

The 1000 Year Reign of Christ ???

Richard Anthony

Did you know that the phrase "1000 Year Reign of Christ" does not appear anywhere in scripture? Nor the word "millenium"? Does this surprise you? Notice in the above title, we did not spell out the word "thousand," but used "1000" instead. This is because numbers are fictions in numerical form and have no substance. And the "1000 year reign of Christ" is also a fiction according to Scripture, which has has no substance. It is born and bred from the doctrines of man, not from the Holy Scripture.

The "thousand year reign" appears nowhere in the sixty-six books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses of the Bible except in this **one passage** where it occurs six times in six consecutive verses (Revelation 20:3-8). It is not solid study to build an entire system of beliefs about the end of the age and the status of the kingdom on such a highly symbolic passage. More especially when that interpretation conflicts with other plain passages of scripture.

Revelation 20:3-8 is the only passage in the entire scriptures that the so-called premillennialists have as the basis for the "1000 year reign." What endless variations of concocted fables have resulted! Clearly it does not contain the detail that they attribute to it.

First, it should be pointed out that scripture does not speak of "the thousand year reign of Christ." Revelation 20:4 says, "...and I saw the souls of **them** that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,...and **they** lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." It's not Christ that reigns 1000 years, but those who were killed for God's sake that reign with Christ 1000 years.

To illustrate, consider the phrase, "John Doe reigned with the king for one year." Does this mean the king reigned for only one year? No, it does not. The king could reign for many years, but the point is not how long the king reigned but how long John reigned with the king. The king isn't the subject, it is speaking about how long John reigns with him. Likewise, Revelation 20:4 is not about how long Jesus will reign, but how long others will reign with Jesus. There's a big difference.

There are some things not mentioned in Revelation 20.

- First, it does not mention the second coming of Christ.
- Second, it does not mention a reign on earth.
- Third, this passage does not mention a bodily resurrection.
- Fourth, it does not mention Christ on earth.
- And fifth, it does not mention us, it says "they" lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Who are the "they" that lived and reigned with Christ? The souls of them that had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus. In an earlier chapter of this same book of Revelations, in Chapter 6:9-11, the picture is of the souls of martyrs who had been slain for the word of God under an altar crying for vengeance. Here the martyrs are on thrones, God's inevitable

judgment has come. The victory came in the spirit world (not the physical), and God assured their victory. This passage only speaks of the "dead" reigning with Christ, this passage does not speak about those who are "alive" reigning with Christ.

The passage also mentions the first resurrection, which is in contrast with the second death. The point is not that the righteous is raised a thousand years before the wicked, for a physical reign on earth, but that the cause of Christ for which the martyrs died is triumphant. Evil is not forever on the throne. God has overcome.

This passage says nothing about Jesus coming to this earth and establishing a worldly kingdom at Jerusalem -- those that so teach are duty-bound to prove their doctrines with scripture, not just their imaginations.

Revelation 20:4, "...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

This is where the phrase "1000 year reign" came from. Its proper use would be limited to exactly what John was describing at this point. The so-called "premillinialists" believe that they will be worldly conquerors with Christ when He comes to reign on this earth for 1000 years; but Paul says that "we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" **now!** And this is the essence of what John the Revelator is communicating. There is no reason to differentiate between these reigns. There is no reason to believe (other than impatience or dissatisfaction with God's plan for us) that there is anything sweeter on this earth than reigning in His kingdom, **now**.

At Revelation 20:6, the first resurrection clearly applies to those dead in Christ who lived and reigned with Christ for the figurative "1000-year period" in wait for the final judgment and the general resurrection of the just and the unjust. The second death is explained further below. It is the ultimate death that those who are lost will experience at that judgment, the first death being physical death. While the saints and true believers who die physically experience this first death, the second death will have no power over them.

While the main thrust of Revelation 20:6 is that the righteous dead are reigning with Christ, there is no reason to believe that those of us on this earth do not share in this reign now. One of the major losses of the "premillinialists" is that, in their quest for a worldly kingdom in the future, they fail to recognize the blessings of Christ reigning in our lives now.

Let us now compare scripture with scripture to interpret the "thousand years." In scripture, the term "thousand," when in reference to time, is always used **symbolically** of a predetermined time that God chooses. In other cases, it is always used **symbolically** for a large number of people or things. Surely, nobody can honestly interpret the following "thousands" as literal:

People or Things

Job 9:3, "If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a **thousand**."

