

What does God promise for His people in Rev. 20:6?
What will God's people do while they live?

The Final Judgment

Revelation 20:7-15

What happens at the end of the "1,000 years"? After the church's time on earth, who goes free for a while?

"Gog and Magog" are two names that mean all the countries on earth that are against God. Why does the devil bring all the nations together?

What happened to the armies? Was there even a fight?
What happened to the devil, beast, and false prophet?

Next, the Bible describes the "Great White Throne Judgment." This happens at the end of the world. The bodies of all people will rise. How will God judge them (verses 12-13)? Will Christians get judged? Look at verse 12 and John 5:24 (1339).

There is one book that decides where everyone goes. What is that book (verse 15)? What does it mean if your name is in that book? How does your name get in that book?

The Book of Revelation God's Picture of History and Heaven

Lesson 17, Revelation 20

To Begin...

Think back to when you had to read a book for school. Did you ever read the last chapter first to see what happened, then read the rest of the book? Why did you do that? How is reading Revelation like reading the last chapter first?

The Last Big Picture

All through Revelation, we have seen many pictures of world history. The 7 seals, 7 bowls, 7 trumpets, all showed a short history of the world. The main point of those visions was to show suffering from sin, people rejecting God, and God's judgment on sin. The vision of the dragon and the woman showed the constant war between the devil and God's people, but that God always saves His church. Now in chapter 20, we see the last picture of world history. This short vision shows how God is judging the devil and the devil has no chance of winning. But everyone who belongs to Jesus already wins and will share in His resurrection!

The One Thousand Years

Revelation 20:1-6

An angel came down from heaven. What two things did he have? What did he do?

How long was the devil chained up?

What About...	<p><i>The Millenium (1,000 Years)?</i> <i>The Millenium is the 1,000 years when the church rules with Christ. There are several different ideas about when this happens. Historic Premillennialism means that Jesus comes back and there is a resurrection for believers only. The believers rule with Christ for 1,000 years. The “Pre” means Christ comes back before the 1,000 years. Postmillennialism means that the world gets better and better until the church rules with Christ for a wonderful 1,000 years. Jesus comes back after (“Post”) the 1,000 years are over. Amillennialism means there is no literal 1,000 years. The 1,000 years is a symbol of the whole time the Christian church is on earth, from the time Jesus went up into heaven until He comes back again. That is what the Lutheran Church believes and teaches.</i></p>
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Verse 3 says that the devil is in the pit and can't deceive the nations any more. But read 1 Peter 5:8 (1528). What does that mean? These two verses seem to say opposite things. How can they agree?

For a while, the church will be able to tell the good news about Jesus and the devil's power to stop us is limited. But what happens after that time, before the world ends? Read 20:3.

Who will rule with Jesus during the “1,000 years”?

Next comes another confusing part: resurrection (coming back to life). Verses 5-6 talk about a “first time people come back to life.” Verses 6 and 14 talk about a “second death.” Is there a second time for people to come back to life? What is the first death? First we will look at what death is. Then that will help us understand resurrection.

The First Death:

How did death enter the world? Genesis 2:17 (2).
What kills us? Romans 7:9-11 (1417)

The Second Death:

What is the second death? Who will be thrown there? Revelation 20:14 (1561)

The First Resurrection:

When do we come back to life? Now, or in the future? John 5:24-26 (1339)
How do we become alive? Ephesians 2:4-6 (1467)

The Second Resurrection:

Is this a spiritual or physical resurrection?
1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (1445)