

## Millenniums

### Commentary for August 1, 2009 — When Is a Millennium Not 1,000 Years?

In the opening paragraphs of this month's article "The Life and Times of the Antichrist," Dr. Ernest L. Martin discusses two millenniums. There is a third millennium to come that he does not discuss in the article.

Read first the "[August 2009 Newsletter](#)" for some basics about "antichrist" as defined by the apostle John. Then read Dr. Martin's highly informative 1992 article.

Of course, the definition of a millennium is a span of 1,000 years. However, in the article Dr. Martin mentions only one millennium that lasts 1,000 years. That is the millennium rule that begins when the true Christ returns to this earth to rule.

#### *The "False" Millennium of the Antichrist*

The **non**-1,000 year "millennium" lasts only 3½ years and it is a false millennium fraudulently proclaimed to the world by the Antichrist, or perhaps by his false prophet. It will be called a millennium, but the Antichrist will be a liar (as all antichrists are, 2 John 1:7).

As the false Christ he will declare that the millennium has begun. The world will accept his false declaration and accept his rule when he announces he is Christ returned from heaven. This is when the Great Tribulation begins.

#### *The "True" Millennium of Christ Jesus*

This true millennium will begin with the true Christ's return to earth when He sets foot on the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4) and the saints are caught up into the sky (both the dead and the living) by the angels and brought to Christ. This is "**the coming aion** [age]" (Mark 10:30 and Luke 18:30, Greek).

It is this millennium that the Bible anticipates, and during which the physical salvation of Israel as a nation will occur (Genesis 12:3, 18:18, 27:29; Daniel 7:27; Revelation 5:10). All nations shall benefit from Christ's rule of love and service (Romans 15:12), which will happen slowly after a period of Christ's judgment upon the remaining peoples of the nations of the world, based upon their treatment of Israel (Isaiah 42:1). There will be a period of recovery of the physical earth to a situation where it can sustain and strengthen physical life.

At the end of this 1,000 years Satan will be loosed to tempt the nations. He shall succeed (Revelation 20:3). The nations will be judged and punished.

#### *Another Millennium after Christ's Millennium*

After Christ's rule over the nations, Israel's supremacy, and God's judgment upon the nations, then the old heavens and earth will perish. A new heavens and new earth will be brought forth. The heavenly "New Jerusalem" shall descend upon the new earth. This period of 1,000 years shall inaugurate the Great White Throne judgment.

Those not resurrected to spiritual life at Christ's Second Coming will be resurrected to physical life (Revelation 20:5). These individuals resurrected to physical life during this period will live long lives. Some may come close to living as long as did Methuselah who lived 969 years (Genesis 5:27).

The purpose of this period of physical resurrection is to instruct the great mass of mankind about God's plan of salvation through Christ's loving acts and His righteousness. I discuss this period of time in "Addendum: The 'Age of the Ages'" at the end of Dr. Martin's article "[The Doctrine of the Ages in the Bible.](#)"

This 1,000 year period of judgment and education will culminate in all intelligent creatures (all children of Adam and all spirit beings) being reconciled to God the Father (Colossians 1:18–21 and Philippians 2:5–11).

At the end of that time Christ will give up the Kingdom to the Father. The Kingdom of God will continue without end, but all rule and authority that had been delegated to Christ will be returned to the Father. God the Father (YHWH) shall then **"be all and in all"** (1 Corinthians 15:28).

This period of time is known as **"the aion of the aions"** or **"the age of the ages"** spoken of in the New Testament (mistakenly translated as "eternity" in several places in various translations). The two 1,000 year periods of Christ's reign together are called **"the aions [plural] of the aions"** or **"the ages of the ages."**

Please do not be overly concerned if you do not fully understand these matters now. Understanding these concepts is not as confusing or difficult as it may seem at first glance. It is all logical, makes sense, and thoroughly biblical, without theological bias. The best single source of information on these important biblical matters is Dr. Martin's discussion in his book *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, chapter 16, "[The Resurrections from the Dead](#)," pp. 224–227. See particularly footnotes 63–65 (footnote 10–12 in the online version). See also the charts, Appendices 2–3, which list all uses of *aions* in the New Testament, at the end of Gary Reid and Ernest Martin's article, "[The Time Periods for Salvation, Part 1.](#)"

If you have not already done so, I want to encourage you to read *Essentials* from the beginning to receive the full impact of the basics of biblical Christian doctrine. If you have read parts of the book or just look now at chapter 16, please, please go back and read it from the beginning. That is how Dr. Martin intended the book to be read and, just as the Bible was compiled to be read in a particular "best" order to understand its message, so too other books are also designed to be read in proper sequence of information. *Essentials* is one such book.

## Conclusion

As you read this month's article, remember that there are three "millenniums" in our future. The first two are particularly noted in the article:

1. The first "millennium of the Antichrist that will last only 3½ years. It begins when his deadly wound is healed and Satan falls from heaven. It ends with the destruction of the Antichrist when he is cast into the lake of fire. This is a false millennium.
2. The next millennium is 1,000 years, when the world shall be ruled by God through Christ. The nations will have access to God through Christ in the Temple mentioned in the Book of Ezekiel. This is a true millennium.
3. The Great White Throne Judgment will also last 1,000 years. This is a true millennial period.

As we examine and clarify the information and research put forth by Dr. Martin it is important for us to check, recheck, and even go beyond the work that he did as we come closer to the time of the end. Every day brings us closer to the return of Christ to this earth, and to our own resurrection to spiritual and immortal life.

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