

MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST-PT 1
REVELATION 20:1-6

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Introduction

In *Revelation 19*, we saw the last two weeks how the **TRIBULATION PERIOD** will come to an end as **CHRIST TRIUMPHS OVER HIS and ISRAEL'S ENEMIES** at the **BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON**.

We saw how that two members of the **UNHOLY TRINITY**— both **THE BEAST (a/k/a as the ANTI-CHRIST)** and **THE FALSE PROPHET** will be taken and cast alive into **THE LAKE OF FIRE!** **The remaining enemies of CHRIST and ISRAEL will be slain by the WORD Of THE LORD** and their bodies will be consumed by **FOWLS** that are called by an **ANGEL** to the **SUPPER OF THE GREAT GOD** to **FEAST!**

We pick up in *Revelation 20:1-3* and we see the **TEMPORARY CONFINEMENT** of the third member of the **UNHOLY TRINITY!** (He is called the **DRAGON, THAT OLD SERPENT, THE DEVIL,** and **SATAN** there in *verse 2!*) **HE will be CONFINED in the BOTTOMLESS PIT** for a period of **1000 YEARS** not to be heard from again until the **1000 YEAR REIGN** of **CHRIST** draws to a close!

In *verse 4-6* we see that our **LORD JESUS CHRIST** establishes **HIS MILLENNIAL REIGN on the earth!** (That's what we want to see today!
Read verses 4-6)

I. WHAT IS CHRIST'S MILLENNIAL REIGN ALL ABOUT?
Known as **THE MILLENNIUM**, or **THE KINGDOM AGE**, it is a **LITERAL 1000-YEAR PERIOD** when the **LORD JESUS CHRIST** will return to this earth to establish **HIS EARTHLY KINGDOM** and **RULE** and **REIGN** on this earth!

A. The FACT Of The MILLENNIUM!
The word itself is a **Latin term** which signifies *“one thousand years.”*
Revelation 20:4c “...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

In the **first seven verses** of *Revelation 20*, **JOHN** mentions the **thousand-year period** no less than six times.

In spite of this, some have argued that, since this number is found in only one New Testament passage, one cannot insist that **the thousand-year period** will really come to pass.

To emphasize their point, reference is made to **2 Peter 3:8:**
“One day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

It is interesting (and perhaps revealing) to note that the same group which attempts to shorten the thousand-year period of Revelation to one day (and thus do away entirely with the millennium) also attempts to expand the six days of creation in Genesis to thousands of years.

Why can't **GOD'S WORD** mean exactly what **HE** says here?

There are three views of the MILLENNIUM:
First there is POST-MILLENNIALISM which says that through the preaching of the **GOSPEL** the world will eventually embrace **CHRISTIANITY** and become a universal *“society of saints.”* At that point **CHRIST** will be invited to assume command and reign over man's peaceful planet.

Though **POST-MILLENNIALISTS** believe in a **LITERAL thousand-year reign**, their position is false, for the **BIBLE** clearly teaches that the world situation will become **worse and worse** prior to **CHRIST'S SECOND COMING**, **not better and better.** (See *1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 12*)

This position was popularized by a **UNITARIAN** minister named **DANIEL WHITBY** (1638-1726), and **it flourished until the early part of the twentieth century.**

Then came **WORLD WAR I**, and men began to wonder. Finally, the **POST-MILLENNIAL** theory was quietly laid to rest amid **HITLER'S** gas ovens during **WORLD WAR II.**

MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST-PT 1
REVELATION 20:1-6

Secondly, there is a view called AMILLENNIALISM which teaches that there will be **no thousand-year reign** at all, and that the **NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH** inherits all the **SPIRITUAL PROMISES** and **PROPHECIES** of **OLD TESTAMENT ISRAEL!** (a/k/a *Replacement Theology*)

