

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ



The Millennium
Revelation 20

Seven-headed Beast from the Luther Bible

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Introduction

The Millennium Revelation 20

Introduction

- John's Outline for the Book of **Revelation** is found in **Revelation 1:19**:
 - **The things which you have seen** = Christ in glory, found in **Chapter 1**.
 - **The things which are** = The Church, found in **Chapters 2-3**.
 - **The things which will take place after this**, found in **Chapters 4-22**.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Introduction

- We may further divide the last section as follows:
- **The things which will take place after this**, found in Chapters 4-22:
 - Ch. 4-5 The scene in heaven including the completed Church – now with the Lord.
 - Ch. 6-19 The seven-year Tribulation.
 - Ch. 20-22 Events after Christ's return.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Introduction

- We may further divide the last section as follows:
- **The things which will take place after this**, found in Chapters 4-22:
 - Ch. 4-5 The scene in heaven including the completed Church – now with the Lord.
 - Ch. 6-19 The seven-year Tribulation.
 - Ch. 20-22 Events after Christ's return.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Introduction

- In **Revelation 19** we looked at Christ's return.
- In this chapter we will see what we can expect to take place after that.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Outline

The Millennium Revelation 20

Outline

- I. Satan Bound 20:1-3
- II. The Thousand Years 20:4-6
- III. The Final Rebellion 20:7-10
- IV. The Great White Throne 20:11-15

I. Satan Bound

20:1-3

I. Satan Bound

20:1-3

- 20:1 an angel
- This angel is not described as anyone special.
- He is not a “Super Powerful Anointed Cherub Angel” – if there is such a thing.
- When God decides it’s time for Satan to be bound, he can’t even put up a fight.

I. Satan Bound

20:1-3

- 20:1 the key to the bottomless pit
- The last time we saw this key was in Revelation 9.
- At that point, a fallen angel used it to release demonic locusts upon the earth.
- This time an angel (presumably a good one) uses it to imprison Satan for the length of the Kingdom Age.

I. Satan Bound

20:1-3

- 20:2 a thousand years
- This is the first time this time period is mentioned.
- 20:3 the thousand years
- This is the second time; more mentions will follow.
- After that he must be released
- More on this later, but yes, it means what it says.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:4 Who exactly sits on these **thrones** and who has **judgment** committed to them?
- Very possibly **the saints**, who will have returned with Jesus Christ as of the last chapter.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 1 Corinthians 6:2-3

2 Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:4 In this same verse we also see that the **Tribulation Saints** are raised.
- They will reign with Christ and the Church.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:5 We may question in what sense is this “the first resurrection”?
- In 1 Corinthians 15:20 we read about the resurrection of Christ, who is fully human.
- Paul says that he is “the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep”

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:5 We may question in what sense is this “the first resurrection”?
- Matthew 27:52-53 describes a strange phenomenon that happened shortly after that.

And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:5 We may question in what sense is this “the first resurrection”?
- In Revelation 11 the two witnesses are killed.
- Then, we see not only a resurrection, but also an ascension.
- The call to “Come up here!” is strikingly similar to what John hears in Revelation 4:1.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:5 We may question in what sense, “This is the first resurrection”?
- Revelation 11:11-12,

But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, ...
Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, ‘Come up here!’ And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- I intentionally left important Rapture passages out.
- That is because some use Revelation 20 to show that the Rapture comes now – that is post-Tribulation.
- This is after all, “the first resurrection.”

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- The argument, however, is not that simple.
- We have already pointed out several resurrections that have come before this.
- Plus, actual teaching on the Rapture reveals more.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- Colossians 3:3-4

3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- These two points make it hard to fit the Rapture in here in Revelation 20.
- Therefore, most supporters of a Post-Tribulation Rapture place the timing of it in Revelation 19.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- Revelation 19:8, 14

8 it was granted her [the Bride] to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6



Scripture mentions two types of resurrections. The first is appropriately called the “first resurrection,” as in this verse. This is also called the “resurrection of life” (John 5:29), the “resurrection of the just” (Luke 14:14), ...

– Ron Rhodes,
Reasoning from
the Scriptures Ministries

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6



... and the “better life” (Hebrews 11:35). The second resurrection is the last resurrection (Revelation 20:5a, 11-15). It is appropriately called the resurrection of judgment (John 5:29; see also Daniel 12:2; Acts 24:15).

– Ron Rhodes,
Reasoning from
the Scriptures Ministries

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- Rhodes is referring to Christ's words in
- John 5:28b-29,

28 ... an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

- 20:6 In fact, here in **Revelation**, the term used is not a “**resurrection**” of the lost, but “**the second death**.”
- This is speaking specifically about the **Lake of Fire**.
- See **Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8**.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- The Old Testament prophets foretold a time when Messiah would reign over the world.
- It would be a world full of peace and prosperity.
- This would be a time when even the nature of animals would be changed.
- The wolf and lamb would dwell together.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Psalm 2:6-9

6 “As for me, I have set my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”

7 I will tell of the decree:

The Lord said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you ...

