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## THE TIME OF THIS WORLD

According to Jewish tradition, the time allotted for this world is 6 + 1 thousand years. As such, the world will exist for six thousand years, but it will be followed by a seventh Sabbath millennium, which will be completely different from the millennia that preceded it. Here we see an analogy with the Jewish week. In the Jewish week, work is done on six days, but the seventh day is a day of rest, which is sanctified to the Lord. Similarly, according to the Law of Moses, the land is cultivated for six years and on the seventh it is left fallow, allowing the land to rest.

In the Talmud this matter is expressed as follows:

The world is to exist six thousand years. In the first two thousand there was desolation (the Fall, the Flood, the building of the Tower of Babel); two thousand years the Torah flourished; and the next two thousand years is the Messianic era, but through our many iniquities all these years have been lost. (*Sanhedrin 97 a-b*)

Just as the seventh year is one year of release in seven, so is the world: one thousand years out of seven shall be fallow (sabbatical millennium), as it is written, And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day,' and it is further said, A Psalm and song for the Sabbath (Ps. 92), meaning the day that is altogether Sabbath — and it is also said, For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past. (*Sanhedrin 97 a*)

The Book of Revelation contains many concepts that belong to the Jewish tradition and is also otherwise a very Jewish book. Therefore, we can be sure that the Millennium, which is mentioned at the end of the Book of Revelation, refers to the seventh “Sabbath millennium” mentioned in the Talmud, when there is no work to be done. Then all sin will be removed and only the Lord will be exalted.

All the prophecies about the end of this world refer to the beginning of the thousand-year reign. Jesus Himself gave many prophecies about it (Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21). Then Christ will return to the earth and establish His own Kingdom.

*See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore, if they say to you, 'Look, He is in the desert!' do not go out; or 'Look, He is in the inner rooms!' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (Matthew 24:25-27)*

If we assume that the prophecy given in the Talmud is correct, we can ask when the coming of Christ will take place according to it. Based on the information in the Bible, we can calculate the age of the world up to the present day. The calculation begins with the creation of Adam. Although many disagree about the true age of the earth, this calculation begins with the creation of Adam. Any possible world ages before that are not counted, or are counted only in days.

In Talmudic prophecy, the time allotted to the world is divided into three periods of 2,000 years. The last period will be a 1000-year Sabbath. The turning points in history that will begin the new eras are as follows:

