

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

The Doom of Satan and His Followers

Revelation 19:17-20:10

INTRODUCTION:

The theme of judgment is woven throughout this book of Revelation. God wants us to be able to make sense of the things happening in this world and what will happen when Christ comes again. With this knowledge we can have the assurance that we are spiritually protected and secure and that Satan and his followers will ultimately meet their doom.

All Stand and Read Scripture

Revelation 19:17-20:10 (NASB)

17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, "Come, assemble for the great supper of God, 18 so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great."

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.

Doom of the Beast and False Prophet

20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Satan Bound

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 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; 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.

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. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 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.

Satan Freed, Doomed

7 When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, 8 and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. 9 And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. 10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for Your word that you have preserved for us. Help us to hear and understand the truths that are embedded in those pages. Allow these words to work through us and bear much fruit for You. Help me to present this message with clarity and accuracy that Your Son may be glorified.

We thank You for Your **Holy Spirit** that You have allowed to dwell within us and protect us from the deceitfulness of evil. Help us to listen for Your Spirit's guidance in our lives so that we will truly understand the difference between the temporary pleasures that are offered by Satan and the eternal truths and promises that are given by You.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Hopefully all of you, by this time, understand that the visions that we read in Revelation are not meant to be read and interpreted literally. In other words, the things that John "sees" and writes down are not actually the way they will appear. Instead the visions that he sees are meant to communicate certain truths to his audience. We have seen this all throughout the book of Revelation.

For example, at the sounding of the fifth trumpet, we saw these locust like creatures that had tails like scorpions. This does not mean that there will be a trumpet sound and then these locust like creatures will immerge and start coming after non-believers. We understand that that image is given to John in order to communicate to us the reality that these demonic forces that will torment unbelievers throughout this age is very painful. It stings like a scorpion. That is the type of anguish that is brought upon those who are not sealed with the name of God upon their foreheads.

Another key example of this is by all of the images that we see of the Lord Jesus Christ. In chapter 1, John initially sees Jesus and describes Him this way.

Revelation 1:13-16 (NASB)

¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its

strength.

That vision was communicating all sorts of wonderful things to his audience about the character and nature of the risen Lord Jesus.

Then John describes Jesus again in chapter 5 as a Lamb.

Revelation 5:6 (NASB)

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.

Then in chapter 14 he describes Jesus again.

Revelation 14:14 (NASB)

¹⁴ Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and sitting on the cloud *was* one like a son of man, having a golden crown on His head and a sharp sickle in His hand.

We could point out many more. Every time we encounter the risen Lord we are given a different vision concerning His nature in order to meet the needs of the audience.

So it is not that Jesus is trying to trick us by disguising Himself in different ways. But He is appearing in different visionary forms in order to communicate different realities about Himself and His work.

The youth group discovered this reality when we came up with a list of names and titles for Jesus in the Bible. We ended up with 385 different names and titles. This all shows the many roles that Jesus fulfills for us. He was our Creator, the Messiah, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Word, our Cornerstone, the Light of the World, the Lamb of God, our Savior, and much, much, more.

Now in chapter 19 John sees a new vision as he sees Jesus coming as **a divine warrior on a white horse** at the end of the age.

BODY:

I. DOOM OF THE BEAST AND FALSE PROPHET.

Revelation 19:11 (NASB)

¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sat on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

John sees heaven opened and a white horse with a Man sitting on it. The Rider is called **Faithful and True**. Just in case we are confused on why He is coming He says "**in righteousness He judges and wages war**".

So the theme of war and judgment in connection with the return of Christ are stated for us right from the very beginning. The first time Jesus came, He came giving grace. A grace that can give us salvation. But this time He is coming as a Man of war bringing judgment.

He is seated on a white horse. A white horse in John's time indicated military victory.

When a battle was won, the leader of the victory would celebrate by riding back into his city on a white horse.

So here John sees Jesus coming to make war and bring judgment. This white horse symbolizes that the victory had already been won even before the battle began. The outcome of the war had already been decided.

This is a different battle than the battle described in Revelation 12:7-9. In that vision John sees this battle that takes place in heaven. The **red dragon and his angels** waging war against **Michael, the archangel, and his angels**. The outcome of this battle was that Satan and his angels were cast down to the earth where he went into angry pursuit of the church (the woman who fled into the wilderness and got carried away on the wings of eagles). We know from chapter 12 that the outcome of that cosmic battle was actually decided on the cross at Calvary. By virtue of that victory on Calvary, Satan and his angels were cast down from heaven.

As such what we find here is the final battle of that war. As Christ is actually coming to execute this sentence on Satan and his followers.

