

# HOW TO STUDY LESSON

## How to Study Prophecy

### Lesson #7 (Answers to Homework)

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#### I. HOMEWORK

- A. One day you are looking at some prophecy books at a Christian book sellers convention. You happen to pick up a book on the thousand year reign of Christ.
1. A person standing to your right says, "I don't believe in a literal thousand year reign of Christ. I think we are already in Christ's kingdom and that the thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20 is figurative. I think Christ is ruling and reigning now through His church."
  2. Then the person on your left says, "I kind of agree with him, but I think that the thousand years is figurative of a future time on earth when Christians finally take over the world with the gospel. I believe as we evangelize the world, restore the Old Testament civil law, then we will be in the kingdom. The thousand years of Revelation 20 isn't literal. It is merely a figurative expression to describe a long time."
  3. You respond to these two men by saying, "I believe the thousand year reign of Christ on earth is a literal thousand year reign of Christ on earth." Both encourage you to study a little harder assured that you will come up with their view. They both agree that if you study Rev. 20 a little closer you will be convinced that the thousand years mentioned there isn't literal.
- B. Your assignment, whether you choose to accept it or not, is to study a little harder and try to determine whether the "thousand years" mentioned in Revelation 20:1-7 is a literal thousand years or figurative of something else. Remember to use your vast Bible study knowledge gained so far. Do exegesis and not eisegesis. Below are some questions which will help in your study but feel free to go beyond the questions below.
1. How many times is the word "thousand" repeated in **Rev. 20:1-7**? **Six times.**
  2. How many times does:
    - a. "a thousand" appear? **Three times**
    - b. "the thousand" appear? **Three times**
    - c. What is the difference between the two and why does it matter? **"A" thousand means "of the same essence and nature as a thousand" and "the thousand" means a specific thousand. Both are significant and argue for a literal meaning.**

3. What would be the purpose of using “thousand” over and over again if it doesn’t mean a thousand? **If you didn’t mean a literal thousand you would probably say, “after a long time,” or “when much time has passed,” or “after many ages,” etc.**
4. Read **Rev. 20:1-10**. Would you say the language being used is vague, nebulous and general or specific, exact, and detailed? **Specific.**
5. How is Satan described in **Rev. 20:1-3**? **Dragon, serpent of old, devil, and Satan**
  - a. Who binds Satan? **An Angel**
  - b. Where is Satan cast? **The Abyss**
  - c. Is John referring to a “literal chain”? **Yes, they have literal chains in the spiritual world, just like they have literal horses, robes, and trees. It is not a chain from our world, but a real chain nonetheless.**
  - d. How can a Spiritual being be bound with a chain? **Spiritual beings have substance, but they are not of this world or reality. The spiritual realm is not absent of persons and things.**
  - e. What happens to the place where Satan is bound? **It is shut and sealed.**
  - f. What is the effect of Satan being bound? **He can’t deceive the nations any longer.**
  - g. If Christ is ruling now in His kingdom, is Satan bound and unable to deceive the nations? (See **Acts 5:3; 10:38; 26:18; Rom. 16:20; I Cor. 5:5; 7:5; II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 4:27; 6:11; I Thess. 2:18; I Tim. 1:20; 5:15; II Tim. 2:26; James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8; I Jn. 3:8, 10; Rev. 2:9, 10, 13, 24; 3:9**). **Satan and his demons are still wondering about deceiving people from nations all over the world.**
6. **Look at Rev. 20:4.**
  - a. What furniture items did John see in **vs. 4**? Were these literal? **Thrones, yes they are literal.**
  - b. Who sat on these pieces of furniture **vs. 4**? Were these people literal? **Believers in general, martyrs in specific Mt. 19:28; I Cor. 6:3; Rev. 3:21. It is literal.**
  - c. How did those people die? Is this literal (**see Rev. 6:9; 18:24; 19:2**)? **They were martyred for the faith. It is literal.**

