MINISTÈRE DU PASTEUR CLÉMENT SALOMON · BIBLE STUDY #23

The Thousand Years: When God Makes Everything Right

Every lie, every stolen thing, every tear nobody saw. Will anyone ever answer for it? Revelation 20 says yes.

"God knows." Those were the last words her father said about the land.

Nadège is fifty-three. She cleans offices at night in Brooklyn. On her phone she keeps one old photo: her father, Papa Dieudonné, standing in a field of corn and beans near Jacmel, smiling with a hoe on his shoulder.

He worked that land for fifty years. His father worked it before him.

Then one day a powerful man came with papers. The papers were false. Everybody knew it. But a stamp was put on them, and the land was gone.

Papa Dieudonné went to the courthouse eleven times. Nobody listened. He came home, sat on his little chair, and said, "Bondye konnen. God knows." He died two years later.

Last month, at a small Bible study, someone read a verse about the thousand years in Revelation. Nadège put her coffee down. Her voice was quiet, but her hands were shaking.

"So the man who stole my father's land — he just dies one day, and that's it? Nobody ever opens the file? Then tell me: why should I believe God is fair?"

Nobody spoke.

Hold on to her question. The answer is in one of the most misunderstood chapters of the Bible. And the end of Nadège's story surprised even her.

Why talk about a thousand years?

Revelation 20 is a short chapter. But six times it says the same words: *a thousand years*. Bible students call this time "the millennium" — a word that just means "a thousand years."

People have many ideas about it. Some are scary. Some come from movies. Some set dates. We will not do that. We will simply open the Bible, let one verse explain another, and see what God has said.

And here is the surprise: this chapter is not mainly about fear. It is about **justice**. It is about a God who does not forget.

It begins when Jesus comes

The thousand years start with the most joyful day in history — the day Jesus comes back. Paul describes it:

> *"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: 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."*
>
> **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV)**

Picture it. Graves open. Mothers who died in faith rise up. Children are placed back in their parents' arms. And the believers who are still alive rise to meet them, all together, with Jesus.

But where does Jesus take them? He told us Himself:

> *"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 (KJV)**

Jesus takes His people home — to His Father's house, in heaven. That is where the thousand years begin. Revelation calls this rising of God's people "the first resurrection":

> *"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."*

Revelation 20:6 (KJV)

Blessed. Holy. Safe. Those who belong to Jesus are not afraid of this chapter. They are **in** it — with Him.

An empty earth and a bound enemy

What about the people who refused God? Verse 5 says something important:

> *"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection."*
>
> **Revelation 20:5 (KJV)**

So the earth is left silent. The prophet Jeremiah once saw a picture of a land like that:

> *"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light... I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled."*
>
> **Jeremiah 4:23, 25 (KJV)**

And Satan? Revelation says an angel "laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years" (Revelation 20:2), "that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled" (verse 3).

Adventist Bible students understand this chain as a chain of circumstances. With God's people in heaven and no one left alive on earth, Satan has nobody to deceive. For a thousand years he is stuck in the ruins his rebellion created — with time to look at what sin really does.

Heaven's courtroom — with the doors open

Now comes the part Nadège needed to hear. Look at what John sees in heaven:

> *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them... and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*
>
> **Revelation 20:4 (KJV)**

Judgment was given *to them* — to God's people. Paul says the same thing:

> *"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world?... Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"*
>
> **1 Corinthians 6:2-3 (KJV)**

What does that mean? This judgment does not decide who is saved — that was already settled when Jesus came. It is something beautiful: during the thousand years, God opens His records to His people. Every case. Every name. Every question.

"Why is my uncle not here?" "Why is that man here — the one everyone called a thief?" "What happened to the people who hurt us?" God does not say, "Don't ask." He opens the books and lets the redeemed see for themselves that He was fair and loving in every single case.

Long ago, Abraham asked God a question that every hurting heart asks:

> *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*
>
> **Genesis 18:25 (KJV)**

The thousand years are God's answer: **Yes. And you will see it with your own eyes.** At the end, the redeemed will sing:

> *"Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."*
>
> **Revelation 15:3 (KJV)**

Why doesn't God do it now?

Maybe you are asking what Nadège asked: "If God will judge, why does He wait so long?" Peter answers:

> *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*
>
> **2 Peter 3:9 (KJV)**

God waits because He loves. He is still calling people to turn to Him — even people who have done terrible things. That is hard to accept when you are the one who was hurt. But it is the same patience that waited for you and me.

And because God will judge, we do not have to carry the weight of revenge:

> *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."*
>
> **Romans 12:19 (KJV)**

This is not weakness. It is freedom. You can put the file down, because Someone fair is holding it. (If you are being hurt or threatened right now, please reach out to someone you trust and to the proper authorities — leaving final justice to God does not mean staying in danger.)

