

SATAN BOUND! 1000 YEAR REIGN!

We have just seen the destruction of the beast & false prophet that opposed God's people. We now see Satan bound and a resurrection of those who have died in service to Christ.

This section of Revelation is a "cornerstone" of Premillennialism. While there are many variations of this incorrect teaching, this text is used to state that Jesus & his followers will reign physically on earth for a literal 1000 years (a millennium) while Satan has no power. (Again, there are many variations - but most teach that this will occur after a "rapture" of the good off of the earth and Satan reigning for 3 ½ years or some time period – and they go to the 2 witnesses of Rev 11 and also to Daniel's vision of 70 weeks in Dan 9 to try to support this concept.)

Let's look at the Bible and see what we can conclude – our interpretation of this must have had meaning to the *original* reader, AND harmonize with the rest of scripture!

20:1-3 Satan Bound

1. Is the **theme** of Rev 20:1-3 the defeat of Satan, or the 1000 years?



The Bible speaks of **Satan** being **bound** on three different occasions:

- (1) Mt 12:28-29 demonstrates that Jesus bound Satan's power by no longer allowing him the power to possess saints with demons. (See also Lk 8:27-31)
- (2) Heb 2:14-15, I Pet 5:8-9, James 4:7, etc. show that, through Jesus' death and resurrection, Satan's power to bind men with sin and death was itself bound. Men can choose to follow him in his realm of darkness, but Satan cannot bind those who want out!
- (3) This passage, showing Satan bound at a time when he attempted to destroy the Lord's people through government (the Roman empire), but was unsuccessful.

2. So when we are told that Satan is bound, does it mean he has no power, or that certain aspects of his power are limited?

- 3.a. After binding Satan, *where* did the angel throw him?
 - b. See Rev 9:1-3. Who are we told possessed the key before?
 - c. So who has ultimate control over the abyss?

4. What is the **PURPOSE** of the dragon being locked and sealed in the abyss (vs 3)?

5. How can Satan be bound in the abyss, and yet I Pet 5:8 still be true? (See the text box above!)

The 1000 Years

6. Read Job 9:3, 33:23, Ps 50:10, 90:4, Eccl 6:6, 7:28, and II Pet 3:8.
How is “1000” used in all of these passages – figuratively or literally? (Bet you can guess without reading them!)

The 1000 year reign is mentioned in the Bible **ONLY** in Rev 20:1-7 – yet from it people have fabricated an intricate doctrine; many details are added to even create it. Notice that the following key points of Premillennialism are NOWHERE found in this text: **(1)** The second coming of Jesus; **(2)** a *bodily* resurrection; **(3)** a reign “on earth”; **(4)** the literal throne of David; **(5)** Jerusalem or Palestine; **(6)** Christ on earth.

What does Rev 22:18 say about those who *add* to this prophecy? _____ (!)
Remember also, if a teaching contradicts other scripture, it is a false teaching – and Premillennialism *does just that!* (I Thess 4:15-17, Jn 18:36, Heb 12:26-28, II Pet 3:10, Col 1:13-14, Jn 6:44, 5:28-29, etc.)

20:4-6 The First Resurrection

7. To *whom* was judgment awarded in vs 4 – who are these people? (Consider also 6:9-11, 2:10-11)
8. Does John say that he sees the *bodies* or the *souls* of these martyrs and faithful ones?
9. Portrayal of triumph and return from captivity is seen as a resurrection in other passages. (For example, Isa. 26:1 & 19-21 (about Israel and Assyrian captivity) uses a resurrection to represent the nation’s return.)
Glance through Ezek 37:1-14, about the dry bones being brought back to life.
Who is being resurrected here? _____ (vs 11-12)
Is this a *bodily resurrection of the physical dead* or a *figurative resurrection of the nation*?
10. Consider a *revived people* or a *cause* being pictured as a resurrection – as in question 9 – and the fact that those resurrected here are seen as the *souls* of those martyred and faithful; and that these souls reign with Christ during this *1000 years*.
What then *is* the resurrection that is being portrayed here? (HINT: It’s *not* the resurrection at the end of the world.)

‘ “The rest of the dead” who live not until the thousand years are finished are *not* the dead awaiting a bodily resurrection. Just as the cause for which the martyrs had died is symbolized by a resurrection, so “the rest,” those killed with the sword of Christ in their war on behalf of the beast and paganism (19:21), shall experience a resurrection of their cause in the revived effort of Satan which will come toward the end of time through new allies, Gog and Magog (vv. 7-9).’ (QUOTE FROM HAILEY)