

### Question Sheet #1:

1. Should the 1000 years in Revelation 20 be interpreted literally? Explain your reasoning (your hermeneutical method/thinking).

Yes it should be taken literally, for the following reasons:

- a. All numbers in Scripture (including Revelation and other prophetic passages) should be taken literally unless there is clear contextual evidence to make this literal rendering impossible.
  - b. The 1000 year duration is mentioned six times in Revelation 20:1-7 each time emphasizing the length of a different aspect of the Millennium. This repetition underscores the importance of taking the 1000 literally.
  - c. If other elements of the passage are to be taken literally (i.e. the binding of Satan, the resurrections, heaven, the angel, etc.) then this number must also be taken literally.
  - d. Daniel in Daniel 9 takes Jeremiah literally for 70 year captivity.
  - e. David's reign and rule was literal, therefore the reign of his ultimate heir will rule on earth on a literal throne, etc.
2. What other ways has the 1000 years been interpreted? What is the weakness in each of these?

The other primary way the 1000 year period has been interpreted is "an indefinite period of time". This view is taken by those who hold to an amillennium or postmillennium position.

The most significant weakness with this interpretation is that these same groups take the other elements (as mentioned in 'c' above) within the passage literally, along with large portions of the rest of Revelation. This results in an unacceptable inconsistent hermeneutic for these groups. One cannot pick and choose which parts of a seven verse passage one wants to view literally and which parts one does not.

3. How do premillenarians and amillenarians differ on the binding of Satan? What implications do each of these interpretations have for today?

Premillenarians view the binding of Satan as a literal restraining of a literal Satan in a literal pit for a literal 1000 years just prior to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.

- Implications for today: This view explains the ever increasing blight of evil in the world today and gives one hope for a future with Satan bound & Christ ruling.

Amillenarians view the binding of Satan to be a restraining of his power by God which began after Christ's resurrection and is still ongoing today. Therefore it is not for a literal 1000 years in a literal pit.

- Implications for today: This view holds to the belief that the gospel will spread to all corners of the earth until those saved outnumber those not saved and peace will reign on Earth therefore ushering in the return of Christ. This overall increase in peace is

possible due to Satan being bound even now. However, this view is at odds with reality and the world that we live in, not to mention other Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:1-9). If this world we live in is all there is and what we are experiencing (i.e. 9/11) is a sign of things getting better and better, then there is no hope for the future!

4. Who are the “rest of the dead” in v. 5?

The wicked of all time who are without Christ.

5. What is the “first resurrection” in v. 5?

This first resurrection is subsequent to the resurrection of the church, therefore chronologically it is not the “first” however, qualitatively compared to the “second death” it is the first.

Those killed during the tribulation period (vs. 4) for not following the Beast and the Old Testament saints (Dan. 12:2,13) will be part of this resurrection.

6. What is the “second death” in vs. 6, 14?

This is the ultimate spiritual, physical and eternal death, which is separation from God within the lake of fire, reserved for the Devil and his angels. This just judgement will be past on all those who have not received Christ at the “Great White Throne” judgement which will take place after the Millennium.

7. Why is one’s interpretation of Revelation 20 so important to one’s approach to prophetic Scripture?

In many ways this passage is a “litmus test” to one’s interpretation of prophetic Scripture. How one approaches this chapter of Revelation will set the stage to how one approaches other passages that speak of end-times.