

Revelation 20 (NASB) Satan Bound

Note - We are not talking about the Rapture in these verses, but about the millennial reign of Christ. In Jeremiah 23:5-6, one of God's great names is given. It pertains to the thousand year reign of Christ. The name is Jehovah Tsidkenu and means the Lord is our Righteousness. Walvoord calls Revelation 20:1-6, "the most argued verses in the Bible."

There are three views of these verses. The literal **premillennial** view that believes that the millennium is a literal 1000 years and at the end of the 1000 years will be the final resurrection and judgment. The **amillennial** view believes that the 1000 years is the time between Christ's first and second coming. The **post-millennial** view believes that Christ will come back after 1000 years when the Church fixes everything. The most obvious reason that **amillennialism** is wrong is that it has now been more than 2000 years since Christ came the first time. The most obvious reason that the **post-millennial** view is wrong is that it assumes that man will make the world better or fix all the problems of the world.

John MacArthur - "There is no evidence in this passage at all that would cause us to question that from 19:1-21:8 a strict chronological order is observed. Chapters 19-20 form a single unit and form one continuous prophetic strain."

20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

The first thing that happens as Christ sets up His thousand year reign is the removal of the influence of Satan. The following verses describe Satan as:

- A. 2 Corinthians 4:4 "the God of this world"
- B. Ephesians 2:2 "power or prince of the air"

The phrase "Then I saw" in the Greek is 'kai eidon' which indicates chronological progression. That phrase most likely points to a premillennial view. An angel binds Satan and this shows that Satan is a created being and is below Christ and God. This angel has the key to the bottomless pit. This is the same angel described in Revelation 9:1 as the star. In Luke 8:31, the bottomless pit is called the abyss. The verse in Luke tells us that this bottomless pit is a very bad place because the demons would rather go into the pigs and die than to go to the bottomless pit. According to Romans 10:7, this bottomless pit is located down ("who will go down to the place of the dead?") This angel's name is not given. Daniel 12:1 tells us that this angel may be Michael. The word 'abussos' or abyss, is used 7 times in Revelation and always refers to a temporary place of torment.

During the thousand year reign of Christ, only the Beast and False prophet will be in the Lake of Fire. There are demons already in the abyss:

- A. 1 Peter 3:19-20 *"those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat."*
- B. Jude 1:6 *"And I remind you of the angels who did not stay within the limits of authority God gave them but left the place where they belonged. God has kept them securely chained in prisons of darkness, waiting for the great day of judgment."*

The angel has the authority to open the gate, as well as lock the gate behind him. This is a prestigious angel.

20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Four names are given for the adversary. They are the dragon, the serpent of old, the devil and Satan. Satan is called "the dragon" 12 times in Revelation. The Greek word for "devil" is 'diablos'. The word 'diablos' is translated as "slanderer" in 1 Timothy 3:11 (Not NIV). It translated in 2 Timothy 3:3 as slanderous. Devil is translated as slanderer in Titus 2:3. Satan is a Hebrew word. the Greek name is 'Satanas'. The word "Satan" or its Greek counterpart is used 53 times in the Bible. Devil means "slanderer" but Satan means adversary.

Satan is bound for 1000 years. During this time he will have no influence over people. The exact length of time is mentioned 6 times in Revelation chapter 20. For the **amillennial** view or the **post-millennial** view to be correct, the number 1000 must be figurative opposed to literal. Both amillennialists and post-millennialists believe that Satan is already bound in the pit. We should take the thousand year reign as a literal thousand years because throughout the Bible there are literal times. This time a number is used which has always meant that it is a literal time. In Revelation 20:3, the phrase or term "a little while or short time" is used to describe an unspecified length of time. Revelation 20:8 uses the phrase "sand on a seashore or a nonspecific time".

For the amillennialists and post-millennialists to be correct, the earth will need to get better and better but 2 Timothy 3:1 tells us that the last days will be difficult or terrible times. Matthew 24:38-39 says "38 For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, 39 and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be." God will destroy all the people on the earth, just as He did in the days of Noah. The sequence between the angel and the devil in these two verses are – the angel seized the devil, he bound him, cast him into the bottomless pit, shut him up and set a seal over the only exit. Knowing that this is a literal time period, 2 Peter 3:8 can only be referring to the one thousand year reign of Christ. 2 Peter 3:8 and Psalm 90:4 tell us that the 6 x 24 hours days "represent" the time of man's rule on God's timetable. God created everything in 6 days and then rested. If you think about it, man's rule has lasted 6 times 1000 years and God will rest during the 1000 year reign of Christ, so Genesis 2:2 is most likely referring to the thousand year reign of Christ.