Psalms 50:10, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a **thousand hills**."

Ecclesiastes 7:28, "...one man among a **thousand** have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found."

Song of Solomon 4:4, "...whereon there hang a **thousand bucklers**, all shields of mighty men."

Daniel 5:1, "Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a **thousand of his lords**, and drank wine before the thousand."

Daniel 7:10, "...**thousand thousands** ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him."

Days, Years, and Generations

Deuteronomy 7:9, "...which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that...keep his commandments to a **thousand generations**;"

1 Chronicles 16:15, "Be ye mindful always of his covenant; the word which he commanded to a **thousand generations**;"

Psalms 84:10, "For a day in thy courts is better than a **thousand**."

Psalms 90:4, "For a **thousand years** in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past,"

Psalms 105:8, "He hath remembered his covenant for ever, the word which he commanded to a **thousand generations**."

Ecclesiastes 6:6, "Yea, though he live a **thousand years** twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?"

2 Peter 3:8, "...one day is with the Lord as a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** as one day."

It should be obvious from the above that every occurrence of the word "thousand," by itself, throughout scripture, is not literal but **symbolic** for a **large number** or **long period of time**. Then, why is it when we go to the book of Revelation (the most symbolic book of them all), many interpret this thousand years as literal? Especially when there is no scriptural warrant for doing so?

Futurists make the same mistake that the Jews who crucified Christ made -- they were not satisfied with a spiritual kingdom; they had to have a literal, worldly, physical kingdom. The Truth of the matter is not that Christ will reign for a thousand years some time in the future, but that Christ is reigning now, and will continue to reign for eternity. We do not have to wait for His Kingdom to come sometime in the future before He starts reigning over our lives, for Christ's Kingdom is here now, and He desires that we reign with Him now, whether we choose to recognize it or not!

Reply to “The 1000 Year Reign of Christ ???” By Richard Anthony

From Dr. David A. DeWitt

His text is in **black**, my comments are in **red**, the Scripture which I have quoted is in **blue**.

Did you know that the phrase “1000 Year Reign of Christ” does not appear anywhere in scripture? So what? Lots of theological summary statements are not stated in Scripture, such as the Trinity, the 100% deity and 100% humanity of Christ, God is imminent and transcendent, and the verbal plenary inspiration of Scripture. The reality that Richard Anthony does not want to face is that the biblical phrase, *reigned with Christ for a thousand years* sounds a whole lot like *Christ reigned...for a thousand years*. Since this is a revelation to the Apostle John about the future, it is reasonable to conclude there is a “1000 Year Reign of Christ.”

Nor the word “millennium”? Does this surprise you?

The word “millennium” is just another word for the word “thousand” or the number “1000.” It’s our modern English word for the term. So why would that be surprising?

Notice in the above title, we did not spell out the word “thousand,” but used “1000” instead. This is because numbers are fictions in numerical form and have no substance.

I have no clue how he comes up with such an irresponsible statement. There are 18 uses of the number 1000 in the (NASB) Bible, and they are all literal. Here are all 18 verses:

- *Judges 20:10* “And we will take 10 men out of 100 throughout the tribes of Israel, and 100 out of 1,000, and 1,000 out of 10,000 to supply food for the people, that when they come to Gibeah of Benjamin, they may punish them for all the disgraceful acts that they have committed in Israel.”
- *1 Samuel 13:2* Now Saul chose for himself 3,000 men of Israel, of which 2,000 were with Saul in Michmash and in the hill country of Bethel, while 1,000 were with Jonathan at Gibeah of Benjamin. But he sent away the rest of the people, each to his tent.
- *2 Samuel 10:6* Now when the sons of Ammon saw that they had become odious to David, the sons of Ammon sent and hired the Arameans of Beth-rehob and the Arameans of Zobah, 20,000 foot soldiers, and the king of Maacah with 1,000 men, and the men of Tob with 12,000 men.
- *1 Chronicles 12:34* Of Naphtali there were 1,000 captains, and with them 37,000 with shield and spear.
- *1 Chronicles 18:4* David took from him 1,000 chariots and 7,000 horsemen and 20,000 foot soldiers, and David hamstringed all the chariot horses, but reserved enough of them for 100 chariots.
- *1 Chronicles 19:6* When the sons of Ammon saw that they had made themselves odious to David, Hanun and the sons of Ammon sent 1,000 talents of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen from Mesopotamia, from Aram-maacah and from Zobah.
- *1 Chronicles 29:21* On the next day they made sacrifices to the LORD and offered burnt offerings to the LORD, 1,000 bulls, 1,000 rams and 1,000 lambs, with their drink offerings and sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.
- *2 Chronicles 30:24* For Hezekiah king of Judah had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep, and the princes had contributed to the assembly 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep; and a large number of priests consecrated themselves.
- *Ezra 1:9* Now this was their number: 30 gold dishes, 1,000 silver dishes, 29 duplicates;
- *Ezra 1:10* 30 gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second kind and 1,000 other articles.
- *Ezra 8:27* and 20 gold bowls worth 1,000 darics, and two utensils of fine shiny bronze, precious as gold.

