

Revelation 20:1-6

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.

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**.

7 Now when the **thousand years** have expired, Satan will be released from his prison

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Two years and a week ago we began this exposition of the Book of Revelation and I have repeatedly emphasized that my primary rule of interpretation is spiritual as opposed to literal; comparing Scripture with Scripture. This wonderful Book is written in apocalyptic language that must be unveiled and it draws heavily on the OT for its symbolism. To take only one example, what possible meaning is there to the “locusts” of 9:3 apart from the plague of locusts in ancient Egypt?

And so we have “**the thousand years.**”

### **The Thousand Years**

My argument in this message about **The Thousand Years** of Revelation 20 is that you cannot correctly understand the “thousand years” to be a literal 1000 calendar years apart from imposing that notion on the text because the context simply will not allow it. In other words you must decide **before** you read Revelation 20 that the **Thousand Years** is literally 1000 calendar years and then ignore the context of the passage which also has a “key” and a “great chain”, a “bottomless pit” and an evil **spirit**. **You cannot bind a spirit with a literal chain!**

The **thousand years** of Revelation 20 is also referred to as the **millennium** and is without controversy one of the most debated and misunderstood terms in the entire Bible. The terms **thousand years** and **millennium** are interchangeable and I will use them both to refer to the same thing.

As you listen to [or read] this message, and I encourage you to listen, you will be in one of four states of mind.

1) You have been taught that the **thousand years** is a literal 1000 years on the calendar and you have never entertained the notion that it may be otherwise. So you may simply choose to close your mind to anything else for fear that you may be mistaken; because you have far too much invested in a long-held position on the millennium being actual calendar years. In other words, you are **unteachable!**

2) Or, you have seriously studied the various views and have arrived at a conclusion; you cannot confidently argue for your position, and so you are open-minded to hear a fresh presentation of a view that is different from the one that you have adopted. In other words, you are **teachable**.

3) Then, you may not have ever been motivated to study the end times at all and are satisfied to remain in ignorance on the matter. That is not all bad, except that we should desire to study all of God’s Holy Book, even the parts that are hard to understand. And too, your view of eschatology [the doctrine of end times] necessarily interprets Scripture for you.

4) The fourth position is what I claim to hold. As for me, I have studied this subject for nearly all of my Christian life, now approaching 40 years, and have been persuaded at one time or another of each of the three major interpretations of the millennium. As Rolf Barnard said, “Well I have been right at least one time.”

## The Book of Revelation “The Thousand Years”

Where I now stand in my eschatological view is due to an honest effort to grasp the various possibilities and to have settled on what I believe to be consistent with the entire Bible and is based on **two foundational principles**:

- 1) God justifies **individuals**, not ethnic groups;
- 2) The Kingdom of God is **spiritual**, not geopolitical.

We will have more to say about these two principles later.

In this message I am not simply parroting what another man has written. What I have believed now for the last thirty years or so is based on an objective examination of prophecy and eschatology [end times].

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### What is the millennium?

The millennium has to do with what happens on the earth before, or after, or until the return of Jesus Christ from heaven. The debate **is not** about whether the Lord Jesus will return; it is about the events that occur relative to His return.

The millennium, then, does refer to a period of time; the “**thousand years**.”  
The question: is the millennium a symbolic term or must it be a literal 1000 years?

There are three main views of the millennium:

- 1) Premillennial; 2) Postmillennial, 3) A-millennial.

#### Premillennial

- 1) The Second Coming is **before** the literal thousand years, i.e. **premillennial**.

The millennium occurs **after** the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. If this is what you believe you are among the vast majority of Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The premillennial view is further divided into two camps called:

- 1) Dispensational Premillennialism, and 2) Historic Premillennialism.

### Postmillennial

2) The Second Coming is **after** the thousand years, i.e. **postmillennial**. The millennium occurs **after** the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

There are not nearly as many that hold to this view in our day, although if you do you are in good company as most of the Puritans were postmillennialists.

### Amillennial Realized or Inaugurated millennium:

3) The millennium is a symbolic term referring to the years between Christ’s first coming and His return. This view is **a-millennial**; the “a” prefix in Greek would correctly mean NO millennium. That is a poor label because this view believes in the millennium that is being realized now. I prefer to call it the Realized or Inaugurated millennium.

