

Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

Orcutt Christian Church

A Grace Driven Church for Grace Needing People!

Biblical Prophecy & End Times

The Millennium Is Now!

Revelation 20:1-7

March 8, 2020

BOARD

Communion: Bill Decker

Care Calling: Randall Rich

Host: Carol Hill

Saturday 3/7: Clean Up: Carol Hill

- 1 🎵 Jesus is coming again 753
- 2 🎵 O that will be the glory [ALL] 769
- 3 🎵 The wonder of it all [ALL] 738
- 4 🎵 **Doxology**
- 5 🎵 What a day that will be [ALL] 762
- 6 🎵 Jesus shall reign [ALL] 375
- 7 🎵 Find Us Faithful [Once] 456

Revelation 20:1-7 (NASB)

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time. 4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. 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 not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years. 7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,

Are you looking forward to the Millennium?

Charles Schultz Says:

**"Don't worry about the world coming to an end today.
It's already tomorrow in Australia."**

Lot's of folk say that there will be a literal paradise on earth. They say there will be unlimited joy, and all our desires will be satisfied. It will be the garden of Eden all over again.

Hal Lindsey in *The Late Great Planet Earth* (p.176f) says

“Christ will set up a literal kingdom in time which will last in history a thousand years and then go into an eternal form which will never be destroyed...the Messiah will reign upon King David’s throne...Jerusalem will be the spiritual center of the entire world and that all people of the earth will come annually to worship Jesus who will rule there...The Jewish believing remnant will be the spiritual leaders of the world and teach all nations the ways of the Lord ... God’s kingdom will be characterized by peace and equity, and by universal spirituality and knowledge of the Lord...All men will have plenty and be secure. There will be a chicken in every pot and no one will steal it! The Great Society which human rulers throughout the centuries have promised, but never produced, will at last be realized under Christ’s rule. The meek and not the arrogant will inherit the earth.”

WoW!

You say to yourself, “that sounds pretty good, when will it happen?”

Well, you've heard me talk about the theory of the end times called “premillennialism.”

That's the theory that Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, and MANY others, are talking about.

According to them it's going to happen after Jesus comes back after his second coming and it will literally last a thousand years.

After that we get to go to heaven.

I like what one of the commentaries says about Lindsey's description: “It ain't going to happen that way.”

I thoroughly enjoyed our time studying the Book of Revelation.

I am looking forward to picking up at chapter 12 to finish this marvelous book that stimulates your imagination, and gives strength and comfort.

But here we are today in Chapter 20, and since around 1850, these first six verses are the most controversial in the entire New Testament.

I. Facts About the Millennium

Now, it is a fact that there will be a millennium, and in contradiction to the premillennialist's proponents, the millennium is not in the future, The Millennium is NOW.

And, as you scratch your head, you are pondering to yourselves and saying “there is no paradise on earth, there is not a chicken in every pot, there is no peace and equality.”

But brothers and sisters, I don't think the Bible describes the millennium the way the premillennialist's do.

With such controversy, it may come as a surprise, but the only place in the bible where the millennium is mentioned is here in our text today, Revelation 20, and you see it in verses 2,3,4,5,6 and 7; and you will not see that literal word in the text.

And when you read that text, you say to yourselves, “There is a lot there I like in that day...”

I like Satan being bound -
I like sitting on a throne -
I like the first resurrection -
I like there being no death -
I like reigning with Christ,”

Well, there is good news.
You are living in that time right now.
But, you look around and what you see just doesn't match up.
Satan is still active
There is still evil in the world,
How can the Millennium be NOW?

Let's look briefly at **five facts**:

A. The Word Millennium Means 1,000 years

We all are familiar with the little creatures we call Millipedes.
The name "millipede" derives from the Latin for "thousand feet", but no known species has 1,000 feet.
When Jerome translated the Greek into Latin he combined the Latin “milli,” thousand, with “annum,” year, so millennium is a Latin word that means 1,000 years.

B. The only Bible reference is Rev. 20

This is the only place in the Bible where we find the period of time that we call the Millennium.

C. Here the number 1,000 is symbolic for a “long time”

We remember that John uses imagery and figures of speech throughout the Book of Revelation.
The number 1000 is symbolic for a L-O-N-G period of time.
We use numbers symbolically all the time: “I told you a thousand times.” “He has a gazillion dollars.”
We know that we are speaking symbolically, don't we?
1000 is a highly symbolic number.
Ten is the number of secular completeness.

1000 is the cube of ten.

It signifies an ideal period of unknown length

So, John is not using a literal 1,000 calendar years.

D. Revelation gives several parallel views of Christian history

Those of you who sat so patiently through the first sermons on Revelation will recall that the Book of Revelation is written in seven cycles.

The number seven is symbolically the number of completeness.

