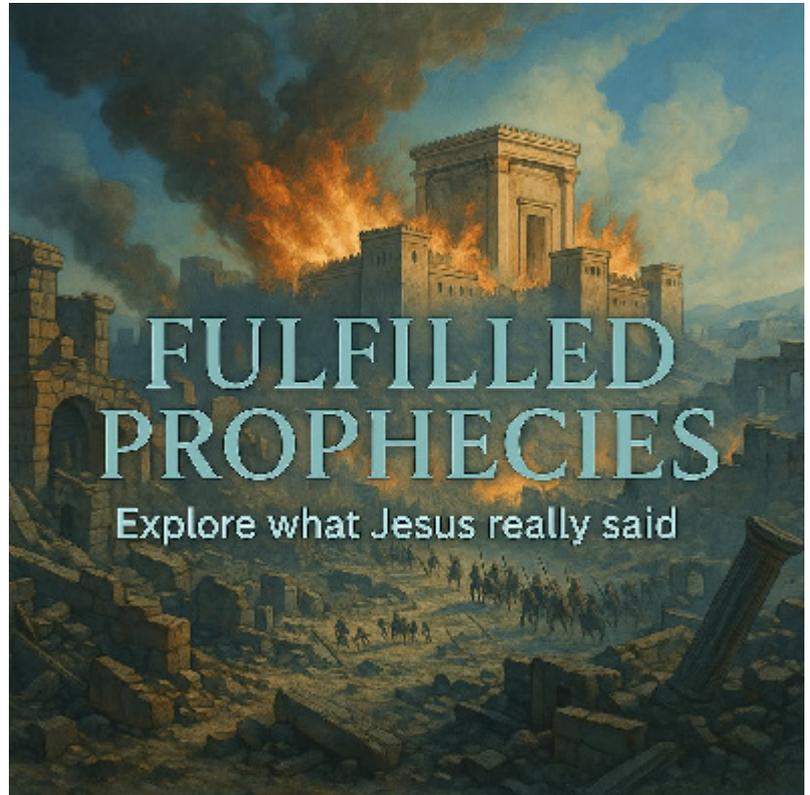


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**A Thousand Years:
Symbolism of Divine
Completeness**



By Dan Maines

A Thousand Years: Symbolism of Divine Completeness

1. Introduction: Understanding Biblical Time Through

Symbolism Many Christians are puzzled by the reference to a thousand years in Revelation 20. They wonder how this can be literal when more than 2,000 years have passed since John's vision was given. But the key to understanding this lies not in literalism, but in the symbolic language used throughout scripture.

2. The Number 10: Symbol of Completeness

The number 10 is used 242 times in the Bible, and "10th" appears 79 times.

Ten signifies testimony, law, responsibility, and completeness of order.

In Genesis 1, "God said" appears 10 times, a testimony of His creative power.

God gave the Ten Commandments to man, showing man's responsibility to God's law.

A tithe, or one tenth, is a symbol of faith and devotion to God.

The Passover lamb was selected on the 10th day of the first month (Exodus 12:3), and Jesus, our Passover Lamb, entered Jerusalem on that same day (John 12:28-29, 1 Corinthians 5:7).

The Day of Atonement is observed on the 10th day of the seventh month, picturing the removal of sin and Satan before the reign of Christ (Revelation 20:1-2).

3. The Number 3: The Divine Number of Perfection

The number 3 is used 467 times in scripture.

It is the first of the spiritually perfect numbers: 3, 7, 10, and 12.

Abel, Enoch, and Noah were the three righteous patriarchs before the flood.

Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were the three after.

Jesus prayed three times in Gethsemane before His arrest.

He was crucified at the third hour (Mark 15:25), darkness covered the land from the sixth to the ninth hour (Matthew

27:45), and He died at the ninth hour (Mark 15:34).

Jesus rose after three full days and nights, fulfilling the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:40).

4. A Thousand Years: Not Literal, But Symbolic of God's Perfect Timing

Revelation 20:4-6 speaks of believers reigning with Christ for a thousand years.

If taken literally, this would contradict the timing already fulfilled, as over two thousand years have passed.

The early Christians understood symbolic time. The number 10 symbolized completeness. The number 3 symbolized the divine. $10 \times 10 \times 10$ equals 1,000, symbolizing complete perfection in divine timing.

This thousand-year period is a complete span of time determined by God, not a literal 1,000 years.

It is the period from the binding of Satan at the start of Christ's reign to the brief time he is loosed before final judgment.

5. God's Covenant Is Also Tied to Symbolic Thousands

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NASB): "Know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His faithfulness to a thousand generations for those who love Him and keep His commandments."

This is not a literal thousand generations. It is a way to express God's everlasting faithfulness.

Just as the thousand generations are symbolic of eternal covenant, so the thousand years in Revelation symbolizes the

fullness of Christ's redemptive reign.

6. Conclusion: Faith in God's Perfect Plan Let us not reduce God's timing to human calendars. Instead, we should trust in His symbolic communication, just as the early Christians did. The thousand years is not a delay in God's promises, but the complete period He determined to carry out His redemptive plan. His purpose was fulfilled in the first century as He brought judgment on the old covenant system and established His everlasting kingdom.

Revelation 1:1 (NASB): "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place, and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John."

The reign has already begun. The kingdom is here. The thousand years have been fulfilled in God's perfect way.

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