



Revelation 20:1-4

Randy Duke 02/23/25

The Millennial Reign of Christ

randyduke@protonmail.com

Class notes, info & Directory posted to www.SJCalvaryBerean.com or scan the QR code



- i. Please keep praying for America, for Global Revival, for Pastor Mike and Calvary San Jose, for the release of all hostages, & for the Peace of Jerusalem (2 Chron. 7:14)
- ii. Ministry Fair, TODAY! After first and second services. Please come and promote the class and Project M25:40, and see where God might be calling you to serve
- iii. **Understanding The Times:** "Shadow Government – Not on Hold". Today at 1:00PM on 88.1 FM or at OliveTreeViews: <https://bit.ly/31WMMOs> YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/532ape9d>
 - a. Gary Kah's website: <https://garykah.org/> ("Hope for the World")
 - b. Tina Griffin's website: <https://counterculturemom.com/>
- iv. **Agenda Weekly:** "The Economic State of the Union" <https://tinyurl.com/ypsu5rv5>
- v. **Amir Tsarfati's Weekly Newsletter:** <https://tinyurl.com/454n8c7z>
- vi. **Amir Tsarfati's Mideast Update (500 days of War):** <https://tinyurl.com/3rxijpth>
- vii. **Final 6 Hostages of 'Phase One' Released Saturday:** <https://tinyurl.com/4krenfws>

II. Revelation Chapter 20:1-15 ... Millennial Reign, The Great White Throne Judgement, Satan Vanquished

- i. **Satan bound for 1,000 years (Verse 1)**
 - a. A nameless angel comes to bind Satan with a great chain.
 - b. "An angel coming down from heaven": The angel that will subdue Satan is anonymous. It is not Jesus Himself, nor is it Michael or Gabriel or any other high-ranking angel.
 - c. A Great Insight: "The final importance of Satan is perhaps indicated in the fact that it is not the Father who deals with him, nor the Christ, but only an unnamed angel." ("Revelation" by Leon Morris)
 - d. This is a dramatic declaration that Satan is not God's opposite or equal; and that God could easily stop Satan's activity at any time. Yet God allows Satan to continue, because even in his evil, he indirectly serves the purposes of God.
- ii. **Verses 2-3**
 - a. "**Laid hold... bound him... cast him... shut him up... set a seal on him**": Satan tried to imprison Jesus in a tomb, but couldn't. Here, God has no problem restraining Satan. (... 'shut him up' dual meaning)
 - b. Satan's incarceration isn't for punishment, but restraint. By implication, Satan's demonic armies are also restrained & imprisoned.
 - c. "Is this a literal transaction? Certainly it is. The battle is literal; the taking of the Beast and the False Prophet is literal; the slaying of the kings and their armies is literal; Satan is literal; and his binding must be equally literal." ('Apocalypse: An Exposition of the Book of Revelation', by Joseph Seiss)
 - d. What kind of chain can hold the devil? We don't know, but God can certainly fashion a chain for that exact purpose. We know that right now there are demonic spirits who are imprisoned and chained (Jude 6). If God can chain them now, He can chain Satan for 1,000 years.
 - e. "The elaborate measures taken to insure his custody are most easily understood as implying the complete cessation of his influence on earth (rather than a curbing of his activities)." (Mounce)
 - f. This shows that there is no *man* who simply "binds" Satan with his prayer. This is a work done on divine initiative. "One very important detail is to notice that the conquest of Satan and his powers does not come by any human effort." (Barnhouse)
 - g. "**That he should deceive the nations no more**": This reveals Satan's main mode of attack: Satan is a deceiver, so the most potent defense and weapon against Satan is the truth of God's Word.
 - h. Since Satan's work of deception continues today, we know that he's not now bound in the way that this passage describes. We know that Satan was not bound at the finished work of Jesus on the cross, at the resurrection, or at the founding of the church. We know this because Peter said that Satan was free to walk about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8).
 - i. Satan continues to effectively deceive & divide ... in fact his deception & influence seems to have grown. Look at the division among 'the church'; some support LGBTQ rights, some biblically defined marriage; some support 'women's rights to abort, some the rights of the unborn; some take the Bible literally, some say the we have grown beyond the 'symbolism'
 - j. "**Till the thousand years were finished**": This thousand-year period is often known as the *Millennium*. Throughout church history, there's been many different ways of understanding the Millennium.
 - k. The Bible speaks powerfully to other aspects of the millennial earth. Tragically, the Church has often ignored or denied the promise of the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. The early church until Augustine almost universally believed in an earthly, historical reign of Jesus, initiated by His return. Tyconius (late 300's) was the first to 'spiritualize' Christ's reign, saying the Millennium is *now* (*amillennialism*) and must be understood as a *spiritual* reign of Jesus, not a literal reign. His view was adopted by Augustine, the Roman Catholic Church & most Reformation theologians.
 - l. Growing out of *amillennialism* is the doctrine of *postmillennialism*, saying the millennium will happen in *this* age, before Jesus' return – but that the church will bring it to pass.