- *Nehemiah 7:70 Some from among the heads of fathers' households gave to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 gold drachmas, 50 basins, 530 priests' garments.*
- *Job 42:12 The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning; and he had 14,000 sheep and 6,000 camels and 1,000 yoke of oxen and 1,000 female donkeys.*

And the “1000 year reign of Christ” is also a fiction according to Scripture, which has no substance. It is born and bred from the doctrines of man, not from the Holy Scripture. This is another irresponsible statement which summarizes his Covenant Theology and Amillennialism, but with no evidence to support it. The “1000 year reign of Christ” is a conclusion deduced from the six passages in Revelation 20 that talk about the “reign of Christ.” A future kingdom reign of Christ on earth is supported by a multitude of passages that, although they don't specify it as 1000 years, they confirm in great detail a future reign of Christ on earth from Jerusalem, where He comes back to earth on the Mount of Olives (Isaiah 11:1-12; Jeremiah 23:6-8; 31:33; Ezekiel 36:24-31; Zechariah 8:3; 14:4; Matthew 24:30). What is not from Scripture is the whole concept of Amillennialism that he promotes. Premillennialism and Amillennialism are both man-made theological summary statements. But Premillennialism is derived from passages that clearly teach about a future kingdom for Israel, ruled over by her Messiah. Amillennialism comes from John Calvin, who got it from Augustine and the anti-Semitic church of the 400s, which could not stomach the idea of a future kingdom for Israel. So they allegorized the clear message of the Old Testament prophets into metaphors not intended by the biblical authors.

The “thousand year reign” appears nowhere in the sixty-six books, 1,189 chapters, 31,173 verses of the Bible except in this **one passage** where it occurs six times in six consecutive verses (Revelation 20:3-8). Six times in six consecutive verses is better than his Amillennialism, which is no times in no verses, evidenced by the fact that he has not mentioned any verses that deny a 1000 year reign. His idea of a kingdom “in the spirit world (not the physical),” is simply not biblical. There is nothing in the Bible that says a spiritual kingdom eliminates a physical one. Also, it's interesting that the 1000 years was not something that the Apostle John could see visually. He had to be informed of it. So at this point, the revelation was not just seen but interpreted for him. To disagree with the 1000 years is to disagree with the interpretation supplied to him from heaven.

It is not solid study to build an entire system of beliefs about the end of the age and the status of the kingdom on such a highly symbolic passage. How does he know it's a “symbolic passage”? More especially when that interpretation conflicts with other plain passages of Scripture. Like what, for example???? Revelation 20:3-8 is the only passage in the entire Scriptures that the so-called premillennialists have as the basis for the “1000 year reign” they attribute it to. The nature of new revelation is to tell us things that were not revealed before. New revelation does not contradict old revelation, but neither does it just repeat it. When God told Abraham his people would be in exile for 400 years, that was new information. And it was fulfilled literally. When Daniel revealed the times of the Gentiles in the statue of Daniel 2, that was new information not known before. And it was fulfilled literally. When Jeremiah predicted that Israel would be in captivity to the Babylonians for 70 years, that was new information (Jeremiah 25:12-14). And it was fulfilled literally. When Isaiah said the Messiah would be *Smitten of God, and afflicted...pierced through for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities* (Isaiah 53:4-5), that was new information not known before. And it was fulfilled literally. New revelation adds details and additional information to old revelation and often tells us things that the previous prophets did not know about. For example, Paul described his revelation as *an administration [literally, a dispensation] of the mystery, which for ages has been hidden in God* (Ephesians 3:9). There is nothing at all unusual about God adding the information (through the Apostle John) that the kingdom reign of Israel on earth, mentioned throughout the Old Testament,

