

## **ESCHATOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: ANGELS CAPTURED AND BOUND THE DEVIL FOR A THOUSAND YEARS, STUDY OF REVELATION 20:2**

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### **Abstract**

*The Millennial Kingdom is often understood differently by believers, in general some believe that the Millennial Kingdom will happen in the future, some believe that the Millennial Kingdom does not exist, and argue that the Millennial Kingdom is already happening now. Regarding the rapture, there are also various opinions, some believe that before the seven-year period of the antichrist the church of God will be raptured so that it will not experience torture, others argue that the church will be raptured after the three and a half years of the antichrist, and another view says that the church of God will only be raptured after the end of the antichrist. These differences in views must be straightened out according to God's teachings in the Bible, with biblical hermeneutic analysis. This study aims to find out how angels capture and bind the devil for a thousand years. This research method uses literature studies, exegeses and hermeneutics of verses, and interpretations of theologians. The conclusion of this study is that the devil is bound for a thousand years as proof of the prophecy that there will be a time when the Lord Jesus will rule theocratically together with believers and so that the devil does not lead the nations astray.*

**Keywords:** *millennial kingdom; revelation; devil bound; antichrist.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Millennial Kingdom written in the Book of Revelation gives rise to various interpretations presented by theologians, if formulated then there will be three different views.

First, amillennialism, the prefix 'a' is from the word not or not. Therefore, the doctrine of "amillennialism" denotes the belief that there will be no political

Kingdom of God or literal millennial kingdom on earth, as symbolically interpreted. They deny the idea of Christ's reign on earth for a literal thousand years, although they believe in the second coming of Christ. Louis Berkhof, Anthony A. Hoekema, William Hendrickson, James A. Hughes, and BB Warfield are among those who teach this doctrine.

Second, postmillennialism, post is a prefix that indicates “after,” or “afterward.” According to postmillennialism, Christ will return after the millennial kingdom. They argue that although there is an existing millennial kingdom on earth, it is not under the rule of Christ because it will only come after the end of this kingdom. They argue that the church must create the environment needed for the world to live in a time of peace, security, and prosperity. This viewpoint is based on the belief that the gospel response will be so successful that the earth will change everywhere. Christ will return when the preaching of the gospel reaches the pinnacle of success. They argue that before the Lord Jesus returns, the world will be Christianized.

Third, premillennialism, the word “pre” denotes “before.” Thus, premillennialism is the belief that Christ will come to earth and establish a literal thousand-year kingdom of righteousness and peace (Revelation 20:1-7).

Premillennialism exists in two forms, namely historical premillennialism and dispensational premillennialism.

Historical premillennialism is the belief that Christ will return. Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years before God's redemptive mission (Wongso, 1992). The new earth and heavens will rise. The dead will be brought back to life twice, first at the beginning of the millennium and then at the end of the millennium, they believe. This viewpoint also states that the great tribulation, world anarchy, and severe suffering will define the years leading up to the millennium. Come during this time to establish His dominion on earth and reign for a thousand years.

Dispensational premillennialism states that the second coming of Christ consists of two distinct events, each lasting seven years (Caballero, 2000). The first event is the Parousia, which occurs when Christ's followers gather during the rapture. Christ will descend from heaven to meet and gather the godly (Matthew 24:30-31). Celebrating the marriage of the Lamb, they will be raptured together and will be with God in heaven forever. Immediately following the end of this seven-year era will be the Lord's return to earth to reign for a thousand years.

Research conducted by Ari Upu Telo titled *The Millennial Kingdom (Exposition of Revelation 20)* shows that the devil's evil directed against God and His people will not last forever. It is certain that those who commit evil will not experience happiness. In contrast, those who remain faithful to the Lord Jesus will receive rewards and the opportunity to judge and reign with Christ in the future millennial kingdom. The faithful will surely escape eternal punishment and will surely join their Lord in the new heaven and new earth. Therefore, it is imperative for every believer to remain steadfast in their devotion to the Lord and engage in more active service until His return (Telo, n.d.).

The results of research by Reina Nurani and Abad Jaya Zega, entitled *Christians' Perspectives on the Millennial Kingdom Based on Revelation 20*, concluded that the Millennium Kingdom begins with the capture and shackling of Satan. Then Satan is cast into the abyss for one millennium. Christ's reign on earth will last for a millennium, during which the saints and those killed in

the great tribulation will reign with him (Nurani S & Zega, 2024).

