

Revelation Vision 6

[Summary by Ruth Smart 2020]

Revelation 20:1-6 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He 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. I 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 worshipped 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. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed 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..

- A new vision.
- The word millennium is not in the bible/ only 1000 years
- Many camps: pre-, post-, a-millennialists.
- Amillennialists believe 1000 years is symbolic.
- Israel was only a chosen people because they carried the "seed of the woman". God's people are those who have faith in Jesus, from any nation. One in Christ.
- Angel from heaven has a key. Echo from *Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. This messenger is Christ. Only he has power over the devil. Luke 11:21, Matthew 12:28 all attest to the fact that the Kingdom has come, the devil is helpless and he cannot prevent God's Kingdom from establishing God's purposes.*

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

John 16:11 ...because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

1John 3:8 ...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

- This has already happened - 2000 years ago. The devil was smitten at the cross - the judgement was accomplished. In between the gospel is preached to all the nations.
- "And during this period of time, the whole Book of Revelation has been showing us:
 - ♣ *Things are not what they seem to be!*
 - ♣ *The Judgment WAS accomplished!*
 - ♣ *It shall be actualized!* And in this time in between, the Gospel is being preached to all the nations that once were held under the power of the Devil, so that all may come out from Babylon, be separate, and become part of the Bride of the Lord Jesus Christ."(Malcolm Smith Revelation II p63)
- Peter describes the devil as a roaring lion, seeking whom he can devour. Roaring lions only scare. They are not on the kill. He is a defeated lion who can be resisted and he must flee.
- The chain is a spiritual one - the finished work of Christ.
- The devil is still here, but he has lost one vital power - he can't deceive the nations any more. Deceit is the main power of Satan. His name is "the Liar, the Deceiver". Now he has

lost the power to deceive the nations. Wherever the Gospel goes, he can't stop it. He can no longer hold a fog over the minds of men.

- Before the cross the world was in darkness except for Israel - they understood Christ was coming as seen by what Simeon said when Jesus was taken to the temple as a baby/young child.

Luke 2:30-32, "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Acts 26:17-18 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Psalms 2:8 ...and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

- 1000 years - 10 x 10 x 10/finality/completeness. Nothing can be added to it - from the cross to the end in the purposes of God is a very short time.
- During that time a company ruled and reigned - echoes of Chapter 12 - the martyrs who have been redeemed out of every tribe, tongue and nation to be priests of God.
- First resurrection - takes place in our spirits when we are born again (or born from above)

Ephesians 2:4-5 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

Colossians 2:12-13 ...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

Isaiah 32:1 See, a king will reign in righteousness and rulers will rule with justice.

- God is teaching his bride how to rule the world. It is not a physical Kingdom but a spiritual one.
- If you want to reign with Christ, learn to flow in the Holy Spirit,, learn what intercession means and earn what prayer means.

Revelation 20:7-10 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

- Satan's release for a little time. Each vision seems to have this. Eg the River Euphrates dries up and Israel's enemies could cross over, or, evil spirits come out of the mouths of the false prophet, the beast and the dragon. Right at the end there appears to be intense trouble for the church. In one or two places it is called Armageddon.
- Armageddon - symbolic with a place of intense battle where you fought to the end. In the OT there were many times when forces joined together to destroy Israel and God intervened. E.g, Gideon, Deborah. See the book of Judges. In the Jewish mind it was when God came down and visited his enemies in wrath and delivered his people. A bit like Pharaoh - he should have known it was all over with the death of the firstborn - he had been stripped of his power - but he hardened his heart beyond repentance and so was finally annihilated. God loosed Pharaoh so that he might be totally and forever out of the lives of his people.
- Satan is loosed so he may be known throughout eternity as a defeated loser.
- Camp of the saints and the beloved city are the church

- The last battle, which is an ongoing battle right now, but the *last* one is between the Devil and the Church. The battle is not a physical battle - death is actually a release for the believer. This is dealing with spirits - all the powers of the occult, the doctrines of demons and the persecutions of world powers.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marvelled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

- Paul is speaking of the glory of the church and the destruction of all those who have aligned themselves with Satan.
- "But things are not what they seem to be, for He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords! The battle is already won. The False Prophet, all the powers of an apostate religion, and all the powers of war that persecutes, as well as the Great Whore shall be judged - eternally so. Then, whole Church shall join together and sing, ***"Hallelujah! The Lord God the Almighty reigns!" Amen.*** (Malcolm Smith Revelation II p 76)