



THE GOLDEN AGE

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





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The Golden Age

SERMON REFERENCE: Revelation 20:1-10

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2369

Revelation 20 speaks of the coming Golden Age—a day when the Garden of Eden will be restored. There will be no more poverty or war. Israel will be restored to her land. Jerusalem will be the world's capital. The resurrected saints will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.

We call this the millennium.

Theologians have divided their thoughts about the millennium into three basic categories: amillennialism, postmillennialism and premillennialism.

Amillennialists believe that the millennium is an allegory for Jesus ruling through the modern church.

Postmillennialists believe there must be one thousand years of peace on earth before Jesus Christ can come back. There aren't many postmillennialists around today, because the world is falling deeper and deeper into sin, as the Bible teaches. Adrian Rogers says, "The Gospel is not something to save civilization from wreckage. The Gospel is God's plan to save men from the wreckage of civilization."

Therefore, the final category, premillennialism, believes that Jesus must come before we can have a thousand years of peace here on this earth. Jesus will rule and reign on earth from Jerusalem. If we believe this interpretation, we have much to look forward to about the Golden Age.

First, there will be a forceful restraint of Satan. Today, Satan roams the earth like a lion. In the millennium, this roaring lion will be chained.

Second, there will be the future reign of the Savior. The Lord Jesus Christ will reign on earth, and the saints will reign and rule with Him. All kingdoms on earth will be changed.

Third, there will be a final rebellion of the sinners. God, who is always sovereign, will allow Satan to have one final fling; why? It is God's final testimony to the wickedness of the human heart.

Finally, we can anticipate the fixed resolution of sin. Jesus will do away with sin, cast Satan into the lake of fire and deliver the kingdom to Almighty God.

We should be encouraged by this. We should anticipate Jesus's Second Coming. We should evangelize to others so they may know the truth of the Gospel. And we should examine our hearts to make sure we have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

LIFE APPLICATION

What does this mean for us now? Our major responsibility in this day and age is to prepare men for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by the preaching of the Gospel.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) There is coming a day on planet Earth when the Garden of Eden will be restored.
 - i) The entire Earth will blossom as the rose.
 - ii) There will be no more poverty.
 - iii) There will be no need for prisons.
 - iv) There will be no need for hospitals.
 - v) There will be no need for mental health facilities.
 - vi) There will be no military bases.
 - vii) There will be no gambling dens or houses of prostitution.
 - (1) There will be no more sin.
 - viii) Everyone will be youthful.
 - ix) The lion and the lamb, the calf and the lion, the little child and the serpent will play together.
 - x) War will be a thing of the past.
 - xi) Israel will be restored to her land, and Jerusalem will be the world's capitol.
 - xii) The resurrected saints will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus.
 - xiii) The Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea.
 - xiv) We call this time period "the Millennium."
- b) The word "millennium" means one thousand years.
 - i) Mille means thousand.
 - ii) Anum means years.
 - iii) Revelation 20:2-7
 - iv) The Millennium is the coming 1000 year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Earth.
- c) There are three basic schools of thought among theologians regarding the Millennium:
 - i) Amillennialism
 - (1) This is the belief that there is no Millennium.
 - (2) Amillennialists take the prophecies that deal with the Millennium and spiritualize or allegorize them; they do not believe in the literal fulfillment of prophecy that speaks of Jesus ruling and reigning here on Earth.
 - (3) Amillennialists take the promises that God has given to Israel and apply them to the church instead.
 - (a) They apply the blessings to the church while applying the curses to Israel.
 - (4) They believe the Millennium is an allegory for Jesus ruling and reigning through the church.
 - ii) Post-millennialism
 - (1) The word "post" means "after."



