

**Text: Rev 20.1-6**

I want to conclude this series on fulfilled prophecy with a look ahead at a prophecy that is not yet fulfilled, the coming millennium predicted in Revelation 20.

I taught this material in 2019 when we were getting ready to enhance our statement of faith, just before the disaster of Covid showed up.

Revelation 20 is the passage that convinced me of the premillennial position when I was sorting this doctrine out for myself. If you read the prophecy plainly, taking each word as it comes, you cannot escape a premillennial view.

**Proposition: Revelation 20 firmly establishes the premillennial view of the future.**

Read Rev 20.1-6

**I. The Binding of Satan (1-3)**

A. The **first fact** of the Millennial Reign is the binding of Satan. In the plan of God, Satan is to be bound for the 1,000-year period, and then released again for a short season (Rev 20.1-3)

No one really denies this, no matter what their millennial view might be.

B. Timing:

1. Revelation 19: God casts the beast and the false prophet into the lake of fire (19.20)
2. In Revelation 20: God focuses on the dragon (2)

Who is the dragon? **the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan**

C. Action:

1. Led by an angel from heaven carrying the key to the abyss and a great chain (1)
2. The angel binds Satan with the great chain he carries (2)

What is literal and what is symbolic in this vision?

Literal: **Satan**

Symbolic: **the chain, the key**

Why do we make this distinction?

**Satan is a spirit, a literal chain cannot bind a spirit**, but the spirit is real and God's intent is real

D. Duration:

1. How long is this period of binding?

**One thousand years**

2. What is the purpose of the binding?

**to prevent Satan from deceiving the nations**

Question: Does Satan deceive the nations now?

If the answer is yes, then the period this passage describes is not the present period.

## II. The reign of the saints (4)

A. The **second fact** of the millennium is the reign of the saints with Christ

B. John sees two groups in v. 4. Who are they?

**Those sitting on thrones**

**The souls slain for not receiving the mark of the beast**

What do we call the second group? **tribulation saints**

Where did the second group come from?

**resurrected from the tribulation**

Who belongs to the first group? Interpretive keys: "thrones" and "authority" — Compare 1 Cor 6.2-3

**1 Cor 6.2-3** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent *to constitute* the smallest law courts?<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more matters of this life?

**resurrected saints from the present age**

### III. The first resurrection and the second death (5-6)

A. The rest of the dead: who are they?

the dead who are not believers [this further supports the notion that those sitting on the thrones are resurrected saints from our present age]

When are these rest of the dead raised?

After the 1,000 years

B. What does “this” point to when John says, “this is the first resurrection”? (5b)

those on the thrones and the raised tribulation saints

Question: Have the saints ever reigned over the nations (see verse 3)? If not, then this period *must* not yet have come.

#### Sidebar: on the first resurrection

- Jesus is the first fruits of the first resurrection (1 Cor 15.23).
- The great harvest of the first resurrection is the Rapture (1 Th 4.13-18).
- The gleanings of the first resurrection include the two witnesses (Rev 11.3, 11), and the Tribulation martyrs (Rev 20.4-5) and any believing people who might die during the millennium (Rev 20.12-13).

Note: Some hold that the OT saints are not raised until the end of the Tribulation. There is no clear passage that excludes them from the Rapture, although clearly OT saints are Israel and not the Church.

### IV. The loosing of Satan (3b, 7-10)

A. The **third fact** of the millennium is that Satan will rise one last time in a final rebellion against God, prior to his final judgement.

B. Reasons for this final rebellion (suggested, not explicitly revealed):

To prove Satan’s incorrigibility

To demonstrate again the absolute depravity of man

C. The steps of the final rebellion

1. The gathering of **unregenerate** people born during the millennium (8)

2. The siege of “the beloved city,” that is, **Jerusalem** (9)
3. The **final judgement** of the devil, casting him into the lake of fire (10)

**Conclusion:**

The revelation of the 1,000-year period called The Millennium is in language which suggests a literal understanding.

The events described about this period have NO parallel at any time in history to this point.

Our study of fulfilled prophecy in Leviticus, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel give us a reasonable and rational foundation to believe this prophecy will come to pass as God laid it out for us in Revelation 20.