

Revelation 20:1-6 – The Millennial Reign Of Christ

Rev. 20:1-6: *“Then I saw an angel coming down from the bottomless pit and a great chain. And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil...”*

- Though premillennialism is the prevailing view in Christianity, amillennialism is on the rise. Many well-known teachers do not believe there is literal future for Israel. They believe that the church replaced Israel and fulfilled many of the prophecies.
- Six times in Rev. 20:2-7 the phrase “thousand years” is used.
- How crucial is a person’s view of the millennium and why is it so important?
- The word “Then” that begins this section of Scripture shows the event we are about to read follows what we have just read (the Second Coming of Christ).
- The antichrist and false prophet have already been dealt with (Rev. 19:20).
- Vss. 1-3 tell us that an angel will come down at the end of the tribulation period, grab the enemy, bind him for 1,000 years and throw him into the pit (abyss), which we find in Rev. 9:1; 9:11; 11:7; 17:8.
- Our enemy will be released at the end of 1,000 years for one final rebellion (vs. 3, vss. 7-10). Keep in mind that people are born during the millennium, and some will not accept Christ. Those alive who have rejected Christ will rebel.
- Biblical reasons for the millennium to be a literal time period:
 - A) The Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 15). This is a land covenant that God makes between Himself and Abraham. God alone ratifies this promise (Gen. 15:18).



- B) The nation of Israel itself is to be brought back together (Micah 2:12; Isa. 27:12; Rom. 11:26; Jer. 23:5-6). We could include this as part of the Abrahamic Covenant.

- C) The Davidic Covenant needs to be fulfilled. This is found in 2 Samuel 7:12-16. Note the parts of this covenant: (1) A descendant of David will have a forever kingdom (2) There is to be an established kingdom as promised to David with a King on the throne. This prophecy has a double meaning. Part of it was fulfilled through Solomon, the rest in the future.
- D) There are Scriptures indicating a change in interaction among people and the animal kingdom (see also Isa. 65:25). Note Isa. 11:6-16. The Lord will reign in righteousness as Isa. 11 indicates. There is no reason to not take these verses literally. Christ will rule and reign with compassion, but He will also be just. Sin will be dealt with during the reign of Christ (Isa. 11:4).
- E) Who is a part of the millennial reign? Believers such as us (Rev. 2:26-27). We have been given authority to judge, or rule. There will not be any corruption or greed by those who have been put in a place of leadership. What will be doing I have no idea. Tribulation saints will also be there (Rev. 20:4) and probably all who were martyred for their faith, and those who had not worshipped the beast (Rev. 20:4).
- F) There are those who enter the millennium who are saved out of the tribulation and will be living at the time of the return of Christ. These would include those who were the sheep of the judgment of the nations (Mt. 25:31-46). Redeemed Jews will also enter the millennium. These groups will enter the millennium in their mortal bodies. See Eze. 20:34-38 where Israel is noted.
- G) There is still sin during the millennium. People are born with a sin nature, and they have a choice on whether they follow Christ or not (Isa. 65:20-25). These are the children of the believers who at the end of the tribulation enter the 1,000-year reign of Christ. People do become believers during the millennium and the Holy Spirit will indwell them (Eze. 36:27). I believe this will be true of both Jews and non-Jews.
- H) Having said that, people will live for a long time (Isa. 65:20). Disease will not be a problem (Isa. 35:5-6). Any disabilities that people have who enter the millennium will be healed (Isa. 29:18).
- I) A millennial temple is to be built. This is found in Eze. 40-48. This has different dimensions and furniture from the temple that Solomon built. Christ will be the chief builder of this temple (Zech. 6:12-15) with the help of others, Gentiles and Jews (Eze. 42:10-11). It is built at the beginning of the 1,000 years (Eze. 37:26-28).
- This temple will represent God's presence among His people (Eze. 37:26-27). It demonstrates God's holiness.
 - The furniture is different than that of Solomon's Temple. There is no ark of the covenant (Jer. 3:16-17), no lampstand, no shewbread, no veil

between the Holy place and Most Holy (The Triumph Of The Crucified, Erich Sauer, pg. 156)

- There are sacrifices during the millennium. This is not a return to the sacrifices we find in the Mosaic Law. Ron Rhodes writes,

“The purpose of the sacrifices is only to remove ceremonial uncleanness and prevent defilement from polluting the purity of the temple environment. Such ceremonial cleansing will be necessary because Yahweh (God) will again be dwelling on the earth amid sinful – and therefore unclean – mortal people.”

- J) There is unified worship of our Lord during the millennium (Isa. 66:17-23; Zeph. 3:9; Zech. 8:23).
- K) In the millennium, there will be no war (Isa 2:4; Isa. 32:17-18). There is an individual and national peace.
- L) There will be instruction by the Lord and others and the Holy Spirit will help people learn (Isa. 2:2-3; Isa. 54:13).
- M) There will be work. People will not just be idle. It will be the *“perfect economic system”* as one writer notes. See Isa. 62:8-9; Isa. 65:21-23).

** The following chart from Chuck Swindoll’s commentary on Revelation is a good visual to where we are in God’s prophetic calendar here in Revelation 20.

