

**Revelation**  
**The Lamb of God: On His Throne and Among His People**  
*The Millennium, Part 2*  
**Revelation 20:4-10**  
**Study Notes**

**Home Group Questions**

- Read Revelation 20 – the whole chapter. What sticks out to you, what is clear to you, and what is confusing to you?
- Are you able to define the four millennial positions? If you are, would you preach next Sunday? These are surely complex, but even a basic understanding is helpful.
  - Remember, these positions concern the millennium – the 1,000-year period in which Christ will reign.
  - The question about the millennium is not a question about the tribulation or the rapture – it is about whether the 1,000-reign of Christ is literal or symbolic; it is about when the 1,000 years occur – before or after the Second Coming of Christ, or if the millennium is symbolic and Christ is reigning over his kingdom and his church now, between his two advents.
- Do you have a firm stance on one of these positions? Have you changed your position, or are you at least more open to other positions than you have been in the past?
- Next week we will talk about judgment. Here are some questions we will be addressing:
  - Is there one judgment at the end of time, or two?
  - What do you know about the judgment seat of Christ and the great white throne judgments?
  - Discuss this truth – for believers, judgment was carried out at Calvary, but for unbelievers, judgment will be based on works.
- Pray for your missionary!

## Quotes and Thoughts from the Sermon

**Eschatology** is the study of last days including Jesus' Second Coming, the final judgment – or judgments – and the eternal destiny of souls.

Four main millennial positions/systems based on Revelation 20 (and many other passages/texts as well) are:

1. Historic premillennialism
2. Dispensational premillennialism
3. Amillennialism
4. Post Millennialism

Interestingly, the Millennium is referenced six times in Revelation 20, but nowhere else in the Bible.

How you interpret Revelation 20 informs how you understand and interpret, not only Revelation, but all of Scripture. Interesting, isn't it, that we can agree to disagree on something that has such profound implications on our interpretation of Scripture overall.

From a dispensational viewpoint, during the millennium the city of God will rule rather than the city of man, which currently rules the world. (See last week's study notes for an explanation of the two cities)

### Dispensational Premillennialism

1. At the rapture (**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**) Jesus takes all believers – mostly Gentiles – to heaven; some see the rapture in **Revelation 4:1**
2. **Revelation 6 – 18** – the seven-year tribulation during which God draws the Jewish people back to himself
3. **Revelation 19:11-21** – the Battle of Armageddon and Jesus' Second Coming
4. Believers are resurrected (**Revelation 20:4-6**) and the Judgment Seat of Christ is held for believers: **Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10**
5. The Millennium – 1,000-year rule of Christ on earth; Satan bound for 1,000 years
6. Satan released, final battle in which unbelievers are fully defeated
7. The Great White Throne Judgment – unbelievers are judged and eternal punishment begins: **Revelation 20:11-15**

8. The new heavens and the new earth; eternal bliss for believers **Revelation 21-22**

### **Amillennialism**

1. The 1,000-year period symbolizes the time between Jesus' ascension to heaven and his return; there is symbolism throughout **Revelation**
2. **Revelation 6-18** describes the cycles of persecution against the church and offers strength and encouragement for believers
3. **Revelation 19:11-21** and **Revelation 20:7-10** are the same battle (prophesied in **Ezekiel 38-39**) – the Battle of Armageddon, plus Gog and Magog (northern barbarians)
4. There is no secret rapture – **Matthew 24** and **1 Thessalonians 4** describe the same event, which is:
5. There is only one resurrection and one judgment at the end of time (see **Matthew 25:31-46**), although believers and unbelievers will be judged differently
6. The new heavens and the new earth – **Revelation 21-22**

**Recapitulation** is the literary device of repeating an idea in a different way to emphasize a point. There are specific similarities between Matthew 24 and Revelation 6, where the seals are described. There are undeniable similarities between the judgments of the trumpets and the bowls of wrath, which remind you of the plagues in Egypt. Irenaeus, a second century theologian, stated that Jesus as the Second Adam, is recapitulation (or, in that case, re-headshiping). Genesis 1 tells the order of creation and Genesis 2 recapitulates the creation of man with more detail.

**From the ESV Study Bible Introduction (Dennis Johnson):** “In Revelation, **recapitulation** means that the order in which John received visions does not necessarily indicate the order of the events they symbolize.”

### **Scripture Associated with the Message**

**2 Corinthians 5:6** So we are always of good courage. We know that **while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord**, **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** Yes, we are of good courage, and **we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord**. **9** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** **For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that**

**each one may receive what is due *for what he has done in the body*, whether good or evil.**