

Chapter 20

Satan Bound 1,000 Years

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

We covered this introduction last week, establishing that, at the 2nd coming of Christ, the human population of earth would either be taken to Heaven to be with Christ or killed. Satan and his forces are bound to the Earth for a thousand years.

The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years

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. ⁵ But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

It is extremely important to note that the story simply continues. There is no narrative separation between the bounding of Satan and the presentation of these thrones. Rather, there is a referral that, when Satan is bound up, the thrones are then brought forward.

Thrones are brought forward, and a number of living people are brought forward to sit on them and to be permitted to make judgements.

5590 [e]

psychas

ψυχὰς

souls

N-AFP

The word used here is 'soul', indicating that these are living people. They are not just spirits but are souls in the same style as Genesis 2.

"⁷ And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living **soul**." The soul includes both the living mind and the ability to put it to use in physical form. Other uses for the Greek word; 'psychas' through the bible are generally translated as some form of 'living being' or 'mind'. When it is used to refer to a 'soul' it quite often is in relation to Salvation, as we can interpret here. Not only have these

people chosen Jesus, but these are the people who have died for their conviction. These are not just those who had washed their robes, but "**those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God**". Furthermore, these were killed because they "**had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands**." Although we generally apply this to a broad group of people who had been persecuted throughout time – which I have no problem with – a plaintext reading would indicate that judgment is given to the people who were put to death in the short space before Christ's return.

Who or what they are judging is referred to shortly, but their reign lasts for this same thousand years, alongside Christ. We know from 1 Thessalonians 4 that both the living and Dead will be taken to heaven at the second coming:

"¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words."

What is unclear here is if those taken to Heaven at the second coming is just those who were alive at the Close of Probation or if it's the holy dead from all time. No doubt whatsoever should be implied on the idea that all holy from all time will end up in Heaven for eternity, however we only have here a reference to those who are 'killed' after the Mark of the Beast is laid out. The phrase "⁵ But the rest of the dead" can be interpreted to mean that the rest of the dead in Christ or the rest of the dead universally. 2 things will become absolutely clear as the text continues;

1 – The 'holy' dead from all time will end up in Heaven for eternity

2 – the unrighteous dead will be resurrected for Satan to have nations to deceive.

Irrespective, for 1,000 years the Holy of Christ live and reign with him; and make judgements in Christ's name. They are receiving their eternal reward as "(o)ver (them) the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ 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. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

At the conclusion of the 1,000 years, Satan is released. As stated above, the unrighteous will be resurrected so that Satan will have the opportunity to raise an army to be brought to the battle of the Lord.

Why does he do this here? That answer is simple. He has lost, has spent 1,000 years contemplating his fate and has nothing left to lose. God has been vindicated, Satan's claim did not stick. Now he has one, last hope. To conquer the city itself and try to take all those who love God with him.

In Genesis 10, Magog is mentioned as one of the sons of Japhet after the flood. Magog's descendants, like all of Japhet's sons, moved north after the Tower of Babel and the people of Magog settled along the West of the Caspian Sea; modern day Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia leading into the Russian Caucasus region.

In Ezekiel 38, Gog is identified as the king or leader of Magog, and he brings an army and allies to attack Israel. Gog identifies that the land is unprotected, with "[unwalled villages](#)" that obviously cannot defend themselves. But God himself lashes back with earthquakes and the natural forces to defeat Gog from Magog.

So it will be when the 3rd Coming of Christ happens. The New Jerusalem, descending from the clouds onto the plane rolled out from where the Mount of Olives was will look like a juicy and unprotected target.

Satan's forces will surround the Holy City that descends at the end of the Thousand Years and make an attack. In the final act of protection that would ever be needed, fire comes forth from the City and consumes them. Satan joins his senior leaders in the lake of Fire where "they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

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|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| 1519 [e] | 3588 [e] | 165 [e] | 3588 [e] | 165 [e] |
| eis | tous | aiōnas | tōn | aiōnōn |
| εἰς | τοὺς | αἰῶνας | τῶν | αἰώνων |
| to | the | ages | of the | ages |
| Prep | Art-AMP | N-AMP | Art-GMP | N-GMP |

This phrase does not mean God will lock them in an eternal torment. They will not spend all time being tortured; there is no point to that. God does not have that level of cruelty in him and, frankly, there is no point to that. A better translation would be "until the ages of the

ages" or 'until the end of time'. The 'age' is the age of Satan's rule over the earth. Satan will be tormented until he is destroyed; not eternally but 'for ever and ever'.

I think it was the great preacher Charles Spurgeon who once told a story to explain the difference. He was asked the difference between eternity and forever. He took a piece of paper and set it on fire. The paper burned until only ash remained that was quickly dispelled in the wind. He asked his congregation how long the paper burned for and they replied "until there was nothing left to burn". This, he said, was something burning 'forever'; for however long there was something to burn, it burned. But an eternity needs no 'ever'; it predated itself and will remain after it no longer exists. We will live with God for eternity, the evil will be burned for ever.

The Great White Throne Judgment

¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

White is, of course, the colour of purity and the great white throne can only contain one person; God the Father. Earth and Heaven hide away in reverence and respect from his presence. There is no place for this earth in God's eternal universe; no place for fallen worlds or creatures.

Now that Satan has been killed, his supporters stand before those thrones that those who were killed by the Beast must be judged. All the dead of the earth are judged but the measure is an interesting one. They are "[judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.](#)"

We have always taught that we are "[8 by grace ...saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast](#)" (Ephesians 2) and this is absolutely true. However, works are the evidence of Faith, as clearly outlined in Hebrews 11 – the chapter that put Faith into practise. Faith is demonstrated through the works we do and why. Motives cannot be judged but the actions that result from motives can; and that is what we see here. The dead are judged according to the works they had done; the dead being all that was left on earth after the second coming. Without their master; Satan, to take responsibility as their master, they must now answer for themselves.

The deeds of these people are measured against the books of the Law and the book of Life. Those who are written in the Book of Life have had the penalties paid for them; Christ on the Cross saw to that. But those who did not accept the gift, who betrayed Christ, they joined their master in the lake of fire.

Finally, last enemy that Christ will destroy is death itself. He does this when he kills the need for it, the source and results of rebellion and opposition to God. When Christ throws Satan into the lake of Fire, he allows him to be consumed that brings the age of Satan's rule to a close. The age ends with the death of Satan and his followers; and with his death so Christ kills death itself. 1 Corinthians 15 says;

["24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death."](#)

With that last enemy, the oppression of time and limits also are destroyed. Time is not evil, although it is an inconvenience and annoyance for humanity in its current form. But when we spend eternity in Heaven with Christ, we will have the chance to write a history and measure events without having to look forward to a time when bad things end or to look back in horror at events that follow the end of this world.