

REVELATION PART 4 OF 4: THE MILLENNIUM AND THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH

Crean Lutheran High School Chapel,
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Revelation Chapter 20

- ▣ This is the only chapter in the entire Bible that presents the 1000 years. Mentioned six (6) times: Rev. 20:2,3,4,5,6&7!
- ▣ From the Latin *mille* (thousand) and the Latin *annum* (year), the common term is “millennium.”

Two Major Views of the Millennium

- ▣ View #1 fails to treat Revelation as symbolic and cyclical, but treats it as hard literalism:

The millennium is a future 1000 year reign of Jesus on earth!

- ▣ View #2 treats Revelation as symbolic and cyclical (true apocalyptic):

The millennium is the reign of Jesus Christ through His Church today, right now as people are saved from sin!

Christ Reigning on Earth Taken Literalistically (False View)



Christ Reigning Here and Now (Correct View)



The True View of Revelation: Christ reigning in His people!



Why Some Don't See it This Way

- ▣ 1. They deny that Revelation is apocalyptic – and say that this genre does not exist in the Bible.
- ▣ 2. Rather, they say Revelation is “prophetic.”
- ▣ 3. Prophecy must be interpreted literally they say.
- ▣ 4. So they make the 1000 years literal.
- ▣ 5. Therefore, they predict a future, 1000 year kingdom of God on earth.
- ▣ 6. This is being stuck in a Western, linear, and literalistic view of Revelation...it is just plain WRONG!

All this millennium talk can make your head spin!

Millennium...not to be confused with the Millennium Falcon



Millennium...not to be confused with the millennium bridge



But Symbolism Is Engrained!

- ▣ Remember the lamb with the seven horns and the seven eyes? (Revelation 5:6)

- ▣ 1000 is also symbolical!
 1. 10 is the number of the rounded whole. While 7 is perfection; 10 is completeness.
 2. 10 times 10 times 10 is, then, the completely, definitively rounded whole.
 3. In Revelation 20 this number of highest completeness describes our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ completely providing for His Church; it is a number that represents the completeness of people coming to saving faith and eternal life as Christ reigns in His Church!

Why This View?

- ▣ Because there *is* such a thing as apocalyptic literature!
- ▣ Revelation is a VISION in which an angel was sent to St. John and showed him a spiritual panoramic of the church, including the last day.
- ▣ And recall that Revelation was also written to protect Christians during persecution.
- ▣ Most importantly, numerology is SYMBOLIC.

Numbers Symbolic



666 = Nero

- ▣ The Roman Emperor Nero persecuted Christians in the mid-1st century.
- ▣ Greek letters were assigned numerical values. Guess what the value of Nero Caesar is?
Answer: 666.
- ▣ He is most likely the “beast” of Revelation 13:18. He promoted false worship and again, persecuted Christians.

So what is the Bible teaching about our lives in Christ?

1. We are living in Christ's rule giving us forgiveness and eternal life NOW (this is the Millennium)! Jesus is in complete control!
2. When we die, our spirit is separated from our body (think of Jesus in Luke 23).
3. Our physical bodies are buried.
4. But our spirits go to heaven.
5. Our spirits are reunited with our resurrected bodies on the last day when Christ comes again.
6. Believers then go forward into "*the new heaven and new earth.*" (Rev. 21:1).

Why a “new” heaven and “new” earth?

- ▣ Because “the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...” (Rev. 21:1).
- ▣ Notice the consistency with 2nd Peter 3:10: “But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.”

Described as a perfect cube (3 =
Trinity = God's number)



The Holy City: Jerusalem



Revelation 21

- ▣ “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...And I saw the holy city...And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.’”

Revelation 21

- ▣ “He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

Heavenly Animals Included

- ▣ Like 2nd Kings 6 records heavenly horses!



The New Heaven and Earth

1. Real animals as indicated in 2nd Kings 6.
2. Perfect heal, your raised body will be filled with vitality and power. No scars, no weaknesses.
3. Perfect knowledge (1st Corinthians 13).
4. Real city, real river, real tree of life, with the angels, with the other believers, no sadness (no regret), real activity, feasting, and no boredom! (the story of my little “Bean”)

Guaranteed By Christ Who Reigns NOW!





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The Significance of the Binding of Satan

- ▣ The binding of Satan is not a matter of less alcohol and drugs, but a different matter altogether. Lenski is emphatic: “The binding of Satan means that he shall not prevent this heralding of the gospel to all the nations.” (p. 575)
- ▣ No longer can Satan come before the throne of God (Job 1:6-11; 2:1-5; Zech 3:1-5), but on account of Christ’s victory, Satan was thrown out of heaven (Rev 12:7-12). (Brighton, p. 553)

As a Result of Christ's victory, the Kingdom is Yours NOW

- ▣ We call it now and not yet *at the same time!*
- ▣ Luke 17:20-21: “Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, ‘The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is within you.’”

You are Living in the Millennium!

- ▣ 1. You have more revelation of God today than even the greatest Old Testament prophets did. (Matthew 11:11)
- ▣ 2. You are served by the holy angels who long to look into the things God has given you to know. (Hebrews 1:14; 1st Peter 1:12)
- ▣ 3. You have been put into the life of Christ and are God's new creation. (2nd. Cor. 5:17)
- ▣ 4. You have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit who lives within you. (Eph. 4:30 & 17; 1st Cor. 6:19)
- ▣ 5. You are a member of God's Church, The Body of Christ. (1st Cor. 12)
- ▣ 6. You have been given the armor of God. (Eph. 6)
- ▣ 7. Because you know the rule of Christ today and the power of God, you may resist the devil and he has no choice but to flee from you! (James 4:7)