The conclusion of the research of Hot Nome and Aprianus Lendrik Moimau, entitled *The Thousand Year Kingdom Based on Revelation 20:1-6*, is that Satan will be chained for a thousand years so that he cannot do evil to deceive the nations. However, in the end, it is only available for a short time. After the seven-year tribulation era will come the millennium, which is considered the golden age of the earth. With life spans of hundreds of years considered normal, humanity will live in peace and happiness during this time (Nome & Moimau, 2024).

A journal written by Harry Sudarma, entitled *The Status of Human Sinfulness in the Thousand-Year Kingdom from the Perspective of Pre-Millennialism*, concludes that believers who have received the body of glory will not commit offenses. They reign with Christ for a thousand years. During this thousand-year period, the followers of the world will abstain from sin. There is no freedom for the tempting devil to roam this universe, as he is chained. Even so, sin remains in unbelieving

individuals, just as it did when Adam and Eve fell into sin. The status of unbelievers is that they commit sin (Sudarma, 2022).

Authors Julitinus Harefa and Meniati Hia, titled *The Millennial Kingdom in the Perspective of Evangelicals*, say that evangelicals have inherited the legacy of the early church fathers, namely the coming millennium. One literal interpretation of this teaching is that the millennial reign will occur after the second coming of Christ. Jesus is the King, and he is accompanied by his followers. Revelation 20:1-7 is a real event and should not be interpreted symbolically. Although the dominion that will be established later is spiritual in nature, it manifests in physical form. It is possible that our understanding and knowledge of the basic principles and purpose of the Kingdom of Shalom will be limited if we examine Revelation 20, but its attributes are present throughout the Bible. As the Bible prophesied in the Old Testament, through the words of Jesus, those written in Paul's letters, and most convincingly the function of the crown that Jesus Christ will give to His saints (Harefa & Hia, 2022).

According to Dave Hagelberg, the question of how to interpret the term "thousand years" and the binding of Satan has been widely debated among interpreters, each of whom seems to be influenced by their theological beliefs. In reality, an interpretation should not be based on our theology. Interpretation should be the basis of theology, not the other way around. If someone reads the term "thousand years" six times in this passage, particularly in chapter 10:1-10, without any prejudice, they will believe that the thousand years will pass at the coming of the Lord, during which time those who died as martyrs for Christ will be resurrected and reign as kings beside Christ (Hagelberg, 2021).

The Beasley-Murray view, explains that the Millennial Kingdom is essentially a period of time that exists between the present and the New Heaven and New Earth, or eternity. The Messiah will reign on earth during this period. Although the Old Testament does not explicitly mention the Millennial Kingdom, many prophecies concerning the last days indicate that the Messiah's reign on earth will be centered in Jerusalem (Nurani S & Zega, 2024).

Revelation 20:1-6 is interpreted literally and chronologically. G.E Ladd asserts that the only instance in the Bible that refers to the actual millennium is the passage in Revelation 20:1-6. The oldest exegesis of the passage should serve as the basis for any doctrine of the millennium. “Chronological progressives regard Revelation 20 as a continuation of Revelation 19.” Revelation 20 must recount the events that take place after the second coming of Christ, just as Revelation 19 describes them. The restraint of Satan, the millennium, and the two resurrections in Revelation 20 are interpreted literally by premillennialists. Ladd argues that the number one thousand, which is ten to the third power and is a perfect number, may not need to be interpreted literally, despite the fact that it would take a long time (Ladd, 1972).

This research analyzes the eschatological meaning of the binding of the devil for a thousand years based on Revelation 20:2 which has not been done by previous studies.

The binding of Satan for a thousand years, taken from Revelation 20:1-6, has profound eschatological significance. It represents a period when Satan cannot deceive the nations, allowing for the spread of the gospel and the gathering of the church. This eschatological significance reminds believers to live in expectation of Christ’s second coming, when He will end all evil and bring His people into glory. Believers are called to be ready and live in expectation, looking forward to the time when Christ will return and complete His plan. This study aims to find out how angels capture and bind the devil for a thousand years.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The methodology of this study uses qualitative research of literature studies or literature, analyzing biblical hermeneutics by using supporting dictionaries, concordances, exegesis of verses, and taking the interpretations of theologians, obtained from books, Bibles, translations, interpretations, journals, e-books and so on. Previous studies have focused only on the

