

Session 4 Millennium: Saints Victory & Satan's Defeat (Rev. 20)

I. WE INTERPRET REVELATION 19:11-21:8 IN A CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

- A. In Revelation 19:1-21:8, John described the end-time events in chronological order.
- B. Scene #1: At Jesus' coming, He will capture the Antichrist and False Prophet (Rev. 19:11-21).
*¹¹He [Jesus] who sat on him [the white horse]...in righteousness He judges and makes war...
¹⁴The armies in heaven...followed Him on white horses...¹⁵He Himself will rule them [nations]...
¹⁹I saw the beast [Antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus]...and against His army. ²⁰Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet...These two were cast alive into the lake of fire...²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. (Rev. 19:11-21)*
- C. Scene #2: Satan will be cast into prison for one thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3).
*¹Then I saw an angel...having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.
²He laid hold of the dragon...who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;
³and he cast him into the bottomless pit...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. (Rev. 20:1-3)*
- D. Scene #3: Resurrected saints will be given the governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6).
⁴I 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...who had not worshiped the beast... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests...and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- E. Scene #4: Satan will be released to deceive the nations after the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-10).
*⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations...Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea...⁹And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.
¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire... (Rev. 20:7-10)*
- F. Scene #5: God's final judgment of the human race will be at the great white throne (Rev. 20:11-15).
*¹¹I saw a great white throne...¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened...the dead were judged...by the things which were written in the books...
¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (Rev. 20:11-14)*
- G. Scene #6: God dwells in face-to-face fellowship with His people on the New Earth (Rev. 21:1-8).
*¹I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away...
²I saw the...New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven...³"Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and...God Himself will be with them...⁴God will wipe away every tear..." (Rev. 21:1-3)*

II. INTRODUCTION TO REVELATION 20

- A. Revelation 20 is the most in-depth teaching on the Millennium in the New Testament. The main themes are the victory of God's people and the final defeat of His enemies. It also provides insight into the length of the Millennium, the exaltation of the saints who reign as kings and priests, the imprisonment of Satan for one thousand years, and his release to deceive the nations.
- B. The Millennium is a term that speaks of a literal 1,000-year period in which Jesus rules the earth. The word *millennium* is from the Latin "*mille*" (one thousand), referring to one thousand years.
- C. Revelation 20:1-10 has three sections describing events occurring related to the Millennium.
 - 1. Revelation 20:1-3: Satan will be imprisoned for 1000-years to *begin* the Millennium.
 - 2. Revelation 20:4-6: Resurrected saints will rule the earth *during* the Millennium.
 - 3. Revelation 20:7-10: Satan will be released from prison to deceive nations to *end* the Millennium.
- D. Three main interpretations of Revelation 20: premillennial, amillennial, and postmillennial
 - 1. **Premillennial:** The literal interpretation in which Jesus reigns on earth for 1,000 years. This was the main view of the church fathers for the first 300 years of church history.
 - 2. **Amillennial:** Reigning in the resurrection here speaks of being born again and God's reign over the heart of His people. They see the Millennium as beginning at Jesus' first coming and continuing through the Church age. Some interpret the first resurrection as the martyred saints entering into the "life" of the intermediate state. Thus, the Millennium is the heavenly reign of the dead in Christ with the resurrected Christ.
 - 3. **Postmillennial:** teaches that Jesus will return *after* the Millennium, thus, after the Church "christianizes" the world. Some see the resurrection here as a resurrection of biblical principles and godly character as seen in the lives of the martyrs.

III. SATAN WILL BE IMPRISONED FOR 1000 YEARS (REV. 20:1-3)

- A. An angel with a great chain will bind and cast Satan into the bottomless pit for one thousand years.

¹Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³and 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. (Rev. 20:1-3)

- B. **Bottomless pit:** This refers to the abyss where fallen angels (demons) are imprisoned (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). Demonic locusts from this pit will be released on the earth at the fifth trumpet (Rev. 9:3); the Antichrist will ascend from the bottomless pit (Rev. 11:7; 17:8). Four demonic angels currently bound at the Euphrates River will be released to kill one-third of the human race (Rev. 9:14-15).

