

**THE WEEK OF
July 6th, 2009**



**Series 5, Number 20
The Millennium and The Eternal State
Revelation 20:1-6 and 21-22
Zondervan Charts of Bible Prophecy, Chart 90**

**"Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection...[they] shall reign with Him a thousand years."
Revelation 20:6**

**"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth passed away..."
Revelation 21:1**

When it comes to eschatology and the chronology of end times events, a lot of confusion surrounds the distinctions between the millennium and the eternal state (commonly referred to as heaven). One reason for the confusion is that scholars have put forth several different interpretations for the scriptural idea of the millennium. We have covered this in other lessons but its worth repeating. The main views of the millennium are classical premillennialism, dispensational premillennialism, postmillennialism and amillennialism (see chart 87 in Zondervan's Charts of Bible Prophecy). For reasons we have covered previously as well, we believe the most straight forward interpretation of the millennium, from scripture, follows the dispensational premillennial view. This view holds to a literal 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth upon his second coming which is preceded by the rapture of the Church and a seven year tribulation. All that to say that this week, we are contrasting the millennium (interpreted as dispensational premillennialism) and the eternal state as described, primarily, in the book of Revelation. In comparing and contrasting these two significant portions of eschatology, we will find greater understanding of both. In the end, the question remains: So what? What difference should this make in my life? How can I apply these truths about future, unseen, events? There are many implications that proceed from understanding the millennium. In Revelation 20:1-6 we read profound truths for us. Christ is reigning, our King has set up his kingdom. And who is reigning with Him? Who is sitting in judgment seats? We are. The Saints. Verse 6 says that we shall be priests. So how is this going to work? How is Christ going to select leadership during the millennium? We don't know exactly, but we do know that God has established a very clear principle in Scripture called stewardship. Jesus told parables that highlighted the idea that the reward for faithful stewardship would be additional responsibility. Could it be that when Jesus says, in the parable of the talents and minas, "you have been faithful with little, I will make you ruler of much" He was referring to the millennium? I don't know for sure. But the idea certainly fits into the design of God. Either way, we do know that we have opportunity now to either store up treasures on earth or in heaven. Both the reality of eternity and the millennium should challenge us to examine our lives and decide whether we are being faithful as stewards and working for the things that last.

**Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day *example:*
*If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)***

This week consider some of the contrasts between the millennium and the eternal state:

Mon: Duration	Revelation 20:1-6	Revelation 22:5
Tue: Death	Isaiah 65:20	Revelation 21:4
Wed: Sin Nature	Revelation 20:7-9	Revelation 21:27
Thu: Bodies	Isaiah 62:12 I Corinthians 15:42-44	I Corinthians 15:42-44
Fri: Satan	Revelation 20:3,7	Revelation 20:10

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What would the world be like today without Christians? What would the world be like today without unbelievers? What is the Millennium going to be like with Christ as King?

2. What does it mean to live with an eternal perspective? How do we store up treasures in Heaven?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):