

## **Making the World Right**

### ***Revelation 20:1-10***

- I. Why are things the way they are?
  - A. Satan is real, alive and unbound.
    - 1. Satan = Adversary
    - 2. Devil = Slanderer or Accuser
    - 3. Dragon/Serpent = Powerful, harmful, terrifying
    - 4. Lucifer = God's high fallen angel.
  - B. Jesus Christ is voluntarily not in authority of this world.
    - 1. Jesus reigns over all things but has relinquished authority over the world for a time.
  - C. Unregenerate human beings are the majority in authority.
- II. Three main views of the Millennium.
  - A. Amillennial.
  - B. Post-Millennial.
  - C. Pre-Millennial.
- III. The Millennial reign of Jesus Christ (Pre-Millennial view).
  - A. The "Golden Age"— "A period of exceptional peace, prosperity, cultural, scientific, and economic achievement that leaves a lasting impact on society."
    - 1. Isaiah 2:4
  - B. The order:
    - 1. Rapture—Believers removed leaving only the unsaved on earth.
    - 2. Many people will come to Christ during the seven year tribulation.
    - 3. The world will be ruled by the Beast and his Prophet for the seven years.
    - 4. Jesus Christ will return to earth with His saints—KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS.
    - 5. The "great" battle of Armageddon—Enemies of Christ defeated.

6. The beast and prophet thrown into the Lake of Fire.
7. Jesus reigns on earth with His saints for 1000 years.
8. At the end of the millennium, Satan released, the war of Gog and Magog.
9. Satan permanently thrown into the Lake of Fire.

IV. Making the world right (Verses 1-10).

A. Satan removed from power—thrown into the abyss (Verses 1-3)

1. Satan seized by an angel (V.1).
2. The abyss—not hell, a holding place for Satan and his demons.
3. Satan will be there for 1000 years—He’s roaming the world today.

B. Jesus will reign in the world as King for 1000 years along with His saints.

1. He will reign with pure justice. The world will be restored to its pre-fallen state.
2. Jesus and the pretribulation saints will rule with the martyred tribulation saints.
  - a. The first resurrection—the martyred tribulation saints.
  - b. The second death—The unbelieving dead of all ages.

C. Being an “age”, it comes to an end—after 1000 years.

1. Six times in seven verses it defines this period lasting 1000 years.
2. Satan will be released “for a short time” go on deceiving the nations (world).
3. The unregenerate enemies of Christ that number more than “the sand on the seashore” are the children and grandchildren of the surviving tribulation saints.
  - a. Even though a perfect environment, governed by a perfect king Jesus, the depravity of man can prevail.
4. Gog and Magog—the symbolic title for the enemies of God. They gather together, surrounding Jerusalem to defeat God only to be immediately burned by fire from heaven (Vs. 8-9).
5. The permanent removal of Satan—he is thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

V. What do we do with this?

## **Making the World Right**

### ***Revelation 20:1-10***

I've titled this message *Making the World Right* because at present the world is wrong... I don't think I'll get much in the way of arguments over that statement...we all know the world is not right... It hasn't been right since Genesis 3.

Throughout history man has tried to make it right... Man has tried to identify what has made it wrong... man wants to make it right... man has been searching for Utopia... a term that comes from a book by Thomas More back in the early 1500's.

Utopia, the idea that a perfect society is possible with the right ideals... a society that has an economic system that works for everybody... a culture that has no need for wars...has a just government... all have shared values for the common good of all man... a deep connection with nature... peace and cooperation with all peoples...

But there never has been a utopia... How come?

It is because the problem isn't economics, politics, the right connection with nature...there can never be a utopia because man is sinful... sin spoils everything... [marriage, nature, relationships, wars, personal depression and anxiety, our legal system, children disobeying their parents... ]

So we're sinful... is there any hope for the world?... are there any factors that keep the world in this state of being wrong?... there are many, but there are three that stand out:

#### **1. Satan is real, alive, and unbound.**

He's real, not a myth, not a human invention... he is alive and very, very active...The name Satan means "adversary" and he is ours... he is called the "Devil" from Greek *diabolos*, "slanderer" or "accuser" and that is what he does...

