

Revelation Supplement XXI

Cycle 7 Binding of Satan, Judgment of All and Realization of the New Heavens

Ch 20 starts the last cycle of visions. Ch 20 is the story of the judgment of Satan, which is a different view of the same events in Ch 19. Using the early date of Revelation and understanding the gospel as the binding of Satan, this cycle starts at the cross and goes until the 2nd coming. Support for Satan bound by the gospel comes from:

- Satan defeated by Jesus at wilderness temptation Matt 4:10
- Jesus saw Satan fall from heaven Luke 10:18
- Jesus came to bind the strong man and plunder his house Matt 12:29
- Paul was commissioned to set men free from Satan via the gospel Acts 26:15-18
- We have spiritual armor that protects us against the “schemes” of Satan Eph 6
- If we resist Satan he will flee from us James 4:7
- Satan is looking for someone to devour, but we can resist him by having our mind on Christ I Peter 5:8
- The gospel has the power to bind and loose and hell won’t prevail against it Matt 16:19

1000 Years: Not a literal number no more that 144,000 is the full number of people who go to heaven. However this single verse (20:4) is the hinge for most people to interpret Revelation. Futurists believe this is a literal reign of Christ for 1000 years physically on the earth in Jerusalem. Using this text, all kinds of stories emerge on what this reign looks like.

Using the text, the saints are “reigning” during this period of time, along with the martyrs and anyone who rejected Satan’s temptation (v. 4). Working from the symbolic view, this is the time now when we are reigning with God in the spiritual kingdom as his servants. “Coming to life” is the spiritual resurrection we experience when we are born again (Rom 6:4-13) This could also refer to the idea that Jesus descended into the place of the dead to set free all those who had died in faith and were in “Abraham’s bosom”. Interpreting this is difficult, and no clear agreement exists on this point.

This vision looks back to Daniel 7:15-27 when the Ancient of Days comes and gives the saints possession of the kingdom. Remember, Jesus said the kingdom was here with him.

At some point Satan is given authority to deceive again solely for God’s purpose of gathering the kingdoms of the earth so that God will judge them. Verses 7-10 continues 16:16 and 19:19 and recount Ez. 38-39 in the great judgment of Gog.

Just as God gathered Rome to destroy Jerusalem, it appears at a point in the future this drama will replay as the world wars against God’s kingdom. This seems to be the close of history and 20:11 initiates the final acts of judgment by God for time.

20:12 describes the symbolic “book of life” referenced in Phil 4:3, Rev 3:5, Psalm 69:28. No clear refence to the other books is made in Scripture, but it would seem these would be the works of those who rejected Christ and depended on their own efforts for salvation. It may be the failure of every unbeliever to live up to the demands of the Law for salvation.

Ch 21 and 22: After the Judgment, John gives the magnificent vision of heaven come to earth. This is a full circle return of Eden to earth. Man was cast out of Eden, Christ has made it possible for man to return to Eden. This is referenced in Isaiah 65:17 and 66:22, and referenced by Peter as the end hope of believers in 2 Peter 3:13.

Parallels to Eden: High Mountain, River of Life, Tree of Life, perfect city, God dwelling with man, free of death and suffering. The summary statement of Revelation is that God is returning the earth to the state that it was meant to be, with man living in harmony worshipping God as God intended. The Beginning and the End.

