



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

The One Thousand Year Reign of Christ

Revelation 20

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Series: Apocalypse, The Book of Revelation

The One Thousand Year Reign of Christ

Prayer

- All of us are called to pray: “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
- Jesus wants us to request the kingdom on earth in our prayers.
- We are longing for order, stability, joy and peace. But guess what church? It will not completely happen until Christ returns and Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire.
- In chapter 20 we are gazing into the Kingdom Age, the 1000 year reign of Christ.
 - What is the kingdom of God? In the Greek it means “the rule and reign of Christ.”
 - This will be an earthly utopia in which God’s will, rule and reign comes from heaven to the earth.
 - This Kingdom Age is described as being for 1000 years and is mentioned 6 times.
 - The Latin phrase is “millennium.” The word millennium is not in the Bible.
 - The Greek word is *chilia* meaning, for 1000 years, and the church is divided on this issue.

Three positions on this issue are held by reputable scholars on all sides of the issue:

1. **The A-millennial position**- this position does not believe that there will be a literal thousand year reign of Christ.

- a. They believe that this is completely a symbolic meaning for a long period of time.
 - b. This view interprets Old Testament prophecies of a millennium as being fulfilled spiritually now in the church today.
 - c. Roman Catholic Church, Lutheran, Reformed churches and Episcopal churches hold this position.
2. **Post-millennial position**- this position believes we will establish the kingdom first and that will bring Jesus back.
- a. This comes out of the “reconstructionists” and “Dominion Theology.”
 - b. The earth will be Christianized and all will come under God’s order, and then Jesus will come back.
 - c. Jonathan Edwards was the father of modern Post-Millennialism. Edwards heard Whitfield preach, a young guy in his 30’s and 40’s. He heard him many times during the Great Awakening and saw 40-60,000 people come out with no microphone and bars closed down.
 - d. Benjamin Franklin said he could walk down the streets of Philadelphia and hear people singing hymns and spiritual songs.
 - e. So, when Jonathan Edwards saw all of this happening, he said “certainly this is the beginning of the kingdom age...this will spread all over the world.”
 - f. The problem with this:
 - i. 1) It contradicts the warning in scripture that tells us that the last days will be “like the days of Noah,” “when the Son of Man comes will he

find faith on the earth?” 1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3 “the last days will be perilous times” Peter prophecies' it; Jude prophecies it...all the way through the New Testament and there is no scripture to support this idea.

ii.2) It sets aside the nation of Israel and casts them off. This was the belief of Adolph Hitler that he was bringing in the 1000 year reign of Arianism.

3. **Pre-millennial position**, which is my view. We believe there will be a 7-year tribulation period, at the end of which, Jesus Christ will return to set up his kingdom on earth for 1000 years.
 - a. We believe that 1000 years in scripture means 1000 years.
 - b. When you read that phrase 6 times, don't you get the impression that the Holy Spirit is trying to tell us something?
 - c. It doesn't say “like a thousand years” or “as a thousand years” like it uses all through Revelations. No, it says “a thousand years.”

To hold the Pre-millennial view is to be consistent with the same literal, historical, grammatical principles of interpretation so as to determine the normal sense of the language of the Bible from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

- Areneas (130-200) wrote, “Christ is the stone cut without hands who will destroy the temporal kingdoms and introduce an eternal one when Anti-Christ shall have devastated all things in this world and he will for reign 3 ½ years and be seated in the Temple in Jerusalem. Then the Lord will come from heaven in the clouds and in the glory of His father, sending this man to the lake of fire, and bringing in for the righteous the times of the kingdom, the rest, the hallowed 7th day.”

- The Jewish Rabbi's believed that the 7th one thousand year of the earth would be the rest millennium, when the Messiah would come and bind Satan and set up His kingdom.
- Justin Martyr (100-150) in a dialogue with Tripho, Tripho asks "this place Jerusalem will be rebuilt and your people shall congregate and rejoice, and the patriarchs and the prophets?" Justin answered him, "Yes this will be...and there will be a resurrection of the dead and a thousand year reign of the believers in Jerusalem, built again, broadened and adorned as the prophets of Isaiah and Ezekiel declare and a certain man by the name of John, one of the apostles, in a Revelation which he prophesied that they who are faithful to our Messiah would accomplish 1000 years in Jerusalem and after that...the final resurrection."
- Tertullian (225) believed that "another kingdom is promised to us for 1000 years in the divinely rebuilt city of Jerusalem."
- Dr. Harnack in writing about what the early church believed about the millennium, for Encyclopedia Britannica wrote, "Faith in the nearness of Christ, the second Adam, and the establishment of His reign of glory on the earth was a strong point in the primitive Christian church."
- Dr. Elliot in his book, "Kori Apocalypti" says "all primitive expositors except for Origen and a few who rejected the book of Revelation were pre-millennialists."
- Norman Geisler, in his church history, says that "chiliasm is so distinct and so prominently mentioned that we do not hesitate regarding it as the general belief of that age."