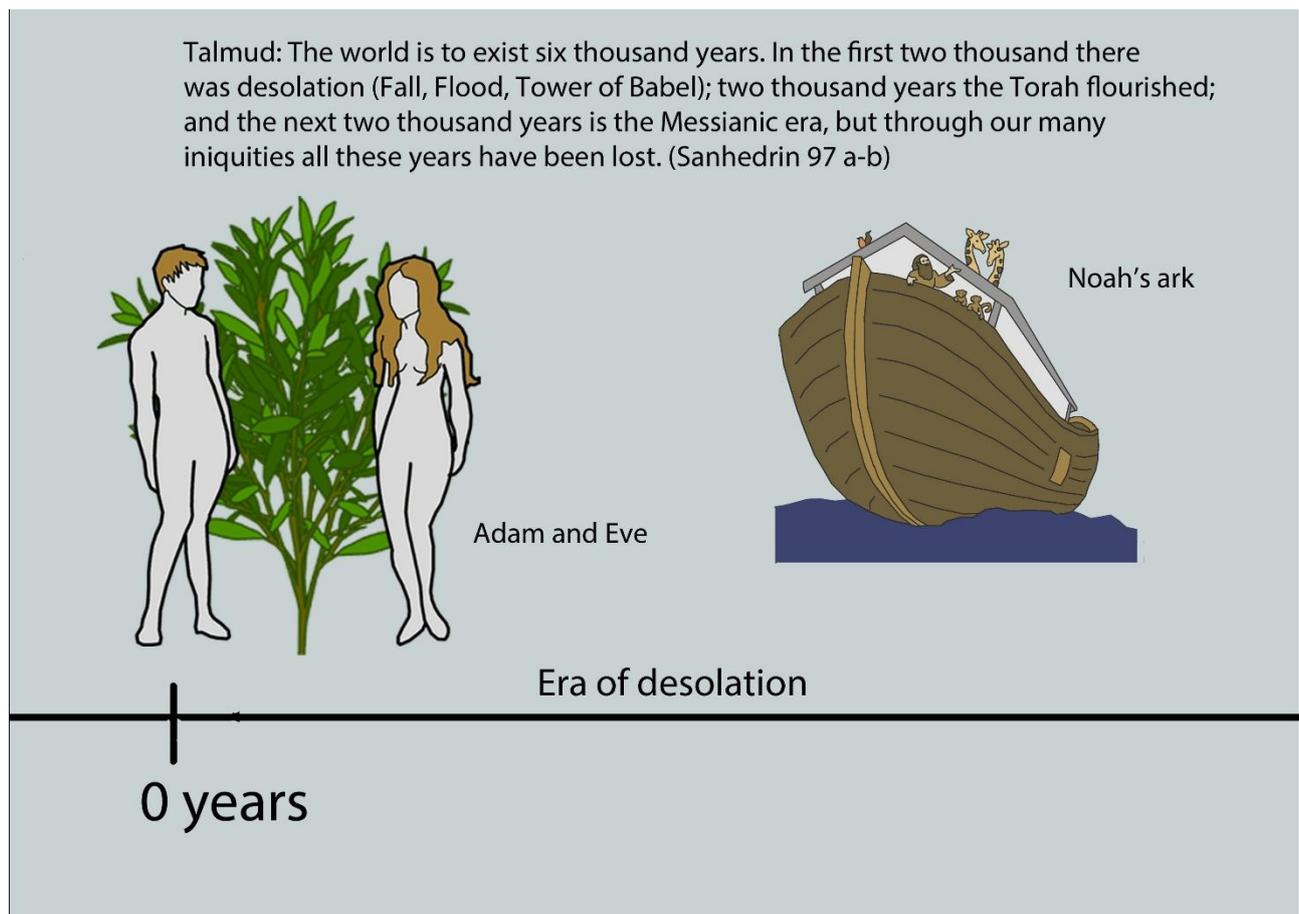
1. The creation of Adam begins the “Era of desolation”
2. Abraham's Call Begins the "Era of Torah"
3. The first coming of the Messiah begins the “Messianic Era” (Christian interpretation)
4. The Second Coming of the Messiah Will Begin the “Thousand-Year Sabbath”

The following briefly examines these eras.

### The Era of desolation

The era of desolation encompasses the fall of Adam and Eve, the subsequent corruption of the world until the Flood, and from the post-Flood period through the reign of Babylon until Abraham.

Based on the Bible's genealogical information (Genesis 5 and Genesis 11), we can calculate the age of the world from the creation of Adam to the birth of Abraham. So, Abraham was born in 1946 ACA (After the Creation of Adam). Abraham's calling, covenant, and the birth of Isaac occurred between 2021 and 2046 ACA. So, these important things happened about two thousand years after the creation of Adam.



## Era of Torah

The Era of Torah includes the entire history of Israel from the call of Abraham to the beginning of the Messianic Era. It is interesting to note that the Jewish Talmud determines the beginning of the Messianic Era in the same way as Christians. According to Christians, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was born, died, and resurrected approximately at the beginning of Common Era, about 4,000 years after the creation of Adam.

