

B. And as long as you don't:

- i. believe that our job is to rule the earth through political power, to include the power of the sword, and force people to live according to the Laws of the OT or to worship Christ.
- ii. start randomly assigning Old Testament promises of the kingdom to some futuristic period of time rather than understanding that Christ calls us to do his will on earth now that his kingdom is manifest now.



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What is a millennium? Where in the Bible is *the* Millennium mentioned?
- Why do you think the army of demons in the story of the demoniac of Gerasenes (Luke 8) begged Jesus not to command them to go into the Abyss? What might be the significance of this being in Gentile territory?
- Why does the text tell us Satan is bound for 1,000 years? To what purpose? Why was this significant in the 1st century?
- What does Rev. 20 tell us about how life on earth will be during the 1,000 years?
- Where does the text tell us the thrones on which those who have been given authority to judge will be (*earth* or *heaven*)? Where does it say Jesus' throne will be?
- According to the rest of the NT, when do believers reign with Christ?
- What is the first resurrection? ...the first death? ... the second resurrection? ...the second death?
- Discuss the sections under "Why does it matter?"

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – 19

The Why, Where, and What of the Millennium

Jerry Cisar — January 14, 2024

Text: Revelation 20:1-15

Introduction

A. Arguably the most talked about chapter in Revelation.

Regardless of how you interpret this chapter, it has little bearing on how we understand the rest of the book.

B. A few basics:

C. Revelation is not chronologically arranged.

I. Why is Satan bound for 1,000 years? (Rev. 20:1-3)

A. The story of the demoniac of Gerasenes (Luke 8)

i. 2 Cor. 4:3-6

ii. Why is the ancient serpent bound for 1,000 years? (20:3, 8)

B. What is missing in this chapter?

C. The 2nd and 1st Resurrection

II. Where are the thrones? (Rev. 20:4-6)

A. Where are the thrones upon which “those who had been given authority to judge” are seated?

- i. Does it say? Are they in Jerusalem? Are they on the earth?
- ii. Are they in heaven?

B. When will believers reign?

i. Matthew 19:28-30

a) Titus 3:5

ii. Eph. 1:19-23

iii. 2 Tim. 2:11-12

III. What is the first resurrection?

A. There are 4 things involved in understanding the first resurrection.

B. The 1st and 2nd death

i. John 5:24-25

- ii. There is nothing about how the millennium is actually described that prevents it from going on right now, no matter how bad things appear to be.

Blessed are those who share in the first resurrection, although they will still experience bodily death, the first death, the 2nd death, the lake of fire, has no power over them. (20:6 paraphrased)

D. What is significant about 1,000 year reign in the late 1st century?

i. 1,000 is a cubed number.

ii. The Altar of Augustan Peace

IV. Why does it matter?

A. It doesn't if, regardless of your position, you believe:

- i. Christ reigns now at God's right hand over everything in heaven and earth through the church.
- ii. Satan can no longer blind the nations, so the Gospel is God's means of bringing the nations to himself and increasing the kingdom of Christ to the ends of the earth as promised in the prophets.
- iii. That we continue to live in order that things might be on earth as it is in heaven and don't wait for Jesus to come back and fix it all magically at some future point.