



WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JESUS COMES?

THE CRY FOR HELP

TRY JESUS COURSE BOOK 13

Hailed by many critics and artists, both black and white, as the greatest rap singer in the world. Eminem is said to be “one of the most skilled, compelling, audacious, obnoxious and important MCs in hip-hop.”

EMINEM

13 – WHAT HAPPENS AFTER JESUS COMES?



EMINEM has received 11 Grammy awards and had numerous number one singles. He said: *"I think my first album opened a lot of doors for me to push the freedom of speech to the limit."* His records carry the explicit content warnings.

His real name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III. (The name Eminem is from his initials M&M). His music is fuelled by his anger, particularly about his childhood. His father left when he was a baby and his mother moved constantly. He frequently changed schools and often fell victim to bullying. On one occasion he was bashed so badly the doctor thought he would be deaf and blind but he pulled through.

In a *Rolling Stone* interview Eminem said:

"Cause as far as father figures, I didn't have any in my life. My mother had a lot of boyfriends. Some of 'em I didn't like; some of 'em were cool. But a lot would come and go."

He was into drugs and after the death of his best friend in 2007 it got worse. "I was so high at his funeral." He said, "It disgusts me to say it, but I felt like it was about me. I hate myself for even thinking that. It was so selfish." It peaked in December 2007 when he was

hospitalised after overdosing on methadone.

"The doctors told me I'd done the equivalent of four bags of heroin. They said I was about two hours from dying."

It caused him to miss Christmas with his family -14-year-old Hailie, his daughter with ex-wife Kim, and two adopted daughters: 8-year-old Whitney, Kim's daughter from a previous marriage, and 17-year-old Alaina, the daughter of Kim's twin sister.

"I knew I had to change my life. As a father I want to be here. I don't want to miss out on anything."

In the song "Talking' 2 Myself" he raps:

*So why in the world do I feel so alone
Nobody but me, I'm on my own
Is there anyone out there, who feels the way I feel?
If there is then let me in so that I know that I'm not
the only one...*

CRYING OUT FOR HELP

The popularity of Eminem's songs indicates that he's not the only one feeling alone and crying out for help! When will the brokenness and suffering of this life end? Where is God in a world of despair and meaninglessness?

As we saw in Guide 5 (Where Did Evil Come From?), the angel Lucifer became proud and wanted God's position, inciting rebellion in heaven. In tempting Eve to sin he also misrepresented God. Thus he became Satan and brought suffering and death to this world.

The Bible talks about a 1000-year period that is often referred to as the millennium (Latin for 1000 years). This 1000-year period commences with

Jesus' Second Coming. It's about justice and judgment - when wrongs will be righted, accounts settled, rewards given and the intense longings that are common to most of us will be satisfied. It's about the vindication of God and His followers, from Satan's false charges. God will bring sin and suffering to an end. Then every being in the universe will know and testify that God is just and fair.



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One Thousand Years and the First Resurrection

1. In what two resurrections did Christ say the dead would be raised? John 5:28, 29 (page 754 in NIV Bible: International Bible Society, 00195)

... a time is coming when _____ who are in their _____ will hear his voice and come out - those who have done _____ will rise to live, and those who have done _____ will rise to be condemned.

In a cemetery in Hanover, Germany, is a grave on which were placed huge slabs of granite cemented together and fastened with heavy steel clasps. It belongs to a woman who didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead. Yet strangely, she directed in her will that her grave be made so secure that if there were a resurrection, it couldn't reach her. On the marker were inscribed these words: "This burial place must never be opened." In time, a seed, covered by the stones, began to grow. Slowly it pushed its way between them. As the trunk enlarged, the great slabs were gradually shifted so that the steel clasps were torn from their sockets. A tiny seed had become a tree that had pushed aside the stones.

The dynamic life force contained in that little seed is a faint reflection of the tremendous power of God's creative word that someday will call to life all who have died.

2. When will those who died believing in Jesus be raised to life? 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (page 837)

For the Lord himself will _____ from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the _____ in _____ will rise first.

