

## b) Thousand years - 20.1-15

### *Revelation 20.1-3 Thousand Years*

- Note that it was an angel who bound Satan. What does this say about the power of the devil?
- What is this bottomless pit? See Rev 9:1-3, 11. It seems to be the place where evil tormentors are kept locked up, only to be used at the time when God wants to use them. It is not hell (that comes later, see Rev. 20:10)
- ‘So that he might not deceive the nations’. This deceiving is described in Rev 20:7-9. Deceiving seems to mean: move the nations to attack the saints - persecute the church.
- So. Rev 20.1-3 seems to describe a time when the church will no longer be persecuted.
- 1000 years: as all numbers in Revelation, I suggest we take this to be a symbolic numbers for a) perfect length or b) a perfect moment in time. Is this, in other words ‘The Day of the Lord’?
- The Jews in that time believed that a literal period of 1000 years would come in which they would rule and the nations would submit to them. Is John directly attacking this concept? Or does he actually confirm that Jewish view?
- ‘A little while’ (20.3) is exactly the same expression (Gr: mikron chronon) as the one used in Rev 6.11.
- What or when is this ‘1000 years’? And when is this ‘a little while’?

### *Revelation 20.4-6 Thrones*

- These thrones (20.4), where are they situated? I suggest these are the thrones mentioned in Rev 3.21, 4.2, 4.4 etc.
- To whom ‘was the authority committed to judge’? (20.4). This seems the fulfilment of the promise of Rev 5.8-9 and an answer to their prayers in Rev 6.10-11.
- ‘They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years’ (20.4). When did they ‘come to life’? This reigning seems to basically mean: participate in judgement.
- ‘The rest of the dead’ (20.5), who are they?
- What would John mean with ‘the first resurrection’? (20.5, 6)
- ‘Second death’ (20.6), see also 20.14,15 and 20.10.
- What encouragement does the persecuted church here receive?



### *Revelation 20.7-10 Defeat of Satan*

- Why is Satan released (20.7) and when do you figure this to be? Maybe this release is to show that when given any chance, the enemies of the church and of God will attack again?
- Satan tries to destroy the people of God, but they are perfectly safe and secure. (20.9)
- ‘The camp of the saints and the beloved city’. Why would John describe the followers of Jesus Christ in this way?
- Gog and Magog: Old-Testament enemies of Israel. ‘their number is like the sand of the sea’. Does that Finally, Satan is thrown into ‘hell’ where the beast and the false prophet already reside. (20.10, compare with 19.20).

### *Revelation 20.11-15 Final Judgement*

- Where is this throne of God (20.11) situated? How does this relate to the thrones in 20.4?
- Who are the dead, mentioned in 20.12?
- Those whose name is written in the book of life, are they part of this judgement? (20.12, 15)
- On what basis are all people judged? (20.12, 15)
- What does it mean, that Death and Hades are thrown into the lake of fire? (20.14)

