

12-11-2016

**Message: From Christ's First to Second Advent, Part 2**

**Text: Revelation 20:1-15**

**Introduction**

A. Last week we began looking at Revelation 20, where a period of 1,000 years known as the millennium is mentioned for the first and only time in the New Testament. Because different views of when this period of time occurs in relation to Jesus's Second Coming have been popular during different segments of the last 2,000 years, we looked at a description, explanation, and historical emergence of these various views (show millennial views graphic) under the major point ...

**I. Where sincere, evangelical believers place the millennium in relation to Christ's Second Coming.**

B. We then began making a case for viewing the millennium as that period of time between Christ's first and second advent or coming, which is called the "realized millennial" or "amillennial" view.

**II. The case for seeing Revelation 20:1-15 as describing the period between Christ's first and second coming.**

A. The final battle in 20:7-10, which takes place after the 1,000 years, is a parallel vision of the same final battle pictured previously at Christ's second coming, placing the 1,000 years before Christ's return.

1. The gathering together of the nations for war under Satan's deceptive influence is repeated in prior visions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ, indicating that these are the same battle. (If true, then regardless of how the visions of 20:1-6 might be understood, they must represent situations occurring before Christ's return - 2:7).

Revelation 20:7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to **gather (sunago) them together for the war**; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.

Revelation 16:14 for they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the whole world, to **gather (sunago) them together for the war** of the great day of God, the Almighty. 15 ("**Behold, I am coming like a thief.** ....") 16 And they gathered them together to the place which in Hebrew is called Har-Magedon.

Revelation 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies **gathered (sunago) to make war** against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.

2. The destruction of the present world (cosmos) depicted in Revelation 20:11 is pictured also in conjunction with Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming in 16:17-21, 6:12-14.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence **earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.**

Revelation 16:19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 **And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.**

Revelation 6:12 I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and **the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth,** as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. 14 **The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.**

Matthew 24:29 "But immediately after the tribulation of those days **THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.** 30 "And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see **the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.**

3. 20:7-10 and 19:17-19 both draw imagery from the same eschatological battle of the nations against God and His people in Ezekiel 38,39, indicating that 20:7-10 and 19:17-19 are the same battle at Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming.

Revelation 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, **saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."**

Ezekiel 39:17 "As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, '**Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, "Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. 18 "You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, .... 20 "You will be gluttoned at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war,"** declares the Lord GOD.

Revelation 20:8 and (Satan) will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog,** to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And **they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came**

**down from heaven and devoured them.**

Ezekiel 39:1 "And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, **O Gog**, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal; 2 and I will turn you around, drive you on, take you up from the remotest parts of the north and **bring you against the mountains of Israel.** ... 6 "And **I will send fire upon Magog** and those who inhabit the coastlands in safety; and they will know that I am the LORD.

- B. Since Christ destroys all of His enemies in 19:11-21, there will be no unbelievers for Satan to amass for war against Christ after His second coming. Yet 20:3,8 indicate that Satan will gather unbelieving humans from the nations in great numbers "like the sand of the seashore" to war against God and His people. Since no unbeliever survives the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ in 19:19-21, where did these unbelievers come from? (Show cycles of Revelation graphic) Therefore, chapter 20 begins a new cycle of visions covering the period from the first to the second coming of Christ. The gathering of the nations in 20:8 is the same gathering as in 19:19. That no unbeliever survives Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming ...

Revelation 6:15 Then the **kings of the earth** and the **great men** and the **commanders** and the **rich** and the **strong** and **every slave and free man** hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;<sup>16</sup> and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;<sup>17</sup> for **the great day of their wrath has come**, and who is able to stand?"

Revelation 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God,<sup>18</sup> **so that you may eat the flesh of kings** and the flesh of **commanders** and the flesh of **mighty men** and the flesh of horses and of **those who sit on them** and **the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.**"<sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.<sup>20</sup> And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.<sup>21</sup> And **the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

2 Thessalonians 1:6 For after all **it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you,**<sup>7</sup> and **to give relief to you who are afflicted** and to us as well **WHEN the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire,**<sup>8</sup> **dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.**<sup>9</sup> These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,<sup>10</sup> **WHEN He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day,** and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

- C. The final judgment of the world does not take place a 1,000 years after Christ's second coming, but **at** His second coming!

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, **I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.**

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and **the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.** 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and **they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.**

Matthew 25:31 "But **when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him,** then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 "All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and **He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.** 34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ... 41 "Then **He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; ... 46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."**

John 5:22 "For **not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,**<sup>23</sup> so that all will honor the Son even as they honor the Father.

Acts 10:42 "And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that **this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.**

- D. Summary conclusion: If the final battle of Revelation 20:7-10 is a parallel vision with previous visions of Christ's Second Coming, including 19:11-21, then 20:7 makes it clear that Christ Second Coming is AFTER the 1,000 years of 20:1-6. Whether or not we can clearly interpret the symbolism of 20:1-6, what is clear that what is represented by this 1,000 year period occurs BEFORE Jesus comes a second time to earth.

### III. 20:1-3 The binding of Satan

Revelation 20:1-3 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound** (deo) him for a thousand years;<sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss, and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, **so that he would not deceive the nations any longer,** until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

- A. If the millennium occurs prior to Christ's second advent, then the binding of Satan and the

reign of the deceased saints during the millennial period are best understood as blessings of Christ's authority to restrain the devil's power during the interadvental period, won by His death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father's right hand.