- (2) Post-millennialists believe that Jesus Christ is coming after the Millennium.
 - (a) There must be 1000 years of peace on Earth before Jesus Christ can come back.
- (3) They believe that the church has been assigned to Christianize the world; and after we bring in the golden age by preaching the Gospel, then Jesus will come again.
 - (a) However, instead of the world getting better and better, the Bible teaches that the world will continue to grow worse and worse.
 - (b) The Gospel is not something to save civilization from wreckage; it is God's plan to save man from the wreckage of civilization.
 - (c) By preaching the Gospel, we are not necessarily bringing in the Kingdom; we are getting people ready for the Kingdom that will appear when Jesus comes again.
- (4) Post-millennialists do not believe in the immanency of Jesus' return; they do not expect Jesus to come at any moment.
 - (a) With the post-millennial view, even if the Millennium began today, we would have to wait one thousand years for Christ to come again.

iii) Pre-Millennialism

- (1) Pre-millennialists believe that Jesus must come before we can have one thousand years of peace here on Earth.
 - (2) Jesus will literally come in power and great glory to rule and reign on Earth.
 - (3) Our major responsibility in this day and age is to get people ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus by preaching the Gospel.
- d) There are four basic things about the golden age that is to come that we will see in this passage in the book of the Revelation.

2) THE FORCEFUL RESTRAINT OF SATAN (Revelation 20:1-3)

- a) In the golden age, or the Millennium, Satan will be bound.
 - i) Today, Satan is going about as a roaring lion.
 - (1) 1 Peter 5:8
 - ii) There is coming a time when this roaring lion will be chained and cast into prison.
 - (1) He will be sentenced to one thousand years in the bottomless pit.
 - (a) This is not his final destination but a holding tank until he is finally cast into the lake of fire.
- b) The indictments against Satan:
 - i) He is charged with murder.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called a dragon.
 - (a) In the names given to him, we see Satan's wicked character.
 - (3) John 8:44
 - (4) Satan brings spiritual, physical and eternal death.
 - (5) John 10:10
 - ii) He is charged with extortion, perjury and deception.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called a serpent.



- (a) The word “serpent” in the Bible speaks of deception.
 - iii) He is charged with slander, liable, defamation and blasphemy.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called the devil.
 - (a) The word “devil” means accuser.
 - (3) He slanders God before men and men before God.
 - iv) He is charged as being an adversary of God; he is charged with high treason against Heaven’s King.
 - (1) Revelation 20:2
 - (2) He is called Satan.
 - (a) The word “Satan” means adversary.
 - (3) He is an accomplice to every crime.
 - c) In this passage in Revelation, an angel holds the key to the bottomless pit, and Satan is cast into that pit.
 - d) Isaiah 14:12-17
 - i) In this passage, we see the biography of Satan.
 - (1) He was once Lucifer, the son of the morning, before he fell.
 - (2) Lucifer means “light bearer.”
 - ii) He will be brought so low that those who see him in the pit will have to squint to see him.
- 3) THE FUTURE REIGN OF THE SAVIOR (Revelation 20:4-6)
 - a) During the Millennium, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign on the Earth, and the saints will reign and rule with Him.
 - i) Jesus taught us to pray this very thing – the Lord’s Prayer.
 - ii) Matthew 6:9-13
 - b) Human kingdoms will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 2:2-4
 - c) The animal kingdom will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 11:6-9
 - d) The mineral kingdom will be changed.
 - i) Isaiah 35:1
 - e) This passage in Revelation 20 speaks of the first resurrection.
 - i) There is no general resurrection; the Bible speaks of a first and a second resurrection.
 - ii) Those who are in the first resurrection are blessed and holy.
 - f) The first resurrection is a composite of three general aspects, likened unto a harvest in the Old Testament:
 - i) The firstfruits
 - (1) 1 Corinthians 15:20-23
 - (2) The firstfruits were a promise of the harvest to come.
 - (3) Christ is called the firstfruits.
 - (a) When Jesus came out of the grave, He was showing the harvest that is to come.
 - (4) There were saints, who had died, that were raised at the time of Jesus’ resurrection.



