



# TIME TO HEAL



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Imagine participating in a jury, listening intently to hear the truth. As the detailed case is presented, shouting voices fill the room with noise and confusion. False accusations threaten to drown out the simple truth that must be heard. Then the judge brings down the gavel to restore order. With the rightful authority of the law, the violators are excluded from the courtroom. Peace reigns, and the truth is revealed. For nearly 6,000 years, the confusion of sin has threatened to eclipse the truth about God from the few who are straining to hear it told. But it will not take that same length of time to tell the story once God has mercifully silenced the intensifying tumult of those who refuse to hear. How long is 1,000 years? It will be long enough to understand the plain truth that in every moment of history, God has been just, God has been good, and God is love.

## 1 What amazing experience takes place at Jesus' Second Coming?

**1 Thessalonians 4:16–17** “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

The “resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:14) that will happen at Jesus' Second Coming will be a magnificent event that everyone alive will witness. The redeemed who have died during all periods of Earth's history will be raised to life. This is called the first resurrection. Together with the righteous who are alive, they will be taken to Heaven. At that time, the saved will receive everlasting life from God and will never die (1 Corinthians 15:51–55). “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power . . .” (Revelation 20:6).

## 2 What happens to the wicked when Jesus returns?

**Jeremiah 25:31, 33** ““A noise will come to the ends of the earth—for the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,” says the Lord. And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried . . .”

**Revelation 20:5** “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. . . .”

Jeremiah's prophecy looks forward to the time of Jesus' return because the desolation he saw covers the whole world. When Jesus takes the saved to Heaven, the wicked perish. “But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked” (Isaiah 11:4; see also 2 Thessalonians 2:8–10). For a thousand years after the Second Coming, no human will be alive on Earth.

## 3 What is the condition of Earth during those 1,000 years?

**Jeremiah 4:23–26** “I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, and all the hills moved back and forth. I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were broken down at the presence of the Lord, by His fierce anger.”

**Isaiah 24:1, 3, 19–20** “Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty and makes it waste .... The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered .... The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly. ... And it will fall, and not rise again.”

The prophets Jeremiah and Isaiah were each shown a vision of Earth after Jesus returns. It is clear they were not witnessing Earth before Creation because they described what God had already created after it was ravaged. They were not witnessing another time in history, either, because complete destruction covered the whole Earth. The book of Revelation confirms Earth’s devastation in this way, after the end-time upheaval that comes before Jesus returns: “Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place” (Revelation 6:14). “... And there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” (Revelation 16:18, 20).

## 4 After Jesus takes the righteous with Him to Heaven, what happens next on Earth?

**Revelation 20:1–3** “Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him ....”

Satan, who destroyed countless lives, will be imprisoned on the Earth he claims as his, along with his angels (2 Peter 2:4). This is the beginning of the millennium—a thousand years when Satan and his rebellion are quarantined on Earth.

## 5 What are the bottomless pit and the chain that are Satan’s thousand-year prison?

**Isaiah 24:22** “... As prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished.”

**Revelation 20:3** “... so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. ...”

The pit and the chain represent Satan’s imprisonment on Earth to face his own accusing thoughts. Satan will not be bound with a literal chain, but with the circumstance of having no freedom to do what he has done throughout human history. Confined to this depopulated planet, there will be no one alive to torment or deceive. He can spread no lies that



“Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?...”  
1 Corinthians 6:2

misrepresent God’s character because all the righteous will be in Heaven, and all the wicked will be dead on Earth. There will be no one left “whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

## 6 What happens in Heaven during the 1,000 years?

**Revelation 20:4** “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. ... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

**1 Corinthians 6:2–3** “Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Do you not know that we shall judge angels? ...”

**Matthew 19:28** “So Jesus said to them, ‘Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’”

God’s faultless judgment separates the saved from the lost before Jesus returns (Revelation 22:12), but the sentence against the lost has not been pronounced. During the 1,000 years, those whom Jesus has redeemed by His blood will examine the decisions of every person and what God has done to save them. Because their characters have come into perfect harmony with Jesus’ character of love, their judgment will be in unity with His when He “will render to each one according to his deeds” (Romans 2:6). “Give them according to their deeds, and according to the wickedness of their endeavors; give them according to the work of their hands; render to them what they deserve” (Psalm 28:4).

