



FINAL EVENTS: The Millennium

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Continuing the theme of “Final Events” from the mini-conference that was held in the Huntington Park, California, church on Sabbath, March 30, 2019, this article contains thoughts from the “The Millennium,” a presentation by Brother Jose Sabaj from the Riverside, California, church. Connect to the YouTube link at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqh-1havxqYo&t=0s> to watch the video in Spanish.

This presentation from the book of Revelation laid out the events that are to occur in relation to the one thousand years spoken of in chapter 20. Through the divine word of God, we will uncover what will take place during this millennium with the backdrop of other past, present, and future events. We will discover how precise God is in everything that He does, as found in His holy word, the Bible.

After prayer for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, Brother Sabaj began with Revelation 20:1, 2: “And 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.” Before going into detail about the meaning of these verses, Brother Sabaj presented a side note with a few perspectives. The word “millennium” is not found in the Bible, but we know that it refers to the one thousand years, which are in fact found in the Bible, as will be seen in verse 2.

There are four perspectives presented in this study about the millennium. The first

is in Revelation 20:1-3, which presents what conditions will be like on the earth during the one thousand years. The second perspective is found in verses 4-10, which speak about the saints. Who are they? The third perspective is in verses 12-15, which tell of a specific special judgment along with what will happen to the unbelievers spoken of in these verses. The fourth perspective, found in Revelation 21:2-8, goes into the future, including how the saints will live in the Holy City during the one thousand years. In these four perspectives, God reveals what His people need to understand about the future final events. The explanation shows what will happen before, during, and after the one thousand years. After studying these four perspectives, we will be able to understand the entire panorama of what God wants us to know.

Brother Sabaj asked a question: “What event marks the beginning of the one thousand years?” Revelation 19 tells about Jesus’ second coming. It says that He comes on a white horse and is accompanied by all of His angels. The Millennium then begins in Revelation chapter 20, which describes what will happen with Satan and the earth.

Going back to verses 1, 2, we see that Satan will be chained in a bottomless pit. In the Greek language, the word for bottomless pit is “abysses,” from which we get the word “abyss”—a bottomless pit. In Hebrew, the word for abyss is “Tehom,” meaning a great dark, deep, disorderly place. This is where Satan will be confined for a thousand years.

To give more insight on this abyss, Brother Sabaj presented an interesting point, and this can be seen in Genesis 1:2: “And the earth was without form, and void;

and darkness was upon the face of the deep....” In the beginning, before God created this earth, it was void, without form, and dark. What can we imagine that this earth will be like during the one thousand years, as presented in Revelation in conjunction with the beginning of the earth?

For Satan to be bound in the bottomless pit, or the abyss, the condition of this world must to a great degree revert back to what it was like before the creation. How will this happen? We can look at the seven plagues that will take place right before Jesus’ second coming, found in Revelation 16, which were also mentioned in the April *Newsletter* under the title “Armageddon.”

These plagues will cause great destruction to this earth. One plague is darkness, and another is an earthquake greater than any that has ever happened before. The fifth plague is darkness, according to Revelation 16:10. Furthermore, the second plague (Revelation 16:3) is described as the oceans turning to blood and everything in them dying. Fish, rivers, oceans, and darkness were all part of the creation at the very beginning. Under the fourth plague, the sun will become so hot it will scorch men, so it will certainly burn the vegetation of this earth. Can anyone survive without vegetation? No! The final destruction will occur when Jesus comes, leaving the earth completely disorganized, empty, and dark. This is the abyss in which Satan will be bound for one thousand years.

Based on this, one can see that the plagues will take place before Jesus comes, and they will destroy this earth and the wicked who hate righteousness. We know, however, that God’s remnant will be preserved during these plagues, although they may be blamed for them in the end times.

To elaborate more on this point, Brother Sabaj read from the Old Testament: “I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.” Jeremiah 4:23. If there is no light, what is there? Darkness. “Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof.” “The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the Lord hath spoken this word.” Isaiah 24:1, 3.

As mentioned above, the conditions on this earth will become once again as they were before creation. This is a result of God’s wrath—the seven plagues—being poured upon the earth and the devastation left behind after Jesus’ coming. It will once again be an abyss, a state in which nothing can live. “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 20:3.

Let us continue with the first perspective. The earth is void and dark, and Satan is bound within this abyss with no ability to deceive anyone. After a thousand years, he will be released for a short time, and we will find out more about this. Is what God’s word says always fulfilled? Yes! Always!

The second perspective is found in Revelation 20:4-10: “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” When I first read these verses, a question arose in my mind: Who are “they” that reigned with Christ for a thousand years? Also, this verse is given in the past tense. Could this have already happened? No, it has not yet happened, because the millennium is something that will happen in the future. The past tense reference is the apostle John’s description of what was revealed to him.

