



*The Millennium
in Revelation 20:1-10*

Victory through Perseverance



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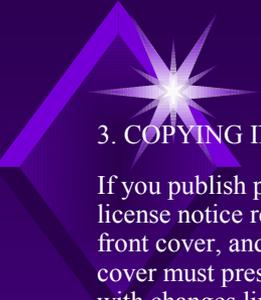
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A. Revelation 20:1-10



Revelation 20:1-3

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 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.



Revelation 20:4-5

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 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. The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection.



Revelation 20:6-8

Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea.



Revelation 20:9-10

And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.



Favorite Passages for Millennium

Premillennialists:

Rev. 20:1-10
as favorite

It appears to
describe a
silver age.

Amillennialists:

John 5:28-29;
2 Pet. 3:7
as favorite

General judgment
moves from this age
directly to golden age.



Premil points from Rev. 20:1-10

- ◆ **Chronological order (from 19:11 to 20:15)**
- ◆ **The first resurrection (20:4-6)**
- ◆ **Binding of Satan (20:2)**
- ◆ **Straightforward reading**



Reply to Premil Points

- ◆ **Chronology**
- ◆ **First resurrection**
- ◆ **Binding of Satan**
- ◆ **Straightforward**
- ◆ **Recapitulation**
- ◆ **Disembodied existence (20:4; cf. Rev. 6:9)?**
- ◆ **Not material chain. See Rev. 12:7-9, Luke 10:18, 11:20-22; Jude 6.**
- ◆ **Already/ yet-to-come**



Already and Yet to Come for Rev 20

Already

Yet to Come

◆ **Prophecy**

**Down
payment**

**Full
inheritance**

◆ **19:11-21**

War now

Final war

◆ **Binding**

**Luke 10:18;
11:20-22**

**Future
triumph**

◆ **New life**

**Regeneration
Col. 3:1;
Eph. 2:5-6**

**Bodily
resurrection**



B. *Chronological Order*

in Rev. 19:11-20:15



Premils' View of Order of Events

19:11-21

Last
battle;
Second
Coming

20:1-10

Reign of
1000
years

20:11-15

Last
Judgment

21:1-22:5

New
World

Events in
succession

Events in
succession



Premillennialism

1000 years
= millennium





View 20:1-10 as Recapitulation

19:11-21

Last
battle;
Second
Coming

20:1-6

20:7-10

1000
years

Last
Battle

20:11-15

Last
Judgment

21:1-22:5

New
World



Cycling through the
same period



Manner of Recapitulation

last
battle

19:11-21

1000 years
triumph by faith

last
battle

20:1-6, 7-10



Today



Gold





Evidence for Recapitulation in Rev. 20

- ◆ Nations of 20:3 perished in 19:19-21.
- ◆ Vanishing sky in 6:14 same as 20:11.
- ◆ In 15:1 the bowls include all wrath, thus including the wrath of 20:9-10.
- ◆ The final battle occurs in 16:14,16; 17:13-14; 19:19-21; 20:7-10.
- ◆ Imagery from Ezekiel 38-39 occurs in both 19:11-21 and 20:7-10.



The First Resurrection



Is First Resurrection of Body?

- ◆ **Other places in the New Testament use the word “resurrection” for bodily resurrection.**
- ◆ **It is a remedy for martyrs (20:4).**
- ◆ **Many say, “Context does not tell us that this use is figurative.”**

But let's look at the context.



First and Last

Rev 20-22 concerns first and last things:

- ◆ **New heaven and earth are last.**
- ◆ **22:1-5 returns us to Eden.**
- ◆ **19:5-8 returns to an Edenic marriage.**
- ◆ **“First” and “second” in 20:1-15 match this theme.**
- ◆ **“Second death” in 20:14-15 is last.**



First and Second in Rev

20:1-10

First death

- ◆ **First is Preliminary:**
 - ◆ Luke 18:30; Matt 12:32
- ◆ **Bodily death**

Second death

- ◆ **Second is Final:**
 - ◆ 1 Cor 15:45; Heb 9:28
- ◆ **Spiritual**
- ◆ **With bodily resurrection**



Contrasts in Rev 20:1-10

Preliminary:

First death

Body

First resurrection

?

Final:

Second death

Spiritual

Second resurrection

Body

Paradoxical: with
bodily resurrection



The First Resurrection

First death

Body

Second death

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with
bodily resurrection



First resurrection

Spiritual

Paradoxical: with
bodily death

Second
resurrection

Body



Klinian Symmetries

The Righteous have:

- ◆ **One death**
- ◆ **Two
resurrections**

The Wicked have:

- ◆ **Two deaths**
- ◆ **One resurrection**



Practical Question for Rev 20:1-10

- ◆ **Martyrdom threatens the church.**
- ◆ **Persecutors eliminate martyrs.**
- ◆ **Do persecutors win?**



We need
reassurance.



Exhortation from Rev 20:1-10

- ◆ **Christ is the pattern.**
- ◆ **Martyrdom leads to victorious resurrection.**
- ◆ **Rev 20:1-10 applies the pattern to Christians.**
- ◆ **Message: victory through perseverance in Christ.**

Christ
raised



Christians
raised

◆ **in Christ**



D. Other Issues



Binding of Satan

- ◆ Satan is a spirit being; “binding” not physical.
- ◆ Jesus’ work limits (“binds”) Satan: Luke 10:18; 11:22; John 12:31; Rev. 12:9.
- ◆ “Binding” keeps Satan from deceiving the nations.
- ◆ Christ frees the nations from Satan’s deceit, Matt. 28:18-20.



Do You Read Rev. As Literal?

- ◆ John literally saw what he says he saw.
- ◆ But what he saw was visionary, symbolical. The Beast symbolizes persecuting power.
- ◆ To read literally what is intended symbolically does not really honor the Author.



E Attitudes

- ◆ God is more interested in major biblical teachings.
- ◆ “The haughtiness of man shall be humbled, and the pride of men shall be brought low; and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,” Isa 2:17.



God is
wiser than I.