## 7 Why does God invite humans to participate in the judgment in Heaven?

**Deuteronomy 17:6** “Whoever is deserving of death shall be put to death on the testimony of two or three witnesses; he shall not be put to death on the testimony of one witness.”

Before the irreversible consequence of sin is carried out, there must be no doubt about God’s justice toward men or angels. During the 1,000 years in Heaven, the redeemed will be God’s witnesses who experienced the devastation of sin firsthand, but did not receive justice on Earth. They will be shown what they previously could not see—full light into the hearts of men. As the truth of each person’s life is revealed, the redeemed will understand the reason for all who are there, as well as all who are absent, and they will affirm that God’s judgment is just. “They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!’” (Revelation 15:3). The redeemed will understand what God felt every time someone rejected Him, and will have no doubt that God did everything possible to save all people (Romans 8:32).

## 8 What assurance does the 1,000-year judgment give to the redeemed?

**Revelation 21:27** “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”



“The redeemed will understand what God felt every time someone rejected Him ...”

**Nahum 1:9** “... Affliction will not rise up a second time.”

The redeemed, who suffered the terrible pain of sin, know that a single remnant of Satan’s rebellion against God’s Law would continue the pain of sin into eternity. During the 1,000 year judgment, all will be assured that God has allowed only those who fully accept Jesus’ righteousness to enter their eternal Home.

## 9 What will take place on Earth at the end of the 1,000 years?

**Revelation 21:10** “And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”

Satan’s isolation with his angels on this barren planet will be brought to a conclusion when God brings His Holy City “whose builder and maker is God” (Hebrews 11:10) to Earth. Inside the city are all the redeemed (Revelation 21:9, 19:7; Ephesians 5:25–27). The prophet Zechariah described this third coming of Christ in this way: “And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west .... Thus the Lord my God will come, and all the saints with You” (Zechariah 14:4–5).

## 10 What supernatural event will then release Satan from the chain of circumstance that keeps him bound during the 1,000 years?

**Revelation 20:5, 7–8** “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. ... Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations ...”

The millennium will begin with the resurrection of the righteous and will end with the resurrection of the wicked from all periods of Earth’s history. This is the Second Resurrection. Jesus spoke of two distinct resurrections with different results— “... all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation” (John 5:28–29).

## 11 What will the wicked face when they are raised at the end of the millennium?

**Revelation 20:11–13** “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing be-



“... And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”  
Revelation 20:9

fore God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.”

God’s judgment against unrepentant sinners proceeds in a sequence of three distinct phases. In the first phase, God pronounced their guilt in Heaven before Jesus returns. The second phase of God’s judgment takes place during the 1,000 years, with the participation of the redeemed. Finally, the lost will stand personally before God’s “great white throne,” which is untainted by the impurity of any sin. This is the final phase of God’s judgment—not to decide each person’s case, but to carry out “His unusual act” (Isaiah 28:21), the consequence of sin and rebellion. “For the wages of sin is death ...” (Romans 6:23).

## 12 How will every person outside the city confirm to the Universe that God’s judgment is without fault?

**Revelation 20:7–9** “... Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. ...”

Satan “must be released for a little while” (Revelation 20:3) so the settled rebellion in the hearts of the lost will be displayed for all to see. When the lost are raised to life, they resume their former lives—as enemies of God. Without holy angels, righteous men and women, and the Holy Spirit to restrain the evil in their hearts, the lost from all ages rally together under Satan’s bold leadership. They surround the city of God’s redeemed, intending to force their way to the tree of life with the hope of gaining

immortality (Revelation 22:2,14). If they were welcomed into God’s city, they would rather attack Jesus than spend a joyful hour with him. Their murderous intent confirms God’s righteous judgment with unquestionable finality. “... For all His ways are justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

## 13 What will the enemies of God acknowledge about Jesus?

**Philippians 2:9–11** “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

The glory of Jesus will be revealed so that even His most hard-hearted enemies will admit that Jesus is the rightful Lord. Compared with the glory of Jesus’ righteousness, the sin in their hearts will be impossible to hide or excuse. The redeemed, who are transformed by accepting Jesus’ righteousness, will have no sin to reveal. And although the wicked acknowledge what they can no longer deny, they will have no change of heart, and would never submit to God in loving obedience. “The loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be brought low; the Lord alone will be exalted in that day” (Isaiah 2:17).

