

# Revelation 20

## Fall of Satan - Victory of Saints - Final Judgment on Rome

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. The key to understanding the revelation is enhanced by several things John tells us in the first three verses of chapter 1.
1. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ. 1:1
  2. It is a book involving symbols and signs. 1:1
  3. It is concerning things that would “shortly come to pass.” 1:1
  4. The time, during John’s day, was “at hand.” 1:3

### **THE BINDING OF SATAN - 1,000 YEARS**

#### Verse 1

- A. A messenger from Heaven appears with the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

#### Verses 2-3

- A. And He laid hold on the Dragon and bound him for a 1,000 years; cast him into the abyss; and shut and sealed it over him THAT HE SHOULD DECEIVE THE NATIONS NO MORE until the 1,000 years be finished. After this he would be loosed for a little time (season).
1. NOTE: Dragon (Satan) was NOT killed.
  2. He was simply bound (restricted) that he should deceive the nations no more, during which time the Christians who had died would live and REIGN with Christ—1,000 years (Revelation 20:2-4).
  3. After the 1,000 years, he would be loosed for a little season (more deception of nations).
  4. Some mistakenly think Satan was killed, but he was just bound (limited). The Christians’ problem was solved for a 1,000 years—total victory. Their worries were over. The enemy was bound.

### **SOULS - LIVING AND REIGNING WITH CHRIST FOR 1,000 YEARS**

#### Verse 4

- A. In this heavenly vision John now sees thrones with people sitting on them, and judgment was given to them.
- B. Then he sees the SOULS of those beheaded for the cause of Christ.
1. These did not worship the Beast, nor his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and hand.
  2. THESE LIVED AND REIGNED WITH CHRIST FOR 1,000 YEARS!

## REIGNING WITH CHRIST

### 1,000 YEAR REIGN

- A. There are several things that we know:
1. We know that Revelation is symbolic.
  2. We know from our numerology study that ten is a complete number (ten toes, ten fingers are a complete person).
    - a. Ten times ten times ten equals 1,000. So ten is magnified. The number 1,000 represents a total or complete number.
    - b. It is used symbolically in **Psalm 50:10** - “Every beast of the forest is mine; and the cattle upon a thousand hills.”
  3. This is God’s way of saying they ALL belong to me.
    - a. So, **a reign of 1,000 years is a complete reign**, not to be taken anymore literally than the cattle on a 1,000 hills.
    - b. **The number 1,000 also signifies complete victory.**
- B. Those who lived and reigned with Christ for the 1,000 years had been killed in the Lord’s service: “. . . 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” (**Revelation 20:4**)
- C. How long did Jesus reign? We are not told here! We are told how long the saints who have died reign with Him! We were told earlier that He will reign forever (Revelation 11:15).
1. This passage encourages Christians to be faithful and not fall away in face of persecution and death.
  2. When they died, they went to be with the Lord for 1,000 years (**complete period of time; victory**) . . . Their problem is solved . . . They were with the Lord.
- D. The 1,000 YEAR issue has been one of the most abused and misunderstood passages in Scripture.
1. It must be noted that Revelation 20 is the only place in the Bible a 1,000 year reign is mentioned.
    - a. So, all the information in the Bible on the 1,000 year reign is here.
    - b. There is NO . . . absolutely NO room in Scripture for a pre or post-millennial point of view of the return of Christ.
    - c. This time factor (1,000 years) has been ripped out of context and abused.
    - d. It’s sort of like taking a drop of truth, and adding it to a sea of speculation.