millennial kingdom or Jesus Christ and have not explored the eschatological meaning of it. So the novelty of this study lies in the discussion of the eschatological meaning of the millennial kingdom. Eschatological meaning refers to concepts related to the last things in life, such as death, the Day of Judgment, and resurrection. In various religious traditions, eschatology discusses the final fate of humans and the reality after life, and how this affects the behavior and beliefs of individuals today. This study aims to find out how the angels captured and bound the devil for a thousand years with a focus on the eschatological meaning.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Bible emphasizes that the world peace desired by humanity will ultimately be achieved; therefore, the Kingdom of God is referred to as the Kingdom of Peace. In this Kingdom of Peace, nations that have been in conflict, including Israel and Palestine, will unite peacefully without further disputes (Isaiah 2:4, 19:23), transitioning into a new era known as the Millennial Kingdom. The phrase "Millennial Kingdom,"

derived from the Greek word *chilia*, meaning "thousand," is used in Revelation 20:4 to refer to this Kingdom. This word emphasizes the concept that the church, together with Christ, will reign for a literal thousand years. This view is explained by the verb *basileuo*, which means "to reign." This verb appears three times in Revelation 20:4 and 6. Scholars refer to the Millennial Kingdom in this manner, originating from the Latin terms *mille* and *annus*, which together mean a thousand years. The fulfillment of the Kingdom of God is closely related to the second coming of Christ. This Kingdom consists of three elements: first, the universal Kingdom of God, which signifies the Creator's full authority and power over the universe (1 Chr. 29:11-12), the nations (Ps. 47:9, 93:1-2), and supremacy over all earthly rulers (Dan. 4:17, 25). Second, spiritual authority refers to an atmosphere of willing submission to God. This authority includes governance over the early church, the Gentiles, and the redeemed Jews from the Old Covenant, along with Christians in the New Covenant (Rom. 14:17). The Universal Kingdom was established through David's reign, instituted as a

theocratic monarchy after his anointing. It will occur after the global destruction of kingdoms. God, who reigns in Heaven, will establish an eternal dominion that will not be destroyed (Dan. 2:44, 7:13, Rev. 11:15). The procession of Christ's Second Coming and Victory through the Commemoration of the Feast of the Lamb. In preparation for Christ's descent to earth, heaven *anoigo* (Rev. 19:11) is opened not symbolically but literally. The Kingdom of Peace will be established as a result of the destruction of all enemies who rule the world (Rev. 19:11, 2:3). Nations, false prophets, the beast (Antichrist), and the old serpent (Satan) are among the entities that will be destroyed. One of the entities that Christ will defeat is the nations (Rev. 19:14). This refers to the nations allied with the Antichrist, not the nation of Israel or the church. The Faithful and True (Rev. 19:11) achieves a glorious victory by riding a white horse.

The results describe the research findings that can be presented in the form of tables or pictures while the discussion describes the implications of the findings on existing theories or

theoretical findings explained by what method, why, and how.

The war is the result of the full outpouring of God's vengeance on earth during the time of great tribulation, as evidenced by the seven trumpets and bowls. The final cleansing of the world's deceivers is the war waged by Jesus in His coming procession. Christ is accompanied by all the armies of Heaven when He destroys His enemies. *Strateuma* (*armies*) is mentioned in (Rev. 19:14), and the angels and believers are represented by those clothed in fine white linen (Rev. 5:11, 12:7). Nevertheless, believers refrain from engaging in the conflict and instead observe the majesty of Jesus. The beast, the false prophet, and their followers are also enemies of Christ before the Kingdom of Peace is established on earth (Rev. 19:19-21). These enemies are literal, not symbolic. The Bible explains that the Lamb, Christ, will descend to earth to defeat all His enemies (Rev. 17:11-14).

The Millennial Kingdom in its literal sense is objectively verified by the conjunction *kai*, which signifies "and" (Rev. 19:11, 20:6). The *kai*

conjunction is a transitional conjunction that underlines the chronological actuality of subsequent events. In English (NIV), this word is translated as *then*, a term that serves to establish the relationship between the previous event and the next event in a sequence. The evidence presented above shows that the momentum of the Millennium Kingdom will indeed occur literally and chronologically. The biblical textual evidence on the aspect of time basically supports the idea of normal time. In Revelation 20:3, two time periods are described using Greek terms: *ta chilia ete*, which translates to “a thousand years,” and *mikron chronon*, which means “a little time.”

