

**Bird Food And Prison  
Wrapping Up Armageddon  
Revelation 19:17 – 20:2**

**The Supper Of God  
The Very Short, But Formal Invitation List  
Revelation 19:17 – 21**

As we have covered, when Jesus Christ returns, everyone sees Him, the opening of heaven floods the darkness of the 5th bowl judgement with light and no one can miss seeing Jesus descending from heaven with all the heavenly host. He is descending into the results of the 6th bowl judgement, all the armies of the world drawn into one location to destroy His people. Jerusalem is attacked and forces move on the remnant in Bozrah.

Habakkuk 3:3

“God comes from Teman, And the Holy One from Mount Paran. Selah. His splendor covers the heavens, And the earth is full of His praise.” (NASB95)

Micah 2:12–13

“I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture They will be noisy with men. “The breaker goes up before them; They break out, pass through the gate and go out by it. So their king goes on before them, And the LORD at their head.”” (NASB95)

The MT reads בְּצָרָה ( batsrah, “Bozrah”) but the form should be emended to בְּצִרָה ( batsirah, “into the fold”)

Biblical Studies Press, The NET Bible First Edition; Bible. English. NET Bible.; The NET Bible (Biblical Studies Press, 2005).

He goes to Bozrah first

Judges 5:4–5

“LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, Even the clouds dripped water. The mountains quaked at the presence of the LORD, This Sinai, at the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel.” (NASB95)

Victory is declared in advance.

Revelation 19:17–18

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds which fly in midheaven, “Come, assemble for the great supper of God, so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” (NASB95)

With the opening of heaven suddenly worldwide, and the light of heaven breaking through the 5th bowl judgement, it appears that the sun is again visible. John reports to us that he sees an angel standing in front of the sun making an unusual dinner invitation.

As angels have frequently done in Revelation, the angel “cried out with a loud voice.” He addresses all the birds, inviting them to feed on the results of the battle that will soon begin. The angel commands the birds to “assemble for the great supper of God.”

John MacArthur, Because the Time Is near: John MacArthur Explains the Book of Revelation (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2007), 292.

We have already read about the invitations going out for the marriage supper of the Lamb,” The guests at the one are the redeemed saints of the ages, joyfully feasting in the presence of the Redeemer. Those

invited to the other are the birds of prey and the carrion-eating fowl from all over the world, and their dinner is to be the flesh and blood of the slain multitudes at Armageddon.”

Henry M. Morris, *The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 396.

In the book of Ezekiel, we studied the Gog Magog war in Ezekiel 38 and 39. As we studied that section of scripture, our conclusion was that it is a bit weird.

Before we get too far down the road, I want to draw your attention to some very simple issues regarding chapter 38 & 39

We can agree that they are indeed prophecy and they have not yet occurred  
When they will occur is a matter of interest  
Who the nations are is subject to disagreement

My point is not to suggest that we can have absolute certainty in interpretation everywhere in the Bible. No one, including the present writer, is always right about what every passage means. I have a firm grasp of my own lack of omniscience. (So does my wife, for the record.) Rather, my contention in this book is that if it's weird, it's important. Every passage plays a coherent role in the mosaic whole.

Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015), 19–20.

First up, has this battle, Armageddon or the Gog Magog War happened before at anytime in the history of Israel?

It is obvious from the details given to us in the chapters under consideration that no invasion experienced in Israel's history is sufficient to be the fulfillment of this prophecy.

J. Dwight Pentecost, "Where Do the Events of Ezekiel 38–39 Fit into the Prophetic Picture?," *Bibliotheca Sacra* 114 (1957): 335.

But when does this section of scripture take place?

...views as to the time of the prophecy:

1. any time in the church age, but probably toward its close
2. during Daniel's seventieth week after the rapture of the church;
  - a. At the commencement of the period
  - b. In the middle of it
  - c. At the end of it
3. After the visible return of Christ to the earth and a short time before the inauguration of His Messianic Kingdom
4. After the millennial reign

Charles Lee Feinberg, *The Prophecy of Ezekiel The Glory of the Lord*, Wipf and Stock Publishers, Eugene, OR 97401, June 2003, page 218.

