

Revelation #49**July 30, 2023****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's Message: The Millennial Kingdom! Revelation 20:1-6**

The events of Revelation 20 follow chronologically the awesome victory of the Lord Jesus in Revelation 19:11-21. In that victory it was He, the One who is called Faithful and True, who, having mounted His white horse, rode out in conquest "striking down the nations" (19:15), vanquishing His foes! Remember, also in chapter 19, in an instant, He vanquished the beast, and the false prophet, capturing them and throwing them into the lake of burning sulfur! Then, with the sword that came out of His mouth, He killed the kings and their armies who ventured into the Campaign of Armageddon! It was there that the birds attended the Great Supper of God, devouring the very carcasses of the enemies of God.

Now in chapter 20:1-10 within a moment preceding Christ setting His feet down on the earth, an angel sent by God snatches up the devil, or Satan, and binds and throws him in the Abyss. There Satan remains bound in chains for the duration of the 1,000 year reign of Christ on David's throne!

For as much as we have talked about the Millennial reign of Christ, surprisingly little information is disclosed here in chapter 20:1-10. But I want us to consider that we can learn more about the Millennial Kingdom of Christ our Lord.

What does Millennium mean? A millennium is a latin word which refers to a period of 1,000 years. And, just so you know, because the earthly reign of Christ lasts 1,000 years we refer to it as the millennial reign of Christ on earth.

Is the millennial reign of Christ the same as saying the Kingdom of God? Yes. It is the Kingdom of God come to earth with Christ Jesus ruling and reigning over it. This is wonderful to think of, but every time we have prayed the Lord's prayer we have prayed expectantly for the coming of this millennial kingdom! Jesus taught His disciples to pray expectantly this prayer in this way concerning the Father's kingdom, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." And in that same prayer, Jesus taught them to acknowledge again that the Kingdom to come is the Kingdom of God, when He taught to pray, "For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever, Amen!"

Now, we rejoice at the imagery presented concerning the Millennial Kingdom of God, ruled over by our Lord Jesus Christ, who, as Scripture has testified, will rule with an iron scepter (Rev. 19:15; 2:27; 12:5; Ps.2:9). Our interpretive model is called the **Premillennial** position and takes quite literally the imagery presented in Revelation 20:1-10. For example, we interpret the binding of Satan as something future to us simply because the events of Revelation 19 and 20:1-10 have not occurred yet—that is, they are still future to us. Yet, a Postmillennial and an Amillennial interpreter, interprets the binding of Satan as something which is happening currently, or in the present time, with some Post-m's agreeing that in some way Satan will eventually be literally bound.

Another difference of interpretation is found concerning the issue of a literal millennium. The literal interpretation is challenged by Post- and Amillennial believers. They see the millennium as something symbolic rather than literal. I must give the Post-m's credit, they do squeeze into their interpretative model the notion of a literal millennium, but only after the Church has subdued the earth. Whereas, we take the **Premillennial** position, which views the millennial reign of Christ as a literal 1,000 year reign of Christ predicated on Christ's second coming, which precedes the millennium!

The **Premillennial** view seems to better follow along with the simple and plain reading of the text, which clearly and simply indicates that Satan will literally be bound and Christ will set up His kingdom on earth at the beginning of the millennium. In short, Christ's Second Coming precedes the **Millennium** (Pre Millennium Second Coming of Christ), while Post-m's set Christ's Second Coming at the end of the millennium, and A-m's see a symbolic millennium without a future millennial kingdom reign of Christ on earth.

So, now as we come to Revelation 20:1-10 we come to the long awaited literal coming of the Kingdom of God to earth! Let's look today at: 1) (20:1-3) Satan is bound in the Abyss for 1,000 years; 2) (20:4-6) The Resurrected Saints reign with Christ on earth for 1,000 years; And, next week we will undertake gaining understanding: 1) (20:7-9) Satan is loosed from the Abyss after the 1,000 years; 2) (20:10) Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire and 3) the Great White Throne Judgment in 20:11-15.

I. (20:1-3) Satan is bound in the Abyss for 1,000 years (The First act of the Great King as He sets up His kingdom on earth)

A. An unknown, ordinary angel of the Lord, seizes the devil and binds him

1. This angel now possessed the **key to the Abyss** and a **great chain**.

a) Whereas, before, the **key to the Abyss** was in Satan's possession

(1) See Revelation 9:1, 11

(a) The angel who held the key of the Abyss was named **Abaddon** in Hebrew, and in the Greek, **Appollyon**

(i) He served as "king" over the demons who were described as "locusts" in Revelation 9:1-10

b) This angel from heaven had authority to do 6 things

(1) To seize the dragon

(2) To bind him in the great chain for 1,000 years

(3) To Cast him into the Abyss, the bottomless pit

(4) To lock him up, or to "shut him up"

(5) To seal the Abyss to keep the devil from deceiving the nations

(6) To turn him loose at the end of the 1,000 years

2. This ordinary angel, a created being, was given power to overcome the devil

a) This is important for at least two reasons

(1) Angels did not dare engage the devil on their own terms

- (a) See the account mentioned in Jude :9 concerning the “archangel Michael in dispute with the devil.
- (2) Angels acted in accordance with the power and authority of Christ
 - (a) It is Christ who has unlimited power
 - (i) And for us, by faith, and in accordance with the power and will of Christ, “can do all things through Christ, which strengthens us.”
 - (a) Never lose sight of this fact! It is His!
- B. The incarceration of Satan (The Dragon, the Serpent of Old, the devil)
 - 1. Satan, the arch-rebel (chief rebel) is bound with chains
 - a) Good News! The “god of this age/ world” (2 Cor. 4:4) is removed
 - b) The devil, who is “the prince of the power of the air– the spirit that has worked in the sons of disobedience is removed and bound!
 - 2. The result is that the world is free from his evil influence!
 - a) Satan’s power, though beyond our comprehension, is brought to nothing in a moment!
 - b) That he will not be active during the 1,000 years leaving the Millennial kingdom without his evil influence. 1,000 years of peace!

