

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.

People wonder how those who lived 2000 years ago could reject Jesus after they saw His ministry of healing, feeding and helping others, as well as teaching the people. People think if they lived during that time they would have believed. Some even think if they could just see Jesus now, and see Him do some of those awesome things, they would believe and follow Jesus. That all sounds good, but remember what Jesus said to Thomas:

✠ **John 20:29** *Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

So does that mean Thomas and the Disciples were not blessed because they saw Jesus and believed? No, because they were to be a witness of Jesus' death and resurrection as well as what He taught and did while on this earth.

✠ **John 20:30-31** *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

Yet for over the last 2000 years, how many did not believe and have died in their sins? Do you think if they saw Jesus they would have believed? Honestly, I don't think so. Sure they could have seen Jesus die and rise from the dead, but salvation is not just believing that He rose from the dead. But making Jesus Lord over your life, along with believing that He rose from the dead is what brings salvation. Because once again the bible says that, *you believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe--and tremble!* **James 2:19** and even though the demons believe, they are not saved, because they rejected Jesus, Who they saw in heaven for how long... Yet still refused for Jesus to be Lord over them.

So being able to see Jesus will not make someone turn to Jesus. Want more proof? How about today's verse, which talks about Jesus reigning on this earth for a thousand years while satan will be bound during that time. But then after that the bible says that *Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.* **Revelation 20:7-8**

For a thousand years people will see Jesus first hand, ruling and reigning on this earth. But after that thousand years, many will choose not to make Jesus Lord of their life after satan is released for a short time, even though they will see Jesus do awesome things for hundreds of years as well as rule with love.

Also, how do you know you have never seen Jesus? Mary walked with Jesus for three years, but when He rose from the dead, she did not recognize Him at first.

† **John 20:14** *Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.*

Maybe Jesus was that homeless person you saw asking for a hand out, or was that cashier at the store that you made fun of because He talked funny or was just way to slow with checking you out. Maybe it was that guy sitting a few seats from you at church, but you refused to talk to Him because you were too much into wanting to go hang out with your friends rather than meet a stranger at church.

Yeah, seeing Jesus will not make us want a relationship with Him, but knowing what He has done for us and experiencing His love, that's what draws people to Jesus. And if people really want to see Jesus, then we should be like Paul was, then they will see a glimpse of Jesus.

† **1 Corinthians 11:1** *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*