In that view, **ISAIAH'S** beautiful **PROPHECY** of the conditions of **CHRIST'S REIGN** described in *Isaiah 11:1-9* simply doesn't mean what it says. **They allegorize it away!**

However, if the eleventh chapter of **ISAIAH** cannot be taken literally, what proof do we have that **the magnificent fifty-third chapter** should not likewise be allegorized away? (The chapter that prophesies of the **SUFFERING SERVANT**)

Lastly, there is a view called **PRE-MILLENNIALISM** which teaches that **CHRIST** will return just prior to the **MILLENNIUM** and will personally rule during this glorious thousand-year reign. This position alone is the **SCRIPTURAL ONE**, and is the oldest of these three views.

From the **APOSTOLIC PERIOD** on, the early **CHURCH FATHERS** held to a **PRE-MILLENNIAL** position!

The FACT Of The MILLENNIUM!

B. The PURPOSE Of The MILLENNIUM!

1. The PURPOSE of the MILLENNIUM is to REWARD the SAINTS OF GOD!

Psalm 58:11—“*Verily there is a reward for the righteous.*”

Proverbs 11:18—“*...to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward*”

Matthew 16:27—“*For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works*”

MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST-PT 1
REVELATION 20:1-6

Matthew 25:34—“*Then shall the King say Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*”

2. The PURPOSE of the MILLENNIUM is to answer the oft-prayed model PRAYER!
In *Luke 11:1-4* and *Matthew 6:9-13* our **LORD**, at the request of **HIS DISCIPLES**, suggested a **PATTERN PRAYER** to aid all **BELIEVERS** in their **PRAYING!**

One of the guidelines was this: “*Thy kingdom come.*” There the **SAVIOR** was inviting **HIS FOLLOWERS** to **PRAY FOR THE MILLENNIUM!** Someday **HE** will return to fulfill the untold millions of times these three little words have made their way to heaven by the prayers of **SAINTS**—“*Thy kingdom come.*”

3. The PURPOSE of the MILLENNIUM is to REDEEM CREATION!
In *Genesis 3* **GOD** cursed nature because of **ADAM'S SIN**. From that point on, man's paradise became a wilderness.

The roses grew thorns, and the docile tiger became a hungry meat-eater. But during the **MILLENNIUM** all this will change. **PAUL** describes the transformation for us in *Romans 8:13-23*.

4. The PURPOSE of the MILLENNIUM is to FULFILL three important OLD TESTAMENT COVENANTS!

a. The Abrahamic Covenant.

GOD promised **ABRAHAM** two basic things:

- (1) That his seed (**ISRAEL**) would become a mighty nation!
(*Genesis 12:1-3; 13:16; 15:5; 17:7-8; 22:17-18*).

MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST-PT 1

REVELATION 20:1-6

- (2) That his seed (**ISRAEL**) would someday own **PALESTINE** forever (*Genesis 12:7; 13:14-15, 17; 15:7,18-21; 17:8*).

The Abrahamic Covenant

b. **The Davidic Covenant.**

(2 Chronicles 13:5; 2 Samuel 7:12-16; 23:5; Luke 1:31-33)

The promise to David was threefold:

- (1) That from David would come an **everlasting throne!**
- (2) That from David would come an **everlasting kingdom!**
- (3) That from David would come an **everlasting King!**

c. **The New Covenant**

(Isa. 42:6; Jer. 31:31-34; Heb. 8:7-12).

This promise was also threefold:

- (1) That He would forgive their iniquity and forget their sin.
- (2) That He would give them new hearts.
- (3) That He would use Israel to reach and teach the Gentiles.

Conclusion

There are a couple of more purposes that we'll look at, but that's all we will look at for today.

CHRIST has provided **FORGIVENESS OF SIN** with the **NEW COVENANT** found by **GRACE** through **FAITH** in **HIS** shed **BLOOD** on the **CROSS OF CALVARY!** Do you know **HIM?** If not, make this your **"Come To Jesus"** moment today!