

REVELATION

CHAPTER TWENTY

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- I. **Revelation 20:1 (NASB)** *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*
- A. “angel”
1. Jesus
 - a. because he has the authority over the Abyss and those in it
 - i. cf. “key,” “chain”
- B. “key”
1. Satan briefly given the “key” to the abyss
 - a. **Revelation 9:1 (HCSB)**¹ The fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the shaft of the abyss was given to him.
 - i. Devil let a lot of locusts/demons out of the pit
 - b. but Jesus has the keys of death and Hades
 - i. **Revelation 1:18 (HCSB)**¹⁸ and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades.
- II. **Revelation 20:2-3 (NASB)** *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; (v3) and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*
- A. “thousand years”
1. Intro
 - a. the only place in Scr where “the millennium” is ever used
 - b. resolving a position on this is more important than coming to a conclusion on...
 - i. when the tribulation occurs
 - ii. whether you are preterist, historicist, or futurist
 - c. millennial views aren’t directly tied to preterist-historicist-futurist views
 - i. but preterists are almost never premil
 - A/ because most premils assume it takes cataclysmic events to usher in the millennium
 - 1/ and premils believe the millennium is in the future
 - a/ so premils believe the cataclysmic events must be in the future
 - i/ but preterists say those cataclysmic events happened around AD 70

- d. symbolism
 - i. ten is a number indicating “manyness” or “divine fullness”, “divine completion”
 - A/ 1000 = 10 x 10 x 10
 - 1/ so millennium is a whole bunch
 - a/ may take 1,000,000 years to finally crunch Satan
 - ii. example
 - A/ “God owns the cattle on 1000 hills”
 - 1/ doesn’t mean he doesn’t own the cattle on the 1001st hill
 - 2/ means there’s a whole bunch of hills, and he owns the cattle on all of them
- 2. two basic views: premillennial and “non-premillennial”
 - a. premillennial
 - i. basic statement of the position
 - a. timing
 - i. First Advent =>age of the church => Second Advent => Millennium
 - b. nature of the millennium
 - i. literally 1000 years long
 - ii. better than earth, but not as good as heaven
 - A/ sin will be severely limited
 - 1/ Isa 65:19-25 “¹⁹ I will also rejoice in Jerusalem, and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. ²⁰ No longer will there be in it an infant *who lives* but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Shall be *thought* accursed. ²¹ And they shall build houses and inhabit *them*; They shall also plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build, and another inhabit, They shall not plant, and another eat; For as the lifetime of a tree, *so shall be* the days of My people, And My chosen ones shall wear out the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain, Or bear *children* for calamity; For they are the offspring of those blessed by the LORD, And their descendants with them. ²⁴ It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox; and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.”
 - 2/ examples of the limitation of sin
 - a/ no more crying (v19)
 - b/ long life (v20)
 - c/ domestic security and peace (vv21,22)
 - d/ descendants will be blessed (v23)
 - e/ instant communication w/ God (v24)
 - f/ nature no longer red w/ tooth & claw (v25)
 - i/ the "wolf will lie down w/ the lamb"