Briefly what follows is a description of each major view. However, each view has some subgroups that are too numerous to explain in this message.

### **Dispensational Premillennial**

The “millennium” is future.

Dispensationalism is so named for Seven Dispensations, or seven periods in history [ages] where God gives the human race a test.

1. Age of Innocence: Creation of Adam to the Fall.
2. Age of Conscience: Expulsion from the Garden of Eden to the flood.
3. Age of Human Government: Flood to Babel
4. Age of Promise: Abraham to end of the Pentateuch, Moses.
5. Age of Law: Moses to Pentecost. Cross and Resurrection are bypassed?
6. Age of Grace: Church Age, Pentecost to the rapture. Do not equate the secret rapture with the second coming. The church is translated up so it does not go through the tribulation, which is intended only for the Jews.
7. Age of the Kingdom: From the second coming to eternal states of heaven and hell.

According to Dispensationalism the “millennium” or the “thousand years” of Revelation 20 is a literal 1000 years that begins after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Actually this view has a two-fold Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

## The Book of Revelation “The Thousand Years”

Dispensationalism teaches a secret coming for the church where Jesus does not touch the earth; and another coming where He does touch the earth and reigns for a literal 1000 years. [From: A lecture series given at Beeson Divinity School, circa 1998, by Dr. Paul Basden: “Doctrine of the Last Things.”]

Dispensationalism teaches that the nation of Israel {Israel after the flesh} is the focus of the Bible. The Bible begins and ends with ethnic Israel as a nation. The Church is an afterthought, a “parenthesis”. Israel is **always** national Israel and Israel will **never** be part of the Church.

In 2007, at the Shepherd’s conference, John MacArthur preached a sermon that he titled: “Why Every Self-Respecting Calvinist is a Premillennialist.” By his rules of interpretation either I am not a Calvinist or have no self-respect. Mr. MacArthur tries to show that every mention of Israel is National Israel. He surely knows better. Romans 9:6-8 alone is enough to refute his claim that Israel in the Bible is always national Israel.

Dispensationalism also teaches that the Church and Israel are two separate entities and the one is never a part of the other. This view says that there is no reference to the Church in the OT.

Dispensationalism teaches that the nation of Israel will be restored at the return of Christ and Christ will reign as King on the earth over a literal kingdom for a literal 1000 years. According to Dispensationalism the OT prophecies of a land were not completely fulfilled in the OT, nor will they be fulfilled in the Church Age or in the heavenly Jerusalem. These OT prophecies are reserved for the millennium. The OT takes precedence over the NT. The church is “raptured” out of the world at the return of Christ to be forever separate from Israel. A third temple will be built in Jerusalem and animal sacrifices will once again be offered as a memorial. Judaism is restored in all its former glory.

The proponents of Dispensationalism are quick to claim that they take a literal view of the Bible and often show disdain for those of us who understand much of prophecy and especially the Book of Revelation to be spiritual.

Here are the words of a well-known expositor of the Dispensational view:

## The Book of Revelation “The Thousand Years”

“It seems impossible to me that any student of the Bible could take the amillennial position. But many today who claim to be orthodox and conservative have moved in this direction. The theology they hold and their methods of interpreting the Scripture are absolutely false. God gives no person the right to say what passage is to be interpreted literally and what passage is to be interpreted allegorically. Such a method of interpretation makes human reason the criterion for truth. Such interpreters of the Scripture come under the condemnation of Revelation 22:18, 19: “For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Practical Studies in Revelation, Theodore H. Epp, Volume II, page 379

So if you think I am being harsh on Dispensationalism consider the “kind” words of Mr. John MacArthur and Mr. Theodore Epp about those who do not agree with their interpretational system.

To be fair, Dispensationalism has been modified in recent years but the current popular version is pretty close to what I have described above. The “Left Behind” series of books is based on Dispensationalism.

### **Historic Premillennialism:**

The “millennium” is future.

Historic Premillennialism does not teach a third temple or renewed animal sacrifices. The “millennium” is future. National Israel will be restored at the return of Christ and Christ will reign on earth for a literal 1000 years. Jews will be saved because they are Jews although it will be through the belief of the Gospel. The Jews thus saved become part of the Church whereas Dispensationalism separates Israel and the Church forever.