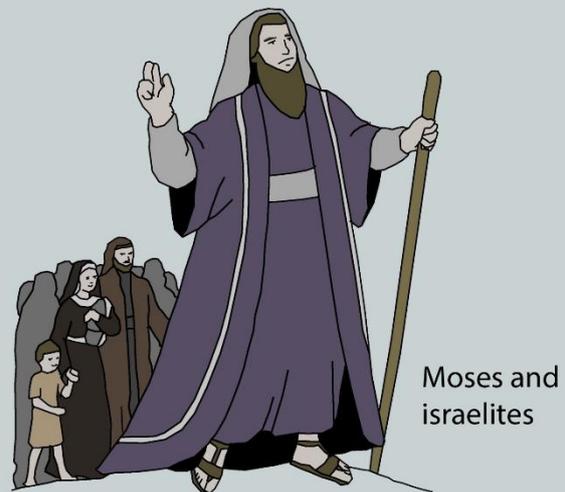
Jacob was born in 2106 ACA (Genesis 25:26). Jacob (Israel) was 130 years old when he moved to Egypt (Genesis 47:28). Israel was in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40). The Exodus therefore began in 2666 ACA. At the beginning of the sixth chapter of 1 Kings it is then said:

*And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel had come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign over Israel, in the month of Ziv, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord. (1 Kings 6:1)*

This brings us to the fourth year of Solomon's reign, which was 3145 ACA. From this point on, estimating the times becomes more difficult. The Bible says nothing about the last centuries before the birth of Christ.

Therefore, for the missing parts, one must rely on general historical knowledge. Although this historical period is now fairly well known, it is in any case the one that causes the most differences between different calculations. The Jews calculate this period to be much shorter than today's historians.

Talmud: Six thousand years shall the world exist, and one [thousand, the seventh], it shall be desolate, as it is written, 'And the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day'. (Sanhedrin 97 a)



