

Revelation 20
During and After the 1000 years
Bible Study Notes

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

At the end of our study on **Revelation 19**, we saw the glorious Second Coming of the Messiah to take His covenant keeping people to Paradise as well as to destroy the wicked who were alive at His Coming; they are those who rejected His message of warning and of mercy, and refused to come “*out of gross darkness into His marvellous light.*” **1 Peter 2:9**

Here, the earth is left in a desolate state, the righteous have all been taken to dwell with Christ in Heaven and all the wicked living have been destroyed by the brightness of His Coming and by the sharp sword which goes out of His mouth. **Revelation 19:11-15**

Following these events, flows the events of **Revelation 20**. It gives us more insight into what transpires after the 2nd Coming of Jesus and the final verdict upon sin and its founder, that old serpent, “the Devil and Satan”.

Revelation 20:2

v.1-3

*“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, **that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:** and **after that he must be loosed a little season.**”*

To understand the symbolism used here, one must have a better understanding of the *types* found in the Old Testament, of which John the Apostle draws from.

When Jesus, our High Priest ceases His ministry as our intercessor, just as in the type, He shall come out of the Heavenly Sanctuary to confess over the ‘scapegoat’, Satan, all of the sins of the children of Israel, as did Aaron in times past. Read **Leviticus 16**.

In the type, we notice that after the earthly tabernacle was cleansed by Aaron the high priest, and the sins of the repentant people of the Israel were confessed upon the head of the scapegoat, then the goat was led out into the wilderness, “*unto a land not inhabited*” by a fit man, where it was left to wander until it would eventually die in the wilderness. **Leviticus 16:21-22**

In the antitype, Christ our great High Priest, after cleansing the heavenly sanctuary, **Daniel 8:14**, shall confess all of the sins of those who during the antitypical Day of Atonement, had confessed all their sins and laid them at the foot of the cross, upon the head of the antitypical scapegoat, the Devil.

At this point, when the righteous are all taken to Heaven and the wicked are destroyed, this world shall be a desolate land, a wilderness, *"a land not inhabited"*. Consider that the 7 last plagues would have fallen upon the earth, the sea and rivers would be turned to blood, there will be intense heat as the sun was given power *"to scorch men with fire"* **Revelation 16:8, Joel 1:15-20**, and all the vegetation and animals would have perished, not to mention the fact that the 7th and final plague just before the 2nd Coming of Christ was the greatest earthquake the world has ever known as well as the most destructive hail known to man, **Revelation 16:17-21**.

The apostle John calls it a *"bottomless pit or abyss"* of which the original Greek word used is 'ABYSSOS'. This word 'ABYSSOS' found in **Revelation 20:1**, is the same translation of the original Hebrew words 'TOU' & 'BOU' found in **Genesis 1:2**, where Moses tells us that the earth was *"without form and void"* in the beginning. What we see here is that as it was in the beginning before the creation of this earth, where the earth was in a state of confusion, void, emptiness, formlessness and wilderness, basically non-inhabitable, so will it be after Christ comes again and rewards His saints and destroys the wicked. This world will become an 'abyss' and it is upon this formless, non-inhabitable earth, that satan will be bound in chains. These Chains however are not literal, for what chains can bound the fallen Lucifer who deceived the whole world? No, these are not literal, but the term is being used here in a figurative sense.

Consider **Jude 1:6**.

*'And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, **he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.***

According to the Apostle Jude, those wicked angels who departed from righteousness to serve satan and sin are also bound in everlasting chains under spiritual darkness unto the great day of judgment, where they shall be eternally destroyed. See also **2 Peter 2:4**.

These everlasting chains, along with those of which satan will be bound at the 2nd Coming of Christ, represent **chains of circumstance**. Satan and his evil angels will be bound upon a formless, empty earth, with no one to tempt, for the righteous have been taken to Heaven and the wicked have perished by the brightness of Christ's coming. Who then can Satan tempt and deceive? The answer is no one.

For one thousand years, Satan [and his angels] shall be led out into *"a land not inhabited"* by a *"fit man"*, in this case the *"angel"* who came *"down from Heaven"*, and for one thousand years *'he should deceive the nations no more'* until the thousand years should be fulfilled.