In the book of Revelation he is called a "**dragon**" three times... because he is powerful, terrifying, and capable of causing much harm ...a "serpent"...which links him to the serpent in Genesis 3... which tempted Adam and Eve that put us in this mess...

Revelation 12:9 conveniently lists all those names:

**9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world — he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.** He began as "Lucifer"...

God's created high angel Lucifer who out of pride attempted to overthrow the authority of God and was cast out of heaven along with 1/3 of the angelic beings becoming his demons.

He has been as Paul called him in 2 Corinthians 4:4 **the god of this world** ever since... **and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one** 1 John 5:19 Satan... the Devil... **today** Everything has been contaminated by this evil power... our politics, the culture, the world systems, our motives...

We can't see him... he would like us to think he's not here...he appreciates the notion that he has been bound and he's out of service.... But he is a liar... and a deceiver... and he is very much in power today... he is very persuasive and effective... not one of us has been untouched by his evil influences...

Along with the reality of an **unleashed Satan**...a second factor for the world being so wrong:

## 2. Jesus Christ is voluntarily not in authority in this world.

That statement troubles some of you... but it is true...Yes... **Jesus Christ reigns over all things**... His reign over all things is absolute and inviolable. God raised Him from the dead and placed Him over all things,

- **He is above all earthly authority** – He is seated at God's right hand
- **He reigns through and over the Church** – He rules over His body, the church, by sending the Word and the Spirit, giving gifts, and ordaining leadership
- **He reigns by His Provision and Sustenance** – He sustains creation and the church, upholding all things by His power (Colossians 1:17)
- **He reigns over the Spiritual Kingdom**

Jesus Christ is “**far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come**...(Ephesians 1:21) but He has voluntarily, for His purposes... relinquished His earthly kingship... He has allowed Satan to have his way on earth to the degree that he does... he is as Paul calls him **the god of this world**.

Jesus is voluntarily not actively enthroned in this world... ... that's why we pray for **Thy kingdom to come**... the world is a mess because Jesus Christ is not the ruling authority...so all is under the influence of the evil one...

The world is wrong because of Satan... because Jesus Christ is not in authority and third:

## 3. Unregenerate human beings are the majority in authority.

Most people in the world are “unrighteous”...godless... and most who are in authority are the unrighteous... their hearts are not centered on God...Proverbs has much to say in the comparison between the righteous and unrighteous... Proverbs 12:5 5

**The thoughts of the righteous are just,  
But the guidance of the wicked is deceitful.**

Proverbs 29:2

**2 When the righteous increase, the people are glad,  
But when a wicked man rules, people groan.**

Why's that?...because the wicked have unregenerate hearts... they are propelled by selfishness... personal gain... preservation of pride... greed...compromise no problem if the outcome is desirable...**before the world can be turned right side up... the righteous need to be the majority and in authority.**

All three of these factors that make up a world that is “wrong”...upside down... broken... need to be corrected if the world is to ever turn right side up... the good news is that this is precisely what will happen in a coming age... promised in the Bible... through many of the prophets of the Old Testament...by several authors of the New Testament...and specifically in this last book of the Bible... Revelation chapter 20.

The often debated period in the future called the millennium... The word "millennium" originates from the Latin words *mille* (thousand) and *annus* (year), meaning a period of one thousand years....not two thousand or three thousand, but ONE thousand years.

Before I go any further... it is important to note that we are entering what may be the most hotly debated section in Scripture... Revelation 20 brings up that term that has created disagreement and division within the Christian church like no other doctrine... in fact, the three major factions of eschatological thought centers on the very word **millennium**.

