

“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.” – Revelation 20:6

Overview:

The seven year period of Judgment has ended and now John witnesses in this vision, an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. Notice this is just an angel. It is not Michael or Gabriel or even one of the Cherubim that are around the throne of God. Just an angel who comes with the power and authority of God almighty. One + God = a majority. There are three major views to answer the question, “How does this 1000 years fit with the return of Jesus Christ?”

Amillennial view: “a” = no literal millennium on earth. B.B. Warfield held this view, the millennium is going on in heaven now. The Kingdom is not a physical kingdom but a Spiritual kingdom and the net effect is to make the book of Revelation strictly spiritual or historical. This view has its roots at the advent of the sanctioned church by Rome.

Postmillennial view: Jesus will come at the end of the millennium period. Jonathan Edwards is called the father of this view in America. The 1000 years is a symbol for a long period of time and not a literal 1,000 years. This view has its roots after the first millennium was completed. It also became popular when the influence of the church was on the rise but it became harder to sustain in the light of the atrocities of the World Wars.

Premillennial view: Jesus will come before the start of the 1000 years and He will literally reign and rule on the earth for a literal 1000 years. This is the view of the early church fathers with the exception of Origen. During this time there will be a restoration of those things impacted by the curse when Adam fell.

References:

Rev 20:1 – What will it be like to live in a world where Satan is no longer on the prowl? – (1 Peter 5:8)

Rev 20:1 – Key to the bottomless pit – (Rev 9:1, 2, 11, 11:7, 17:8)

Rev 20:2 – He laid hold of the dragon – (Rev 12:3)

Rev 20:4 – Thrones and they sat on them. The they/them - the church age – (Rev 3:21, Rev 5:10, 1 Corinthians 6:1-3)

Rev 20:4 – Reigned with Christ – Two aspects in view

- A renewal of the earth devastated by the Tribulation – (Zechariah 14:8-9)
- A restoration of those things impacted by the curse
 - No more dread among the animals – (Genesis 9:2, Isaiah 11:4-9)
 - No more toiling with the earth – (Genesis 3:17-19, Micah 4:1, Zechariah 8:3)
 - Undoing death, a return to the lengthening of age – (Zechariah 8:1-8, Isaiah 65:20, Zechariah 8)
 - Justice among men, reflective of the One who reigns – (Psalm 72:12-14, Luke 1:46-55, Micah 4:3, Joel 3:10)
 - Love for God that is less conflicted – (Zechariah 8:21-23, Psalm 72:17-19)
 - Read Isaiah 35 – A millennium kingdom passage

Rev 20:5 – The rest of the dead – (John 5:28-29)

Rev 20:5 – This is the first resurrection. Marks the end of the first resurrection.

- Began with Jesus who is the firstfruits – (1 Corinthians 15:23-25)
- Those who have died in Christ when He comes for the church, rapture – (1 Thessalonians 4:15-16)
- The Old Testament Saints – (Daniel 12:1-3)

Questions:

- * What will it be like to live in a period of time where Jesus is King and Satan is bound in chains in a bottomless pit?
- * Read Revelation 20:6. Why is the person blessed who has a part in the first resurrection?
- * Take some time and pray for friends and family members who don't have a relationship with Jesus.

Additional Study:

Rev 20:1

- * The key to the bottomless pit (*abyusso*)

Rev 20:2

- * Devil (*diabolos*) – slanderer – the father of lies
- * Satan (*satanos*) – adversary
- * Bound him (*deo*) – to bind together tie together imprisonment, compel, force
- * Thousand years (millennium) – Latin for 1000 years – Greek (*chilioi*)

Rev 20:3

- * Cast into the bottomless pit (*ballo*) – to be thrown, hurled
- * Shut up (*kleio*) to be shut and locked
- * A seal set upon him (*sphragizo*) – to use a seal to make something secure