1. Take a few Old Testament passages, dump everything into a blender, and SHAZAM, OUT COMES THE PREMIILENNIAL false doctrine of Christ coming to reign on the earth for 1,000 years.
  2. Such is not taught in Revelation.
  3. IT IS NOT TAUGHT ANYWHERE IN GOD'S WORD!
  - e. This speculative and grossly erroneous false teaching is widely accepted and hysterically preached in many mainline churches and seminaries.
  - f. Again this premillennial doctrine is **TOTALLY WITHOUT BIBLICAL BASIS.**
2. Our approach will begin with what Revelation 20 does NOT teach.
    - a. The error of any premillennial speculations from this passage can be seen by seven things notably absent in both chapter 20:1-6 and its entire context. What Revelation 20 does NOT teach:
      1. It does **NOT** mention the **SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.**
      2. It does **NOT** mention a **BODILY RESURRECTION**
      3. It does **NOT** mention a **REIGN ON EARTH**
      4. It does **NOT** mention the literal **THRONE (OF DAVID).**
      5. It does **NOT** mention **JERUSALEM OR PALESTINE.**
      6. It does **NOT** mention **US**
      7. It does **NOT** mention **CHRIST ON EARTH.**
    - b. Remember: **A CURSE PRONOUNCED ON THOSE WHO ADD TO WORDS OF THIS BOOK.** Revelation 22:18-19
    - c. These seven things which are missing in Revelation 20:1-6 are essential to a millennial theory.
  3. The entire premillennial position is a figment of a fertile imagination There is not enough stretching or twisting of this passage to get a 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth at his final coming! Nor is there a hint of a seven year rapture or tribulation.
  4. **Revelation 20:5** - **“But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”**
    - a. This passage expresses the truth that those who are not Christians (the rest of the dead) do not live until the 1,000 years is finished.
    - b. Those who died faithful, live and reign with Christ during the 1,000 years (the first resurrection).

### Verse 6

- A. There is a blessing upon those who participate in the first resurrection (those living and reigning with Christ for a 1,000 years).
- B. The second death (eternal separation from God and condemnation to the lake of fire and brimstone) has no power over those who live and reign with Christ for 1,000 years.

## SATAN LOOSED AND DESTROYED

### Verses 7-8

- A. At the end of the 1,000 years (finish) Satan will be loosed out of his prison and shall go forth to deceive the nations again in the four corners of the earth.
1. We are introduced to GOG and MAGOG who gather with Satan to war with the church.
  2. Who are GOG and MAGOG?
    - a. Again we are applying these images as symbols, spiritual fulfillment.
    - b. Gog and Magog are **the enemies of God's people**.
    - c. The figure is drawn from the Old Testament:
    - d. They were the symbolic enemies of God even in the Old Testament (Ezekiel 38:2).
    - e. The complete and utter defeat of Gog and Magog is symbolized in the fact that it takes seven months (210 days) to bury the dead (Ezekiel 39:1-6, 11-16).

### Verse 9

- A. Gog and Magog and a huge multitude gather for the war.
- a. They compass the camp of the saints and the beloved city (church).
  - b. Fire comes down out of Heaven and devours them. It's over. Victory in Jesus!
    1. God wins.
    2. Christ wins.
    3. God's people win.
    4. Satan loses.

## THE DEVIL CAST INTO THE FIRE

### Verse 10

- A. Notice the order given:
1. The Harlot is fallen first (Revelation 18:2);
  2. Next the Sea Beast and the Earth Beast (false prophet, Revelation 19:20)
  3. And NOW Satan is cast alive into the fire, and all are tormented forever.

## THE GREAT WHITE THRONE—The Wicked Are Judged (Rome)

Verse 11 - The earth is gone.

### Verse 12 -

- A. John sees those who are to be judged, standing before the Lord.

B. The books are opened and the dead are judged by the things written in the books.

1. Only the wicked are being Judged.
2. These are the rest of the dead of Revelation 20:5.
3. No Christians are in this group.
  - a. **John 5:24** - Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.
  - b. **1 John 3:14** - We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.

### Verse 3

A. The sea gave up the dead.

B. Again, this is not a literal passage, because in Revelation 20:11, the earth is gone.

C. How could the sea literally give up the dead if the earth was done away?

### Verses 14-15

A. Remember, these verses apply to the enemy (Rome).