Era of the Torah

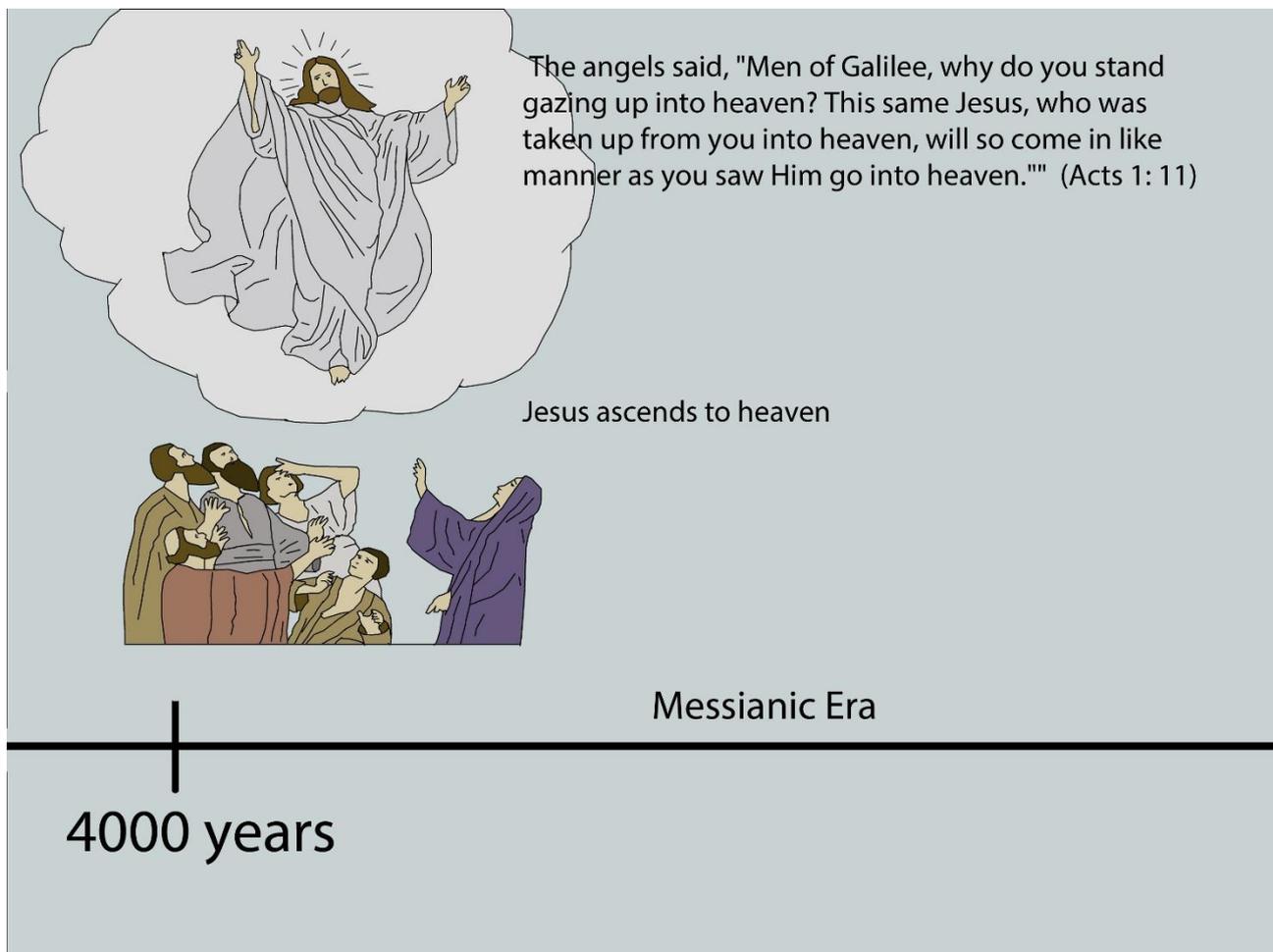
2000 years

The following is a comparison of calculations of the time span from the creation of Adam to the beginning of Common Era, made by different people:

My own calculation <sup>1</sup>	4113
According to James Usher, 17th century	4004
According to Philip Melancthon, 16th century	3962
Jewish calendar, c. 100 AD	3760

Some calculations slightly exceed 4000 years, others fall below it. However, on average, the time frame is around 4000 years.

Very few Jews knew what happened at the beginning of our era. Only a few got to know that their Messiah had been born into the world at that time. However, the Messianic era could only begin in the year of His death, when He also rose from the dead, because only then did the time of the new covenant begin. If the beginning of the Messianic era is defined by the death and resurrection of Jesus, then 32-33 years must be added to the calculation of the beginning of our era. According to my own research, the year of Christ's death was 32 AD. Some other researchers consider the year 33 AD to be the most likely.



<sup>1</sup>The calculation is based on the information presented in Aapeli Saarisalo's book "Bible Dictionary" of King Solomon's fourth year of rule, 968 BCE.

## The Messianic Era

This brings us to the Messianic Era, which can be considered to have begun in the year of Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven. The disciples were eyewitnesses to this event. At the beginning of the book of Acts, it is told how the disciples, while gazing into the sky, saw two men in white robes who said to them:

*"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)*

So, Christ will come back in the same way He went to heaven. However, He will come with the sword of judgment in His hand, because the time of grace, which was to last 2,000 years, will then be over.

Some Jewish stories (Midrashim) state that the Jews will be exiled for two thousand years during the "Messianic Era".<sup>2</sup> This is exactly what happened, as the Romans destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD and the Jews were completely expelled from their land after their revolt in 135 AD. They remained in exile until 1948, when the State of Israel was re-established. Since then, Jews have flocked to the Land of Israel from all over the world, and the country has flourished.

Jesus' apostles spread Christianity to the pagan nations. However, within the first few centuries, relations between Christians and Jews broke down and have been strained ever since. Today, however, the situation has improved. In general, it can be said that Bible-believing Christians support modern-day Israel because they understand that God is still with them and is fulfilling His plan through them.

This article will not focus on church history. That would be unnecessary, since the prophecies were specifically directed to the Israelites. At this point, the only focus is on timing the year of Christ's return. About His return we know that whenever He comes, He will come among the Jews.