- 3/ because the devil is "bound" (v20)
 - a/ but he is not completely bound, because some sin still exists
 - i/ people will still die
 - A) Is 65:20 "he who DIES at 100 will be thought a mere youth"
 - ii/ will still have war
 - A) Satan will inspire the rebellion of "Gog & Magog" at end
 - 1) Rev 20:7-10
 - B/ people have to work
 - 1/ "build houses," "plant vineyards" (v22)
- iii. nature of Jesus' reign
 - A/ premils split
 - 1/ classical, historical premils
 - a/ Jesus reigns on the earth through the CHURCH
 - 2/ dispensational premils
 - a/ Jesus reigns on the earth through ISRAEL
- c. three basic arguments against premillennialism
 - i. **Where's the 1000 year gap premils insist is between resur of just & unjust?**
 - (a) Dan 12:2 "Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life; others to shame and everlasting contempt."
 - (b) Mt 13:30 "Allow both [wheat & tares] to grow together until the harvest... FIRST, gather up the tares; but gather the wheat into my barn."
 - i) the order of resurrection is reversed, on premil scheme
 - ii) where's the 1000 year gap?
 - (c) Mt 13:47-48 "Again, the KOH is like a dragnet cast into the sea, & gathering fish... they... gathered the GOOD fish into containers, but the BAD they threw away."
 - (d) Mt 25:31-46 Parable of the Sheep & Goats
 - i) v34 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you
 - ii) v41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire..."
 - iii) v46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."
 - (e) Jn 5:28,29 "...A TIME is coming when ALL WHO ARE IN THEIR GRAVES will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned."
 - i) one TIME for the resurrection of ALL (just & unjust) contradicts premil scheme, which has 1000 years in between two different resurrections
 - (f) Acts 24:15 [Paul before Felix in Caesarea] "and I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous & the wicked."
 - (g) Rom 2:5-8 "...you are storing up wrath for yourself in the DAY of wrath & revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to each person according to his deeds, to those who... seek for honor, eternal life; but to those who... do not obey the truth... wrath & indignation.
 - i) the just & unjust get their deserts on the SAME DAY!
 - (h) I Cor 15:22-24 "...in X all will be made alive. (v23) But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. (v24) Then THE

END *will come*, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power."

i) resurrection of just in v.23

a) resurrection of unjust ("the end") comes immediately after in v. 24

ii) two premil defenses

a) "end" means "end of the resurrection of the unjust in the distant future" (v24)

1/ "Then the end WILL COME" is translation of: "then the end"

a/ NASB, NIV, New Living, Good News,

b/ premils supply a verb AND a future tense

i/ "will come" is NOT in the original

A) ASV: "Then [cometh] the end..."

1) note ASV puts the verb in brackets

B) ESV; Holman, NRS, RSV: "Then comes the end"

C) NKJV, KJV: "Then cometh the end"

D) Douay-Rheims: "Afterwards, the end"

b) "eita" ("then") can refer to a long interval as well as a short

i/ eita in NT NEVER refers to a long time [Schwertly]

A) 14 total instances

1) examples

a) I Tim 2:12 "It was Adam who was created, THEN Eve"

i) 1000 years between creation of Adam and Eve?

b) I Tim 3:10 "These men must also first be tested; THEN let them serve as deacons."

i) 1000 year probation period for deacons?

ii/ "then, when he comes (v23)" is a long interval, uses "epeita"

(i) 2 Thess 1:7-10 "the Lord Jesus will be revealed FROM HEAVEN... (v9)They [unbelievers] will be punished w/ everlasting destruction & shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power (v10) on THE DAY he comes to be glorified IN HIS HOLY PEOPLE and to be marveled at among all those who have believed..."

i) "THE day" is singular, no 1000 yr gap

ii) note J revealed from HEAVEN to punish unbelievers

a) punishment of unbelievers occurs at the END of the mill, when J isn't in heaven, but on earth!

b) we assume here the premils typical futurist assumptions

- (j) 2 Pet 3:10 "But the DAY OF THE LORD will come like a THIEF, in which... the elements will be destroyed w/ intense heat, & the earth & its works will be burnt up... [in] (v12)the DAY OF GOD..."
 - i) this must be at the END of the millennium
 - ii) notice parallels w/ I Thess 5, which (on futurist assumptions) is BEGINNING of millennium
 - a) I Thess 5:2-4 " ² For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. ³ While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief;"
 - i) bad guys aren't saying peace and safety at the END of millennium
 - A) they've already been destroyed at Jesus pre-mil coming"

ii. Resurrection of just on LAST day, not 1000 (or 1007) years before the last day

- (a) Jn 6:39,40,44,54 "...I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at THE LAST DAY. (V40) For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the LAST DAY. (v44) No one can come to me unless the Father draws him, and I will raise him up at the LAST DAY. (v54) Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the LAST DAY."
- (b) Jn 11:24 "Martha answered, 'I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the LAST DAY."
- (c) I Cor 15:51,52 "...we will all be changed- (v52) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMPET..."

