

REVELATION

THE HOPE OF JESUS REVEALED

Part 13: Majors and Minors

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Revelation 20:1-6

¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**. ³He 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.

⁴I 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. ⁶Blessed 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**.

Millennium

A thousand year period of God's Kingdom on earth where peace, justice and restoration rule the day (*Isaiah 11:1-9, Isaiah 65:17-25, Revelation 20*)

Why is this a big deal?

Because people have been asking for it for 2000 years!

3 Common Views

1. **Pre**millennial: Jesus returns before the Millennium
2. **Post**millennial: Jesus returns after the Millennium
3. **A**millennial: the Millennium is symbolic; it's happening now in the hearts of all believers and will end with the second coming of Christ

*It's fun to debate the millennium;
it's sin to divide over the millennium*

What I *don't* know for certain from Revelation 20:

Which position is right!

What I *do* know for certain from Revelation 20:

God is triumphant in his return (*Revelation 1-19*)

Satan is subordinate and defeated (*Revelation 20:7-10*)

The Great White Throne Judgment is certain and final

Revelation 20:11-15

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

There are two eternal destinations:

Joy (heaven) and Torment (hell)

Revelation 20 and Matthew 25:46

Summary

At the end of history, God will judge every one of us.

We will either be judged according to his grace or his justice.

2 Questions

1. Have I put my faith in the finished work of Jesus?

2. Is there any evidence of that faith in my work?

- Was I faithful in my worship?
- Was I faithful in my witness?
- Was I victorious in the battle against sin?
- Was I trusting when life hurt?

Next Step

Read the amazing news of Revelation 21 for next week!

Small Group Questions

- 1) What's a topic that you enjoy debating? Why?
- 2) What is your favorite section of the Lord's Prayer? Why?
- 3) What do you know for certain from reading Revelation 20? Why does that matter to you?
- 4) What do you believe about heaven and hell? What scriptures inform your view, or is it just an opinion?
- 5) How would you answer the two questions above?
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

**OUR
MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.