

The Thousand-Year Reign (Revelation 20)

- A. Fundamental rules of Bible Study are particularly important to a proper understanding of this chapter.
1. There are no contradictions in Scripture. **2PE 1:20; PRO 8:8.**
 2. Compare spiritual things with spiritual things. **1CO 2:13.**
 3. Figurative or parabolic utterances must be in harmony with plain statements since light is superior to darkness. **2PE 1:19.**
 4. Fact: The phrase, “thousand years” only appears in three other places outside of Revelation 20 and each of these is figurative or poetic. **PSA 90:4 c/w 2PE 3:8; ECC 6:6.**
- B. We should expect figurative or symbolic language in Revelation. **REV 1:1.**
1. signify: To be a sign or a symbol of; to represent, betoken, mean.
 2. An example of signification is in **HEB 9:6-8.**
- C. **vs. 1-2.** The binding of Satan.
1. angel: A messenger. 1. A ministering spirit or divine messenger.
 2. Michael the archangel was limited in what he could do against Satan (**JUDE 1:9**). This binding angel was a very special angel.
 3. God Himself is sometimes called an Angel. **GEN 48:16; EXO 3:2, 4.**
 4. Jesus Christ is the Messenger/Angel of the covenant to Whom saints belong. **MAL 3:1; ACT 27:23.**
 - a. By His resurrection power, Christ spoiled Satan's house. **1JO 3:8; COL 2:14-15.**
 - b. Binding precedes spoiling! **MAT 12:28-29.**
 - c. Therefore, a binding of Satan has already occurred.
 - d. Mind that someone may be bound but not totally restricted. **ACT 24:23-27.**
- D. **v. 3.** The thousand-year release of the nations from Satan's deception.
1. Nations = Gentiles. **ROM 15:10-11 c/w DEU 32:33; PSA 117:1.**
 - a. The Gentile nations had once been isolated from the light of God's word. **PSA 147:19-20; ROM 3:1-2; ACT 14:16.**
 - b. By virtue of His resurrection, Christ was given authority over the nations according to the prophecy of Psalm 2. **MAT 28:18-20 c/w PSA 2:7-8.**
 - c. Post-resurrection, the gospel went to the Gentiles and the nations in general became enlightened by the truth. **ACT 17:6, 30; ROM 16:25-26.**
 - d. The resurrection gospel delivered believing Gentiles from Satan's bondage of fear and from the superstitions of their devilish idols. **HEB 2:14-15; 1TH 1:8-9.**
 2. The term “thousand” figuratively refers to a full number known to God. **PSA 50:10; 105:8.**
 - a. The thousand-year binding of Satan refers to the post-ascension period of the gospel's going forth to the nations.
 - b. During that time, Satan would be hindered from his grand goal. **2TH 2:6-7.**
 - c. The “thousand years” would eventually expire, and Satan's deception of the nations would resume. **vs. 7-8.**
 - d. Mark how important is the true Scripture to this world!
- E. **v. 4.** The co-reign of the saints with Christ.
1. John saw judges on thrones. c/w **MAT 19:28; LUK 22:29-30.**
 2. John saw martyrs.
 - a. This would include those whose blood was shed for their faith. **REV 6:9.**
 - b. This need not exclude other faithful saints. The submitted believer is accounted a martyr, having died to self and the world. **ROM 8:35-36; 1CO 15:31; 2CO 4:10-11; LUK 14:26; ACT 20:24.**

- c. Those who worshipped not the beast are obviously God's elect. **REV 13:8; 17:8.**
 - 3. Those whom John saw "...lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."
 - a. Saints NOW are deemed as reigning with Christ. **EPH 2:4-6; ROM 5:17.**
 - b. Christ has made the elect kings and priests. **REV 5:10; 1:6.**
 - c. Mark that this "thousand years" must last longer than the "thousand years" of Satan's binding, or there would be a season on earth when the gates of hell did prevail. **MAT 16:18.**
- F. **vs. 5-6.** The first resurrection.
 - 1. Mark the phrase, "the rest of the dead." This is a death in which all were involved: death in Adam. **ROM 5:12; EPH 2:3.**
 - 2. A first resurrection implies a second.
 - 3. A second death implies a first.
 - 4. The second death is the last occurrence. **v. 14.**
 - 5. Hence, the order must be: first death, first resurrection, second resurrection, second death.
 - 6. The "first resurrection" is obviously that of Jesus Christ. **1CO 15:20, 23; COL 1:18; REV 1:5.**
 - a. Christ's resurrection *legally* sealed the justification of His elect. **ROM 4:25.**
 - b. When one is quickened or born again, he is quickened with Christ. **EPH 2:5.**
 - c. Thus, he *vitaly* gains part in the first resurrection.
 - 7. "on such the second death hath no power." c/w **JOH 5:24; 11:25-26.**
 - 8. "they shall be priests....and shall reign..." This is a royal priesthood as in **1PE 2:9.**
 - 9. "...a thousand years."
 - a. This is the inter-advental period between the first and second comings of Christ.
 - b. The saints reign with Christ Who reigns as the Son of man from advent to advent. **1CO 15:23-28.**
 - c. The saints will continue in life since they have been given eternal life. **ROM 5:21.**
- G. **vs. 7-10.** Satan's last stand.
 - 1. Having been deceived into opposing Christ, the nations confederately go to war with the beloved city, which is heavenly Jerusalem. **REV 21:9-10.**
 - 2. They move against the saints on earth who are intimately identified with the heavenly city. **REV 13:6-7.**
 - 3. Christ comes and crushes the assault with fire. c/w **2TH 1:8.**
 - 4. Satan is doomed.
- H. **vs. 11-15.** The second resurrection and final judgment.
 - 1. The creation itself comes unglued. **2PE 3:10-12.**
 - 2. The works of men are judged (thank God for the blood!). **ROM 2:5-11.**
 - 3. The wicked are consigned to the lake of fire. **MAT 25:41, 46.**
 - 4. There is a bodily resurrection including all. **ACT 24:15.**
 - a. It is in this way that the "rest of the dead" live again when the thousand years are finished.
 - b. This is the great harvest, the "...end of the world..." (**MAT 13:39**), when the wheat and tares are separated.
- I. Compare the first and second resurrections in this chapter with **JOH 5:25, 28-29.**