"We well know that Satan, in order to work, must have subjects upon whom to work. Without these, he can do nothing. But during the thousand years of his confinement to this earth, all the saints are in heaven, beyond the power of his temptations; and all the wicked are in their graves, beyond his power to deceive. His sphere of action is circumscribed, he, being at this time confined to this earth; and thus, is he bound, being condemned throughout this period to a state of hopeless inactivity. This, to a mind that has been so busy as his has been for the past six thousand years in deceiving the world, must be a punishment of the most intense severity" **Daniel & the Revelation page 691.1**

It is at the Second Coming of Christ, where His saints are taken and the wicked perish, that the period of the one thousand years begins and satan is bound.

Consider what the prophet Jeremiah wrote concerning this same time.

*"I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form and void and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, the whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end. For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it." **Jeremiah 4:23-28***

Here Jeremiah gives us a similar account to that of which John the apostle briefly describes.

vs.4

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

John's vision immediately takes him to the courts of Heaven after the binding of Satan. He sees the redeemed from all ages sitting upon thrones as kings unto God, **Revelation 1:6**. From this general assembly of redeemed saints, he sees those that were martyred for their faith during the mark of the beast crisis. They had not worshipped the beast, nor his image neither had they received the mark of the beast upon their foreheads or in their hands. They were deemed fit to dwell eternally in Paradise and to verify the judgements which befall the wicked and that of the fallen angels.

Naturally, many of us will have questions when we see that certain individuals have made it to heaven and others have not. Therefore, in God's mercy, He will allow us to go over the records in the books, that we may see that He is a just God. One may call this a judgment of verification.

Therefore, we see two events transpiring during the period of the one thousand years which begins at the 2nd Coming of Jesus. Satan is bound upon this desolate earth in chains of circumstance, not able to tempt or destroy for a time. During this period of his inactivity, the saints are reigning in heaven with Christ and receive authority from God to judge the wicked who had not part in the first resurrection, **Revelation 20:5**, as well as to judge the fallen angels.

*"The LORD [JEHOVAH], The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty..." **Exodus 34:6-7***

"Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?... Do you not know that we shall judge angels?"
1 Corinthians 6:2-3

v.5-6

*"But **the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.** This is the first resurrection. **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,** but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with him a thousand years."*

We see here from the Word of God that they are some who remained dead during the thousand years and did not come to life until after the thousand years were finished, they had no part in the first resurrection. What is the first resurrection one may ask?

This refers simply to those who died in Christ and were brought to life at His 2nd Coming to be taken to Heaven along with those individuals who were also in Christ and alive at His 2nd Coming.

Says the Apostle Paul, *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first** [first resurrection]: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so, shall we ever be with the Lord."* **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**

These dead saints who died in Christ and who rose first at His Coming were a part of the first resurrection. The dead wicked remained dead, and the living wicked at Christ's coming were destroyed at that time. All these wicked individuals had no part in the first resurrection but were brought to life only until the 2nd resurrection, after the one thousand years, to face their judgment and destruction.

Of those who took part in the first resurrection, the second death, which takes place after the thousand years, has no power over them. The lake of fire & brimstone is reserved for the wicked and for Satan and his angels.

vs.7-9

*"And **when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,** And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in **the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog,** to gather them together to battle: **the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.** And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."*

Based on verses 1-6, we gather a few facts.

- Satan is bound for one thousand years, unable to deceive the nations for the righteous are in heaven, and the wicked have all perished.
- Those righteous saints dwell in heaven with Christ and are able to review the judgements that shall befall the wicked after the thousand years are over.
- The wicked remain dead during this period of one thousand years and shall be resurrected after the thousand years have passed, this is called the 2nd resurrection.

Now as we continue into verses 7-9, we see that not only have the wicked been resurrected, *all those who had no part in the first resurrection*, but we also see that satan and by implication, his fallen angels are released from their chains.

Why are they released? This is so, because now, the earth is inhabited with the wicked and satan can now again work his deceptions.

