

The Millennium:

Experiencing the Peace of God

The Old Testament repeatedly promised a time when the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would reign on earth as King and establish worldwide peace and prosperity. Six times in the book of Revelation this is said to last for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:2-7). We can never fully experience the peace of God until Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, is sitting on the throne of our heart and life.

Revelation 20:1-10 (NLT)

20:1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. 2 He seized the dragon—that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan—and bound him in chains for a thousand years. 3 The angel threw him into the bottomless pit, which he then shut and locked so Satan could not deceive the nations anymore until the thousand years were finished. Afterward he must be released for a little while.

4 Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and for proclaiming the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his statue, nor accepted his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They all came to life again, and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 This is the first resurrection. (The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years had ended.) 6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

7 When the thousand years come to an end, Satan will be let out of his prison. 8 He will go out to deceive the nations—called Gog and Magog—in every corner of the earth. He will gather them together for battle—a mighty army, as numberless as sand along the seashore. 9 And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them.

10 Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Observation: Box-in every mention of "a thousand years." Underline every reference to Satan. Circle all references to "deceive" or "deceived."

1. How does this chapter help us believe in a literal future Millennium?
2. What did John see an angel carrying and what did he do with it? (20:1)
3. By what assorted names did John call the dragon? (20:2)
4. What do you think is the point of God binding Satan and then releasing him after the thousand years? (20:3)
5. Why had some tribulation believers died? (20:4)
6. When would the rest of the dead be resurrected? (20:5)
7. In what way were the first resurrection people blessed? (20:6)
8. What will Satan do after his release from the abyss? (20:7-8)
9. In what way does Satan try to deceive us today?
10. In John's vision, what battle plan did Satan follow in his war against God? (20:9)
11. How did God defeat the armies of Satan? (20:9-10)
12. What will happen to Satan after his defeat? (20:10)
13. What will Satan, the beast, and the false prophet experience in their final destination? (20:10)
14. During the Millennium, Jesus Christ will reign and the entire earth will experience peace and prosperity. How do we experience God's peace in our lives today?

Conclusion - We can never fully experience the peace of God until we allow Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, to sit on the throne of our heart and life.