- (a) Matthew 27:52-53
 - ii) The general harvest
 - (1) This takes place at the rapture of the church.
 - (a) This is the general ingathering.
 - (b) This could happen at any moment.
 - (2) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - iii) The gleanings
 - (1) There will be people who are saved during the Great Tribulation.
 - (a) Revelation 7
 - (2) This is the resurrection of the Tribulation saints.
 - g) We, not angels, will be raised to rule and to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) Hebrews 2:5
 - (1) There is a world to come, but angels are not in charge of it.
 - ii) 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
 - iii) Romans 16:20
- 4) THE FINAL REBELLION OF SINNERS (Revelation 20:7-9)
 - a) God, who is always sovereign, will release Satan from the pit for one final fling.
 - i) This is God's final testimony to the wickedness of the human heart.
 - ii) It is mankind's final test.
 - (1) Not everyone will be saved during the Millennium.
 - b) There will be no uprising; Satan will not be leading in rebellion.
 - i) Latent sin will still be down in the human heart if it is not washed by the blood of Jesus.
 - ii) God has many children but no grandchildren.
 - (1) Just because your parents may have been Christians does not mean that you are a Christian.
 - c) In the Millennium, there will be God's children, but there will also be those who are children of God's children who have never been saved.
 - i) After a thousand years, these will rebel against God when Satan is let loose.
 - d) God is demonstrating two great principles during this final rebellion:
 - i) Punishment is not the final answer.
 - (1) Prisons are necessary, but they are not the final answer.
 - ii) Environment is not the final answer.
 - (1) After one thousand years of peace and righteousness, latent sin down in the human heart bubbles forth.
 - (2) It was in the Garden of Eden that man got into trouble in the first place.
 - (a) Only Jesus is the answer.
- 5) THE FIXED RESOLUTION OF SIN (Revelation 20:9-10)
 - a) Satan is finally cast into the lake of fire.
 - b) Sin will be finished; the problem of sin will be fixed forever.
 - c) The rebels in the final rebellion will experience a fiery death.



- i) This is not Armageddon.
- d) Matthew 25:41
 - i) This is the final resolution of sin.
- e) 1 Corinthians 15:24-25

6) CONCLUSION

- a) What does this mean to us?
 - i) It means encouragement.
 - (1) The Gospel has not failed.
 - (2) We are not trying to make the world better so that Jesus can come; we are waiting for Jesus to come.
 - ii) It means anticipation.
 - (1) Jesus Christ can come at any moment.
 - (2) Matthew 24:44
 - iii) It means evangelism.
 - (1) We need to tell people about Jesus.
 - iv) It means examination.
 - (1) Are you saved?
 - (2) You can be saved today.
 - (3) Ephesians 2:8-9
 - (a) Grace is God, in love, reaching down to you.
 - (b) Faith is your hand reaching up to God.
 - (c) When you put your hand of faith into God's hand of grace, that is salvation.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Take God's precious Word and find Revelation chapter 20, if you will. We're going to begin in the first verse in just a moment. But we're talking about the millennium, the golden age. Did you know there's coming a day right here on planet Earth when the Garden of Eden will be restored? What I mean by that is this, that the entire earth will blossom as the rose.

Can you imagine what Eden must have been like? They tell a story of Cain and Abel one day after Adam had been expelled from the Garden. That they found this wall and they climbed up and looked over and saw Eden and they went back to their father, Adam, and said, "Daddy, you'll never believe what we saw." And they described the Garden of Eden, its luxury, its fruit, its blossoms, all of the wonderful, glorious things there in Eden. And they said, "Daddy, do you think we could ever live in a place like that?" And Adam said, "We did once boys before your Mother ate us out of house and home." Well, we can't blame Eve any more than we can blame Adam. But I want to tell you, friend, there is a time when we will live in a place like that. There is coming a golden age.

Can you imagine a time when there will be no more poverty? Every man will have all that his heart would desire? There'll be no prisons. There'll be no hospitals. There'll be no mental institutions. There'll be no army bases. There'll be no gambling dens. There'll be no houses of prostitution. The bloom of youth will be on everyone's cheek. The wolf and the lamb, the calf and the lion, and the little child and the serpent will all play together. The implements of war will be a relic of the past. Israel will be restored to her land. Jerusalem will be the world's capital. The saints resurrected will rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ. The desert will blossom as a rose and the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea. We call that; the millennium. The word millennium means thousand years. Mille means thousand, anum means year. We speak of something being annual; we speak of it being yearly.