iii. logical reasons

- (1) perforce, married mortals living in same society w/ unmarried glorified saints
 - (a) four possible categories of people in existence at J's pre-mil Second Coming
 - i) the physically dead Christian
 - A/ they enter the millennium raised and immortal
 - ii) the physically alive Christian
 - A/ he enters the millennium mortal
 - 1/ he wasn't dead at 2d Coming, so he can't be raised immortal
 - iii) the physically dead unbeliever
 - A/ he doesn't enter the millennium at all
 - 1/ stays in the grave till resurrected at END of millennium
 - iv) the physically alive unbeliever
 - A/ he enters the millennium mortal
 - 1/ J's 2d Coming doesn't kill him
 - (b) demographics of the millennium
 - i) immortal Christians
 - A/ either RAISED IMMORTAL or TRANSFIGURED
 - 1/ raised immortal
 - a/ deceased Xns at the Second Coming
 - 2/ transfigured
 - a/ living Xns at the Second Coming
 - ii) mortal unbelievers

- A/ the living unsaved who enter the millennium after the Second Coming
 - 1/ they miss out on being transfigured
 - B/ note the dear unbelievers miss the millennium altogether
 - iii) mortal Christians
 - A/ unbelievers who get saved during the millennium
 - 1/ they got saved too late for the transfiguration
 - (2) saints who died pre-2d advent dragged from perfect bliss to a world where there's death!
 - (3) Jesus ends up holed up in the "camp of the saints" fighting a defensive war that he's about to lose & has to be rescued at last minute
 - (a) Rev 20:8-10 "[Satan] will go out to deceive the nations in the 4 corners of the earth - Gog & Magog - to gather them for battle... (v9)They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven & devoured them."
 - (b) does that sound like King Jesus ruling w/ a rod of iron?
 - (c) note that J (glorified) is ruling w/ glorified saints
 - i) if final battle is literal, how will glorified J & saints be threatened w/ mere bullets and bombs?
 - 1/ they are IMMORTAL!!!!
- b. non-premillennial
 - i. basic, ROUGH, statement of the position
 - a. timing
 - i. First Advent => Millennium (KOG during the age of the church) => Second Advent
 - b. nature
 - i. depends on the non-premillennial view taken
 - A/ amil
 - 1/ millennium is the church in heaven (roughly)
 - B/ postmil
 - 1/ leftwing postmils
 - a/ cataclysmic historical, political, social events happen at the end
 - i/ resulting in paradisiacal conditions on earth
 - A) Jesus never returns to earth
 - b/ many of these aren't even Christian
 - i/ example
 - A) Marxism
 - 2/ rightwing postmils
 - a/ no cataclysmic historical, political, social events happen at the end
 - b/ the world very gradually is reduced from its bondage to corruption
 - i/ classical rightwing postmils
 - A) world changed through gradual leavening effect of the gospel
 - ii/ Reconstructionist rightwing postmils
 - A) world is changed as the Law of God is implemented politically, judicially

- c/ the kingdom is on EARTH as well as in heaven
 - i/ things that will improve
 - A) peace
 - B) health and sanitation
 - C) prosperity
 - D) the knowledge of God
 - E) number of Christians on the earth
 - d/ Jesus DOES return to the earth
- ii. selected Scriptures supporting a non-millenarian position
 - A/ Dan 2:44,45 "IN THE TIME OF THOSE KINGS, the God of Heaven will set up a KINGDOM that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. (v45)This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands - a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces."
 - 1/ "kings"
 - a/ Babylon, Persia, Greece (Alexander the Great), Rome
 - i/ ³² This image's head *was* of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, ³³ His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay."