If the year of Christ's resurrection was 32 or 33 AD, then the 2,000-year Messianic period would end in 2032 or 2033. So, at the time of writing this article (in 2025), to that moment there would still be left only 7 or 8 years.

In that case, the prophesied 7 (2 x 3½) year long period of tribulation (Dan. 9:27, Rev. 11:2-3), which is especially directed at Israel and the Jews, would begin either this year or next. After ending of the tribulation period, Christ will come to save His people. (Zech. 14:1-4) At that point, many Jews would have already confessed Jesus as their Messiah. (Matt. 23:39). The day of Christ's coming is also a day of punishment and wrath (Isa. 13:6-9), but those who trust in the Lord will be saved from wrath. (Deut. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:9).

The rapture of believers has been prophesied to take place before the coming of Christ (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:51-53). It will occur during the tribulation period, but it is not clear from the Bible whether it will occur at the beginning, end, or middle of the tribulation period. In any case, it will happen before His coming.

According to my own calculations, the year of Christ's return could therefore be 2032. However, I am not saying that it is definitely that year, as the calculations presented above contain uncertainties that can greatly affect the final results:

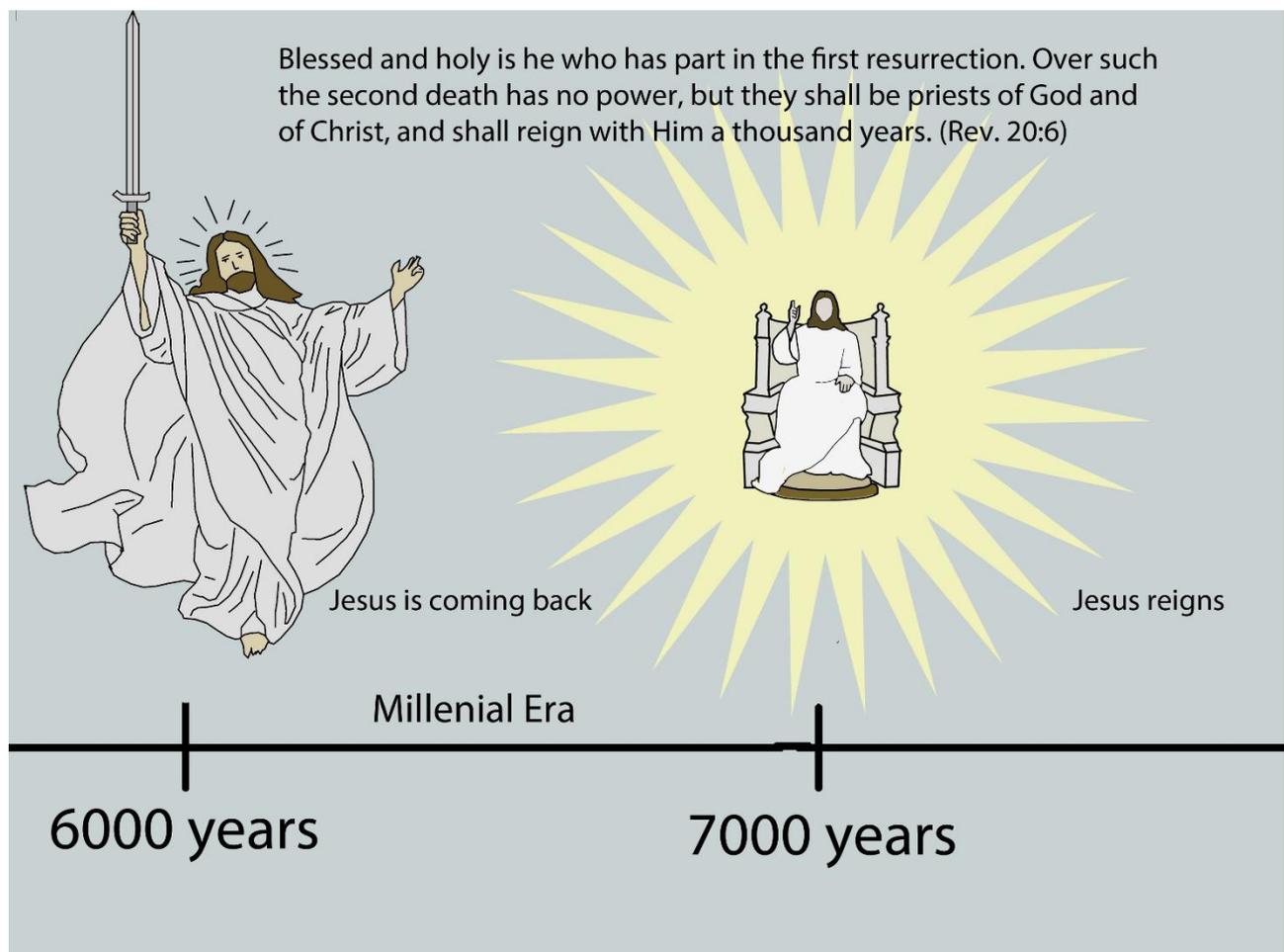
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<sup>2</sup>Raphael Patai, *The Messianic texts. Jewish Legends of Three Thousand Years*, 19), "It was indeed pre-ordained that Jerusalem should be lost to the Israelites, but only until the coming of him concerning whom it was said, 'Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.'--Gen. Rabba 56.