Look if you will in Revelation 20 and the last part of verse 2, "A thousand years." Look in verse 3, the last part of verse 3, "The thousand years." Look in the last part of verse 4, "A thousand years." Look in the first part of verse 5, "Until the thousand years were finished." Look in the last part of verse 6, "Reign with Him a thousand years." Look in the first part of verse 7, "When the thousand years are expired." A thousand years, a thousand years, a thousand years, ten times ten times ten, a thousand years. Mille-annum, the millennium, that's what we're talking about now, and that age is a golden age.

Now actually, theologians have divided their thoughts about the millennium into three basic schools. And I'll get a little tedious here, but you need to know this. One school is called amillennialism. The second school is called post-millennialism. And the third school is called premillennialism. Now, let's just think just a moment about this. What does an amillennialist believe? He actually believes there is no millennium. Now, the more moderate theologians generally are amillennialists. Not all. Some real, true Bible believers are amillennialists. But if you put the alpha prefix in front of a word, it just removes the word. Amillennial, means literally no millennium. Let's



take our word amuse. Do you know what amuse means? It means not to think. Amuse. If you want to think, you go to a museum. If you want to amuse, you turn on the television; amuse. And you watch television till your eyes get big as coconuts and your brain the size of a pea. And we have people who are amusing themselves into Hell.

Well, amillennial means, no millennium. What these people have done is they've taken all of the prophecies that deal with the millennium, and they have spiritualized them away or allegorized them. And they do not look for the literal fulfillment of prophecy that speaks of Jesus ruling and reigning here on earth. They do not believe that God is going to fulfill His promises concerning Israel to Israel as such. As a matter of fact, they have taken the promises that God has given to Israel as a nation and a people and they have applied them to the church. It's a pretty slick thing that they've done. They've taken all the blessings and given them to the church and taken all the curses and given them to Israel. And that's amillennialism. They believe that the millennium is just an allegory for Jesus ruling and reigning through the church. That's amillennialism. Obviously, I am not an amillennialist.

Then there are post-millennialists. The word post means after. They're people that believe that Jesus Christ is coming after the millennium. That is, there must be one thousand years of peace on earth before Jesus Christ can come back. They think that the church has been assigned to Christianize the world, and after we bring in the golden age by the preaching of the Gospel, then Jesus will come again.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, that was somewhat popular, but you won't find many post-millennialists around today because rather than their theory of the world getting better and better, the world is getting, like the Bible teaches, worse and worse. And we're going deeper and deeper into sin.

The Bible doesn't teach that someday some golden age will come and that we, as Christians, are to Christianize the world and to change society by the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If I were a post-millennialist, I would be a very discouraged man after World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and now the terrorism that is sweeping the world. The world is not getting better and better, the world is getting worse and worse. And if you make the preaching of the Gospel that which is going to bring in the Kingdom, you're going to be a pessimist. And if you make the preaching of the Gospel that which is going to bring in the Kingdom as such, you're going to assign to the Gospel a task that God never assigned to the Gospel. God never said that the Gospel was going to bring in the Kingdom, as such.

Now, what is the Gospel? The Gospel is not something to save civilization from wreckage. The Gospel is God's plan to save men from the wreckage of civilization. And so, you're not necessarily bringing in the Kingdom by preaching the Gospel. You're saving men and getting men ready for the Kingdom that will appear when Jesus comes again.

Now, if you believe, if you're a post-millennialist, then you've done away completely with the immanency of the return of Jesus. I personally am expecting Jesus to come at any moment. But if I were a post-millennialist, I'd have to wait a thousand years, even if the millennium began today, for Jesus to come again. So there are amillennialists. I'm not one of those. There are post-millennialists.



I'm not one of those. Now, I am a premillennialist, and that's what I hope you are or will be before I finish this message.

What is, what is premillennialism? Premillennialism believes that Jesus must come before we can have a thousand years of peace here on this earth. That Jesus is going to come in power and great glory, and He's going to rule and reign from Jerusalem. And our major responsibility in this day and in this age is to get men ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by the preaching of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Having said that, let's look into our Scripture today, and I want to lay four basic things on your heart about the golden age that is going to come, the millennium, the rule and reign of Jesus Christ here on earth. The first factor I want you to see is what I'm going to call the forceful restraint of Satan.

