

1000 Year Reigns
Revelation 20
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the encouragement we can find from Revelation 20 and the truth about judgment.

Intro: 1. A brief look at premillennialism

a. Historic:

- i. After the 2nd coming, Christ will reign in Jerusalem over the risen martyrs and faithful Christians.
- ii. After this 1000 years comes the judgment.
- iii. This will follow “the great tribulation.”
- iv. It will be a time of universal peace.
- v. There is no period of rapture.

2. Revelation is a vision, therefore not literal events but dramatic representations of real events.

I. The 1000 year reigns (Rev 20:1-10)

A. Binding Satan (v.1-3)

1. **v.1** – The messenger here has the power (key) over the bottomless pit.
 - a. It fits best that the chain is the gospel and it has the binding power over Satan.
2. **v.2a** – There are four terms used to describe Satan.
 - a. Dragon (an animal of power)
 - b. Serpent (shows cunning and deception)
 - c. Devil (false accuser, slanderer)
 - d. Satan (an adversary, an opponent)
3. **v.2b** – “*Bound him a thousand years*”
 - a. “*Thousand*” is used, not literally, but figuratively for vastness, or a long time.
 - b. This is used figuratively just as “the seven spirits” represent the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and the “seven horns” of the Lamb indicate the completeness of the Lamb's power, the “144,000” represents the total number being saved, a city being foursquare of 12,000 furlongs is simply a way to indicate to our finite minds the vastness of heaven, etc.
4. **v.3** - He is not completely bound, but cannot deceive the nations.

“That he should deceive the nations no more” is the purpose of the binding of verse one.

 - a. “*A little while*” means a short period of time as compared to the 1000 years.
 - b. His power over the nations could be placed alongside the rise and fall of various wicked emperors.

B. Reigning with Christ (v.4-10)

1. **v.4** - “I saw thrones.” “Thrones” is a figure of speech representing the reign of the saints. (**2 Tim 2:12; Rev 5:10**).
2. “*judgment was committed to them*” - These are identified in the verse. In view of the fact that all suffer persecution who are in Christ, II Timothy 3:12, there is no need to limit this only to martyrs.

3. **"They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."**
 - a. Notice that it is the saints who reign with Christ. They are not dead, but alive.
 - b. The emphasis is "they" reigned with Christ, not Christ reigned.
- c. Verse four might be explained like this: *"I beheld the saints seated upon thrones, ruling over the flesh, the world, and the devil; yes, I beheld the victorious lives of those who had been beheaded and also those who suffered because they refused to worship the beast; as a matter of fact all saints lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."*
3. **v.5 – first resurrection**
 - a). The first death is the spiritual death when our sins separate us from God.
Genesis 2:17, *"in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die."*
Ephesians 2:1, *"who were dead in trespasses and sins."*
 - b). The first resurrection is being raised with Christ to begin the Christian life.
"Resurrection" means rising again from the dead to live.
Ephesians 2:5,6, *"and has raised us up."*
Colossians 2:12,13, *"risen with him."*
 - c). The next verse shows that because of the first resurrection the 2nd death has no power (v.6).
4. **v.6 – the second death**
 - a. Those who "have part in the first resurrection" are the ones who reign with Christ a thousand years. (These have been raised from the waters of baptism to become a new creature in Christ.)
 - b. "The second death" has no power over these because they are faithful and are with Christ. This is the only way to escape the condemnation in the future.
 - c. Those who are true to God share in his glory after death. The certain overthrow of Satan and all his agencies is guaranteed. Knowing this leads us to live in hope.
 - d. What is happening in verses 4 through 6, is at the same time of the 1000 years. These verses tell us what is happening to the saints.
5. **v.7-8 – The end of the 1000 years**
 - a. Satan's power over the nations could be placed alongside the rise and fall of various wicked emperors.
 - b. "Gog and Magog" are mentioned in the Tel-el-Armarna tablets as a designation for the nations from the north. Notice here, that they are said to be the nations.
 - i. In Ezekiel 38:2, Magog is the land over which the prince, Gog, rules.
 - ii. Therefore, as the nations went against Judah, and carried them into Babylonian captivity, Gog and Magog symbolize the nations of this wicked world as they go against the Lord and his people.
 - iii. These terms represent the enemies, the forces of evil, which fight against the church.
 - a. Satan is going to gather together an innumerable number to make war, which he will lose.
6. **v.9 – surrounding the camp**
 - a. God's people are represented as a military camp, which indicates a temporary place, as well as referencing the fact that Christians have a battle to fight.
 - b. The idea of representing God's people as a city reminds us of a city like Jerusalem, and the fact that there is the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.
(Hebrews 12:22)

7. v.10 – cast into the lake of fire

- a. From the lake of fire, there is no return, like the bottomless pit.
- b. How sad for him and his followers, to be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

II. The Judgment scene (*Rev 20:11-15*)

A. v. 11 – the great white throne

1. On the great and final day the world will pass away (**Rev 21:1**).

B. v.12 – the books at judgment.

1. The small and great is a reference to all mankind being present.
2. The books is a reference to God's commands (books of the Bible).
3. The book of life is the book which contains the names of the saved, the saints.
4. Judgment is based upon what we have done, obedience or disobedience depends on our adherence to God's Word, the books (**Jn 12:48**).

C. v.13 – giving up the dead

1. No one escapes judgment, including the dead.
2. They are raised for judgment.

D. v.14 – 15 – those in the lake of fire

1. This is the second death. Death and the hades world end, this is the second death (**v.14**).
2. Those not found in the book of life were cast in the lake of fire, the second death (**v.15**).

III. Lessons for Us Today

A. Things NOT found in Revelation 20

1. The rapture. – A supposed period of seven years after the 2nd coming of Christ.
2. The second coming of Christ. Premillennialism has two, one at the rapture, and another after the second coming and the rapture.
3. A reign of Christ on earth.
4. A bodily resurrection of the saints.
5. Christ on earth.
6. The conversion of Israel.
7. A literal throne (of David) in Jerusalem.
8. Jerusalem or Palestine.
9. A thousand years of earthly peace.

B. What to expect at the end of times.

1. God's word is clear about the end of time (*Rev 20:11-15*).
2. The judgment scene isn't complicated but it is final.

Application & Conclusion:

1. Revelation is a book of encouragement. We still find encouragement as the truth is more comforting than the faulty beliefs of man.
2. Since we know the truth, we can prepare accordingly.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9