

**SERMON:**

# **Revelation 20**

**The Kingdom Belongs to Christ**

# **SUMMARY STATEMENT**

**The Revelation of John is a Christocentric book that shows us the pattern of this world from Christ's first coming to His second coming.**

**John wants us to see the spiritual realities around us, to recognize the dangers that face us, and to know that God is going to win.**

**Revelation calls us, then, to wisdom, to perseverance, and to worship.**

# **OUTLINE OF REVELATION**

Prologue (1)

**1. The Seven Churches (2-3)**

The Throne Room of Heaven (4-5)

**2. The Seven Seals (6)**

144,000 Sealed and a Great Multitude (7)

**3. The Seven Trumpets (8-9)**

The Two Witnesses (10-11)

**4. The Sevenfold Saga of the Woman and the Dragon (12-14)**

The Saints Beside the Sea (15)

**5. The Seven Bowls (16)**

Fallen, Fallen is Babylon the Great (17-18)

**6. Seven Scenes of Victory**

# SEVEN SCENES OF JUDGMENT

1. Revelation 19:1 – After this I heard...

## **The Saints Are Vindicated**

2. Revelation 19:6 – Then I heard...

## **The Marriage Feast of the Lamb**

3. Revelation 19:11 – Then I saw...

## **The Rider on the White Horse**

4. Revelation 19:17 – Then I saw...

## **The Defeat of the Beasts**

5. Revelation 20:1 – Then I saw...

## **The Dragon Bound**

6. Revelation 20:4 – Then I saw

## **The Thousand Years**

7. Revelation 20:11 – Then I saw...

## **The Great White Throne**

**Theme:** As God's judgment reaches its end, John sees seven scenes that display God's great victory – God's people are vindicated and joined to Christ, Christ returns as the glorious king, the Beasts and the Dragon are defanged and destroyed and God is declared the Judge of All

# REVELATION 20

*<sup>1</sup>Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. <sup>2</sup>And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>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.*

# REVELATION 20

*<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>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.*

## **REVELATION 20**

*<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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 and consumed them, <sup>10</sup>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.*

# REVELATION 20

*<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*

*<sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*



**Proposition:** Satan, our great enemy, may be powerful but he is not all-powerful. Both his power and his time are limited and then he will be utterly destroyed. Our God will be victorious and will be the final judge, so endure with patience waiting for that day.

- A. Satan Bound: the deceiver deceives no longer
- B. The Saints Reign: the kingdom belongs to Christ
- C. God Sits in Judgment: evil is destroyed forever
- D. Revelation 20 and Us: waiting for this

# **SATAN BOUND**

The Deceiver Deceives No Longer

Revelation 20:1-3

# REVELATION 20:1-3

the accuser

*<sup>1</sup>Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain.*

*<sup>2</sup>And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, <sup>3</sup>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.*

## **GENESIS 3:1, 9-13**

*<sup>1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. . . . <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."*

## **REVELATION 12:7-12**

*<sup>7</sup>Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, <sup>8</sup>but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. <sup>9</sup>And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world--he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. <sup>10</sup>And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. <sup>11</sup>And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. <sup>12</sup>Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"*

# REVELATION 20:1-3

the accuser

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## **GENESIS 1:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

*<sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

## **PROVERBS 8:22-29**

*<sup>22</sup>"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. <sup>23</sup>Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. <sup>24</sup>When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. <sup>25</sup>Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, <sup>26</sup>before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. <sup>27</sup>When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, <sup>28</sup>when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, <sup>29</sup>when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth,*



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Satan's power is severely restricted for a time

Creation's curse is being undone

## **EXODUS 20:6**

*but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

## **EXODUS 34:7**

*keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,*

## **DEUTERONOMY 7:9**

*who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,*

# PSALM 90:1-7

- 1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.*
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*
- 3 You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"*
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past,  
or as a watch in the night.*
- 5 You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning:*
- 6 in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.*
- 7 For we are brought to an end by your anger;  
by your wrath we are dismayed.*

## **II PETER 3:8-10**

*<sup>8</sup>But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.*

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# **THE SAINTS REIGN**

The Kingdom Belongs to Christ

Revelation 20:4-10

## **REVELATION 20:4-10**

*<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>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.*

