

This Sunday at CMPC...

This Sunday we come to Revelation 20 in our study of *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow*, as Pastor John looks at *The Final Battle*. Revelation 20, especially verses 1-3, is probably the section of Revelation that has received the most study, debate, and diverse opinions of over the last 100 years. But it is also an incredibly encouraging chapter- and we will see why Sunday morning. Then Sunday evening we close out the Lord's Day as the *Kids of the Kingdom* present *From Acorns to Oaks* in the *Covenant Life Center* at 6:30. The children and Mrs. Bradbury and those who serve with her have worked hard- and are talented! So come at 6:30; there will be a finger food reception following the musical. (If you are able to help provide a finger food, it is greatly appreciated!).

Sunday's hymns reflect the battle and victory that we see in Revelation 20. We will gather with the late 20th century hymn *Majesty*, Jack Hayford's hymn reflecting on the glory and triumph of Christ. Our hymn of praise will be Martin Luther's 16th century classic *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*- reflecting on Satan's defeat by Christ. Our hymn of testimony is *O Church, Arise*, a 21st century hymn exhorting the church to continue to pursue victory through Christ. We will then respond to God's word with the 19th century classic, *The Church's One Foundation*, a triumphal hymn for the people of God.

Also this weekend: on Saturday, a *Cook-a-Thon* for the *Family Promise* ministry from 9-12- this ministry provides meal for foster families in our area. Then on Sunday from 2-3:30, a Bridal Shower honoring *Ruth Ensley* in the Fellowship Hall. Check out Ruth and Jeffrey Buikema's registry at myregistry.com.

CMPC Sermon Notes ♦ **Series:** *Revelation: Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow* ♦ **Text:** *Revelation 20* ♦ **Message:** *The Last Battle*

Preliminary Comments

- A much discussed/disputed text
 - A text that raises a lot of questions
 - Sincere bible-believing people hold differing views.
- 3 views
 - A key text for the premillennial perspective; the only place a thousand year reign is mentioned
 - The post-millennial view has things getting better and better as the kingdom of God being ushered in- and this is the last thousand years of Christ's reign BEFORE eternity.
 - For those who are of the amillennial perspective requires symbolism
 - We've understood the "numbers" to be symbolic
 - Emphasized symbolism- John showing us pictures
 - In this passage itself, dragon is used as a symbol for Satan
 - A chain is mentioned: Satan is a spirit
- Structure of Revelation
 - Premillennialists read Revelation 4-21 as taking place in chronological order (linear)
 - So they see the second coming described in 19.11-21, and so see chapter 20 as sequential to that
 - Amillennialists see Revelation as seven series of cycles/descriptions of the same event.
 - See ch. 20 as the last of the 7 cycles of judgment
 - The final battle of 20.7-10 seems the same as 16.14-16; 17.14; 19.11-21, THE war; also Ezekiel 38-39

What Revelation 20 teaches that we all can agree on:

- God is triumphant yesterday, today and forever
- Satan is sentenced to hell where he joins his compatriots the Beast and the False Prophet to be punished forever and ever
- God's people are blessed, resurrected and secure forever and ever

Some obvious questions.... Or, What for many is problematic...

- IF we follow the amillennial view, in what sense is Satan bound today?
- IF we follow the premillennial view and Jesus has a thousand-year reign on earth, where do all the bad guys at the end suddenly come from? If all of Christ's enemies are destroyed in 19.11-21, who is left to be deceived in 20.3?
- IF we follow the postmillennial view, how does the great battle at the end of the age fit in?

