

ADDENDUM ... AFTER THE MILLENNIUM

I Peter 3:15 Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness [*courtesy*] and fear [*respect*].

Zechariah concludes his prophecy with the setting for the Millennium, the one-thousand-year reign of Jesus Christ the Messiah on earth. ... What happens next? Both the Old and the New Testaments explain, **Is. 24:21** And it shall come to pass in that day, that *the LORD shall punish* the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. **22** And *they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.* **23** Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. ... **Rev. 20:1** And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. **2** And *he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years.* **3** And *cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up,* and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. **4** And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5** But *the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.* This is the first resurrection. **6** 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. **7** And *when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,* **8** And *shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.* **9** 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. **10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

In God's estimation, one thousand years is as a brief interlude, **Ps. 90:4** For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night ... **II Peter 3:8** one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ... It is as 'a drop in the ocean' compared with eternity. We shall spend as 'days' (i.e. a limited period) in the Millennium but forever inhabiting the new heaven and the new earth. The one thousand years is stated no less than six times in Rev. 20, **2** And *he [an angel come down from Heaven] laid hold on ... Satan, and bound him a thousand years.* **3** And *cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up ... till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.* **4** 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. **5** But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished ... **6** Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection ... they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. **7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. ... If God did not mean a 'thousand years' He would not have said it but would have used some other phrase

such as ‘a lengthy period of time’. Instead, He says what He means and He means what He says. There is no other way to translate the two Greek words, χίλια ἔτη.

As we have been studying previously, Zechariah plainly teaches the Messiah is coming to this earth, to Jerusalem from where He will reign over every nation in this world, **Is. 9:7** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Satan shall be bound, world evangelism will be uninhibited, creation will return to its original and intended order (**Is. 11:6** The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. **7** And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox). Additionally, **Is. 11:8** the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. **9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. ... During this Millennial period, **Is. 65:20** There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. **21** And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. **22** They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. **23** They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble. ... **Rev. 11:15** And the seventh angel sounded ... The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever

Therefore, there is no basis to deny the simple and straightforward understanding of the information the Bible gives us regarding the literal one thousand year Millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth. It will reward the people of God. It will fulfil the prophecies, for example, **Dan. 7:13** I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. **14** And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. The disciple's prayer will be answered, **Mt. 6:10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done *in earth*, as it is in heaven.

When the one thousand years is fulfilled, Satan will be loosed because it is God's purpose to finally clear up anything throughout those one thousand years which has arisen to contravene His holiness. At the beginning of the one thousand years only the redeemed, - the saved, - are on earth, **I Thess. 4:16** 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 [*believers*] shall rise first: **17** Then we [*the believers on earth*] which are alive

and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. ... Then, with Christ at our head, we shall enter with Him into the holy city, and His earthly Kingdom will be established for one thousand years.

During the Millennium children will be born, **Is. 65:20** There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. Some of those children will rebel against the things of God until eventually, at the end of the one thousand years, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea (**Rev. 20:8**). During the Millennium, each person born must make a conscious decision for or against Christ. Those who choose against Him will enlist in the army of Satan when he will be loosed at the conclusion of the Millennium for the final 'showdown'. God, of course, has always been aware of the enemy and He has already planned for Satan's intention, **7** when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, **8** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. **9** 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. This is Satan's one last mighty attempt to **Is. 14:13** ascend into heaven, ... exalt [*his*] throne above the stars of God: ... sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** ... ascend above the heights of the clouds; [*and try to*] be like the most High. ... It is now or never! ... Unfortunately for the Devil, God has already decided, *never!* ... **13** O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ... There will be immediate justice **Rev. 20:10** And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. ... And that is the eternal end of him for He will suffer God's wrath in Hell forever! ... And at the great white throne judgment the condemnation of all the unsaved throughout every generation will be sealed (**Rev. 20:11-15**), **15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

And what will then happen to this world, this planet, all of creation? ... **II Peter 3:10** the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. **11** ... all these things shall be dissolved ... **12** ... the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat ... **13** Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. ... At this juncture, John provides us with the final glimpse the Bible gives into our eternal home, **Rev. 21:1** And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. **2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people,

and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. ... *The new heaven and the new earth.* ... **I Cor. 15:24** Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he hath put all things under his feet. ... **Phil. 2:9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ... **Eph. 5:25** Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. ... **Ps. 89:35** His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. ... **Rev. 1:5** Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.