

Lesson 3 – The Millennium (one thousand years)

1. What event marks the beginning of the millennium? **Revelation 20:6, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, John 5:29 (first half)**

EGW: More than eighteen hundred years have elapsed since He who spake as never man spake, and could utter only truth, declared: "The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth." The trump of God has not yet sounded; that voice so full of power has not yet penetrated the sepulchers; that hour so full of promise to the people of God has not yet arrived; but it must come, it is not far in the future. Some of us will doubtless be living when the voice that is heard everywhere, even to ocean depths and the sunless caverns of earth, shall be heard, echoing from sea to sea, from valleys and from mountains, calling to life the sleeping dead. There will be a reappearance of every human being that has gone into the grave. The aged who sank under the hand of death with the burden of years upon them, manhood in its prime, youth in the early bloom of life, and the little child,-- all shall awake, and shake off the fetters of the tomb. But not all shall awake to everlasting life. "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." "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." {BEcho, January 15, 1889 par. 12}

2. What event marks the end of the millennium? **Revelation 20:5, 6; John 5:29 (second half)**

EGW: And then at the end of a thousand years the wicked dead come forth. I cannot endure to think of this. {21MR 342.5}

But the trumpet is waxing louder and louder, and the wicked dead come forth to confront Christ. When the multitude of the lost, those whom God has favored with great light, shall look upon the goodness, mercy, and love of Jesus, when those who might have been saved if they had accepted the light and the blessings of God's Word, but who refused to obey His law, see the great sacrifice made in their behalf, they understand the unmeasured love of the Redeemer; they understand His incarnation, the sweatdrops of blood, the marks of the nails in His hands and feet, the pierced side; and they ask to be hidden from the face of Him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb. They see as in reality the condemnation of Christ, they hear the loud cry, "Release unto us Barabbas." They hear the question, "What shall I do then with Jesus?" and the answer, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." {1NL 42.3}

3. Where is Satan during this time? **Revelation 20:1-3**

EGW: The Revelator foretells the banishment of Satan, and the condition of chaos and desolation to which the earth is to be reduced; and he declares that this condition will exist for a thousand years. After presenting the scenes of the Lord's second coming and the destruction of the wicked, the prophecy continues: "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 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." [Revelation 20:1-3.] {GC88 658.1}

4. Where are the fallen angels during this time? **2 Peter 2:4**

EGW: Satan and his followers were expelled from heaven in consequence of rebellion, and the spirit of the evil one now works in the children of disobedience; Satan carries on his rebellion against God in this world. He seeks to corrupt all; but the instruments most favorable to his purpose of ruining souls, are men who have had great light and blessing from God; for they can accomplish more harm in making void the law than can those who have been less favored of heaven. They use the same flattering sophistry that Satan used in heaven and in Eden; they speak of the law as a yoke of bondage, and picture the liberty of him who disregards its claims, as a state of holiness and sanctification. Those who claim holiness and make a boast that they cannot sin, though at the same time living in transgression of the law, are in the same condition as the angels that sinned in heaven. They make great pretensions to the favor of Heaven, claim to possess exalted knowledge of spiritual things, while they go on in reckless disregard of the word of the Lord. {ST, April 28, 1890 par. 7}

5. What view does Isaiah have of Satan during this time? **Isaiah 14:12-15**

EGW: The prophet Isaiah, looking forward to the time of Satan's overthrow, exclaims: "How art thou fallen from Heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cast down to the ground, which didst

weaken the nations.” “Thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into Heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.” “I will be like the Most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 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?” [Isaiah 14:12-17.] {GC88 659.2}

For six thousand years, Satan's work of rebellion has “made the earth to tremble.” He has “made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof.” And “he opened not the house of his prisoners.” For six thousand years his prison-house has received God's people, and he would have held them captive forever, but Christ has broken his bonds, and set the prisoners free. {GC88 659.3}

