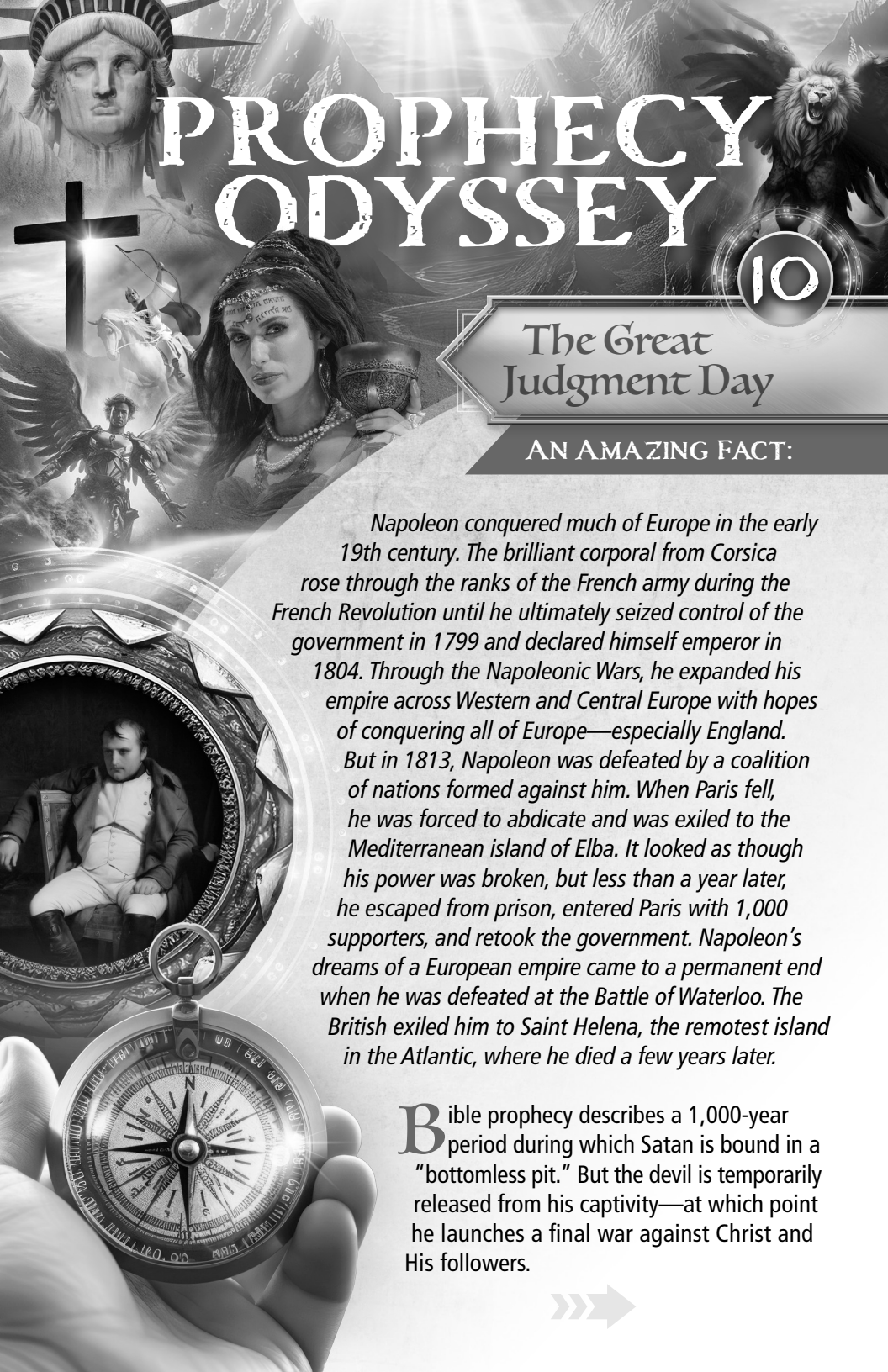




PROPHECY ODYSSEY

10

The Great Judgment Day

AN AMAZING FACT:

Napoleon conquered much of Europe in the early 19th century. The brilliant corporal from Corsica rose through the ranks of the French army during the French Revolution until he ultimately seized control of the government in 1799 and declared himself emperor in 1804. Through the Napoleonic Wars, he expanded his empire across Western and Central Europe with hopes of conquering all of Europe—especially England. But in 1813, Napoleon was defeated by a coalition of nations formed against him. When Paris fell, he was forced to abdicate and was exiled to the Mediterranean island of Elba. It looked as though his power was broken, but less than a year later, he escaped from prison, entered Paris with 1,000 supporters, and retook the government. Napoleon's dreams of a European empire came to a permanent end when he was defeated at the Battle of Waterloo. The British exiled him to Saint Helena, the remotest island in the Atlantic, where he died a few years later.