B. "bound"

1. how is Satan bound?
 - a. SPIRITUALLY, not literally
 - i. who in the world thinks that an angel put a physical chain around Satan, who is a spiritual being?
 - b. re a PARTICULAR thing
 - i. v3 "...so that he wd not DECEIVE the nations any longer."
 - c. the NATIONS can't be deceived
 - i. doesn't mean particular individuals can't be deceived
 - ii. the spread of the gospel to all the world today proves the devil has been bound
2. Scriptures showing Satan is bound during church age
 - a. Gen 3:15 "...He will bruise his head..."
 - i. at FIRST Coming
 - 2/ **Matthew 12:29 (NASB)** ²⁹ "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.
 - a/ context shows JESUS did the binding, and it showed the K'dom was here: "(v28) If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the KOG has come upon you."
 - 3/ Mt 28:18-19 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE..."
 - 4/ **Luke 10:18-19 (NASB)** ¹⁸ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.
 - 5/ **John 12:31 (NASB)** ³¹ "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
 - a/ note judgment of Satan directly connected w/ evangelism of nations

- 6/ **Colossians 2:15 (NASB)** ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- 7/ **Hebrews 2:14 (HCSB)** ¹⁴ Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might destroy the one holding the power of death—that is, the Devil—
 - a/ devil rendered powerless at time of J's death
 - i/ something that is bound is powerless
- 8/ **1 John 3:8b (HCSB)** The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the Devil's works.
- 9/ Jude 6 "And the angels who did not keep their proper domain... he has reserved in everlasting chains for the judgment of the great day."
 - a/ demons here bound, but before Judgment Day, and there's still demonic activity on earth

C. "released"

- 1. the Devil will begin deceiving and warring again at the end of history
 - a. cf. vv 7,8 below
 - b. God delays his release to give the church long enough time to have things under control
 - i. if God turned the fires of judgment of the world too soon...
 - A/ he would destroy the bread (the world) along with the yeast (the church)

III. **Revelation 20:4 (NASB)** *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

A. "they"

- 1. we aren't told explicitly who they are
 - a. but we do know they are sitting on thrones
 - i. which word is only used of the 24 elders, representing the church
 - A/ Scriptures
 - 1/ Rev 4:4 ⁴ "And round about the THRONE *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty ELDERS sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."
 - 2/ Rev 11:16 ¹⁶ "And the four and twenty ELDERS, which sat before God on their SEATS [NASB: THRONES], fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,"
 - B/ the church REIGNS!

B. "souls"

- 1. described just like the martyrs under the altar
 - a. **Revelation 6:9 (HCSB)** When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the people slaughtered because of God's word and the testimony they had.
 - b. but its reference is broader, to all the Xns ever slain for their testimony

C. "beheaded"

- 1. problem
 - a. sounds like first resurrection is just for Xn martyrs
 - i. note: this is a problem for ALL millennial views, not just non-premil
 - b. answer
 - i. see v 6a, which refers to (arguably) ALL Xns AND refers to the first resurrection
 - A/ Rev 20:6a "Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection"

- D. “came to life”
 - 1. this phrase right here is the fulcrum of the whole millennial debate
 - a. if it’s a physical resurrection, premillennialism is inevitable
 - b. if it’s coming to life spiritually (being born again), a non-premil view is inevitable

IV. **Revelation 20:5,6 (NASB)** *[The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.] This is the first resurrection. (v6) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

- A. “rest of the dead”
 - 1. FIRST SENTENCE in v5 is a parenthetical expression
 - a. refers back to the “souls of those who had beheaded” and had “come to life” in v4
 - i. v4 dead were believers
 - A/ precisely, martyred believers AND all other believers
 - ii. “the rest of the dead” are nonbelievers [on any millennial view]
 - A/ who are PHYSICALLY dead
- B. “completed”
 - 1. i.e., at the end of time
 - a. at the general resurrection of the just and the unjust
 - b. the implied “SECOND resurrection”
- C. “first resurrection”
 - 1. spiritual resurrection to life in Jesus
 - a. John, in his Gospel, relates when Jesus spoke of the two resurrections
 - i. spiritual resurrection
 - A/ John 5:24,25 “²⁴ Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and BELIEVETH on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ²⁵ Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the DEAD shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall LIVE.”
 - B/ John 5:28-29 “²⁸ Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the GRAVES shall hear his voice, ²⁹ And shall COME FORTH; they that have done good, unto the RESURRECTION OF LIFE; and they that have done evil, unto the RESURRECTION OF DAMNATION.”
 - 1/ second resurrection
 - a/ both Xns and non Xns participate in a physical resurrection
 - i/ “life”, “damnation”
 - D. summary of deaths and resurrections
 - 1. non-premil view
 - a. first resurrection is being born again spiritually
 - i. only Christians participate
 - b. second resurrection is physical resurrection at end of time
 - i. both the just and the unjust participate
 - A/ Jn 5:28,29 “for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs shall hear His voice, ²⁹ and shall come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.”