6. What description does Isaiah give about this pit? **Isaiah 14:19**

EGW: Even the wicked are now placed beyond the power of Satan; and alone with his evil angels he remains to realize the effect of the curse which sin has brought. “The kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house [the grave]. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch. . . . Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people.” [Isaiah 14:18-20.] {GC88 659.4}

7. How long did Isaiah see the imprisonment of Satan and the fallen angels? **Isaiah 24:22**

EGW: At the close of the thousand years the second resurrection will take place. Then the wicked will be raised from the dead, and appear before God for the execution of “the judgment written.” Thus the Revelator, after describing the resurrection of the righteous, says, “The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.” [Revelation 20:5; Isaiah 24:22.] And Isaiah declares, concerning the wicked, “They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited” [Revelation 20:5; Isaiah 24:22.] {GC88 661.2}

8. What is the bottomless pit? **Isaiah 14:15, Deuteronomy 32:22**

EGW: That the expression, "bottomless pit," represents the earth in a state of confusion and darkness, is evident from other scriptures. Concerning the condition of the earth "in the beginning," the Bible record says that it "was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." [GENESIS 1:2; THE WORD HERE TRANSLATED "DEEP" IS THE SAME THAT IN REVELATION 20:1-3 IS RENDERED "BOTTOMLESS PIT."] Prophecy teaches that it will be brought back, partially, at least, to this condition. {GC88 658.2}

Here is to be the home of Satan with his evil angels for a thousand years. Limited to the earth, he will not have access to other worlds, to tempt and annoy those who have never fallen. It is in this sense that he is bound; there are none remaining, upon whom he can exercise his power. He is wholly cut off from the work of deception and ruin which for so many centuries has been his sole delight. {GC88 659.1}

9. Where are the lost at this time? **Isaiah 14:18, 20; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 19:17-18, 21; Revelation 20:5, Jeremiah 4:25**

EGW: At the coming of Christ the wicked are blotted from the face of the whole earth,--consumed with the spirit of his mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of his glory. Christ takes his people to the city of God, and the earth is emptied of its inhabitants. "Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof." {SW, March 14, 1905 par. 8}

10. What is the conditions of the cities during this time? **Jeremiah 4:26-27**

EGW: See next quote.

11. What is the condition of the earth? **Jeremiah 4:23-24, 28**

EGW: Looking forward to the great day of God, the prophet Jeremiah declares: "I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down." [Jeremiah 4:23-27.] {GC88 658.2}

12. How does the annual sanctuary service reveal the proper understanding that Satan and the angels wonder upon this uninhabited planet for a thousand years? **Leviticus 16:8-10, 22**

EGW: In the typical service the high priest, having made the atonement for Israel, came forth and blessed the congregation. So Christ, at the close of his work as a mediator, will appear, "without sin unto salvation," [Hebrews 9:28.] to bless his waiting people with eternal life. As the priest, in removing the sins from the sanctuary, confessed them upon the head of the scapegoat, so Christ will place all these sins upon Satan, the originator and instigator of sin. The scape-goat, bearing the sins of Israel, was sent away "unto a land not inhabited;" [Leviticus 16:22.] so Satan, bearing the guilt of all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit, will be for a thousand years confined to the earth, which will then be desolate, without inhabitant, and he will at last suffer the full penalty of sin, in the fires that shall destroy all the wicked. Thus the great plan of redemption will reach its accomplishment in the final eradication of sin, and the deliverance of all who have been willing to renounce evil. {GC88 485.3}

13. Where are the saved or righteous at this time? **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 20:4**

EGW: Then Jesus' silver trumpet sounded, as He descended on the cloud, wrapped in flames of fire. He gazed on the graves of the sleeping saints, then raised His eyes and hands to heaven, and cried, "Awake! awake! ye that sleep in the dust, and arise." Then there was a mighty earthquake. The graves opened, and the dead came up clothed with immortality. The 144,000 shouted "Alleluia!" as they recognized their friends who had been torn from them by death, and in the same moment we were changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air. {LS 66.1}

