

WEEK 20: Let Righteousness Reign Revelation 20

- **Last week**

- John heard rejoicing in heaven: “Halal Yah”
- The kingdom of Antichrist had fallen
- The rightful King had returned to earth
- And He had destroyed the wicked and the evil

*And **the beast** was captured, and with it **the false prophet** who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. **These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.** And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh. – Revelation 19:20-21 ESV*

- Antichrist and the false prophet are cast into hell
- Their deceptive influence is permanently removed
- But there is one more member of the Unholy Trinity
- What is the fate of Satan?

- **But first: The debate regarding the Millennial Kingdom**

- We are entering into controversial territory
- One of the most hotly debated sections in all Scripture
- And the debate revolves around interpretative styles
- Is the Millennial Kingdom to be taken literally or figuratively?
- How you answer this has massive implications
 - Are we in the Millennium or is it yet to come?
 - Is there even such a thing as the Millennium?
 - Is this nothing more than a spiritual metaphor?
 - Or is John describing events of his own day?

The Millennium or the 1,000-year reign of Christ

- Premillennial View – the literal reign of Christ on earth
- Postmillennial View – we are already in the Millennium
- Amillennial View – the Millennium is figurative, not literal

- Revelation 20:1-3 describes Satan as being seized and bound for 1,000 years
 - Are we to take all of this imagery literally?
 - Does the angel have an actual chain?
 - Does he literally seize and toss Satan in a pit?
 - Is Satan thrown into a literal pit of hole in the earth?
 - Is it really bottomless?
 - Is Satan in the form of a dragon?
 - Is he confined for a literal 1,000-year period?

Some key points of emphasis:

- The literal and figurative views are not antithetical
- At its core, Revelation is a spiritual book
- It combines the spiritual and physical realms
- Satan is a spiritual being, but he is also real
- Hell is real, but outside physical time and space
- Heaven is very real, but can't be seen or accessed by human means
- John is attempting to convey spiritual realities to finite human beings
- But this does not mean they lack reality
- Satan, the pit, and the Millennial Kingdom are real
- The events described in these verses are real

Some important points to consider:

- The burning bush was a real shrub that was not consumed
- God's presence took the form of real pillars of cloud and fire
- Jesus cast real demons into a real herd of swine
- A real angel killed 183,000 real Assyrians while they slept
- Elisha saw a chariot of fire drawn by horses of fire take Elijah the prophet to heaven
- Elisha's servant saw a hillside covered in what appeared to be very real horses and flaming chariots

- **Dragons, Devils and Serpents, OH my!**

- John uses a series of carefully selected words and phrases to describe the fall of Satan
- They each have significance and meaning
- But notice the sound with each of them ends in the Greek language
 - **seized** – *krateō* – krah-tay-oh
 - **bound** – *deō* – day-oh
 - **threw** – *ballō* – ball-oh
 - **shut** – *kleiō* – clye-oh
 - **sealed** – *sphragizō epanō* – seh-frah-geeds-oh eh-pawn-oh
- All of these things were done so that Satan could no longer...
 - **deceive** – *planaō* – pluh-na-oh
- Until the 1,000 years were...
 - **fulfilled** – *teleō* – teh-lay-oh
- And then, Satan must be...
 - **released** – *lyō* – loo-oh

- IS THIS ALL JUST A COINCIDENCE?
- Look at the Greek word, “Oh”

Oh! – ó (Greek)

- Always expresses intense emotion
- An expression of exclamation
- Depending on the context, can convey: spirited approval, importance, joy, etc.
- The same Greek word used in this familiar verse

***Oh**, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! – Romans 11:33 ESV*

- It is as if John is celebrating the glory of God in the fall of Satan
- The repetitive use of the sound, “Oh” would not have been missed on his readers
- Everything in this chapter contrasts Satan with God Almighty

- **The fall and incarceration of Satan**

- What is the point of binding Satan for 1,000 years?
- Why is he thrown into the bottomless pit and not hell?
- The bottomless pit is referring to the abyss
- We were introduced to it in chapter 9

*And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to the shaft of **the bottomless pit**. He opened the shaft of **the bottomless pit**, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with the smoke from the shaft. – Revelation 9:1-2 ESV*

- Out of the pit came demons
- They tormented unredeemed men for five months
- The pit is the a holding place for demons

*For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into **hell** and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment... – 2 Peter 2:4 ESV*

hell – *tarturus* – the abode of the wicked

This is actually a reference to the abyss, not hell

Luke 8

- Jesus encounters a man possessed of demons

*The demons kept begging Jesus not to send them into **the bottomless pit**. – Luke 8:31 NLT*

- A real place, but most likely in a different dimension

Satan is removed from the scene

- He is bound, locked away and his prison sealed by God
- He can no longer deceive the nations
- So, no more Satan
- Demons are no longer a problem
- Antichrist and the false prophet are out of the picture

- **The reign of Christ**

- The scene shifts from Satan's capture and incarceration
- John now sees thrones with individuals sitting on them
- They are said to have authority to judge
- But who are these people?
 - Includes Old Testament saints and the apostles

*And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to **the people of the saints of the Most High**; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. – Daniel 7:27 ESV*

*Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious, **you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. – Matthew 19:28 ESV*

- But it will include the church as well

*Or do you not know that **the saints** will judge the world? – 1 Corinthians 6:2 ESV*

*If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, **we will also reign with him**. – 2 Timothy 2:12 ESV*

