

91. The Book of Revelation—20:3

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Tonight, we come to Revelation Chapter 20 and to a subject that a lot of churches don't talk about anymore—the **Millennial Kingdom**.

The word "*millennium*" comes from two Latin words—*mille* and *annum* which together literally means, "*a thousand years.*"

As we studied last time—there are 3 main views among Christians concerning the millennium:

1. Amillennialism ("no millennium")

Those who hold to this view don't believe the thousand-year reign of Christ or Millennial Kingdom is a literal period of time—they see it as a symbolic term.

2. Postmillennialism

Those who hold to this view believe Jesus will return to the earth at the end of the thousand-year Millennial Kingdom—or 'post-millennium'.

3. Premillennialism

Premillennialism believes that the thousand years is a literal period of time and that it will begin when Jesus returns to the earth at His Second Coming.

At that time, Jesus will reign *on the earth over the earth* for a thousand years during which time Satan will be *literally* bound for the whole thousand-year period of time.

Now I hold to a premillennial eschatology—in other words I believe that Jesus will come back at His Second Coming *before* the Millennial Kingdom begins because—He will bring the Kingdom when He comes! But please don't confuse the Millennial Kingdom with the Eternal State.

Now at this point some of you might be thinking—"Why does the Lord bother with a Millennial Kingdom at all? Why not just have Jesus return and bring us right into the Eternal State (heaven)?"

There are some reasons why this thousand-year Kingdom is necessary:

1. To restore the creation

You remember how that in Genesis paradise was lost—well, the Millennial Kingdom (MK) is needed to redeem the earth from the curse according to God's promise—so that paradise can be restored.

Romans 8:19-23 (NKJV)

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. ²³ Not only *that*, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Isaiah 11:6-9 (NLT)

⁶ In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all.

⁷ The cow will graze near the bear. The cub and the calf will lie down together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. ⁸ The baby will play safely near the hole of a cobra. Yes, a little child will put its hand in a nest of deadly snakes without harm. ⁹ Nothing will hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain, for as the waters fill the sea, so the earth will be filled with people who know the Lord.

Isaiah 35:1-2, 5-10 (NLT)

¹ Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days. The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses [‘spring flowers’]. ² Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon. There the Lord will display his glory, the splendor of our God... ⁵ And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unplug the ears of the deaf.

⁶ The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will sing for joy! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness, and streams will water the wasteland. ⁷ The parched ground will become a pool, and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land. Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish where desert jackals once lived.

⁸ And a great road will go through that once deserted land. It will be named the Highway of Holiness. Evil-minded people will never travel on it. It will be only for those who walk in God’s ways; fools will never walk there [*‘the fool has said in his heart, ‘there is no God’*]. ⁹ Lions will not lurk along its course, nor any other ferocious beasts. There will be no other dangers. Only the redeemed will walk on it. ¹⁰ Those who have been ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Jerusalem singing, crowned with everlasting joy. Sorrow and mourning will disappear, and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

2. To fulfill God’s promises to Israel

God promised there was coming a time when He would give to the nation of Israel all the land He had promised them (Genesis 15 and 17; 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 89, etc.)—the boundaries of which were:

The Mediterranean Sea to the west, to the Euphrates River to the east, to Lebanon in the north, all the way down to the Negev Desert in the south.

3. To fulfill the Father’s promise to the Son

In Psalm 2; Isaiah 11; Psalm 89, etc.

4. To prove the depravity of the human heart

The MK will reveal the depth of man’s rebellious nature. It will prove that we are not just a product of our environment—that if we just had a perfect environment to live in, we’d be perfect people.

So, these are some of the reasons for a Millennial Kingdom, there are probably others.

Of course, the first order of business that has to be taken care of before the Kingdom can begin is that God will have to deal with Satan first.

Revelation 20:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

There is no way there can be an ideal world condition—there is no way there can be ‘paradise on earth’ as long as Satan is running around loose causing havoc.

There are many who say, “This ‘Angel’ is really the Lord Jesus Christ because only Jesus could bind such a powerful being like Satan.”

I don’t believe that—and the Bible doesn’t say that.

We read here that Satan is bound not by the Lord, not by a host of angels, not even by Michael the archangel—but by a single, unnamed angel (‘Melvin’, ‘Stanley’?). We often imagine a huge cosmic struggle going on in the spirit realm between God and Satan—and while we believe God will ultimately win—many seem to think ‘just barely’! Folks, that’s ridiculous! Christians often give Satan way too much credit—like he and God are rivals—counterparts of one another!

