

# **Things Hard To Understand (#8)**

## **“What About The 1000 Year Reign?”**

**Text:** Revelation 20:1-5

### **Introduction:**

1. In our continuing quest to examine passages or subjects often “hard to be understood” we will examine today the concept of the 1000 year kingdom (millenium.)
2. This belief is basically that when Christ comes again He will establish an earthly reign and rule in His earthy Kingdom for 1000 years.

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. Always Interpret Difficult Passages in Light of Clear Passages or Known Truths!**

1. In our last lesson we noted that the kingdom is already in existence and is the same as the church (cf. Matthew 16:18-19; Colossians 1:18)
2. Thus before we even begin our study of Revelation 20 we know that any interpretation of the passage in question which teaches that the kingdom is yet future is in error!
3. Even the book of Revelation itself begins with the affirmation that the kingdom was in existence when it was penned (Revelation 1:9)

#### **II. A Passage Taken Out Of Context Becomes a Pretext!**

1. Note the immediate context of the passage. The charge is oft made that we err in denying the 1000 year reign because we won't take the passage literally. In verse 1-5, tell which is literal:
  - (1) Vs. 1 – Angel with a key?... bottomless pit?... chain?
  - (2) Vs. 2 – Is the Devil a dragon?... Is he a serpent?
  - (3) Vs. 3 – the bottomless pit?... The seal?
  - (4) Vs. 4 – the thrones?... the beheaded saints?Now why are we condemned for “not taking the verse literal”?!
2. Note the remote context of the book:
  - (1) 1:1 – shortly to come to pass
  - (2) 1:1 – book is a book of signs
  - (3) 1:7 – no secret coming to “rapture” the church in preparation for the “millenium”
  - (4) 1:9 – the tribulation and kingdom was in existence when written
3. Note the remote context of the Bible:
  - (1) As noted in I. above, remote context teaches the kingdom is already in existence.
  - (2) When Christ comes again, it will not be to establish anything on the earth!
    - A. 1 Corinthians 15:24
    - B. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
    - C. 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10
    - D. 2 Peter 3:10-14

### **Conclusion:**

1. What does Revelation 20 teach? God is in control, thus we need not fear Satan nor his power (cf. James 4:7-10).
2. Don't let perversions of God's teachings steal the assurances He has given us!