

What about Christ's Thousand-Year Reign?

Many religious people believe that Jesus is coming soon to set up an earthly kingdom and reign on earth for a thousand years. What about it? Does the Bible teach and uphold this doctrine?

The theory is based on Revelation 20:6, which says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him *a thousand years*." A close look at this passage shows that it says nothing about a reign of Christ on earth, over all people, in their bodies, and at the end of this age. There is absolutely nothing said in Rev. 20 or anywhere else in the scriptures about our Lord reigning a thousand years any time, any place.

An analysis of Rev. 20:6 shows the premillennial theory to be false. Look closely at the grammatical construction of Rev. 20:6. The main sentence is "They. . . shall reign with him a thousand years." To find the antecedent of the pronoun *they*, look at verse 4 and to the word *souls*. These were the people who had been beheaded because they were Christians. Clearly, this is the group who *shall reign* with Christ *a thousand years*. *They*, not *Christ*, is the subject of the verb *shall reign*, whose object is *a thousand years*.

It is important to see that *souls* were those who were to reign for a thousand years—not *Christ*. There is nothing said in Rev. 20 or anywhere else in the Bible about Christ reigning for a thousand years on this earth. Christ is reigning now over his kingdom.

Consider that Christ taught his kingdom was immediate and not something yet to come: "And he said to them, 'I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power (Mark 9:1).'" See also Mt 16:28. Christ also taught that his kingdom would not be of this world: "Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight (John 18:36).'"

Paul taught that we are now in his kingdom: "Who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love (Col. 1:13)." He further taught: "To the end that ye should walk worthily of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory (1 Thess 2:12). John taught in the Revelation: "He made us *to be* a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father (Rev 1:6)."

A thousand-year reign of Christ on earth is not in the Bible.