Bible prophecy describes a 1,000-year period during which Satan is bound in a "bottomless pit." But the devil is temporarily released from his captivity—at which point he launches a final war against Christ and His followers.



The prophecy of Revelation 20 describes the battle and final fate of this diabolical despot who thought he could seize the world as his domain. What happens? Let's find out ...



When you see a blank, use your Bible to look up the missing word and fill it in.



What events mark the beginning of the 1,000 years?

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16

For the Lord Himself will _____ from heaven with a shout. ... And the dead in Christ will _____ first.

REVELATION 20:4, 5

And they lived and reigned with Christ for a _____ years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the _____ resurrection.

NOTE: The thousand years of Revelation 20 is often called the "millennium," which is a Latin composite of two words: *milli*, meaning "one thousand," and *annum*, meaning "years." The second coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the righteous mark the beginning of the 1,000 years. The saints of all ages (described as "blessed and holy" in verse 6) will be raised in this first resurrection.



What else will happen at the first resurrection?

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51, 52

We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be _____—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised.

PHILIPPIANS 3:21

Who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His _____ body.



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2 THESSALONIANS 2:8

Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will ... _____ with the brightness of His coming.

REVELATION 16:18, 20, 21

There was a great _____, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. ... Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great _____ from heaven fell upon men.

REVELATION 20:1, 2

An angel ... laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and _____ him for a thousand years.

NOTE: See the 1,000-year chart at the end of this study for a summary of the events that will take place as the 1,000 years begin.



.....
Who will be raised in the second resurrection, and when will it take place?

JOHN 5:28, 29

All who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done _____, to the resurrection of _____.

REVELATION 20:5

The rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were _____.

NOTE: Whereas the saved are resurrected at the start of the 1,000 years, the wicked are raised in the second resurrection at the end of the 1,000 years.



.....
What is the condition of the earth during the 1,000 years?

ISAIAH 24:1

Behold, the LORD makes the earth _____ and makes it waste.

JEREMIAH 4:23–26 *I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and _____; and the heavens, they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled; ... there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled. ... The fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its _____ were broken down at the presence of the LORD, by His fierce anger.*

JEREMIAH 25:33 *At that day the _____ of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or _____.*

NOTE: The earth will be totally devastated by the earthquake and hailstorm that strike at Jesus' second coming. It will be left in complete darkness. Dead people will lie strewn across the earth's surface, with no one mourning, because none will be left alive. The righteous will all be in heaven, and the wicked will all be dead. (See supplement on "The Bottomless Pit.")



.....
Where will the saints be during the 1,000 years, and what will they be doing?

JOHN 14:3 *I will come again and receive you to Myself; that _____ I _____, there you may be also.*

REVELATION 20:4 *I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and _____ was committed to them. ... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:2, 3 *Do you not know that the _____ will judge the world? ... Do you not know that we shall judge angels?*

NOTE: During the 1,000 years, the saints will be in heaven participating in a judgment. They will not decide who is saved or lost, because God will already have that determined. His “judgments [will] have been manifested” (Revelation 15:4). Instead, the fairness of God’s punishment for the lost will be affirmed, as well as the rewards for the righteous (Revelation 22:11, 12).

This phase of the judgment is for the benefit of the saints. For example, suppose you get to heaven and discover that your beloved pastor is not there—yet some infamous criminal is! You would want an explanation. The angels will guide us through the record books to settle any doubts. At the end of this phase of the judgment, all will be convinced of God’s justice, love, and fair dealings with all. They will declare, “True and righteous are His judgments” (Revelation 19:2).



What will happen at the close of the 1,000 years?

ZECHARIAH 14:1, 4, 5, 9

The day of the LORD is coming. ... In that day His feet will stand on the _____ of _____, which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be _____ in two. ... Thus the LORD my God will come, and all the saints with You. ... And the LORD shall be King over all the earth.

REVELATION 21:2

Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming _____ out of _____ from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

NOTE: At the close of the 1,000 years, the New Jerusalem with the saints inside will descend from heaven and land on what is now the Mount of Olives. The Lord will split and flatten the hill to make a great plain for the city’s landing site.



What will happen next to free Satan from his prison?

REVELATION 20:5, 7

The rest of the _____ did not live again until the thousand years were finished. ... Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be _____ from his prison.

NOTE: After the wicked are resurrected, Satan will once again be free to deceive and manipulate a numberless throng of all the lost from every age.



What will Satan do when the wicked are raised?

