

Open your Bibles to the Book of [Revelation](#) and the junior high and middle school class you guys are dismissive. Book of [Revelation](#) chapter 20. We'll work our way through this chapter today. We only got three chapters left.

When we worked together the last time studying this particular chapter we worked through the first three verses. I know that doesn't sound like we got very far. We really didn't. But what we really did was spend a lot of time explaining and expanding on the millennial reign of Christ that the Word of God speaks comprehensively about that reality that Jesus will establish His throne on earth for a thousand years folks.

And we went to the Old Testament. We looked at prophets like [Isaiah](#) and [Jeremiah](#). We know that [Zechariah](#) so many of the Old Testament prophets give us a lot of in-depth information about that time frame. About what it's going to be like on the earth during the thousand year millennial reign of Christ.

And we know it's a thousand years because the terminology one thousand years is used six times. One of the things that we talked about a little bit was the fact that they're different what they call eschatological perspectives on this. Some people believe they don't believe in what we believe which is a pre-millennial pre-tribulational perspective. That means that Jesus will come and establish His kingdom on earth.

That He will return that for the seven year tribulation. And He will do that before the kingdom is initiated. Then there'll be a thousand year kingdom that He rules and reigns literally on the throne of David in Jerusalem. Now there are some who hold to what's called a post-tribulational perspective.

We talked about that a little bit. And also all millennialism. And I don't really have the time to rehash that. But one of the things important to understand that if you don't interpret God's word literally then that's what happens.

You begin to allegorize and spiritualize things. Now of course there are things in the word of God that are allegory. There are things in the word of God that speak symbolically. But the context will always tell you when it's speaking symbolically or allegorically.

So as we even read the book of [Revelation](#) we do it with a mindset and interpret it literally except for where the context tells us that it is symbolic. And see that's what happens when you do it when you symbolize everything in the book of [Revelation](#) then you move away from the literalness of what God says. And that's why people who believe that there will not be a thousand year reign of Christ believe that we're even in that reign of Christ right now. Well there's a problem with that.

I don't know about you but if Satan is bound folks, if we're in the thousand year reign of Christ and Satan is bound he's got an awfully long chain. His influence is everywhere isn't it? Peter himself said that Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking who he will devour. Jesus said that Satan is the God of this world of course there's only one real God but when it says he's the God of this world it means he's the one who has the influence over this world system okay.

So I'll tell you what he is in a place of exercising influence but under the millennial reign of Christ that will not happen. So quickly we read [Revelation](#) chapter 20 beginning in verse 1. Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He sees the dragon that'll serpent who is the devil Satan and bound him in chains for a thousand years.

And we talked about that last week this will not be this archangel. This won't be an angel of prominent position in God's kingdom. It's just maybe clearance the angel right from a wonderful life. I don't know but some unnamed angel who's down the totem pole who God gives the authority and the power to do what to step forward and to bind Satan.

When he's bound to be for a thousand years we saw in verse 2 the names dragon the old serpent the devil and Satan and within those names we see a profile of his character and his nature and how to pray to he is. And we see the reality again that he is bound and whether that chain is a literal chain or a symbolic chain we know that the result is that he will have no influence for a thousand years in this world. That's wonderful. Can you imagine that?

Would that be great to know right now that if God would stop Satan's influence in this world right now when she go for that would that be cool? Do you think you would have an impact? Absolutely. And it will have an impact in the millennial reign of Christ for that thousand years but you're going to see something as we continue our city today that will blow your mind about the depravity of man's heart even without Satan influencing the world.

We also saw in our last study in verse 3 it says the angel threw him into the bottomless pit or the abyss the abusso or abusso in the Greek language which is just that that place of containment which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until a thousand years were finished. And afterward after that thousand year period he must be released for a little while a short period of time. So the reality is at this point time in history in the future Satan and by extension because you bind the head also the demonic forces will have no influence in the world at that time frame as Jesus has seated seated on the throne of David and Jerusalem for that thousand year period of time. And look at that while Satan is bound he will not be able to exercise his favorite trick and that is deception.

He is the deceiver folks. He uses so many different tactics to deceive people and boy are we seeing those tactics being employed in the world today through false religions through new age through deception through the occult through so many different avenues but we also know because of what we're seeing happening in the world today with all the prophetic elements that are occurring before our very eyes in so many different ways we know we're living in the times and seasons where Jesus's return is on the very near her rise and praise God for that. So today we pick it up in verse 4 and [John](#) says by inspiration the Holy Spirit as God was revealing these things to him, [John](#) the Apostle, he says then I saw thrones and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God.

They had not worshiped the beast or a statue nor accepted his [Mark](#) on their forehead or their hands and they all came to life again and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years. So [John](#) has this visionary seized thrones what happens when there's thrones and there's rulership. So there are those who are seated on these thrones that play a role in ruling during this time frame and it says and people sitting on them they were given exucy authority to judge to be part of the judgment process. [John](#) also said I saw the souls of those who had been what?

Beheaded? Wow. Isn't that wild? They'd been beheaded for what?

Their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. Now it's interesting to note that the Lord points out to us and specifies a unique group of people at this

point. People who during the tribulation hour the 70th week of [Daniel](#) willingly laid down their lives for the name of Jesus Christ and for the proclamation of the Word of God. And why do we know that happened and why did the enemy do this to them?