We have now arrived at the scene of the great battle to end all battles for the third time due to recapitulation! And as in the previous scenes they gather for battle **and right before there is a battle...BAM...it is over!**

Verses 7-10 says Satan was released from the abyss where he had been bound and almost immediately he tries to wipe out the church...and what happens? "**Fire came down from heaven and devoured them!**" And Satan was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone along with the first beast and the false prophet.

From the world's perspective and Satan's perspective, they still believed they could still win. But Christ had sealed their doom. **The tomb is empty!**

Christ has returned for judgment. "It is done!" The end has come for this world power. The old creation and the old order of things is gone. It is all finished. Final judgment is here!

II. SATAN BOUND.

Revelation 20 is the only place in the Bible that speaks of "the millennium"—the thousand-year reign of the triumphant Christ on earth. Nowhere else does the scriptures mention this word, so it is necessary to look at related teachings elsewhere in scripture to understand what it means in Revelation. Therefore, we should understand what Revelation 20, a highly symbolic book, says about the millennium in light of the very large number of other biblical passages that tell us more plainly (and less symbolically) what occurs between Christ's resurrection and ascension to heaven, and His final return to earth to complete His victorious work. With that in mind, let us seek biblical help in order to make sense of the very first thing that is said to occur in this thousand-year period between Christ's two comings: the binding of Satan.

Revelation 20:1-3 (NASB)

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, **and bound him for a thousand years; ³and 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.

A mighty angel from God binds Satan for a thousand years. Specifically, verse 3 relates that he is bound from deceiving the nations during this period. Something happens to Satan's ability to keep the nations of earth blinded from seeing who God is, and what His gospel means for them. As a result of Christ's finished work in dying on the cross, in rising from the dead, in ascending to the Father, and in being crowned on the throne of glory, Satan lost his power to deceive the untold millions of pagans, whom he formerly kept blinded to God's saving truth.

The ancient story of Job may give us some important insight into this massive reduction of Satan's power over the heathen nations. In Job Satan is portrayed as possessing the ability to come into God's immediate presence along with other angels, or "sons of God". He used this place of power to cause great harm to Job. But according to what Christ says in the Gospels, Satan lost that privileged access to the heavenly courts as a result of the incarnation and work of Christ.

It is significant that the first beings to recognize the incarnate Christ, according to the gospel of Mark, were demons.

Mark 1:23-24 (NASB)

²³ Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, ²⁴ saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!"

This is one of many passages that show the demons crying out in terror that the Holy One of God has come to torment them. Jesus explained that when He cast out demons by the Spirit of God it meant that the kingdom of God had come.

Matthew 12:28-29 (NASB)

²⁸ But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²⁹ Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong *man*? And then he will plunder his house.

In His work, He was binding the strong man (that is, the devil), who formerly had been keeping people in the dark and painful prison of unbelief, sin, and certain judgment.

Remember the great commission? After the Lord's crucifixion and resurrection, and immediately before His ascension back to the Father, He commissioned the church.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

¹⁸ And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

They would be able to do this because of Christ's victory over Satan, who had long blinded the nations, for Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'. Satan's illegitimate power over the nations has been taken from him, and placed into the hands of the legitimate Lord and Savior of the world.

Colossians 2:14–15 makes it clear what happened to the powers of evil through Christ's ministry, especially what He accomplished on the cross:

Colossians 2:13-15 (NASB)

¹³ When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴ having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. ¹⁵ When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

This indicates that wicked powers were defeated in principle at the cross of Christ. When Jesus purged all of our sins on Calvary, something happened to Satan. The evil one lost his authority to keep people back from God. He was bound from deceiving the nations by what Jesus did.

III. SATAN FREED AND DOOMED.

How long does the millennium last? There can be no doubt that it began with the completed work of Christ on earth. Revelation 19 celebrated the triumph of the One who is "King of kings and Lord of lords" (v. 16), "whose robe was dipped in blood" (v. 13), and who now "rules the nations with a rod of iron" (v. 15). But when does it end? Revelation 20 presents it as continuing until the end of the age, when after a brief uprising by Satan, the final judgment takes place (20:7–11). That means that the evil one is bound until just before the second coming of Christ.

Why, then, does Revelation use the expression **a thousand years**? Ten represents completeness of fullness such as the ten plagues of Egypt and the 10 Commandments God gave to man. In terms of biblical numbers, a thousand is ten times ten times ten, hence fullness times fullness times fullness.

Although the evil one still has limited power in a fallen world, it is far less than what he had prior to Christ's life on earth.

CONCLUSION:

The good news is that those who have believed and followed Christ will not be a part of that judgment. We will be invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. But for those who reject Christ, the entire wrath of God will be put upon them. Justice will finally be served.

Christ died for us so we can be filled with His righteousness by His grace. This restores our relationship to the one and only true God, our Creator! We give glory and honor to Him and Him only. Because anything else is just His creation.

Are you prepared to meet the Lord?

This is the Day!