### **Postmillennialism:**

The “millennium” is future. There will be an approximate 1000 calendar years of peace on earth with a strong Christian influence in the world before the Second Coming of Jesus Christ at the end of time. The Jews have a special place in redemptive history because they are Jews in the “latter-day glory”.

## The Book of Revelation “The Thousand Years”

**Amillennialism:** Instead of Amillennialism I prefer **realized millennialism** or **inaugurated millennialism**.

The millennium is a symbolic term and is now. We are now in the millennial reign of Christ with the tares growing among the wheat! Those who hold to Amillennialism believe that the “millennium” or the “thousand years” of Revelation 20 is an indefinite but perfect period of time between the crucifixion of Christ and His second coming.

King Jesus reigns in the hearts and minds of those justified souls **now** in this present age. The Kingdom of God is among you. The Kingdom of God does not come by observation, i.e. the Kingdom of God is **spiritual** in nature.

### Ages in the Bible

There are only two ages to be found in the Bible:

They are this present age and the age to come.

It really doesn't matter how many dispensations you believe in you will only find two ages in the Bible: this present age and the age to come.

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Some of the most respected of preachers hold to one or the other of these different millennial views. Here I feel like a noxious weed in a garden full of beautiful flowers saying how lovely I am and how ugly they are.

**[Dispensational]**

Jim, do you think you know more about the Bible than **John MacArthur**?

John MacArthur is still living and is a respected expositor of the Word of God and is loved by most people who have heard him and read his work.

**[Historic Premillennial]**

Jim, do you think you know more about the Bible than **Charles Spurgeon**?

Charles Spurgeon, in my opinion, was the greatest preacher of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century; perhaps of all time. Mr. Spurgeon did not preach many sermons from The Revelation; he said something like “there was too much in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that he had more light on than to spend much time on the Second Coming.”

Read anything by Mr. Spurgeon and you will see that he always exalts the Lord Jesus Christ. Mr. Spurgeon was criticized by someone who said, “Your sermons all sound alike.” “Yes,” said Mr. Spurgeon, “I take a text and head for Calvary with it.”

**[Postmillennial]**

Jim, do you think you know more about the Bible than Jonathan Edwards?

Jonathan Edwards was perhaps America’s greatest theologian. Like most preachers of his day and the Puritans, he longed for the “Latter-Day Glory.”

**[Amillennial]**

Jim, do you think you know more about the Bible than Martyn Lloyd-Jones?

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, I believe, was the greatest expositor of the Scriptures of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. I have read nearly everything published by Martyn Lloyd-Jones and it troubles me to disagree with him on any interpretation. But I do not agree with Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, an A-millennialist, on the meaning of “all Israel” in Romans 11:26, “And so all Israel will be saved.” Lloyd-Jones reserves a place for the Jews, because they are Jews, at the end of the present age.



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The one thing **common** with the views of these four representative men and that they each hold a special place for the Jews **because they are Jews!**

Jim, do you really think that you could be correct in your interpretation of the Millennium and that these great men of God are wrong? Do you think you know more about the Bible than they do? No, I honestly do not think that I know more about the Bible than any of these great men who each represent a **different interpretation** of the Millennium.

**But if they can all disagree with each other, why can't I disagree with all of them? Great men can make great errors.**

**“Never underestimate the power of a preconceived notion.”**

Charles Alexander

The aforementioned **two foundational principles** of biblical interpretation may be summarized in two simple statements. These principles are consistent in the drama of redemption from the Garden of Eden until the end of this present age:

1) God justifies **individuals** and not nations or ethnic groups. It is true that God chose and established Israel after the flesh for His purpose of preserving the Oracles of God, and for missionary purposes, but that choosing was **not for the justification** of their souls based on their birth certificate. In my opinion this is the failing of all four men; they confuse God's choosing of Israel after the flesh with **justification!**

Luke 18:9-14

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' 13 And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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This false belief about being justified was the basis for the boast of the Pharisees, “We be Abraham’s seed,”

This error was maintained by the Jewish rabbis and was dealt with by Paul in Romans Chapter 3. This same error is still being made in our day by those who hold a special place in the future for the Jews, **because they are Jews.**

2) The nature of the Kingdom of God is **spiritual** and not geopolitical. Jesus Christ is King and He rules over His kingdom of justified souls even now and forever. Amen.