Parallel texts and contexts establish the duration of the period. *Chronos*, a term that emphasizes a specific duration or period of time, is used to convey the concept of literal time in the text. The term does not refer to the beginning of an event. The expression *thousand years* is equivalent to the term *little time*, which indicates a countable duration. The purpose of the devil's enslavement is to prevent the deceiver from deceiving the nations before the end of the Kingdom of Peace. This

indicates that the earth will experience typical human activity within a thousand years. The clause *eis tes abysson*, which translates to *into the abyss*, reveals the literal enslavement of the devil. *Abyss* is a prison that houses the antichrist or beast (Rev.. 11:7) and the devil or evil entity (Luke. 8:31) (Welly, 2004).

Studying the binding of Satan for a thousand years in the context of hermeneutics is essential to understanding the ethical behavior of believers. By understanding that Satan will be bound, believers can better appreciate the ethical values taught in the Bible. Awareness of God's victory over evil encourages individuals to live according to good moral principles. The concept of Satan's binding gives believers hope that justice will be served. This encourages them to behave ethically, because they believe that good deeds will be rewarded and evil will be judged.

Another benefit is that knowing that Satan will be released after a thousand years can motivate believers to do good and spread goodness during their lifetime. They are reminded not to get caught up in evil, but to contribute to a better society.

Studying the binding of Satan also serves as spiritual education. It helps believers understand the ongoing spiritual battle and the importance of maintaining faith and ethical behavior in the face of temptation. Understanding the binding of Satan can encourage believers to be more active in their communities, contributing to the common good, and supporting one another in living ethical lives.

### **Exposition of the Text Revelation 20:2**

Greek Revelation 20:2: και εκρατησεν τον δρακοντα ο οφεις ο αρχαιος ος εστιν διαβολος και ο σατανας και εδησεν αυτον χιλια ετη

KJV: And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years

TB: *ia menangkap naga, si ular tua itu, yaitu Iblis dan Satan. Dan ia mengikatnya seribu tahun lamanya.*

The word catch, κρατέω *krateo* means I obtain, hold fast, grasp, control. The term dragon δράκων *drakon* means dragon or great serpent, a name for Satan. Then the word old serpent ὄφεις *ophis* meaning viper is used to refer to the devil or

Satan as a symbol of cunning. The term old ἀρχαῖος *archaios* means old, old, ancient, ancestor, which has existed since the beginning. Then the word devil διάβολος *diabolos*, tending to slander, falsely accuse. The term Satan Σατανᾶς *Satanas* means an opponent of God and man, he will be bound with chains for a thousand years, but when the thousand years are over he will walk the earth with even greater power, but soon will be handed over to eternal punishment. The term binding is δέω *deo*, meaning to bind, to fasten, to chain. The term thousand χίλιοι *chilioi*, a thousand is the product of 10x10x10 (ten to the third power). Finally the word year ἔτος *ethos* means year.

The old serpent, Satan and the Devil, will be captured and bound for a thousand years by angels descending from heaven with great keys and chains. After that, he will be thrown into the bottomless pit and sealed, thereby prohibiting the nations from deceiving them. Some people are authorized to judge and sit on it before the end of the thousand years, although this authority is only expressed for a short time. The martyrs who disobeyed the

antichrist's command will rise and reign as kings with Christ for a thousand years. Satan will be released after the thousand years and will travel to the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to deceive the nations and wage war against the saints. However, fire will descend from heaven and consume them. Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire, where he will be tormented forever. Earth and heaven will then pass away, and the dead will be judged according to their deeds. Those whose names are not recorded in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire. Then the holy city of New Jerusalem will descend from heaven, and the glory of God will be upon it. According to the second verse of Revelation 20, "the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan".

This verse is often considered ambiguous and can be interpreted in a variety of ways. Some interpreters may see it as symbolic, while others may take it literally. This can lead to differences of opinion among theologians and preachers. In the context of eschatology, this verse speaks of the end times and judgment. Some criticisms may focus on how

the depiction of Satan in this verse may affect believers' understanding of justice and judgment. Does this depiction give hope or cause fear? Some may question the relevance of this verse to everyday life. In a modern context, how can this depiction of Satan be applied to addressing moral and ethical challenges? This criticism may prompt a discussion about how ancient texts can be translated into relevant life practices today. There are also criticisms that point to the limitations of human understanding in understanding complex spiritual concepts. The depiction of Satan in Revelation 20 may reflect human attempts to understand a greater spiritual reality, but still fail to fully capture the essence of it.