- m. But the Bible doesn't teach amillennialism or postmillennialism, but *but premillennialism* – the teaching that Jesus Christ will return to this earth *before* the millennial earth, & He will establish & govern it directly.
- n. *IF* Satan is only bound in a spiritual sense, then Jesus only rules in a spiritual sense. When we consider the rest of the Scriptures, the earthly reign of Christ and His people on this earth is plainly taught in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, we see it in [Psalm 72](#), [Isaiah 2:2-4](#), [Isaiah 11:4-9](#), [Jeremiah 23:5-6](#), and many, many more passages.
- o. In the New Testament we see it in [Luke 1:32-33](#), [Matt 5:18](#), [Luke 19:12-27](#).
- p. There are over 400 verses in more than 20 different passages in the Old Testament which deal with this time when Jesus Christ will rule and reign personally over planet earth.
- q. Who will be on the earth in the Millennium? Even after the rapture and the vast judgments of the Great Tribulation, there will be many people left on earth. After Jesus returns in glory, He will judge those who survive the Great Tribulation in the judgment of the nations ([Matthew 25:31-46](#)). This is not a judgment unto salvation, but a judgment of moral worthiness, and entrance into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus. The unworthy will be sent into eternal damnation, and the worthy will be allowed in Jesus' Millennial Kingdom.
- r. Till the thousand years were finished: Some of what we know of the Millennium from other passages of Scripture.
- s. *During the Millennium, Israel will be the superpower of the world* & the center of Israel will be *the mountain of the LORD's house* – the temple mount, which will be the “capital” of the government of the Messiah. ([Isa 2:1-3](#), [Ezek 17:22-24](#)).
- t. *During the Millennium, the citizens of earth will follow Jesus*. It will be a time of perfectly administrated righteousness on this earth ([Isa 2:1-5](#)).
- u. *During the Millennium, there's no more war*. There will still be conflicts between nations and individuals, but they will be justly and decisively resolved by the Messiah ([Isaiah 2:1-5](#)).
- v. *During the Millennium, King David will have a prominent place* in the millennial earth, ruling over Israel ([Isa 55:3-5](#), [Jer 30:4-11](#), [Ezek 34:23-31](#), [Ezekiel 37:21-28](#), [Hosea 3:5](#)).
- w. *During the Millennium, there is blessing & security for Israel* ([Amos 9:11-15](#)).
- x. *The Millennium will be a time of purity and devotion to God* ([Zech 13:1-9](#)).
- y. *During the Millennium, there will be a rebuilt temple and restored temple service* on the earth as a memorial of God's work in the past. ([Ezekiel 40-48](#), [Ezekiel 37:26-28](#), [Amos 9:11](#), [Ezekiel 20:39-44](#)).
- z. *During the Millennium, saints in their resurrected state will be given responsibility in the Millennial Earth* according to their faithful service ([Luke 19:11-27](#), [Rev 2:26-28](#); [3:12,22](#); [Rev 20:4-6](#), [1Cor 6:2-3](#)).

iii. Is the 'Thousand Years' Literal & does it matter? (Expanding Verses 2-3)

- a. When the Bible states a specific number, we should take the number literally unless there is clear reason or evidence through other analogies or context to indicate it is being used symbolically.
- b. We should take this thousand years as literal, because God has an important work to accomplish during the Millennium.
- c. <https://www.gotquestions.org/millennium.html> and <https://www.gotquestions.org/thousand-year-reign-Christ.html>

iv. Why is the Millennium Important? (Expanding Verses 2-3)

- a. The Millennium is important because it will demonstrate Jesus' victory & worthiness to rule the nations.
- b. The Millennium is important because it will reveal the depths of man's rebellious nature even in a perfect environment. ([Rev 20:11-15](#)).
- c. The Millennium is important because it will display the eternal depravity of Satan, who continues his evil as soon as he is released from his captivity.
- d. The Millennium is important because it will show the invulnerability of the city of God and God's new order.
- e. “Let us rejoice that Scripture is so clear and so explicit upon this great doctrine of the future triumph of Christ over the whole world ... We believe that the Jews will be converted, and that they will be restored to their own land. We believe that Jerusalem will be the central metropolis of Christ's kingdom; we also believe that all the nations shall walk in the light of the glorious city which shall be built at Jerusalem. We expect that the glory which shall have its center there, shall spread over the whole world, covering it as with a sea of holiness, happiness, and delight. For this we look with joyful expectation.” (Spurgeon)

v. The Saints live & reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Verse 4)

- a. **“And I saw thrones, and they sat on them”**: Who sits on these **thrones**? Perhaps the twenty-four elders representing the church ([Rev 4:4](#)) or the apostles ([Matt 19:28](#)) or the company of saints as a whole ([1Cor 6:2-3](#)).
- b. **“And judgment was committed to them”**: Perhaps this is the “judging of angels” mentioned in [1 Corinthians 6:2-3](#), but it is more likely that these are the saints ruling on and over the earth.
- c. **“They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”**: These saints reign with Jesus for the same period of time that Satan is bound (**a thousand years**). They administrate the kingdom of Jesus Christ over the earth, reigning over those who pass from the earth of the Great Tribulation to the earth of the Millennium.
- d. **“Who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus... who had not worshipped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark”**: **All** those who overcome in Jesus will rule and reign with Him ([Rev 2:26-28](#), [3:12,22](#), [1Cor 6:2-3](#)). But why does John only mention the Tribulation saints?
- e. They are specifically mentioned so as to encourage them, while not implying others will be left out. This is special vindication for Tribulation saints. They suffered under Antichrist who had said, “I will rule the earth;” now *they* are in authority and Antichrist is destroyed. So, these martyrs are literal, but also representative of all that give their lives in faithfulness to Jesus.
- f. **Beheaded** is actually a broader word than we might think. The ancient Greek word really means “executed.”