"Is this a literal transaction? Certainly, it is. The battle is literal; the taking of the Beast and the False Prophet is literal; the slaying of the kings and their armies is literal; Satan is literal, and his binding must be equally literal. It will not resolve itself into anything else." (Theologian Joseph Seiss)

Satan is not the first fallen angel to be chained that is referred to in Jude 1:6. The phrase "that he should deceive the nations no more" tell us that Satan has only one tactic and that is deception. 1 Peter 5:8 proves that millennialists and post-millennialists are wrong because it says he is now prowling and seeking and they say that Satan has been bound already. 1 Peter 5:8 says "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." The following verse tells us that King David will reign with Jesus during the

thousand years, Jeremiah 30:9, Ezekiel 34:23-24, Ezekiel 37:21-28 and Hosea 3:5. Most people think that "people" are basically good. The millennium will show that they are not good.

20:4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

John then saw thrones but who was sitting on the thrones. The verse only says "they". Revelation 4:4 says that it could be the twenty-four elders. Matthew 19:28 is talking about Jesus' disciples. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 talks about the "saints". The final phrase in this sentence "judgment was given to them", suggests that the saints as given in 1 Corinthians 6:2-3 is correct. Timothy 2:12 says "*If we endure, we will also reign with Him*". Daniel 7:18 says "*the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom*". The verses in Timothy and Daniel confirm that it is most likely the saints. Next John sees "*the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and the word of God.*" They are the tribulation martyrs or saints. By mentioning them before the Tribulation, they could read this and gain strength and be encouraged by it. They suffered through a time where the Antichrist was in power. God wants no one to be left out. Revelation 13:7 tells us that "*It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.*"

In their "Left Behind" series, Lahaye and Jenkins actually describe the people that refuse the mark of the beast being beheaded with guillotines.

20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

John 5:28-29 mentions two resurrections, one for the "good" and one for "evil". It says "*Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.*"

"The 'first resurrection' is not an event but an order of resurrection including all the righteous who are raised from the dead before the millennial kingdom begins." (Walvoord)

Another name for the first resurrection is the Rapture. The saints/believers will be resurrected in the first resurrection or Rapture. The two resurrections are separated by the 1000 year reign of Christ. The second resurrection will occur at the judgment.

We should NOT want to be part of the second resurrection because it means that we missed out on the Rapture and all that follows. Those in the second Resurrection will face judgment and damnation.

Satan Freed, Doomed

20:7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

It is hard to believe but the bliss that I picture occurring in the 1000 year reign of Christ is interrupted. Satan is freed. He will be allowed to “deceive the nations” and gather them for one last war. He is still deluded enough to believe that he can still win. God frees Satan, even for a little while because God wants to show how bad or depraved man really is. Even after the 1000 year reign of Christ, there will be men that are not happy.

A great number will gather with Satan to battle for God. The verse says, “*number like sand on a seashore.*” So it will not be just a few. Ezekiel 38 and 39 describe a battle name in the same way, Gog and Magog. A close study of these verses clearly demonstrates they do not refer to the same people and events. The people coming out of the 1000 year reign are different. They were all believers or the children of believers under the rule of Jesus. Even though He ruled with an iron rod, this will be an amazing time. Not everyone will be happy though, enough for a war.

9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Just as the Battle of Armageddon, this will be a short battle. Fire will come down from Heaven and devour them. We have seen our God take care of things in this same way in 1 Kings 18:36-39 when Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal.

Satan is defeated and thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and the false prophet are. Most depictions of Satan in Hell show him as being in control of the Lake of Fire. We are told that he too will be tormented day and night.

Judgment at the Throne of God

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

John describes God as the one “from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.” Those whose names are not in the Book of Life are being judged. They end up in the Lake of Fire. This resurrection differs from the first resurrection in that the lost are resurrected to be judged and then thrown into the Lake of Fire. If their name is not in the Book of Life they go through the second resurrection. Whether or not they are in the Book of Life is decided according to their deeds.