

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



Revelation 20

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ 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.

⁴ Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them.

ONE LAST PERSPECTIVE ON THE END OF TIME AND JUDGMENT — THE DRAGON IS BOUND

- We've seen (9:1) an angel with a key to the abyss, but the angel of 9:1 is unleashing demonic powers from the abyss. What is the angel of 20:1 going to do?
 - Who / what is the dragon?
 - **Serpent** of old. Who is this?
 - the **devil**
 - and **Satan**
 - What does it mean to bind him? (see v. 5)
 - "...he would not **deceive** the nations any longer"
 - "...until the **thousand** years were completed"
 - "...after these things he must be **loosed** for a **short** time."
 - How long would he be bound?
 - Is this literal or figurative period of time? Why?
 - If being bound means Satan cannot deceive the nations any longer, what would being released for a short time mean?

THE SAINTS REIGN FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

- While the Dragon (Satan) is bound for a thousand years, what else is happening? (see v. 4)

And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. ⁵ The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the

- Who is sitting on thrones with judgment given to them?
 - souls of those who had been **beheaded**
 - souls of those who had not **worshiped** the beast or his image
 - souls of those who had not **received** the mark of the beast
- And they...
 - ...came to **life**
 - ...And they **reigned** with **Christ**
 - ...for a **thousand** years
- These came to life in the **first resurrection**
 - When did the rest come to life?
 - What is this first resurrection?
 - Possibilities...
 - Baptism (John 5:25-27 / Romans 6:4 / 2 Tim. 2:11-12)
 - An unseen bodily resurrection that has already happened to martyrs of the first and second centuries (no biblical reference)
 - A vindication of the martyrs and the cause of Christ against Rome
 - Who are the “rest of the dead” who aren’t raised until after the thousand years are completed?
 - What is the blessing and advantage that those who experience the first resurrection have? (see v. 6)
 - The **second** death has no **power**
 - They will be **priests** of God and of Christ
 - Will **reign** with Christ for a **thousand** years
- So, what is this thousand years literally talking about?

THE DRAGON IS LOOSED

- When the thousand years are completed what happens?
 - What does Satan being released from his prison mean; what will he start doing again? (v. 8)

four corners of the earth,
Gog and Magog, to gather
them together for the war;
the number of them is like
the sand of the seashore. ⁹
And they came up on the
broad plain of the earth and
surrounded the camp of the
saints and the beloved city,
and fire came down from
heaven and devoured them.

¹⁰ And the devil who deceived
them was thrown into the
lake of fire and brimstone,
where the beast and the false
prophet are also; and they
will be tormented day and
night forever and ever.

¹¹ Then I saw a great white
throne and Him who sat
upon it, from whose presence
earth and heaven fled away,
and no place was found for
them. ¹² And I saw the dead,
the great and the small,
standing before the throne,
and books were opened; and
another book was opened,

- What will be the purpose of this deception?
- Who are “Gog and Magog”? (see Ezekiel 38:2ff)
- So who will be gathered?
- How large an army is this?
- Point of interest: “the war” rather than “a war”
- What is the camp and the beloved city that is surrounded?
- When you’re surrounded, what hope do you have?
- How are Gog and Magog defeated?
 - Fire from heaven is often just another way to say lightning
 - How fast is a lightning strike?
- What do you suppose vv. 7-9 would mean practically speaking?

THE FINAL JUDGMENT

- What is happening to Satan, the beast, and the false prophet who deceived the nation?
 - They will be **tormented**
 - **Day** and **night**
 - **Forever** and **ever**
- What is this great white throne, and Who is sitting on it?
- What is happening when it says that earth and heaven flee from His presence?
 - What does it mean that no place was found for them?
 - What does 2 Peter 3 tell us?
- What is happening, when John says he now sees the dead standing before the throne?
 - Will position or prestige or anything else exempt someone from standing before the throne?
 - What are the “books” that are opened first? Possibilities...
 - The Bible