II. (20:4-6) The Resurrected Saints Reign With Christ on Earth for 1,000 years

- A. Revelation 20:4 is difficult. But it is a scene from the Millennial Kingdom.
 - 1. KJV: “And I saw thrones, and they that sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them...”
 - 2. NASB1995: “Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.”
 - 3. “They” that are sitting are a select group from among the resurrected saints.
- B. “I saw thrones...”
 - 1. Thrones of authority to carry out God’s will and judge disputes that may arise
- C. “...and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them.”
 - 1. “They” are glorified saints sitting on thrones and given authority by Christ
 - a) Christ Jesus is Sovereign Lord
 - b) “They” are the ones God has promised would reign with His Christ
 - (1) OT saints (Daniel 7:27)
 - (2) NT Saints: **1)** Jesus promised His apostles that they would be given 12 thrones from which to judge the 12 tribes of Israel (see Matthew 19:28); **2)** NT believers have been promised to reign with

Christ (see 1 Cor. 6:2; 2 Tim. 2:12); **3) See also Rev. 2:26; 3:21; 5:10**

- (3) The last group to reign with Christ will be the Tribulation martyrs who died **because they did not worship the beast or his image and did not receive the mark.** (See 6:9; 7:9-17; 12:11); No doubt this would include the 144,000 witnesses.

D. The Millennial Kingdom is full of resurrected saints! Implied in 20:4; factual in 20:6

1. The **resurrection is a bodily resurrection; NOT SPIRITUAL, but physical.**
2. (20:6) And those that are resurrected in the first resurrection are:
 - a) Blessed! (Happy) and, Holy
 - (1) Because “they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

E. What does the “**first resurrection**” mean?

1. **Everyone** who has trusted in Christ and is born again will be part of the *first resurrection*, and “the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.” This group will be raised but will suffer the “second death”..
2. One commentator put it this way, “The first resurrection is not an event, but an **order of resurrection.**” In other words, as we learn from Scripture, there are several references to resurrection events. Let’s look at them in order.¹
 - a) First: Jesus was resurrected on the third day. He is “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.” See Matt. 28:7-11; John 20; I Corinthians 15:20
 - b) Second: At the Rapture just before the tribulation, the Church will be raised, receiving a new resurrection body! See John 14:3; 1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53
 - c) Third: the two witnesses are resurrected in the midpoint of the Tribulation. See Rev. 11:11-12
 - d) Fourth: After Jacob’s trouble described in Jeremiah 30:7, OT saints will be resurrected to enter the Millennial Kingdom (Dan.12:1-2; Is.26:19; Ezekiel 37:13-14
 - e) Fifth: At the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom the Tribulation Martyrs will be resurrected so they can rule and reign w/ Christ. See Rev.20:4-6
3. The five resurrection events make up the *first resurrection*.
 - a) **NOTE:** Everyone who has trusted the Lord Jesus Christ and have “overcome” will enjoy the resurrection through all of the Millennial Kingdom

F. But what about the second death?

¹ The following points are adapted from a chart provided by Tony Garland in his Revelation commentary.

1. At the end of the Millennial Kingdom, and just before the Great White Throne of judgment, the unbelieving dead will be resurrected and stand bodily before God in judgment. They will be found guilty, and cast into the Lake of Fire where they suffer what is called the second death (20:6). See Rev. 20:11-15
 2. All who die apart from faith in Jesus, whose names have not be written in the book of life will be subject to condemnation and the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15; John 5:29)
- G. The Gospel Promise: Resurrection Comfort, Hope and Assurance. (What the Bible says!)
1. Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection"
 2. Christ is Foundation of this blessed hope of the resurrection:
 - a) Romans 5:9: "Since we have been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!"
 - b) 1 Thess 1:10b: "...and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath."
 - c) 1 Cor. 15:20-23 "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a Man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then when He comes, those who belong to Him."
 - (1) NIV takes the interpretive position that asserts that the 15:23 lists the order of resurrection² : Christ raised first; then the *firstfruits*, the Church; then, OT saints and Tribulation Martyrs.
 - d) Look up: **1 Thess. 4:13-18**
 - e) **1 Corinthians 15:50-53**: Every believer from Pentecost to the Rapture!
- H. Until that time, what happens when you die as a Christian?
1. Listen to the beautiful hope: 2 Cor. 5:6-8: "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: For we walk by faith, not by sight: We are confident, I say, and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."
 2. Philippians 1:21, 23: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain....I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far..."
 - a) The Bible does not endorse the notion of "soul sleep"
- I. Our confidence for a right standing before God and our resurrection hope is in Christ

² See list in section I. E. 2 and the points that follow

1. See Romans 4:25: "He was delivered over to death for our sins, and was raised to life for our justification."

III. **(20:7-9) Satan is Loosed from the Abyss after the 1,000 years**

IV. **(20:10) Satan is Cast into The Lake of Fire**