would be *for a thousand years*. And since he emphasized it by saying it six times, we probably should pay attention. Also, other time designations in Revelation are literal (for example, 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel, in chapters 7&14; “42 months” in 11:2; 13:5; and “1,260 days” in 11:3; 12:6). So it is only reasonable to take “a thousand years” literally, also.

What endless variations of concocted fables have resulted! Clearly it does not contain the detail that they attribute to it. How about the Amillennial fables that we can fix this world and make it a kingdom on earth that Christ will then come back to, that He is waiting for us to build His kingdom so He can come back, that this earth, not heaven, is our eternal home, that there is no future for Israel, the promises to Israel are all metaphorically, allegorically fulfilled in the church? How about those “endless variations of concocted fables”?

First, it should be pointed out that scripture does not speak of “the thousand year reign of Christ.” Revelation 20:4 says, “...and I saw the souls of **them** that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God,...and **they** lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” It’s not Christ that reigns 1000 years, but those who were killed for God's sake that reign with Christ 1000 years. To illustrate, consider the phrase, “John Doe reigned with the king for one year.” Does this mean the king reigned for only one year? No, it does not. The king could reign for many years, but the point is not how long the king reigned but how long John reigned with the king. The king isn’t the subject, it is speaking about how long John reigns with him. Likewise, Revelation 20:4 is not about how long Jesus will reign, but how long others will reign with Jesus. There’s a big difference. So in Mr. Anthony’s illustration statement, would we assume John Doe actually reigned for one actual year or that he spiritually reigned for some long indefinite period of time metaphorically referred to as a “year”? I suggest nobody reading the illustration he gave (including him) would think he meant John Doe just reigned spiritually, allegorically, or metaphorically. Tell you what. Print out Revelation 19 & 20 and pass them out to people on any street corner, and ask them, whether they agree with the Apostle John or not, if they do believe he intended to be saying there would be a “1000 year reign of Christ” on earth.

As Mr. Anthony has done throughout this paper, he has ignored the context. Chapter 19 describes the Second Coming of Christ, when He defeats the armies of the earth, casts the beast and the false prophet into the Lake of Fire, and the birds eat the flesh of the armies. Then in chapter 20, Satan is bound *for a thousand years...so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time*. So the focus is on a specific period of time, a thousand years, where Satan will be bound and the resurrected saints will reign with Christ. Then after that specified 1000-year period, Satan will be released for a short time to deceive people into a rebellion against Christ. If this is an allegorical description of a metaphorical kingdom where we spiritually reign with Christ, would Mr. Anthony also suggest that Satan will be released into that spiritual kingdom and it will come to an end?

There are some things not mentioned in Revelation 20.

- First, it does not mention the second coming of Christ. No, that’s in chapter 19. So contextually, when those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years, it was clearly after the Second Coming of Christ.
- Second, it does not mention a reign on earth. Well, He came to earth and defeated the kings of the earth, just before the saints reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

- Third, this passage does not mention a bodily resurrection. Well...it says *and they came to life and reigned with Christ* and the text calls it *the first resurrection*. That sorta kinda sounds something like a bodily resurrection. Whatdoyouthink?
- Fourth, it does not mention Christ on earth. ????? Consider,
 - *Revelation 19:19* *And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.*
 - *Revelation 20:8* *and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth.*
 - *Revelation 20:9* *And they came up on the broad plain of the earth.*
 - *Matthew 24:30* *“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son Of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.*
- And fifth, it does not mention us, it says “they” lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Yes, “they” are the martyred saints from the tribulation period that precedes the Second Coming.

