

Revelation



THE VICTORY OF THE LAMB

The Final Judgement

Revelation 19:17-20:15

Two Millennia of Millennial Mystery

Two Ancient Paths on Chapter 20

Chiliasm

Non-Chiliasm

Premillennial (historic, dispensational)

Amillennial / Postmillennial

Literal, sequential with ch. 19

Symbolic, chapter is a new “scene”

Time: Between Jesus’s return and final/
eternal state

Time: Between Jesus’s resurrection and
return

God’s promises to Israel fulfilled literally
during this time

God’s promises to Israel fulfilled literally
in Christ, and include gentiles

Multiple states of existence

No multiple states of existence

2 resurrections, battles, judgements

1 resurrection, battle, judgement day

The reason for the debate

- This is the only place this time period is mentioned.
- Reasonable arguments on both sides
- Literal vs. figurative interpretation of texts
- Harmonization vs. separation of similar events
- Both camps do both, depends on where lines are drawn

Why debate is frustrating

- It is emotionally difficult to have our opinions challenged
- We are uncomfortable with uncertainty
- But, We need to learn to live with it
- It is okay to come to conclusions and convictions, but hold them loosely in this area

Some historic perspective

- Diversity of opinion on this passage started as soon as it was received.
- Debate started in the 100s AD
- Debate settled by the 300s AD (for Non-Chiliasm)
- Debate remained settled until the 1600s
- Chiliasm became prominent in the 1800s, and dominant in mid-1900s

DANGERS

**YOU FELL VICTIM TO
ONE OF THE CLASSIC
BLUNDERS!**



Confusing possible
implication with
clear meaning



Holding a view
on an unclear issue
too tightly



Unnecessary division



Solutions:

- Interpret unclear text in light of clear text
- Hold details of unclear passages loosely
- Realize that Revelation is full of imagery and metaphor
- **Be cautious if an unclear text seems to indicate new information not taught elsewhere**

Where we agree:

- The beast, the dragon, and their followers are doomed
- God's mission will succeed
- Jesus is returning to rule
- Resurrection and judgement is coming
- A new creation is coming

The Announcement

Revelation 19:17-18

The Fate of the Beasts

Revelation 19:19-21

The Fate of the Dragon

Revelation 20:1-3; 7-10

The Fate of the Saints

Revelation 20:4-6

Judgement Day

Revelation 20:11-15

The Final Judgement Means

- Follow the Lamb
- Judgement is Real
- Never fear the Beast

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