

Revelation 19:6-22:21

19:6-21

Contrast 19:7 with 19:17-18

Revelation is not concerned with sequences but with consequences.

20:1-10

Premillennialism: Jesus will return to earth and rule for one thousand years (a millennium). The whole world will enjoy the benevolent rule of Jesus.

Postmillennialism: Jesus will return after a long period of increasing spiritual prosperity on earth.

Amillennialism: The millennium refers to a very long time, extending from the first coming of Jesus to his second coming.

There are two reasons I favor this option: (1) The parable of the weeds (Matt 13:24-30, 36-43) and (2) the word “throne” in the book of Revelation. In the NT the word for “throne” (and its plural) occurs 62 times—47 times in Revelation. In Revelation God’s throne is in heaven (see, for example, Rev. 4:2 [xx], 3, 4 [xxx], 5 [xx], 6 [xxx], 9, 10 [xx]; see also 12:5). Satan, on the other hand, has his throne on earth (Rev. 2:13; 13:2; 16:10). Based on this usage in Revelation, I wouldn’t appeal to the book to establish an earthly, millennial reign of Christ. The throne of Christ can only be in heaven. Accordingly, the 1000 year reign takes place in heaven.

20:4-6 describes the condition of the saints in heaven (see also *6:9-11).

“The imprisonment of the dragon indicates God’s intention that evil should know it has failed, that the dragon should be consciously aware of his defeat. Then, to drive home that the dragon no longer has any future in God’s world, he is let out—only to be defeated in a final decisive battle” (Spilsbury, p. 140).

John 12:30-32

Since Satan is unable to prevent the spread of the Gospel, in this sense, he is bound.

Satan’s little season

16:14-16 = 19:19 = 20:8

Contrast 20:6 with 20:14 (see also 21:8).

21:1-22:21

It is the same heaven and earth, but gloriously rejuvenated (not an ‘other’ universe). Compare with Jesus’ resurrection body.

Notice the “coming down” language (21:2, 10).

Relationship: 21:3, 7 God + his people

The church is portrayed as bride (21:2, 9) and God’s presence as city (21:10-21).

*21:16, 21 see 1 Kings 6:20-21

The twelve stones correspond generally to the twelve gems set into the breastplate of the high priest (Exod 28:17-20). The privileges reserved for the high priest alone under the old covenant are now freely given to the entire people of God.

21:22

Eden restored: the water of life (22:1) and the tree of life (22:2, 14, 19). See Ezekiel 47:1-12.

22:3

The concluding verses reiterate four times (6, 7, 12, 20) a theme found only three times in the rest of the book (1:1; 2:16; 3:11).

Victory in Jesus

I heard about a mansion

He has built for me in glory.

And I heard about the streets of gold

Beyond the crystal sea;

About the angels singing,

And the old redemption story,

And some sweet day I’ll sing up there

The song of victory.

Revelation Song

Filled with wonder awestruck wonder

At the mention of Your name

Jesus Your name is power, breath and living water

Such a marvelous mystery

