

# **Elder Vernon Johnson**

## **Numbers**

### **Thousand Year Reign and Thousand Year Binding**

Rev. 20:1 "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

The book of Revelation is written in sign language as we are informed in Chapter 1 verse 1: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:" The word, signify, means to show by signs. Thus, the language of Revelation is figurative, not literal. All of the signs have meaning. To understand what is taught in the pages and verses of Revelation, one must find the meaning of the signs. The signs are revealed to us in the scriptures. Our task, when studying Revelation, is to find the meaning of the signs.

In this short article, it is not our intention to try to unlock all the signs in the first ten verses of the 20th chapter of Revelation, but only to deal with the thousand years taught therein and the significance of the thousand years. It is very clear from a reading of the above passage that the binding of Satan for a thousand years and the saints living and reigning with Christ for a thousand years is one and the same time period.

We have previously shown that the number "thousand" is frequently used to indicate an indefinite large number. While God certainly knows the exact number, it hasn't been revealed to man.

The passage states that Satan is bound for a thousand years. This binding is very specific. It does not teach that Satan is bound so as not to be able to do anything, but that he is bound so as not to be able to deceive the nations no more until the thousand years is ended.

Previously in Revelation, we are informed that Satan is the one who gave the seven headed, ten horned beast his power and authority. We are also informed that five of the heads are dead, one is alive, and one is yet to be. The one in existence at the time of the writing of the book of Revelation was the Roman empire. Since, that time there has not been a beastly kingdom with dominion over the vast majority of the civilized world. For a very long time, Satan has been bound so as not to be able to deceive the nations to build the seventh head of the beast. During this same time frame, Christ has been reigning over the Kingdom of heaven and his obedience disciples have been living and reigning with him during this time frame.

This will continue until the time comes when Satan is loosed out of his prison and goes out to build the seventh head of the beast that will attempt to destroy the Lord's visible church kingdom.