

because ch. 19 describes the beast and the false prophet being thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, and then v. 20 (rather ch. 20) describes the time when the devil is thrown into where they already were. So it would seem to be a continuous picture dealing with the return of Christ.

In that picture you have the return of Christ and the overthrow of everything that violently opposes him, at the end of ch. 19. Then you have (20:1), "I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon. . . and bound him for 1000 years. He threw him into the Abyss and locked and sealed it over him to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the 1000 years were ended. . ." That would seem on the fact of it to be something that follows the return of Christ in which Satan is going to be bound 1000 years.

Whether it is a literal 1000, whether it is a long period which might be a little longer or a little shorter, at least there is described here something where Satan is bound for a period so that he does not deceive the nations.

(Comment on the 1000)

If I were to make a guess I would say, yes it is a thousand years. But I would not be dogmatic. I would say it is very

definitely a long period. Now Abraham Kuyper in his commentary on Revelation says, Christ is going to come to earth then he's going to take all the righteous to heaven. Then he's going to associate with them in judging the wicked and there will be a period there which is quite brief which is here called 1000 years.

Another writer says when it says Satan is bound 1000 years, that 10 is the number of perfection, 10 cubed means perfection carried to the extreme so there will be absolute perfection. And during this 1000 years the saints in heaven will be where Satan can't touch them because as far as they're concerned Satan will be bound. It's a picture of the intermediate state. Now that that would seem to make anything mean --- you could make anything == could make it mean anything with that sort of

It is hard to get away from the fact it seems to be a pretty long period of time which I would guess to be 1000 years but I would not be dogmatic. I certainly don't think it means 5 minutes or even a day. It would seem to be a long period which is here described.

(Comment)

I would say there is much in it (Rev. 20) that is to be interpreted literally. When Satan is put into the abyss--what does that mean? It says he won't deceive the nations any more. I would say that's definite; it's literal. I'd say nations are literal. I don't think the nations can stand for Christians! I certainly don't think it can be a picture of heaven. I would think it's a picture of something that follows the return of Christ. It would seem to fit with the picture of a time of external peace and safety

(Comment --tie Rev. 19 and 20)