

When King Messiah Reigns, Part I

Revelation 20:1-6

Governments often change. Some rulers have been good rulers. Others have not been good. Some have been just rulers wanting to help people. Others have not been just. A time is coming, my friend, when the One who rules the world will be perfectly just. I refer to the time when King Messiah reigns.

It seems in times of prosperity, little thought is given to the next era. Throughout the history of the church and the world, certain men somehow have felt if they had the right hold on things they would be able to bring in an era of peace. How sorely they have failed is evident on every side.

Jesus predicted that before the end of the age would come there would be “wars and rumors of wars, pestilences and earthquakes in diverse places.” With events transpiring today all over the world as they are, I think it is time for us to listen to the words of Jesus when He said, “When you see these things begin to come to pass then lift up your heads and look up because your redemption draws near.”

A time is coming when the One who rules the world will be perfectly just. The time WHEN KING MESSIAH REIGNS, Revelation 20:1-6, is fulfillment of many prophecies.

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

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

These verses compel us to draw several obvious CONCLUSIONS regarding the reign of Messiah.

The first Conclusion; Satan Will Be Bound

The time is very clearly set. In context from chapter 19 there are certain important events that precede the binding of Satan.

Chapter 19 discloses for us the coming of the Lord in power and great glory. The battle stage is set, when He overcomes the beast, the false prophet. He consigns them to the lake of fire burning with brimstone. Then we are told that an angel came down from heaven and bound Satan. So the time will follow the overthrow of the anti-christ.

The duration of the time is very clearly stated. The duration is one thousand years and that is earth time. The Bible tells us what heaven time is in II Peter 3:8 where we are informed that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day. But whenever God deals with earth time He deals in specific years. So then we can be sure that the duration of the time when Satan will be bound will be one thousand years.

Then there is a condition. The angel which came down from heaven had a great chain in his hand. He laid hold upon the dragon, that old serpent who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years. Some people wonder how a spirit can be bound with a chain. My answer is simple---God uses the materials that are required. The word in the Greek New Testament is indeed the word chain. But that should give us no problem, because God will use whatever is required to bind Satan. He has the kind of chains that bind spirits. Of this we can be absolutely confident.

What is the point of binding Satan? The reason is given in verse 3, “that he should deceive the nations no more.”

There must be a distinction made between the nations and the church. Our New Testament language has a distinct word for nations, *ethnos*, and a distinct word for the church, *ecclesia*. These are never to be confused in the Bible. The reason the devil is to be bound for a thousand years is so that he will not deceive the nations during that thousand year period. There is no connection whatever between the word nation and the word church.

The Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians in his second letter referred to the way the Devil is able to transform himself into an angel of light. When he wrote to the Ephesians in 6:16 he said that it is imperative to take the shield of faith whereby we are able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. When Peter wrote his first epistle, he said we are to resist the Devil because he goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The conclusion is that Satan is not bound now. But he will be bound.

The second Conclusion; The Messiah Will Reign

The time of Messiah’s reign is stated twice and specifically. It will be at the same time as the thousand years of Satan being shut up. This means that Messiah will reign after the overthrow of the beast, when He comes in power and great glory. Then He will discomfit the armies of the beast and the false prophet. He will cast the beast and the false prophet into the bottomless pit. The Messiah will reign at that particular time after the judgment of His enemies, and the binding of Satan.

This will be a fulfillment of many Old Testament Scriptures. There is Isaiah 9:6 and 7, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.” How can we be sure of this? Ah, focus on the last sentence; “The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” The Psalmist understood Messiah’s reign. He stated it plainly in Psalm 110:1 and 2. “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.”

The New Testament as well has words for us regarding the reign of the Messiah. When Gabriel came to Mary to announce to her that she would give birth to the Holy Child, he said to her, “Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house

of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.” So in Luke 1, verses 30-33, Messiah will reign on the throne of his father David, and over the house of Jacob forever.

Jesus, when He was asked by the disciples what to expect for the way they had followed Him, He answered, “Verily I say unto you, that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel,” Matthew 19:28.

From Paul’s letter to the Romans, we discover how it was well known in the early church that the reign of Christ would reconstitute the world and bring back the conditions that characterized Eden. Romans 8:19-23 are exciting words: “For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.”

From these Scriptures it must be clear that Messiah will reign on earth, and that He is not reigning now in the sense in which He will reign.