

Bible Prophecy

The Last Rebellion and Final Judgment

The Final Chapter for Sin

- If you were to imagine bookends to the sage of humanity and sin, we could imagine on one end the Garden of Eden with the Fall of Man and on the opposite these final events.
- Sin entered the world and mankind through the wiles of Satan and here we see its extinction.
- J. Dwight Pentecost writes: “There are three events predicted in Scripture that may be viewed as acts of purging the universe of the remnants of the curse so that the eternal kingdom may be fully manifested: (1) the release of Satan and the satanically led revolt, (2) the purging of the earth by fire, and (3) the judgment on sinners at the great white throne.” (*Things to Come*, p. 547)

Satan’s Release and Revolt

- At the close of the thousand wonderful years of Christ’s Millennial Kingdom, Satan is released from the bondage that has kept him captive since Armageddon – Revelation 20:7
- What is the purpose of his release? J. Vernon McGee writes: “Apparently Satan is released at the end of the Millennium to reveal that the ideal conditions of the kingdom, under the personal reign of Christ, do not change the human heart. This reveals the enormity of the enmity of man against God. Scripture is accurate when it describes the heart as ‘desperately wicked’ and incurably so. Man is totally depraved. The loosing of Satan at the end of the 1000 years proves it.” (*Reveling Through Revelation*, p. 74-75)
- Under Satan’s influence, the unsaved revolt against Christ and march on Jerusalem – Revelation 20:8-9
 - Where did these unsaved come from? A.C. Gaebelien writes: “And the Gentile nations in the beginning of the millennium will also be converted. However, the human conditions of the will continue. The nations are not in a glorified state. Marriage will continue. Children will be born during the millennium. Indeed the earth will be populated as never before.... No every child born during the millennium of the converted nations comes into the world the same as the children in the present age, it is still true, conceived and born in sin. And it is equally true, they must be born again.” (*Gaebelien’s Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible*, p. 1228)
 - “Gog and Magog” (vs. 8) – Pentecost: “...this rebellion can not be identified with the invasion of God and Magog, described in Ezekiel 38 and 39, but bears the same name in that the purpose is identical in these two satanically

motivated movements: to destroy the seat of theocratic power and the subjects of the theocracy.” (*Things to Come*, p. 550-551)

- This revolt is ended when it is consumed in supernatural fire – Revelation 20:9

Purging of Creation

- Sin caused the physical world to be cursed – Genesis 3:17-18
- The world is refined and purified through fire – II Peter 3:10-13. See also Isaiah 65:17, Matthew 24:35, Hebrews 1:10-12
 - I like to think the same fire that destroyed Satan’s rebellion is the ignition for this larger conflagration and occurs during Revelation 20:11 (“fled away”)
- The result is “a new heaven and a new earth”, totally free from sin and its effects – Revelation 21:1-4

The Last Judgment

- This is not a general judgment of both saved and unsaved. Only the unsaved are mentioned as being on trial here. – Revelation 20:11-15
 - John Walvoord writes: “Before the throne are assembled the dead, small and great. Though the Scriptures do not state so directly, it is implied that this is a judgment of the wicked dead who have not previously been raised from the grave.” (*The Millennial Kingdom*, p. 332)
 - Gaebelien writes: “The rest of the dead come now into view and they are of necessity the wicked dead, who died in their sins, and whose is the resurrection unto judgment.” (*Gaebelien’s Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible*, p. 1229)
- Christ is the judge that presides over these trials – John 5:22
- I believe the judgment is based on two criteria:
 - Are they sinners? (“according to their works” – Revelation 20:12)
 - Are they saved? (“not found written in the book of life” – Revelation 20:15)
- John Walvoord writes: “Even Bible-believing Christians have tended to tone down the awfulness of eternal death to somehow reconcile the destiny of the lost with the prospect of the saved of being eternally in the presence of the Lord. A thorough appreciation of eternal punishment, however, will in the end enhance the doctrine of the grace of God and make the love of God all the more wonderful for those who enter into its truth. The fact of eternal punishment is not limited to this passage of Scripture, for Christ Himself speaks of the destiny of the wicked in many passages (Matt. 13:42; 25:41, 46; etc.). Earlier in Revelation itself (14:11) eternal punishment is predicted for those who receive the mark of the beast. A confirming note is also added in Revelation 21:8. The only revelation that has been given concerning the eternal state recognizes two destinies only: one of blessedness in the presence of the Lord, the other of eternal punishment.” (*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, walvoord.com)