Who are the “they” that lived and reigned with Christ? The souls of them that had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus. In an earlier chapter of this same book of Revelations, in Chapter 6:9-11, the picture is of the souls of martyrs who had been slain for the word of God under an altar crying for vengeance. Here the martyrs are on thrones, God’s inevitable judgment has come. The victory came in the spirit world (not the physical), and God assured their victory. This passage only speaks of the “dead” reigning with Christ, this passage does not speak about those who are “alive” reigning with Christ. *Except where it says, they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. And When the thousand years are completed, there will be the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, and the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. It sounds like lots of living people in nations all over the earth. Whatdoyouthink?*

The passage also mentions the first resurrection, which is in contrast with the second death. The point is not that the righteous is raised a thousand years before the wicked, for a physical reign on earth, but that the cause of Christ for which the martyrs died is triumphant. Evil is not forever on the throne. God has overcome. *And why does the second statement eliminate the first? How does saying Christ is triumphant over evil eliminate the righteous being resurrected first?*

This passage says nothing about Jesus coming to this earth and establishing a worldly kingdom at Jerusalem—those that so teach are duty-bound to prove their doctrines with scripture, not just their imaginations. *Really? Pick up any book by a Premillennialist, and it is full of Scripture. Have you ever read an Amillennial book about prophecy? If you can find one, it will just be criticizing the Premillennial position, offering no scriptural arguments of their own. I have already listed many passages above that establish this, but let’s also consider what Jesus Himself said: “And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory (Matthew 24:30). After Christ comes to earth in Jerusalem, on the Mount of Olives, we read, Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34). A conclusion that Christ will reign 1000 years on earth is a matter of putting together the passages we have in Scripture, taken in a plain, ordinary (literal) way, trying to discern the author’s intended meaning. This is not a matter of anybody just using “their imaginations.”*

Revelation 20:4, "...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." This is where the phrase "1000 year reign" came from. Its proper use would be limited to exactly what John was describing at this point. **That's just simply not true, and very deceptive. The conclusion of Christ's reign on earth comes from a multitude of passages, many of which I have listed above. The reality is, everybody who takes the Bible literally concludes this. Those who do not, like Mr. Anthony, do not take prophetic passages literally because that contradicts their Covenant Theology. The real question at hand is, should we take the Bible at face value or understand it according to the allegorical interpretations of Augustine and Calvin?**

The so-called "premillennialists" believe that they will be worldly conquerors with Christ when He comes to reign on this earth for 1000 years. **This is another error. We, who are dead and resurrected, will return with Christ. We are not trying to be "worldly conquerors."**

...but Paul says that "we are more than conquerors through him that loved us" **now!** And this is the essence of what John the Revelator is communicating. There is no reason to differentiate between these reigns. There is no reason to believe (other than impatience or dissatisfaction with God's plan for us) that there is anything sweeter on this earth than reigning in His kingdom, **now.** **This is more unacceptable, and very unprofessional, rhetoric. Those who take the Bible at face value have "impatience or dissatisfaction with God's plan for us"?** Really? Apparently, Mr. Anthony thinks he is able to discern the intentions of those who seek for the biblical author's intended meaning of a passage. **And once again, how does believing in a return of Christ for an earthly reign eliminate believing He is reigning in the hearts of believers now?**

At Revelation 20:6, the first resurrection clearly applies to those dead in Christ who lived and reigned with Christ for the figurative "1000-year period" in wait for the final judgment and the general resurrection of the just and the unjust. The second death is explained further below. It is the ultimate death that those who are lost will experience at that judgment, the first death being physical death. While the saints and true believers who die physically experience this first death, the second death will have no power over them.

While the main thrust of Revelation 20:6 is that the righteous dead are reigning with Christ, there is no reason to believe that those of us on this earth do not share in this reign now. One of the major losses of the "premillennialists" is that, in their quest for a worldly kingdom in the future, they fail to recognize the blessings of Christ reigning in our lives now. **That's not true, but the reality is, the Premillennialists are not focused on fixing the world as the Amillennialists are.**

Let us now compare scripture with scripture to interpret the "thousand years." **Generally, when someone is talking about comparing Scripture with Scripture, they are attempting to avoid the clear teaching of a certain passage of Scripture (as, for example, the Jehovah's Witnesses do with the clear passages about the deity of Christ). Scripture adds to Scripture to give us a fuller meaning. But one passage should not be used to eliminate the clear meaning of another. In scripture, the term "thousand," when in reference to time, is always used **symbolically** [how on earth do you know that?] of a predetermined time that God chooses. In other cases, it is always used **symbolically** for a large number of people or things. "Always used symbolically" is just factually untrue. I have no clue how he can make such an irresponsible statement. Below, I will demonstrate that at least 92% of the New Testament uses of *thousand* are literal.**