- d. At the end of the thousand years, what happens to these people and what do they do? Is this literal? **Rule and reign with Christ for a thousand years.**
7. **Look at Rev. 20:1-10.** Are there any general references to numbers of things used in this text (not including the word “thousand”)? **Vs. 3 “Short time,” vs. 8 “number of them like the sand of the seashore,” vs. 10 “day and night, forever and ever.” So Yes.**
8. Does John use general references in any other part of the book (see **Rev. 1:15 Many waters; 5:11 Many angels and myriads of myriad and thousands of thousands; 7:9 great multitude; 9:9 many horses; 10:11 many peoples, tongues, nations, and kings; 14:2 many waters; 17:1 many waters; 19:6, 12 great multitude, many waters, many diadems**)? **So yes.**
9. If John frequently used general references to describe large unspecified numbers of things, and if they occur all throughout the book, why does he use a specific number six times in **Rev. 20:1-7** to describe the duration of the reign of Christ? **Because it is a literal thousand years.**
10. Look at the use of specific numbers in the book of Revelation. See if they are used to literally number things or if they are only general approximations of the numbers of things.
- a. In Rev. 1:4 were seven churches being addressed? **Yes**
- b. In Rev. 6:1 do the seven seals represent seven things? **Yes**
- c. In Rev. 8:2 do seven trumpets represent seven things? **Yes**
- d. In Rev. 15:7 do the seven bowls represent seven things? **Yes**
- e. In Rev. 7:4-8 does  $12,000 \times 12 = 144,000$  things? **Yes**
- f. In Rev. 8:13 are there actually three angels connected with the last three woes? **Yes**
- g. In Rev. 16:13 are there literally three unclean spirits? **Yes**
- h. In Rev. 21:12-14 are there literally twelve apostles? **Yes**
- i. In any of these uses does a specific number not denote a specific number of things? **No.**
11. If the book of Revelation usually uses specific numbers to denote actual numbers of things, why not take the word “thousand” literally? **There is no reason not to take it literally.**

12. Some have argued that the “thousand years” is figurative because of cross-references and the way “thousand” is used in other places in the Bible. Look up the cross references below and consider how you might answer this objection.
- a. **Psa. 50:10** -- “For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.” **God does literally own every beast of the field and a cattle on a thousand hills, but the expression means he owns all beasts everywhere.**
  - b. **Psa. 90:4** – “For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night.” **This is saying that a literal thousand years is like a literal watch in the night to God as He is eternal and never grows old or tired of waiting.**
  - c. **II Pet. 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.” **The words “like” tell us that an expressed comparison is being made, or a simile. Peter is merely saying that a literal thousand years is like a single day to God, but the point is that God doesn’t grow old, or tired, or impatient.**
  - d. Are the verses above conclusive that all uses of “thousand” should be taken figuratively? **No.**
  - e. If a specific book of the Bible is being studied and it uses numbers literally and yet there are a few references in other books of the Bible written by different authors that use numbers figuratively, how should we interpret numbers in the book being studied and why? **You interpret first a word or phrase according to near context, then according to far context, then according to context within that particular book, next context in all the books written by the same author, then the testament in which the word appears, then finally how a word and its synonyms are used in the whole Bible. The farther you get from the near context the less weight cross-references and meanings of words in different contexts have.**
13. Now that you have studied harder what is your interpretation of the six references to a “*thousand years*” in **Rev. 20**? **It means a literal thousand years?**
14. Read and meditate on **Jer. 9:23-24**. Write a study title and outline from these verses.

## “THE ART OF GODLY BOASTING”

- I. **THREE REASONS YOU SHOULDN’T BOAST**
  - a. **Don’t boast in your wisdom**
  - b. **Don’t boast in your might**

- c. Don't boast in your riches**
- II. ONE REASON YOU SHOULD BOAST**
- a. The Lord delights to exercise lovingkindness**
  - b. The Lord delights to exercise justice**
  - c. The Lord delights to exercise righteousness**