The end of sin — once and for all

When the thousand years end, everything happens on this earth. The holy city, the New Jerusalem, comes down from God out of heaven (Revelation 21:2). "The rest of the dead" are raised. Satan is "loosed out of his prison" and goes out "to deceive the nations" one last time (Revelation 20:7-8). He gathers them around the city. Then:

> *"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 20:9 (KJV)**

The Bible calls this "the second death" (Revelation 20:14). It is not a party for God. He says plainly:

> *"As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live."*
>
> **Ezekiel 33:11 (KJV)**

It is the sad, final end of sin — not a fire that tortures forever, but an end. After the books have been open for a thousand years, no one in the whole universe will be able to say God was unfair. And sin will never come back:

> *"He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time."*
>
> **Nahum 1:9 (KJV)**

Everything made new

Then God does what He has wanted to do since Eden:

> *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away… 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."*
>
> **Revelation 21:1, 4 (KJV)**

No more courthouses. No more false papers. No more stolen fields. God Himself wipes the tears — the very tears nobody else saw. (Our study *"Heaven and the New Earth"* goes deeper.)

The Seventh-day Adventist Church sums up what the Bible teaches this way: the millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven, between the first and the second resurrections; during this time the wicked dead are judged, and the earth lies desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels; at its close Christ, His saints and the Holy City come down to earth, the unrighteous dead are raised, and fire from God consumes them and cleanses the earth, so the universe is freed of sin and sinners forever (Fundamental Belief #27, "The Millennium and the End of Sin").

Notice what this teaching does **not** do: it gives no date, no secret code, no reason to panic. It gives a promise. Jesus is coming, and God will make everything right.

What Nadège understood

That night, Nadège did not sleep much. She read Revelation 20 again, slowly. Then Genesis 18:25. Then she read it a third time, out loud, in Kreyòl, the way her father would have.

And something changed in her.

"My father's case is not closed," she told the group the next week. "It's in God's books. Every paper. Every lie. Every time they sent him home. One day the file will be opened — and I will be there to see that God was fair."

Then she said the hard part. "And I read that God is patient because He wants people to repent. Even that man. I don't like it. But I'm going to leave him to God. I'm tired of carrying him."

She took a photocopy of the old land paper, turned it over, and wrote on the back: *Jenèz 18:25*. She keeps it in her Bible next to the photo of Papa Dieudonné in his field.

"Bondye konnen," she says now. But it does not sound like giving up anymore. It sounds like hope.

Whatever was taken from you, whatever nobody heard, God has not forgotten. The books will be opened. Sin will end. And the Judge of all the earth will do right. Make sure you are with Jesus on that day — He is calling you now.

Before you close this — one question

Is there a "file" you have been carrying alone? Something stolen, a wrong no one answered, a tear no one saw?

You do not have to carry it by yourself. We would be honored to pray with you, open the Bible with you, and help you get ready for the day Jesus comes — just as you are.

Would you like to know more about Jesus, study the Bible, or go deeper on this topic? Reach us today:

📞 **903-748-9353** · ✉️ **jils19802012@gmail.com**
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Viewer Handout

The Thousand Years: When God Makes Everything Right — pocket version

5 truths to remember

1. The thousand years begin when Jesus returns: the dead in Christ rise, the living believers are caught up, and Jesus takes them to His Father's house (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; John 14:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6).
2. During that time the earth lies empty and Satan is "bound," with no one left to deceive (Revelation 20:1-3, 5; Jeremiah 4:23, 25).
3. The redeemed share in the judgment: God opens the books so everyone can see He was fair and loving in every case (Revelation 20:4, 12; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Genesis 18:25).
4. God waits because He wants everyone to repent, and because He will judge we can leave revenge to Him (2 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:19).
5. At the end, God ends sin forever and makes all things new — no more death, tears or pain (Revelation 20:9, 14; Nahum 1:9; Revelation 21:1-4).

Memory verse

> *"Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*
>
> **Genesis 18:25 (KJV)**

Think & pray about it

- Is there a wrong in my life that I have never handed over to God? What would it mean to give Him that "file" today?
- How does it change my picture of God to know that He will open the books instead of saying, "Don't ask"?
- Am I ready for the day Jesus comes? What is one step I want to take toward Him this week?