Each cycle starts with the First coming of Jesus, and ends with the Second coming of Jesus.

Perhaps you still have those handouts and diagrams, and you will remember that handouts indicated that Chapter 19 was the Second Coming, and now Chapter 20 cycles back and we are in Jesus' First coming again.

We are now in Cycle 7; the 7 reminding us of completeness.

E. Rev. 20:1-6 tells what Jesus brought About in His first coming.

The things here in verses 1-6 are real.

Satan is bound.

People are being raised from the dead.

Christian's are reigning with Jesus

You don't have to wait until Jesus' Second Coming.

These things John is describing in Chapter 20 are real now.

If you have complied with God's terms of pardon, you are enjoying the blessings of the Millennium right now.

And the blessings of the Millennium is the main point of these six verses.

What are the blessings of the Millennium?

II. Blessings of the Millennium

If you are a Christian, the Bible gives us **three blessings** we enjoy **right**

now in the Millennium.

The things here in verses 1-6 are real, and I want to explain why I believe that ...

Satan is bound.

People are being raised from the dead.

Christian's are reigning with Jesus

Let's give God thanks for the **first blessing** which is...

A. Satan is bound NOW!

Now, keep in mind that this is symbolic language the Holy Spirit is giving John

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Just keep in mind that this is symbolic language, and what John is describing has already happened.

How can it be true that the Devil is bound right now?

The Bible doesn't leave us without an answer, and gives us **three things to consider** for our comfort, security, and edification.

1. The purpose of Jesus' first coming

In order to grasp fully that the Devil is bound, we have to ask Scripture, "Why did Jesus come the first time?"

Scripture says Jesus came to confront the Devil.

The Devil had usurped his role as king over the earth.

And Jesus came to confront him and to **render him powerless.**

John makes this clear in

1 John 3:8 (NASB)

8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

Then Paul says in

Hebrews 2:14 (NASB)

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil

After reading John and Paul, do you think Jesus failed in His purpose when He came the first time?

If Jesus came to render the Devil powerless when He came the first time, I believe He did it?

In our hymn book on p. 721, we have Arthur Albert Luther's comforting hymn...**Jesus Never Fails.**

I just don't have time now to share the inspiring story behind that hymn.

**Heav'n and earth may pass away
But Jesus Never fails.**

2. This purpose was accomplished

How did Jesus render the Devil powerless?

John says an angel **bound him for a thousand years**

This is not an isolated text, because the New Testament makes clear that the Devil is bound.

When the Pharisees accused Jesus of being an agent of the Devil, Jesus demolished their arguments

Matthew 12:25-29 (NASB)

25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided

against itself will not stand. 26 "If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand? 27 "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast *them* out? For this reason they will be your judges. 28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

Jesus says while He was on the earth He was plundering the Devil's house.

What did He do?

He raised the dead

He healed the sick

He cast out demons,

He was plundering the Devil's house.

Picture it this way.

When Jesus was going around teaching, healing, casting out demons, He had that chain in His hand, and was tightening up link by link.

Just by His ministry He was binding Satan in that chain and plundering his house.

When Jesus died on the cross, this was the defeat of the Devil.

And when He was resurrected, He bound the Devil and again defeated him.

When Jesus came out of the grave, He put the key in the lock and locked the chain around the Devil, and bound him.

He tells John that His resurrection plundered the devil's house:

Revelation 1:18 (NASB)

18 I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

The Devil no longer has the key to death.

Jesus rendered him powerless, and took the key from him.

Jesus says I can set the captives free, and you need not fear death again.

Shortly before His death, Jesus says

John 12:31 (NASB)

31 "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

Luke 10:17-18 (NASB)

17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.

And notice now, that this happened before Revelation 20.

3. Thus Satan cannot now "deceive the nations"

Now here is the point,

The teaching of the New Testament is consistent in saying Jesus bound the Devil and cast him out when He came the first time.

Now what **you have been led to believe** is that **IF** Satan is bound, shouldn't the earth be a paradise?

Don't listen to those false teachers.

Please, instead of letting the premillennialist like Hal Lindsey and Tim LaHaye speak to you, let the Bible speak to you.

Believe me, Jesus never fails.

What does Revelation 20 say is the result of the binding of the Devil? Revelation 20 doesn't say anything about paradise on earth, but it does say emphatically **he would not deceive the nations any longer**

Now, ask yourself "what was the world like before Jesus came the first time?"

The whole world was under the darkness of sin, and under the dominion of the Devil.

The whole world was worshiping pagan idols, idolatry was wide spread among all nations, with one exception.

And that was the nation of Israel because God constantly intervened and time after time brought them back.

When Jesus came the first time, and when He was murdered, buried, and rose from the dead, He told His followers

Matthew 28:19 (NASB)

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

Why did Jesus want His followers to make disciples of all the nations?