As a profitable exercise I encourage you to look up the more than 150 references to the Kingdom in the NT and read them in their context without imposing any preconceived notions about the nature of the Kingdom. Here are only a few:

Matthew 3:1-2

In those days **John the Baptist** came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 2 and saying, "Repent, for the **kingdom of heaven is at hand!**"

Matthew 4:17

From that time **Jesus** began to preach and to say, "Repent, for **the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**"

Matthew 10:7

And as **you go**, preach, saying, '**The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**'

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "**The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21** nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' **For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.**"

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**More on the Millennium**

Let’s consider the actual term, Millennium; a Thousand Years.

The Hebrew term translated “thousand years”, occurs only twice in the OT:

'eleph (eh'-lef); Aleph (the ox's head being the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and this was eventually used as a numeral) a thousand.

The Greek term translated “thousand years” occurs eight times in the NT; **two** are in a single verse in 2 Peter and the other **six** are in Revelation 20.

chilioi (khil'-ee-oy); **plural** of uncertain affinity; a thousand:

For a term to be relatively rare in the Bible it has assumed a role of great significance and is the source of endless debate: **the thousand years**.

What I want you to call your attention to is; that the term “thousand years” in both the OT and in the NT **NEVER** means a literal 1000 years.

Psalm 90:4

For a **thousand years** in Your sight  
 Are like yesterday when it is past,  
 And like a watch in the night.

Ecclesiastes 6:3-6

3 If a man begets a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with goodness, or indeed he has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better than he — 4 for it comes in vanity and departs in darkness, and its name is covered with darkness. 5 Though it has not seen the sun or known anything, this has more rest than that man, 6 even if he lives a **thousand years** twice — but has not seen goodness. Do not all go to one place?

2 Peter 3:8

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a **thousand years** , and a **thousand years** as one day.

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Then Psalm 50 uses the term “a thousand,” not to refer to years, but to Christ’s ownership of all things.

Psalm 50:10-11

10 For every beast of the forest is Mine,  
 And the cattle on a **thousand** hills.

11 I know all the birds of the mountains,  
 And the wild beasts of the field are Mine.

Do you imagine that Christ owns **only** the cattle on a thousand hills and no more?

The term “a thousand,” is large and indefinite.

Here is the main point: A thousand in the bible, **unless** it is qualified by a definite number, e.g. Christ’s feeding the 5000, always means an indefinite and long period of time, or a large measure of something; be it years or cattle.

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So now may we turn to Revelation 20 and the **Thousand Years**.

Many times, but not a **thousand** times, I have been asked by someone, “Do you believe in the Millennium?” Then I have to explain that I do indeed believe in the Millennium, but not as a literal period of 1000 years. My answer is usually followed by a puzzled look as though I was from another planet or that I had just fallen off of a turnip truck.

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.

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**.

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John saw an angel’s “hand”, a “key”, a “chain”, and a spirit who is “bound”.

If the thousand years is literal then so must the **key** to the bottomless pit be literal and likewise the **great chain** that binds a **spirit** being. If a “thousand” nowhere else in the Bible means a literal 1000 [except as noted before, where it is quantified by a number] and the key and chain are symbolic by what rule of interpretation **must** the thousand years of Revelation 20 be a literal 1000 years?

If the thousand years is a literal 1000 calendar years then Satan, a spirit is literally bound with a literal chain and is held in some geographical place in the universe called the bottomless pit.

In order to maintain that the thousand years of Revelation 20 is a literal 1000 years you must bring that preconceived notion to this passage and impose it on one term as being literal while allowing the other terms in the same passage to be symbolic.

