

Book of Revelation

Chapter 20

20th letter of the Hebrew Aleph-bet – I Resh: letter for the wicked.

Satan is bound for all eternity with the beast, the false prophet and all whose names are not in the book of Life.

Millennium is not a Bible word but comes from the Latin, which means 1000 years. In ancient Jewish writings the definition of Millennium would be: A temporary Messianic reign on earth before the final judgment and the new creation.

It has deep roots in Old Testament prophecies: Isaiah 11:6-9 is a good example.

Three schools of Interpretation:

1. Premillennialists - who believe Jesus will return to establish a specific 1000 year kingdom.
2. Amilennialists - generally believe that the 1000 year kingdom is symbolic of the present age.
3. Postmillennialists - believe that Christians help establish the 1000 year kingdom on earth prior to Jesus' return.

Could the millennium be a period of Sabbath rest for the human family?

In the middle of verses 1-6, John has a special mention for martyrs.

20:1 An angel coming down from heaven – this angel is anonymous.

20:2 The dragon (Satan) is sealed in the Abyss for 1000 years.
Think of the dragon as a large snake.

20:3 Satan will be locked and sealed in the Abyss to keep him from deceiving the nations.

20:4 The saints will rule and reign with Jesus Christ on thrones.

20:7-10 The final defeat of Satan! John attaches the rule of the saints with the defeat of Satan.

20:8 Those who do not actively submit to Jesus are susceptible to Satan's deception.

20:10 The battle ends before it begins.

20:11 The Great White Throne Judgment.

20:12 Two books: Book of judgments and Book of life.

"Standing before the throne" tells us this is not a trial, their posture means that they are about to be sentenced.

Two Judgments: Great White Throne and the Bema Seat judgment.

20:13 The sea gave up the dead show us the universal scope of judgment.

20:14 Death and Hades cast into the lake of fire – all sign that sin is eliminated.