**thank god for his coming kingdom**

(Revelation 20:1-10)

Nearly 50 years ago on September 9, 1971 (nine years before he was gunned down by an assassin), former Beatle John Lennon wrote the song *Imagine* in which he dreamed about a world where people all lived together in harmony---a world in which there were no wars. In one of the verses he wrote:

´“Imagine all the people living life in peace.”

The way things have been going lately in the world around us---especially in the Middle East---John Lennon’s dream of a world in which war is a thing of the past is more desirable than ever. Of course, if you ever listened to Lennon’s song carefully, you understand his dream had a fatal flaw in it. Lennon thought that world harmony and peace could be accomplished apart from God for the song I just made reference to begins, “Imagine there’s no heaven; it’s easy if you try. No hell below us; above us only sky.”

Now, there **is** coming a day in which the world and society we live in will be like Paradise---the earth and the way it is governed will undergo a radical change and it will literally be like heaven on earth. **But**, it will only happen through the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the establishment of His earthly kingdom.

This morning, as we read the Scripture together, I would like you to notice that in the space of just 11 verses, the phrase **“thousand years”** occurs six times. Of course, this is a reference to the time period that theologians call “The Millennium.”

**Revelation 20:1-11** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand years**; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the **thousand years** were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a **thousand years**. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the **thousand years** were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a **thousand years**. 7 Now when the **thousand years** have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Now, on this Lord’s Supper Sunday morning before Thanksgiving, there are a lot of reasons we can give thanks to God about the future blessings we will enjoy when Jesus comes back to earth to rule and reign for 1000 years:

* No more war
* No more depression or sorrow
* A return to Garden of Eden-like conditions (and so many more!)

But this morning, in Rev 20:1-10, there are three reasons more reasons we can be thankful for God’s promises about our futures here on planet earth during the 1000-year reign of Christ.

**1) Satan will not be around to deceive people to sin (20:1-3)**

In vv. 1-3, John saw a heavenly angel who bound Satan…

…for a thousand years; and he cast him into the bottomless pit [Hades], and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.

No one on earth at that time will be able to make the same excuse that Flip Wilson used to make in the sixties as Geraldine when he would say, *“The devil made me do it!”*

(Comments)

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We can be thankful…

1) Satan will not be around to deceive people to sin (20:1-3)

**2) Faithful followers of Christ will be rewarded and reign with Him (20:4-6)**

Every person who has believed in Christ since Adam and Eve until the very end of the future 7-year Tribulation Period will be **WITH** Christ for the 1000 years (and then on into eternity). But as you all know, only those who have served Christ faithfully till the end of life will reign with Him. And in v. 4, John says:

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.

The “they” in v. 4 refers back to the faithful church age believers who return with Christ at Armageddon.

But there is another group who will also rule with Christ. Look at the end of v. 4:

Then I saw the souls of **those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus** and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

John saw those who had been martyred during the Tribulation Period, and he saw their resurrection (“they lived”) and rule (“and reigned with Christ”).

(Comments on the blessedness of being a co-heir).

We can be thankful that…

1) Satan will not be around to deceive people to sin…

2)Faithful followers of Christ will be rewarded and reign with Him…

**3) Satan will never again ruin a single person or thing (20:7-10)**

For 1000’s of years, Satan has ruined everything he has touched:

* All humanity (Gen 3)

Spiritual death … pain in childbirth … agonizing labor … physical death …

Alan Ross noted: “Adam and Eve sinned by eating; they would suffer in order to eat. She manipulated her husband; she would be mastered by her husband. The serpent destroyed the human race; he will be destroyed.”

* All creation --- Paul said: “…we know that the whole creation groans together and suffers labor pains together right up until now…” (Rom 8:22)
* So many other areas: unjust wars, abortions of millions of babies, genocides like the Holocaust; dictatorial regimes that murder millions who refuse to bow; slavery, sex trade and human trafficking… ruined cities, countries and even empires; a never-ending list of destruction and ruin from Satan’s hand.

After the millennium, Satan will be released and deceive a huge number of people to follow him in His attempt to destroy Christ.

(Explain)

Just as he did 1000 years earlier at Armageddon, Satan believed that he could defeat Jesus, but once again, he will be defeated, this time, forever (v. 10):

The devil … was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

**Application**

* Negatively: The devil does deceive and destroy, but don’t allow yourself to make excuses regarding sin
* Positively: give thanks for all the future holds for those who serve Christ faithfully till the end (It will be worth it all…)
* Also, take advantage NOW of God’s amazing grace which transforms us THROUGH THE WORD (2 Cor 3)

(Lord’s Supper)

**Revelation 20:1–10**-----

**John sees an angel prevent Satan from deceiving the nations by imprisoning him in Hades for 1000 years.**

1 Then I saw

an angel

coming down from heaven,

having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He

laid hold of the dragon,

that serpent of old,

who is *the* Devil and Satan, and

bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he

cast him into the bottomless pit, and

shut him up, and

set a seal on him,

so that

he should deceive the nations no more

till the thousand years were finished.

But after these things he must be released for a little while.

4 And I saw

 thrones,

and they sat on them,

and judgment was committed to them.

**John sees the Tribulation martyrs resurrected and reigning with Christ for 1000 years.**

Then *I saw*

the souls of those who had been beheaded

for their witness to Jesus and

for the word of God,

who had not worshiped the beast or his image,

and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands.

And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead **(= unbelievers)** did not live again until the thousand years were finished. (This implies that all believers since Adam and Eve have already been resurrected as well as the Tribulation martyrs).

This *is* the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* he who has **part** **(an inheritance)** in the first resurrection.

Over such

the second death has no power,

but they shall be priests of God and of Christ,

and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

**John sees Satan released, deceiving the nations to war against Christ, and cast into hell forever.**

7 Now when the thousand years have expired,

Satan will be released from his prison
8 and will go out

to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth,

Gog and Magog,

to gather them together to battle,

whose number *is* as the sand of the sea.

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth

 and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city.

And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

10 The devil,

who deceived them,

was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone

where the beast and the false prophet *are*.

And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.