## **REVELATION 20:4-10**

*<sup>7</sup>And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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 and consumed them, <sup>10</sup>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.*



## REVELATION 20:4-10

all the saints

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## **EZEKIEL 37:1-6**

*<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."*

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## **EZEKIEL 38:1-6**

*<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>"Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him <sup>3</sup>and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. <sup>4</sup>And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. <sup>5</sup>Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; <sup>6</sup>Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes--- many peoples are with you.*

## **EZEKIEL 39:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup>"As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD: Speak to the birds of every sort and to all beasts of the field, 'Assemble and come, gather from all around to the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you, a great sacrificial feast on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood. <sup>18</sup>You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth---of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. <sup>19</sup>And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you. <sup>20</sup>And you shall be filled at my table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,' declares the Lord GOD.*

## **REVELATION 19:17-21 ≈ REVELATION 20:7-10**

*<sup>17</sup>Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup>to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." <sup>19</sup>And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. <sup>20</sup>And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. <sup>21</sup>And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.*

# THE SEVEN SCENES OF VICTORY

$4+2+1=7$

The Saints are Vindicated



The Marriage Feast of the Lamb



The Rider on the White Horse



The Defeat of the Beasts

The Great Battle

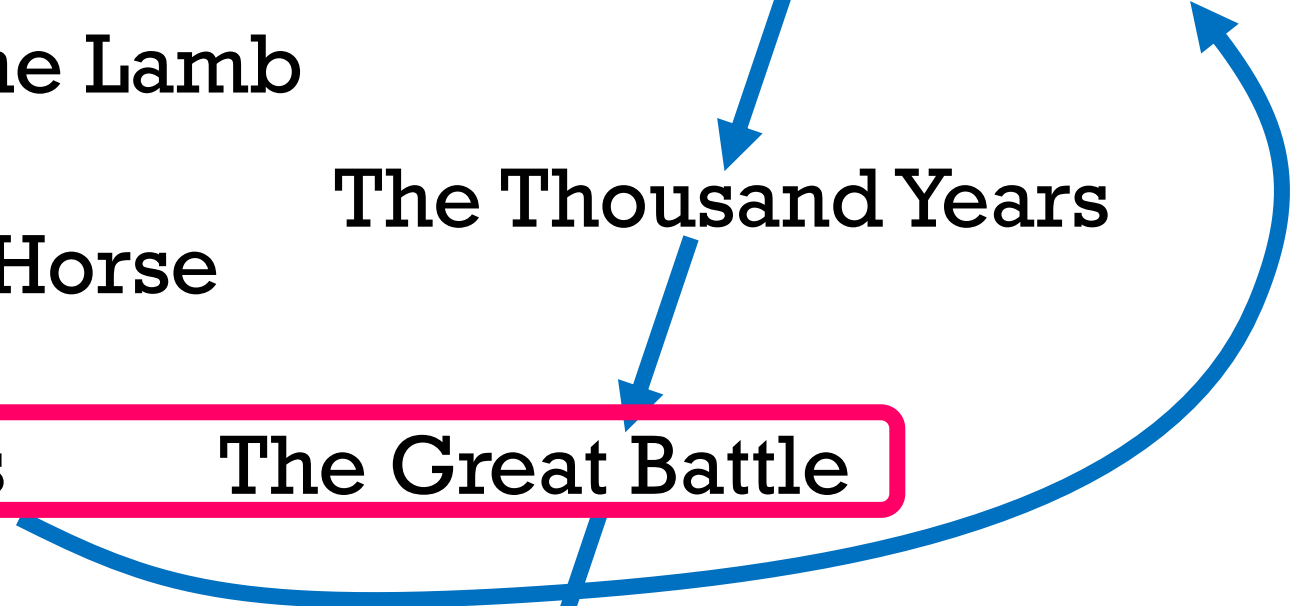
The Dragon Bound



The Thousand Years



The Final Judgment



*\*\*Not necessarily temporally, rather logically or literarily*

# THE MILLENNIUM: FOUR COMMON UNDERSTANDINGS

## Classic Premillennialism

- Christ returns and then the millennium occurs (simple)

