



The Devil Does His Worst, Yet Jesus Always Wins

June 9, 2024

Revelation 20:1-6

¹And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. ²He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. ³He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

⁴I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

1. What's your gut reaction to the prospect of reading and interpreting the book of Revelation? (Excited, nervous, interested, afraid, curious, apprehensive, unprepared, ready to sink your teeth in, etc)

2. In 7 Vision 7 Truths (p. 26), Pastor Scherbarth gives a few things to keep in mind about reading a book of pictures like Revelation.
 - Always look at the whole picture to learn the message God is revealing.
 - Let God guide you (in the text) to the meaning he intends you to find in the picture.
 - Let God interpret the meaning of the pictures (using visions from the Bible or sections of Scripture)

How will these pointers help keep us out of interpretive danger?

3. In life, we can get the impression that Christians are losing the battle. How does knowing that Jesus has bound the devil on a chain change our perspective about the present?
4. How do we know for sure that there will not be a 1000-year reign of peace and harmony on earth either before or after Christ returns the second time.
5. Why are those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus considered blessed and holy?
6. How do we know that we also have a share in the first resurrection even if we haven't died yet? How do we know the second death has no power over us?
7. If God has made us to be a kingdom of priests to reign with Christ, what does he want our reigning to look like on earth while we are still alive?