Utley's interpretation or account of Revelation 20:2, by emphasizing the four names of the evil one in Revelation 12:9-10, the identity of those who are imprisoned and will subsequently be cast into the lake of fire becomes clear. This establishes the connection between the beginning (Genesis. 3) and the end (Rev.. 20; 21; 22). The term "serpent" is analogical. The Hebrew term "tannin" is used to refer to earth

serpents in the Old Testament (Ex. 7:9, Deut. 32:33). Sea serpent (Gen. 1:21; Ps. 148:7). The term is used to denote one of God's creatures (Job 41; Ps. 104:24-26) or as a symbol of evil (Rahab, Is. 51:9), similar to the mythological sea monster Leviathan (Job 7:12, Psalms 74:13-14). The leaders used it symbolically to represent Israel's enemies, including Egypt (Ps. 87:4, Rahab, and Ezekiel 29:3). A creature that causes chaos in Mesopotamian mythology (Rev. 12:3). The King James Version translates *tanin* and *tannim* (Job 30:29; Ps. 44:19; Isa. 13:22) as "dragon," although the two terms are not related. The plural form of the word "tan" is "wolf." "He bound him for a thousand years" Humans have consistently maintained the belief that the physical punishment that Adam and Eve experienced as a result of their decision was unjust. It is conceivable that the elimination of temptation and evil would create a theological environment comparable to the Garden of Eden. The presence of the Holy Messiah would not only protect people from Satan's temptations, but would also benefit them. The sad truth is that people will

once again rebel against God's rule in Christ (Revelation. 20:7-9). The conflict between virtue and vice is symbolized by the concept of the two Jewish ages in the Old Testament. The Jewish people in their daily affairs and daily lives. How could one possibly want to interpret this in a highly symbolic, unique and unrepeatable book such as the millennial reign in the literal sense? The solution is not found in the interpretation, but rather is found in the interpreter's presuppositions. The issue at hand is the accurate and consistent interpretation of apocalyptic literature, not the question of whether or not one accepts the Bible. Believers have turned the book into a chronological account of Christ's second coming and have forced the details to fit into their own historical, cultural, and theological interpretive frameworks in response to their desire for additional information about the end times. If this is taken literally, the only Christians who live and perish during this period will reign with Christ (Rev. 20:4-5).

Ellicot gives the interpretation that God also captured the dragon. Or,

he bound the dragon, the old serpent, who is the devil and Satan, for a thousand years. The four words: dragon, old serpent, devil, and Satan define the archenemy; they are identical to those used for the same purpose in Revelation 12:9. He has been found to be fierce as a dragon, cunning as a serpent, a slanderer of God and His people, and an enemy of all justice throughout the world; he has exercised his power as ruler of this world in every sector. As Christ declared (Matt. 12:29; Collosians 2:15), he is bound for a thousand years (Bible Hub, n.d.-a).

According to Matthew Henry, Revelation 20:1-3 This vision shows through a figure the limitations placed on Satan personally. Christ, by His divine power, will prevent the devil from fooling people as he has done historically. He never wanted tools or authority to subdue Satan's power. Christ seals with His power and closes with His influence. The church will experience a time of calm and prosperity; all her challenges will still come, and she meets them with force - ἐκράτησεν *ekratēs.en*. The word "use of force" indicates that he has more power than the devil and Satan (Bible Hub, n.d.-b).

The interpretation by Barnes, that the formidable enemy that must be subdued is of immense power and can only be defeated by a superior force. This can tell us that Satan's kingdom on earth can only be destroyed by divine power and it can also tell us that the intervention of angels will be used to usher in the extraordinary state of the millennium. The entire millennium doctrine as a whole is based on this passage. It is true that Scripture contains many assurances that the gospel will eventually be spread throughout the world, but the concept of the millennium is exclusively found in this passage. Nonetheless, the doctrine can be established if its meaning is accurately determined. It is a natural principle in biblical interpretation that the clearly understood meaning of a single passage of Scripture is sufficient to establish the truth of a doctrine. The devil, Satan, was captured and bound for a thousand years by the angel with the key of the abyss and the great chain, as stated in this verse (Barnes, 2000).