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Psalm 2:6-9

... 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,

and the ends of the earth your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Isaiah 11:6-7

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Isaiah 65:18-23

18 But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.

19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people; ...

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Isaiah 65:18-23

... no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping
and the cry of distress.

20 No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years old, ...

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Isaiah 65:18-23

... and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

21 They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

22 They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, ...

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- Isaiah 65:18-23

and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

23 They shall not labor in vain

or bear children for calamity,

for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the Lord,

and their descendants with them.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- This Messianic kingdom is still to come and is often referred to as the Millennium.
- The word millennium comes from the Latin for “one thousand years”.
- A 1000-year period is mentioned six times here in this chapter.

II. The Thousand Years

20:4-6

On the Millennium

- This is the only place in the Bible where **the length** of the kingdom age is given.
- This passage provides **a time period** into which all the prophecies of a future kingdom age easily fit.
- According to *The Jewish Encyclopedia*, the Christian view is consistent with the beliefs of the **Pharisees**.

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

- 20:7 Please note that Satan **does not escape** or fight his way out of the bottomless pit but **is released**.
- God is still completely sovereign at this point.
- He has simply decided that it suits His purposes to release the devil from his prison for **a little while**.
- This was part of God's original plan. (See also 20:3)

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

- 20:8-9 **Gog and Magog**
- This is probably not the same as the **Gog and Magog** battle of **Ezekiel 38-39**.
 - In that case only certain named nations seem to be allied against Israel. (See **Ezekiel 38:1-6**)
 - It is also clear that in **Ezekiel** the earthly Israel continues and life goes on afterward.
 - See **Ezekiel 39:11-16**.

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

- 20:8-9 Gog and Magog
- Also, this battle of Revelation is much more climactic:
 - Nations from “the four corners of the earth” are involved. (20:8)
 - It ends with the devil cast into the lake of fire.
 - This is all now followed by the judgment at the Great White Throne. (20:10-15)

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

- 20:10 When the devil enters the **Lake of Fire**, the beast and the false prophet are still there.
- They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- We are wrong to try to diminish harshness of the language.

III. The Final Rebellion

20:7-10

- **Revelation 22:18-19**

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

- Keep this separate from **The Judgment Seat of Christ** (**Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10**).
- That will be only **for believers**.
- Also, that will happen **before the Millennium** – so that faithfulness of believers can be rewarded accordingly.

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

- What are **the books** involved at the White Throne Judgment?

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

- Perhaps the following:

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

- Perhaps the following:
 - The **Bible** (John 12:48)
 - The **Book of the Living** containing the names of all who are born (Psalm 69:28)
 - Those who die while rejecting Christ have their names **blotted out** of this book, for they are truly dead. (Rev. 3:5)

IV. The Great White Throne

20:11-15

- Perhaps the following:
 - Believers' names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life. (Rev. 13:8, 21:27)
 - The Book of Life in 20:15 might be either of the previous two. That is,
 - The Book of the Living
 - The Lamb's Book of Life.

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Conclusions

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Millennium

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Millennium

1. To fulfill the O.T. promises to Israel regarding her future re-gathering and kingdom.
2. This would include a King who sits on **David's throne**.
3. To answer the saints' prayer of "**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**"
4. To fulfill the promises to the church that the saints will reign with Christ.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Millennium

5. To bring about the complete redemption of nature promised since O.T. times. Also see Rom 8:19-22
6. To allow Christ's glory and righteousness to be displayed publicly to the nations.
7. To give fallen humanity a chance to serve the Lord in an earthly environment free from Satan's influence.

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Final Rebellion

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Final Rebellion

1. To show us that man is not by nature good.
2. To show us that peace and prosperity will not save human souls.
3. To show us that living in a righteous environment will not save.
4. To show us that good government cannot change fallen human hearts.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Purposes for the Final Rebellion

5. To show that man does not naturally seek after God.
6. To show that Satan does not change his ways – not freely now – nor after punishment.
7. To show that the only possible hope for salvation is the saving blood of Jesus Christ. After the Kingdom Age, human hearts will still be inclined toward evil.

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Conclusions

Our Future Resurrection

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Our Future Resurrection

- 1 Corinthians 15:42-43

42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

The Millennium
Revelation 20

Conclusions

Other Key Doctrines

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Other Key Doctrines

- Revelation 20 has shown us that after Christ's return there will be a glorious Kingdom Age.
- The Millennium will be followed by a rebellion and a Final Judgment.

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

Other Key Doctrines

- The Lord leaves our eternal destiny in our hands.
- Only those who turn to Jesus now – in this life – will be saved from the **Lake of Fire**.
- This is how we know our names are written in the **Book of Life**.
- See **Matthew 7:21-28**

The Millennium Revelation 20

Conclusions

- John 3:17-18

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.