

The Commencement of Eternity
“THE DEVIL’S DOOM”
Revelation 20:7-10

Theme: Satan's doom is accomplished only after God uses Him to fulfill His own purposes!

I. THE COMPLETION OF HIS DETENTION – 20:7

A. *The Condition of Men During His Detention*

1. At this point, Satan had been removed from the picture for the past 1,000 years –
“When the thousand years are completed...”
2. Since no unsaved people will enter the Kingdom, only the redeemed survivors of the Tribulation will enter.
3. However, these redeemed survivors will still possess a sinful human nature and like all other sinners, will pass that sin nature on to their offspring.
4. Each successive generation through the thousand years will include sinners in need of salvation.
5. Many will indeed place their faith in Jesus, repent, and be saved.
6. However, not all will do so – not even the utopia of the Millennium can sufficiently compensate for man's depravity.
7. During this period, 2 of the 3 areas of struggle had been eliminated – the world & Satan – leaving only man's flesh as a reason for faithlessness and sinful indulgence.
 - a. Satan was eliminated by means of the abyss.
 - b. The world had been eliminated through:
 - (1) Judgment initiating the Millennium – cp. *Ezekiel 20:34-38*
 - (2) Christ's intolerance of wickedness – cp. *Isaiah 65:20*
 - (3) The subjugation of all things under Christ's rule eliminates pressure to conform to anything but to the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. Thus, the perfect environment existed to potentially legitimize what some call the “innate goodness” of man.
9. Men will not be able to say that they lacked sufficient information or truth; adequate opportunity; poor environment; or insufficient proof.

B. *The Cause for Satan's Release*

1. We are told that God releases Satan – *“...Satan will be released from his prison”*
2. Did you ever wonder why God loosed Satan?

3. Why didn't He cast Satan into the Lake of Fire and be done with it when He threw him into the Abyss?
4. The answer rests in the depravity of men – He will demonstrate that Satan is not the cause for our sinfulness, but we are wicked in and of ourselves – God thus gives a choice.

II. THE CONFIRMATION OF DEPRAVITY – 20:8-9

A. *The Eagerness to Rebel*

1. Men throughout the past 1,000 years will have every advantage possible for men.
2. They had a perfect Ruler in Christ Jesus – but the problem was that they had to submit to an authority outside themselves.
3. However, when Satan is loosed, there will be a huge number of empty professors who are eager to rebel – *“... 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.”*
4. They were forced to make a profession of obedience to the Lord, but this takes outward conformity without inner reality.
5. There will be unbelieving rebels throughout the earth – they won't be able to blame genetics, nationality, language, or education for their failure – they *“are in the four corners of the earth”*
6. Notice that they are said to be as numerous as the sand! – *“... the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.”*
7. .

B. *The Extent of Retribution*

1. *“Gog and Magog”*² are used in a wider sense here than when in reference to the Battle of Armageddon:
 - a. *“Gog”* – refers to a human “ruler”
 - b. *“Magog”* – refers to “people” or “those ruled”
2. They gather to put their frustrations to action against the King Christ by attacking the city of Jerusalem – *“And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city”*
3. It is evident that the topography of the earth will be altered during the Tribulation and that around Jerusalem will be a *“broad plain”* – where there exists *“the camp of the saints”*

² An invasion force called “Gog and Magog” will assault Israel during the Tribulation period as indicated in Ezekiel 38-39. They were defeated by Christ and destroyed. This reference uses the previously mentioned enemies of God as a type and those rebelling during the Millennium are merely reminiscent of the previous enemies of God.

4. Jesus allows them to assemble, then judges them in a way reminiscent of Sodom & Gomorrah – in great fury – “... *and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*”

III. THE CONDEMNATION OF THE DEVIL – 20:10

A. *The Climax of Struggle*

1. Since the beginning of time, there has been a struggle by Satan against the Righteousness of God.
2. In this final event in Satan's career, God fulfills the judgment Christ accomplished on the cross – cp. Matthew 25:41
3. God waits to put Satan where he belongs until He had demonstrated that Satan was not responsible for sin – “*And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also*”

B. *The Continuation of Suffering*

1. Notice the emphasis on the literalism of the Lake of Fire – the Beast and False Prophet are still there suffering.
2. They will continue to suffer constantly for eternity future – “*and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*”
3. This same phrase in Greek is used to refer to the eternity of both Jesus Christ and God the Father – “*forever and ever*” – cp. Revelation 1:18; 4:9-10; 10:6; 15:7 – and demonstrates that the Perdition of the Lake of Fire is also eternal.
4. We will see in the next section that the sinner who refuses to repent and turn to Jesus Christ for salvation will likewise suffer eternal condemnation and suffering in the Lake of Fire – cp. 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.