

Chapter 20

The Millennium - 1000 Year Reign of Christ

There are three major 'schools of thought' concerning this 1000-year reign of Christ here on planet earth.

- A. Postmillennialism: Christ to return to earth at the conclusion of this 1000-year period. Man will bring in the Kingdom by the preaching of the Gospel. (This view is almost obsolete today.)
- B. Amillennialism: Spiritualizes this 1000-year period, as well as all of the Book of Revelation. They believe we are now living in this millennium.
- C. Premillennialism: Takes Rev.20 at face value, as it does with all the Book of Revelation. The 1000 years are treated, literally, as 1000 years.

I. Satan bound in the abyss (vs.1-3).

- After the events of ch.19: The marriage of the Lamb to the Redeemed (Church), the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, the return of Christ to earth with His saints, the Battle of Armageddon, and both the Antichrist and False Prophet cast alive into the lake of fire - John sees:

A. An angel come down from heaven.

- a. Having the key to the bottomless pit. **Note:** In Rev.1:18, Jesus said, 'I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death'
 - Some believe this angel to be none other than Christ Himself.
 - Yet, in Rev.9:1, an angel was given the 'key to the bottomless pit'. (I believe this angel is not Christ, but that particular angel.)
- b. A 'great chain' in his hand. Undoubtedly, a 'spirit-chain', just as the horses of the Lord's celestial army are spirit-horses. This 'chain' can bind spirits and fetter angels. **Note:** The 'abyss' is real, and the 'chain' is real, as well.
- c. Angel laid hold on Satan, bound him for 1000 years, cast him into the bottomless pit, shut him up and set a 'seal' upon him, making sure he would not deceive the nations during that time.
- d. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan will 'be loosed a little season'. **Note:** In Rev.12 & 17, statements are made concerning a 'short time' and a 'short space', with each referring to a time of 3 1/2 years. Yet, we cannot be sure if this 'little season' mentioned here is 3 1/2 years, or some other length of time.

Note: The purpose for Satan's being bound and imprisoned is not so much as punishment, but as a temporary restraint to prevent him from deceiving mankind during the 1000 years.

II. The First Resurrection completed (vs.4-6).

- A. This 'resurrection' began with the resurrection of Christ from the tomb as its first-fruits (I Cor.15:20), and will include all O.T. saints, the 'raptured' church (which takes place before the tribulation begins), 144,000 sealed Jewish evangelists, the Two Witnesses, and all the tribulation saints.
- B. All those in the 'first resurrection' are called 'blessed' and 'holy', and will rule and reign upon thrones as priests with Christ for 1000 years - and forever.
 - In v.5 John mentions 'the rest of the dead', which speaks of those who have not accepted Christ as their Savior.
 - The 'second resurrection', that of damnation, will only include those who do not live for God.
 - The 'second death' is to be separated from Christ forever.

III. Satan loosed (vs.7-9).

- A. Satan, along with his angels and demons, will be allowed to go out and deceive the nations. **Note:** Some have asked: **why?** Since Satan had been securely confined for 1000 years, why not just leave him there? (But God has a reason.)
- a. Many will serve Christ during the 'millennium', but in their hearts they have not wanted to. No doubt, they have longed for an opportunity to live and do as they please.
 - b. Too, there will be those born during the millennium that have not been tried and tested. The 'Adam nature' (self-will) is alive within. Now, they will have the opportunity to prove (or disprove) their love for Christ.
 - c. Seemingly, the deceived nations (consisting of a vast multitude) will mobilize in the land of Gog and Magog, come to Jerusalem from the north, and, will surround the camp of the saints gathered there in the capital city.
 - d. And it's there, they meet their doom. 'Fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them'. (II Pet.3:10-12)

IV. Satan cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are (v.10).

- Remember: Antichrist and false prophet were both cast into this same lake of fire 1000 years earlier, at the conclusion of the Battle of Armageddon. And all these years later, they are still there, proving that 'hell' and 'eternal torment' are real.

V. Great White Throne Judgment - Second Resurrection (vs.11-15).

- A. The throne's Occupant - The eternal Godhead, with Jesus doing the judging.
- B. 'Second Resurrection' includes all the unrighteous dead.
- a. Hell (Hades) is emptied.
 - b. The 'small' and 'great', here, includes all the ungodly from Cain until the conclusion of the battle of Gog and Magog.
 - c. Books are opened; both the 'book of works' and the 'book of life'. **Note:** God keeps perfect records, and He has it 'all' written down.
 - d. Death and hell were cast into the lake of fire.
 - e. Everyone not found in the 'book of life' was cast into the lake of fire. This is the 'second death'.