The Millennium
PART I
Revelation 20:1-6

MAIN THOUGHT To the begin the Millennium, PUNISHMENTS (SATAN – 1-3) and REWARDS (SAINTS – 4-6) are given. To end the Millennium, Satan (Battle of Gog and Magog – 7-10) and the WICKED are judged (Great White Throned Judgment – 11-15).

INTRODUCTION: These last three chapters of the Bible form an inclusio – reflecting many of the themes of the first three chapters of Genesis.

ITS BEGINNING (1-6),

PUNISHMENT FOR SATAN – CHAINED IN THE ABYSS (1-3).

- This ABYSS (GK=α [neg.] buthos [deep]) – the bottomless pit (lit.) that contained demons (9:1-3; Luke 8:30-31); an angel was given the KEY and a GREAT CHAIN (Peter – Acts 12:6; Paul – 2 Tim. 1:16).
- The DRAGON (14x in Rev.) has many names: (1) satan (55x – accuser); (2) the devil (35x – slanderer); (3) ancient serpent (8x – 12:9; Gen. 3:1); also Lucifer, Beelzebub, Belial, evil one, tempter, prince of this world, god of this age, prince of the power of the air, and angel of light.
- Satan was first kicked out of heaven (12:9; Isa. 14:12; Luke 10:18); now he is kicked out of earth and bound into the bottomless pit – shut and sealed.
- The 1000 years (mille [LAT=thousand] nnium [LAT=year] – 6x here) is taken symbolically (2 Pet. 3:8) by some (a-millennial), it is best to take it literally (pre-millennial) as other numbers – 1260 days / 42 months (11:2-3).
- The millennial reign of Christ will have no devil or demons – utopia!

- His DESCRIPTION: (1) EYES – blazing fire (1:14); (2) HEAD – many crowns; (3) ROBE – dipped in blood (Isa. 63:3); (4) MOUTH – sharp sword (1:16; 2:16).

- His ARMIES: (1) CHRIST on His WHITE HORSE symbolizing victory (contrast Antichrist’s white horse – 6:2); (2) the SAINTS (church) on WHITE HORSES with fine LINEN, white and clean (19:8) and ANGELS (Matt. 25:31; 2 Thess. 1:7; Jude 14-15).

- His ACTIVITIES: (1) JUDGE (15:3; 16:5, 7; Isa. 11:3-4); (2) WARRIOR to fight the beast (13:4; Isa. 2:4); (3) STRIKE DOWN the nations (Psa. 2:8-9); (4) RULE (GK=pomaino – to shepherd) with an iron scepter (2:27; 12:5); (5) TREADS the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty (14:19-20; Isa. 62:2-3).

REWARDS FOR SAINTS – REIGNING WITH CHRIST (4-6).

- Yet another angel standing in the sun (to be seen by birds?) gives a grim invitation to birds (vultures – Matt. 24:28; Luke 17:37) – come together for the GREAT SUPPER OF GOD to eat the flesh of all people: kings, generals, mighty men, horses and riders, and all men.
- What a contrast to the WEDDING SUPPER OF THE LAMB (9).
- Then the beast, the kings, and their armies gathered to make war (Psa. 2:1-3) – the BATTLE OF ARMAGEDDON (anticipated in 14:14-20; 16:14-16).
- With great economy of words, the beast and the false prophet were captured (2 Thess. 2:8). These were the DECEIVERS (Matt. 24:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:25).
- These two were thrown into the FIERY LAKE OF BURNING SULFUR: (1) these were the first two (10) here in HELL (Matt. 5:22 – GK=gehenna); (2) not annihilation (cease to exist) or purgatory (cleansing), but alive (conscious).
- The rest were killed by the sword from Christ’s mouth (15; Isa. 11:4). Their flesh was consumed by birds; their souls and spirits went to HADES where all the wicked are held for final judgment (1:18; 20:13-14; Luke 16:23).