3. What happens to the followers of Jesus who are living when He comes? 1 Thessalonians 4:17 (page 837)

After that, we who are still alive and are left will be _____ up _____ with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

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4. What indication does John, the writer of Revelation, give that these events occur at the beginning of the millennium? Revelation 20:4, 6 (page 878)

Blessed and holy are those who have part in the _____ resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will _____ with him for a thousand years.

Obviously, if they reign with Him for a thousand years, this resurrection must be at the beginning of that period.

5. How does the Bible indicate that the second coming of Christ does not disturb the dead who have not accepted the gift of salvation?

(The REST OF THE DEAD did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) (Revelation 20:5, page 878)

This sentence is in brackets because John, in the middle of talking about the first resurrection, mentions the “rest of the dead” who are not resurrected until the end of the millennium. If all those who have accepted Jesus rise in the first resurrection, the “rest of the dead” must be those who have not accepted this gift.

6. What effect does the coming of Jesus have on those who are alive and have not accepted the gift of salvation? Luke 17:26-30 (page 742)

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and _____ them all.... It will be _____ this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

All those who have not availed themselves of the gift of life in Jesus receive the “wages of sin”, which is death (Romans 6:23, page 799), at the beginning of the 1000 years. This group is pictured, in the book of Revelation (6:12-17, page 870), as calling to the mountains and rocks to fall on them to hide them from the face of Jesus at the Second Coming.

During the 1000 Years - Chaining of Satan and Judgment

7. What happens to Satan during the millennium and what is he unable to do during this time? Revelation 20:1-3 (page 878)

He [the angel] seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and _____ him for a thousand years. He threw him into the _____, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from _____ the nations any more _____ the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a _____ time.

The word Abyss is used in the Greek translation of the Old Testament (Septuagint, translated between about 280 to 180 BC) to refer to this world in a desolate state (Genesis 1:2, page 1). It is also used in reference to the grave (Romans 10:7, page 802).

Satan is bound by a chain of circumstances. He has no-one to tempt or to destroy. Those who have accepted Jesus are with Him in heaven; all those who have rejected Jesus are dead and not raised until the end of the 1000 years. Satan and his rebel angels are alone on this desolate earth during the 1000 years. They have no human beings to tempt or deceive.

8. Where are God's people and what are they doing during the millennium? Revelation 20:4, 6 (page 878)
I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to _____... They came to life and _____ Christ for a thousand years.

These verses describe a judgment scene. A court case is where all the issues concerning a case are presented. The apostle Paul says that the followers of Jesus "will judge the world" and "angels" (1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, page 809). What is the purpose of the millennium? It is so that all of God's creatures might see the perfect justice of God's actions before Satan and his followers are destroyed forever.



"[The millennium] expresses the hope of Christ's final triumph over evil and the vindication with him of his people who have suffered under the tyranny of evil in the present age." (Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Vol 1, page 475)

End of 1000 Years, 2nd Resurrection and Unchaining of Satan

9. What did John see descending to the earth at the close of the 1000 years? Revelation 21:2 (page 878)
I saw the Holy City, the _____, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride.
10. When the resurrection of those who have rejected Jesus' gift of life permits Satan to become active once more, what does he do to show that he has not changed? Revelation 20:5, 7-9 (page 878)
(The rest of the dead did not come to life _____the thousand years were ENDED.)
When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to _____the nations... to gather them for _____... and surrounded the camp of God's people, the _____he loves.

Final Judgment and Vindication of God

11. What judgment takes place at the end of the 1000 years when those who rejected Jesus are resurrected to life? Revelation 20:11-13 (page 878)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and _____ were _____. Another book was opened, which is the book of _____. The dead were judged according to what they had _____ _____. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades [grave] gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done.

12. What is the outcome of Satan's attempt to take the city of God? Revelation 20:9, 14, 15 (page 878)

They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves.

But _____ came down from heaven and _____ them.