Many solid godly men differ in their views... there are many views because this is difficult!... we need to be careful about our dogmatism... Charles Spurgeon said “*Only fools and madmen are positive in their interpretation of the apocalypse*”.( I’m a borderline foolish madman!

Here’s a very incomplete summery of these views...a concise summary of the three main millennial views in Christian eschatology:

The most prevalent view today is **Amillennialism**...the word literally means “*no millennium*” but that is not quite accurate... amillennialism views Revelation 20 as allegory or spiritually...there will not be a *literal* 1000 year period. This “millennium” covers the whole

time between Christ's first and second advents... Christ will return at the end of this "millennium."

Roman Catholics, Lutherans, most Reformed... Luther and Calvin embraced it... many of today's theologians accept this view...and there are many variations of all these views.

- **Amillennialism**

- No literal 1,000-year earthly reign
- Began at Christ's first advent or at the cross
- Satan is bound (most believe)
- Millennium is **symbolic** of Christ's current reign (through the Church)
- Christ returns at the end of this present age

Everything we read about what we called the tribulation period is according to the Amills, **various periods in church history over the last 2000+ years...**

Once a dead view but now is having a resurrection is Postmillennialism...Jonathan Edwards, modern times R.J. Rushdoony. ...R.C. Sproul played with postmillennialism but could be all in.

- **Postmillennialism**

- Christ returns **after** the millennium... It began at the crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus and is still going (2000+yrs)
- Satan was bound at the cross, and still is bound....Jesus has reigned as king for these 2000+ years...
- Millennium is a golden age of Christian influence and peace...it is not a literal 1000 period... it began after the death and resurrection.
- The tribulation period described the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD... most of the book Revelation has already taken place... preterist.
- **The world gradually improves through the spread of the Gospel** (I can see this 1000 yr. millennium lasting a few more thousand years!) eventually almost everyone turns to the gospel... the world is wonderful...ready for Jesus to return
- One growing view is that the world will eventually become "Christianized" through the *imposition* of Christian ideals by converted rulers and Christian governments...(to impose on someone) The real meaning of much of Christian nationalism...you may have heard of "**Christian reconstruction**"—Doug Wilson

The view the earliest church embraced... the first 300 years was a form of **premillennialism**...today it is...I hate to say... is the least accepted of the three views...**Don't**

**accept a view by its popularity**... all these views have had times of great popularity... I embrace premillennialism because it is the straight forward, more literal reading of God's word...

Charles Ryre, Billy Graham, John MacArther, John Wolvard, Ray Comfort....Dan Bailey

- **Premillennialism**

- Christ returns **before** the millennium (the order presented in Revelation) after the seven year tribulation....as it says
- Satan is bound during the millennium...as it says
- Establishes a literal 1,000-year reign on Earth ...as it says
- Oh...did I mention the rapture?

The premillennial view takes a more literal view of the millennium and the other views a more allegorical view... so... the millennium in Revelation 20:

The reign of Christ when He returns to earth... to judge the wicked and introduce what is often called "The Golden Age"...which the dictionary defines as

**"A period of exceptional peace, prosperity, cultural, scientific, and economic achievement that leaves a lasting impact on society."**... There have been short periods history has recognized as "golden"...ancient Rome and Greece...But nothing has ever been close to this "golden age" .

It is the period of time when as Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 2:4

**And He (Jesus Christ after He returns) will judge between the nations,**

**And will render decisions for many peoples;**

**And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.**

**Nation will not lift up sword against nation,**

**And never again will they learn war...**

I read this last week... but it is so good!

Isaiah 11:6 - 11:9

**6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,**

**And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,**

**And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;**

**Also the cow and the bear will graze,**

**Their young will lie down together,**

**And the lion will eat straw like the ox.**

**8 And the nursing baby will play by the hole of the cobra,**

**And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.**

**9 They will do no evil nor act corruptly in all My holy mountain,  
For the earth will be full of the knowledge of Yahweh  
As the waters cover the sea.**

No more wars!...no more poverty...no more inequality...no more crazy politicians...no more persecutions of Christians in the Congo, Africa, China, or anywhere else...no poverty... this will be a golden age...

