

# Revelation Chapter Twenty

- Taken literally, it is clear that chapter twenty reveals the 1,000 year reign of Christ after His return, but there are several views of the 1,000 years...
  - Postmillennialism – the 1,000 years precede the return of Christ and are characterized by the triumphant spread of the gospel.
  - Amillennialism – Christ will not reign on a throne on earth, but He does reign in the hearts of believers.
  - Premillennialism – Christ reigns on the Davidic throne for 1,000 years after He returns to earth.
- Taking chapter twenty literally (as we should), we see that Satan is thrown into the abyss prior to the start of the 1,000 year reign of Christ [20:1-3].
  - An angel comes down from heaven with the key to the abyss and a great chain in hand [20:1].
  - The dragon, the serpent of old, is now clearly identified as the devil – Satan [20:2a].
  - The angel binds up Satan with the chain and locks him in the abyss, though he will be released for a short time at the end of the Millennium [20:2b-3].
- We now see Christ and His Bride seated on thrones to judge [20:4a cp. Luke 22:28-30; Dan 7:9-10].
- Two resurrections are then described...
  - The Resurrection of Life (for non-Church believers who have died, including Tribulational martyrs) takes place prior to the 1,000 years [20:4b, 5b-6].
  - The Resurrection of Judgment takes place after the 1,000 years [20:5a cp. Dan 12:2; John 5:28-29].
  - Note that the Tribulational martyrs have a unique priesthood of the Father and the Son [20:6].
- In one verse we jump all the way to the end of the Millennium where we see Satan released [20:7].
- Once released from the abyss, the deceiver wastes no time in stirring up strife [20:8].
  - At the beginning of the Millennium there are only believers, but by the end of the 1,000 years there are a multitude of “dissenters” who join Satan.
  - Satan gathers this multitude for a final rebellion against Christ, but this rebellion is in the form of an uprising, not a war as we know it [Isa 2:4].

- This uprising is short-lived as divine destruction comes upon them the moment they surround the blessed city (Jerusalem) [20:9].
- Satan gets his final comeuppance as he joins Antichrist and the False Prophet in the Lake of Fire [20:10].
- The Great White Throne is put in place for the judgment of unbelievers immediately after the physical universe is destroyed by fire [20:11 cp. 2 Pet 3:7].
- As we have seen, unbelievers are resurrected for this judgment where they will bow before Christ [Rom 14:11].
- The judgment of these unbelievers then takes place concerning their eternal punishment [20:12-15].
  - Note the clear distinction between the books of deeds and the book of life [20:12].
  - Unbelievers are cast into the Lake of Fire because their names are not written in the book of life which is based solely upon faith in God's provision, not in any way because of their deeds [20:15].
  - Note that their sins are not under consideration because Christ took them away [1 John 2:2; 3:5].
  - The unbelievers are judged according to their deeds [20:12b-13] which might indicate that the degree of eternal torment they face could vary based upon the evaluation of those deeds.
  - Death and Hades are then thrown into the Lake of Fire which brings a final end to death itself [20:14a cp. 1 Cor 15:26; Rev 21:4].
  - The Lake of Fire is the second death [20:14b cp. 21:8] which believers (overcomers in Christ) do not face [2:11; 20:6].