## 14 What will happen to the wicked after their attack on God’s city is cut short?

**Revelation 20:9** “... And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.”

**Revelation 20:14** “Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

In the Bible, the first death is compared to a sleep (John 11:11–14) because whoever dies will be raised either in the first resurrection when Jesus returns, or in the second resurrection, after the 1,000 years. The second death is the final destruction of the wicked, from which there will never be a resurrection. “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power ...” (Revelation 20:6). The wicked who surround the city of God will experience that second death. God’s consuming fire is final, and when sin is destroyed forever, the fire will burn out. “Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you shall see it” (Psalm 37:34). (See Lesson #12 to learn what the Bible teaches about the destruction of the wicked.)



**“God does not prolong suffering, even of those who hate Him.”**

## 15 Why does God raise the wicked so they can then be destroyed?

**Lamentations 3:33** “For He does not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men.”

**Ezekiel 18:32** “‘For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,’ says the Lord God. ...”

God shows His mercy by allowing the wicked to perish on Earth when Jesus returns, rather than to be tormented by Satan during the 1,000 years while the judgment is completed in Heaven. God does not prolong suffering, even of those who hate Him. Even in the punishment of the wicked, God is merciful because He allows only those who reflect His holy character to participate in His judgment. If the wicked could judge their enemies, they would inflict a consequence that matches the unrestrained sin in their hearts. Unlike God, who brings all suffering to an end, they would pronounce a sentence of endless torture.

## 16 Does the Bible promise there will be a thousand years of peace on Earth before Jesus returns?

**1 Thessalonians 5:3–4** “For when they say, ‘Peace and safety!’ then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”

The Bible says that if we expect a time of peace and safety before Jesus returns, His coming will catch us by surprise. Jesus’ Second Coming will interrupt a world engulfed in a crisis humanity can’t solve (Daniel 12:1). However, most people will still be planning for their worldly activities to continue, and they will be unprepared for Jesus’ return (Matthew 24:37–39). Eternal peace and safety on Earth will be reality after the thousand years are over, when Satan has been destroyed and sin is gone forever. Then Jesus’ promise will be fulfilled: “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5).

## 17 After the 1,000 years, what will happen to the desolate Earth before it becomes the home of the redeemed?

**2 Peter 3:10, 13** “... The heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”

Our Earth will not remain in its ruined condition. God created this planet to be our home, and He called it “very good” (Genesis 1:31). When the fire that destroys sin once and for all is extinguished, the redeemed will rejoice as they witness God recreate this planet to be our eternal home, beautiful and perfect. “Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ...” (Revelation 21:1). What a blessing that will be! To learn about God’s plan to restore Earth, continue to Lesson #25.

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM?	WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE MILLENNIUM?	WHAT HAPPENS AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIUM?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first phase of God’s judgment is completed before Jesus returns</li> <li>• Earth is ravaged and destroyed from the plagues</li> <li>• Jesus returns to Earth—His reward is with Him</li> <li>• The dead in Christ are raised in the first resurrection</li> <li>• The redeemed are taken to Heaven visibly</li> <li>• The wicked perish on Earth</li> <li>• Satan is bound on Earth with no one to deceive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The redeemed are in Heaven with the Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God’s angels</li> <li>• The wicked remain dead on Earth – “sleeping” until the second resurrection</li> <li>• The Earth remains desolate and ruined</li> <li>• Satan and his angels are alone on the Earth with no one to deceive</li> <li>• The redeemed participate in the second phase of the judgment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The New Jerusalem descends to Earth, inhabited by God’s redeemed</li> <li>• The wicked are raised in the second resurrection</li> <li>• Satan is freed to deceive once again</li> <li>• The wicked prove God’s judgment is correct by surrounding God’s Holy City to attack it</li> <li>• The third phase of God’s judgment gives the final consequence of sin</li> <li>• Fire destroys Satan, the evil angels, and the wicked—the second death</li> <li>• God makes new heavens and Earth</li> <li>• The redeemed dwell with God forever</li> <li>• Sin will not arise a second time</li> </ul>

# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR MY LIFE TODAY?



