginning, and the resurrection of the wicked at the end. “The first resurrection” in this text refers to those who live and reign with Christ, mentioned in verses 4 and 6. Obviously, the righteous are with Christ during the millennium, being already raised, so the “rest of the dead” refers to those who will be raised at the end of the 1,000 years – the second resurrection.

Revelation 20:6 _____ The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Only those who take part in the first resurrection receive the reward of everlasting life. The “second death” suggests a second resurrection; otherwise one could not die the second time. Total and final destruction is the fate of all who suffer the penalty of the second death.

2 Thess. 1:7,8 . . . and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those

_____ and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

At Jesus’ Second Coming the wicked are slain, and remain dead until the end of the one thousand years.



Jeremiah 25:33 At that time those slain by the LORD will be everywhere—from one end of the earth to the other. _____, but will be like refuse lying on the ground.

Jeremiah 25:30-33 is a prophecy foretelling the destruction of all na-

tions. Here we see a picture of complete destruction. The wicked are slain, and as we noted previously, the righteous are in heaven. Consequently, during the one thousand years there will be no human beings living on the earth.

Isaiah 24:1 See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants



This is a prophecy originally addressed to literal Israel, but will finally be fulfilled at the Lord's Second Coming. It parallels with the predictions of Revelation Chapter 20.

The earth will be totally desolate during the millennium

Jeremiah 4:23-27 I looked at the earth, and _____; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. This is what the LORD says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely.

Here is a prophecy with a dual application. Jerusalem was destroyed, therefore fulfilling the prediction, but a deeper application is evident, for the earth was formless and empty. Also, these things would occur "at the presence of the Lord" which refers to the Second Coming of Christ.

Just as Israel returned from captivity to Jerusalem (because God did not make a full end) so the one thousand years desolation is only an interim, and not the final destruction.

Luke 17:28-30 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and _____. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."

Jesus Himself was quite clear about the earth's complete destruction at His coming. It parallels the wiping out of Sodom and Gomorrah when God brought about total annihilation. Any suggestion that life will continue as normal during the one thousand years is unthinkable. When Jesus comes, this planet will be rendered completely uninhabitable.

Revelation 20:1-3 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and _____. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

The term "bottomless pit" and "Abyss", comes from the Greek word 'Abussos', which means a dark, waste, desolate region, a state of chaos. The same word from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament described the earth before God created life – "without form and void". Most modern translators use the word 'abyss'. This place of emptiness is Satan's prison house during the thousand years.

Literal chains cannot bind a spirit being such as Satan; Satan is bound by a chain of circumstances. The saints are in heaven, the wicked are dead, and therefore the devil has no person to tempt. He is bound to this earth with nothing to do but reflect upon the results of his corrupt work.



Notice, however, that his deception is not yet over, for when the thousand years are expired, he is set free for a short time. This indicates the loosing of his chains by having people to tempt once again. He cannot deceive during the millennium because there is no person to tempt, but now, at the end of the thousand years, the "second resurrection" of the wicked takes place, and he carries on his work.

Satan bound by a chain of circumstances, he has nothing to do and can't leave the desolate earth