

# A Study Of The Book Of Revelation

September 5, 2021

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## Revelation 20

### REVELATION 20 AND FALSE THEORIES

- Premillennialists ignore many specifics that are stated and embellish the text with many assumptions
- Text **DOES NOT** mention:
  - Second coming of Christ
  - Bodily resurrection
  - Reign “on earth”
  - Literal throne of David
  - Jerusalem or Palestine
  - “Us” instead of “they” who lived and reigned
  - Christ on the earth

## Revelation 20

### Revelation 6:9-11

Souls of slain  
Under the altar  
Crying for judgment  
Scene of defeat

### Revelation 20:4-6

Souls of beheaded  
On thrones  
Given judgment  
Scene of victory

Chart adapted from Ferrell Jenkins, *Studies in the Book of Revelation*, page 33

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## LITERAL OR FIGURATIVE – WHICH? Revelation 19-20.

1. A WHITE HORSE AND RIDER.
2. ARMIES, HORSES, WAR
3. SWORD, OUT OF MOUTH
4. RULE, ROD OF IRON
5. TREAD THE WINE PRESS
6. NAME ON HIS THIGH
7. FOWLS FLY TO SUPPER
8. EAT FLESH, KINGS,
9. FOWLS FILLED WITH THEIR FLESH COMPASSED
10. BEAST, MARK, IMAGE

11. ANGEL COMING DOWN
12. KEY, CHAIN, PIT
13. DRAGON, TAIL, STARS
14. FROGS OUT OF MOUTH
15. BOUND – BOTTOMLESS PIT
16. SHUT – SEALED
17. THRONES – BEHEADED
18. PRISON, LOOSED, MEN, HORSES BATTLE
19. CAMP OF SAINTS
20. FIRE AND BRIMSTONE

GOD'S PROPHETIC WORD, by Foy Wallace, page 285

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## Revelation 20

### THROWN INTO THE ABYSS

- In the **Apocalypse** the dragon had **empowered** the sea and land beast (13:7)
- No more **deception** and he would be sealed until Rome fell
- “**Loosed for a little time**” – why?
  - God is in control – binds and releases
  - For the dragon to make one final attempt to destroy the church – not by deception and use of world power – but working on individuals!

## Revelation 20

### REVELATION 20:4

*“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and (I saw) the souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”*

Revelation 20

**REIGN OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

- Notice who are **occupying** these thrones ...
- **"THEY"** not "US" (*people of later time*)
- Does not say *"they are on the earth"*
- Who are the **"they?"**
- *"Beheaded for their witness of Christ"*
- *"Had not worshipped the beast or his image"*
- *"Did not have the mark of the best on their foreheads or hands."*

Revelation 20

**REIGN OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

- Notice who are **occupying** these thrones ...
- Departed saints in the **spiritual realm** – not on the earth! Even dead – they "lived" – where?
- The **faithful ones** who had not **compromised their faith** and allegiance to Christ!
- Those who place them literally on the earth do so by assumptions and embellish the text!

Revelation 20

**REVELATION 20:5**

Contrast to Revelation 12:11

*"The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years should be finished. This is the first resurrection."*

Revelation 20

**"FIRST RESURRECTION"**

- *"But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished."* Verse 5
- Who are **"the rest of the dead?"**
- A **"parenthetical"** statement {*refers to those who have no part in first resurrection*}
- **Contrast** to the one on the thrones. Verse 4; Revelation 12:11
- These are the ones who were **servants of the beast** killed with the sword of Christ. Revelation 14:11; 19:19ff

Revelation 20

**"FIRST RESURRECTION"**

- Their **"resurrection"** will be for judgment and eternal torment!
- The **VICTORY** of the martyred souls are the **"first resurrection"**
- Now reigning with Christ – *figurative resurrection* of the cause of Christ!
- Not bodily resurrection, but a **triumph** of the saints over Satan!
- The **"dead"** of verse 4 are reigning
- The **"dead"** here are **NOT** reigning – no part!

Revelation 20

**REVELATION 20:6**

*"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these **the second death** hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."*

Revelation 20

**BLESSED AND HOLY –  
FIRST RESURRECTION**

- Those had part in the “**first resurrection**”
- Why does the “**second death**” have no power over them?
- *Second death = eternal fire of Hell.*
- **Overcome! Faithful! Did not compromise!**
- Christians are part of the “priesthood of God” (1 Peter 2:5-10)
- Reigning with Christ – reigned in a **complete period** of time – no interruption!

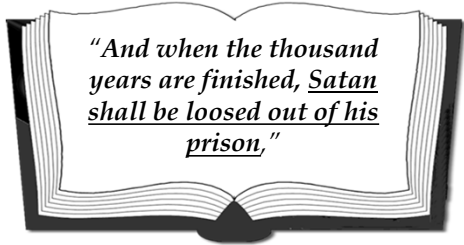
Revelation 20

**BLESSED AND HOLY –  
FIRST RESURRECTION**

- Remember that in Revelation 2:11, John recorded, “*He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith to the churches. He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*”
- **Revelation 20:14 states that the second death was the eternal existence in hell.**
  - These reigning saints shall be priests of God and of Christ:
    - John had earlier said of the saints of God that they shall be “*a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father*” (Revelation 1:6).
    - The saints (priests) would reign on the earth with Christ (see Revelation 5:10).
  - Peter referred to saints as a holy and royal priesthood that were to offer spiritual sacrifices unto God (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

Revelation 20

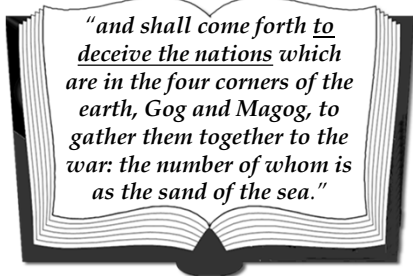
**REVELATION 20:7**



*“And when the thousand years are finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,”*

Revelation 20

**REVELATION 20:8**



*“and shall come forth to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”*