Brother Sabaj read further and explained this second perspective. Revelation 20:6 says: “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.” This verse speaks of a “first” resurrection, which means that there must be another resurrection. Through our study and re-

search, God reveals more to us using His holy word. “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.” 1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16. These verses confirm that the first resurrection is of those who are now resting in Christ—who died in the true faith of Jesus, remaining faithful to the testimony of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The next verse says: “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

So, what marked the beginning of the one thousand years? Jesus’ second coming. The apostle Paul under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit thus explained that when Jesus comes in glory, He will raise to life those who have died with and for Him, and they will join Him in the air. In Revelation 20:6, it is confirmed that the dead in Christ, who are raised in the first resurrection, will be taken up and will reign with Christ for one thousand years.

Brother Sabaj asked the congregation, “Where do you think they will reign with Christ? What did Jesus say?” Remember that this is the first resurrection. We can answer these questions by searching the Scriptures. Jesus spoke these words: “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.” John 14:2, 3. They will reign in heaven, in the Father’s house, for a thousand years.

The focus of the second perspective is on the saints, those who are righteous. Reading Revelation 20:4 again, John saw thrones. They are said to be not just for kings and governors, but also for judges. Will the righteous be given the authority to judge? Yes. But whom will they judge? Again, turning to the divine word, we read: “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3. The saints are God’s rem-

nant, and the angels who will be judged are Satan’s angels, along with his subjects. In case anyone is wondering how these angels, or agents of Satan, came to be, read Revelation 12:4: “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven and did cast them to the earth:...” Satan deceived many angels and took them on his side. He thus created an army of his own. They were originally angels in heaven, but they were cast out of heaven with Satan. God’s people will judge them.

There is something interesting about the punishment of the infidels, Satan, and his evil angels. Brother Sabaj pointed out that there are two stages to their punishment. When Christ comes, all of the infidels and unbelievers (the wicked) will either already be dead or will be destroyed by the “brightness of His coming.” 2 Thessalonians 2:8. This is their first punishment. For Satan and his angels, their first punishment will be their confinement to the dark abyss with no one for them to deceive for one thousand years.

Now we need to look at the second part of the punishment of the wicked. Referring back to the theme chapter, Revelation 20, we read verse 5: “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished...” The Bible describes a second death, which is hell. “And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.” Revelation 20:7-9. This is the second punishment. After Satan is released, Jesus will resurrect the wicked. Satan will then deceive them and organize them to try to destroy the saints. That is his purpose. However, God’s purpose is much greater, for He will send fire from heaven and de-





physically there? The answer is no, they are not; but everything is written in the books. Every action, every sin, every deed is inscribed in the books. They will be opened; and, case by case, judgment and sentence will be decided. Brother Sabaj gave a detailed example of this. We have the

Revelation 21:1. Paying close attention to the context of this verse, we can see that it is the climax to chapter 20. After all sin and sinners have been removed from the universe in the lake of fire, John saw a new heaven and a new earth. There cannot be a new heaven and earth before the universe is cleansed from sin. Verse 2 continues the sequence of events. "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."

Before the second and final death, Satan and his resurrected agents will join together to try to destroy the Holy City and the redeemed who are in it. Then God will send fire from heaven to completely consume Satan, his evil angels, and the wicked.

The new heaven and new earth spoken of in Revelation 21:1 are described in the following verses, and the promise is so beautiful! "And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." Verses 3-7. All this will be put in place once the judgment is completed and the earth is cleansed by fire.

We will finish with this warning: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. Are such things a violation of the Ten Commandments? Yes, of course they are. What type of person do you want to be and do I want to be? I want to be inside the walls of the Holy City, not outside. May God bless you.

A special thank you to Brother Jose Sabaj for his research and study which made it possible to present this in writing so that others may read and study it. God bless every person who is able to read this and understand it as well.

destroy them all. The second part of Satan's punishmen will also then take place: "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Revelation 20:10.

Satan and all who followed him will be tormented forever—until nothing remains of them. However, those who are in the "beloved city" (verse 9) will not be harmed at all. This Holy City is the New Jerusalem on earth, which John saw coming down from heaven to earth in Revelation 21:2. All who are faithful from all ages, like Abel, down to the last saint who lived on earth, will come from heaven to earth with the Holy City at that time. Although fire will be all around the New Jerusalem, the beloved city will not be harmed. It will be protected by God.

The third perspective is found in Revelation 20:11-15, showing how the judgment will take place. "And 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 was the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Notice how verse 12 speaks of books to be opened, including the book of life. It says that the dead will be judged according to the things that are written in this book

Brother Sabaj asked an important question: "Do you think that the wicked know why they are lost?" "They know," he said. God delegates responsibilities. He can do everything, but He has given authority to the saints to take part in the judgment of the wicked during the one thousand years. Let us take a closer look at this process of the judgment. Also, in verse 12 we see that "great" and "small" will stand before God. How exactly will this happen? Are they

testimony of Jesus here on earth—the Holy Bible—while Jesus is physically in heaven. So, if Jesus is revealed in His word, then you and I have a registry in heaven as well, where all of our words and actions are recorded. Everything that we have done is found in the books., and each person is judged by that. Today we need to search our hearts under the Holy Spirit to be sure that we are in Jesus and prepared to meet Him with joy at His coming.

