

**The Book of REVELATION**  
**Chapter 20**  
**“The Millennial Kingdom!”**

**I) SATAN IS BOUND! (v1-3)**

> **Satan:** (1) the powerful DRAGON is *bound with a chain*; (2) the crafty SERPENT is *cast into the bottomless pit*; (3) the slandering DEVIL is *shut up*; (4) the adversary has a *seal set on him* whereas he cannot **DECEIVE THE NATIONS** anymore till the 1000 years is finished. Then Satan will be released one last time.

> **The term a 1000 years is used six times in this chapter (v3, 4, 5, 6, 7).** This defines the *Millennial Kingdom of Christ*. It will be a time a universal peace, prosperity, long life and righteousness. It's extremely important to understand that this is a **literal 1000 year period**. Some have a false belief that the thousand years is just symbolic.

> **Observe three interpretations of the Millennial Kingdom:** This is the first of 6 references to the length of the millennial kingdom (cf. vv. 3,4,5,6,7). There are 3 main views of the duration and nature of this period:

- (1) **Premillennialism** (Calvary Chapel believes) sees this as a literal 1,000 year period during which Jesus Christ, in fulfillment of numerous OT prophecies (e.g., 2 Sam. 7:12–16; Ps. 2; Is. 11:6–12; 24:23; Hos. 3:4,5; Joel 3:9–21; Amos 9:8–15; Mic. 4:1–8; Zeph. 3:14–20; Zech. 14:1–11; Matt. 24:29–31,36–44), reigns on the earth. Using the same general principles of interpretation for both prophetic and non-prophetic passages leads most naturally to Premillennialism. Another strong argument supporting this view is that so many biblical prophecies have already been literally fulfilled, suggesting that future prophecies will likewise be fulfilled literally.
- (2) **Postmillennialism** understands the reference to a 1,000-year period as only symbolic of a golden age of righteousness and spiritual prosperity. It will be ushered in by the spread of the gospel during the present church age and brought to completion when Christ returns. According to this view, references to Christ's reign on earth primarily describe His spiritual reign in the hearts of believers in the church.
- (3) **Amillennialism** understands the 1,000 years to be merely symbolic of a long period of time. This view interprets OT prophecies of a Millennium as being fulfilled spiritually now in the church (either on earth or in heaven) or as references to the eternal state.

Using the same literal, historical, grammatical principles of interpretation so as to determine the normal sense of language, one is left with the inescapable conclusion that Christ will return and reign in a real kingdom on earth for 1,000 years. There is nothing in the text to render the conclusion that “a thousand years” is symbolic. Never in Scripture when “year” is used with a number is its meaning not literal.<sup>1</sup>

> **Question: What will the Millennial Kingdom be like?** The Bible declares that **politically and socially**, the rule of Christ and His saints will be universal (Ps. 2:6-8; Dan. 2:35), absolute (Ps. 2:9; Isa. 11:4), and righteous (Isa. 11:3-5). **Spiritually**, their rule will be a time when the believing remnant of Israel is converted (Jer. 30:5-8; Rom. 11:26) and the nation is restored to the land God promised to Abraham (Gen. 13:14-15; 15:18). It will be a time when the Gentile nations worship the King (Isa. 11:9; Mic. 4:2; Zech. 14:16). The millennial rule of Christ and the saints will also be marked by the presence of righteousness and peace (Is. 32:17) and joy (Isa. 12:3-4; 61:3, 7). **Physically**, it will be a time when the curse is lifted (Isa. 11:7-9; 30:23-24; 35:1-2, 7), when food will be plentiful (Joel 2:21-27), and when there will be physical health and well-being (Isa. 33:24; 35:5-6), leading to long life (Isa. 65:20).<sup>2</sup>

**II) BELIEVERS ARE CROWNED! (v4-6)**

(4) **Who are the ones sitting on the thrones of which judgment is committed to them?** (1) **Old Testament Saints: Daniel 7:27** - *Then the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.* (2) **New Testament Saints: Matthew 19:28** - *So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."* **1 Corinthians 6:2** - *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?* **2 Timothy 2:12-13** - *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us. If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.*

<sup>1</sup> MacArthur Study Bible

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Revelation

(v5) **Defining the first resurrection** – John calls the resurrection of the saints from all ages the first resurrection. That resurrection is also called in Scripture the “*resurrection of the righteous*” (Luke 14:14; Acts 24:25), the “*resurrection of life*” (John 5:29), the resurrection of “*those who are Christ’s at His coming*” (1Cor. 15:23), and the “*better resurrection*” (Heb. 11:35).

(v6) **What is the second death?** The second death is revealed to us in Rev. 20:14 – *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.* It’s been said that a person can be born twice and die once of they can be born once and die twice (death physically & spiritually forever)!

### **III) A REBELLION IS FOUND! (v7-10)**

(v7-9) **At the end of the thousand years what will Satan be permitted to do?** He will go out to deceive the nations! The Bible also says that many nations will try to fight against God and God will devour them.

(v10) **The devil is cast into the Lake of Fire** “*where the beast and false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*” This passage reaffirms the doctrine of eternal punishment and denies the false teachings of “annihilationism” (when man dies he no longer exists).

### **IV) THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT IS SOUND! (v11-15)**

> **The “BOOKS ARE OPENED”:** (1) **For the UNSAVED the books are opened reading: These are the SINS OF YOUR LIFE!** In this book will be recorded every evil thought, word and deed, plus every time you rejected Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. To the religious fakes they will be heard saying, “*Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles*” (Mt. 7:22). But they will here the horrifying reply, “*I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness*” (Mt. 7:23). Then this individual will be taken and cast headlong into the lake of fire; where the worm dies not, where there is outer darkness, where there is perpetual torment, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth! **Listen to the Nelson’s Bible Dictionary describe HELL** - In the time of Jesus the Valley of Hinnom was used as the garbage dump of Jerusalem. Into it were thrown all the filth and garbage of the city, including the dead bodies of animals and executed criminals. To consume all this, fires burned constantly. Maggots worked in the filth. When the wind blew from that direction over the city, its awfulness was quite evident. At night wild dogs howled and gnashed their teeth as they fought over the garbage. Jesus used this awful scene as a symbol of hell. In effect he said, “Do you want to know what hell is like? Look at the valley of Gehenna.” So hell may be described as God’s “cosmic garbage dump.” All that is unfit for heaven will be thrown into hell. The word *Gehenna* occurs 12 times in the New Testament. Each time it is translated as “hell.” With the exception of James 3:6, it is used only by Jesus (Matthew 5:22,29-30; 10:28; 23:15,33; Mark 9:43,45,47; Luke 12:5). In Matthew 5:22; 18:9; and Mark 9:47, it is used with “fire” as “hell fire.” So the word hell (*Gehenna*) as a place of punishment is used in the New Testament by Him who is the essence of infinite love. In Mark 9:46 and 48, hell is described as a place where “their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.” Repeatedly Jesus spoke of outer darkness and a furnace of fire, where there will be wailing, weeping, and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 8:12; 13:42,50; 22:13; 24:51; 25:30; Luke 13:28). Obviously this picture is drawn from the valley of Gehenna. The Book of Revelation describes hell as “a lake of fire burning with brimstone” (Revelation 19:20; 20:10,14-15; 21:8). Into hell will be thrown the beast and the false prophet (Revelation 19:20). At the end of the age the devil himself will be thrown into it, along with death and hades and all whose names are not in the Book of Life. “And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever” (Revelation 20:10b). (2) **To the SAVED we are found in the “BOOK OF LIFE!”** Saved in Jesus Christ! **Philippians 3:20-21** – *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*