To **set them free** from the Devils power.

When Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, He told Saul He was being commissioned to preach to the Jewish people and the Gentiles

Acts 26:18 (NASB)

18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

From that day forward, Satan has not been able to deceive whole nations.

But, you ask, "How can Satan not **not deceive the nations any longer?**"

Right here in this tiny congregation we call Orcutt Christian Church, just how many in the past two years have heard the gospel, and chosen to do what Christ has commanded that we do to comply with His terms of pardon?

How many have made the decision to be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

The point is that every time one of you makes your decision to be immersed is proof of Satan's inability to deceive the nations any longer.

The Devil is bound by the Gospel.

The Word of God is the symbolic chain that bind him.

And what happens when the Gospel is preached?
We are plundering the Devils house.
We are rending him powerless.
He is bound.
He is on a leash.
And anybody who wants to be free can become free.

The **second blessing** of the Millennium is

B. We receive our first resurrection NOW!

4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. 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 not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

1. Two kinds of Resurrection: Spiritual and Physical.

Here is something folk don't pick up on.
Remember there are TWO Israel's: National Israel and Spiritual Israel.
And there are TWO Jerusalem's: Physical Jerusalem and Spiritual Jerusalem.
There are TWO Resurrections.
There is a Spiritual Resurrection, and there is a Physical Resurrection.
Only one of those two do in fact save you.

Take a look at your sermon notes and

John 5:24-29 (NASB)

24 "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment,

but has passed out of death into life. 25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is *the* Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

In this passage, John first describes the Spiritual Resurrection.

Here's an interesting thought...you can be dead even though alive.

Your body can be alive

You can be doing all kinds of things,

But in your heart you can be dead.

That's what Paul says in

Ephesians 2:1 (NASB)

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

So, what Jesus is telling us here in John 5 is that those who hear His voice and respond to his call come to life in this very world in which we live.

Their dead bodies are buried with Him and literally raised from the dead.

When they hear His voice they will live

Then He talks about a second Resurrection in verse 28-29, and this is the Physical Resurrection.

He says **an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth**

And notice the He says **all who are in the tombs**

All the dead will hear His voice and

those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.

See those TWO Resurrections?

The first Resurrection is a spiritual Resurrection.

This is the one that saves you.

The second resurrection is not the one that saves you because a lot of people who are raised on that day are going to hell.

It's clear that only the first resurrection will save you.

Now, I bet you are curious about that first resurrection.

What is the first resurrection, and when does it happen?

Well, biblically ...

2. The First resurrection happens in baptism.

Here is what Paul says

Colossians 2:12-13 (NASB)

12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions,

The first resurrection is in Christian baptism.

If you have been buried with Christ in Christian baptism for the forgiveness of your sins, you have been raised from the dead.

Praise God.

People are being raised from the dead, and set free from the devil NOW.

Think about those who have given their lives over to the resurrected Christ, and surrendered their pride, and were buried with Him, and then raised from the dead.

Right here in Orcutt Christian Church, people are being raised from the dead, and we are plundering the devil's house.

Romans 6:2-4 (NASB)

2 How shall we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Or do you not know

that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

And, this brings us to the **third blessing** of the Millennium, which is ...

C. We Reign with Christ NOW!

Revelation 20:4 (NASB)

4 and they came to life and reigned with Christ of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

Remember we talked about Christ set up His Kingdom when He came the first time.

Jesus is reigning NOW seated on the right hand of the Father.

There are many passages that state this--

Mark 16:19 (NASB)

19 So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 (NASB)

3 When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

But, here's the point in this third blessing, we are co-reigning with Him NOW.

Revelation 5:10 (NASB)

10 "You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

Here's what Paul says about this in

Ephesians 2:5-6 (NASB)

5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in

Christ Jesus,

Paul says we are reigning, and what that means is that we have spiritual power.

We really can't conceptualize that **He gives us Spiritual Power -**

1. To reign over sin.

We have the power of choice to reign over sin in our lives.

Romans 6:11-14 (NASB)

11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, 13 and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.

2. To reign over death

At one time we were spiritual dead, but then we made a decision.

Romans 6:3-4 (NASB)

³ Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

And that choice to come alive gave us power over death..

Hebrews 2:14-15 (NASB)

14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.

So, Scripture gives us a wonderful picture of our Spiritual Power ...

3. To reign over the devil

1 John 4:4 (NASB)

4 You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

Romans 16:20 (NASB)

20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

And, here is the best news of all.

God promises us a future paradise in which we shall live.

That paradise is heaven it's self,

We don't have to go through a thousand year waiting period before we get to heaven.

The Bible makes it wonderfully clear that the Millennium is NOW.