Let me refresh the order of things... what I have been presenting to you for the last year+ now, is the results of a biblical interpretation that is historical, grammatical and more literal than some other methods of biblical interpretation.

**The rapture of the church...** 1 Thes. 4...Jesus returning in the clouds to meet all believers and followers of Christ which could happen at any time... nothing needs to take place before this to happen... this will leave on the earth all unsaved people.

They are literally *left behind*... someone should write a book and make a movie!...**many of those left behind unbelievers will come to Christ during the next seven years we call the Tribulation...** Their lives will be very difficult... they will be living in a very hostile world against anything linked to Jesus Christ...persecution will prevail.

The world will be controlled by what Revelation 13 called "**the beast**" (antichrist) and his "**prophet**"...together they will rule the earth... creating a one world system.. politically and religiously...and economically... which will be completely anti-God...at the end of the seven years of tribulation **Jesus will return to earth...**

We looked at that glorious day last week in chapter 19..Jesus returns to earth as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS and immediately engages in the great war of Armageddon...a war against all His enemies and He is victorious by His mighty sword that comes out of His mouth.... His Word.

He is immediately victorious... there will be a slaughter of evil like the world has never seen... that beast and prophet are done... they are thrown into the Lake of Fire...the meat-eating birds of the earth dine on the fallen corpses of God's enemies. ...Jesus sets up His millennial kingdom.

All that is left on the earth are the tribulation believers... these are distinct from the believers who were taken away, raptured before the tribulation, the church...these tribulation believers do not yet have new bodies...as do the raptured....so they continue to live what we might call "normal lives"...

They will have children... the children will have children... and even though it is a near perfect utopian world... many of the offspring will reject Jesus Christ...but I'm jumping ahead... back to this Golden Age

This Golden Age is ushered in... what is needed for this to happen?... a world of peace... we need to reverse those three factors:

1. **We need Satan removed from power**
2. **We need Jesus actively reigning as King of the world.**
3. **We need the righteous....** God's glorified people who have been washed clean from sin...In a glorified state... who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit...whose sin nature has been removed....with their new bodies...

We need them to rule over the entire world... All the cities, all the states, all the continents...of the world... that is exactly what is going to happen in the coming golden age... in chapter 20, all three of these are presented to us... the three remedies for this world that is wrong.

1. **Satan is alive and well on the planet, we need Satan removed from power...AND HE IS.**

#### **Read verse 1 &2**

The first thing I noticed is that there is not much revealed about this angel... It doesn't say and "*Michael*" the archangel or "*Gabriel*" came down from heaven...or even the "mightiest of angels"... is just says "an angel"... My plethora of commentaries try to identify and name this angel... it bothers them that it is just an "angel"...

I think the wording here means a lot... As powerful as Satan is... as notorious as he has become with his world dominance... this "angel"...I see this as just one of your run of the mill angels... prances down out of heaven grabs the dragon, the devil, Satan and throws a chain on him....and locks him up.

Satan is powerful... He is the major "influencer" of the world!....yet put into jail by your average angel!...without a fight... without any struggle...simply

#### **Read verse 3a**

The "abyss" is not hell... this is a temporary holding tank for Satan and his demons... The word abyss simply means "*a deep hole*"—so deep that it seems bottomless or immeasurable....there's been much speculation on where the physical location of the abyss is...

One of my commentators reasoned since it doesn't have a bottom it could only be one place... the center of the earth...there's no bottom when you're in the center, you are the bottom!...I don't know... maybe...

This angel comes with a key to the abyss... apparently there is a way to seal this abyss so that the devil can't get out...**nor his influence**... the chain must be some chain... a specially God devised chain strong enough to hold the devil...