## Amillennialism

- The Dragon bound = Christ's triumph at the cross, the millennium is now

## Dispensational Premillennialism

- Christ returns and then the millennium occurs during which the Old Testament promises to Israel are fulfilled for ethnic Israel

## Postmillennialism

- The saints must reign on earth for a thousand years for Christ to return



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## Postmillennialism

- The saints must reign on earth for a thousand years for Christ to return

# **THE MILLENNIUM: THREE DIFFERENT APPLICATIONS**

## **Classic Premillennialism + Amillennialism**

- Pursue holiness, waiting for the return of Christ

## **Dispensational Premillennialism**

- Support the ethnopolitical nation of Israel in her attempt to retake the holy land to prepare for Christ

## **Postmillennialism**

- Take control of the governments of the world and establish theocracies to prepare for Christ

# **GOD SITS IN JUDGMENT**

Evil Is Destroyed Forever

Revelation 20:11-15

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*

*<sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

## **DANIEL 7:9-10**

9     *"As I looked, thrones were placed,  
          and the Ancient of Days took his seat;  
his clothing was white as snow,  
          and the hair of his head like pure wool;  
his throne was fiery flames;  
          its wheels were burning fire.*

10    *A stream of fire issued  
          and came out from before him;  
a thousand thousands served him,  
          and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him;  
the court sat in judgment,  
          and the books were opened.*

## **DANIEL 12:1-4**

*<sup>1</sup>"At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. <sup>2</sup>And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup>And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. <sup>4</sup>But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."*



## **PSALM 69:24-29**

*<sup>24</sup>Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them. <sup>25</sup>May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents. <sup>26</sup>For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded. <sup>27</sup>Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you. <sup>28</sup>Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous. <sup>29</sup>But I am afflicted and in pain; let your salvation, O God, set me on high!*

## **EXODUS 32:30-34**

*<sup>30</sup>The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." <sup>31</sup>So Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup>But now, if you will forgive their sin---but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written." <sup>33</sup>But the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup> But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them."*

## **REVELATION 20:11-15**

*<sup>11</sup>Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them.*

*<sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup>Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. <sup>15</sup>And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

# **REVELATION 20 AND US**

Shall we argue over the millennium  
or live for Christ?

## II PETER 3:14-18

*<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup>And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup>But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

①  
②  
③  
④  
⑤

**APPLICATION: AS WE ARE WAITING...**

**1. We should pursue holiness**

## II PETER 3:14-18

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## **APPLICATION: AS WE ARE WAITING...**

- 1. We should pursue holiness**
- 2. We should pursue the spread of the gospel**



## II PETER 3:14-18

*<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup>And count the ② patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup>But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

## **APPLICATION: AS WE ARE WAITING...**

- 1. We should pursue holiness**
- 2. We should pursue the spread of the gospel**
- 3. We should be wary of getting carried away by novel theology**

## II PETER 3:14-18

*<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. <sup>15</sup>And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, <sup>16</sup>as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. <sup>17</sup>You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not **③** carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. <sup>18</sup>But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

## **APPLICATION: AS WE ARE WAITING...**

- 1. We should pursue holiness**
- 2. We should pursue the spread of the gospel**
- 3. We should be wary of getting carried away by novel theology**
- 4. We should pursue Christ and His gospel**

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## REVELATION 20:4-10

all the saints

*<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>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.*

**Proposition:** Satan, our great enemy, may be powerful but he is not all-powerful. Both his power and his time are limited and then he will be utterly destroyed. Our God will be victorious and will be the final judge, so endure with patience waiting for that day.

- A. Satan Bound: the deceiver deceives no longer
- B. The Saints Reign: the kingdom belongs to Christ
- C. God Sits in Judgment: evil is destroyed forever
- D. Revelation 20 and Us: waiting for this

## KIDS' QUESTION:

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MILLENNIUM IN REVELATION?

The millennium encourages believers that we will not always be in Satan's dominion, but the kingdom will be given to us. So we wait for Christ with patient endurance.