



SESSION 36 | REVELATION 20:1-6 | THE MILLENNIUM

THE BINDING OF SATAN | REVELATION 20:1-3

- Verse 1 – the angel with the key
 - The abyss:
 - Note from Rev. 9:2 - "Bottomless" is *abussos*, which is "a" (the negator) and *buthos* (a deep pool of water, even the ocean). It is literally, "without depth."
 - The word is often not translated in many English versions, but left as "abyss," as in Luke 8:31 or Romans 10:7 in NASB. It is the home of "the beast" in Rev. 17:8, and the place where Satan is imprisoned by an angel, who is given the key, in Rev. 20:1-3.
 - The abyss is *not* hell, but is a place of imprisonment for demonic forces.
- Verse 2 –
 - **Laid hold**--This is a power word, based on *kratos*, from which we get all of our "*cracy" words, such as democracy, theocracy, etc.
 - **That old serpent** - This is one of the final chapters in that Genesis 3:15 promise that is the "tent peg" for the plot-line of Scripture.
 - **Bound him** - This is the only place in the Bible where Satan is bound. 100% of the charismatic teaching of "binding Satan" is man-made, and is a result of a-millennial or post-millennial Kingdom theology.
 - **A thousand years** - This period is the *millennium*, upon which all pre-mil, post-mil, and a-mil theology is built. The Greek word is χίλιοι [*chilioi*] upon which the word *chiliasm* is built. Chiliasm is the word used in church history for millennial beliefs. Prior to Augustine, the belief of a literal 1,000 year Kingdom was very widely taught.
- Verse 3 –
 - Shut up and sealed:
 - The Critical Text changes this to "shut *it* and sealed *it*", with the reference being the pit, rather than Satan.
 - Since the emphasis is on the chain that binds Satan, it seems more accurate that Satan was **shut up** and **a seal** was set upon **him**.
 - Whether or not the abyss was shut up and sealed is irrelevant. Furthermore, the shutting and sealing was done so that "**he should deceive the nations no more.**" It is about Satan, not the Abyss.
 - Satan's deception:
 - The English word *planets* comes from this root word, πλανη [*plane*].
 - The planets were so named because they "wander." Satan's role, from Genesis 3, was to get man to wander around rather than stay put in the Word of God.

- **“till”** –
 - This is always a time word, and therefore is significant to dispensational readers. The word indicates that something is going to fundamentally change in the future.
- **A little season** –
 - Literally a μικρον χρονον [*micron kronon*], or "little time."
 - Since the Greek has ability to speak in general of short times and long times, and since this passage uses the term 1,000 years repeatedly, why would some say that the 1,000 years is just "a long time."
 - This is unmerited and unmitigated rejection of the meaning of words.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION | REVELATION 20:4-6

- **I saw thrones** –
 - Who is "they" that sit upon these thrones and judge?
 - Avoid speculation, and allow Scripture to answer the question.
 - The most likely possibility is Matthew 19:28: Jesus and His 12 Apostles.
 - The 24 Elders also sit on thrones (Rev. 4:4), but no indication is given that they judge the dead.
 - 1 Cor. 6:2 speaks of saints judging the world, but this is a judgment of the dead, so the verse is only mildly relevant.
- **The souls of men** – Though this could be more than one group of people (the beheaded plus those who hadn't received the mark), in its context it is better to read that all of these people were dead.
- **They lived** - Though this could be more than one group of people (the beheaded plus those who hadn't received the mark), in its context it is better to read that all of these people were dead.
- **They reigned** - The reign with Christ is also shared by faithful believers - 2 Tim. 2:12.
- **The rest** - This is perfect evidence that the judgment is for the martyrs of the Tribulation, not the "overcomers."
- **The first resurrection** –
 - Remember that John is speaking to a Jewish audience, using Jewish language and theology.
 - Luke 14:14 Jesus spoke of the "resurrection of the just."
 - Since the church and its resurrection was "hidden in God," it makes sense that this is the first resurrection of the Jewish scriptures.
- **The second death** - The second death is the Lake of Fire.