Satan will be bound... this is real... he will be bound it says here 1000 years...he will no longer have influence over the earth as he has had for thousands of years... I don't get how one can

say...this is a quote by a local “theologian”...: *“Satan is bound but “bound” doesn’t mean “inactive”... Satan is not completely powerless or absent, he can still tempt, accuse, oppose individuals and communities.”*

To me that’s not much different than a Satan unbound!... I like what J. Vernon McGee said... *If Satan can do all that, his chain is a very long one!*... I can’t see a good argument for Satan being bound since the crucifixion and resurrection... Peter who wrote his epistle some 50-60 years AFTER the death and resurrection of Jesus wrote in 1 Peter 5:8

**8 Be of sober *spirit*, be watchful. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

If he is prowling around...60 years after being chained in the abyss... that’s a very, very long chain... and someone forgot to fasten down the lid!...no key needed!...but it says here this angel **threw him into the abyss, shut it AND SEALED IT over him SO THAT HE WOULD NOT DECIEVE THE NATIONS ANY LONGER until the 1000 years are finished.**

So the devil has been displaced as the ruler of the world... that takes care of number one... Satan is alive and well...he’s alive and out of service... that leaves two more factors...

## **2. We need Jesus actively reigning as King of the world.**

We need Jesus on the throne...literally King of the entire world... **Jesus WILL reign as king of kings and Lord of Lords**...the end of verses 4 and 6 both say **Christ will reign for 1000 years**...this is a literal reign... The prophets tell us He will reign from the holy city Jerusalem.

I wish I could have us look at all the prophecies regarding this time... Isaiah, Ezekiel, Zechariah...

Read them some time... during Jesus’s reign there will be worldwide peace... agriculturally there will be abundance...there will be health, mental and physical... there will be prosperity...wrong will no longer rule...there will be a longer span of life as people live in this real “utopia”.

The prophet Habakuk tells us **the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, as the waters cover the sea**...we can’t truly comprehend a world like this... we are saturated with the fallen world... wars... murders...lies...scams...fraud...

My credit card was charged this week for 13.22 from a purchase in Australia... I’ve never been in Australia... and it took me an hour and a drive to my bank to set it straight...that’s the world I know!

Revenge... struggles... road rage (ouch)...violence... broken relationships... adulteries... depression, anxiety...on an on... none of any of that surprises us... that’s normal life we see

played out every day...what is not normal is to comprehend a world where Jesus is king...where none of that will exist.

They all will be Christian nations...not by coercion or force or pressure... but by default...Christian nationalism in the best sense of the term...there's one more factor we need for all this to be made right.

### 3. We need the righteous to rule under Jesus' authority.

You and I will be reigning with Christ in this Golden Age... remember we are the armies that return with Him in chapter 19:14...

Verse 4...**Then I saw the thrones, and they sat on them** the "they" being the church... pre-tribulation believers... we will have our new nature...no more sin nature... as I said earlier our new bodies...we will have access to heaven and earth... we will be able to see as Jesus sees...judge as Jesus judges... we will be completely obedient...no desire or ability to be disobedient...We will be just as Jesus is just....

The curse on the earth will be removed...no more thistle in my lawn...to make the world right... godly saints are needed...Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 6:2...**do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not worthy to constitute the smallest law courts?**

#### Read all of verse 4

So it will be both us the pretribulation saints (including Old Testament saints!( Daniel 7:27)) and the tribulations saints who were martyred...killed for their faith in Christ...they will be physically resurrected to co-rule with us...John calls this the "**first resurrection**"

#### Read verse 5

Those who are "resurrected" AFTER the 1000 years are the unbelieving dead of all ages...all dead people will eventually be resurrected!

#### Read verse 6

The "**second death**" is the eternal death in the Lake of Fire...hell...where all the unregenerate will spend eternity... look down at verse 13 and 14...