By the way, Dr. Feinberg favors the end of the tribulation just prior to the return of Christ. He sees it as part of the confederation of Zechariah 12 and 14.

I take that view as well and the reason is as follows.

Ezekiel 39:17–29

“As for you, son of man, thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Speak to every kind of bird and to every beast of the field, “Assemble and come, gather from every side to My sacrifice which I am going to sacrifice for you, as a great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel, that you may eat flesh and drink blood. You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, as though they were rams, lambs, goats and bulls, all of them fatlings of Bashan. So you will eat fat until you are glutted, and drink blood until you are drunk, from My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. You will be glutted at My table with horses and charioteers, with mighty men and all the men of war,” declares the Lord GOD. “And I will set My glory

among the nations; and all the nations will see My judgment which I have executed and My hand which I have laid on them. And the house of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God from that day onward. The nations will know that the house of Israel went into exile for their iniquity because they acted treacherously against Me, and I hid My face from them; so I gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and all of them fell by the sword. According to their uncleanness and according to their transgressions I dealt with them, and I hid My face from them.” ’ ” Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, “Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel; and I will be jealous for My holy name. They will forget their disgrace and all their treachery which they perpetrated against Me, when they live securely on their own land with no one to make them afraid. When I bring them back from the peoples and gather them from the lands of their enemies, then I shall be sanctified through them in the sight of the many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God because I made them go into exile among the nations, and then gathered them again to their own land; and I will leave none of them there any longer. I will not hide My face from them any longer, for I will have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” declares the Lord GOD.” (NASB95)

Note, there is no real clarity in the scriptures regarding Gog Magog and is it Armageddon, this is one of those areas that good people can differ. I can see other views easily.

Revelation 19:17 & 18 has the same language being used as in Ezekiel 39 regarding the aftermath of the Gog Magog war. That is one of the reasons that I take the timing of this war to be Armageddon, the final battle.

The formal invitation goes out to a select group, one that has been considered unclean by the Jews, yet it is this group that receives the invitation to the “great supper of God.”

The unclean pagan soldiers are eaten by the unclean animals! The Deuteronomic curse, which threatened unfaithful Israel (cf. Lev. 26:22; Deut. 28:26) is now unleashed on Israel’s end-time enemies.

Bob Utley, Ezekiel, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2008), 334.

The carrion birds who are being called to this feast have an easier job than normal. No waiting for food prep, to go is available immediately.

Zechariah 14:12–13

“Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth. It will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another’s hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.” (NASB95)

Revelation 19:18

“...so that you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of commanders and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free men and slaves, and small and great.” (NASB95)

Acts 10:34

“Opening his mouth, Peter said: “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality,” (NASB95)

No matter the rank or position of members of the massed armies, they are all the same to the Lord, judged. It doesn’t matter how they have been augmented, what roles they have, what they have achieved, they sided with the wrong side, and they knew.

Revelation 14:9–11

Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. “And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.” (NASB95)

Revelation 19:19

“And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies assembled to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.” (NASB95)

### **A World View?**

In 2014, when he was a guest at Jimmy Kimmel Live, former president Bill Clinton talked about the possible existence of alien species out there in the ever-expanding universe. He finished the interview with a curious sentiment. “It may be the only way to unite this increasingly divided world of ours,” he said. And by “it” he meant an alien invasion from outer space.

This was not the first time this notion was put forward by a major political leader. Thirty years earlier, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, President Ronald Reagan said: “I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside of this world.”

In a 2011 interview with Fareed Zakaria, New York Times columnist and Nobel laureate economist Paul Krugman argued that an alien threat would help us set our priorities straight and fix the economy in a short period of time. He referenced a Twilight Zone episode as the source of this perspective (it was actually an episode of The Outer Limits). In that episode, some scientists conjure up such a threat to get people to work together against a global foe.

Psychology Today, Emre Soyer, Ph.D., Robin M. Hogarth, Ph.D., Unification By “Alien” Invasion: What would it take for us to work out our differences?, May 25, 2018, accessed October 22, 2019. <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/experience-studio/201805/unification-alien-invasion>

As predicted over the years, an extraterrestrial invasion does indeed take place, just as predicted by Jesus in Matthew 24:29-30.

