

Bible Study March 15, 2023

Revelation 20 – The Thousand Years and the Final Judgment

Revelation 20: 1-6 The thousand years is the same age as what we call the church age, the period between the first and second coming of Christ, with Christ ruling in and through the lives of His believers – this is what is called an amillennialist view. (Some believe there will be a literal 1000 year reign with Christ and the resurrected believers prior to this period – premillennialists; while others believe Christ will return for a time after this period and rule triumphantly, then return again for the final judgment – postmillennialists). This church age is the time when Christ's saving work on the cross and His resurrection have limited the work of the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan. He is bound and held by a great chain and is thrown into the great pit and bound for this period. He has no power over the grave for the Christian. He will be released for a while for the final judgment.

Those who have died in Christ are alive in heaven, reigning with Christ, the first resurrection. At the time of death the souls of believers immediately ascend to heaven. Blessed and holy are those who have trusted in Christ, as they will reign with their Savior for all eternity. The wicked and Satan will be cast eternally into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20: 7-10 The 1000 years ends with Satan being released, and the final battle will end with Satan and his armies, Gog and Magog, being destroyed by fire from heaven and Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and Sulphur, in torment for all eternity. Satan can no longer threaten the earth or its inhabitants.

Revelation 20: 11-15 The Last Judgment and the Destruction of Death

From the great white throne of God now comes judgment to the living and the dead. The earth and sky are removed, preparing for the coming of the new earth and the new heaven. The book of life is opened, and all whose name is not written in it are thrown into the lake of fire, along with Death and Hades. This is the second death. Believers in Christ, with their names written in the book of life, will enter into a new heaven and a new earth, the new Jerusalem. Christ alone has the keys to death and Hades. Read 1 Corinthians 15:26