When the anti-Christ is in that position of power and authority in the world at that time? What he will do of course is mandate that everybody does what worships him takes on a [Mark](#) whether that is a physical [Mark](#) a symbolic [Mark](#) a spiritual [Mark](#) we know with our technologies today that could happen in many different ways with the RDIF chips that they can plan in people with GPS technologies with even inks that have that technology. All those technologies exist today to take a [Mark](#) by which we saw earlier in the book of [Revelation](#) people not be able to buy or sell or be involved in any form of commerce. But these people rejected all that they were willing to sacrifice why for the name of Jesus because of their love for Jesus and because of their love of the Word of God and they gave the ultimate sacrifice they will give because this is going to happen in the future the ultimate sacrifice for Jesus.

What is this about folks? You know you and I live in a world where that's not something that you and I will probably have to face maybe someday we will. I know in third world countries that even during the time frame that we have been meeting this morning there is somebody who has died for the cause of Christ in the third world country because of persecution because of people's hatred for Jesus and the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That has happened could that happen in our country?

Well the way things are quickly transitioning in the world today sitting at stage up for the M times who knows who knows but in our life today in terms of practical application what we see here is a model of no compromise they would not compromise with the world in the world system. What about us? Will you compromise with the world system or will you boldly proclaim the name of Jesus? Will you be willing to be a living witness and testimony for Jesus?

That's what God would ask us today. Will we proclaim with boldness the word of God as he provides those opportunities? That's how it relates to you and I folks and praise the Lord. I pray that he gives us a boldness to willingly exercise that and we know again in context for these guys is because they did not worship the beast or his statue they did not accept the [Mark](#) on their forehead or their hands and the reality is because of their faithfulness to God it says at the beginning and we end of that verse they all came to life again and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

God gives them this privilege of ruling and reigning with him. Now they're not the only ones who have that privilege because those who are part of the body of Christ today will have a role in that as well. Now it's interesting to note when it says that they all came to life again it's speaking of our resurrection folks and we find in verse five then that it says just that this is the first resurrection. The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended so what it says the first resurrection what is that speaking about?

Do you know that the first resurrection came into play as a result of Jesus being resurrected from the dead? Three days after his death on the cross after he had given his life shed his blood for the sin of all mankind. When he was raised from the dead he was what the word of God tells us the first fruits of the resurrection. He was the first one and because Jesus is alive today because of his resurrection anybody that places their hope in him anybody that is born again enters into relationship with him you two will be part of the first resurrection.

Jesus initiated it. Now it's interesting to note that not only we who are part of the body of Christ who are alive today will be part of this first resurrection. We see that those who died during the tribulation hour except Jesus Christ are part of the first resurrection. We also know that in according to first Seth of the Sallonians when it speaks about the rapture from verses 13 through 18 it says that that the dead in Christ will rise first.

Mean those who have accepted Jesus have a relationship with him. When Jesus comes back in the raptures catches up the body of Christ to be with him. Those who have died at that point who are Christians their bodies will be resurrected. That's part of the first resurrection.

Okay? We know that during the tribulation hour that there are two witnesses in [Revelation](#) 11 whether it's Moses and Elijah or Moses and Enoch we're not sure just two shmows that God empowers to serve him as his witnesses during the time frame that they will be killed and our bodies will lie in the street for three and a half days and the entire world will see that. Until we had modern technology that wouldn't even be feasible would it? For the whole world to look and see their bodies lying on the street now with our satellite technologies with these TV stations going worldwide.

During that time frame people will see those two prophets laying their dead in Jerusalem on the street and the world will celebrate. They'll be thankful. They'll be given gifts to each other. Praise God those.

God guys are gone. Woohoo! But you know what happens three and a half days into that? God resurrects them before the entire world they see it and they're scared to death.

But guess what? That is part of the first resurrection. Even the Old Testament sayings those who did it God's way those who trusted the Lord those were part of the hall of faith we read about it in [Hebrews](#) chapter 11. Anybody that did it God's way and accepted his provision by faith and by the way as you know even in the Old Covenant it was by grace it's always been by grace.

It's always by grace it's looking to the Lord trusting him. We know that Jesus's death when he descended into the grave the place of the dead he went to Abraham's bosom and he went to the place for the Old Testament saints were residing awaiting Messiah and the Old Testament saints were in a place called Paradise it was a glorious place but they were not yet in heaven. So Jesus because of his resurrection could then take them to be with the Father so he took those like Abraham Isaac Jacob all the Old Testament faithful he took them to heaven. So they're part of that first resurrection and so if anybody in this room knows Jesus today if you were to die before the rapture occurs you'll be part of that first resurrection and again anybody that's part of the body of Christ that's an important thing to note.

You would have said in verse 6 then. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Man is that true? Why is that a big deal?

Because if you're part of that first resurrection you spend eternity with God. Now it did say at the conclusion of verse 5 that the rest of the dead did not come back to life until a thousand years had ended. Okay we're going to discuss that as we move on. Now it says in verse 6 moving forward again.

Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power but they will be priests of God and Christ and will reign within a

thousand years. Look at that amazing privilege that's given to rule and reign with Christ to share in that privilege of playing the role of priest as intercessors and serving the Lord and it says that the second death holds no power over them. What is the second death?

We know that the book of [Hebrews](#) chapter 9 verse 27 says that it is appointed unto a person once to die than the judgment. What does that mean? The speaking of a physical death folks. There's a lot of false garbage talking about Satan deceiving people.

There are a lot of people who believe in the lie of recarnation. There are a lot of people who believe that hey if you don't get it right in this lifetime you'll have another shot at it. Rongo! That's a lie.

That's a deception from Satan that so many people have fallen prey to. If you don't accept Jesus Christ in this lifetime and everybody has the opportunity to be in the option God doesn't send anybody the hell they choose to reject that grace and the provision for eternal life in this lifetime. If a person dies and that's why Satan is so deceptive he knows that if he can get a person to buy in that lie and they don't receive that gift of eternal life before they draw their last breath he knows that once they die it's too late.