

A STUDY OF REVELATION

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PART XXVI

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN

Revelation 20:1-15

Introduction: Chapter 19 revealed the bodily return of Jesus to this earth. The raptured and resurrected saints accompany Him on white horses. The battle of Armageddon is in progress which Jesus stops by slaying the enemy forces with the sword of His mouth. His return to earth marks the beginning of his 1,000-year reign on earth. While leaving out much detail, this chapter (20) gives the event preparatory to the reign, the reign, and the events immediately following this period of time. The seven years of Daniel's seventieth week are ended.

I. PREPARATORY EVENTS OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN, V. 1-3

- A. Victory over enemy forces – Chapter 19.
- B. Binding of Satan, 20:1-3
 - 1. Administered by an angel.
 - a. He came down from heaven.
 - b. He had the key to the bottomless pit.
 - 2. He was bound by a chain.
 - 3. The binding is to last 1,000 years.
 - 4. He is cast into the bottomless pit.
 - a. Shut up therein.
 - b. Secured with a seal.
 - c. Disabled from deceiving nations for one thousand years.
- C. General Comments.
 - 1. Jesus' victory over enemy forces will be quick and thorough.
 - a. According to Ezekiel 39 and Zechariah 13, it appears that five-sixth of gentiles and two-thirds of Jews will be destroyed. The rest will presumably enter the millennial period in the flesh.
 - b. Jesus will be the absolute unopposed ruler during this time.
 - 2. The binding of Satan though expressed by a chain is in a secure manner to prevent his influence for the entire millennial period.
 - 3. The angel has the key to the bottomless pit, Hades, hell, because Jesus conquered this region and brought the keys with Him in His resurrection. Eph. 4:7, Rev. 1:18.

II. THE MILLENNIAL REIGN, V. 4-6.

- A. Thrones are given to some.
 - 1. They occupy the thrones.
 - 2. They are given judgment power.
- B. Souls of the faithful who withstood the beast, reign with Christ for 1,000 yrs.
 - 1. These are of the first resurrection.
 - 2. They are called blessed and holy.
 - a. Because they escape the second death.
 - b. Because they are priests of God and reign with Christ.
- C. General Comments
 - 1. Those to whom thrones and judgment are given are not specifically identified but it is felt they are faithful saints of the church age. Note Dan. 7:22-27; Matt. 19:28

2. Those who withstand the beast are obviously more than those of Daniel's seventieth week only.
 - a. Beast work goes all the way back to Cain.
 - b. First resurrection saints go all the way back to Adam.
 - c. Each withstands the beast in his own generation.
3. Various degrees of rulership will be awarded in the millennium according to potential, faithfulness and opportunity. See. Luke 12:26; I Cor. 3:11-15.
4. Descriptions of the millennial reign are more detailed in Isa. 11 & 65.

III. EVENTS AT THE END OF THE MILLENNIAL REIGN, V. 7-15

- A. The loosing of Satan.
 1. He is loosed for a little season at the end of the 1,000 years.
 2. He immediately goes to deceive the nations, Gog and Magog.
 3. He gathers them to battle; the number is as sand of the sea.
 4. They compass the camp of saints, the beloved city.
 5. God destroys them with fire from heaven.
 6. The devil is cast into the lake of fire where beast and false prophet are.
 - a. This is a place of torment.
 - b. It is his final defeat.
- B. The Great White Throne Judgment.
 1. Heaven and earth fled from Him upon the throne.
 2. The dead, small and great stand before Him for judgment.
 3. The books are opened and the book of life as well.
 - a. The dead are judged from the books according to their works.
 - b. The dead consist of all unsaved from all ages.
 4. Death and hell are cast into the lake of fire, the second death.
 5. Everyone not found written in the book of life is cast into the lake of fire.
- C. General Comments.
 1. Loosing of Satan proves no alternative for Christ rejecters, but the lake of fire.
 - a. They live under the most favorable conditions in the millennium, but still elect to follow Satan when he appears.
 - b. Environment is not the condition for being saved or lost. It is choice.
 2. Gog and Magog are not the same as those of Ezekiel 39.
 - a. The Gog and Magog of Eze. are destroyed in Armageddon.
 - b. This Gog and Magog are simply all of the unsaved on earth.
 - c. Their intent is battle, but no battle ensues due to sudden destruction.
 - d. This is the absolute end of Satan's work and influence on earth.
 - e. The beast and false prophet still being in the lake of fire underscores the eternal state of it and of those in it.
 3. The Great White Throne Judgment is administered in absolute righteousness.
 - a. Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess.
 - b. No accusations brought against God regardless of their nature.
 - c. It is the crowning act of ultimate and complete victory of the righteous work of the Lord Jesus.
 - d. The dead are all judged according to their works, but all go to the fire.
 - (1) Because their name is not in the book of life.
 - (2) But judgment according to works may indicate degree of punishment in hell, Matt. 23:14.
 - (3) The Lake of Fire is the second death, the final eternal banishment from the presence of God.