



Book of Revelation: Man's Rebellious Heart

Scripture: Revelation 20:1-15

Date: 10022022

Bible Version: NKJV

BOTTOM LINE: It is Mankind's rebellious nature, not his environment, that leads him to become wicked.

1. Satan's Imprisonment. (vv. 1-3)

Vs. 1-3

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, - John turns his attention to an angel that comes down from heaven.

The key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand - John notes that this angel has a great chain and keys to the bottomless pit.

Bound him for a thousand years - We don't know what kind of chain will be used to bind Satan, but we do know that he will be bound and it will be for a thousand years.

The final importance of Satan is perhaps indicated in the fact that it is not the Father who deals with him, nor the Christ, but only an unnamed angel. - L. Morris

We have to remember that Satan is not God's opposite or equal. He is a created being.

God could easily stop Satan's activity at any time. Yet God allows Satan to continue, because even in his evil, he indirectly serves the purpose of God. - David Guzik

Cast him into the bottomless pit - Satan will be cast into the bottomless pit. This bottomless pit (abyss) is a place of confinement for certain demons prior to their eternal torment in the lake of fire. This will be a temporary place for him (as we will see).

Shut him up, and set a seal on him- Satan could not shut Jesus up or seal him up, but this nameless angel was able to shut Satan up and to seal him up.

We can't bind Satan up. God will bind Satan up at an appointed time that will be determined by Him.

So that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished.- With Satan out of the picture there would be no more deception. By nature, Satan is a deceiver. The Word of God is our weapon when dealing with the enemy. It is the most potent weapon we can use against the enemy. Satan will be bound for one thousand years.

The sinfulness of humanity will not be removed during this period, but the devil's ability to exacerbate it through deception will be. - Tony Evans

After these things he must be released for a little while- After this thousand years Satan will be released for a short time. He will be released and permitted to lead one last revolt against the Lord. This shows that even though the inhabitants of earth outwardly worship Jesus, there will be those (during this time) that do not inwardly worship Jesus.

Man's heart is wicked and can only be changed by the grace of God.

The millennium is important because it will reveal the depths of man's rebellious nature in a perfect environment. - David Guzik

2. Thousand Year Reign. (vs. 4)

Vs. 4

They lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.- Those who have followed Christ from all the ages will reign with him during the millennium. This includes those from the tribulation. It will also include those who are believers now.

3. First Resurrection. (vv. 5-6)

But the rest of the dead- This refers to those who were not in Christ Jesus at any point in history. They will not be alive during this time.

This is the first resurrection.- John gives us this summary statement. This speaks of those who were dead in Jesus. They would be resurrected. This first resurrection is not a single event or a point in time. It would include a vast group of people.

Vs. 6

Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection- Those who are part of the first resurrection are blessed.

Second death has no power- The second death will have no power over those who were part of the first resurrection. This is to say that they will not experience spiritual death.

4.Satan's Final Rebellion. (vv. 7-10)

Vs. 7

When the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison- For one thousand years, Satan will be bound and inactive in the world. After the thousand year time is up, Satan will be released.

Vs. 8

Will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth- Not only would Satan be released, he would begin to organize another rebellion against God. This seems to be the only skill that he has.

Vs. 9

They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city- As soon as he can, Satan will lead a rebellion against the saints and the beloved city (Jerusalem).

Fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them- Notice that the Bible does not even state that there were armies of God who went against Satan. There was no contest. God simply sent fire down from heaven and it devoured Satan and his rebellion.

Vs. 10

The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone- Satan would finally be thrown into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are.

They will be tormented day and night forever and ever- The lake of fire is an eternal judgment that lasts forever.

Satan's purpose in God's plan having been accomplished, he is cast into the lake of fire to join the Beast and the false prophet. - Jon Courson

5. Great White Throne of Judgment. (vv. 11-15)

Vs. 11

Him who sat on it - John tells us that he saw a great white throne. This would speak of power and authority. The one who sat on it would be none other than Jesus.

And there was found no place for them - There was no hiding from this throne, Jesus, or judgment that would come.

The idea is that we are spared from this awesome throne of judgment because our sins are already judged in Jesus at the cross. We don't escape God's judgment; we satisfy it in Jesus.- David Guzik

Sadly, some will get to heaven thinking they have done great things for God, and will find out at the judgment seat of Christ that they really did nothing. - David Guzik

Vs. 12

standing before God, - Those who are spiritually dead (not in Christ Jesus) will stand before God. Similar to a trial, you don't stand when you are going through the process. You stand to receive the sentence.

The dead were judged according to their works- If your name is not in the book of life, you will be judged according to your works. The sad thing is that your works will never satisfy the penalty for your sins. Only Jesus can.

Vs. 13

The sea gave up the dead who were in it- This is to say that there would be a large group of people.

They were judged, each one according to his works. - God has a standard and everyone will be judged according to it. If someone's name is not in the book of life they will have the opportunity to be judged by their works. The problem is that our works will never satisfy the penalty.

Vs. 14

Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire- The lake of fire was originally prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). The lake of fire is what we typically refer to as hell.

This is the second death, - There is a second life (born again) so for those who are not born again, there is a second death. This would speak of the eternality of a decision against Jesus Christ.

Vs. 15

Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire- To be clear, John summarizes that good works won't get you to heaven. Only a relationship with Jesus.

Three things we can remember about mankind:

1. You can outwardly obey God but inwardly rebel against Him.
2. Your environment and friends are the source of the corruption in your life. Your heart is.
3. You must be born again to experience eternal life.



3D Guide

DO.

BOTTOM LINE: It is Mankind's rebellious nature, not his environment, that leads him to become wicked.



DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



DISCUSS.

1. When we think of bad environments what are some things that pop up into your mind?
2. What are your thoughts on mankind's hearts. Are we good people who are just in a bad environment, or are we rebellious?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your life?



DO.

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on blueletterbible.com or with their app.