

*Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context*



## Revelation Backgrounds 28

### The Millennium

Revelation 20



1

### Acts 17:11 (KJV)

**These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).



2

### Revelation 20

Next, I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, locked it, and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while. Then I saw thrones, and those seated there received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were over.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him, the second death has no power. On the contrary, they will be cohanim of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.



3

When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore, and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them. The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



4

Next, I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened, the Book of Life, and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done. The sea gave up the dead in it, and Death and Sh'ol gave up the dead in them, and they were judged, each according to what he had done. Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. This is the second death—the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.

**i** Pro tip: you want to ensure your name is found in the Book of Life!

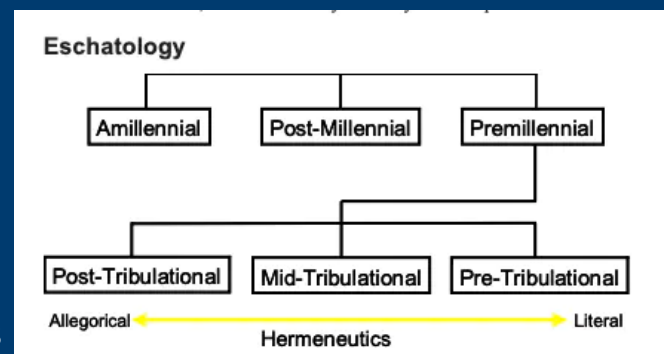
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### Eschatology Review

Amillennial – allegoric/symbolic struggle of good versus evil | “Jesus rules in our hearts” | Origen, Augustine, Luther, Calvin | Church grows, and life gets better | *Catholic and most Protestant Denominations*

Postmillennial – the allegorical millennium is the present age, after which Jesus literally returns | this view is not common

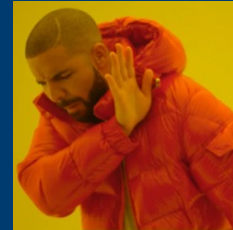
Premillennial – Literal, earthly rule of Jesus | Irenaeus, Justin Martyr, (Peter, Paul, etc.) | length of time-period debated | timing of rapture debated | Most conservative/evangelical denominations



6

## Luke 1:32-33

[32] He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."**



Amillennial  
David's  
Literal Throne



Premillineal  
David's  
Literal Throne



7

## Acts 15:15-18

And with this, the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, [16] "After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, [17] that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the Lord, who makes these things [18] known from of old."



8

2Pe 3:3-9 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. [4] They will say, “**Where is the promise of his coming?** For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” [5] For they **deliberately overlook** this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, [6] and that by means of these, the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. [7] But by the same word, the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, **being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.** [8] But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord, one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should reach repentance.



9

## Angel of the Abyss

### Revelation 20:1

Next, I saw an angel coming down from heaven, who had the key to the Abyss and a great chain in his hand.

### References

Rev 9:1-3 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of the bottomless pit. [2] He opened the shaft of the bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft.

Luk 8:31 And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day



10

## Satan in Chains

### Revelation 20:2-3

He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan [the Adversary], and chained him up for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, locked it, and sealed it over him; so that he could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were over. After that, he has to be set free for a little while.

### References

Isa 24:21-22 On that day, the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. [22] They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary, the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.



11

## Saints will Judge

### Revelation 20:4

Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them received authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for testifying about Yeshua and proclaiming the Word of God, also those who had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands. They came to life and ruled with the Messiah for a thousand years.

### References

Matthew 19:28 Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1 Cor 6:2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases?

Romans 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



12

## First resurrection excludes non-believers

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



13

## He made us Priests

Revelation 20:6	References
Blessed and holy is anyone who has a part in the first resurrection; over him, <b>the second death has no power</b> . On the contrary, they will be <i>cohanim</i> of God and of the Messiah, and they will rule with him for the thousand years.	<p>Rev 1:6 and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.</p> <p>Two deaths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical death: separation of the body from the soul</li> <li>• Spiritual death: separation of the soul from God</li> </ul>



14

## Satan freed

### Revelation 20:7-8

When the thousand years are over, the Adversary will be set free from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for the battle. Their number is countless as the sand on the seashore;

### References

Eze 7:2 "And you, O son of man, thus says the Lord GOD to the land of Israel: An end! The end has come upon the four corners of the land.

Eze 38:2-3 "Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him [3] and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Psa 2:1 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?



15

## Not much of a battle...

### Revelation 20:9

and they came up over the breadth of the Land and surrounded the camp of God's people and the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and consumed them.

### References

Psa 87:2 the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.

Eze 39:6 I will send fire on Magog and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Isa 30:33 For a burning place has long been prepared; indeed, for the king, it is made ready, its pyre made deep and wide, with fire and wood in abundance; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of sulfur, kindles it.



16



## Satan Hurled

### Revelation 20:10

The Adversary who had deceived them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

### References



17

## The Great White Throne Judgment

### Revelation 20:11

Next, I saw a great white throne and the One sitting on it. Earth and heaven fled from his presence, and no place was found for them.

### References

Romans 14:10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God;

2 Cor 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 2:16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.



18

## Judged according to what they had done

### Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, both great and small, standing in front of the throne. Books were opened, and another book was opened, the Book of Life, and the dead were judged from what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

### References

Mal 3:18 Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.

Exo 32:31-33 So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, these people have sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. [32] But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." [33] But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book."



19

### John 5:27-29

And he has given him authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man. [28] Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice [29] and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.



20

**Eze 18:20-23**

The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself. [21] **“But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is just and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. [22] None of the transgressions that he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness that he has done, he shall live. [23] Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?”**

**Luke 10:26-28**

He said to him, “What is written in the Law? How do you read it?” [27] And he answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” [28] And he said to him, “You have answered correctly; **do this, and you will live.**”



21

## The sea gives up its dead

**Revelation 20:13**

The sea gave up the dead in it; and Death and Sh’ol gave up the dead in them, and they were judged, each according to what he had done.

**References**

Mt 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

Hos 13:14 I shall ransom them from the power of Sheol; I shall redeem them from Death. O Death, where are your plagues? O Sheol, where is your sting? Compassion is hidden from my eyes.



22

## The Second Death

### Revelation 20:14-15

Then Death and Sh'ol were hurled into the lake of fire. **This is the second death**—the lake of fire. Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was hurled into the lake of fire.

### References

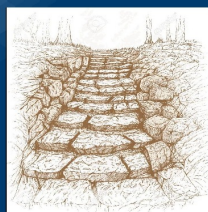
Rev 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, **which is the second death.**"

Isa 25:8 He will swallow up death forever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.



23

## Talmidim Way



24