

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 34 (20:1-7)
When Christ will Reign for 1,000 years

Introduction: There is perhaps more debate, more division over this part of the Bible than over all the rest of it - Chapter 20. We want to get the facts - that Jesus Christ WILL rule and reign on this earth for 1,000 years. Many of the theological professors don't teach this part of God's Word. There are many of them who would raise their eyebrows at you if you believed that Jesus Christ, in person, would rule from Jerusalem on this earth for 1,000 years. Our study:

v1 - "an angel" - one of the ruling angels gong to chain the devil

v2 - "a thousand years" - put a "1" there

v3 - "a thousand years" - put a "2" there

v4 - "a thousand years" - put a "3" there"

v5 - "the thousand years" - put a "4" there.

v6 - "a thousand years" - put a "5" there.

v7 - "thousand years" - put a "6" there.

The Lord certainly knew that people wouldn't believe about His reign and that's why He gave this six (6) times. They didn't believe the prophets concerning the birth of Jesus, nobody accepted Jesus as the Messiah. There is no better documented fact in history than the birth of Jesus Christ, yet millions have not accepted Him. The same failure to accept, believe about the 1,000 year reign.

The Bible says that the feet of Christ will stand on the Mount of Olives, He will sit on David's throne in Jerusalem for 1,000 years - BELIEVE IT!

How can anyone say they understand the Bible if they don't believe what it says? "This same Jesus shall return....," etc.

Not only will Jesus Christ reign for 1,000 years on this earth, but you and I (believers) will rule and reign with Him, in our new resurrected bodies. Sound exciting? We don't understand all the details.

Let's go back - the world started with Adam and Eve and from them God built the Age of the Gentiles which was one race, one language and God gave to the world four (4) divine institutions: volition, marriage, family and a nation. That era ended when God tore down the first United Nations building, the tower of Babel. He then confounded speech, drove the people (nations) across the earth. God wanted many nations, many languages, thus the confounding of the languages. The SECOND dispensation was Abraham, the first Jew and through him, God started a new race from the Ur of the Chaldees. From Him came the Jewish race. God started that nation from one reason - they were supposed to carry the Gospel to the whole world, but they didn't. They wanted to keep it for themselves - they were not missionaries, therefore God phased them out and started a THIRD dispensation called the Age of the Church and that's where we are today. It will continue until the Church has done its work. It'll never be perfect because it has people like US, but the Church is to carry the Gospel to all parts of the earth and that's what we are doing. Millions are coming to Jesus Christ because of the Church Age. When it is finished, the Church age will end and the MILLENNIUM WILL START. The Millennium is "milla" - 1,000 - "ana" - years.

Jesus Christ will rule and reign for 1,000 years with us (believers) with Him here also. Let's look at the characteristics of the millennium in some detail:

What will it be like? Jesus Christ here, ruling, Satan chained, no evil, no sickness, etc. The first time in the history of the world that there will be plenty for all.

1. **NO RELIGION** - Some are still dreaming that "religion" will lift mankind into a plateau of perfectness. Religion damns more people than anything else. Mohammadism, Confucism, Buddahism, etc. All efforts of man to reach God. People grab this truth and that truth and make philosophies to live by, trying to reach God. **GOD DOES THE REACHING! GRACE!** Man tries to reach God by his own efforts. **RELIGIOUS PEOPLE** are harder to reach for the Lord Jesus than others. **NO MORE RELIGION WHEN JESUS COMES BACK.**
2. **GREAT SPIRITUALITY** - Sometimes people get astray thinking they are spiritual. Emotionalism is not spiritualism. Getting excited is not spiritualism. Where does all the Sunday stuff go by Monday? When Jesus comes back, He will lead people in **TRUE** emotionalism, true spiritualism
3. **ISRAEL WILL BE RESTORED AS A NATION** - There is more thought today given to that little land called Palestine than to all the other parts of the world put together. Why? **THAT LAND** is in God's plans. When Jesus Christ returns to the Mt. of Olives, the prophet said that Christ will give a shrill call and all Jews all over the face of the earth will hasten to Palestine - all will hear. Isaiah 35:7-10. The land will be the Jews' forever.
4. **TIME OF UNIVERSAL BLESSING** - No war. Today strong military is needed to prevent war, barrel of guns prevent war. Disarmament will not work. No guns and people without guns will be controlled. The only way to meet war is military power. But when **JESUS RETURNS**, every gun will be turned into useful instruments of peace - plow shears, pruning hooks, etc. **ONLY WHEN JESUS RETURNS. UNIVERSAL PROSPERITY** - Unemployment today is bad, hunger, hard times but immediately when Jesus returns, it all stops. One seed will produce a thousand fold. Read Psalm 72. Overnight turned into the Garden of Eden. Everything will be in harmony. Happy work for Jesus, no toil, just happiness, enough for all, joy, gladness, etc.
UNIVERSAL WORLD GOVERNMENT - Zachariah - "The Lord shall be King" - one king, one Lord.
5. **RADICAL CHANGE IN NATURE** - Genesis 3 - the earth was cursed, everything changed - thorns, thistles, etc., but when Jesus comes back, a snap of the finger, all will be changed. Romans 8, the ground is groaning to be delivered from the curse - a perfect climate, perfection will be ours when Jesus comes back. Animals all will be tamed, all become "pets."
6. **JUSTICE FOR ALL** - We don't have perfect justice today, but when Jesus comes back, everyone will be treated fairly.
7. **NO MORE UNBELIEVERS** - When the millennium starts, only believers will be on earth. For 1,000 years nobody dies **EXCEPT** - in spite of all the perfection, somebody will say he/she doesn't believe and will kill somebody. If anybody dies during the millennium, it will be by the hand of Jesus. Perfect environment, perfect everything is just not enough for some people and that is why Satan is going to be released from his prison at the end of the 1,000 years. He will bring a rebellion into Jesus' perfect world to prove that perfection is not the solution to the need of man. **THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT WILL SATISFY THE NEEDS OF MAN AND THAT IS WHEN JESUS CHRIST REACHES INSIDE A MAN AND GIVES HIM/HER THE NEW BIRTH - REDEMPTION.** Even in the millennium the new birth is necessary. **REGENERATION** is and always will be the only solution to mankind's needs.
8. **LIFE EXTENDED** - No death (unless Jesus is involved) - believers will have their resurrected bodies, not a day older at the end of the 1,000 years. Even with all the sin of this world, it still is a pretty nice place to live, but think of what it will be like when Jesus Christ is present to rule and all the perfection will be ours (believers) to enjoy.

After the 1,000 years, when all evil has been drained out of the world and universe forever, then Jesus said that He would build a new heaven and a new earth. Righteousness will reign forever. YOU AND I WILL BE A PART OF THIS.

In our next study, we need to sing that hymn: "WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN....." for that's what the study will be about.