

Let's compare textual connections.

The binding of Satan and his release. Verse 1-3, 7-8

Revelation 20:7-8.

3 and **threw him into the pit (*abyssos*)**, and shut it and sealed it over him, **so that he might not deceive** the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

7 ...Satan will be **released from his prison**

8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, **to gather them for battle (*polemos*)**; their number is like the sand of the sea.

Revelation 17:8, 14 (ESV)

8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless **pit (*abyssos*)** and **go to destruction**. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.

14 They will **make war (*polemos*) on the Lamb**, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

- › **Revelation 17 takes place before Jesus' return. Before the Babylon is destroyed (Revelation 17:16-18).**

Satan and the beast are not the same but at the same time they are (there is an “Anti-Godhead” thing going on). Both have seven heads and ten horns (Revelation 12:3, Revelation 13:1). Worship of one is worship of the other (Revelation 13:4). John portrays them as the same but different. In much the same way John portrays Jesus and the Father as the same but different (see notes on Revelation 1).

Deceiving the nations.

2 And he **seized the dragon**, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and **bound him for a thousand years**,

3 and **threw him into the pit**, and shut it and sealed it over him, **so that he might not deceive** the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Satan is clearly stated to be deceiving the world right now: Acts 5:3, 10:38, 26:18; 1 Corinthians 5:5, 7:5; 2 Corinthians 2:11, 11:14; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:19, 2 Thessalonians 2:9; 2 Timothy 2:26; James 4:7; and 1 Peter 5:8.

This is 14 verses from 4 different Biblical authors (Luke, Paul, James, Peter).

decieve - planao: to cause to go astray from a specific way - BDAG; Bauer, Danker, Arndt, and Gingrich; A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 821.”

So, what BDAG says of this word “deceive” is Satan can't deceive the nations in a specific way. It doesn't have to mean he can't deceive the nations at all; he can't in whatever that specific way might be. The best example I can think of in our modern justice system is a restraining order. A judge can issue a restraining order against someone. The details could be they cannot be within 200 feet of someone. That doesn't mean they can't go outside, go to the store, go to work, etc.; it means they are bound from being within 200 feet of the person they are ordered to stay away from. The Greek word may suggest that Satan has a restraining order.

What is that specific way? Scriptures tell us in several passages, especially Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20. Satan cannot gather the nations to come against the “city/mountains of God” (Revelation 20:9; Ezekiel 39:2). The mountains of God are Zion/Jerusalem. The attack against Jerusalem is spoken of in Scripture several times, including Revelation 16 and 19, Joel 2-3, and Zechariah 12-14. Satan is free to deceive the nations but is not bound from gathering all the nations and the powers of darkness against Jerusalem, Jesus, and His followers. This will only happen when Satan is released to do so.

John’s Use of Ezekiel 38-39 and 40-48.

7 And when the thousand **years are ended**, Satan will be **released from his prison**

8 and will come out to **deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth**, ***Gog and Magog***, to *gather them for battle*; their number is like the sand of the sea.

9 And they **marched** up over the broad plain of the earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city**, but **fire came down from heaven** and consumed them,

10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Gog and Magog

John goes out of his way to explicitly use “Gog and Magog” to describe the army surrounding the city of God’s people. This is a reference to Ezekiel 38-39. Gog and Magog are used in only three passages in the Bible. First, Gog and Magog are used in genealogies (1 Chronicles 5:4 and Genesis 10:2/1 Chronicles 1:5). The only other two times Gog and Magog are used are in Ezekiel 38-39 and Revelation 20. This makes the passages undeniably linked together.

In Ezekiel 38-39, Ezekiel prophesies an enemy from the north, Gog and Magog, will gather an army that will oppose the people of God, in which God will come and destroy the forces of evil. After this battle, God will re-establish His Kingdom (Ezekiel 40-48).

Ezekiel 38:1-4 (ESV)

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Son of man, set your face toward **Gog, of the land of Magog**, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him

3 and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I am against you, O **Gog**, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

4 And **I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army**, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords.

Ezekiel 38:8 (ESV)

8 After many days **you will be mustered**. In the latter years you **will go against the land that is restored from war**, the land whose people were gathered from many peoples upon the **mountains of Israel**, which had been a continual waste. Its people were brought out from the peoples and now dwell securely, all of them.”

Ezekiel 39:1-6 (ESV)

1 “And you, son of man, prophesy against Gog and say, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, **I am against you, O Gog**, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

2 And I will turn you about and drive you forward, and **bring you up from the uttermost parts of the north, and lead you against the mountains of Israel.**

3 Then I will strike your bow from your left hand, and will make your arrows drop out of your right hand.

4 **You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. I will give you to birds of prey** of every sort and to the beasts of the field **to be devoured.**

5 You shall fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Lord GOD.

6 **I will send fire on Magog** and on those who dwell securely in the coastlands, and they shall know that I am the Lord.”

