



REVELATION (PART 30) | REVELATION 20:1-6
10 APRIL 2016 + PASTOR JEFF ALEXANDER

Revelation is apocalyptic. The “uncovering” of Jesus Christ, and Him alone, is the point and purpose.

Saturated with symbolism, Revelation is structured around parallel visions of the same period: the “End Times” stretching from Christ’s ascension until His Second Coming.

All of the Bible unites in Christ and is given direction from Him. If we ever shift the focus away from Christ and His saving work, we lose the main message.

We must remember this as we read: ***It’s all about Jesus!!!***

Revelation 20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

The 1,000-year period, during which Satan is bound and Jesus’ kingdom is made known, is called the millennium.

10 x 10 x 10 = 1,000 = Completely Complete

Christians understand the millennium in various ways. Lutherans hold an “Amillennial” or “Realized Millennial” view, focusing on the spiritual kingdom of Jesus *right now* and His one-time, final coming in great glory on the Last Day.

John 18:36 Jesus said [to Pilate], “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now My kingdom is from another place.”

Revelation 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They 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 a thousand years. **5** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Because Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), those who trust in Him experience a “first resurrection” in the here and now. They will never experience the “second death”—that is, they will never be condemned because they are washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Romans 8:37 We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

Scripture certainly includes strong warnings concerning God’s wrath and His judgment of sinners on the Last Day. But His Law serves the primary message that Christ’s coming is a source of joy and new life for all who believe!