

REV 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven,

[that angel is Jesus. "Who hath ascended into heaven and descended?"

Rev 10:1 "And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire..."]

having the key of the bottomless pit

[Jesus has been given the keys of Hades, Rev 1:18]

and a great chain in his hand. Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil,

["Now the ruler of this world shall be cast out," Joh 12:31, spoken before the Cross]

"and Satan, and bound him . . ."

["How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his property unless he first bind the strong man?" Mat 12:29.

Spoken when Jesus was casting out demons. When we were lost in our trespasses and sins we were Satan's property, and in his kingdom. Jesus is now plundering Satan's house through the church.]

"a thousand years . . ."

[the Greek word translated thousand here, and throughout the rest of the chapter, is "chilioi," Strong's 5507, the indefinite PLURAL form for thousand. Thus it could mean one thousand or many thousands.]

Rev 20:3 "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 . . ."

[note that the binding was scripturally limited to deceiving nations. Through the whole Christian Era, the western nations have been nominally Christian.

Kings have been crowned; and wars have been fought in Jesus' name. Thus the nations were not deceived that Jesus is Lord.]

"till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season . . ."

[See Rev 12:12 for another mention of this "little season." By context we can pin the beginning of that "little season" to 1948-1967.

It is since that time that the western nations have turned away from the Lord. Satan is loose and we are in an apostasy unequalled during the Christian Era.]

Rev 20:4 "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them . . ."

[Refer to the 1PE 2:5,9 and REV 1:6 and 5:10, quoted earlier, which state that we reign with Christ right now, today.]

and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus,

[thousands of saints have been beheaded early in the Christian Era, see Fox's Book of Martyrs.]

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;

[Satan is the beast, and he has struck his mark on the foreheads of his servants throughout time.]

and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

[Do we not reign with Christ right now, 1PE 2:5-9, REV 1:6, 5:10?]

REV 20:5 But the rest of the dead

[those who were unsaved]

lived not again until the thousand years [the Christian Era]

were finished. This is the first resurrection.

[How many resurrections are there? Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the Life." Jesus is the firstborn of the dead, and there is no other resurrection in Scripture.]

REV 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,

[Blessed indeed are those who have part in the resurrection of Jesus our Lord! Indeed, they are the born again, and over them the second death has absolutely no power, praise God.]

but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

[REV 1:6 and 5:10 states that we have been made priests and reign with Jesus, right now!]

REV 20:7 And when the thousand years

[as an indefinite plural this "thousand" can refer to the Christian Era regardless of duration.]

are expired,

[We begin the End-Times]

Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, REV 20:8 And shall go out to deceive the

nations,

[Since 1948 and 1967 there is a general falling away of the church unprecedented in the Christian Era. We have the second rise of the Islamic States. Parallel the following verse with other descriptions of Armageddon in REV 6,9,12,14,and 19.]

which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog: to gather them together to battle

[how many Armaged-dons and fulfillments of EZE 38-39 are we going to have? Note the details of this battle here parallel other descriptions of Armaged-don in the Bible which we have already studied. When we understand the repetitive chiasmic structure of REV, this ceases to be a problem.]

the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

[REV 9:16 states 200,000,000]

REV 20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city:

[is this not parallel to JOE 2-3, which all equate with Armaged-don?]

and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

The Eternal Kingdom of God

REV 20:10 And the devil that deceiveth them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

REV 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

REV 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life:

[There are two sets of books here. The book of deeds, and the book of life. When the Lord blotted out our trans-gressions, what do you suppose He blotted them out of?

The book of the deeds, of course.

Since all of our righteousness is as filthy rags, if even one deed, no matter how "good" or "sanctified" remains in that book we are going to the lake of fire. To eat of the tree of life our names must be first written in the Book of Life . . .

"...Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to His Cross." COL 2:14.]

and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

REV 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according

to their works.

REV 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

[COL 1:13-17 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, powers:

all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist."]

Besides the last trumpet itself, there are other verses which call the premillennial view into question. According to that view, when Jesus returns for His 1000-year reign, He will rule from Jerusalem in all His power and glory.

During the 1000 years, we (the saints) are presumed to be ruling with Him in our new glorified and sinless bodies. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is somehow supposed to deceive the rulers (now sinless us) for a short season.

If that were to be so, then we would again be in sin, which would result in our again being separated from the Lord. That is contrary to 1TH 4:17 which states:

"Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up...to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall ever be with the Lord."

Saints will never again be separated from the Lord!

Second: "How can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless He first binds the strong man," Mat 12:29

When Jesus asked that question, He was in the act of casting out demons. The Lord was plundering Satan's house then, and He is still doing so today:

COL 1:13, "For He delivered us from the domain [kingdom, KJV] of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."

Jesus permitted Himself to be bound once, at the Cross, but it will never happen again. When Jesus returns to Jerusalem, He will be ruling in all His power and glory.

It will be Jesus' kingdom. He will be the "strong man"!

Released or not, Satan could only plunder Jesus' kingdom if he could again bind Jesus. What a blasphemous concept! Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God the Father,

and He is King of kings and Lord of lords, forever!

EPH 1:20-21 declares, "...when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come."

That age to come would have to include any future time that Jesus is on Earth, and beyond. No future time of lost power for the Lord. When the Lord returns at the end of this age, He will rule absolutely...and eternally!