

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE MILLENNIUM? (Revelation 20:1-6)

Introduction:

- 1. Premillennialists believe Jesus will return to reign on earth for 1,000 years.**
 - a. Jerusalem will be the capital of the world.**
 - b. Everyone will make an annual pilgrimage to worship at the temple.**
 - c. Peace and prosperity will everywhere prevail.**
 - d. Violent storms will cease and carnivorous animals will become vegetarians.**
 - e. People will live so long a one hundred year old will seem a child.**

- 2. Satan will be bound during the millennium.**
 - a. At the end of the millennium, he will be released for a short while and rebel against the rule of Christ.**
 - b. The Lord will put down the rebellion; Satan will be cast into Hell.**
 - c. Mortals will become immortal and settle in a new home in the new heavens and new earth.**

- 3. Premillennialists believe this is all found in Revelation 20.**
 - a. It is the only place in the Bible where the millennium is mentioned.**
 - b. If it is shown that Rev. 20 does not teach an earthly reign of Christ, premillennialism is proved false.**

- 4. What does Revelation, chapter twenty, really teach?**

Discussion:

- I. REVELATION 20 MUST BE UNDERSTOOD IN CONTEXT.**
 - A. The first three verses give us the key to interpret the book (1:1-3).**
 - 1. It concerned things “which must shortly take place.”**
 - 2. “The time was near” from John’s perspective, not ours.**
 - 3. “He sent and signified it” (revealed it in symbols or figures).**

 - B. Revelation is written in figurative language called apocalyptic.**
 - 1. One will miss the meaning if he takes the figurative literally.**
 - 2. One must ask two questions:**
 - a. What does it say?**

2. The binding of the dragon shows Satan's power to deceive the nations will be restricted for a time.
3. The thousand years is made up of multiples of ten; thus it shows that for a long, but complete period, Satan will be restricted in persecuting the saints.
4. The thrones represent the victory of the martyred saints; they had been judged and killed by Rome; now they are reigning with Christ as He brings judgments upon Rome.
5. Satan's being loosed for a time means the restraints on him will be lifted for a time.
6. The saints who were reigning were souls, not bodies; they were beheaded, not resurrected bodies (1 Cor. 15:35-55).
7. They were with Christ in Heaven, not on the earth.
8. The first resurrection is of the Cause of Christ.
9. Gog and Magog represent enemies of God's people.
10. The "beloved city" is the church of Christ.
11. The Judgment is the judgment at the end of the world when all will be judged (Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10).

III. CHRIST IS REIGNING NOW - IN HEAVEN!

A. God has given Him David's throne (2 Sam. 7:12,13; Lu. 1:32,33).

1. His reign began on Pentecost (Acts 2:30-33).
2. He has all authority now (Matt. 28:18).
3. He is now "King of kings and Lord of lords" (1 Tim. 6:15).
4. He will reign until the resurrection when He gives the kingdom to God (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

B. Satan is bound now.

1. His power was limited by the death of Christ when his head was "bruised" (Gen. 3:15; Heb. 2:14,15).
2. We can limit him by putting on the armor of God (Ep. 6:10-18).
3. His final end will come at the Judgment when he is cast into Hell (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

Conclusion:

1. The overthrow of Satan, not the reign of Christ, is the focus of Rev. 20.
2. Revelation 20 does not teach a literal reign of Christ on earth for a literal 1,000 years!
3. Revelation 20 does teach that Christ and His saints will be victorious.
4. Christians are "more than conquerors" through Christ who loves us.