**13 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.** This is the Great White Throne of Judgement which we will get to eventually...**14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.**

A place where all the redeemed in Christ will never see!... will never experience the "second death"

Let's keep going... the Golden Age being called an "age" means it has a defined period of time for its existence...the 1000 year reign of Christ will come to an end when?... after 1000 years!...are we sure about the 1000?

Six times in seven verses the number 1000 is mentioned... verse 2 ***Satan bound for 1000 years***...verse 3 ***Satan would be locked up in the abyss for 1000 years***. Verse 4 ***the saints of Christ ruled with Christ for 1000 years***....verse 5 ***The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the 1000 years were finished***....verse 6 ***the believers with Christ will reign for 1000 years***...verse 7 **and when the 1000 years were finished.**

How can you reject a literal 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ?...how can you say we've been in the 1000 yr. millennium for over 2000 years? 3000 years?... why would you accept some numbers in the Bible while rejecting others?....

Are the ***precise dimensions*** for the future "New Jerusalem" in chapter 21 allegorical?...how about the three days Jesus was in the tomb? Could it have really been 8?... the 40 days and 40 nights of Noah's flood?...I think 1000 years means 1000 years...

Maybe there weren't seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3, maybe there were 80... maybe there really weren't 24 elders maybe there was really 62...

So the golden age will come to an end... after 1000 years... at the end of the 1000 years... Satan will be released from the abys...

### **Read verses 7-8**

Satan will come out and immediately go to work deceiving the entire world again...this mysterious **Gog and Magog** which are the enemies of God...will assemble together to wage war against God...and there is a lot of them!

What amazes me... Jesus on the throne for 1000 years...a perfect world government...a near perfect world.. Satan bound for 1000 years...an idyllic utopia... BUT... the depraved human nature hasn't improved one bit!

As soon as the children from the living tribulation saints...the ones who came to Christ and survived the tribulation...THEIR children and their children and their children, even though living in the "golden age"... As soon as they have a chance to follow the great deceiver... they will gather together... as many as sand on the seashore!...to war against God...

### **Read verse 9**

This massive army of degenerates invades upon Jerusalem... surrounds the city... with all their might... ready to conquer... but they looked up and saw this amazing fire coming down from heaven... their "golden age" came to a wretched end!

What about Satan?... I picture that run of the mill angel wagging his finger at Satan.... Naughty, naughty, picks him up and...

### **Read verse 10**

And note... 1000 years previous... the beast and his prophet were thrown into the Lake of Fire... and they are still there!...this verse is in the present tense... their souls will continue on through eternity being tormented day and night.... Hell is real!

The Lake of Fire is the permanent abode for all enemies of God... all who rejected Jesus Christ... The devil and his demons... the beast and his prophet... all who reject the Savior...those tragic, horrifying words down in verse 15...

**If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire...** Believe and follow Jesus...make Him Lord of your life and you will be written in the Book of Life...

### **What do we do with all this?**

**1. Acknowledging that the world is not right... live your life consistently and deliberately in reality...** reality is found in God's Word... it's getting very difficult to know what is real or not... Satan has more tools for deception today than he's had through all of history...

Live in reality... don't let your children play with cobras... yet!....Don't bring wolves into your sheepfold.... Yet... Lock your doors at night... not a bad idea to own a gun! ...we don't live in a golden age... the depraved outnumber the righteous.

Live your life devoted to Jesus Christ... that's reality...

**2. Witness fervently and faithfully!...time is short!...** bring reality into other's lives!

The world tells us that man is basically good... it is because of inequity people do bad things... if we would just make everything "equitable" we could eliminate all evil...take the wealth from those who have much and give it to those who have less...you will eliminate crime.

The Bible affirms what is reality...Jeremiah tells us that the human heart is more deceitful than all things...Romans 1 details out the depravity of man... the solution to the world's problems isn't redistribution of wealth...the solution is Jesus Christ!.... the world needs Jesus.

**How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?**

Romans 10:14