Based on an interpretation from BibleRef.com. What does Revelation 20:2 mean? Amillennialism holds

that the thousand years are entirely figurative. They reject the idea of Christ's literal reign on earth for a thousand years and instead view His reign as taking place in the hearts of His followers. In general, they refer to the church as the dominion. According to premillennialism, the thousand years is the literal period during which Christ rules the world after He returns to earth and judges the antichrist, the false prophet, and the nations. The fact that Satan is bound, rather than immediately destroyed, seems to be part of God's message in the last days. Regardless of the amount of evidence given to man, those who wish to disbelieve in God will always find an explanation. Man will continue to resist God even after a thousand years of peace and truth. Satan will be permanently and thoroughly defeated after this final demonstration of God's justice (Bible Ref, n.d.).

From [Thebiblesays.com](http://Thebiblesays.com), regarding Revelation 20:2 meaning, interpreting Satan's restraint in the unfolding drama of Revelation is a critical moment in which God's authority decisively imposes limits on evil. The establishment of the

prophesied millennium, Christ's thousand-year reign of peace and righteousness, is heralded by this event. The vivid depiction of Satan's binding serves a dual purpose: it provides hope for believers during the tribulation and affirms the sovereignty of Christ. Satan's imprisonment serves as a prelude to divine justice, which underscores the fact that evil will ultimately be subdued. Scripture demonstrates the authoritative action of angels against Satan, thereby reinforcing God's authority over darkness. This binding not only guarantees the church "a considerable period of peace and prosperity," but also underscores the temporary nature of this confinement. It is crucial to recognize that this era is not simply an idealized existence; it provides the critical context for the ultimate conflict between virtue and evil at the end of the thousand-year period. This image emphasizes the existence of free will, which shows the potential for rebellion in human beings, even in ideal situations. This heavenly narrative, as described in Revelation 20:2, encourages believers to maintain a vigilant attitude while putting their faith in

God's ultimate victory over evil (The Bible Says, n.d.).

The view by Richard T. Ritenbaugh, the bottomless pit is not the final punishment for Satan; rather, it will serve as a "bind and hold" for a thousand years, rendering him incapable of deceiving anyone. It is almost impossible to imagine a universe without Satan. Humanity has never known a time when anti-God attitudes were not always present in our environment, except for a brief period in Eden (Ephesians 2:2). A significant burden will be removed from the minds of individuals once Satan is imprisoned. Once Satan's influence is removed and the prison door is closed, people can finally achieve true tranquility and man will be able to think clearly for the first time. Sin will not disappear completely, as people will still be required to confront their worldly natures. However, they will have a better chance of succeeding in this endeavor without Satan's support (Ritenbaugh, 2017).

So, what can be concluded from this is that, before adopting dogmatic millennial teachings, it is important that we consider the fact that many intelligent and well-meaning

Christians have differing opinions regarding Revelation 20:1-15. The book of Revelation is probably the most interesting and often debated component of the canon. This should encourage us to be careful when evaluating or rejecting other individuals' interpretations. Bob Hoekstra of the Blue Letter Bible interpreter has varying perspectives on the subject, as is the case with any Christian organization. Nonetheless, he believes that the most consistent and literal interpretation of the Bible is dispensational premillennialism, given all the Scriptures on the subject. As a recommendation is to understand Acts 17:11. The most effective method of interpreting God's Word is to examine its own statements. If you hold a different view, there is no need to worry, because salvation will not be undermined by Revelation 20:1-15, but rather in the person of Jesus Christ (Blue Letter Bible, n.d.).

As mentioned earlier, the Millennial Kingdom and dominion takes place during the thousand-year reign of Christ, while Satan awaits his final confrontation with God's people in prison. Some interpret this as an allegorical thousand years, similar to

the seventy weeks in Daniel, which is not literal. However, Scripture seems to indicate that this event is likely literal. After the rapture, God's followers will rise and reign with Christ during this period. Although we do not have an exact job description, it seems that our responsibilities will entail some form of judgment and governance. Scripture explicitly states that those who do not receive the mark will not be able to buy anything, including food, and may end up being killed, persecuted, or imprisoned as a result of their rejection (Revelation 13). This can give us a strong understanding of the anticipated date of the Millennial Kingdom (Bolinger, 2021).