**“Never underestimate the power of a preconceived notion.”**

Mr. Charles Alexander

Sisters and Brothers, we are in a **spiritual** battle and that is exactly what the Book of Revelation is about.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Jude 6

And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

**Revelation is a spiritual book and we are in a spiritual war with an evil spirit and only those who are given to Christ by the Father before the foundation of the world; called and justified, are secure in Christ by faith and are sustained by the Holy Spirit**

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THE MILLENNIUM IS INAUGURATED DURING THE CHURCH AGE BY GOD’S CURTAILMENT OF SATAN’S ABILITY TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS AND TO ANNIHILATE THE CHURCH AND BY THE RESURRECTION OF BELIEVER’S SOULS TO HEAVEN TO REIGN THERE WITH CHRIST (Revelation 20:1-6)

The Book of Revelation, G. K. Beale, page 972

Revelation 20 is a recapitulation of all that has been revealed about the end of the world. This revelation of the end of the world began in Chapter 17 and we are given different aspects of the end of the world in Chapters 17 to 19.

Satan is bound for a “thousand years” and cast into the bottomless pit.

**Souls** who had **not** worshipped the beast are seen in heaven.

For those of the **premillennial** persuasion:

Note that it is only **redeemed** souls in the first resurrection that reign with Christ in the **thousand years**. When then is there a Millennium with both lost and saved people together where Christ reigns?

For those of the **postmillennial** persuasion:

Just before the New Heaven and the New Earth Satan, the old serpent, will be loosed for a “little season.” Every attempt to make the millennium a period of peace on earth is destroyed with the loosing of Satan for a little season.

Now to be “fair and balanced,” for those of the **amillennial** persuasion:

*Verse 7: Now when the **thousand years** have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.* Next time I will have to deal with the expiration of the thousand years before Satan is loosed for a little season.

How many ways can I say the same thing? The thousand years is a symbolic period, now lasting for nearly 2000 years, and covers the entire duration of the New Testament from the resurrection of Christ until the last apostasy, the loosing of Satan, and the Day of Judgment.

What is the binding of Satan?

Satan is “bound” when compared to his former reign over the nations. The binding of Satan does not mean that he is totally unable to act.

Long before the crucifixion the LORD limited Satan as in the case of Job. Satan could only do what God allowed him to do.

Now after the crucifixion Satan is “bound”.

Until Christ and John the Baptist and the disciples announced that the Kingdom of God is at hand, and the Gospel began to be preached unto the uttermost, the heathen nations were in spiritual darkness. With only a few exceptions such as a Rahab and a Ruth, no non-Hebrew heard of the true God in a saving way. All men everywhere had the knowledge of God that made them responsible but that knowledge could not justify them.

There is General Revelation whereby all men are held responsible:

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

There is Special Revelation whereby elect individuals are called and justified:

Ephesians 2:8-12

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh — who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

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The binding of Satan was at the cross of Christ.

Matthew 12:22-30

Then one was brought to Him who was demon-possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw. 23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

24 Now when the Pharisees heard it they said, "This fellow does not cast out demons except by Beelzebub, the ruler of the demons."

25 But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand? 27 And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first **binds the strong man**? And then he will plunder his house. 30 He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

The place and time where the “strong man” was bound was the same place where the head of the serpent was bruised, at the cross of Christ.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity  
 Between you and the woman,  
 And between your seed and her Seed;  
 He shall bruise your head,  
 And you shall bruise His heel."

Colossians 2:11-15

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.



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13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 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.

Hebrews 2:14

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might **destroy** him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

The Seed of the Woman was promised in the Garden of Eden and He came according to the Scriptures; Jesus the Word made flesh, came into the world to save sinners; He kept His own Law, the Law that He gave to Moses, for 33 years. His “heel” - His humanity was bruised. **Atonement was made!**

2 Corinthians 5:21

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The souls given to Christ by God the Father before the foundation of the world are being justified by faith. Those who died before the end of the world were seen by John and in time every soul given to Christ will hear the Gospel, repent, and trust in Christ alone and be justified as an **individual**.

The Gospel is being preached and what unsaved people call “foolishness” is actually saving guilty sinners.

1 Corinthians 1:18-19

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The lost world is **astonished** and **angered** by an offer of free and sovereign grace.

Satan **is bound**; the “roaring lion” of Pilgrim’s Progress is chained as Pilgrim discovered on the Hill of Difficulty.

The power of the Gospel is Truth!

The knowledge of God does not come by the force of armies and swords, but by Truth!

