

A sunset over a field with the text "THE MILLENNIUM CHRIST'S RULE ON EARTH" overlaid. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and the field. The text is in a white, serif font, with "THE" in a smaller size above "MILLENNIUM".

THE
MILLENNIUM
CHRIST'S RULE ON EARTH

Do we ignore this topic?

- Some think we are ignoring the clear Bible teaching that Christ will return to earth and reign in Jerusalem for 1,000 years.
- Why don't we teach this doctrine? Almost all other religious groups teach it.
- Answer: It is not in the Bible.
- 1,000 year reign – 1 time in Bible
- Revelation 20

1 – Jesus is not the one reigning.

- **Revelation 20:4** And I saw **thrones**, and **they** sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the **souls** of 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. And **they lived and reigned with Christ** for a thousand years.

1 – Jesus is not the one reigning.

- Jesus is NOT the the one reigning in this verse
- The subject of this verse is not Jesus
- Those reigning are martyred Christians
- Example: The Childress family lived with his parents until their burned house could be replaced.

2 – This verse is not literal.

- General rule – Bible is literal UNLESS there are reasons to think otherwise.
- **Reason 1 – Jesus would have to die again.**
 - They reigned 1,000 years
 - They lived 1,000 years
 - Then the reigning and the living ends

2 – This verse is not literal.

- **Reason 1 – Jesus would have to die again.**
- **Hebrews 9:25-26** 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another-- 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

2 – This verse is not literal.

- **Reason 2 – Only the beheaded reign.**
- **Revelation 20:4** And I saw **thrones**, and **they** sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the **souls** of 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. And **they lived and reigned with Christ** for a thousand years.

2 – This verse is not literal.

- This verse is not literal because:
- Jesus would have to die again.
- Only beheaded Christians would reign.

3 – Reign is not on earth.

- Read the text – all of Revelation 20.
- Nowhere in the chapter does it place Jesus or the souls beheaded on earth.
- The kingdom of Christ is not of this world.
 - **John 18:36-37** 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

3 – Reign is not on earth.

- But the citizens of His kingdom were on earth.
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- **Colossians 1:13** He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

3 – Reign is not on earth.

- But the citizens of His kingdom were on earth.
- **Revelation 1:9** I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

4 – Revelation isn't about 2014

- **Revelation 1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants-- things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,
- **Revelation 22:6** Then he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which must shortly take place.

4 – Revelation isn't about 2014

- **Revelation 22:10** And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."
- Revelation was written to Christians under persecution – to let them know that the suffering will be short lived.

4 – Revelation isn't about 2014

- **How would it help if you are suffering and God says in a few thousand years I will take action?**

Conclusion – Revelation 20

- 1. Jesus is not the one reigning in this chapter**
- 2. This passage is not literal**
- 3. The reign is not on earth**
- 4. Revelation is not about the year 2014**