

Revelation 20:1-10 (pt. 2) - Martyrs and the Millennium

Intro - On October 6, 1536 William Tyndale was executed for translating the Bible into English language. Jesus warned of persecution – being hated by all and killed – take up cross and follow – lose life/save it. Stephen – stoned, James – sword, Philip – crucified, Matthew – beheaded; James – pushed off/clubbed; Matthias – beheaded; Andrew – crucified; Mark – dragged; Peter – crucified; Paul – beheaded; Thomas – spears/oven; Luke – hung. There have been many martyrs throughout the millennia. (2980 in 2019)

1st SBC missionary martyred - J. Landrum Holmes /China. Wife (Sallie) stayed with newborn in China to mentor. She mentored Charlotte Diggs (Lottie) Moon [\[other SBC "martyrs" – silent video/infographic\]](#)

Rev. has much to say about persecution - Rev. 2:10; 6:9-11; 7:13-17; 11:7; 12:11,17; 13:7,10; 16:6; 17:6; 18:20,24; 19:2; Rev. 20:4 – the tables have turned for the martyrs – Millennium has come and a new day has arrived for those that were faithful until death. Saints Empowerment (enjoyment)

Review - Millennium = 1000 yrs (1000 years is mentioned 6 x's in 20:1-7) Culmination of Kingdom
Much argument over meaning of passage. "When" and "Where" is the Millennium? (there is one!)
20:1-3 – Satan's confinement - kept in Abyss for 1000 yrs - not deceive nations (world with no Devil!).

Rev. 20:4-6 we have Saints Empowerment & A Resurrection Postponement

Saints Empowerment

- 12:4 "I saw thrones....authority to judge"
 - o The saints will be empowered to rule and judge during the millennium
 - o Jesus promised the apostles this power (throne) - Matt. 19:28-29 Luke 22:30
 - o The church is included /endowed with this power 1 Cor. 6:1-3
 - o The Apostles will judge the 12 tribes and the Church will judge the world and angels
 - This may be a new thought/truth the Millennium will be a new world
- 12:4d; 12:6c "reign with Christ for a 1000 years"
 - o Christ is King of kings and will reign on the throne of His father David Luke 1:31-33
 - o His church will reign with Him. Rev. 2:26-29 Rev. 3:21-22 Rev. 5:10
 - o This is a promise from old Daniel 7:25-27
 - o Parable of the 10 Minas (Luke 19:11-27)
 - Master gave charge of some money to His servants (3 months wages)
 - Master left for a long time but would come back as king
 - Made a accounting with His servants. They all had different results
 - Gave charge of 10 cities or 5 cities (according to their faithfulness)
 - o When Christ comes He will reward His servants with reigning over nations/cities
 - The Millennium will be a inhabited civilization (nations)

- The saints will rule over someone so I suppose it is those who survived the tribulation (long life prophesied during Millennium- environment restored)
- The Persecuted will be empowered during the Millennium Rev. 22:12
 - o Matt. 5:10-12-blessed are the persecuted for theirs is the kingdom...great is your reward
 - o Video – Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
- The bible is clear about persecution
 - o We are to expect persecution and persecution is coming
 - The Beast and FP will war against the saints Dan. 7:25 Rev. 13:7
 - o Some will be beheaded for their testimony about Jesus and the Word Rev. 20:4
 - Some are beheaded in our own time (image of 21 Egyptian Christians)
 - o Many will be persecuted because they do not take the Mark of the Beast
 - o BUT THE PERSECUTED WILL BE EMPOWERED IN THE MILLENNIUM
 - They will come to life and reign with Christ for a 1000 years
 - They will sit on thrones and judge the nations that judged them
 - They will rule over the nations with a rod of iron
 - They will be priests of God and reign on the earth Rev. 5:10
 - Blessed are the persecuted for theirs is the Kingdom...great is their reward!

Resurrection Postponement

- The resurrection of the dead is a cardinal doctrine of the Christian church
 - o Christ's bodily resurrection ours and the world's
 - o Debate over a general resurrection of wicked and righteous or resurrection in stages
- Rev. 4d-6a seems to indicate a 1000 postponement for the wicked dead's resurrections
 - o The 1st resurrection is the tribulation martyrs/church at the 2nd coming/rapture
 - 1 Thess. 4:16 "the dead will rise first and after that we who are alive...."
 - The resurrected and raptured saints will reign with Christ for 1000 years
 - o After the 1000 years the rest of the dead will be raised for final judgment
- Luke 14:14 also seems to indicate a distinction in resurrections "resurrection of righteous"
- There will be a resurrection of both righteous and wicked
 - o Acts 24:15 John 5:28-29 Daniel 12:2
- There is a 1st and 2nd resurrection and a 1st and 2nd death Rev. 20:5-6
 - o 1st death Heb. 9:27 physical only – separation of body from soul
 - o 2nd death separation of body and soul from all goodness of God - Hell
 - Matt. 10:28 Matt. 13:41-42 Matt. 25:41 Rev. 20:14-15
 - o 2nd Resurrection is the resurrection of wicked for judgment
 - Given new imperishable bodies prepared for lake of fire (Mark 9:43-49)
 - o 1st resurrection Revelation 20:6 (beatitude)
- Come to Christ - take up cross - if you lose your life you will save it the world will hate you
 God will love you- even in death you will win resurrected and reign with Christ
 for 1000 years and in the new heavens and new earth forever and ever. Amen!