It is truly wonderful to see how God has a process of judgment, and it is also a warning to search for true repentance. In God's word—the Old and the New Testaments—it can be seen that those who read and understand the messages are blessed. He loves His people so much that He provides everything necessary for them to be saved through Jesus Christ!

How is a person saved? Through grace by faith in Jesus. The Bible teaches that faith without works is dead. James 2:17. This means that if our faith is active, it is genuine and will naturally produce good works. So, we must then assume that unbelievers did not have genuine faith. The price for that is eternal death. "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. This is the second death." Revelation 20:13, 15. We can conclude, then, that unless we submit our will, ego, and self to Jesus Christ; denounce sinful pleasure; and live according to the true faith found in the divine word of God, we will not be saved. On this journey of life, we need to keep fighting the good fight of faith and never give up. Then we will receive the crown life and our names will be found in the book of life.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."

Wisdom and Grace in Christian Relations



Ellen G. White

When the heart is softened and subdued by the grace of Christ, there is peace and satisfaction in the soul; for the love of Christ rules in the heart, bringing into captivity the secret motives of action. Then the easily aroused temper is soothed by the oil of grace. The tumultuous heart at the word of Christ grows calm. When there is a sense of sins forgiven through the merit of the blood of Christ, and there is a consciousness of union with Christ, we are encouraged to strive more earnestly to correct every wrong habit, and our harsh manner will be refined and cease to work against the sanctifying influences of the truth, against the existence of the union which Christ prayed should be manifested among His disciples. When the people of God are under the influence of the Holy Spirit, all variance will disappear, and that which we have thought should be corrected in our brethren will not serve to alienate us from them; for we shall feel that greater evils have existed in our own hearts than those we have criticised in our brethren.

Christ says, "Why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye." Matthew 7:3-5. Why is it that so many forget how often they grieve the Holy Spirit by wicked works, and then presume to judge, accuse, and condemn their brethren? The Lord sees in them greater wrongs than they see in their brethren. If the spirit of criticism had not been found in the church; if the affections had not been centered upon self; if there had been no coldness in the association of the members of the church one with another, the influence of the people of God would have been of a vastly different character on the world. But how can the

people of God be workers together with God, when in spirit they are wholly unlike Christ, and their actions contrary to His instruction? The Lord cannot be a minister to sin, and reveal Himself graciously unto you when you cherish an unyielding, harsh spirit, and are ever ready to manifest unkindness to those with whom you come in contact. By your lack of harmony, by your objectionable spirit, you misrepresent Christ, you falsify the truth. Holy angels cannot work with you in saving precious souls when you do not manifest wisdom in dealing with human minds, and cannot adapt yourself to different individuals in the manner of your work. It is an easy matter to irritate and to destroy; but it takes tact and Christlike wisdom to deal tenderly and kindly and lovingly with those with whom you associate....

God has given to every man his work, and in his vocation he is so to relate himself to his fellowmen that he can work with and for them, ever contributing of his power through the grace given unto him, to enlighten those who sit in darkness. "Let your light so shine before men [not merely before believers, but before unbelievers, in all vocations in life, in every branch of business, in all commerce, in merchandise, in all practical works and professions], that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16.

It is the day of God's preparation, and every day you need to look carefully to your hearts, and study the lessons, the life, and character of Christ, that you may in no case misrepresent your dear Saviour and lead souls into false paths. Learn to practice the lessons of Christ, learn to follow His example in kindness and courtesy, in uplifting those with whom you associate to what is high and holy. "And above all these things put on charity [love], which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." Colossians 3:14, 15.

Let us cultivate the grace of gratitude. Let the praises of God and of the Lamb be continually upon our lips; let the heart be a wellspring of gratitude that cannot be repressed, Christ in you a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him." Colossians 3:16, 17.

The Lord Jesus is our only helper. Through His grace we shall learn to cultivate love, to educate ourselves to speak kindly and tenderly. Through His grace our cold, harsh manners will be transformed. The law of kindness will be upon our lips, and those who are under the precious influences of the Holy Spirit, will not feel that it is an evidence of weakness to weep with those who weep, to rejoice with them that rejoice. We are to cultivate heavenly excellences of character. We are to learn what it means to have good will toward all men, a sincere desire to be as sunshine and not as shadow in the lives of others....

The Lord has given special directions in His words as to how we as Christians should conduct ourselves toward all the children of God. God would teach us what is due to us, by teaching us what is due from ourselves to others. He would have us understand what His will is in our relation to those around us. Strengthened in spirit by the grace of God, we are to manifest a living interest in those with whom we associate; for good works are to be the fruit that will manifest itself upon the Christian tree. In the school of Christ we are to find peace and happiness in gentleness and kindness toward others. We are to follow the example of Jesus Christ our Pattern, and live not to please ourselves, but as laborers together with God; practicing His self-denial, and working as Christ worked to draw all men unto Him. We are not to indulge ourselves in selfish independence, but to manifest deep, earnest love for the brethren. —*Review and Herald*, January 2, 1894.

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