which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

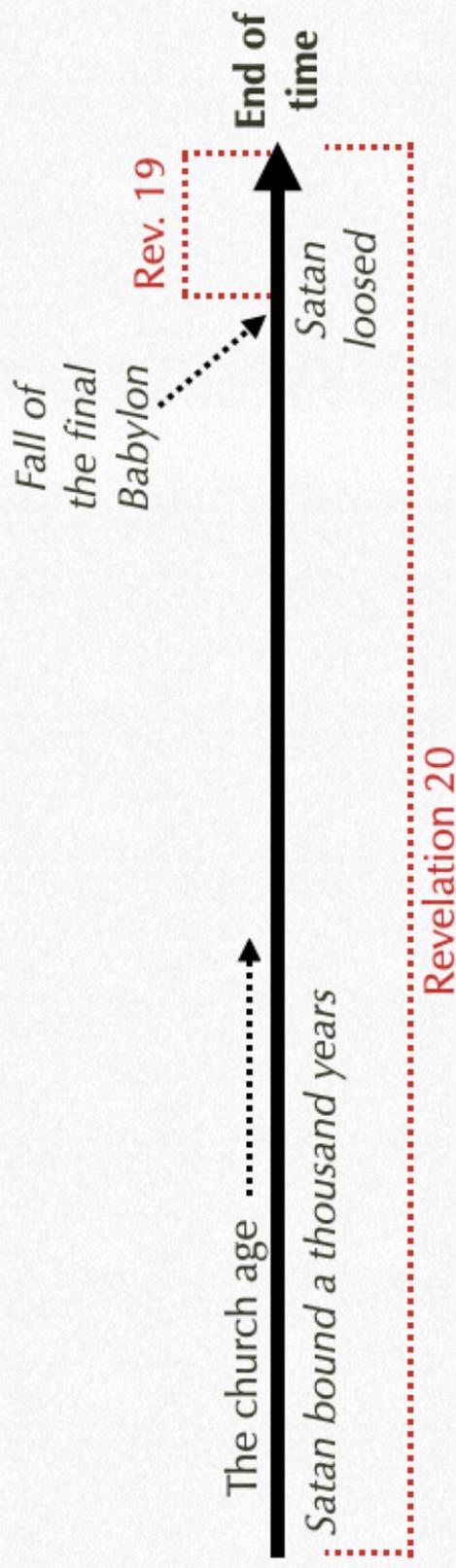
- The records of all mankind's deeds
- So, then what is the other book?
- What are the dead judged by?
 - If the books are the Bible, what is the meaning?
 - If the books are the records of deeds, what is the meaning?
- Why does it mention that the sea would be giving up its dead?
 - What else would be giving up their dead?
 - What is this referring to? (John 5:24,25)
 - Will anyone be left out of this resurrection and judgment?
- Who / what else will be thrown into the lake of fire?
 - “And **death** itself shall **die**”
 - What is the second death?
- What is the criteria for being thrown into the lake of fire?
 - How important does it become to have your name written in the book of life?
 - How important does it become to experience the first resurrection?

Overview

- ❖ **Ch. 17:1-19:6** — description of, fall of, and celebration of the fall of Babylon
- ❖ **Ch. 19:7** — the Lord defeats the beast, his kings with their armies, and destroys them all including the false prophet
- ❖ **Ch. 20** — a distilled, long view of the church age, loosing of Satan, his final doom, and judgment of the sinful world

- 20:1-3 — Satan bound for a thousand years
- 20:4-6 — Saints reign with Christ a thousand years, the 1st resurrection
- 20:7-8 — Satan loosed after the thousand years, deceives the nations,
 - 17:1ff — a final Babylon arises and corrupts the world
 - 17:16,17 — The beast and kings cause the fall of Babylon
 - 19:1-7 — Heavenly celebration of the fall of Babylon
- 19:19 — The Beast and his kings assemble to make war on the Word of God and His army
 - 20:9a — Satan gathers his army,
 - and surrounds the church
- 19:8-10 — Marriage of the Lamb has come
 - 19:11-16 — Coming of the the Word of God on white horse and the host of heaven
 - 19:17-18 — Invitation of a carrion feast to the birds
- 20:9b — fire comes down from heaven and devours Satan and his armies
 - 19:20 — The Beast is seized with false prophet and thrown into the Lake of Fire
 - 19:21 — The rest (kings and their armies) killed by the sword of the Word of God
 - 20:10 — Satan thrown into the Lake of Fire
- 20:11-15 — The unsaved are judged, death and Hades and the unsaved are thrown into the Lake of Fire

Overview



Overview

*Fall of
the final
Babylon*

Rev. 19

*Satan
loosed*

**End of
time**

Judgment

Satan, the beast, and the kings gather and surround the camp of the saints, and the Lord utterly defeats them