Matthew 24:29–30

“But immediately after the tribulation of those days THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED, AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL FALL from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY with power and great glory.” (NASB95)

Mark 13:24–26

“But in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see THE SON OF MAN COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory.” (NASB95)

The armies will interpret that, since they are all tied into what it is the unholy trinity wants, as an invasion. Jesus is coming to take what is His.

Quite possibly, the rider has returned to earth (19:11–16) to a spiritually revived Jerusalem (cf. 11:13), giving the beast cause for alarm. So he musters his forces as rapidly as possible and moves them to that area to try to put an end to this new threat to his leadership role. Whatever the immediate reasons, however, the wording indicates that the beast expects to encounter the warrior-King in this engagement.

Robert L. Thomas, *Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 396.

The outcome of the battle is not in doubt at all.

Joel 1:15

“Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, And it will come as destruction from the Almighty.” (NASB95)

Micah 4:11–12

“And now many nations have been assembled against you Who say, ‘Let her be polluted, And let our eyes gloat over Zion.’ But they do not know the thoughts of the LORD, And they do not understand His purpose; For He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.” (NASB95)

...how man could be so foolish to try and keep Jesus and this heavenly army off the earth in a pitched battle.

David Guzik, *Revelation, David Guzik’s Commentaries on the Bible* (Santa Barbara, CA: David Guzik, 2013), Re 19:19–21.

Psalm 2:4

“He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them.” (NASB95)

God laughs, Jesus speaks, end of the battle.

Revelation 19:20

“And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone.” (NASB95)

As with any war, there are prisoners of war and at times, that also includes the ruling elite of the defeated armies.

This is the first mention in scripture of the lake of fire. Isaiah referred to it as a place where “their worm will not die and their fire will not be quenched.” (Isaiah 66:24, NASB95). This is hell.

But doesn’t this bring up a possible problem? Doesn’t it say in 2 Thessalonians 2:8 that the Lord slays the beast?

Yes, it does.

2 Thessalonians 2:8–10

“Then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.” (NASB95)

The word for slay used by Paul is ἀνελεῖ (anelay). This comes from the Greek word ἀναίρειν (anaireo) - to remove or take away, take away of things. Do away with, abolish; to get rid of by execution, do away with, destroy.

William Arndt, Frederick W. Danker, and Walter Bauer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 64.

The translator of the NASB chose the Lemma for destroy and augmented it to use the word slay. The ESV uses the lemma as well but uses the word destroy. There is no discrepancy.

The”...harmonization of the two accounts of Christ’s return is quite easy. The verb ἀνελεῖ (anelei, “destroy”) used by Paul does not necessarily mean physical death. It can also refer to relegation to the lake of fire because the literal force of ἀναίρειω (anaireō) is “I make an end of.” The agent(s) for casting the two to their fiery destiny is unnamed, but presumably it is He with whom they came to do battle.”

Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 397.

The consummation of the battle with victory for Christ and the armies of heaven is described in verse 20. The beast of Revelation 13:1–10 is taken and with him the false prophet, the second beast of Revelation 13:11–16. The false prophet is identified as the one who wrought miracles and deceived them that received the mark of the image (cf. 13:12–15). The doom of the beast and the false prophet culminates in their being cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. The lake of fire thus introduced is mentioned again in 20:15. By comparison with other scriptures, it seems that the beast and the false prophet are the first to inhabit the lake of fire. Unsaved who die prior to this time are cast into Hades, a place of torment, but not into the lake of fire, which is reserved for those who have been finally judged as unworthy of eternal life.

John F. Walvoord, The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Galaxie Software, 2008), 280.

Two men have been taken to heaven without tasting death. Two men will be cast into hell without tasting death. A thousand years before the dead are judged, a thousand years before Satan is finally punished, the leaders of man’s guilt and blasphemy will be “cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.”

T. B. Baines, The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Galaxie Software, 2005), 260.

We will do more of a study of heaven and hell once we get to the Great White Throne judgement in Revelation 20:11.

