

Revelation 20

Revelation 20.1-6

Introduction:

- What has been our philosophy in interpreting this book? "What did it mean to the first century Christians?"
- To whom was this letter addressed? The 7 churches of Asia in 95 AD
- Is there any need to change this type of interpretation for *Rev. 20*? No
- Is there any severe break between *Rev. 19-20*? No
- One gospel preacher has called *Rev. 20.1-10* the most abused passage in the entire Bible
- Premillennialism teaches that the kingdom is still to be established
- That is a mistaken view, since the kingdom was established on the Day of Pentecost, 33 AD (see *Col. 1.13*)

V1 – Where have we seen the abyss before? *Rev. 9.1ff*

- Fifth trumpet = locusts from the pit
- Therefore, Satan dwells in the pit (abyss)
- Literal key? Literal chain? No
- Key question: **If the key and the chain are not literal, then why should the 1000 years be literal?**

V2 – What did the angel do? Grabbed the dragon

- Dragon? Devil and Satan
- Serpent? Garden of Eden
- 1000 years literal? See *Psalms 50.10*, *2 Peter 3.8*

V3 – 1000 years = a good period of time (10x10x10)

- If someone told us that the enemies of the U.S. would be destroyed for 1000 years, what would our attitude? No more worries

V4 – Who reigned with Christ for the 1000 years? The Christian martyrs, including those who had been beheaded for the cause of Christ (such as the Apostle Paul) and all who did not have the 666 on their foreheads

- So these Christian heroes were like modern heroes in our country who are awarded the Congressional Medal Honor
- The faithful Christians were allowed to reign with Christ for a 1000 years (or a long time)

V5 – First resurrection = the cause of Christ was restored and avenged

- The first resurrection also refers to baptism in water (coming out of the water – See *Romans 6.1-6*)
- Remember *Rev. 11* and the 2 witnesses? The two dead heroes were resurrected
- In other words, God's cause cannot be stopped; it will continue to exist
- The rest of the dead were in Christ

V6 – If we pass the first resurrection (baptism or: remaining faithful), then will the second

death (the judgment) terrify us? No

-Second death (*Rev. 20.14, 21.8*)? Being cast into the lake of fire

Revelation 20.7-10

V 7 – Satan will be released for a short time

-At the second coming of Jesus Christ, there will be a battle with Satan, in which Satan will be completely defeated

V 8 – **What will be Satan's goal again?** To deceive the nations

-Satan was defeated when Rome fell, but he continues to have some amount of power

-Gog and Magog = ancient enemies of Israel (*Ezekiel 38-39*)

V 9 – **Activities of Satan?** Gathered people against Christians and the church

-**Action of God toward Satan?** Fire from heaven

V 10 – **Result?** Satan is sent to hell

-**Message of *Rev. 20.1-10* to Christians in the first century?** Encouragement - Satan will never again have the power that he had in the days of Christ and during the persecution of the Lord's church in 95 AD

-The overthrow (not reign) of Satan

Revelation 20.11-15

V 11 – **Description of the throne of God?** Great, white

V 12 – **"Great and small"? Big and little in terms of physical size?** No

-True meaning: everyone, regardless of their station in life

-**"Books"** = records of our actions

-**"Another book"** – list of saved people

-**How will we be judged?** According to our deeds

V 13 – **Hades** = place of abode for unrighteous dead

-**Read Matt. 25.31-46** – description of Judgment Day scene

V 14-15 – "Death" was also cast into Hell

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