Revelation 20:1-6

The Millennium

Part 1

1. Background
   1. Millennium
      1. Latin based word: mille (thousand) + annus (year) = thousand years.
      2. Sometimes it is referred to as chiliasm, which comes from the Greek word chilia (thousand).
   2. The surrounding context of 20:1-6
      1. 19:11-21
         1. This is the scene of the overthrow of the beast and false prophet at the Second Coming of Christ.
      2. 20:7-10
         1. This is the scene of the last battle when Gog and Magog are defeated and Satan is thrown into hell.
   3. Three prevalent interpretations of the thousand-year period in church history:
      1. Premillennialism
         1. Jesus returns to earth before (pre-) he establishes His kingdom on earth for a literal thousand years.
      2. Amillennialism
         1. The millennium is not just in the future but is happening in the present. It began with Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension and lasts until Christ returns at the end of the present world. The final judgment will take place and then it is followed by the creation of the new heaven and new earth. This view does not hold (a-) to a literal thousand years.
      3. Postmillennialism
         1. The church will influence the world so that it increasingly makes it more righteous and fit for Christ’s return. There will be a period of peace and righteousness among people on earth that lasts for a thousand years, after which (post-) Jesus returns.
2. Satan thrown into the abyss: verses 1-3
   1. Verse 1
      1. There is no “after these things” which would connect 20:1-6 with the end of chapter 19.
         1. More than likely John would have added “after these things” if he wanted to connect verse 1 with chapter 19.
            1. He does use “after these things” in 19:1 to connect the overthrow of the beast and harlot described in chapters 17 and 18.
      2. Angel from heaven (presence of God)
         1. Has the key to the abyss.
            1. In Revelation 9 Satan has the key to the shaft of they abyss and lets out the demons (1,2,11)
   2. Verse 2
      1. Satan can’t open what the Angel from heaven has shut.
         1. To ensure that Satan can’t escape, he is bound by a heavy chain (v2).
            1. This chain represents God’s power, exercised by the angel, by which the dragon/Satan is bound.
      2. The binding of Satan:
         1. Nowhere else in Revelation is their reference to the binding or imprisonment of Satan.
         2. The binding of Satan in the gospels:
            1. Matthew 12:22-32; Mark 3:22-30; Luke 11:14-23

In the Matthew and Mark passages state before the robbing of the strong man, he must first be bound.

Satan is the strong man. Jesus is the one who binds him.

Luke says Jesus is the stronger one who enters the house of the strong one.

* + - * 1. John’s Gospel

Even tough John in his gospel doesn’t talk about the binding of Satan, he does describe Satan as being judged and cast out when Jesus would be lifted up on the cross (John 12:31-33; 16:11).

* + - * 1. In light of what is mentioned in the gospels, Satan was bound, conquered, judged and cast out as a result of Jesus’s saving ministry, which culminated in His death and resurrection.
      1. The binding of Satan does not mean Satan is inactive today!
         1. Ephesians 6:10ff

Put on the whole armor of God.

* + - * 1. James 4:7

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

* + 1. The abyss
       1. It seems to be a temporary abode of the demons until the End.
          1. This is in contrast to the “lake of fire” which appears in Rev. 19:20; 20:10, 14, 15; and 21:8.
          2. At the end the dragon and his host will be cast into the lake of fire which will be their permanent abode. There they will be tormented forever and ever.