### ***The Thousand-Year Kingdom***

John sees the millennium as consisting of several elements: (1) Satan's confinement prevents him from deceiving the nations (20:3). Christ (verses 4-7) resurrects and reigns over the martyrs. This shows that instead of all living beings, the "all others" killed in Revelation 19:21 are actually armies. Christ and his martyrs control the earthly people who are not destroyed in the final

judgment; they remain alive. (3) According to Ezekiel 38-39, the end of this age is characterized by the unleashing of Satan and his revived deception against the nations, particularly Gog and Magog, who are in the North (Asia Minor or beyond). The Jewish historian Josephus records the Scythians, a nation not under the Roman empire. All these identifications seem to point to the nations outside the empire, now under Christ, uniting against the legitimate ruler. (4) Verses 8-15 tell of Satan being cast into the lake of fire, the rebellion ending with the final judgment, all the dead being resurrected, and the destruction of the evil rulers. When the next chapter deals with the new realm and the new earth, this signals the end of human history on Earth (Wahyu, 2007).

The Millennium Kingdom must be established on various grounds:

First, the millennium is the reward for martyrs, i.e. for those who have not worshipped the beast. Revelation 13:15 seems to indicate that they are all martyrs. Their faithfulness to Christ resulted in their death. At present, they have the right to reign with Christ and endless life.

Secondly, the millennium reveals Christ's victory. His thousand-year reign will preserve the kingdom that God has bestowed on Him and is now hidden in heaven. His victory is now fully realized.

Third, the millennium preserves God's proper rule and redemptive history. Can God dominate this planet more successfully than Satan and mankind can? This century reveals that God is able to rule ethically and justly throughout history. He is not obligated to erase history. This could be the time when mankind will meet the just rule that the earth has rejected but craved since the fall.

Why is Satan preserved while antichrists and false prophets are destroyed. It is clear that this is not motivated by compassion or mercy for Satan. It is a fact that Satan's authority is demonstrated and then lost. Their time on earth has come to an end. After God had demonstrated His righteous rule, Satan was released to give mankind its final test. Therefore, Satan was not summoned from hell for his own benefit, instead he was used to fulfill God's good plan, although Satan may have denied this idea in his mind. Satan remains under

God's dominion until the end (Wahyu, 2007).

Human free will in the context of eschatology, especially in relation to Satan's thousand-year confinement, reflects the struggle between good and evil (Maxwell, 2015). In eschatological teachings, after the event of Armageddon, Satan will be confined for a period of one thousand years, which has important implications for human free will (Chryssides, 2019).

Free will refers to an individual's ability to make choices without coercion (Goltz, 2020). In theological contexts, it is often associated with moral and spiritual responsibility. In many religious traditions, Satan's thousand-year confinement is seen as a period in which evil is restricted (Opsahl-Engen, 2024). This gives humanity a chance to live in a state of peace and goodness without the influence of evil.

With Satan confined, humans may have more freedom to choose good. However, the question arises, do choices made in a state without the influence of evil truly reflect free will? After the thousand years, Satan

will be released for a short period of time, which will again test human free will. This creates a scenario where humans must choose between good and evil once again, highlighting the importance of the decisions made.

Human free will in the eschatology of Satan being confined for a thousand years demonstrates the dynamic between free will and the influence of evil (Frankfurter, 2018).

This period can be seen as an opportunity for spiritual and moral growth, but it also raises questions about the true nature of free will in the context of external influences.

The practical implications of the literal interpretation of the Millennial Kingdom for the contemporary Christian community are Concrete Eschatological Hope, Involvement in Politics and Social, and Separation from Secular Culture (Hunt, 2016). While the practical implications of the symbolic interpretation of the Millennial Kingdom for the contemporary Christian community are Focus on Current Spiritual Life, Involvement in Mission and Service, and Acceptance of Diversity (Knoetze, 2017).

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION**

From the biblical hermeneutic analysis, several conclusions can be drawn regarding the role of Satan and the sovereignty of Christ in the Millennial Kingdom. The evil done by Satan against God and His people will not last forever, and those who are faithful to Christ will receive the benefits and opportunities to reign with Him. Satan's confinement for a thousand years prevents him from deceiving the nations, provides hope for believers and guarantees Christ's sovereignty. It shows that in the end, evil will be defeated and prepares the way for divine retribution. Nonetheless, the moderation of Satan's power shows that evil forces remain in the end-time drama, and human freedom of choice remains important even under perfect conditions. Therefore, Christians should remain vigilant, believe in God's victory over evil, and not judge fellow believers simply because of differing views on the understanding of the thousand-year kingdom.

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