FOR TEACHERS & SMALL GROUPS

Presenter Bullet Sheet

- **Open with the story** (an illustrative story: Nadège, an office cleaner in Brooklyn, whose father lost his land near Jacmel to false papers and died saying "God knows") — ask: "Will anyone ever answer for the wrongs nobody heard? Is God fair?"
- **Point 1 — Why a thousand years?** Revelation 20 repeats "a thousand years" six times. We set no dates and do not speculate; we let Scripture explain Scripture. The chapter is about justice, not fear.
- **Point 2 — It begins when Jesus comes:** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; John 14:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6. The first resurrection; Jesus takes His people to His Father's house; the redeemed live and reign with Him.
- **Point 3 — An empty earth and a bound enemy:** Revelation 20:1-3, 5; Jeremiah 4:23, 25. The rest of the dead are not raised until the end; with no one to deceive, Satan is bound by circumstances.
- **Point 4 — Heaven's courtroom with the doors open:** Revelation 20:4, 12; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; Genesis 18:25; Revelation 15:3. Salvation is already settled; God opens His records so the redeemed see His fairness in every case.
- **Point 5 — Why doesn't God do it now?** 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:19. God's patience is love; we can leave vengeance to Him. Guardrail: leaving justice to God never means staying in danger — encourage anyone being hurt to seek help and the proper authorities.
- **Point 6 — The end of sin:** Revelation 21:2; 20:7-9, 14; Ezekiel 33:11; Nahum 1:9. The city descends, the rest of the dead rise, fire from God ends sin; God takes no pleasure in it; sin will not rise a second time.
- **Point 7 — Everything made new:** Revelation 21:1-4. Reference Adventist Fundamental Belief #27, "The Millennium and the End of Sin," in the Church's own words. No dates, no codes, no panic — a promise.
- **Close the story:** Nadège rereads Genesis 18:25 in Kreyòl, says "My father's case is not closed," chooses to leave the man to God, writes "Jenèz 18:25" on the back of the land paper — "God knows" now sounds like hope.
- **Appeal:** invite each person to hand God one "file" they have carried alone, and to give their heart to Jesus so they are ready for the day He comes.

- **Close:** memory verse (Genesis 18:25) + "The Judge of all the earth will do right" + tease the next study ("The Cross and the Empty Tomb: Why Jesus Died and Rose").

EVIDENCE-BASED · FACT-CHECKED

10 Myths vs. Facts

Myth	Fact (with Bible)
1. The millennium is a thousand years of peace on this earth before Jesus comes.	It begins when Jesus comes and raises "the dead in Christ" (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17); the redeemed "lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4).
2. During the thousand years, the saved stay on the earth.	Jesus takes them to His "Father's house... that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3).
3. People who rejected God get a second chance during the millennium.	"The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" (Revelation 20:5). Now is the time God calls us (2 Peter 3:9).
4. Satan is busy tempting people all through the thousand years.	He is bound "that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled" (Revelation 20:3); the earth is empty (Jeremiah 4:25).
5. God's judgment is secret; we will never understand His decisions.	"Judgment was given unto them" (Revelation 20:4); "the saints shall judge the world" (1 Corinthians 6:2); "the books were opened" (Revelation 20:12).
6. The wrongs done to me will simply be forgotten.	The dead are judged "out of those things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20:12). "Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?" (Genesis 18:25).
7. Since God will judge, I should get my own revenge now.	"Avenge not yourselves... Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19).
8. God enjoys punishing the wicked.	"I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezekiel 33:11).
9. Sin and suffering will go on forever somewhere in the universe.	"He will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time" (Nahum 1:9); "there shall be no more death" (Revelation 21:4).
10. Studying the millennium means calculating dates.	"Of that day and hour knoweth no man" (Matthew 24:36). Revelation 20 gives no date; it gives a promise: "Blessed and

	holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection" (Revelation 20:6).

Where this comes from (Sources)

This study is built on the Bible and reflects the published beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Verify everything for yourself:

- The Bible — passages on the millennium and the end of sin: Genesis 18:25; Jeremiah 4:23-25; Ezekiel 33:11; Nahum 1:9; Matthew 24:36; John 14:2-3; Romans 12:19; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 15:3; Revelation 20:1-14; Revelation 21:1-4 (King James Version, public domain).
- Seventh-day Adventist Fundamental Belief #27, "The Millennium and the End of Sin" — official beliefs: https://adventist.org/beliefs (please read the statement there in full, in the Church's own words).
- 28 Fundamental Beliefs (2020 edition, PDF): https://adventist.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/ADV-28Beliefs2020.pdf
- General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: https://gc.adventist.org/
- Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, chapters 41 and 42, "Desolation of the Earth" and "The Controversy Ended," public domain: https://whiteestate.org/ / https://m.egwwritings.org/
- Related studies in this library: *"The Blessed Hope"*, *"What Really Happens When We Die?"* and *"Heaven and the New Earth"* — https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/resources.html · Questions? https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/faq.html · Faith Journey: https://pasteurclementsalomon.org/journey.html

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