- But who are the people referred to in verses 4-6?
 - All the martyred Tribulation saints
 - All the Tribulation saints who died natural deaths
 - It does **not** include the Old Testament saints
 - It does **not** include the church
- What is the first resurrection?
 - It ties back to Daniel 12

*And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth **shall awake**, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. – Daniel 12:1-2 ESV*

- Everyone will be raised from the dead

- But not everyone shares the same destiny
- The first resurrection is the raising of **all believers**

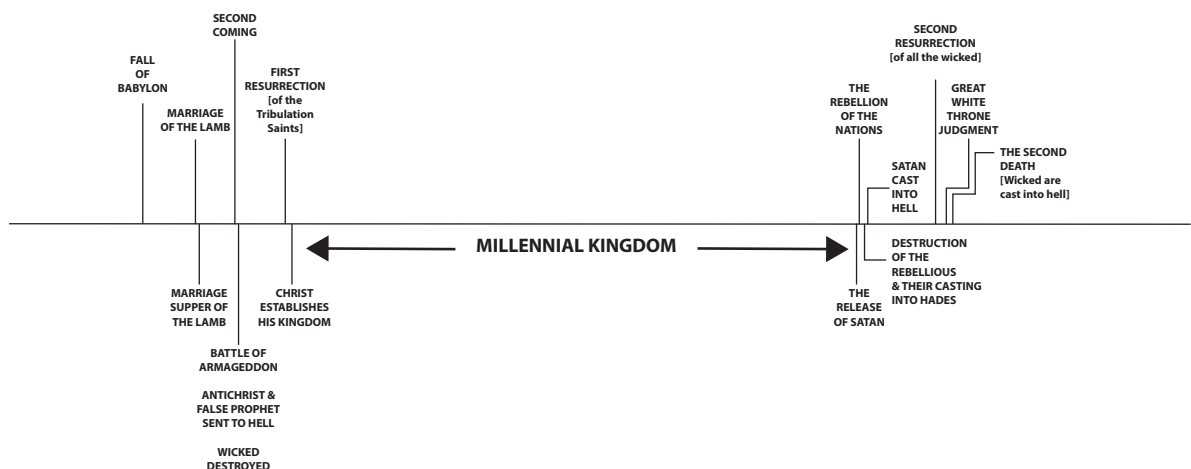
I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. – Revelation 20:4 ESV

- Jesus referred to this as...
“the resurrection of the righteous” (Luke 14:14)
and “the resurrection of life” (John 5:29)
- But this is NOT the first of ALL resurrections

*But in fact **Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.** – 1 Corinthians 12:20-24 ESV*

- It is the first in terms of priority and context
- The context is the Millennial Kingdom
- And there is a second resurrection at the end

A TIMELINE FOR THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM



- **The release of Satan** – vs 7-10
 - What is this section referring to?
 - Often tied to a battle described in Ezekiel 38-39

*The word of the Lord came to me: “Son of man, set your face toward **Gog**, of the land of **Magog**, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O **Gog**, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. And I will turn you about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. – Ezekiel 38:1-4 ESV*

- We are unsure of the identity of Gog and Magog in Ezekiel
- They appear to be used in Revelation 20 as placeholders – actual nations, but generic names
- John is not told who Gog and Magog are – neither are we
- But we are told that Satan and his forces are defeated once again
- This time by God Himself
- And He is cast into hell for eternity

- **The Great White Throne**

- Once again, we see the contrast between Satan defeated and thrones
- This time, the emphasis is on one particular throne
- And we will pick up on this scene next week

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The believers who are alive when Christ returns will enter the Millennial Kingdom in their human state, and they will bear children. So, how does this explain the presence of those who will rebel alongside Satan? And what does it tell us about man’s sin nature?
- The scene of Satan being cast into hell is followed immediately by the scene of God sitting on His throne. What do you see as significant about this obvious contrast? And how should it impact our view of God today?



Week 21 Homework: All Things New. – Revelation 21

- Read Revelation 21. Also read pages 190-198 of the Devotionary™ study on Revelation.
- We didn't quite make it through chapter 20, so we will pick up where we left off in conjunction with our study of chapter 21. Go back and read Revelation 20:11-15. In these verses we see a second contrast between the capture of Satan and his second and final capture. Look at Revelation 20:1-4 as well, and then make a comparison between these two scenes. What similarities do you find?

What contrasts do you see between what happens to Satan and what happens to the redeemed?

Why is it so important that God is revealed as sitting on His throne in heaven, while Satan is shown being tortured for eternity in hell?

Read Ezekiel 14:9-15. Write down what this reveals about the fall of Satan?

- Read Revelation 21:1-4. Then read the following Old Testament prophecies and write down any similarities you find.
Isaiah 65:17-25 _____

Isaiah 66:18-24

Read Revelation 21:5-8. In these verses, John presents a contrast between two types of people groups. Who are they and how are they contrasted?

Why do you think it is important that God make all things new? Why won't a slightly improved version of the old be enough?

- Read Revelation 21:9-27. Why do you think the significance is of the New Jerusalem being called the Bride of the Lamb? If the bride of Christ is the church, what would be the significance of this comparison?

Try to speculate what you believe the meaning behind all the imagery associated with the New Jerusalem might be. What do all the jewels, precious metals, and expensive trappings tell you?

What feelings do the words found in verse 27 conjure up in you?

THE RESURRECTIONS IN SCRIPTURE