Satan Captured! ... 1-3

- Context: Babylon as the City of Man is judged
 - The Beast has been taken down
 - The False Prophet has been taken down
 - One last enemy is on the loose: Satan himself- the Dragon.
 - Humanity is not safe as long as he is on the loose!
- An angel has a key to the abyss (bottomless pit is an unfortunate translation because it suggests to us that Satan is out of reach if he is chained there)
 - Note in 20.7 the word prison is used
 - Unable to deceive the nations
 - The Gentiles!
 - Flow of Biblical history: If we wonder why there were so few converts during the Old Testament (Rahab, Ruth, Nineveh), perhaps this is it: Satan kept them blinded, Psalm 107.10; Isaiah 9.2
 - Adam and Eve were deceived by the great deceiver, Satan himself.
 - A king and queen who could have ushered in a state of blessedness for all their descendants.
 - We also understand Satan worked overtime on Israel/Judah to lead them astray and cause them to constantly rebel
 - Hence the exile/struggles after their return
- Is Satan bound symbolically today?
 - Given the symbolism of Revelation, perhaps this is symbolic of restraint on Satan
 - After all, how do you chain a spirit?
 - Meaning is he restrained from wreaking all the havoc he could if he had total freedom
 - Matthew 12.22-29 (Mark 3.20-29): Jesus came to bind the strong man
 - Word for bound in Matthew 12.9 is the same as the word in Revelation 20.2
 - Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven
 - Revelation 12.7-12: we saw Michael/angels battle Satan at the cross, and throwing him out of heaven and down to earth
 - Luke 10.17-18; John 12.30-32
 - II Thessalonians 2.1-12
- Satan, then is bound through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Colossians 2.15
 - He is still active, I Peter 5.8; he is controlled like in Job
- The gospel has/will advance to all the nations
 - During the church age, he is unable to deceive the elect among the peoples of the world and prevent people from being saved and God's church being built.
- Until God's appointed hour, Satan is unable to deceive the pagan nations into gathering together for a final assault on the church.
 - Satan then is released to rally the nations of the earth for one last attack on the people of God.

The Number 1000

- If the binding of Satan does refer to our situation today, obviously this number becomes symbolic
- Ten and three are both ideal numbers, and 1000 and 10 x 10 x 10, hence an ideal period of time
- The finite time between the first and second advents of Christ
- As that time comes to an end, Satan is released "for a little while" for the final attack

Reigning With Christ, 4-6

- Who? Martyrs and other believers reigning with Christ
 - Beheading was an attempt to keep a person out of eternity
 - Not unbelievers
- Where?
 - Premillennial see this reign on earth during the thousand years, assuming that 4-6 follows 1-3 sequentially in time
 - With exception of 2.13 for Satan, all the rest of the thrones in Revelation are in heaven
 - Martyrs are right now reigning in heaven with Jesus
 - Cf. Ephesians 2.6-7
- John encourages us: the enemy is contained, and the martyrs are reigning with Christ, even those who are beheaded!
- Is verse 5a parenthetical? Probably so to answer what happens to unbelievers
- What is the first resurrection? The believers raised spiritually to life to reign with Christ
- The second death has no power over those who are part of the first resurrection
- A second death implies there was a first death; hence, we consider the first death our bodily death and the second death the sentence of hell
- The 1st resurrection is spiritual, the 2nd is the resurrection of the body
- 20.4-6 is essential to answer the question about the martyrs to assure God's people of what happens to those persecuted for their faith

The Defeat of Satan, 7-10

- Satan released, cf. 20.3
- Deceive the nations to follow him
- The final battle
- The nations gather and surround God's people
- Once again, no actual battle is described, as in chapter 19.
- Lined up for battle/God wins
- Satan sentenced for all eternity

The Final Judgment, 11-15

- A final judgment scene
 - God is on his throne
 - Compare it with Daniel 7.9-10; Matthew 25.31-46; Psalm 7.6-8; 47.8-9
- Injustice never escapes God's eye
 - All evil will be eliminated
- Premillennialists divide the judgment: Believers before the 1000 year reign, unbelievers after
- Sky flees, cf. 6.14
- Book of life: God knows his sheep, John 10.3, 27
- Lake of Fire...
 - Satan and friends
 - Death and hades!

So What About Us?

- No matter your view, we agree on more than we disagree on
- We understand the flow of history better: Genesis 3.15
- Why the gospel did not penetrate the Old Testament world
- Why the gospel did penetrate the New Testament world
 - Why the gospel explodes today!
 - Why Muslims are coming to Christ!
- Strength for today: no matter what happens to us, we will be with Jesus
- Hope for tomorrow: Jesus triumphs and we spend eternity with him

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD**APRIL 30, 2023****GATHERING TO WORSHIP****Prelude***Please silence all phones and electronic devices
as we prepare to worship our great God.***Welcome and Announcements**Ben Phillips,
Pastor of Ministries**The Song of Ascent***God's people sang together as they gathered and
traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.***Congregation***Majesty*

Majesty, worship His majesty.