Look if you will in Revelation 20 verses 1 through 3, "And I saw an angel." Now this is John speaking; John is having a revelation, "I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years." And then we're going to see that in verse 3, "He 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, and after that he must be loosed a little season."

In the golden age, the millennium, Satan will be bound. Now today, he's going about as a roaring lion. Put in your margin, First Peter chapter 5 and verse 8, "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Now, if you knew that in our city there was a lion on the loose, and he was very hungry and very ravenous, you'd look around as you walked. You would be careful. You would be sober. You would be vigilant. But there's coming a time when this roaring lion will be chained, and he will be cast into prison. The court has met. The gavel has fallen. The arch criminal, Satan, has been pronounced guilty and he receives the longest prison sentence in history, one thousand years. And the place of his confinement is a prison house known as, "The bottomless pit." That's not his final destination as we are going to see. It's a holding tank until he is finally cast into the liquid lake of fire.

Now why is he done, why is he so adjudicated guilty? What is the indictment against him? Well look in Revelation 20 verse 2. Look at the names that are given to him, and in his names you'll see his wicked character. For example, he's called a dragon. A dragon is ferocious. A dragon is murderous. And Satan is a murderer. John chapter 8 and verse 44; see what Jesus said, "Ye are of your father," talking to the unsaved, "You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do, he was a murderer from the beginning." Satan is charged with murder. He brings death to youth, death to happiness, death to purity, death to holiness, spiritual death, physical death, eternal death; he is a killer. The thief comes but to kill and to steal and to destroy. So he's charged with that crime.

Now not only is he called a dragon, he is called, in this passage, Revelation 20 verse 2, a serpent. The word serpent in the Bible speaks of deception. The Bible calls him, "The serpent that deceives the whole world." And so we charge him with extortion. He is a deceiver. We charge him with perjury.



We charge him with deception.

But now not only that, he's also called the devil. The word devil means accuser. And Satan is charged with slander. He's charged with liable. He's charged with defamation. He is charged with blasphemy because he is the slanderer. He slanders God before men and men before God and therefore he is adjudicated guilty.

Also, he is called Satan. The word Satan means adversary. That's what the word literally means. And this is another charge against him. He is charged as being the adversary of God. Satan is charged with high treason against Heaven's King. And the gavel has fallen and Satan is guilty. Behind every jail, behind every hospital, behind every asylum, behind every child molestation, behind every rape, behind all pillage, all arson, all hatefulness, all hellishness, is Satan. He is an accomplice to every crime, high crime against God, and he is now adjudicated guilty and cast into prison.

Now there's an angel that has a key to the bottomless pit, the abyss. This is the prison house where Satan is incarcerated. At one time in our study we saw that Satan had that key. Satan opened the bottomless pit and loosed a demon horde upon the earth. But now an angel has that key and Satan himself is cast into that bottomless pit. One day we will see him there.

I want you, if you would, to turn to Isaiah 14. Put a bookmark in Revelation 20 and turn to Isaiah chapter 14. And there you're going to see a brief biography of Satan. Look, if you will, in verses 12 through 17, "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" The word Lucifer means light bearer. He was son of the morning when, in his glorious state before he fell. "How are thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou has said in thine heart, 'I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.'" Do you hear his arrogance? I will, I will, I will, I will. I'll be like God. "I'll be like the Most High."

Verse 15, "Yet thou shalt be brought down to Hell, to the sides of the pit," this is the pit we've been studying about in Revelation, "to the sides of the pit. And they that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, 'Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms, that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?'" Is this the one?

Now the Bible says, "They that see thee," there he is down in the pit, "shall look narrowly upon thee." Now what does that mean, "to look narrowly upon thee?" They're going to have to squint to see him. You mean that's him? That worm? That is the one who is going to exalt himself above God? The lowest of the low in a pit so low it doesn't even have a bottom. You have to squint to see him. You say, "Oh, that was the guy, the one who was living so big, high, and handsome." No, Satan is going to be put into the bottomless pit. Satan is not chained now. The amillennialists will tell us that Satan is chained now. If he's chained now, he's got an awful long chain on him. He's not chained now, but he will be chained and he'll be cast into, headlong into the bottomless pit. So that's the first thing I want you to see the forceful restraint of Satan.

