

Popularity of the Views: The January 2011 Evangelical Leaders Survey showed:¹

- 65 percent identify with premillennial theology.
- 4 percent with postmillennial theology.
- 13 percent with amillennial theology.
- 18 percent with other theology.

Which of the four is the Lutheran category?

- Pre
- Post
- A
- Other

The Key Passage: It's [Revelation 20:1-6](#), which includes four references to a "thousand years." Let's try to better understand this difficult section of Scripture:

1. **Satan is Bound:** ¹ ~~Then~~ [And] I saw an angel [our Lord Jesus Christ] coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand [In 1:18 Jesus said: "I have the keys of death and of Hades." In Jude 6 evil angels are "kept in eternal bonds... for the judgment of the great day..."]. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him [with something symbolizing a chain] for a thousand years; ³ and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations [the unbelieving Gentiles] any longer, until the thousand years [the NT era] were completed; after these things he must [δεῖ] be released for a short time.

- a. "Then" versus "And" – In some translations verse 1 begins with "then" (ESV, NAS-95, RSV), in others it begins with "and" (KJV, NAS-77, NIV). "Then" can indicate a chronological order of events. Using "then" does fit with the fact that John saw the chapter 19 vision, *then* the chapter 20 vision. However, Revelation is not written in chronological order, for example, *chapter 6 describes the end of the world*. Therefore, the literal Greek translation of "and" should be used.
- b. Satan's binding – It happened when Jesus declared from the cross: "It is finished" (John 19:30). Satan will continue to be bound "for a thousand years," which symbolizes the NT era (10 x 10 x 10 is a complete period, *from his binding to his loosing*). During that time, *as stated in Revelation chapter 13*, Satan is limited but still does his work of lying, deceiving, and murdering through beast 1 and beast 2. But how is Satan bound? Here is a general comparison between the OT and the NT:

- i. In the OT era, when Satan had more freedom, the gospel was limited.
- ii. Now, in the NT era, when Satan is bound, the gospel has more freedom.

Dr. Becker made this comment about the NT era: "So long as the gospel is preached to the nations, the devil will be hindered in his attempt to deceive the nations. The *more widely* and the *more purely* the gospel is proclaimed, the shorter Satan's chain becomes" (298).

- c. Satan's release – It will happen either *near the end* OR *at the end* of the NT era. When he is released, HE WILL DECEIVE THE NATIONS! Regarding that time, Jesus said: "Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short.... false Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect" (Mt. 24:22, 24). So, *regarding the short season*, WHEN? Some believe we are living in it today. For example: Many churches today have little gospel truth, that is, many who attend churches are deceived (see [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#); [4:3-4](#) on the next page)!

¹ <https://www.nae.org/premillennialism-reigns-in-evangelical-theology/>

- i. **2 Timothy 3:1-5** But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ² For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴ treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.
 - ii. **2 Timothy 4:3-4** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.
- 2. **Christians Reign with Christ:** ⁴ ~~Then~~ [And] I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life [ESV, NAS, NIV, RSV] [*literally – lived*] [KJV, NET] [*aorist active*] and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead [*those who died without Christ*] did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has [*literally – is continuing to have*] [*present participle*] a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years [*until Jesus returns*].
 - a. Believers are reigning with Christ – Notice in verse 4 who are seated on thrones: Christians who were beheaded / martyred and others who did not worship the beast!
 - b. Be careful – It's **NOT** that *they were dead AND came to life* – like many wrongly believe who envision a 1,000-year earthly reign of Christ. Instead, *as soon as their bodies died in Christ*, their souls continued to live, and they are reigning with Christ! Jesus said: “...everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die” (John 11:26).
 - c. Comfort – Try to imagine your loved one being arrested and killed *because of his or her testimony of Jesus*. That could bring great despair **but knowing that your loved one is reigning with Christ** should bring great comfort. Read Dr. Becker’s quote, page 308.
 - d. The first death – We all began with physical life, *but also with spiritual death*: **Ephesians 2:1** “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins...”
 - e. The first resurrection – That is when God united us to Christ, *thus raising us from spiritual death “and seated [not will seat] us with Him in the heavenly places”* (Eph. 2:4-6)! The first resurrection continues as we reign with Christ *between our physical death and His return!*
 - f. The second resurrection – That is when Jesus returns and raises all bodies – *both believers and unbelievers*, and restores each person to body, soul, and spirit.
 - i. **John 5:28** “Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹ and will come forth; those who did the good *deeds* to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil *deeds* to a resurrection of judgment.”
 - ii. **Acts 24:15** “...there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.”
 - g. The second death – *Eternal punishment*; it has no power over us; *we are God’s forgiven children!*