**1. What is the danger of expecting a 1,000-year period of peace on Earth before Jesus returns?** How could that wrong idea prepare someone to miss what will really take place?

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**2. Since the redeemed will participate in the judgment of men and angels,** what changes does God need to make in your character so you can “judge with righteous judgment” (John 7:24)?

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**3. We know the sad truth about what will happen at the end of the millennium to everyone who chooses to reject Jesus.** So how should we care about the lost right now, before Jesus returns?

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**4. Since there will not be a period of time after Jesus returns for second chances,** what choices is God asking you to make right now so you will be ready when Jesus returns?

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**5. Who do you know that needs to hear what you have learned?** “I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation ...” (Psalm 40:10).

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Additional Notes:

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# WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS FOR ME IN THE MILLENNIUM?



**1. We know with certainty what will happen after Jesus returns because God has already told us.** “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this” (Revelation 1:19).

**2. God allows the evil of sin to be fully demonstrated so there will be no doubt that only God’s way results in life.** “For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you ...” (Revelation 18:5–6).

**3. God will not destroy the wicked before the redeemed have all the evidence that God’s judgment is just.** “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God” (1 Corinthians 4:5).

**4. God wants us to have full knowledge of what happened on Earth, which we don’t understand yet.** “Furthermore He said to me, ‘Son of man, do you see what they are doing, the great abominations that the house of Israel commits here, to make Me go far away from My sanctuary? Now turn again, you will see greater abominations’” (Ezekiel 8:6).

**5. God’s timing is always sufficient—never too long and never too short.** “For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night” (Psalm 90:4). “But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8).

**6. God will personally bring perfect healing when sin and sinners are no more.** “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

**7. The millennium is the beginning of eternal life with God.** “... And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:17–18).

## LESSON SUMMARY

**1. When Jesus returns,** the redeemed will be taken to Heaven to be with God.

**2. The wicked will perish, and Satan with the fallen angels** will be confined to the desolate Earth for 1,000 years.

**3. During the 1,000 years, the redeemed will review the record of every person,** confirming that God’s judgment was just.

**4. At the end of the 1,000 years, the Holy City,** inhabited by the saints of God, will descend to Earth.

**5. The wicked, who were dead,** will be raised to receive the consequence of their sins.

**6. Demonstrating their rejection of God,** the wicked will unite with Satan to attack God’s Holy City.

**7. Unrepentant sinners will be consumed by fire,** God will recreate the Earth, and the redeemed will dwell with Him forever.

Additional Notes:

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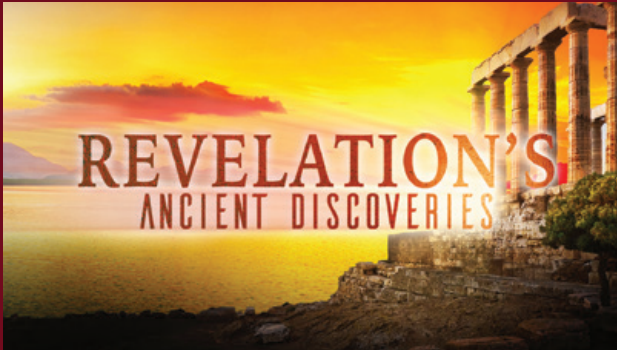
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# HOPE & HEALING FOR THE FUTURE

The Bible's last book reveals God's plan for the future.



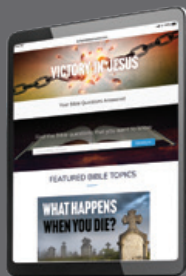
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