...the reason why these two members of the false trinity had to be taken and their armies destroyed: the counterfeit miracles of the false prophet had deceived the sinful world and led them first to take the mark of the beast and then to worship his image. They had led the world in rebellion against God and then to commit final apostasy and idolatry. The guilt of the wicked nations is absolute and final. They have committed an “eternal sin” (Mark 3:29), and there is no more hope or mercy. These legal charges against them necessitate final judgment.

Grant R. Osborne, Revelation: Verse by Verse, Osborne New Testament Commentaries (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016), 318.

We need to remember that the hell, the lake of fire, was not originally intended for mankind to be in. Jesus tells us that as He begins to introduce the sheep and goats judgement in Matthew 25.

Matthew 25:41

“Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;’ (NASB95)

Again, we will cover the topic of heaven and hell as we move into the Great White Throne Judgement.

Revelation 19:21

“And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.” (NASB95)

The two key figures are captured, and hell is opened up with them becoming the first residents. They will be joined shortly by those who are judged in the sheep and goats judgement prior to the beginning of the millennium.

For those who were part of the armies, they become bird food. We are not told how they die. "God has used unconventional means for bringing death before."

Robert L. Thomas, Revelation 8-22: An Exegetical Commentary (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1995), 400.

1. Joshua 10:11 – 13 – meteors and /or large hailstones specifically aimed at only the enemies of Israel
2. 2 Kings 19:35 – "...the angel of the LORD went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men rose early in the morning, behold, all of them were dead."
3. Jeremiah 28:16 – 17 – Hananiah the prophet died because he was a false prophet
4. Acts 5:5 – 10 – Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit and dropped dead
5. Hosea 6:4–5  
"What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? For your loyalty is like a morning cloud And like the dew which goes away early. Therefore I have hewn them in pieces by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And the judgments on you are like the light that goes forth." (NASB95)

Revelation 16:17–21

"Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl upon the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple from the throne, saying, "It is done." And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe." (NASB95)

Jerusalem is split into three parts and is still standing. We already know that there is also a new valley going right through what used to be the Mount of Olives on the east side of the Temple Mount. The Lord is redeeming the earth and He is restoring it back to what it was like at the beginning of Genesis 3. This also includes flattening all the great cities of the world, eliminating islands and flattening the mountains.

For those earth dwellers who were not in the middle east, they also get to deal with a hailstorm with 100-pound hail stones. These may be actual stones or large hail. All a result of the terraforming going on.

Not only will Jerusalem be split into three divisions, but the Mount of Olives will be split into two parts, creating a valley running east and west. This newly-formed valley will provide a way of escape for the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem from the earthquake that will destroy the city. In this way the inhabitants of Jerusalem will be rescued following the deliverance of the other Jews in Bozrah.

Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, The Footsteps of the Messiah : A Study of the Sequence of Prophetic Events, Rev. ed. (Tustin, CA: Ariel Ministries, 2003), 356.

The first Flood was a worldwide flood, followed through the centuries by a multiplicity of local floods. Conversely a multiplicity of local earthquakes through the centuries is climaxed and terminated by a worldwide earthquake. All of them, floods and earthquakes alike, are ultimately attributable to the first great Flood, with the topographical and atmospheric changes which it caused.

The effect of all these deteriorative changes in the earth's physical regimen must somehow be rectified in the tribulation, so that the beautiful antediluvian world can be revived in the millennium. The mighty global earthquake of the seventh bowl is the final event which brings this about.

Henry M. Morris, The Revelation Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary on the Prophetic Book of the End Times (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale, 1983), 318.

Habakkuk 3:8–10

"Did the LORD rage against the rivers, Or was Your anger against the rivers, Or was Your wrath against the sea, That You rode on Your horses, On Your chariots of salvation? Your bow was made bare, The

rods of chastisement were sworn. Selah. You cleaved the earth with rivers. The mountains saw You and quaked; The downpour of waters swept by. The deep uttered forth its voice, It lifted high its hands.” (NASB95)

In bringing to conclusion the battle of the great day of God Almighty, those not killed in the first stage of the conflict and in the capture of the beast and the false prophet are now put to death. The evidence seems to be that the entire army of the wicked are killed.

John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (Galaxie Software, 2008), 280–281.