- c. first death is PHYSICAL death
 - i. not mentioned in the text
 - ii. defined
 - A/ the separation of the soul from THE BODY
 - B/ one's physical body completely stops functioning
 - iii. distinguish SPIRITUAL death
 - A/ every human being is born spiritually dead
 - 1/ spirit is not in communion with God
 - iv. both Xns and non-Xns participate
 - d. second death is spirit's eternal separation FROM GOD
 - i. the lake of fire (cf 20:14)
 - ii. contrast the "first death"
 - A/ the separation of the spirit from THE BODY
 - iii. only nonbelievers participate
2. premil view
- a. first resurrection (20:4) is a PHYSICAL resurrection at X's pre-mil Second Coming
 - i. only CHRISTIANS participate
 - b. second resurrection is a PHYSICAL resurrection at end of millennium
 - i. who participates
 - A/ nonbelievers of all ages
 - 1/ they are still in the grave
 - a/ having missed the resurrection, transfiguration, and rapture at the Second Coming
 - B/ query
 - 1/ do believers who get saved DURING THE MILLENNIUM also participate? [**]
 - c. first death is physical death (not mentioned in the text)
 - i. same view as non-premils
 - d. second death is spirit's eternal separation from God
 - i. the lake of fire (cf 20:14)
 - ii. same view as non-premils

V. **Revelation 20:7-8 NASB** *When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, (v8) and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.*

A. "deceive"

- 1. A postmil view of the millennium is not a utopian one
 - a. **Ezekiel 47:9 (HCSB)**⁹ Every [kind of] living creature that swarms will live wherever the river flows, and there will be a huge number of fish because this water goes there. Since the water will become fresh, there will be life everywhere the river goes . . . ¹¹ Yet its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be left for salt.
 - i. refers to living water flowing from the sanctuary of the temple
 - b. Matt 13:37-43 ³⁷ He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; ³⁸ The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked *one*; ³⁹ The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. ⁴⁰ As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. ⁴¹ The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; ⁴² And

shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.”

i. tares will be with us all the way till the end

B. “released”

1. a sudden upsurge in demonic activity occurs right at great spiritual events
 - A/ like when there was demonic activity everywhere when Jesus began his ministry
 - B/ devil trying his best to stop God’s upcoming great spiritual victory
2. [DLT] why would God release the Devil to do that?
 - A/ so he can publicly put him under once and for all
 - B/ evil and rebellion against God will clearly and finally be shown

C. “Gog”, “Magog”

1. frequent, standard expression used in Jewish writings to refer to rebellious nations of Psalm 2
 - a. G.B. Caird, *A Commentary of the Rev of St Jn the Divine*, 1966, p256
 - i. has many cites to the Talmud
 - b. Psalm 2:1,2 “¹ Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed”
 - c. John uses as a symbol to refer to unspecified nations fighting against God at the end
2. refers to Ezek 37,38
 - a. Ezekiel prophesying of defeat of Syrians by Maccabees, 2d century BC [Chilton]
 - i. [** get historical references]
 - b. if we take Ezek 37,38 LITERALLY, a future battle becomes an absurdity
 - i. this future battle w/ Gog and Magog...
 - A/ will be provoked by Gog and Magog wanting Israel’s cattle
 - 1/ Ezek 38:11-13 “¹¹ and you will say, 'I will go up against the land of unwalled VILLAGES. I will go against those who are at rest, that live securely, all of them living without walls, and having no bars or gates, ¹² to capture spoil and to seize plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places which are *now* inhabited, and against the people who are gathered from the nations, who have acquired CATTLE and goods, who live at the center of the world.' ¹³ 'Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all its villages, will say to you, 'Have you come to capture spoil? Have you assembled your company to seize plunder, to carry away silver and gold, to take away CATTLE and goods, to capture great spoil?'"
 - B/ fought with ALL of G & M’s forces on horseback
 - 1/ Ezek 38:15 ¹⁵ "And you [Gog] will come from your place out of the remote parts of the north, you and many peoples with you, ALL of them riding on HORSES, a great assembly and a mighty army;"
 - C/ fought with ALL of G & M’s soldiers carrying BUCKLERS, SWORDS, SHIELDS
 - 1/ Ezek 38:4,5 “⁴ And I will turn thee back, and put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth, and all thine army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed with all sorts of *armour*, even a great company with BUCKLERS and SHIELDS, all of them handling SWORDS: ⁵ Persia, Ethiopia, and Libya with them; ALL of them with shield and helmet:

