

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## Chapter 20

### Keys In Chapter Twenty:

1. Chapter twenty is just another type of symbolic representation of the material from the *little book*.
2. The first six verses of the chapter deal with the quality of the martyr's victory.
3. As a result of the martyr's victory, God limits Satan in his continued war on the church (vv. 1-3; cf. Matt. 12:22-29; Heb. 2:14-16).
4. The nature of Satan's efforts against the church had been in promoting a man who claimed to be god, Dometian, and his efforts to destroy those who rejected his claim.
5. Dometian ruled the greatest empire the world had ever known—his defeat marked the ultimate defeat of Rome in her efforts to destroy the church.
6. He could afflict the church in an almost universal way that would bring the most severe type of challenge the church would ever face.
7. His war against the church came when the church was early in its existence and thus particularly vulnerable.
8. God, after Dometian and Rome were defeated, would not allow Satan to mount an effort like this again.
9. The martyr's would enjoy a strong victory (v. 4; cf. 11:11-12; 15:1-2; 19:6-9).
10. The 1000 years (ten to the third power) symbolically represents the completeness of the martyrs victory in contrast to the limited nature of Satan's persecutions (vv. 2-4; cf. 2:10 where persecutions are said to be for 10 days; also Matt. 10:28).
11. Notice that those pictured in 20:4 are martyrs; Revelation gives them special encouragement—the 1000 year reign is for martyrs.
12. Revelation 20:4 is the fulfillment of the promise made to the early group of martyrs in 6:9-11—the full number of the martyrs had now come in.
13. *The rest of the dead* who did not live until after the 1000 years would be those who did not die for the cause of Christ—those who died because they opposed the Christ—their cause died while the martyr's lived or was resurrected (v. 5; cf. 11:11; 19:19-21; Isa. 26:13-19; note Rev. 2:11 equates *resurrection* to *overcoming*).
14. I take the end of the 1000 years when Satan would be released for *a short time*, to be the time just before the end of time (vv. 3, 7-10).
15. Although Satan would immediately embark on a second universal war against the church, before his efforts were recognizable (Matt. 24:35-44), he would be permanently put out of business (vv. 7-10).
16. Following this, all the dead would stand before God in the final judgment (vv. 11-15; cf. 11:18).

17. Only those saved by the Lamb would avoid the lake of fire (v. 15).