The Word of God makes plain that God so loved the world that He gave His Son, and that all who avail themselves of the grace of God are immeasurably blessed in time and eternity. On the other hand, the same Word of God states plainly that those who spurn God’s mercy must experience His judgment without mercy. How foolish it is to rest in the portions of the Word of God that speak of the love of God and reject the portions that deal with His righteous judgment. The present age reveals the grace of God and suspended judgment. The age to come, while continuing to be a revelation of the grace of God, will give conclusive evidence that God brings every evil work into judgment and that those who spurn His grace must experience His wrath.

John F. Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* (Galaxie Software, 2008), 281.

Contrary to those who teach Christian Universalism, the abhorrent theology that in the end, everyone wins, which is, for the most part, new. “...the turn toward universalism has been a very recent phenomenon within the two-millennia-long history of the Christian churches.”

Michael J. McClymond, *The Devil’s Redemption: A New History and Interpretation of Christian Universalism*, vol. 1 & 2 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic: A division of Baker Publishing Group, 2018), 118.

Those who die without Christ, especially those who have aligned with the beast and taken his mark and worshipped his image, are judged and sentenced to an eternity in hell.

### **The Millennial Reign Of Christ Satan Is Imprisoned...For Awhile Revelation 20:1 – 3**

Revelation 20:1–3

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.” (NASB95)

The angel that descends has a key and a chain. He has the key to the abyss. Recall that the demons being cast out of the man with a legion of them in him, begged not to go there.

In the “theological geography” of Revelation, holy angels come down to earth from heaven; evil angels come up to earth from the Pit or Abyss (Greek, *abyssos*). As the commentary noted, this follows the ancient perception of a “three-story universe.” Revelation 9 contains three of the nine New Testament instances of Abyss or Deep (also Luke 8:31; Rom. 10:7; Rev. 11:7; 17:8; 20:1, 3). In eight of these nine, this underground pit is either a present holding place or the temporary destination of the devil and the demons. The only instance in the Gospels illustrates: “And they [evil spirits] begged him [Jesus] repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss” (Luke 8:31). In Romans 10:7 Paul uses abyss as a synonym for sheol (Hebrew) or hadés (Greek), the place where dead humans go, whether good or evil, for human remains are put down into the earth. In Revelation the final destination of both wicked humans and wicked spirit beings is the “lake of fire” (20:14), not the Abyss.

Kendell H. Easley, *Revelation*, vol. 12, *Holman New Testament Commentary* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998), 165.



So what is the abyss or abusso

ἄβυσσος - literally 'deep hole', hence: 'immense depth.' An immensely deep space, depth, abyss, unfathomable to the human eye, and discernible only by God. A transcendent place associated with the dead and hostile powers, netherworld, abyss, especially the abode of the dead and of demons; dungeon where the devil is kept Revelation 20:3; abode of the ἠγριον, the Antichrist 11:7; 17:8; of Ἀβαδδών (q.v.), the angel of the underworld 9:11

William Arndt et al., A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 2.

This is the same holding cell that saw a massive work release program take place back in Revelation 9.

They were released to terrorize the earth dwellers, those who had not accepted Christ yet, for 5 months. Interesting enough, the same period of time that the waters prevailed on the surface of the earth in Genesis 7.

As we learned when we covered chapter 9, the leader of the group being held there was someone named Apollyon, or Apollo. That is the name he was known by when imprisoned.

The angel now is back in his role as jailer, and he is about to imprison number one on the most wanted list. Satan. Jesus referred to this place, or those He was casting out did.

Luke 8:28–31

"Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss." (NASB95)

With Satan being bound, we are led to Isaiah 4 where this was prophesized.

Isaiah 24:21–22

"So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the earth on earth. They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished." (NASB95)

Jesus has already dealt with the kings of the earth. Now about the host of heaven. The host of heaven is a phrase that is used in the scriptures for both fallen and faithful divine beings. For example, God's Divine Council.

1 Kings 22:19

Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left." (NASB95)

2 Chronicles 33:3

"For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he also erected altars for the Baals and made Asherim, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them." (NASB95)

But here they are those divine beings that God refers to in Psalm 82.