Second thing I want you to see is the future reign of the Savior, the future reign of the Savior. Look now beginning in Revelation 20 verses 4 to 6, "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and



judgment was given unto them, and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus.” That’s many who will die by the guillotine in the Great Tribulation. “And for the Word of God, 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,” underscore that, “they lived and they reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Now during the millennium, the Lord Jesus Christ will reign on earth, and the saints will reign and rule with Him. Do you say, “Pastor Rogers, do you think there’s going to be here upon this globe again the literal reign and rule of the Lord Jesus Christ?” Yes I do. And you ought to. How many times have you prayed this prayer from Matthew 6:10, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,” where? “On earth! As it is in Heaven.” Has it yet been done on earth as it is in Heaven? No. Will it be? Yes! Why? Because Jesus taught us to pray that. Would Jesus ever teach us to pray something that’s outside the will of God? “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” At that time, when Jesus rules and reigns, human kingdoms will be changed.

Put in your margin Isaiah 2. Isaiah, the prince of the prophets, verses 2 through 4, “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 into it. And many people shall go and say, ‘Come ye, let us go up into 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. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Human kingdoms will be changed.

The animal kingdom will be changed. Put in your margin Isaiah 11 verses 6 through 9, “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. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp,” that means the viper, “and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as waters that cover the sea.” The animal kingdom will be changed.

The mineral kingdom will be changed. Put in your margin Isaiah 35 verse 1, “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” Sahara will be a veritable garden, and we who are saints are going to rule and reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible says in this passage we’re going to be in the first resurrection. There’s not a general resurrection. There is a first and a second resurrection. Those who are in the first resurrection are those who are blessed and holy. Revelation 20 verse 6, “Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection.” Now, the first resurrection is a composite of three general aspects. You



know, the Bible speaks in the First Corinthians 15 verses 20 to 23 about Christ being the firstfruits, "And afterward they that are Christ's at His coming." So the analogy is that the resurrection, the first resurrection, is like a harvest.

In the Old Testament, the harvest was divided into three parts. First of all, there were the firstfruits. When the harvest was ripening, the priest would go into the field and get some of that first ripened grain, take a sheath of that, bring it into the temple and wave it before the Lord. It's called a wave offering. It's the firstfruits, saying, "Lord, thank You for this shaft, this sheath of wheat. Lord, it's a promise of the harvest that is to come."

Christ is called, "The first-fruits." When Jesus came out of that grave, He was the first-fruits. He's showing the harvest that's going to come. As a matter of fact, if you will read the Scriptures carefully, read Matthew chapter 27 verses 52 and 53, you'll find out that when Jesus came out of that grave, there were a number of saints that were resurrected at that time. Some people miss that, a handful of saints, these are the firstfruits. Christ and those who were raised with Him. That's the firstfruits.

Now, next comes the general harvest; the general ingathering. When is that? At the rapture of the church! Now Christ has died and He's gone to glory. When He comes again there's coming the rapture of the church and that is the general harvest. That could come at any moment. First Thessalonians 4 verses 16 and 17, "When the dead in Christ shall rise and we who are remain or alive will be caught up with them to meet the Lord in the air." But then during the Great Tribulation, there're going to be people who are saved during the Great Tribulation. Read Revelation chapter 7.

And so, you have the firstfruits, you have the harvest, and now you have the gleanings. You have the gleanings. This is the resurrection of the tribulation saints, because they too, those who were beheaded for Christ, they're going to have to be raised. And so all of the firstfruits, the general ingathering and the gleanings, that's the first resurrection. And we're going to be raised to rule and to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who is going to rule other than the Lord Jesus during the millennium? Not angels. Put this down, Hebrews 2 verse 5, "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." There is a world to come but the angels are not in charge of it. First Corinthians 6, I hope you're jotting these down, verses 2 and 3, "Know ye not that the saints shall judge the world? And if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" We, I mean, folks like us, we shall judge angels. "How much more the things that pertain to this life." What he's saying is, if one of these days you're going to have the responsibility of judging angels, can't you take care of the little petty problems that you have in the church today?