REVELATION 20:8, 9 [He] will go out to _____ the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and _____ the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

NOTE: Satan will deceive lost people into believing that he was unjustly deposed from heaven and that together they can capture the city. Realizing they are shut out of the holy city, the wicked will organize a massive assault to conquer the New Jerusalem.



At this crucial moment, what will stop everything?

REVELATION 20:11, 12 I saw a great _____ and Him who sat on it. ... And the dead were _____ according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

NOTE: God's throne will appear in the heavens above the city as the final phase of the judgment begins. The desperate attack on the city is brought to an instant halt. The books will be opened, and every person's life will be made to pass before him. Everything will be open for the wicked and righteous to see (Luke 12:2, 3).



What will happen after the wicked are judged?

ROMANS 14:11 As I live, says the LORD, _____ knee shall _____ to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

PHILIPPIANS 2:10, 11 *At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should _____ that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

REVELATION 19:1, 2 *I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "... true and _____ are His _____."*

NOTE: The wicked will all freely admit that God has been fair and just and that He tried desperately to save them, but they openly chose to reject Him for a selfish life of sin. After this universal admission, the sin controversy will be forever settled, and it will be safe to destroy sinners.



.....
What will happen next?

REVELATION 20:9 _____ came down from God out of heaven and _____ them.

REVELATION 20:15 *Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the _____ of fire.*

NOTE: God's fire will then fall upon the wicked and form a vast lake of fire all around the holy city. This fire will eventually turn them all to ashes (Malachi 4:3). The devil will have no control over this fire, which is called hell. Instead, he and his angels will also be punished in the fire and turned into ash (Revelation 20:10; Ezekiel 28:18). There is no resurrection from this fire, which is called the second death (Revelation 20:14).



.....
After the fire goes out, what will God do for His people?

ISAIAH 65:17 *Behold, I _____ new heavens and a new earth.*

2 PETER 3:13 *We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which _____ dwells.*

NOTE: After the millennium, the saints will witness Jesus create new heavens (atmosphere) and a perfect new earth, in which sin will never arise (Nahum 1:9). The paradise that Adam and Eve lost by sin will be restored in all of its glory. Peace, joy, love, and perfect happiness will rest upon God's people forever!



.....
Where will God and the righteous finally live?

REVELATION 21:3 *The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will _____ with _____.*

MATTHEW 5:5 *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the _____.*

NOTE: Both God the Father and God the Son will live with their saints on the new earth. Just think of it—having God for a neighbor!



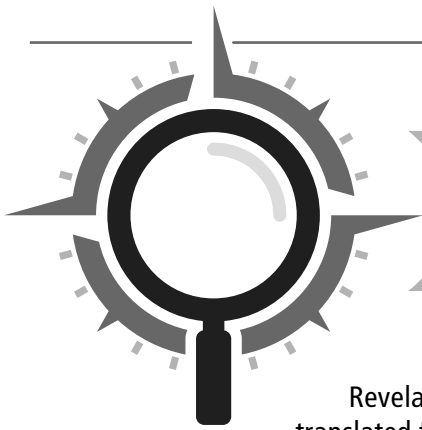
.....
What will the redeemed experience in the New Jerusalem and the new earth?

REVELATION 21:4 *God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more _____, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away."*

» YOUR RESPONSE

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). He has a mansion for you in the holy city! Will you accept His offer of life eternal so that He may give you a new birth and prepare you for His kingdom?

ANSWER: _____



FURTHER STUDY

The Bottomless Pit

.....

The term “bottomless pit” from Revelation 20:1 is often misunderstood. It is translated from the Greek word *abyssos*, the root of the English word “abyss.” In the Greek Old Testament (Septuagint), this word is used to refer to the formless, dark earth as it was before Creation. “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep” (Genesis 1:2). The word *abyssos* is used in Luke 8:31 to illustrate a condition in which demons have no one to possess or manipulate.