Psalm 82:1–2

"God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah" (ESV)

These are those fallen divine beings who were assigned oversight of the 70 nations that resulted from the mess in Genesis 11.

Deuteronomy 32:8–9

“When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God. But the LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage.” (ESV)

As odd as it sounds, the rest of the nations were placed under the authority of members of Yahweh’s divine council. The other nations were assigned to lesser elohim as a judgment from the Most High, Yahweh.

Michael S. Heiser, *The Unseen Realm: Recovering the Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*, First Edition (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2015), 114.

Deuteronomy 4:19–20

“And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun and the moon and the stars, all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. But the LORD has taken you and brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day.” (ESV)

In Revelation 20, we have arrived at that point where those rebellious divine beings receive the promise of Psalms 82:6.

Psalms 82:6–7

I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.” (ESV)

The 1/3 of the heavenly host that fell with Satan are being dealt with. As it says in Isaiah 24, they are being relegated to prison. That prison, which is the where many of the Rephaim, the spirits of the dead Nephilim who have been dealt with as well, reside is sheol. Many are already in prison

Jude 6

“And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day,” (NASB95)

2 Peter 2:4

“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;” (NASB95)

This event here in Revelation 20:1, which draws from Isaiah 24:21-22 is the moment in time that the fallen angels, and those demons who have been running around the planet are finally relegated to prison. They will no longer be able to harass anyone or demand to be worshipped.

Enoch 10:4–16

“And he said to Raphael, “Bind Azael hand and foot, and throw him into the darkness; open the desert that is in the Daduel and throw him there. And place under him the rugged and sharp stones, and let darkness cover him. Let him live there forever: cover up his appearance and let no light be seen. For in the day of great judgment he will be led away into the burning. The earth that the angels removed was healed. But reveal the healing of the earth so that they may heal the blow, so that all the children of the people may not be destroyed with the whole mystery that the watchmen ordered and showed to their children. And the whole earth was destroyed and laid waste by the works of Azael’s teaching. Ascribe to him all sins.” And the Lord said to Gabriel, “Go against the bastards, against the base ones and the children of fornication, and destroy the children of the watchmen among the people. Send them to the battle of destruction, for they will not have a long life. And there will not be any questioning to their fathers, even concerning themselves. For they hoped to live an eternal life and each of them will live five hundred years.” Then Michael said, “Go and make known to Semiaza and to those remaining with him, those women with whom they mixed, being defiled by them in their uncleanness. Should their sons ever be slaughtered and see the destruction of their beloved ones, bind them for seventy generations in the

wooded vales of the earth until the days of their judgment and consummation, until the judgment of the ages of ages is completed. Then they will be led away into the gaping abyss of fire and into the torture and into the jail, being shut up forever. And whoever is burned up and destroyed from that time, they will be bound up together with them until the completion of the generation. Destroy all the spirits of the false ones and the sons of the watchmen because of their wrongdoings to humans. Destroy all wrongdoing from the earth, and every work of wickedness will be forsaken. Let the plant of righteousness and truth be revealed forever. It will be planted with joy.” (LES)

Enoch 54:1–6

“And I looked and turned to another part of the earth, and saw there a deep valley with burning fire. And they brought the kings and the mighty, and began to cast them into this deep valley. And there mine eyes saw how they made these their instruments, iron chains of immeasurable weight. And I asked the angel of peace who went with me, saying: ‘For whom are these chains being prepared?’ And he said unto me: ‘These are being prepared for the hosts of Azâzêl, so that they may take them and cast them into the abyss of complete condemnation, and they shall cover their jaws with rough stones as the Lord of Spirits commanded. And Michael, and Gabriel, and Raphael, and Phanuel shall take hold of them on that great day, and cast them on that day into the burning furnace, that the Lord of Spirits may take vengeance on them for their unrighteousness in becoming subject to Satan and leading astray those who dwell on the earth.’” (The Book of Enoch)

No more Baal, Venus, Zeus, Moloch, Allah or others. They are now imprisoned.

We also see their leader, Satan. Names used include the serpent of Genesis 3, the dragon, leviathan, the devil

He is bound for a thousand years, literally. We will continue to unpack all of this next week.