And Romans 16 verse 20, "And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly." Under your feet, my feet, our feet, the church! No friend, we are going to reign with the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is the reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Won't that be a wonderful day? When the criminal is in prison, when Israel is back in her land, when the bride is with the bridegroom and the King is on His throne. That, my friend, is the millennium. That is the golden age. That is the day that's going to come.

Now here's the third thing. There's going to come the final rebellion of sinners. Sometimes we think everything is all ready, it's all done, Satan is locked away and then we say, "Oh no, he's back!



He's back." Look if you will Revelation 20 verses 7 to 9, "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations 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. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city," that's Jerusalem, "and fire came down from God out of Heaven, and devoured them."

Now just when we think Satan is gone; he's chained, put in the bottomless pit, he comes forth again, not by his own power; it's not a jailbreak. He's released. God, who is always sovereign, allows Satan to have one final fling. Why is this? It is God's final testimony to the wickedness of the human heart. It is mankind's final test.

Now there're going to be some people, who are these who are going to rebel with Satan anyway? You say, "Pastor Rogers, I thought everybody would be saved during the millennium." No, they will not be. People will have children during the millennium. And when they have children, many of these children will not have received Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Jesus will rule the nations with a rod of iron. There'll be no uprising. There will be no Satan leading in rebellion. But down in the human heart, latent in the human heart, will still be sin, if it's not washed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, listen to me. It's a very important lesson. God has millions of children but He has not one grandchild. Hmm. Just because your parents are Christians, that doesn't mean that you're going to be a Christian. I was speaking to man and he said, "Pastor, I heard you say that one time in church. My father is a minister, loves God and I was counting, as a PK, that that was going to get me to Heaven. And God smote me with that statement, 'God has no grandchildren.'"

Now in the millennium, there will be God's children but there will be those who are children of God's children who've never been saved, who, in the millennium, after a thousand years, are going to rebel against God when Satan is let loose. God is demonstrating to the world two great principles when He does this.

Number one, punishment is not the final answer. Satan has been in the prison house doing hard time for one thousand years! And he comes back to rebel one more time. Punishment is not the answer. Now I believe prisons are necessary, but they're not the final answer.

I'll tell you something else. Environment is not the final answer. Make your environment as good as you can, but after one thousand years of peace and righteousness, down in the human heart this latent sin, latent sin bubbles forth. And so many people think, "If we could just change the environment, we can change the nature of men." Do you really believe that? If you do, let me tell you something, it was in the Garden of Eden that man got into trouble in the first place, was it not? Where're you going to get a more perfect environment than the Garden of Eden?

No, I'm telling you friend that punishment is not the answer. And I'm telling you that environment is not the answer. The criminologist and his prisons are not the answer. The sociologist and his programs are not the answer. The educator and his philosophies are not the answer. The



statesman and his politics are not the answer. Only Jesus is the answer.

And, one more time, at the final filter, the final test, just let Satan out of his prison house and here people go with that sin that's latent in their heart. I read something one day years ago, I wish I could give you the exact reference where I read it, but I was astounded by it. When they opened the tomb of one of the old pharaohs, could've been the tomb of old King Tut, this pharaoh had been dead for thousands of years, and they found buried with the pharaoh some grain, some wheat. They took those grains of wheat, put them in the right environment with moisture and warm sun and those grains of wheat that had lain there for millenniums began to germinate and to sprout. Isn't that an amazing thing? Thousands of years! That's the way it is with sin in the human heart. There is only one answer to sin and it is the precious blood of Lord Jesus Christ. And so you see here the final rebellion of sinners.

