

Satan Bound 1,000 Years

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

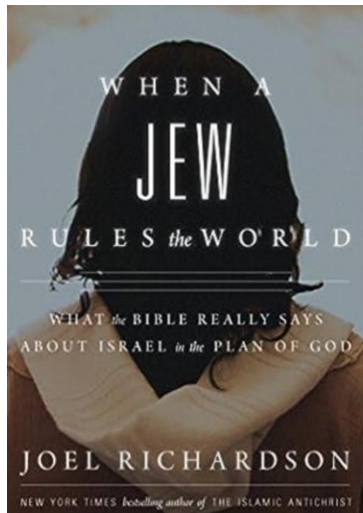
years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. (Revelation 20:1-3, NKJV).

Many of us who have lived in Grimes County for a while knew a lady named Miss Dorothy. She was a Seventh-Day Adventist, and she would come and eat at the Emporium when Sandy did those Wednesday noon-day lunches. Dorothy would pray with power and always end with the statement, "May we rest, rule, and reign with you in the time that is to come." It sounded funny and quaint to all of us, but it was very biblical. It referenced what we'll be doing during this millennial reign that we are studying this morning.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian church, "*Do you not know **that the saints will judge the world?** And if the world will be judged by you, are you unworthy to judge the smallest matters? ³ Do you not know that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life? (1 Corinthians 6:2-3, NKJV).*

We, the saints, will be judging and will be involved in the rest, rule, and reign that will take place on the earth for 1,000 years. We don't have many details about this, but quite a lot has been written on it, and we'll look at some of those ideas this morning.

The text begins with John narrating what he sees. This is the introduction of what is called the Millennial Reign. After the battle of Armageddon and the cataclysmic events that we have studied in chapters 18 and 19, there will be a period of peaceful reign when Jesus will rule from His throne in Jerusalem. I never really thought much about all of this until I read a book called "*When a Jew Rules the World*" by Joel Richardson. It was truly a fascinating book. It altered how I think about heaven.



Before reading the book, I supposed heaven to be an ethereal place where we would all sort of move around in a dream-like state. Richardson presents life on earth during the Millennial Reign as a time of living much like we live now - gardening, riding horses, working together - but with total peace on the earth. Richardson gives prophetic support that Jesus, the Son of David, will be on the throne, ruling from Jerusalem. I have no idea whether this is an entirely accurate portrayal, but it is a much more exciting version of "heaven" than I had ever imagined.

John finally identifies the "the dragon, that serpent of old" as none other than Satan, also called Lucifer, the glorious fallen angel of old who has led the earth's rebellion against God since the Garden of Eden. Years ago, Rabbi Daniel presented to this congregation that the Jewish people never knew who the serpent was in the Genesis story. He taught us that they never even knew of the existence of a satanic being until their captivity in Babylon. It's hard to believe, but I've gone through the Bible, and there is really no reference to Satan or angelic conflict until Daniel chapter ten. This is an example of progressive revelation in the Bible. Rabbi Daniel taught us that there were three tangible spiritual results that came out of the Babylonian captivity, including but not limited to: (1) the Jews now understood that there was a diabolical being that was intent on destroying the Jewish people, (2) they never again bowed down to worship foreign gods, and (3) they no longer had the need to worship solely in the Temple as the Babylonian captivity initiated the use of synagogues where believers could meet, pray, and study the word together.

Now the devil is revealed and known to believers because we have this present passage in Revelation. John is watching as Satan is put into handcuffs so to speak and is taken to the abyss. He will be bound for a 1,000-year period. John tells us here that at the end of Armageddon, Satan will be put into the "abyss." John then tells us that after these 1,000 years, Satan will once again be released upon the earth. If you're like me you're probably wondering....what? I thought he'd been put away forever. Satan will be released once again to test those who are around at the end of the Millennium.

During the Millennium, Jesus will be reigning over the earth. Some have conjectured that it will be King David himself who will be reigning over Israel. This is discussed at length on the website www.gotquestions.org.¹ I don't really think it will be David. I think it will be Jesus who is known as "The Son of David." We can't imagine what it will be

¹ see article <https://www.gotquestions.org/David-kingdom.html>

like, but Jesus will rule, and Satan will be bound. There will be people who have survived the Tribulation, and they will be left on the earth.

Many biblical scholars think that those remaining will marry, have children, and die. These people will also be tested and that's why Satan will once again be released at the end of the Millennium. We who have already died will be in our new resurrection glorified bodies. We will no longer have a sinful nature. We are the bride of Christ. I'm not sure what we'll be doing in this rebuilt earth, but Richardson says we'll be tending gardens, and partnering with nature to "produce beauty and sweetness."² Boy, I like the sound of that. I can't imagine raising vegetables without every kind of pest and weed imaginable trying to rob me of the fruits of my labor. And I suppose we'll be participating in the things that Ms. Dorothy prayed about. **We will be resting, ruling, and reigning with Jesus.** The entire way the earth operates will be turned on its side. Scripture gives us a picture of what will be going on in the animal kingdom.