We all entered the cloud together, and were seven days ascending to the sea of glass, when Jesus brought the crowns, and with His own right hand placed them on our heads. He gave us harps of gold and palms of victory. Here on the sea of glass the 144,000 stood in a perfect square. Some of them had very bright crowns, others not so bright. Some crowns appeared heavy with stars, while others had but few. All were perfectly satisfied with their crowns. And they were all clothed with a glorious white

mantle from their shoulders to their feet. Angels were all about us as we marched over the sea of glass to the gate of the city. Jesus raised His mighty, glorious arm, laid hold of the pearly gate, swung it back on its glittering hinges, and said to us, "You have washed your robes in My blood, stood stiffly for My truth, enter in." We all marched in and felt that we had a perfect right in the city. {LS 66.2}

14. What will the righteous do during this time? **Daniel 7:22, Isaiah 32:1, Revelation 20:4**

EGW: During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection, the Judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this Judgment as an event that follows the second advent. "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." [1 Corinthians 4:5.] Daniel declares that when the Ancient of days came, "Judgment was given to the saints of the Most High." [Daniel 7:22.] At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them." "They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." [Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:2,3.] {GC88 660.3}

15. What shall the righteous judge? **1 Corinthians 6:2**

EGW: At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them." Revelation 20:4. . . . It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, "the saints shall judge the world." 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3. In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death. {FLB 216.3}

16. Who else shall the righteous judge? **1 Corinthians 6:3**

EGW: Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and his people. Says Paul, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" [Revelation 20:4, 6; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3.] And Jude declares that "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains-under darkness unto the Judgment of the great day." [Jude 6.] {GC88 661.1}

17. What shall be used in the millennial judgment? **Revelation 20:12**

EGW: Solemn will be the day of final decision. In prophetic vision the apostle John describes it: "I saw a great white throne, and Him that 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, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Revelation 20:11, 12. {COL 318.2}

Sad will be the retrospect in that day when men stand face to face with eternity. The whole life will present itself just as it has been. The world's pleasures, riches, and honors will not then seem so important. Men will then see that the righteousness they despised is alone of value. They will see that they have fashioned their characters under the deceptive allurements of Satan. The garments they have chosen are the badge of their allegiance to the first great apostate. Then they will see the results of their choice. They will have a knowledge of what it means to transgress the commandments of God. {COL 318.3}

There will be no future probation in which to prepare for eternity. It is in this life that we are to put on the robe of Christ's righteousness. This is our only opportunity to form characters for the home which Christ has made ready for those who obey His commandments. {COL 319.1}

18. What will the lost be judged upon? **Revelation 20:13**

EGW: Count the cost of the course of action that you are pursuing, if your feet are in the path of evil. Remember that you must meet the record of your life in the day of judgment, and answer for the degrading mold that has been placed upon your character. John says, "I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. . . . And whosoever was not found

written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." "The wages of sin is death: but the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord." {YI, January 18, 1894 par. 5}

19. What shall be brought forth during this time? **1 Corinthians 4:5**

EGW: There is a record also of the sins of men. "For God shall bring every work into Judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." [Ecclesiastes 12:14.] "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of Judgment." Said the Saviour, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." [Matthew 13:36, 37.] The secret purposes and motives appears in the unerring register; for God "will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." [1 Corinthians 4:5.] "Behold, it is written before me, . . . your iniquities, and the iniquities of your fathers together, saith the Lord." [Isaiah 65:6, 7.] {GC88 481.2}

20. What type of judgment will we use? **John 7:24**

EGW: In the account of the judgment scene, when the reward is given to the righteous, and sentence is passed on the wicked, the righteous are represented as wondering what they have done that they should receive such reward. But they cherished an abiding faith in Christ. They were imbued with His Spirit, and, without conscious effort, they performed for Christ, in the person of His saints, those services that bring a sure reward. But their motive in working was not to receive compensation. They regarded it as the highest honor to be allowed to work as Christ worked. What they did was done from love to Christ and to their fellowmen, and He who has identified Himself with suffering humanity accredited these acts of compassion and love as tho done to Himself. {ST, August 9, 1899 par. 9}