

GOD'S VISIONS AND DREAMS CANNOT BE DEFEATED!

REVELATION 20

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Introduction

Chapter 20: The Next Wave of Judgment

Entrenched evil is not easily eradicated

This is an important lesson when we confront evil in our own lives as well as the lives of others

Much of our efforts to confront evil are focused upon dismantling rather than destruction

Millennialism Defined:

The thousand-year reign of Christ and those who have suffered because of their faith

(Note: Not all Christians will participate in the thousand-year reign)

Pre-millennialism teaches at the return of Christ, the events described in Revelation 20: 1-4 will occur

Post-millennialism teaches that the return of Christ after the millennialism. Thus the millennialism represents the triumph of the Gospel in this present age

A-millennialism teaches that the thousand years is to be understood symbolically (Psalm 90: 4; II Peter 3: 8) and represents the period between the earthy life of Jesus and his second coming

Rooted in Judaic Messianic Beliefs of Early Christian Believers

Daniel 2: 44; 7: 14, 27, Messiah to establish kingdom on earth

Later on earth was believed to be so corrupt that a new earth and heaven had to be created

A Controversial Doctrine

This is only place in New Testament where it is specifically taught

Some early church fathers such as Justin Martyr and Tertullian accepted it while others such as Origen and Augustine rejected certain aspects of it.

Resolving the Millennialism Debate:

Keeping the main thing the main thing:

Belief in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord is the essence of faith, not differing beliefs about baptism, communion, bishops, church organization, women in ministry, speaking in tongues or millennialism.

The Lord Jesus will return, however or whenever!

Remember II Timothy 2: 23 and spirit of Romans 14: 5-13

Verses 1-3, Satan and the Wizard of Oz

One unnamed angel seizes Satan and binds him

How did Satan become powerful enough to control kingdoms? Luke 4: 5-6

The abyss: Luke 8: 30-31

Verses 4-5, The privilege of judgment

Three fundamental and foundational tenets of scripture are found here

The eternal dimension

A radical reversal of power

Justification of sacrifices of the righteous
Bible is not Pie-in-the sky-theology
An eternal and Almighty God transcends the limitations of time
Many of those who are most active on behalf of social justice have a
theistic foundation and believe in the eternal dimension
The belief in eternity should not make one lazy, but strengthened in their
fight for justice because they know they are on the winning side

Verse 6, First and Second Deaths

Don't die before your time

First death may be unavoidable, second death is controllable

Verses 7-10, The final conflict

Identities of Gog and Magog are not clear. They are either ancient nations that
opposed Israel or two leaders of ancient enemies of Israel. They represent the
forces of evil.

Evil is neither destroyed nor converted during the thousand-year reign, just
contained.

Millennium represents and embodies the promise of Psalm 23: 5

The saints do not have to fight final battle; the wrath of God does that

Devil is cast into the lake of fire to LIVE in torment forevermore.

Verses 11-15, The Final Judgment

Judgment is for all, small and great

The book of the first birth and the book of the second birth (life)

Judgment is for all no matter the circumstances of their death (no more wandering
or restless spirits or ghosts)

Death and hell (the place where the love of God is absent) no longer exist.