Revelation 20:7-9 (ESV)

7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison

8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, **Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle;** their number is like the sand of the sea.

9 And they **marched** up over the broad plain of the earth and **surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city**, but **fire came down from heaven** and consumed them,

But what about Revelation 19?

Ezekiel 39:4 (ESV)

4 You shall fall on the mountains of Israel, you and all your hordes and the peoples who are with you. **I will give you to birds of prey** of every sort and to the beasts of the field **to be devoured.**

Ezekiel 39:17-20 (ESV)

17 “As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord God: **Speak to the birds** of every sort and to all beasts of the field: ‘**Assemble** and come, gather from all around to the **sacrificial feast** that I am preparing for you, a great **sacrificial feast** on the mountains of Israel, and you shall eat flesh and drink blood.

18 **You shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the Earth**—of rams, of lambs, and of he-goats, of bulls, all of them fat beasts of Bashan. 19 And you shall eat fat till you are filled, and drink blood till you are drunk, at the sacrificial feast that I am preparing for you.

20 And you shall be filled at my table with **horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all kinds of warriors,**’ declares the Lord God.”

Revelation 19:17-18, 21 (ESV)

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice **he called to all the birds** that fly directly overhead, “**Come, gather for the great supper of God,**

18 to **eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders,** and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”

21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and **all the birds were gorged with their flesh.**

› **Revelation 19 takes at the return of Jesus, not 1,000 years later.**

John's use of Ezekiel 40-48.

Pre-Millennial teachers teach that Ezekiel 40-48 takes place during a future Millennial Reign of Christ. However this is not what John says.

Ezekiel 47:1-12

1 Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, **water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple** toward the east (for the temple faced east). The **water was flowing down** from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar.”

Verses 2-4 Ezekiel is led by an angel who measures the water and it keeps getting deeper...

5 Again he measured a thousand, and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the water had risen. It was deep enough to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.”

6 And he said to me, “Son of man, have you seen this?” Then he led me back to the bank of the river.

7 As I went back, **I saw on the bank of the river very many trees on the one side and on the other.**

8 And he said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh.

9 And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.

10 Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea.

11 But its swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they are to be left for salt.

12 And on the banks, **on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food.** Their leaves will not wither, nor their fruit fail, but they will **bear fresh fruit every month**, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. **Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.”**

Revelation 21:9-10, 12

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.”

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me **the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,”**

Revelation 22:1-2 (ESV)

1 Then the angel showed me the **river of the water of life**, bright as crystal, **flowing from the throne of God** and of the Lamb

2 through the middle of the street of the city; also, **on either side of the river, the tree of life** with its twelve kinds of fruit, **yielding its fruit each month.** The **leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.**

The Gates of the New Jerusalem vs Ezekiel 48.

Ezekiel 48:30

30 “These shall be the exits of the city: On the north side, which is to be 4,500 cubits by measure,”
31 three gates, the gate of **Reuben**, the gate of **Judah**, and the gate of **Levi**, the **gates of the city being named after the tribes of Israel.**”

Ezekiel then names all the other gates after each of the tribes of Israel.

Revelation 21:12

12 It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on **the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—**

So the Amillennial view must be correct, right?

Problems with Amillennial view:

1. Satan being bound from a specific task does not apply to Amillennial view. They don't believe in a literal coming of Christ nor do they believe in a literal final battle. It is a “spiritual metaphor.”
2. They believe the church has replaced Israel.
3. They don't believe in a physical reign anywhere, they believe in only a spiritual reign for eternity.

Can this be reconciled? It can.

Revelation is read in a cycle.

Cycle 1: Revelation 6-8:4.

Cycle 2: Revelation 8:5-11:19.

Cycle 3: Revelation 12-15.

Cycle 4: Revelation 16:1-19:21.

Cycle 5: Revelation 20.

The New Heavens and the New Earth: Revelation 21-22.

Revelation 20 may be another recapitulation (speaking about the same event from another point of view). After Jesus ascends and sends the Holy Spirit we rule and reign with Him already, but not yet. We are already seated with Him in the heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6), but we are not yet brought to completion (1 John 3:2, 1 Corinthians 13:10-12, Philippians 1:6). When those in Christ die now they are immediately with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 20:4) while the unrighteous are left in the grave until the Day of the Lord and the White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:4-5, 11-15) The Gospel will be preached to the whole world, Israel will be restored and brought into salvation through their Messiah. Satan will be released to raise an Anti-Christ to gather the nations against the people of God living in Jerusalem. Jesus will return to make battle, the people of God will be caught up to escort Him to the earth to defeat Satan and the Anti-Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17). We will be made like Him and given our eternal dwelling, our new bodies (2 Corinthians 5:1-10). We will be the New Jerusalem and we will live and reign with Jesus forever in the re-created Earth (Revelation 22:3-5).