

**ORDER FOR THE CORPORATE WORSHIP OF GOD**  
*A Service of Celebration and Covenantal Renewal*

**MEDITATION AND PREPARATION—**

Millennial madness is made manageable by focusing on the millennial Man. Keep your eyes on the One who has bound the evil one. Keep your eyes on the One who causes us to come to life. Keep your eyes on the One who reigns over all authority and calls us to join him. Keep your eyes on the God-Man, who one day is going to release the evil one for one last desperate and ultimately futile attempt to win. Who will then finally destroy the enemy and all his cohorts. Keep your eyes on the One who is, even now, bringing into being a whole new creation, which he calls his bride! Keep your eyes on Jesus! (Darrell W. Johnson, *Discipleship on the Edge: An Expository Journey through the Book of Revelation*)

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM—10:45 A.M.**

David Meadows Jones  
Dan & Jane Jones

**INVOCATION**

—Elder Jerry Bowen

**CALL TO WORSHIP—**

*Of the Reign of Christ, Book of Common Prayer*

Almighty and Everlasting God, Whose will it is to restore all things in Thy Well-Beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under His most gracious rule; Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**WORSHIP THROUGH SONG**

*Lyric sheets of today's music can be obtained from the ushers upon request*

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 1**

—PASTOR SCOTTY SMITH

**UNVEILED HOPE**  
**The Meaning of the Millennium**  
**Revelation 20:1-10**

We now come to one of the most debated of all the chapters in the book of Revelation—chapter 20. The key issue for interpreters concerns the 1000 year period referred to in this passage. Is this a literal 1000 year period or something else? Please know that men and women equally committed to the Lordship of Christ and the highest view of Biblical inspiration and authority have differed significantly in interpreting the nature and meaning of the "millennium". This is the only place in the entire Bible which refers to Jesus reigning "1000 years, " yet whole theological systems have been built on this one phrase found in this one chapter of the Bible. Therefore, let us proceed with humility and teach-ability as we now turn our hearts to this great text.

**Rev 20: 1** And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. **2** He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. **3** He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. **4** I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. **5** (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years. **7** When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth -- Gog and Magog -- to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. **9** They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. **10** And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

## I. The Three Main Millennial Views

### 1. PREMILLENNIALISM

This position affirms that the 1000 years are to be taken literally. That is, Christ will return to earth to inaugurate a millennium of peace and righteousness, a period during which He reigns upon the earth with His people. At the beginning of this period, Satan is bound, and the first resurrection of Christians occurs. Towards the very end of this period Satan will be loosed, and the final showdown between his kingdom and God's Kingdom will occur. Satan and his allies will be utterly defeated and thrown into the lake of fire. The second resurrection and last judgment will take place, and this will mark the beginning of the final state, the ushering in of the new heavens and the new earth for believers and eternal separation from God for non-believers.

### 2. AMILLENNIALISM

This position affirms that the 1000 years are to be taken symbolically or metaphorically, consistent with the use of numbers throughout the Book of Revelation. The 1000 year period is understood to represent the entire period between the comings of Christ. It describes the present reign of Christ from heaven with His saints already with Him. It highlights the great defeat of Satan by the cross of Christ and understands the "binding" of Satan to refer to his no longer being able to keep the nations deceived relative to the great and gracious salvation of our God. Thus, during this period heaven is being filled up with men and women not just from among the Jewish nation, but also from every nation and people group upon the face of the earth. The first resurrection, in this interpretative system, refers to the resurrection of Jesus Christ in which all Christians share by virtue of their union with Him. At the end of this period Satan will be "loosed", that is, again he will be given power to deceive and blind the nations setting the stage for a final conflict and spiritual war which will precipitate his absolute defeat by the return of Jesus Christ. Then comes the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the inauguration of the new heavens and the new earth and eternal perdition for those who have rejected God's Christ and His grace.

### 3. POSTMILLENNIALISM

This position affirms that the 1000 years refers to a period of peace and victory which the gospel will effect before the return of Jesus Christ. Those who hold to this interpretation emphasize prophecies which speak of the advancement of the gospel throughout the world, not just with respect to the conversion of many from every nations, but also with respect to the healing of the nations; i.e., they anticipate a near "Christianizing" of the world prior to the return of Christ. Many who held to this position lived through great revivals and reformations in their lifetime leading them to believe that God would accomplish the same universally as a testimony to the power of the gospel and the glory of Jesus Christ. The final events in this schema are similar to that of Amillennialism.

## GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 2

—PASTOR SCOTTY SMITH

## II. The Meaning of the Millennium

### What Do All Three Millennial Views Affirm?

1. The best is yet to come.
2. The future belongs to Jesus, not us.
3. The promised new world will come *to us, from God*, with the return of Jesus.

### Where Do Proponents of Each View Tend to Err?

1. **Premill's** can be too *pessimistic* about life before the coming of Jesus.
2. **Postmill's** can be too *optimistic* about life before the coming of Jesus.
3. **Amill's** can be so dogmatic about the symbolism of the text they miss **the reality of the promises.**

### Where the Three *Ought* to Agree

1. The one thousand years is not a statistic. It is a symbol.
2. Jesus will not *become* King. He is *already* King of Kings!
3. The church is not "a helpless victim on the stormy stage of history."
4. The gospel changes things.

### MINISTRY OF THE WORD, PART 3

—PASTOR SCOTT ROLEY

**Of This We Can Be Sure** - Your participation and enjoyment in the "millennium" is not tied to your interpretation and position, rather it is simply tied to your being in Christ. Be sure about being in Christ even if you are confused, clueless or indifferent about the millennium. Our greatest preoccupation should be with the "Millennium Man" himself, Jesus. Let us never forget that the central focus of the Book of Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ—who he is, what he has accomplished for us, and what he will bring to pass when he returns. Do you know him? Do you love him? Presently, how are you living as both an object of his affection and a subject in his kingdom?

## SONGS OF RESPONSE

## RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS, 9:00 A.M.

Adam Ballash  
Natalie Ballash  
Donna Cella  
Michael Cella  
James Martinez

Chris Murphy  
Teri Murphy  
Cathy Ritter  
Dave Ritter

## BENEDICTION



## QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION:

1. What had the most impact on you today from our time in God's Word and worship? What was encouraging, convicting, and/or calling for more clarification?
2. What is your background when it comes to discussions about the millennium of Revelation 20? How did today's study enlighten, broaden or help you think through what John had in mind in these 10 verses of the Bible? What is the significance of this being the only place in the Bible the 1000 year reign of Jesus is specified with this phrase? What are the strengths of each of the millennial views, from what you heard today?
3. Talk about life in the "already and not-yet", or as we refer to it in light of David Arms' painting, God's Story... "third panel living". What is already true, in light of the finished work of Jesus? What is not-yet experienced, but most certainly will be? How does this both encourage you and compel us to missional living and loving?
4. As we bring to conclusion our study of the Book of Revelation, what has been most helpful to you from the time we spent in the last book of the Bible? What questions linger? Send those in for the upcoming series called "A True and Reasonable Faith"!
5. Close with a good season of prayer for one another