

Behold | Sermons through the Revelation

Sermon #41 | Revelation 20:1-3 | Joy to the World!

Revelation 20:1-3 | The Beginning of Messiah's Reign

- Verse 1 – There is a place called **the bottomless pit**. In Greek: *the abyss*. One blessed angel, a servant of the returned Lord, comes with two wonderful things in his hands: **the key** and a **great chain**.
- Verse 2 – This angel **laid hold** of Satan and **bound him a thousand years**.
 - **Laid hold** is a *power word*, from the Greek root *kratos*. We get words like *democracy*, *plutocracy*, *mediocracy*, *idiocracy* from this word. But the coming day is one of *Christocracy*!
 - **Bound him** – this is the *only* place in Scripture where we see Satan bound. All of the *bind Satan* theologies of the modern church are based on a post-millennial or amillennial theology.
 - **A thousand years** – This phrase will be used six times in verses 1-7, without a hint of being figurative language. We must take it as literal.
- In verse 2 we have the second of two “tent pegs” upon which the plot-line of Scripture is tied secure. From Genesis 3:1 to Revelation 20:2 **that old serpent** is always creeping through creation, fighting against man and God. In Genesis 3:15 his destruction is promised, in Revelation 20:2, his capture is accomplished.
- Verse 3 – the angel **shut him up and put a seal upon him**. Notice that modern versions put the lid and the seal on *the abyss*. It is actually on *Satan himself*.
- Satan is bound so that **he should deceive the nations no more** (v. 3). Deception is *exactly* what Satan has done from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden. Wherever there is deception, the **old serpent** is crawling in the shadows somewhere!
- Satan will be bound and there will be no deception for a thousand years. After that, however, **he must be loosed for a little season** (v. 3).
 - Why must he be loosed? We are not told, but perhaps two reasons:
 - Because eternity future must be inhabited by people who chose to be there.
 - Because humanity deserves to watch a *spectacular defeat* of her *greatest enemy*.
 - How long is this **little season**?

- We are not told, but the Greek uses the term *micron chronon*.
- If the Greek language can say **little season**, couldn't it also say *long season*? If the 1,000 years is *symbolic*, why not put a symbolic number on this little season?

The Millennium and the Birth of Christ

- The birth of Jesus Christ is much more focused on *the millennium* than it is *the passion of Christ*.
 - Zechariah – Luke 1:68-74
 - Mary – Luke 1:32-33
 - Shepherds – Luke 2:13-14
 - Magi / Herod – Matthew 2:1-2
- Our Christmas carols are largely focused on *the millennium*.
 - *Noel, noel, born is the King of Israel*
 - *See within a manger laid Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!*
 - *Then pealed the bells more loud and deep; "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."*
 - *For lo! the days are hast'ning on, By prophet bards foretold, When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.*
 - *O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!*
 - *Joy to the World! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King!... No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found. ...He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love...*
- Why was Jesus born?
 - The “standard evangelical answer” is that Jesus was born to die.
 - His death, burial, and resurrection were only a *means to the end*.
 - The Bible teaches that Jesus was *born to reign!*
 - Romans 14:9
 - Isaiah 9:6