

## **REVELATION PART NINE - Verses 1 to 10 of Chapter 20**

### **Chapter 20, Verses 1 to 10 – The Thousand Years & Defeat of Satan**

The first 10 verses of this chapter speak of the Millennial Kingdom. The Millennial Kingdom has caused much controversy in the Church, often even between Christians who truly loves the Lord.

In the previous chapter, the turning point in history was when Jesus returned as Conquering King and totally defeated Satan and his forces. From this point onwards, though only the last 3 chapters were left in the Bible, it is important that we understand it correctly, otherwise we would not know the actual ending of the Bible.

Three major events took place in these first 10 verses of Chapter 20.

### **The First Event in Revelation 20:1-3: Satan is bound up for a 1000 years**

1. Revelation 20:1. John saw an angel coming down from heaven with a key to the bottomless pit and a massive chain. John saw the angel bound Satan.
  - a) Earlier, Satan had a fierce battle with Archangel Michael but at this point, John saw a helpless Satan. That was because God allowed those earlier events to take place.
  - b) Actually, Satan could have been totally helpless, if God did not allow him to have any power because all power comes from God. There is only one source of power, and it is from God. Even the Sun is running down in power and who gives power to the Sun but God? Thus, when God took away Satan's power, he was more helpless than a baby in diaper.
2. Revelation 20:2. Satan was bound up and thrown in the bottomless pit so that he could not deceive the nations for 1000 years. How did Satan deceive the nations?
  - a) He used his agents. Throughout history, his massive agent was Babylon. We are not referring to Babylon as a particular city, but as an archetype of man's dream to have power, possession and to control things for his own benefit. Every city works on this basis. The greater the army, the greater power it will have to conquer more land to serve itself.
  - b) This is the character of Satan which is the exact opposite of God. Satan seeks self-glorification, but God's power is in His innate character to love others unconditionally – agape love. God gave His Son and His Son gave His life to save us.
  - c) We have all fallen into Satan's trap if we believe that the more money we have, the more powerful and the happier we will become. People think that with more power, they will have more people looking up to them and serve them, e.g. having more staff, getting more attention from the restaurant waitresses, etc. This is a lie and a great deception because the people who have all these are not happy at all.
3. Revelation 20:3. After the 1000 years, Satan would be released for a little while.

The Second Event in Revelation 20:4-6: Saints reign with Christ for a 1000 years

1. Revelation 20:4. John saw two group of people.
  - a) John saw people seated on thrones and given the authority to rule. There were many thrones, but there was no mention of the numbers. "Seated" means you are settled down in a position having power or authority, as one can only sit when everything is settled.
  - b) Then John saw another group. They were the martyrs who had died, because they refused to worship the mark of the first beast (Antichrist). They were resurrected from the Great Tribulation period, which was that period when Satan, the Antichrist and the False Prophet were given free reign for 7 years.
  - c) These two groups would be ruling the Millennial Kingdom for the 1000 years when Satan was bound.
2. Revelation 20:5-6.
  - a) These verses introduced the term "First Resurrection". This meant that the saints were resurrected to rule on the thrones together with the martyrs resurrected from the Great Tribulation period. The term, Millennial Kingdom, comes from the word "Mille" which means 1000 and "nnial" means "annual". When put together, it means 1000 years Kingdom or reign. All the saints were resurrected into their new bodies to rule for 1000 years.
  - b) Verse 5 says that the rest of the dead (those who did not trust Christ) were not resurrected until the 1000 years ended. This meant that there would be a Second Resurrection at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. It also meant that the rest of the dead unbelievers were left in the waiting place of the deceased (i.e. Sheol or Hades) until the 1000 years ended to await the Second Resurrection. They would arise to face another judgement called the Great White Throne Judgement which would be discussed in the later part of this chapter.

The Third Event in Revelation 20:7-10 - Satan released for a little while after the 1000 years

1. Revelation 20:7. Satan was released after the 1000 years ended, and his release would be for just a little while.
2. Revelation 20:8. In this little while, Satan managed to deceive a huge number of people which is as the sand of the sea.
  - a) These people were born during the Millennial Kingdom. While the resurrected bodies did not get married nor reproduced, there were Jewish and Gentile survivors, who did not die during the Great Tribulation and were allowed to enter the Millennial Kingdom, reproduced babies.
  - b) These people had natural bodies like us and by the 1000 years, there was a huge population in this Millennial Kingdom.
  - c) These people actually saw the beautiful reign of the Millennial Kingdom which was described in the next section as having an environment without sins nor deception by Satan. Yet when Satan appeared for a short while (after the 1000

- years of imprisonment) and encouraged them to rebel against Jesus and His rulers (the saints including the martyrs), they followed Satan.
- d) The followers of Satan were huge, numbering like the sand of the sea. They were called forces of Gog and Magog. This was a name given in Ezekiel Chapter 38, that spoke of the archetype of the “rebellious heart of man who wants to rebel against authority”. They did not like to be controlled or ruled.
  - e) Satan questioned them as to why they had allowed Jesus to rule them. Satan managed to deceive them and they all gathered for the last battle. So contrary to popular understanding of many Christians, Armageddon is actually not the last battle, as the Battle of Armageddon took place before Jesus came and also before the Millennial Kingdom was established.
3. Revelation 20:9. In this last battle, Satan and these rebellious people gathered to attack the city of Jerusalem where Jesus was seated. Note that this is the Jerusalem that will be restored during the Millennium, not the New Jerusalem to be described much later.
- a) Like the Battle of Armageddon, this was again was again a “non-battle”. Anyone who wants to fight with God and is expecting a proper battle is a moron. His ego must be so big and he must be so stupid to think he is even fit to fight God.
  - b) Fire came down from heaven and the battle was over in a split second. This time, Satan was bound in the bottomless pit and cast into the lake of fire (hell) to be tormented forever.
  - c) Hence all those people who do not like Jesus can enjoy the company of Satan in hell. Satan is so egoistical and stupid that he did not know that he cannot fight God at all. Many presidents of the world think that they are so smart, and their ego blinds them.
  - d) Satan was now sent to hell to join Antichrist and the False Prophet who were already cast in the eternal lake of fire before the Millennial Kingdom began.

There were not many events in these first 10 verses of Chapter 20. It was just about Satan being bound, the saints ruled under Jesus for 1000 years, and then Satan was released for a short while. It records the 3 events and their consequences. Next, we will move into the controversial subject of the Millennial Kingdom.