*"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
The calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
And a little child shall lead them.
7 The cow and the bear shall graze;
Their young ones shall lie down together;
And the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole,
And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den.
9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,
For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
As the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9, NKJV).*

As mentioned, after 1,000 years, Satan will be released to try to sway men again. He will be allowed back so that people born during the Millennium will be tested. During the Millennium, he'll be in the same "abyss" mentioned in Luke chapter eight when Jesus cast the demons out of the man of the tombs and into the swine. The text tells us, "They repeatedly begged Jesus not to order them to go into the "Abyss." The Abyss is obviously a place that the demons fear and try to avoid.

This "abyss" is a place where evil spirits are confined. Some believe this is the same place referred to in 2 Peter 2:4 as "hell." Wherever and whatever the "abyss" is, it is clear that in the end, all evil spirits, along with Satan, the Antichrist, and the false prophet, will be

² Joel Richardson, *When a Jew Rules the World*, 2015, WND Books, p.85

in the company of all unbelievers (Revelation 20:10-15). In the end, they'll be cast into what scripture calls "The Lake of Fire."

The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years

⁴ And I 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 and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [the Tribulation saints received their resurrection body] ***⁵ But the rest of the dead*** [those who died outside of Christ] ***did not live again until the thousand years were finished.*** ***This*** [speaking of the tribulation saints] ***is the first resurrection.*** ***⁶ Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.*** ***Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Revelation 20:4-6, NKJV with authors parentheticals added).***

This clearly states that those who have died "in Christ" before the end of things will participate in the rest, rule, and reign of King Jesus. John parenthetically explains (I have placed the parentheses) that "the rest of the dead" don't come back to life until after the Millennium. This means that the unbelievers who have died throughout history will not come to life again until the end of the Millennium when they will be judged.

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. ⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (Revelation 20:7-10, NKJV).

This isn't really a battle, because it'll all end before it starts. Many scholars contend that "Gog and Magog" here, are figurative nomenclature signifying the "enemies of God." So there is a second gathering that will surround Jerusalem to do battle, but the devil will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Then John looks into what will happen after the Millennium. Also, we read here that the torment of the Lake of Fire will be permanent.

The Great White Throne Judgment

11 Then I saw a great white throne [this is the great white throne of judgment] ***and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.*** ***12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books*** [these dead that are judged are the unbelievers]. ***13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.*** ***14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*** ***15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

So now we're looking at the sentencing phase (The Great White Throne Judgment). The dead are to be judged. This is not a judgment of believers. Why? **OUR NAMES ARE**



WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE! Also, notice in verse 14 that death (the process of dying) is over. It is also sent into the lake of fire. I'm not sure how death is personified, but it too will be cast into the Lake of Fire. It causes me to think maybe there is a demonic spirit that is the spirit of death. This sort of fits in with the age-old personification of death portrayed as the "Grim Reaper,"

holding a sickle (to harvest mankind).

With all this discussion of unbelievers being thrown into the Lake of Fire, I would like to once again add, and I will say that God is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9). Salvation is a free gift to all who accept it and receive it. We don't need to complicate this. I am not giving license to live a sinful life, but we must understand that if we are saved by grace, then we are saved by grace. We can't lose our salvation by our works anymore than we can earn it by our works. You are not saved or kept by your works. **YOU AND I ARE SAVED BECAUSE OUR NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE!**

For human beings, our greatest enemy is death. It is what people fear the most. It is what we don't talk about or contemplate. We, as humans, always kick it down the mental road to another day. But the reality is that it is something we will all face, and we must endure unless Jesus returns before we face our final day on earth. **BUT** scripture gives us good news **death IS COMING TO AN END.**

Scripture tells us that there is coming a day when death will be no more.

*⁷ And He will destroy on this mountain
The surface of the covering cast over all people,
And the veil that is spread over all nations.*

***⁸ He will swallow up death forever,**
And the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces;
The rebuke of His people
He will take away from all the earth;
For the LORD has spoken.*

*⁹ And it will be said in that day:
"Behold, this is our God;
We have waited for Him, and He will save us.
This is the LORD;
We have waited for Him;
We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation." (Isaiah 25:7-9, NKJV).*

So, the BIG IDEA today is that 1,000 years of Millennial Rule will follow the Tribulation. Jesus will rule on the throne in Jerusalem. There will be two classes of people on the earth: (1) those who have died in Christ and have been resurrected with their glorified bodies, and (2) the survivors of the Tribulation and their offspring. Those survivors will be the ones tested by Satan one last time at the end of the Millennium. So what's the application for today? JESUS IS COMING AGAIN JUST LIKE HE SAID THAT HE WOULD.

I am so ready for that day. Are you?

Let us pray.

<p>Union Grove is one of the oldest Baptist communities of faith in the State of Texas dating back to 1844. Pastor Faber McMullen may be reached by email at uniongrove362@gmail.com or by snail mail at: 15301 FM 362, Navasota, Texas 77868. Tel: 936-825-1227 (Edited and proofed by Amanda Neese- Webster, Texas.) All financial gifts to this ministry are tax-deductible as a 501 (c) (3) Corporation.</p>