Surely, nobody can honestly interpret the following "thousands" as literal. **Any word can be used metaphorically. That does not mean it "always" is. Just because a word is used metaphorically a few**

times, does not mean it is so used all the time. Also, every metaphoric use of a word is dependent upon a literal meaning of the word, or it would have no metaphorical significance. If a word were “always used symbolically,” it would have no meaning at all, it would just be gobbledygook. For example, consider his illustration reference below, Psalms 50:10, *For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a **thousand hills***. How would we know the significance of that, if we did not know a literal meaning of “thousand?” What if “thousand” meant “two”? How do we know that only the cattle on two hills belong to God? Because, we know what the word “thousand” means literally.

People or Things

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Psalms 50:10, “For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a **thousand hills**.”

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Deuteronomy 7:9, “...which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that...keep his commandments to a **thousand generations**;”

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Ecclesiastes 6:6, “Yea, though he live a **thousand years** twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?”

2 Peter 3:8, “...one day is with the Lord as a **thousand years**, and a **thousand years** as one day.”

It should be obvious from the above that every occurrence of the word “thousand,” by itself, throughout scripture, is not literal but **symbolic** for a **large number** or **long period of time**. This is another one of his outlandish statements, which is just not true. When you add a number to a word, it is generally literal. But when a number occurs “by itself,” it does not necessarily lose its literal meaning. For example, the first use of the word “thousand” in the Bible is “by itself” and means a literal “thousand.” Genesis 20:16, *To Sarah he said, “Behold, I have given your brother a **thousand pieces of silver***. The word “thousand” is repeatedly used “by itself” referring to a literal thousand. *A **thousand** from each tribe of all the tribes of Israel (Numbers 31:4); the Levites shall extend from the wall of the city outward a **thousand cubits** around (Number 35:4)*. Well, I will stop listing them, but there are many such examples. How on earth Mr. Anthony can make such an irresponsible statement is beyond me.

Then, why is it when we go to the book of Revelation (the most symbolic book of them all, which assumes his own conclusion), many interpret this thousand years as literal? Especially when there is no scriptural warrant for doing so? I’m beginning to wonder what planet this guy lives on. There are 134 uses of the word *thousand* in the (NASB) Bible. There are 43 uses of the word *thousand* in the

New Testament and all but 3 (3/43=.0697, 100-7=93) or 93% of them are literal. If we leave out the 6 references he is debating in Revelation 20. Then (43-6=37, 3/37=.081, 100-8=92) **92% of the uses of word *thousand* are literal.** Does that sound like his statement, “every occurrence of the word ‘thousand,’ by itself, throughout Scripture, is not literal but **symbolic**”?

Here is a list with **all** the uses of the word *thousand* in the New Testament:

- [Matthew 14:21](#) *There were about five **thousand** men who ate, besides women and children.*
- [Matthew 15:38](#) *And those who ate were four **thousand** men, besides women and children.*
- [Matthew 16:9](#) *“Do you not yet understand or remember the five loaves of the five **thousand**, and how many baskets full you picked up?*
- [Matthew 16:10](#) *“Or the seven loaves of the four **thousand**, and how many large baskets full you picked up?*
- [Matthew 18:24](#) *“When he had begun to settle them, one who owed him ten **thousand** talents was brought to him.*
- [Mark 5:13](#) *Jesus gave them permission. And coming out, the unclean spirits entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, about two **thousand** of them; and they were drowned in the sea.*
- [Mark 6:44](#) *There were five **thousand** men who ate the loaves.*
- [Mark 8:9](#) *About four **thousand** were there; and He sent them away.*
- [Mark 8:19](#) *when I broke the five loaves for the five **thousand**, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?” They said to Him, “Twelve.”*
- [Mark 8:20](#) *“When I broke the seven for the four **thousand**, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?” And they said to Him, “Seven.”*
- [Luke 9:14](#) *(For there were about five **thousand** men.) And He said to His disciples, “Have them sit down to eat in groups of about fifty each.”*
- [Luke 14:31](#) *“Or what king, when he sets out to meet another king in battle, will not first sit down and consider whether he is strong enough with ten **thousand** men to encounter the one coming against him with twenty **thousand**?*
- [John 6:10](#) *Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five **thousand**.*
- [Acts 2:41](#) *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three **thousand** souls.*
- [Acts 4:4](#) *But many of those who had heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five **thousand**.*
- [Acts 19:19](#) *And many of those who practiced magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone; and they counted up the price of them and found it fifty **thousand** pieces of silver.*
- [Acts 21:38](#) *“Then you are not the Egyptian who some time ago stirred up a revolt and led the four **thousand** men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”*
- [Romans 11:4](#) *But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN **THOUSAND** MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.”*
- [1 Corinthians 10:8](#) *Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did, and twenty-three **thousand** fell in one day.*