1. Our Bible does not say that the time from Christ's ascension to His return is exactly 2000 years. However, the fact that the current world has been allotted a time of 6 +1 thousand years according to the week principle can be considered biblical.
2. There may be reasons why God, in His sovereignty, extends or shortens the predicted time. (It may be that such “inaccuracy” was already allowed for the first 2000-year period.) It is important to remember what Jesus said: “But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” (Matthew 24:36)
3. Since the prophecies were given to the Jews, it is possible that they have some facts behind their own calculations that we Gentile Christians are not aware of. In case their calculation of the age of the world were correct, there might still be plenty of time left for the world.

So, we cannot get stuck on just one year, and we cannot start living as if all normal life from now on is useless. We should be content with the fact that the beginning of the Millennium cannot be determined exactly based on world age calculations.

However, it is important to “watch” and be ready at all times from now on. That is why it is also important to know other Bible prophecies related to Jesus’ return. These are primarily the prophecies related to the land and people of Israel. Israel is an important time clock. The very fact that the state of Israel was suddenly born on the world map in 1948 is an important sign.



Jesus said:

*"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all things take place. (Luke 21:29)*

Based on this parable, we can also predict that Jesus' return is near, because the fig tree represents Israel. Jesus urged many times:

*"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." (Matthew 25:13)*

### The Millennial Sabbath

As already stated above, the world's millennial Sabbath is the same as the millennial kingdom of Revelation, which Christ will rule together with His own:

*And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)*

Then it says something confusing: "When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison, and he will go out to the four corners of the earth and deceive the nations." (Rev. 20:7-8) How can this be possible? Surely Satan will no longer be able to persecute those saved in the Christ's Millennium. Of course not. Satan will be released where he has been imprisoned all along, namely in Depth (Rev, 20:3), i.e. in the world of souls, in a place which has not yet been cleansed. There are still unsaved souls that Satan will chase. However, the end result is this:

*They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev. 20:9-10)*

After that, the final judgment will be set. During that time, many more souls will be saved from the world of souls (those whose names are written in the Book of Life). They will enter the second resurrection. The rest will be thrown into the lake of fire.

*Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14-15)*

After that, John saw new heavens and a new earth:

*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. (Rev. 21:1)*

Here we have already moved on to the 8th day. The saved mankind is allowed to descend into a new earth that has been cleansed and prepared for them. There is no longer a thousand-year kingdom, for it has been replaced by a new era, the duration of which is not at all defined. But Christ rules over that too.