Then death and Hades were thrown into the _____ of _____. The lake of fire is the _____ death. If anyone's name was _____ found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

THREE ASPECTS OF JUDGMENT AND VINDICATION OF GOD

Before Jesus' second coming the counter play between Christ and Satan is being worked out in the choices people make. These choices determine their destiny. Those who accept Jesus' gift of life have already received the verdict of acquittal in anticipation of the last judgment. They receive their reward at Jesus' second coming (Matthew 16:27, page 694). The Bible pictures the intelligent beings of the universe, like spectators in a Roman amphitheatre, watching this conflict in the arena of this world (1 Corinthians 4:9, page 808). They see God's justice in His dealings with the rebellion of Satan (Ephesians 3:8-11, page 828; Revelation 16:5-7, page 875).

In the judgment during the millennium, the people of God in heaven are given opportunity to review God's dealings with the rebellion of Satan. They will be able to judge for themselves the fairness of God in allowing some to be saved and some to be lost (Revelation 20:4, 6, page 878; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3, page 809). During this time God's people are pictured as standing before the throne of God singing, *Great and marvellous are your deeds, Lord God Almighty, Just and true are your ways...*

All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts [judgments] have been revealed" (Revelation 15:2-4, page 874).

At the end of the millennium, those who have chosen to go against God are required to give an account of their lives. Their lives are reviewed from the records kept (Revelation 20:11-13, page 878). Satan and all his followers will be convinced of their folly in having rejected God's gift of life. Jude says "*See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way*" (verses 14, 15, page 866). They receive the consequences of their actions, which is eternal destruction. They are thrown into the lake of fire that is the second death (Revelation 20:14, 15, page 878).

13. What shows that everyone, even the devil and those who have followed him, acknowledge the justice of God? Romans 14:10, 11 (page 804)

For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will _____ before me; every tongue will _____ to God."

"[Jesus] humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and EVERY TONGUE CONFESS that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:6-11, page 831)



The Earth Cleansed and Made New

14. What did John see would take place after the final cleansing fire and all sin has been eliminated?

Then I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the _____ of God is with men, and he will _____ with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every TEAR from their eyes. There will be no more _____ or _____ or _____ or _____, for the old order of things has passed away."

(Revelation 21:1-5, page 878)

It's Your Choice!

A little girl was walking with her father in the country. No neon signs, car headlights or street lamps marred the stillness of the crisp evening. As she looked into the deep blue velvet sky, studded with an array of diamonds that put the most dazzling Tiffany jewellery display to shame, she said, "Daddy, if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what do you think the right side will be like?"

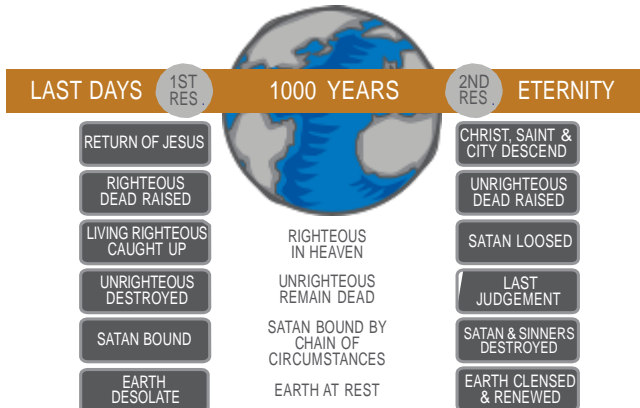
Someday all believers in Jesus will see the "right side" of heaven.

From our study of the millennium, three challenging facts emerge:

1. Each one of us will spend the millennium in either one of two places: with Satan on this lifeless, silent earth, or with Jesus amid the joys of a sinless heaven.
2. Each one of us will be alive on the earth at the end of the millennium, in either one of two places: with Satan, outside the Holy City, or with Jesus, inside the Holy City.
3. Which place it will be depends upon our individual decision now. How would you like to respond?

- I am planning to be with Jesus during and after the millennium.
- What I've learned is new to me and would like more time to think about it.

When you think about the injustices in the world, what have you discovered in this guide that has been most helpful to you?



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