- **1 [1 Corinthians 14:19](#) however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten **thousand** words in a tongue.*
- **2 [Peter 3:8](#) But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a **thousand** years, and a **thousand** years like one day.*
These are the only three non-literal uses of the word *thousand* in the New Testament. They are similes that assume a literal understanding of the word *thousand*.
- *[Revelation 7:4](#) And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four **thousand** sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:*
- *[Revelation 7:5](#) from the tribe of Judah, twelve **thousand** were sealed, from the tribe of Reuben twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Gad twelve **thousand**,*
- *[Revelation 7:6](#) from the tribe of Asher twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Naphtali twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Manasseh twelve **thousand**,*
- *[Revelation 7:7](#) from the tribe of Simeon twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Levi twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Issachar twelve **thousand**,*
- *[Revelation 7:8](#) from the tribe of Zebulun twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Joseph twelve **thousand**, from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve **thousand** were sealed.*
- *[Revelation 11:13](#) And in that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell; seven **thousand** people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.*
- *[Revelation 12:6](#) Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one **thousand** two hundred and sixty days.*
- *[Revelation 14:1](#) Then I looked, and behold, the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four **thousand**, having His name and the name of His Father written on their foreheads.*
- *[Revelation 14:3](#) And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four **thousand** who had been purchased from the earth.*
- *[Revelation 20:2](#) And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a **thousand** years;*
- *[Revelation 20:3](#) and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the **thousand** years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*
- *[Revelation 20:4](#) Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a **thousand** years.*
- *[Revelation 20:5](#) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the **thousand** years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*
- *[Revelation 20:6](#) Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a **thousand** years.*
- *[Revelation 20:7](#) When the **thousand** years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

Futurists make the same mistake that the Jews who crucified Christ made—

All the Old Testament prophets and the apostles were “futurists” as Mr. Anthony describes the word “Futurists,” i.e., those who believed in a future reign of the Messiah on earth. So are the prophets and the apostles of the Bible all the same as “the Jews who crucified Christ”? It is an irresponsible, if

not a blasphemous, statement to compare futurists with “the Jews who crucified Christ,” because God’s revelation is futuristic in both Testaments.

—they were not satisfied with a spiritual kingdom; they had to have a literal, worldly, physical kingdom. This has nothing to do with what anybody is “not satisfied with.” It has to do with what the Bible clearly teaches in both Testaments.

The Truth of the matter is not that Christ will reign for a thousand years some time in the future, but that Christ is reigning now, and will continue to reign for eternity. We do not have to wait for His Kingdom to come sometime in the future before He starts reigning over our lives, for Christ's Kingdom is here now, and He desires that we reign with Him now, whether we choose to recognize it or not!

We are aborting millions of babies and selling their body parts. We praise homosexuals and the LGBT perversions. ISIS is raping and beheading hundreds of Middle Eastern Christians. Islam is growing at a faster rate than Christianity. Pornographic web sites are the most visited. Cohabitation before marriage is the new norm, and by age 30, 75% of women have cohabitated. The divorce rate runs around 50% (67% of second marriages, and 73% of third marriages). Statistically, Christians know little to nothing about the Word of God. And “Christ is reigning now”??? and “Christ’s kingdom is here now”????

Premillennialists are not saying Christ does not reign in our hearts today. The clear teaching of a future 1000-year reign of Christ on earth does not eliminate His ruling over His church today. This is a straw man argument that no Premillennialist is making.