- B. That Satan is still alive and active on the earth is clearly attested to by the Scriptures.

Romans 16:20 **The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.** The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, **so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.**

1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. **Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

- C. But since the vision is not photographic (spirits are not really held by chains), it does not indicate the devil's absence from the earth, but rather a restraining of his power to "deceive the nations," perhaps referring to his former power to keep the nations in the same darkness as was the case before the first coming of Christ. With the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, Satan is restrained from preventing the gospel from reaching the nations. Notice in Ephesians 2:13,14 that the Gentiles were brought near to Christ by His "blood," by His "abolishing in His flesh the enmity," making "the two into one new man, establishing peace."

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands--<sup>12</sup> **remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**<sup>13</sup> But **now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**<sup>14</sup> For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,<sup>15</sup> by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,

- D. That Christ's first coming negatively impacted Satan's dominion and power is clearly attested by the Scriptures.

1. That the binding of Satan began with Christ's first coming is evidenced by incidents of such binding recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Mark (3:27), where the deliverance of individuals from demons is likened to Jesus binding a strong man (Satan) and plundering his possessions.

Matthew 12:27 "If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges. 28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God,

then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 "Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first **binds** (deo) the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

2. Christ's "binding" of Satan did not cause a cessation of Satan's activities, but a restraining of His activity.

Luke 10:17 The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." 18 And He said to them, "**I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.**" 19 "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you.

John 12:31 "Now judgment is upon this world; **now the ruler of this world will be cast out.**" 32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

Colossians 1:13 For **He rescued us from the domain of darkness,** and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Colossians 2:15 When **He had disarmed the rulers and authorities,** He made a public display of them, **having triumphed over them through Him.**

Hebrews 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that **through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,**

#### IV. 20:4-6 The millennial reign of the saints with Christ.

- A. Christ's reign is in heaven during the interadvental period, until the time to abolish His last enemy - death.

Revelation 12:5 And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron; and **her child was caught up to God and to His throne.**

1 Corinthians 15:25 For **He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.** <sup>26</sup> **The last enemy that will be abolished is death.**

Psalms 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: "**Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.**"

- B. The saints coming to life, the first resurrection, might refer to what is pictured of the dead in Christ in 6:9-11 and to what Paul anticipates after martyrdom.

Revelation 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw **the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony**

**of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life (zao) and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.**

Revelation 6:9 When the Lamb broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar **the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;** 10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, would be completed also.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, **having the desire to depart and be with Christ,** for that is very much better;

- C. While it is commonly asserted that since the verb “zao,” “live” is used of a physical resurrection in 20:5, it must also refer to a physical resurrection in 20:4, this might not be a necessary deduction, since the (referred to) first and (stated) second death are not of the same essence. The first death is purely physical, the second death is/includes the spiritual. The focus here of the implied second resurrection is on the wicked, “the rest of the dead” who do not participate in the blessing of the first resurrection.
1. Believers experience 2 resurrections - spiritual and physical, and 1 death - physical.
  2. Unbelievers experience 1 resurrection - physical, and 2 deaths - physical and spiritual.
- D. Thus, 20:1-6 serves to encourage believers’ perseverance and comfort them in the face of physical death.

## **Conclusion**

- A. Whether we understand Christ’s return to occur before or after the millennial period of Revelation 20 is not so important that it ought to fracture our fellowship, but it is important. It is important when we preach the gospel of Christ’s birth, sinless life, death, resurrection, ascension, His present reign from God’s throne, and His return to judge the world in righteousness and make all creation new, that we proclaim ...
1. No one will survive the return of Jesus who does not belong to Jesus. So come to and remain in Christ by faith.

1 John 2:28 Now, little children, **abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.**

2. That at Christ's Second Coming He will judge the entire world in righteousness, assigning believers and unbelievers their respective eternal destinies of eternal life in the new heavens and earth, or eternal death in hell.
3. That Satan will not be able to prevent the gospel from being proclaimed to the whole world, saving every one of God's chosen ones from every tribe, language, people, nation.

Matthew 24:14 "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

4. That the church will be present on earth during Satan's most intense persecution at the end of the age, and must prepare herself by God's grace to suffer in the flesh for Christ's sake.

1 Peter 4:1 Therefore, **since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose**, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,<sup>2</sup> so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.


5. That believers who die before Christ's return will in their disembodied spirits live and reign with Christ in heaven.
6. That when Christ returns we won't have to wait another 1,000 years before He vindicates us, does away with all sin, suffering, sadness, death, and brings into eternal, glorious fulness of our inheritance with Him in the new heavens and earth.


Therefore, in this world of sin, believe, proclaim, and be comforted with the blessed hope of the gospel.





# The Cycles of Visions in Revelation


## The appearing of Christ

Cycle 1: 7 seals 4: 1-8:1 


Cycle 2: 7 trumpets 8:2-11:19 

Cycle 3: the war & harvest 12:1-14:20 

Cycle 4: 7 bowls 15:1-16:21  
plus pronouncements  
on Babylon 17:1-19 

Cycle 5: white horse judgment 19:11-21 

Cycle 6: white throne judgment 20: 1-21:8 

Cycle 7: The New Jerusalem 21:9-22:5 

# MILLENNIAL VIEWS