Revelation 20:1

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.

- Remember from last week that the Anti-christ and false prophet have been cast alive into the Lake of Fire.

- When it's time, God sends an angel.
- Interesting that God Himself does not even come to mess with Satan, he sends a no-name angel to deal with Satan.

Revelation 20:2-3

²And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

- So, the first thing for this kingdom age to begin is to get rid of the devil.
- He is bound by a chain.
- In 2 Peter 2:4 and Jude 6 there are angels bound by chains.
- Satan is bound by this seal for 1000 years.
- Jesus introduced us to the Kingdom in His first earthly ministry: healing the sick, casting out demons and proclaiming the kingdom of God. These are the signs of the Kingdom.
- Satan, disease and all blindness will be completely bound for 1000 years.
- And now the Golden Age begins where justice prevails, God rules over all and longevity of life will be increased.

- **Isaiah 65:17-20**

**¹⁷ "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth;
And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.**

**¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create;
For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing,
And her people a joy.**

**¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
And joy in My people;**

***The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her,
Nor the voice of crying.***

***²⁰ "No more shall an infant from there live but a few days,
Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days;
For the child shall die one hundred years old,
But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be
accursed.***

- Living to 100 years of age will be as if you are only a baby!
- And you and I are sealed with the Spirit of Promise and you cannot get out of it either. You cannot get away from God and His salvation and your salvation is sealed, if indeed you have given your heart completely to Him.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.

⁶Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

- This is a picture of this kingdom age with the believers, the martyrs and saints.
- But for those who are not believers, “but the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished.”
- So we will have resurrected bodies: no more diet plans, no more Jenny Craig, no more working out at the gym.
- We will have glorified bodies! Never tired, no fatigue.

- Like we read about in 1 Corinthians 6, we will be ruling and judging the world.
- **1 Corinthians 6:2-3**
²Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? NKJV
- We will be in glorified bodies and the martyrs resurrected and all of the Old Testament and New Testament saints all together.
- Great Millennial passages speaking of this time:
 - **Isaiah 60:1-3**
***¹Arise, shine;
 For your light has come!
 And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.
²For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,
 And deep darkness the people;
 But the LORD will arise over you,
 And His glory will be seen upon you.
³The Gentiles shall come to your light,
 And kings to the brightness of your rising.***
- Then he goes on to share about all of these other nations who will bring their wealth to Israel because they will be drawn to this light in Israel. This light will be the Lord Jesus Christ in Jerusalem.
- Zechariah 14 and Ezekiel 47 speaks of a great fountain that will flow to the Med and the Dead...to the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea.
- This great fountain will bring healing wherever it goes.
- All of Isaiah 35 talks about this millennial reign of Christ and the saints.

- **Zechariah 8:4-5**

***4"Thus says the LORD of hosts:
'Old men and old women shall again sit
In the streets of Jerusalem,
Each one with his staff in his hand
Because of great age.
5 The streets of the city
Shall be full of boys and girls
Playing in its streets.'***

- They will want a guided tour of the Temple.
- There will be a restoration of the conditions in the Garden of Eden and no hostility between the animal kingdom.

- **Isaiah 11:6-9**

***6"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.
9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea.***

- This is God's ideal: old men and women able to safely sit in the streets and watching the kids playing.
- God's ideal: kids playing in the streets safely-no thieves, no police.
- The Anti-christ and false prophet in torment; Satan bound.
- Jerusalem will be the capitol of the world; we will rule over cities and states.

- No military budgets, no missiles, no terrorism, no prisons, no hospitals, no orphanages, no foster homes, no abortion centers, no doctors, no surgeries, no infertility, no police, no IRS, no bars, no casinos, no crack houses, no custody battles, no courts, no divorces, no cults, no astrology, no inflation, no ACLU, no dentists...the Sermon on the Mount will be the law of land.
- We will rest in his love! Today, there is no rest, but in that day there will be complete rest.

Revelation 20:7-9

⁷And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

- This is the final exam.
- This is the closing of the age.
- This is the Great White Throne Court of God
- God allows Satan one more time to be released for one final dramatic ending that shows us that the problem with humanity is humanity.
 - It's not the environment.
 - It's not the social conditions.
 - The problem with humanity is humanity, our hearts.
- For one thousand years we have this perfect environment where He Himself reigns and then Satan is released.
- Satan hates the book of Revelation because it rightly prophecies his future.

