



Citadel Of Faith Covenant Church

April 19, 2017

A|Ω
ALPHA AND OMEGA

“All good things must come to an end”. We’ve heard that quote many times, well, the same is true as it comes to Satan and his tyrannical rule over the earth and it’s people. The focus of Revelation Chapter 20 is the beginning of Satan’s final days. Verse one opens by noting an angel coming down out of heaven and having the key to the Abyss and holding a great chain. This is not the first reference to the Abyss that we’ve seen in Revelation. Revelation 9 spoke of an angel “opening” this bottomless pit (abyss) and smoke rose out of it and its smoke darkened the sun and air. Remember in the previous chapter we saw Satan’s agents, the antichrist and the false prophet have been thrown into the lake of fire of which there is no return. This abyss is not as permanent as the lake of fire. The angel seizes the dragon (the ancient serpent, the devil or Satan) and binds him for a thousand years. This is so significant. This means that Satan, although he has lots of power, he does not hold all power. An angel, with far greater power than he, seizes him and then binds him for a thousand years. Satan can be bound! Lest we think that this is limited to the book of revelation, we are able to bind him now! The name of Jesus has authority and power. Satan cannot resist the power of God nor the name of Jesus, spoken in faith. Jesus’ name has authority and Satan cannot break its power. I encourage you to not be a victim to His deceptive lies, if an angel can lock him up for a thousand years, your words can lock him out of your home, finances, health, relationships, etc. Don’t miss your privilege as a child of God! Verse three mentions that the angel throws Satan into the Abyss and locks and seals it. The purpose of this is to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore for one thousand years. Then after that he will be set free for a short time. Let’s not miss the significance in what is NOT being said in the text. The angel’s imprisonment of Satan kept him from continuing his deception over the nations. This means that no longer will there be Satan at work, tempting, deceiving, etc. His power will be completely stopped for one thousand years. Let’s pause to look at what some think this means. Some view this as not literal but figurative. The amillennialists (a –meaning no millennial) believe that the church age is the age where Satan is “bound” because of the cross and has limited influence in deceiving the world because of what Christ did on Calvary. The pre-millennial view looks at the text more literally. Pre-meaning before the thousand years. In this view, Christ returns prior to a literal thousand year earthly reign. As we look at the text we see verse four stating that John saw thrones, which those who were seated had been given authority to judge. He also saw the souls of those who were beheaded because they refused to take the mark of the beast. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. This will happen. For one thousand years the earth will not be like to be under the governmental rule of Jesus and those who love Him.



John then clarifies that the rest of the dead did not come to life until after the thousand year reign of Jesus had ended. This that we see now is the first resurrection. Verse six extends a blessing over those who are a part of this “first resurrection”. The second death has no power of them (this means that the lake of fire and eternal judgment will never be their fate!) These who will be resurrected in this first resurrection will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for one thousand years. I think that we think of Jesus as only concerned about heaven, but He is the redeemer of ALL things. Not only will our souls and spirits be redeemed, but this world will once again enter into it’s intended glory as experienced in Eden. No more the power of Satan to deceive. Jesus will rule a literal kingdom. His kingdom! During this one thousand years people who are born on the earth will remarry. They will be a godly population that God will allow to arise. Man will still have free will and thus their hearts (many still darkened by wickedness) will await an opportunity to still rebel against this amazing world that Jesus and His priests lead. (Just like Adam and Eve...perfection does not prevent deception). There are many discussions about this thousand year reign, but here are the main points we can take away.

- Satan is presently allowed to have his way, but this chapter will do away with that power.
- Jesus is not currently exercising direct authority over the earth, but this chapter changes that
- The unrighteous are currently the majority, this chapter changes that

Things to Ponder:

1. What do we see about the Abyss in chapter 20 that’s different than previous chapters?
2. Why is Satan thrown into the pit and not the lake of fire?
3. Why is there a first resurrection and a second resurrection?
4. Who are in the first resurrection?
5. What is amillennialism and premillennialism?
6. What will the world be like when Jesus’ reigns?
7. Will it be literal or figurative?