

Morning Sermon 3/20/2022
"Christ's 1,000 Year Reign!" Revelation 20:1-10

Among Christians, and theologians who are knowledgeable of God's Word, this is one of the more controversial passages in all the Book of Revelation. Today, I will preach according to my own understanding of this passage, yet as I do, I do so HUMBLY, knowing godly, intelligent believers, believe and teach differently on this passage.

My belief is that the one thousand years mentioned in this passage, is symbolic. It is symbolic of a long, but not REVEALED, period of time. Jesus, Himself, speaking of His second coming says in Matthew 24:36 (NKJV) ³⁶ "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.

I believe when Jesus Christ returns, He will set us His eternal Kingdom –

Isaiah 9:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Of the increase of His government and peace *There will be no end*, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 2:44 (NKJV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Daniel 7:13–14 (NKJV) ¹³ "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*

Yet, even now, before His Kingdom is fully set up, even now as we pray to the Heavenly Father, "Thy Kingdom come", even NOW, Jesus Christ reigns –

1 Corinthians 15:25 (NKJV) ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

I believe the thousand-year reign is NOW – from the time Christ died on the cross, until shortly before He returns, actually more than a thousand years, but the millennium is symbolic for this undetermined period of time before the time of Christ's coming, Christ reigns in Heaven and over the earth with those who are His!

I. A temporary binding of Satan –

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the Devil and Satan*, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. Revelation 20:1-3

When does this happen? How does this happen?

1. First, interpret this passage symbolically, the key, the bottomless pit, and the great chain, which the angel is holding are all symbols of spiritual realities:
 - A. Here we have an angel :1

- B. *Binding Satan :2 for a thousand years... (bound from full control) (bound from touching / influencing Saints in intermediate state)*
 - C. *After which Satan is released for a little while. :3 (not to touch Heaven, but to rule earth)*
2. *We do not have this a thousand years time period specifically mentioned anywhere else in the Bible only in this chapter...*
 3. *The other place this is mentioned here, is in regard to beheaded souls, who reign with Christ –*

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:4-6 (NKJV)

4. *I believe Satan was bound; when Christ died on the cross and resurrected –*
Colossians 2:14–15 (NKJV) ¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

- A. *Principalities and powers, Satan and His demonic forces, are disarmed by Christ’s cross –*
- B. *Triumphing, a triumph in the days of the Roman Empire, in Christ’s day, was a particular kind of parade where enemy kings and their soldiers were paraded before the people, chained and defeated!*
- C. *Satan is bound in the sense that he cannot stop the Gospel from going forth and accomplishing its purpose, sinners are saved, if they die, they go to Heaven –*

Romans 8:36–37 (NKJV) ³⁶ As it is written: “*For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*” ³⁷ Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

D. *We need to be taught by Scripture this current reigning of Christ, and binding of Satan, because it is spiritual and moral, and we do NOT SEE it yet with physical eyes –*
2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV) ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight.

II. *The reign of godly departed “souls” with Christ, even now*

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:4-6 (NKJV)

1. *Thrones, symbolic of rule :4*
Remember, even back in chapter 4, the twenty-four elders sat on thrones –

2. **souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God...**
 - A. *Is this an exclusive group, only beheaded souls? Those burned at the stake, fed to wild beasts, crucified upside down, do not qualify? No **beheaded** is a general symbolic description of all of God's persecuted people –*
 - B. **and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**
 - C. *Key to understanding this passage, the word “**they**” the reference is to all of God's people who die in the LORD, some die at the end of the symbolic “thousand-year” time period.*
3. **This is the first resurrection.** *Though not yet physically resurrected, notice, there is no mention of bodies, spiritually resurrected –*
4. **Over such the second death has no power –** *The first death is physical death / the second death, spiritual death – ultimately Hell!*
5. **but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. Revelation 20:4-6 (NKJV)**

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.”

Shall reign on earth, yet now departed Christians, true believers, are reigning with Christ in Heaven, this is the “thousand-year reign” it is a temporary state until Christ returns and establishes His eternal Kingdom -
Revelation 11:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ **Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”**

III. *How Satan's being bound and limited, and later released for a little while is seen in the rest of the Book of Revelation, and what God's purpose is in these things –*

*The providential hindrance of evil that allows the Gospel to go forth is a big part of the binding, chaining of Satan – we see in **Revelation 6:1-2** -*

Christ's Gospel and its victorious bringing of salvation ...

6 Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.” ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. Revelation 6:1–2 (NKJV) *The*

*In **Revelation 6:3-8** we see things that keep Satan from unifying an ungodly world against Christ –*

*This is in order that the Gospel may prosper, and that people will be saved! Certain, negative things happen in this world; partly as God's judgment against sin, but partly again as restraints of sin and Satan! The ungodly would build a tower to Heaven – **Genesis 11** – but God frustrates them! In **Revelation 6** we see Satan's goes frustrated by -*

1. War -

³When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁴Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword.

2. Economic disparity -

⁵When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." Revelation 6:5-6

3. Death in general -

⁷When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see." ⁸So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. Revelation 6:7-8

Nero, and Hitler both died before and without stopping the Gospel; or unifying an ungodly world against Christ.

4. Yet, there will come a time when the Gospel seems stopped! Satan is loosed and for a "while" seems to rule totally -

But after these things he must be released for a little while. Revelation 20:3

⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV)

A. The deception and gathering to battle, against God's people the camp of the saints and the beloved city is what we have already seen in this Book of Revelation -

Revelation 13:7 (NKJV) ⁷It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.

B. In that day the majority of the human race will worship, the Beast, and Satan -

Revelation 13:8 (NKJV) ⁸All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

C. Satan, the devil, is ultimately defeated and is cast into Hell with the beast and false prophet -

⁹The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV)

Fire from Heaven, shows us, that fire in Hell is God's righteous heavenly judgment ...

5. Purpose of binding of Satan is time and relative peace for spreading of the Gospel

6. Purpose of loosing of Satan, for "a little while"

A. Testing of faith of Saints

B. Further judging of the condemned, as they are deceived by him (Satan) against God's Word, and judged with him -

⁴¹"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: Matthew 25:41 (NKJV)

Arnold A. Brevick