

Revelation 20

Verses 1-2

- “A thousand years” – This is called the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ. This is when Jesus returns, as we read in chapter 19 and sets up His kingdom and throne in Jerusalem.
- It is a literal thousand years. The fact that John uses those exact words six times should show it is meant to be taken literal and figurative

Verse 3

- The seal, like the seal of a king or emperor shows Jesus' authority. No man or angel can loose the devil until Jesus says so.
- The bottomless pit or abyss means “the deep”, where the devil will be held will be unseen by our eyes.

Verse 3

- Israel will be restored as promised by God:
- Ezekiel 36:33-38
- Ezekiel 37 – Ezekiel's vision in the valley of dry bones

Verse 3

- Isaiah 54:11-14 - ¹ “O you afflicted one, tossed with tempest, *and* not comforted, Behold, I will lay your stones with colorful gems, and lay your foundations with sapphires. ¹² I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of crystal, and all your walls of precious stones. ¹³ All your children *shall be* taught by the Lord, and great *shall be* the peace of your children. ¹⁴ In righteousness you shall be established; You shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; And from terror, for it shall not come near you

Verse 3

- They will be healed:
- Isaias 41:17-20 - ¹⁷ “The poor and needy seek water, but *there is none*, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. ¹⁸ I will open rivers in desolate heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. ¹⁹ I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree *and* the pine and the box tree together, ²⁰ That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Verse 3

- Isaiah 51:3 - ³ For the Lord will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; Joy and gladness will be found in it, thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

Verse 3

- Nature will return to the ways of Eden:
- Isaiah 11:6-10 - ⁶ “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. ⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰ “And in that day, there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

Verse 4

- ⁴ And then I saw thrones, and sitting on them were those to whom judgment [that is, the authority to act as judges] was given. And *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had refused to worship the beast or his image, and had not accepted his mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (AMP)

Verse 4

- It would seem John is talking about two different groups of people.
- John first sees the thrones that those of the Church Age were given to judge, literally, to rule.
- The judgments given by the saints will always reflect Jesus' judgments and commands.

Verse 4

- Revelation 3:19-22
- We do know the twelve disciples/apostles will be judging, or ruling, over Israel. (Luke 22:29-30)
- Matthias will be the twelfth as he replaced Judas Iscariot. (Acts 1:15-26)

Verse 4

- The second group that John sees are those who were martyred during the Antichrist's reign.
- It is not that the martyrs will not rule and reign with Jesus; John is simply declaring that those who died in those seven years will too be resurrected as all the other saints of God.

Verse 4

- This will usher in a time of universal peace.
- Isaiah 2:1-4
- Isaiah 65:17-25

Verses 5-6

- John makes it clear that those who died denying or actively fighting against God and Jesus Christ will still be held in Hades.

Verses 5-6

- “The First Resurrection” – This is seen to consist of two parts.
- The first, the snatching away of the Bride of Christ (1 Thess. 4)
- The second, the resurrection of those martyred for Jesus during the Tribulation (Rev. 20:4)

Verses 5-6

- John 5:26-29 - ²⁶For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Verses 7-8

- Remember first, anyone who took the Mark of the Beast already stands condemned.
- The question arises as to why Jesus would allow Satan to be loosed again?
- Anyone who has been born and has lived in the time of Jesus' reign will still be given a choice. Just as the Tree in Eden served as a test or choice.

Verses 7-8

- The great deceiver, the devil will be loosed and thereby Jesus will test the heart of the world.
- “The nations” always referred to Gentile or heathen nations that were hostile against God and not Israel.

Verses 7-8

- You are spiritual Israel and therefore I do not believe that this time of testing is for the saints. We have our new bodies and are in perfect union with our Lord.
- We will not be an unfaithful bride.

Verses 7-8

- “Gog and Magog” – This is from Ezekiel 38-39
- Ezekiel 38:1-5

Verses 7-8

- Gog would seem to be the person and Magog the city/nation. There is much debate about where Magog is, but the truth is, it does not matter.
- John and therefore the Holy Spirit are comparing the Millennial rebellion and attack of Jesus and Jerusalem to those who came against Israel, and therefore God, in the past.

Verses 7-8

- It is showing the vastness of the rebellion against Jesus. After a thousand years of peace and perfection, the heart of man will choose to rebel when the choice is given them.

Verses 9-10

- The beloved city is Jerusalem.
- This time Jesus does not fight, God the Father, Himself will destroy those who rebel against His Son.
- Devoured simply means none were left alive.

Verses 9-10

- The devil, not being human was not destroyed by the fire but is taken captive and thrown into the Lake of Fire, which has only two occupants that we know of, the Antichrist and the False Prophet.
- John 16:8-11
- “They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.” – This, again is not figurative but literal.

Verse 11

- This portion is referred to as The Great White Throne Judgment and is specific for all those who rejected God and Jesus.
- “The glory of God and the fire of His judgment surrounding “the great white throne” are so intense that even the elements of the physical universe cannot remain in God’s presence” – The Fire Bible

Verse 11

- “The present heavens flee away...they have no more place in God’s plan. The statement, “there was found no place for them” seems to mean that they will cease to exist at this time” – Stanley Horton
- The old heavens and old earth will have to make way, be removed, to make way for the new heavens and new earth God is preparing for His bride.

Verse 11

- Hebrews 1:10-12 - ¹⁰ And: * “You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. ¹¹ They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; ¹² Like a cloak You will fold them up, and they will be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not fail.”
- *Quoting Psalm 102:25-26

Verses 12-13

- “The sea gave up its dead” – This is to say everyone will be resurrected whether you had “proper burial” or were lost at sea, were eaten by lions or fell in a volcano, you will be resurrected to stand before Almighty God.

Verses 12-13

- Philippians 4:3 - ³ And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.
- Revelation 3:5
- Revelation 13:7-8

Verses 12-13

- Revelation 17:8 - ⁸The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

Verses 12-13

- First, it shows the absence of those names who rejected God and Jesus.
- Second, the other books show the ungodly deeds done by all those at the White Throne Judgment.

Verses 12-13

- Our sins have been blotted out by the blood of Jesus.
- Acts 3:19 - ¹⁹ Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord
- Psalm 103:3-4; Psalm 103:11-12

Verses 12-13

- Here is man's greatest sin – Romans 2:16 - ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.
(Man rejected Jesus)
- What did man do with the revelation of God to man through Jesus, His Word and even nature?
(Romans 1-2)

Verses 12-13

- Many see Luke 12:47-48 as a sign there will be varying degrees of punishment
- While that may be true, please note again their end. All are confined to the Lake of Fire for eternity. (verse 15)

Verses 12-13

- Besides the torment of the fire itself, each person will have seen the glory, splendor, and goodness of God, but they will forever know they rejected that goodness, mercy, grace and love and will forever be separated from God and His eternal blessings.

Verses 14-15

- “Death and hell were cast in” – This speaks of the completeness of God’s judgment and that no man can ever hope to escape the all-seeing eyes of Jesus.
- Matthew 13:42; 13:50; 22:13; 25:30
- “Outer darkness” means there is no light of God and while is omnipresent, His presence will not be with those in the Lake of Fire.

Verses 14-15

- 2 Thessalonians 2:6-9 - ⁶ since *it is* a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to *give* you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, ¹⁰ when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.