- D/ fought with G&M using WOODEN bows, arrows, clubs, and spears
 - 1/ Ezek 39:3,9 “³ And I will smite thy BOW out of thy left hand, and will cause thine ARROWS to fall out of thy right hand. ⁹ And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and BURN the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the BOWS and the ARROWS, and the HANDSTAVES, and the SPEARS, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:
- E/ Israel will be using WOOD to heat with
 - 1/ Ezek 39:10 “¹⁰ So that they shall take no WOOD OUT OF THE FIELD, neither CUT DOWN ANY OUT OF THE FORESTS; for they shall burn the weapons with fire: and they shall spoil those that spoiled them, and rob those that robbed them, saith the Lord GOD.”
- 2. premils refer it to the so-called future “Battle of Armageddon”
 - a. which is interesting, since Armageddon appears BEFORE the millennium, not after
 - i. Rev 16:16 “¹⁶ And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”
 - A/ this is when sixth trumpet blows
 - 1/ which is during the tribulation!
 - a/ 1000+ years before the end of the millennium
 - b. say Gog & Magog refers to present day Russia
 - i. which of course, has now disintegrated
- D. “sand of the seashore”
 - 1. idea is not doom and gloom
 - a. God is gathering his final enemies together for one last disastrous defeat for them
 - i. two of Israel’s greatest victories fought against enemies numerous as “sands of seashore”
 - A/ Joshua
 - 1/ Josh 11:4 “⁴ And they [various pagan tribes in northern Israel] went out, they and all their hosts with them, much people, even as the SAND that *is* UPON THE SEA SHORE in multitude, with horses and chariots very many.”
 - a/ but Joshua wins anyway
 - i/ Josh 11:6,8 “⁶ Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid because of them, for tomorrow at this time I will deliver all of them slain before Israel; you shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire.... ⁸ And the LORD delivered them into the hand of Israel, so that they defeated them, and pursued them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim and the valley of Mizpeh to the east; and they struck them until no survivor was left to them."
 - B/ Gideon
 - 1/ Judges 7:12 “¹² And the Midianites and the Amalekites and all the children of the east lay along in the valley like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels *were* without number, as the SAND BY THE SEA SIDE for multitude.”
 - a/ and we know who won that battle
 - ii. easier to beat enemies who aren’t scattered about
 - 2. this does guard against an overly optimistic view of the age of the New Covenant Church
 - a. the opposite error of pessimillennialism

VI. Revelation 20:9-10 NASB *And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. (v10) *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

A. “camp of the saints”

1. reminiscent of military formation of Israel under Moses

B. “beloved city”

1. the New Jerusalem
 - a. the congregation of NC believers

D. “devoured”

1. notice how quickly Satan’s last gasp attack is destroyed

E. “fire”

1. to be literal fire at end of world?

