



“Reigning with Christ.”

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Revelation 20:1-10

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. ² And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, ³ and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. 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 ended. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

⁷ And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. ⁹ And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven ¹⁰ and consumed them, and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

SUMMARY

Christ is returning! This event will usher in a 1,000 year time of peace and righteousness on the earth as Jesus Christ personally and physically reigns on the earth. Satan will be imprisoned for the majority of this time, and redeemed saints will reign with Christ in various ways. Our future reign with our Savior should powerfully motivate our faithfulness and pursuit of a holy life.

PASSAGE OUTLINE

- I. Satan's Imprisonment
- II. The Saints Reign with Christ
- III. Satan's Final Defeat

Lessons for the Church from Christ's Millennial Reign

- I. Only Christ will establish a genuinely righteous society.
- II. Rewards for faithfulness include co-reigning responsibilities.
- III. Despite Satan's restraint and Christ's reign, humanity rebels against God.
- IV. No matter what happens, our God wins.

Swindoll, Living Insights NTC: Revelation, p. 282

"This condition will not be achieved through educational funding, political change, social programs, cultural awakening, or even religious revival. As promising as some of these things may be in the short term, fallen humanity ultimately foils all efforts at self-reformation."

James 3:16

¹⁶ For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

Swindoll, p. 282

"True global transformation will occur only when Satan and his minions are ousted, allowing Jesus Christ and His glorified saints to rule over the earth."

Daniel 7:27

²⁷ And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.

OUR CHARGE: WITNESS FOR CHRIST WITHOUT COMPROMISE.

Martin Luther, before the Diet of Worms, 1521

"My conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus, I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. Here I stand; I can do no other."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What specific personal details, memories, or impressions do you recall about your great-grandparents? (Names, locations, occupations, faith, etc.)
2. Read Revelation 20:1-15. Based on your observations of the passage, what main ideas are emphasized?
3. The binding and final defeat of Satan are two main ideas. What is his primary objective, according to what this passage says about him?
4. When Satan is bound and his influence removed for most of the 1,000 years, people born during this time will be saved by faith or will reject Christ. What will still deceive people with Satan bound for a time?
5. 30-40 generations of people will live over the course of 1,000 years. How are you trying to influence the generations in your lifetime toward Christ?
6. Who are specific people you are seeking to reach with the good news of Jesus Christ?
7. What challenged you or gripped your heart most from this week's sermon?

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