Now, fourth and finally, I want you to see the fixed resolution of sin. "Pastor, when will we be done with sin?" Right here, Revelation 20 verses 9 and 10, now these rebels, it says of them, "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. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are." And, by the way, the beast and false prophet have been there for one thousand years. Don't you ever get the idea that Hell is temporary! "Where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

Satan is finally cast into the lake of fire! The bottomless pit is like the county jail where the prisoner is held until he comes into court, is adjudicated guilty, and then he is cast into the penitentiary, which is the lake of fire. Will there ever be a time when sin is finished? Will the problem of sin be fixed forever? Can we ever say goodbye to sin, farewell?

Yes. These rebels will experience a fiery death. This is not Armageddon. God will blow His breath on them, and all that's left is a pile of ashes. And their soul will be flung into eternity, and the devil that deceived them is cast headlong into Hell. For the Bible says in Matthew 25 verse 41, "Hell is prepared for the devil and his angels." And if you follow Satan, I want to say it kindly but forcefully, that's where you are going to end up. Why follow a loser? This is the final resolution of sin.

When I studied this, this verse of Scripture came to my mind, First Corinthians 15 verses 24 and 25, "Then cometh the end, when He," Jesus, "shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule, and all authority and power. For He must reign, until He hath put all enemies under His feet." Friend, what a day that will be. Amen? What a day when we have the final resolution of sin.

Now notice what I've said. Satan is going to be bound. Jesus is going to reign. The animal kingdom, the mineral kingdom, and the kingdoms of this world will be changed. Then there's coming a final rebellion. Our Lord will put that down and He'll say, "Father, here is the kingdom. I now deliver it up to You."

Now what does that mean to you? Let me tell you what it means to me. First of all, it means encouragement, encouragement. Don't get the idea that the Gospel has failed. It has not failed. We



are not post-millennialists. We're not trying to make the world better and better so Jesus can come. We are waiting for Jesus Christ to come, and we're not rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. What we're going is telling people of the Lifeboat, whose name is Jesus. Okay? Now that, it, it's a great encouragement to me.

Second thing, second word is anticipation. I believe that Jesus Christ can come at any moment. Matthew 24 verse 44, "In such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh." Over and over and over again in the Bible, we're being told of the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The third word is evangelism. We need to be telling people about Jesus. Listen, the great proof that you believe what I've said this morning is not did you get it in your notebook. Did you get it in your heart? And is there a passion in your heart to bring people to Jesus Christ, that people might be saved. Do you have a soul-winner's heart? If not, ask God to give you one.

The last word is examination. Are you saved? After the millennium, people, who living in a godly environment, rebelled against God. Do you know that you know that you're saved? Are you sure you're saved? Are you sure that you're sure? Your soul is too precious for you to play loosely with it. "Well Pastor, I'm not really sure, to tell you the truth, that I'm saved." Well, I've got some good news for you. And the Gospel is good news. You can be saved today. There's nothing to buy. It's a gift. Nothing to earn. It's a gift.

Listen to this Scripture, Ephesians chapter 2 verses 8 and 9, "For by grace are you saved through faith." Grace is God's love for you, through faith. Grace is God in love reaching down to you and saying, "I love you. I sent My Son to die for you. I want to save you." Here's My hand of grace reaching down to you."

Faith is your hand reaching up to God. "For by grace are you saved through faith." When you put your hand of faith in God's hand of grace, that's salvation. That's when you're saved. When you say, "Lord, I know that You love me and I know that You want to save me. And now Lord Jesus, by faith, by faith, I receive You. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin. Save me, Lord Jesus."

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed, and if you already know the Lord Jesus, would you begin to pray for those round about you who may not know Him? And if you're not certain that you know Him or certain that you don't know Him, may I guide you in a prayer? Would you pray like this? "Oh God, thank You for loving me. Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for me. Thank You for shedding Your blood on the cross for me. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe You were raised from the dead, and now by faith I trust You. I put my hand of faith in Your hand of grace. I receive You, Lord Jesus, as my personal Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Save me, Jesus." Pray it and mean it. "Save me, Jesus." Did you ask Him? Ask Him, "Save me Jesus. Save me." Ask Him. Did you ask Him? Then thank Him. "Thank You for doing it. I don't ask for a sign or a feeling. I stand on Your Word. And I will make it public. I will not be ashamed of You. In Your Name I pray. Amen."



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