

June 30, 2024

Revelation 20:1-4

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit[a] and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Millennium = A term used that refers to a thousand year reign of Jesus over the Earth

Three characteristics of this 1,000 years described in chapter 20

1. Satan will be bound from deceiving the nations (20:2-3)
2. Christ will reign (20:4, 6)
3. Those who died in faith will reign with Him (20:4, 6)

Historic premillennialism = The millennium reign of Jesus begins after His second coming.

Dispensational premillennialism = Jesus Christ comes to rapture his church before or during a great tribulation, and later returns for His millennium reign on earth.

Postmillennialism = The millennium occurs prior to the second coming of Jesus as Christianity becomes the dominant worldview.

Amillennialism = The millennium reign of Jesus began with the death and resurrection of Jesus and continues until Christ returns to bring judgment.

Question: Is this a literal 1,000 years or something else?

Answer: It is symbolic for a complete period of time.

Questions: When does the millennium occur?

Answer: RIGHT NOW!

Revelation 20:7

7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison

Revelation 12:8-11

8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 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. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Question: What does it mean that Satan is “bound” during this period?

Answer: “so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended.”

- Greek word planao, which means “to lead astray”
 - Greek word ethnos which means both “nations” and (significantly) “Gentiles”
- “bound from leading the Gentiles astray”

Other texts hinting at this binding of Satan

(Matthew 12:29, Mark 3:27, Luke 10:17-18, Luke 11:22, John 12:31-32, Colossians 2:15)

Because Jesus reigns now and Satan is bound now...

- There is GREAT reason to be hopeful on this earth!

A.D. 100

§ less than 1% of the world’s population professed to be Christian

§ 6% of the world’s population evangelized

1900

§ 35% of the earth’s population professed to be Christian

§ 46% of the world evangelized

Today

§ 35% of the world professed to be Christian

§ 70% of the world has been evangelized

§ 10,000 ethno-linguistic people groups have access to the Gospel

§ The whole Bible has been translated into 736 languages

§ The New Testament has been translated into 1658 languages

§ Over 3500 languages with at least some scripture translated

§ 97% of the world's population has at least some of the Bible in their language they can understand.

Because Jesus reigns and Satan's deceptive power of the nations is bound:

- We can have confidence in evangelism
- You are free from the power of Satan's deception
- You belong to the one and only institution on earth that cannot fail