Satan already knows what is to befall himself and his angels, **2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6**, however he works with great deception at this time, going out into the four corners of the earth, here symbolised by the term **Gog and Magog**, to deceive the wicked nations and gather them to battle against the inhabitants of God and the Heavenly city. The term **Gog and Magog** is simply a symbolic term for all of the wicked all over the world (*four corners: North, South, East, West*) who received not Christ as Lord and Saviour, who shall be destroyed with fire and brimstone at the end of time. It has absolutely nothing to do with Russia, Ukraine or China, or whatever other false teachings satan has put out into the world that the masses believe. If we fail to study the word of God, we will not know truth and as a result will fall for every wind of doctrine that is in the world. **2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; Ephesians 4:14**

John shows us that after the thousand years have passed, satan shall gather all of the resurrected wicked to come against God's people to destroy them, deceiving them with lies and leading them to their final destruction. We see that the wicked come against the camp of the saints and the beloved city but prior to this the saints were in heaven with Christ. Where then did these saints on earth come from?

The answer to this is found in **Revelation 21:2**, where John sees in vision, after the one thousand years, the saints coming down from heaven with the holy city, the New Jerusalem, where they once dwelt for the last one thousand years in heaven.

"And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." **Revelation 21:2**

The prophet Zechariah tells us about this time below:

"And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west and there shall be a very great valley and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north and half of it toward the south.... the LORD my God shall come and all the saints with thee." **Zechariah 14:4-5**

Pointing forward to after the thousand years, Zechariah sees in vision, Christ descending with the saints and the heavenly city. His righteous feet shall touch the mount of Olives and that mountain shall split in two, to the east and to the west leaving a great valley and it is in this great valley that the New Jerusalem shall be.

It will be helpful to the reader to read **Ezekiel 38** and compare it with these latter verses in **Revelation 20** and notice the similarities. By a prayerful reading of these two chapters, one will notice that the same event is being here discussed.

*"Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; **In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely**, shalt thou not know it? And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army: And **thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone."*

Ezekiel 38:14-16, 22

"And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD. So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name anymore: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel."

Ezekiel 39:6-7

vs.10

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."

As satan deceives the wicked to come against the camp of the saints and to destroy the New Jerusalem, Jesus delivers His saints. God rains burning sulphur and hailstones upon the wicked in the sight of the righteous who dwell safely in the City of God. The wicked perish for they have transgressed the Law of God and have yielded themselves servants to satan. It is at this time that the great dragon, called the devil and satan is cast into the burning lake of sulphur to be destroyed.

For six thousand years he has deceived the nations and brought nothing but sin and strife into this world, but now, his judgement has come along with all of his fallen angels and wicked followers, and they shall be ashes under the feet of the saints. Affliction shall not rise up the second time. **Nahum 1:9; Malachi 4:3**
The earth shall be purged of all sin and the meek shall inherit the earth. **Psalm 37:9,11,34.**

*"For evildoers shall be cut off, but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth, But the meek shall inherit the earth and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land **when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.**" **Psalm 37:9,11,34***

vs.11-15

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were

*opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Here John gives an interim description of events that take place **after the thousand years but before the final destruction of the wicked.** Chronologically speaking, the events of verses 11-15 occur before the destruction of satan, for the wicked are destroyed by fire and brimstone (verse 9) **after** they are judged by those things which were written in the books, according to their works (verse 12).

It is at the time when the wicked, led by the great adversary, the devil, surround the city of God, The New Jerusalem, to destroy it, that the Father appears, seated upon His great white throne, **Revelation 4:2**. In His glory and power, all the celestial bodies depart from His presence, and he presents before all of the wicked their record of sins found in the books of heaven.

The deeds of all the wicked flash before their eyes in a moment and they are able to see their evil works, they are able to see that they have transgressed the Holy Law of God and rejected His mercy found only in His Son Jesus Christ and are therefore unworthy to partake of eternal life and must perish, "*for the wages of sin is death*", eternal death. **Romans 6:23**

This is the second death, for they were once dead at the Second Coming of Christ, whether it be that they died not in Christ before He came the Second time or if they were not in Christ at His Coming.

Now after being judged by the only standard of righteousness, *the Law of God*, they shall in unison with the saints say "*Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.*" **Revelation 5:13.**

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14