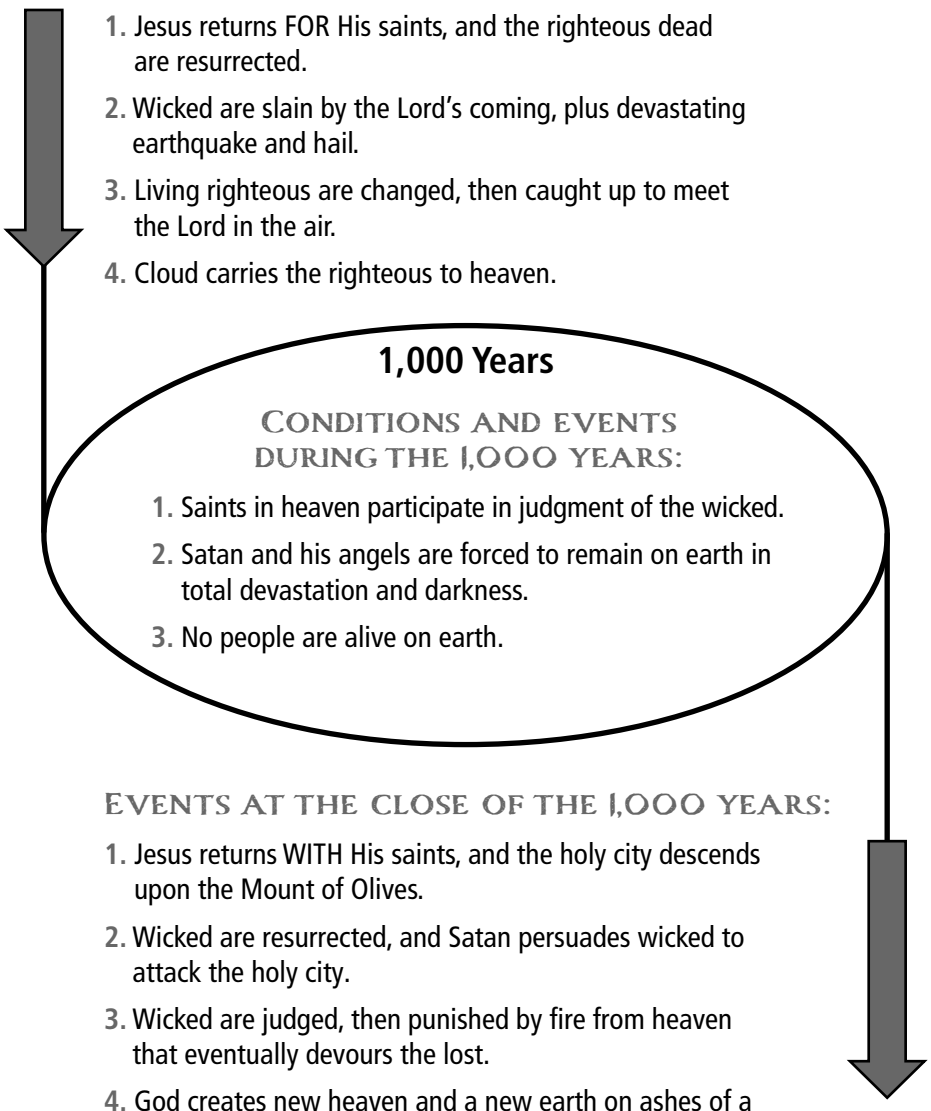
During the 1,000 years, the devil is chained by circumstances, “that he should deceive the nations no more” (Revelation 20:3). A literal chain could never hold a spiritual being. Only one thing would prevent him from tempting people, and that is if no people were still alive! When Jesus comes, the wicked are all slain and the righteous taken to heaven, so Satan and his angels are confined to this planet with no one to tempt. For 1,000 years, they will roam the charred landscape, beholding the fruit of their rebellion. It will be the most galling chain of circumstances ever forged. “They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and will be shut up in the prison; after many days they will be punished” (Isaiah 24:22).

See the chart on the next page.



THE 1,000-YEAR CHART

EVENTS THAT BEGIN THE 1,000 YEARS:

- 
1. Jesus returns FOR His saints, and the righteous dead are resurrected.
 2. Wicked are slain by the Lord's coming, plus devastating earthquake and hail.
 3. Living righteous are changed, then caught up to meet the Lord in the air.
 4. Cloud carries the righteous to heaven.

1,000 Years

CONDITIONS AND EVENTS DURING THE 1,000 YEARS:

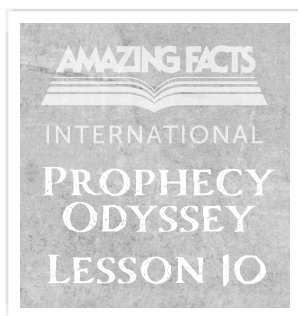
1. Saints in heaven participate in judgment of the wicked.
2. Satan and his angels are forced to remain on earth in total devastation and darkness.
3. No people are alive on earth.

EVENTS AT THE CLOSE OF THE 1,000 YEARS:

1. Jesus returns WITH His saints, and the holy city descends upon the Mount of Olives.
2. Wicked are resurrected, and Satan persuades wicked to attack the holy city.
3. Wicked are judged, then punished by fire from heaven that eventually devours the lost.
4. God creates new heaven and a new earth on ashes of a purified earth.

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