- a. Chilton: probable (ironic for Chilton)
- b. [DLT] I don’t think so

2. fire is standard SYMBOL in Rev for destruction from God

a. examples

- i. Rev 8:5,7,8 “⁵ And the angel took the censer, and filled it with FIRE of the altar, and CAST *IT* INTO THE EARTH: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake... ⁷ The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and FIRE mingled with blood, and they were CAST UPON THE EARTH: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. ⁸ And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with FIRE was CAST INTO THE SEA: and the third part of the sea became blood;”
- ii. **Revelation 11:5 (HCSB)** ⁵ If anyone wants to harm them, fire comes from their mouths and consumes their enemies; if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this way.
- iii. **Revelation 16:8 (HCSB)** ⁸ The fourth poured out his bowl on the sun. He was given the power to burn people with fire,

b. note how in Rev 8:5,7,8 and in Rev 16:8 the fire comes from ABOVE

- i. just like in Rev 20:10
A/ “down from heaven”

VII. Revelation 20:11 (NASB) *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.*

A. “Him”

1. most say God

a. but it could be Jesus

- i. because it’s a *white* throne
A/ Jesus sat on a white...
 - 1/ cloud (14:14)
 - 2/ horse (6:2, 19:11)

ii. Berkhof’s *Systematic Theology* (p731f)

A/ Christ will be the Judge at the last day

- 1/ the crowning honor of his kingship

iii. all the great ecumenical creeds give the honor to Christ

A/ “He shall come to judge the quick and the dead”

- iv. **John 5:27 (HCSB)** ²⁷ And He [the Father] has granted Him [the Son] the right to pass judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

VIII. **Revelation 20:12 NASB** *And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books [plural] were opened; and another book [singular] was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books [plural], according to their deeds.*

A. “dead”

1. refers to WICKED dead only

a. why

i. context

A/ “rest of the dead” in v5 are the wicked dead

B/ Christians aren’t going to have anything to do w/ “Death,” “Hades,” “lake of fire”

1/ cf. vv13-15

2. “book of life”

- a. on non-premil view, Christians and non-Christians are being judged at same time

i. the general resurrection

ii. so CHRISTIANS are being judged from the book of life

A/ non-Christians are being judged from the books [plural]

1/ which are distinguished from the book of life

a. note “another”

2/ we may call the plural books “the books of death”

- b. the premil view has a problem

i. since the Christians have already received their judgment premil

A/ and this is AFTER the millennium

1/ and judgment is only for the wicked dead

a/ so why is the book of life present?

A) possible solutions for the premil view

1) mentioned not to show that Christians are being judged

a) rather, to show the wicked dead aren’t going to be in it

2) to judge the unglorified Christians saved during the millennium

B. “standing”

1. strange that dead men would be standing

- a. spiritually dead men undergo resurrection just like righteous

i. Jesus spoke of the resurrection of the just AND THE UNJUST

A/ **John 5:29 (NASB)** “and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.”

1/ note once again the two resurrections are spoken of as SIMULTANEOUS

C. “judged”

1. why this isn’t “salvation by works”

- a. its DAMNATION by works
- b. righteous people justified by faith will always have works as EVIDENCE of their prior justification
 - i. justification by faith is the ROOT of our salvation
 - a. the works are the FRUIT of our salvation
 - ii. Scriptures
 - a. **Galatians 5:6 (HCSB)** ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything; what matters is faith working through love.
 - b. **James 2:17-20 (HCSB)** ¹⁷ In the same way faith, if it doesn’t have works, is dead by itself. ¹⁸ But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without works, and I will show you faith from my works. ¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. The demons also believe—and they shudder. ²⁰ Foolish man! Are you willing to learn that faith without works is useless?

IX. **Revelation 20:13 (NASB)** *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.*

A. “sea”

1. all those who perished in the judgments of Noah’s Flood and the Red Sea

B. “sea,” “death,” “Hades”

1. “all supposable places where the dead could be found.”

X. **Revelation 20:14,15 (NASB)** *Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the SECOND DEATH, the lake of fire. (v15) And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

A. “death,” “Hades”

1. death and hades are as powerless as the dragon
 - a. who’s already been thrown into the lake of fire
2. death is swallowed up in victory

B. “lake of fire”

1. difficult verse for those who deny hell and eternal judgment