⁶And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day. (Jude 6)

- C. **Chains:** Natural chains cannot restrain demonic spirits. These chains are referred to as “*everlasting chains*” (Jude 6) and “*chains of darkness*” (2 Pet. 2:4).
4For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment... (2 Pet. 2:4)
- D. Demonic spirits and evil kings at the end of the Great Tribulation will be imprisoned in this pit.
21The Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones [demonic principalities, etc.], and on the earth the kings of the earth. 22They will be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit [bottomless pit], and will be shut up in the prison [as in Rev. 20:3]; after many days [1,000 years] they will be punished [in the lake of fire]. Then the moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts [Jesus] will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem [in the Millennium] and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:21-23)
- E. **Four names of Satan** (20:2): These four names will indict Satan at the bar of God's justice for his crimes against humanity. Each title depicts different crimes and reveals the ways in which he attacks us. The same names are used in Revelation 12:9 in the same order.
1. **The dragon:** This denotes his cruelty. This is the name John used most (Rev. 12:3, 4, 7, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13) and is parallel to the Antichrist being called the beast.
 2. **The serpent of old:** This refers to the garden of Eden where his nature as the father of lies was seen (Gen. 3; Jn. 8:44). Deception is one of his primary tactics against us.
 3. **The Devil:** The word *devil* means “accuser.” He accuses the saints continually (12:10).
 4. **Satan:** This means the “adversary.” He is our enemy who opposes God's will in our life.
- F. **One thousand years:** The length of Satan's imprisonment will be 1,000 years. This number is emphasized six times (Rev. 20:3, 4, 5, 6, 7). There is no precedent in Scripture for a symbolic number to be given six times. Nothing in Scripture is contradicted by this 1,000-year time frame.
- G. **Satan is bound:** Satan will be put into prison to keep him from influencing the people on the earth for 1,000 years. Satan was not bound in the early Church—Satan filled Ananias' heart to lie to the Spirit (Acts 5:3); he hindered Paul's travels (1 Thes. 2:18); he blinded the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4:3-4); he appeared as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14); and unbelievers lived according to his power (Eph. 2:2) being taken captive by his tactics (2 Tim. 2:26). Satan was an adversary who roamed the earth as a lion seeking to devour (1 Pet. 5:8).
- H. Satan is described as being bound in five different ways (Rev. 20:2-3).
1. **Laid hold of:** speaks of a dramatic event which Satan resists with rage (Rev. 12:12)
 2. **Bound him:** supernatural chains put on him so he could not deceive the nations
 3. **Cast him into the pit:** incarcerated in prison for the demonic spirits
 4. **Shut him up:** kept from communicating or acting on the earth
 5. **Set a seal on him:** speaks of it being impossible for him to break out of prison

IV. RESURRECTED SAINTS GIVEN THE LEADERSHIP OVER THE EARTH (REV. 20:4-6)

- A. Resurrected saints will be given the governmental leadership over the earth (Rev. 20:4-6).
⁴I 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...who had not worshiped the beast... And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...⁶Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests...and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)
- B. *I saw thrones*: This is one of the great highlights in the book of Revelation. All governmental authority on the millennial earth will be put in the hands of the saints (Mt. 19:28; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6).
- C. *They sat*: The saints of Revelation 19:14, 19 are the subject of the phrase “they sat” (20:4a).
¹⁴The armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses...¹⁹I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him [Jesus] who sat on the horse and against His army [the saints in verse 14]. (Rev. 19:14, 19)
- D. The saints will occupy the *highest position* of government in the Spirit on earth in the Millennium. This will be parallel to the position and role of angels in the government of the nations in this age.
- E. The two functions most emphasized for the saints are *priests* and *kings* (Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). Saints with resurrected bodies will be made the rulers over different spheres of life.
¹⁰“...have made us kings and priests to our God...we shall reign on the earth. (Rev. 5:10)

V. SATAN RELEASED TO DECEIVE THE NATIONS (REV. 20:7-10)

- A. Satan will be released to deceive the nations after the Millennium (Rev. 20:7-10).
⁷Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸and will go out to deceive the nations...Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea...⁹And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.¹⁰The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire... (Rev. 20:7-10)
- B. Satan *must* be released at the end of the Millennium so that God can *openly* manifest the truth about the *depth of human sin*, called the mystery of lawlessness (2 Thes. 2:7), and about Satan as being *incurably evil*. Satan deceiving the nations at that time will reveal that there was no rehabilitation or change in his character during his 1,000-year prison sentence.
³But after these things he must be released for a little while... (Rev. 20:3)
- C. In releasing Satan out of prison to test the nations, the Lord demonstrates the justice of His judgments by showing that Satan cannot be rehabilitated by prison and that people rebel against God and reject His mercy, even in an ideal environment like the millennial earth, because they love sin. Many blame their sin and continued rebellion against God on their difficult circumstances.
¹⁹This is the condemnation that...men loved darkness rather than light... (Jn. 3:19)