That is absolutely not true. Satan is not the evil counterpart of God—**God is God and has no equal!**

God—“I’m the Creator—this bozo is the creation! He is no match for Me!!”

There is none like the LORD our God, none who can even begin to challenge Him—

Deuteronomy 4:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ Therefore know this day, and consider *it* in your heart, that the LORD Himself *is* God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; *there is* no other.

Isaiah 44:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared *it*? You *are* My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed *there is* no other Rock; I know not *one*.”

Satan, previously known as the number one ‘archangel’ Lucifer, has always been a created being—thus, if there is a counterpart to Satan, it would be an archangel like Michael or Gabriel—but not God!

Revelation 20:2 (NKJV)

² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Listen carefully—Satan is not going to be completely bound until right here. Christians get too much of their doctrine from watching televangelists—instead of from reading and studying the Word of God!

I bring this up because many Christians have been taught to *rebuke* the devil and *bind* him—‘in the name of Jesus.’ You hear Christians praying, “Satan I bind you in the name of Jesus!”

Now, I know what they're saying but that's an unbiblical concept to think that we can "bind" Satan with our words so that he can't do his dirty work. If that's your concept of fighting spiritual warfare—you will be very frustrated and defeated in your Christian experience.

Now of course we can and should pray that God will *protect* us and *deliver* us from the devil's oppression and persecution.

Also, we can pray that God would use us to spread the gospel and expand His Kingdom on earth through our ministries—which will take territory away from Satan and thereby lessen his area of influence on the earth. But if you think you can 'bind Satan' with your words as if you're *tying* him up and thereby make him powerless to carry out his evil deeds—you are very much mistaken.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NKJV)

⁷ And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

If this doctrine of binding Satan was valid then why didn't Paul use it when he was being attacked by the devil?

- Why didn't Paul say, "*I was being attacked by the devil and I 'bound him' in the name of Jesus!*"

It's because that doctrine isn't true and is ignorant to the fact that—Satan can't do anything to us unless God allows him to (think of Job).

- "*Okay, so then, why does God allow the devil to attack us in the first place—or for that matter, why does God allow Satan to exist at all?*"

The simple answer to that is—because Satan is serving the purposes of God!

- *Just what are those purposes?*

First of all, because he is providing mankind with a choice, with an alternative.

Secondly, Satan is serving the purposes of God in our lives which is to teach us how to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ—how to persevere under pressure, so that we can be conformed into the image of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NKJV)

⁹ And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Romans 8:28–29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

James 1:2–4 (NKJV)

² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

Listen, if you could ‘bind’ Satan thru your words—you might be working against the purposes of God, you could be hindering the program of God Who is using the devil to bring forth His divine purposes in our lives and ultimately in the world.

If Paul could have bound Satan concerning his thorn in the flesh, it would have gone against the will of God who was allowing it to teach Paul humility.

➤ “So, you’re saying I shouldn’t do anything when Satan attacks me, I should just submit to it?”

No, I’m not saying that either—there’s a balance to this as with any principle in the Christian life. So much of the Christian life is about balance—learning to walk your walk between the extremes.

James and Peter help us to have balance with regard to the devil’s temptations and persecutions:

James 4:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you...

1 Peter 5:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. [‘bind him in the name of Jesus!’—no, he doesn’t say that] ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world...

So, we are commanded to *resist* the devil being steadfast in the faith—but we are not ever commanded to *bind* him.

We resist him by putting on the whole armor of God every day and walking closely with the Lord (Eph.6:11)—so we have a responsibility in all of this talk of spiritual warfare.

It’s so much easier to throw around ‘verbal formulas’—(“I bind you Satan”, “I rebuke you Satan”) than it is to put on the whole armor of God every day, to get up early and spend time with the Lord in prayer and in the Word—and resist the devil steadfast in the faith!

One pastor put it this way—

“Resist the devil and he will flee from you’—how many of you have ever had a hard time getting to Bible study, but somehow got there? I commend you because had you succumbed to those pressures, you would have faced them again and again. You see, because Satan isn’t omniscient, because he can’t read your mind or see into your heart, he’s dependent solely upon trial and error to see what works. Therefore, if he sees that a headache will keep you from worship and Bible study, guess what will happen. You’ll have headaches perpetually. If he sees that your kids acting up causes you to pull back, stay home, and not be where you should be, he’ll have found the key to slowing down your walk.

I am convinced that many people experience unnecessary hell in their homes or trials in their lives because they don’t understand this verse. They don’t realize that if they resist the devil, he will indeed flee.”

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

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