

## The Second Thousand Years

### Commentary for December 16, 2019 — ... of the Kingdom of God on Earth

I received a question regarding my article "[Losing Your Salvation.](#)"

*Thanks for the latest article. You tackled a serious topic, and handled it well.*

*I do have a question — You said towards the end that there might be a potential of losing out for 2,000 years.*

*Do you not mean 1,000? Where does the 2<sup>nd</sup> thousand years come from? [signed \_\_\_\_\_]*

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\_\_\_\_\_, in "Losing Your Salvation," yes, I did mean to write that the time period after Christ returns until all mankind will be glorified will be at least 2,000 years.

The first 1,000 years will be the rule by Christ over the nations. This begins the physical Kingdom of God on earth that the apostles wanted more information about (Acts 1:2–7) just before Christ ascended into heaven. At the end of the 1,000 years, Satan is loosed, there will be yet another rebellion against God, and another mass judgment and destruction will occur (Revelation chapters 20 and 21). It does not seem that everyone rebels, only some people. Unfortunately, the sequence of events in those chapters of Revelation are difficult to be sure.

What comes next? I believe (with Dr. Martin) that the great white throne judgment will also be 1,000 years. It will begin immediately after the old heavens and old earth are destroyed, and a new heavens and New Earth are created.

### ***New Earth and New Jerusalem***

The New Earth will be larger than the present earth, perhaps 10 times or more larger than earth's current diameter of nearly 8,000 miles. If the New Earth were not substantially larger, new Jerusalem (Revelation 3:12, 21:2ff) would be grossly out of proportion with the rest of the New Earth when it descends or transitions from the current heaven to the New Earth. The text tells us that New Jerusalem will be God the Father's residence and it will descend to the New Earth. This is what Peter refers to in 2 Peter 3:7–8. The new heaven and earth (verse 7) are mentioned briefly in relation to a judgment (verse 8). This is about the judgment before God at the great White Throne. It does not refer to Christ's second coming.

At the end of the second 1,000-year period (or shortly after) the third resurrection of the great mass (99.999%) of mankind to glory will occur as described in 1 Corinthians 15:23–28:

1. Christ the firstfruits,
2. Those resurrected to glory at Christ's coming,
3. The rest are resurrected to glory after their physical resurrection.

Number 3 above will occur after the great White Throne Judgment is completed. That judgment will involve a resurrection to a physical body. Children will grow up to adulthood. The judgment will involve punishment and reconciliation, but it will mostly be a process of educating every individual about the truth, purpose, and love of Christ and God the Father.

- When the great White Throne Judgment of at least 1,000 years is completed, the salvation of all mankind will be completed. All shall be saved.
- Then Christ will give up all power and authority to God our Father, and God the Father will become **“that God may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:28).

Such is my current understanding.

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\_\_\_\_\_ replied:

*Thanks for your response.*

*This is “news” to me ... I never saw any reference(s) to a second 1,000-year period, Biblically or otherwise.*

*The Great White Throne Judgement will last 1,000 years? So there will be a whole lot more than just “judgement” going on in that timeframe? And having such a huge Earth entails numerous ramifications: gravity increase, for one. Is it wise to make such an assumption based solely on the “New Jerusalem”? Did Dr. Martin put out a paper on this topic?*

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\_\_\_\_\_, Dr. Martin wrote about it in Chapter 16 of *Essentials*, “[Resurrections from the Dead](#)” (scroll down to the section “The Great White Throne Judgment”). According to Revelation 21:16 (King James Version), New Jerusalem will be 1,500 miles tall, and 1,500 miles on each side (12,000 furlongs  $\times$  660 feet/furlong  $\div$  by 5,280 feet/mile = 1,500 miles).

Either a cube or a pyramid would fulfill the text. If the enlarged dimensions are correct, a larger earth would be expected, rather than a lopsided New Jerusalem on a present-sized earth, along with gravitation problems due to mass. God will work out such details. My speculation is based on the text, and on God’s love of proportion and symmetry in His creation.

There will be nearly 20 billion people born from Adam to the end of the millennium (another speculation of course). Being physical, all will need water, food, clothing, and housing, all for the purpose of God’s education of every individual during the great White Throne Judgment period. Relationships will be made and remade. Every human being will learn to love God and to love each other.

People will likely be resurrected with others from their own time. The statements of Jesus that **“the first shall be last, and the last shall be first”** (Matthew 19:30, 20:16; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30) might tell us when individuals generally will be resurrected to physical judgment. I hope that all reading this will be glorified together when Christ returns.

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