Unto Jesus be all glory, honor and praise.

Majesty, kingdom authority flow from His throne

unto His own, His anthem raise.

So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.

Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.

Majesty, worship His majesty;

Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all Kings.

© 1980 Mercy Publishing ARR/UBP ccli #184884**ADORATION OF GOD****Call to Worship:** After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

—Revelation 5.9-10

Invocation**Declaring Our Faith:**

Revelation 11.15-18

Leader: Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying,**All:** "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever."**Leader:** And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying,**All:** "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. The nations raged, but your wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear your name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."**EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30PM**The Kids of the Kingdom will present the musical,
Acorns to Oaks in the Covenant Life Center!
(Finger foods for afterwards appreciated!)**Hymn of Praise***A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

#92

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.That word above all earthly pow'rs, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth;
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.**CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE****Mission Moment***Grenada, Bulgaria, BridgeMont Journeys***Pastoral Prayer****OUR GIFTS TO GOD****The Gift of Music***Be Thou My Vision*

Handbell Choir

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offerings*Please pass and sign the registration pad in the hymnal rack.**The Doxology*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**Prayer of Thanksgiving****Hymn of Testimony***O Church Arise**(Children ages three through 3rd grade may be escorted to Children's Church)*O church, arise and put your armor on; Hear the call of Christ our captain;
For now the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given.
With shield of faith and belt of truth We'll stand against the devil's lies;
An army bold whose battle cry is "Love!" Reaching out to those in darkness.Our call to war, to love the captive soul, But to rage against the captor;
And with the sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor.
When faced with trials on ev'ry side, We know the outcome is secure,
And Christ will have the prize for which He died—An inheritance of nations.Come, see the cross where love and mercy meet, As the Son of God is stricken;
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet, For the Conqueror has risen!
And as the stone is rolled away, And Christ emerges from the grave,
This vict'ry march continues till the day Ev'ry eye and heart shall see Him.So Spirit, come, put strength in ev'ry stride, Give grace for ev'ry hurdle,
That we may run with faith to win the prize Of a servant good and faithful.
As saints of old still line the way, Retelling triumphs of His grace,
We hear their calls and hunger for the day When, with Christ, we stand in glory.
©2005 Thankyou Music/Adm. by worshiptogether.com songs ARR/UBP ccli 184884**PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD****Revelation 20, p. 1040 pew bible****All: The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.****Prayer of Illumination****Sermon**

Pastor John

*The Last Battle*Series: *Strength for Today, Hope for Tomorrow: The Book of Revelation***OUR RESPONSE****Prayer of Application****Hymn of Response***The Church's One Foundation*

#347

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word.
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend,
To guide, sustain and cherish Is with her to the end;
Though there be those that hate her, And false sons in her pale,
Against or foe or traitor She ever shall prevail.Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**The Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Serving Christ at CMPC April 30

Lock-up	Marty Moore and Mike Peifer
8:30am	
Ushers	Jason Wallis, Tommy Hulsey, Brent Booker, Andrew Booker, Will McVey, Chris Nix
Greeters	<i>Sign up at cmpca.org/greeters</i>
Infants/Toddlers	Faye Kirkland
Children's Church	Will and Rachel McVey
Junior Assistants	
11am	
Ushers	Jason Cunningham, Mark Rush, Jack Hutchinson, John W. Batusic, Andrew Batusic, Jacob Batusic
Greeters	<i>Sign up at cmpca.org/greeters</i>
Infants/Toddlers	Tommy and Lilly Geist and Andrew Batusic
Children's Church	Becky Ensley
Junior Assistants	Ella Cash and Grey Geist
6:30pm	
Nursery	
Today	This Week at CMPC
8:30am, 11am	Worship Services
10am	Sunday School
6:30pm	Kids of the Kingdom perform Acorns to Oaks in the CLC
Wednesday	
5:30	Wednesday Night Alive Meal
6:30	Orchestra Choir WNA Classes Nursery Youth Group



