

Why I Believe the 1000 Years Existed Between the Two Great Revolts

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1st Great Revolt: AD 66-73

2nd Great Revolt: AD 132-135

1. Revelation 19 ends with the beast and the false prophet captured and cast into the lake of fire (verse 20) and their followers killed and fed to the birds (verse 21). The next three verses describe Satan being captured and sealed in a pit for 1000 years (Rev. 20:3). I believe Rev. 19:17 – 20:3 chronologically describes the capture of the beast, the false prophet, and Satan in AD 70-73. This was then followed by the 1000 years (Rev. 20:4-6).

2. Revelation 20:3 states that the purpose for sealing Satan in a pit for 1000 years was *“so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.”* When Satan was released, he immediately went out to deceive the nations to war (Rev. 20:7-9). When the book of Revelation was written (around AD 65), Satan had already been deceiving the whole world for a while (Rev. 12:9). He soon gave his power, throne, and authority to the beast (Rev. 13:2) who made war (Rev. 13:4-7). A survey of the New Testament shows that Satan was not bound prior to AD 66, but rather that he walked around freely like a roaring lion (I Peter 5:8; see also Romans 16:20, I Cor. 5:5, II Cor. 4:4, II Cor. 11:13-15, I Thess. 2:18, I Tim. 5:15).

So we see that Satan deceived the nations to war before the 1000 years, and as soon as he was released he did the same thing again. I believe he deceived the nations to war at the time of both great Jewish revolts; and that he gave his power, throne, and authority to the leaders of both great revolts.

3. Besides Rev. 20:4, several other passages state that Jesus would sit on His throne with the saints at the time of His coming in judgment and in His kingdom. These include Daniel 7:7-11 and 7:23-27, Matthew 19:27-28 and 25:31, and Revelation 3:21. These passages show that, before the saints sat on thrones to judge, Christ returned in judgment, the beast was defeated, the resurrection took place, and the saints inherited the kingdom. Sitting on thrones marked the beginning of the 1000 years, according to Revelation 20:4. This fits the timeline of AD 70, but not the timeline of AD 30.

4. Revelation 20:4 identifies the saints who reigned with Christ for 1000 years. Special (perhaps exclusive) attention is given to those who *“had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands.”* This description is taken from Revelation 13:11-17, where the second beast works closely with the first beast to make war on the saints for 42 months (AD 66-70).

This is probably the biggest reason why I respectfully disagree with a number of other preterists who teach that the 1000 years began around AD 30. I feel they would need to demonstrate that the 42-month reign of the beast took place **prior** to AD 30 (a position I’m not aware of anyone holding). I believe Revelation 20:4

clearly shows the 1000 years beginning **after** the beast’s reign, since the participants of the 1000 year reign are those who refused to worship him and take his mark.

COMPARING REVELATION 13:10-17 AND REVELATION 20:4	
<i>“And I saw the souls of those... And they lived and reigned with Christ for 1000 years.”</i>	
AD 66-70	AD 70 – 132
Revelation 13	Revelation 20
<i>“he who kills with the sword” (Rev. 13:10); “He was granted power to...cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed” (Rev. 13:15)</i>	<i>“who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God” (Rev. 20:4)</i>
<i>“and they worshiped the beast” (Rev. 13:4); “and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast” (Rev. 13:12; see also verse 15)</i>	<i>“who had not worshiped the beast or his image” (Rev. 20:4)</i>
<i>“And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads...” (Rev. 13:16-17).</i>	<i>“and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands” (Rev. 20:4)</i>

5. Revelation 20:9 says that the deceived nations *“surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city,”* suggesting a targeting of Christians living in Jerusalem. Justin Martyr (AD 100-165) gave the following account about the persecution of Christians in Jerusalem during the Second Great Revolt:

“During the recent Jewish War, Bar Cochba, the leader of the revolt of the Jews, had the order issued against Christians that, if they did not deny and defame Jesus Christ, they would be led away to suffer the most severe punishments” (*Apol.* 1.31.6; Eusebius, *HistEcc* 4.8.4; quoted in Martin Hengel, *The Zealots*, p. 300).

6. Revelation 20:10 says, *“And the devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet **are**...”* The language used in this verse strongly suggests that, when Satan was cast into the lake of fire, the beast and the false prophet were already there. This fits well if the beast and false prophet were destroyed in the First Great Revolt (AD 66-73), Satan was sealed in the bottomless pit at that time, he was released “1000 years” later, and then he was cast into the lake of fire after his final brief reign of deception during the Second Great Revolt.

	Beast and False Prophet	Satan
AD 70-73	Defeated and cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20)	Bound in the bottomless pit (Rev. 20:1-3)
AD 132		Released from his prison (Rev. 20:7)
AD 135		<i>“cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are” (Rev. 20:10)</i>

The video of my presentation (41 minutes) and my full written notes can be seen here:

<https://adammaarschalk.com/2018/04/03/the-1000-years-and-the-two-wars-of-revelation-20-long-island-conference-presentation/>