Zechariah 4:6

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel:  
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'  
Says the LORD of hosts.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Thus Satan was bound, not that he is unable to “sift you as wheat” as was Peter.

Luke 22:31-32

And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Is Jesus praying for you right now?

Romans 8:34

Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

No, Satan is to be not bound by a literal chain for a literal 1000 years and there is no place in the physical universe where there is a bottomless pit.

The “bottomless pit” is the vast reservoir of sin that has accumulated since our father Adam put us all on the path to condemnation. The bottomless pit is where demons dwell in spiritual darkness. [See Revelation 9]

When Paul was in literal chains in a Roman dungeon, he was bound. But he was writing letters to the churches at Ephesus and Colosse. So who was truly bound? Not Paul, but Caesar, who meant to destroy the Church but was overruled by our sovereign Lord.

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The “binding” and the “chain” are the decrees of God, as Jesus said:

Matthew 16:16-17

16 Simon Peter answered and said,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

The First Resurrection

The first resurrection is spiritual life from spiritual death. The first resurrection is to be born again. And those who die in faith will reign with Christ for a Thousand Years.

John 5:24-30

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.*

This is the First Resurrection

And the Second Resurrection occurs at the Judgment and notice that both the saved and the lost come forth at the same instant, with no separation of a thousand years.

*28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. 30 I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

Read the text again.

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Verse 1: In Rev 1:18 Christ says, “I have the keys to Hell and Death” and Christ is the angel here in Rev 20:1 who has the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain with which to bind Satan for a thousand years. Only Christ has the power and authority to restrict and defeat the Devil

In symbolic language the key represents authority and the chain represents restraint. [See again Matthew 16:19 and Jude 6]

Verse 2: In Chapter 19 we are give the Four-Fold Name of Christ: Faithful and True; Incommunicable; the Divine Word; and King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Here we have a Four-Fold name of Satan: a **dragon** as to his wrath; a **serpent** as to his subtlety; the **Devil** as to his absolute evil nature; and **Satan** the adversary.

Verse 3: The binding of Satan has to do with restraining his power to deceive the nations. We have already shown that before the ancient Gospel believed by Adam and all of the true seed of Abraham was accomplished at the crucifixion how the nations, the Gentiles, were in utter darkness as to the saving grace of God.

The prophet Jonah illustrates the attitude of the Jews towards the Gentiles.

Although the Jews had a missionary command to be a light unto the Gentiles they were hardened in their prejudice and cared not for the souls of the Gentile “dogs.”

Verse 4: The saints of God “reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.”

Cf. Daniel 7:13-14 and Exodus 19:6

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

Compare that with Revelation 5:8-10

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 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."

If those passages do not convince you that the millennial reign of Christ is occurring right now, this next one should.

1 Corinthians 15:20-28

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Were now is there room for a future reign of Christ on earth?

Verse 5: The rest of the dead **do not** reign with Christ but wait until the thousand years are finished. At the general resurrection and the final Judgment the lost will experience the resurrection of condemnation, John 5:29.

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Verse 6: Christ, who is the Resurrection and the Life [John 11:25] brings those of genuine faith through the First Resurrection, passing from death to life into the eternal blessing of redemption. The Second Death [20:14] has no power over the redeemed of God. As priests and kings the saints of God worship Christ and they do it in this present age!

What will be your answer when someone asks you if you believe in the Millennium?

On Wednesday night Brother Asa said that he wanted to have more understanding of the **thousand years** and I told him that we would settle the matter in this message.

Romans 5:17

For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will **reign in life** through the One, Jesus Christ.)

So are you reigning with Christ on the earth this very moment, are you a subject of King Jesus; or have you relegated the reign of Christ to some future conception of the millennium?

My question is: Oh dear soul, are you a believer in Jesus Christ?

Do you know what it is to repent?

You will not savingly believe in Jesus Christ unless you have the grace of repentance. Has the sovereign God given you the grace to cast away all hope in any thing save the blood of Jesus Christ?

Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"

Repent and believe in the Gospel.

If the Lord wills next time we will consider the loosing of Satan for a “little season.”

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We will remember the death of our Savior in the memorial feast of bread and wine; His body broken and His blood shed. Will you join this Supper in simple faith in the sufficiency of the Atonement of Jesus Christ?