- Listen up, when Satan comes along and reminds you of your past, remind him of his future!!
 - When he condemns you for your sins of the past, remind him that he will sit on “death row” for one thousand years.
- I don’t believe that this will be the saints but demons released from hell for one last battle.
- No, rather I look at **Jude 6**...

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

- I believe that these demons will be released in order to be a showcase of God’s power once and for all.
- For example, it’s like the bully and his gang who have terrorized the neighborhood finally being brought out and taught a lesson.

Revelation 20:10

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- The Beast and False Prophet are burning in hell for eternity and somehow their bodies are outfitted to burn forever.
- Hell is a place of complete darkness and torment. You do not want to go there.
- We see humanity being divided into two groups. In verses 5 and 6 we see of two deaths and judgments for two different groups.
- In the New Testament we hear about a resurrection for believers. 49 times in the New Testament it is talked about, Jesus being the “first fruits” of our resurrection.

- Even the disciples were confused about what this meant. They even asked Jesus “What does this mean?” in reference to the resurrection.
- The New Testament teaches that there are actually two resurrections. They are not incidents in time but categories. You will either fall into one or the other:
 - The first resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 is Christ as the “first fruits of those who have slept.”
 - Those who have been raptured.
 - The two prophets who are killed outside of Jerusalem and raised from the dead are part of the first resurrection.
 - The Old Testament saints who rose with Jesus on Easter are part of the first resurrection.
 - The tribulation saints. This is a resurrection unto life.
- After one thousand years is a second resurrection and that is a resurrection unto damnation.
 - We as believers will not experience this.
 - But for the unbelievers, they will experience a second death which is a spiritual and physical death, completely separated from God.
- Saying: Born Twice, Die Once; Born Once, Die Twice
- If you are only born physically, but never accept Christ, you will die twice: physically and also die spiritually.
 - The unbeliever will stand before the Great White Throne of God and be judged for his sin.

- o People are afraid of death because they know there is something out there, that there is an accounting.
- o Hebrews says that men have fear. They fear death, they fear the unknown, because they know there is something out there.
- o This is the what they fear! No chance of salvation! The ultimate hopeless condition!
- o Because of the teaching of evolution we are teaching that man is at the top of the pile, that we are the most intelligent animal.
- o Abortions are the result where we can just kill as we desire.
- o And yet we are somehow surprised that there is so much hopelessness.
- o Death is coming to all of us, and there will be a day of reckoning.

Revelation 20:11

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.

- This is the Great White Throne Court of God.
 - o This trial is different than any trial ever conducted on earth.
 - o No debate at this trial.
 - o No jury, only a judge.
 - o No defense, only a prosecutor.
 - o No rebuttal, no appeals, no parole, no escape.

- God Almighty is the Judge and all of the dead are standing before Him.

Revelation 20:12-13

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each on of them, according to what they had done.

- Small and great will stand before God and be judged according to their works!
- You see, if you haven't believed in Christ, you will stand before the Lord in your own strength, in your own works, and if your works are not covered by the Lamb, your works will mean nothing to Jesus.
- We are forgiven sinners, they are unforgiven sinners. I have sin on my record but it is washed away by the blood of the Lamb.
- God is an Accountant: Jesus said it this way...

o John 5:22-29

22 For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 23 that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

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. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all

who are in the graves will hear His voice²⁹ and come forth--those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. NKJV

- o He keeps books on us. He knows all your tears and they are recorded, every tear.
- o Malachi 3 says that every time His name is mentioned, every time you worship, there is a “Book of Remembrance” that is recording it all.
- o Your time in church, worship, prayer, Bible Study, is all being recorded in a Book of Remembrance.
- o All of your sins: your lust, your sin, your anger has been blotted out by the blood of the Lamb

Revelation 20:14

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

- Hades
 - o Hades is not hell.
 - o Before Christ was resurrected there was “hades” that was a place for both the damned and the redeemed.
 - o But at the resurrection, hades became only a place for the damned.
 - o Now it is being swallowed up and sent into hell.
- This is the most hopeless picture for all time!
- Damned forever: no appeal, no turning back, no amnesty, no parole board, DAMNED FOREVER!

Revelation 20:15

Ans if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

You are either written in the Book of Life or you are not, it is simple.

- The Bible indicates that there are other books that record your deeds and works.
- When your name is written in the Book of Life, your sins in the other books are blotted out!!
 - o Chapters 21 and 22 are going to be so exciting...we have a vested interest, this is our coming home!