**EXALT GOD
EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE
ENGAGE GOD'S WORLD**

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Staff

John S. Batusic, *Pastor* • Ben Phillips, *Pastor of Ministries*
Kennedy Smartt, *Chaplain to the Community* • Dee Hammond, *Pastor of Missions & Outreach*
Richard MacLagan, *Minister of Music* • Mike Owens, *Minister to Children*
Travis Brown, *Pastor to Youth* • Sarah Tilley, *Youth Ministry Assistant*
Lynn Perkins, *Kitchen Coordinator* • Nancy Burkhart, *Preschool Director*
Floy Jumper, *Facility Manager* • Mindy Burch, *Church Administrator*
Susan MacLagan, *Accompanist* • Bev Bradbury, *Organist* • Chad Trotter, *IT & Media Director*

Session

Scott Allen • Bob Bishop • Bryan Cox • Jason Cunningham • Terry Ensley • Andy Jobson
Dave Martin • Robert Martin • Will McVey • Marty Moore • John Rollo • Steve Saville
Dennis Swinehart • George Tucker • Dean Warnock • Jim Zeller

Elders Emeriti

Jim Parks • Jack Sweeney • Andy Watkins

Diaconate

P.J. Friedell • James Hinds • Tommy Hulsey • Mike Johnson • Jeff Knight
Mike Peifer • Mark Pignolet • Steve Wentz

Women's Ministry Leadership Team

Peggy Creighton • Lezlie Valentine • Lanette Haas • Bethany Batusic • Sarabeth Gossage
Sarah Lingerfelt • Barbara Jumper • Jen Burkhart • Aneita Connor • Christina Elmore

CMPC Supported Missions

Unless otherwise indicated, all missionaries are with *Mission to the World*

Asia/New Zealand

Japan: Darlene Johnson, Jonas & Christina Davison, Melanie Johnson • *Taiwan:* Becky White
Thailand: Tim & Rhianna Mills, Noah & Karleigh Stephens, Trey & Kiki Adams
New Zealand: Paul & Crystal Henry

Europe

Bulgaria: Grace Chung, Gary & Tammy Elliott REF

Poland: Nathan & Kasia Tunnell REF • *Czech Republic:* Miriam Grady

Germany: Brian & Megan Moore

England: Brett & Valerie McAlpin,

Romania: Derek & Catalina Kreider • *Greece:* David & Erin Pervis

Americas

Canada: Bill & Mae Lee Letchworth, Rohan & Rebecca Crown, Carrie Rice

Honduras: Alex & Maggie Halbert • *Peru:* Andrew & Krista May, Julia King

Africa

East Africa: Donna • *Kenya:* Sherwood & Bethany Griggs, Anaweza

Unreached Peoples

Last names and locations withheld due to the sensitive nature of their situations.

David & Marcia • Franklin & Beth • Emily • Kurt & Jill • Chris & Savanna

David & Jan • Phil & Amina • Calvin & Geeta • Micah & Blair • Mark & Nathalie

Global Ministries:

Linda Summer, *Agape Puppets* • *Global Training:* Mike & Robin McMahan

United States

Hernando & Debbie Saenz, *MNA Hispanic Ministry Coordinator*

Alan & Kim Foster, *MNA Church Planter Recruiter;*

Reformed University Fellowship International Jeff & Caroline Thompson, UGA ;

Reformed University Fellowship: Tracey & Suzanne West, GA Tech;

Ben & Anna Coppedge, Caysie Ashton, UGA;

Vision 938: Mwamba & Nyema Johnson, Atlanta University Center

PCA Church Planters: Curran & Abby Bishop, Milford, CT;

Buck & Kaitlyn Rogers, Braselton, GA;

Alejandro & Beth Oropeza, Amistad Hispana, Chestnut Mountain, GA;

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Administrative Committee • The Committee on Discipleship Ministries • Covenant College
Georgia Foothills Presbytery • MTW • MNA • Reformed University Fellowship • Ridge Haven

Local Ministries

Adults Protecting Children • Center Point • Choices Pregnancy Care Center • Eagle Ranch
Frontline Response (Out of Darkness) • Gateway House • Good News at Noon
Good News Clinic • Promise 686 • Sacred Roots Farm • Young Life

