

One Thousand Years of Peace

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Revelation 20:1-15.

B. The beast will be locked up for a thousand years.

II. Revelation teaches of a millennium yet to come.

A. There are two views on this.

1. Premillennialism. This position argues that there is a thousand year reign of Christ to come.

2. Amillennialism.

1. This position argues that the thousand years is figurative and the binding of Satan has taken place on the cross.

2. There was a time when Satan was bound at the cross.

3. However, Scripture shows that this binding was only valid for believers. Nonbelievers have been bound by Satan so that they cannot receive the gospel.

4. Even believers still need to oppose the devil. (I Peter)

5. The differences of this binding.

a. It was not done at the cross—it occurs at the Second Coming.

b. It was not done by Jesus—it was done by an angel.

c. The angel not only binds Satan, he puts severe restraint on him removing him completely from the earth. The angel shuts the door from without. (Isaiah 24:21-23)

6. The thousand years cannot be a metaphor because it is clearly a reference to time.

7. This is not the only passage in the New Testament that refers to the millennium, but it is the only one that refers to its length.

B. The purpose of this event is to keep Satan from deceiving the nations anymore.

C. Three distinct groups in the resurrection.

1. Those enthroned: the twelve disciples linked with restored Israel and the saints who overcame. (Matthew 19:28, Revelation 2)

2. The martyrs of the tribulation.

3. The unbelieving dead who will appear before the great white throne.

D. There is more than one resurrection.

1. The first resurrection must be a physical resurrection from the dead because of the word used.

2. Jesus is part of the first resurrection where the church will be taken away. (I Corinthians 15)

E. The purpose of the thousand years is to demonstrate without question that everyone is born with an evil nature.

1. What God wants to impress upon humanity is that the heart of man is desperately wicked. (Jeremiah)

2. This is why we need salvation.

3. Humanity will be greatly improved as a result of this awareness—man will make no more war. (Isaiah 2)

4. There will still be sin and death but righteousness will be dominant. (Isaiah 65)

5. There will still be people who are not born again who will respond to Satan when he is released. (Ezekiel 38-39)

6. The end of men is not annihilation, but eternal torment.

F. Satan and the nonbelievers are ultimately cast into the lake of fire.

1. Judgment will be according to what each person has done.

2. Deeds reveal the heart of a person.

G. The central question of life is whether one's name is written in the book of life.

1. One's name is in the book of life by belief in Jesus.

2. If we come to Jesus, we will be given life. (I John)

Application questions:

1. Did you find the speaker's argument for Premillennialism convincing? Explain

2. What is the purpose of the millennium? How is this relevant to believers today?

3. How can one find hope in the future events with regard to the end of Satan? How can one's faith be encouraged today?
