



BOOKENDS

GENESIS

REVELATION

THE MILLENNIUM

REVELATION 20:1-10

SYNOPSIS

Revelation 20 has generated centuries of debate, yet its central message is clear: history belongs to the Lord. This sermon presents an optimistic amillennial view, arguing that Satan was bound through Christ's death and resurrection, limiting his ability to deceive the nations while the gospel advances throughout the Church Age. During this symbolic millennium, believers who die reign with Christ in heaven as the Church boldly proclaims the gospel. Though a final surge of satanic opposition will precede Christ's return, Satan's defeat is certain. Therefore, Christians should live with tempered optimism, courageous faith, and unwavering confidence in Christ's sovereign reign.

SERMON OUTLINE

Main Idea: Rest assured, history belongs to the Lord!

1. **A Brief Examination of the Three Major Interpretations:**
 - a. Premillennialism
 - b. Postmillennialism
 - c. Amillennialism
2. **God's Program for History:** The bulk of this sermon will follow the four phases of God's program for history.
 - a. **Satan Thrown Down (1-3):** Christ bound Satan through His death and resurrection, limiting his power to deceive the nations and enabling the gospel to advance victoriously throughout the Church Age.

- b. **1,000 Year Period (4-6):** The millennium is the present Church Age, when the gospel advances, God sustains His people, and believers who die reign with Christ while awaiting the final resurrection.
- c. **Satan's Little Period (7-9):** Near history's end, Satan will unleash one final, furious assault against the Church, but his greatest attack will be brief before Christ's decisive victory.
- d. **God's Final Judgment (10):** Christ's return brings Satan's immediate defeat, final judgment, and the restoration of all things, ushering His people into everlasting glory.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. What encouraged or challenged you most about Revelation 20's picture of God's control over history? How does it strengthen your confidence in Christ's reign today?
3. The sermon taught that Satan is bound from deceiving the nations, allowing the gospel to advance throughout the world. How should that truth shape the way we think about evangelism, missions, and engaging our culture?
4. What does it mean that believers who die in Christ immediately reign with Him in heaven? How does that truth change the way we grieve the death of Christian loved ones or think about our own mortality?
5. The Bible warns of a future season of intensified opposition against the Church before Christ returns. What habits or convictions should Christians cultivate now so they remain faithful if persecution increases?

FOR FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

Question: The Bible teaches us that Jesus is King over everything in this world, even those things that frighten us. What can we do when we are frightened to remember that Jesus is in control?