

Interpretation Study Handout #10

Study Outline – Grace Bible Chapel

Pastor/Teacher Jim Bryant

January 9th, 2022

Introduction:

Brief review:

Revelation 20 – Covenant interpretation: Revelation 20:1-3 “The introductory phrase ‘Then I saw’ does not indicate that John is having a vision of events temporally subsequent to the events of the previous nineteen chapters... Thus Satan is currently in the pit, he is currently bound. This does not mean that Satan is not active in many other ways. We wholeheartedly believe that Satan tempts people and that he prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour (1 Pet 5:8). But with respect to his deceiving the nations as he once did, he is bound. Put positively, the binding of Satan coincides with the progress and triumph of the Gospel among the nations. Consequently, this is a great missions text, giving the Church encouragement and confidence that the proclamation of the Gospel will bear fruit. The period of time during which Satan is bound and in the pit (and during which the martyrs reign with Christ) is a thousand years (a millennium). Numbers in the Bible are frequently symbolic. It would be natural to expect that in this, arguably the most symbolic book of the Bible, that we would find many symbolic numbers. Ten is a number of completeness. One thousand is ten cubed. Thus we would suggest that the thousand years is a long period of time of indeterminate length representing the present age in its fullness.” **David Sherwood**

Does this interpretation give you a sense of comfort in accuracy?

The Millennial Kingdom in Zachariah (Zach. 14:9-21)

Some think this denotes particular favor to the people of the Jews, and points at their conversion and restoration in the latter days; but it is rather to be understood figuratively of the gospel-church, typified by Judah and Jerusalem, and it signifies the abundant graces with which the church shall be crowned, and the fruitfulness of its members, and the vast numbers of them. (1.) The church shall be like a fruitful country, abounding in all the rich products of the soil. The whole land of Judea, which is naturally uneven and hilly, shall be *turned as a plain*; it shall become a smooth level valley, from Geba, or Gibeah, its utmost border north, to Rimmon, which lay *south of Jerusalem* and was the utmost southern limit of Judea. The gospel of Christ, where it comes in its power, levels the ground; mountains and hills are brought low by it, that the Lord alone may be exalted. (2.) It shall be like a populous city. As the holy land shall be levelled, so the holy city shall be peopled, shall be rebuilt and replenished. Matthew Henry Commentary.

Rev. 20:1-3

For Christ to reign on earth as the Bible describes, what would be the first order of business be? –

- Vs. 1 – What does “then I saw” indicate?

- What is the abyss?

- What is signified by the “great chain?”

-
- Vs. 2 – What do we learn from this verse about Satan’s power?

- Why are there limits on the binding & sealing of Satan?

- What is this binding and sealing significance, and also in relation to today?

-
- Vs. 3 – Who is in charge of this binding & sealing?

- What does it state Satan does?

- If Satan is not active, does that mean those who are born during the time of the 1000 years are without sin?

- What will those who are born during the reign of Christ still need?

- What are some Old Testament pictures and promises of Christ’s Kingdom?

-
- Vs. 4 - Who reigns with Christ and for how long?

- How many times is thousand years stated in this context and what is the significance?

- What are the ramifications of the kinds of people reigning?

-
- Vs. 5 – “rest of the dead” – who are the rest of the dead?

- What does it mean this is the first resurrection?
