

Bible Prophecy and the book of Revelation, Lesson 24

Chapter 20

Verse 1 – Battle ends, and beast and false prophet are thrown into Hell.

- ✓ Next the Devil is chained and thrown into the Abyss (not Hell) a.k.a. Hades.

Verse 2 – How long? 1000years'

- ✓ Is the Devil bound today? If so, his chain is really too long!!

Verse 3 - Millennium (Chapter 20) rather divisive chapter because of its subject matter.

Three camps of belief:

1. Premillennialists = Believe in a literal millennium (they take this literally).
 2. Amillennialist = Don't believe in a literal 1000 year reign of Christ (they take this chapter figuratively)
 3. Postmillennialist = believe the Millennium has already started with the reign of the church
 - ✓ Church brings it in by reforms (converts everybody)
 - ✓ Kingdom Now theology (also holds that we have replaced Israel and receive her promises including health and wealth)
 - ✓ Fairly easily refuted by the criterion placed on it by the coming Tribulation and especially that of chapter 20.
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- ✓ There are tons of prophecies that have not been fulfilled which could only be fulfilled in the context of a literal thousand year reign.
 1. **Isaiah 9:6; Luke 1:32** -- David's throne did not exist at Jesus' first coming, but it is an earthly throne; **Zechariah 14** this follows the same sequence of Revelation -- war which results in the Lord's reign.
 2. A multitude of promises to Israel that are yet unfulfilled: Palestinian covenant – River of Egypt to the river Euphrates
 - ✓ **Jeremiah 31; Ezekiel 36, 37, 38, 39, 40**; Equals Israel restored to land without a curse or enemy or oppression.
 - ✓ Predicted in **Isaiah 2, 4, 11, 12, 30, 35, 60, 61, 66; Jer. 23, 32; Ezekiel 40-48.**
 - ✓ **Isaiah 11:6-9, Ezekiel 34:20-31, 37:21-28.**
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Verses 1-2 – If we are currently in the millennium, then is the Devil bound today?

- ✓ **Ephesians 6** "resist the schemes of the Devil"; **I Peter 5:8**

Verse 3 – Deceiving whole nations!

Verse 4 – Thrones = **Matthew 19:28** = 12 will govern Israel...who will govern the rest of the planet...we will!! **Revelation 2:26-27**

- ✓ Ironically, the Beast and false prophet sought to rule the world and put to death those who would not receive their mark, but who is reigning now?!!
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Verse 5 – Who makes it into the first resurrection? Jesus = First fruits of harvest to come; All who believe prior to Christ; All the church; and all who believe during the Tribulation.

Verse 6 – How long? 1000 thousand years over this current earth!

- ✓ All literal things here: Jesus is, thrones are, martyrs are, Devil is, 1000 years are!!
- ✓ "Second Death" -- born once= die twice; born twice= die once (Jesus has taken our second death for all who trust Him)

Verse 7 – Why turn the Devil loose? Tell me why the first time and I'll tell you why the second time!

- ✓ Devil is the result of choices (His and ours) and consequences of rebellion.

Verses 8-9 – "Beloved City"? Jerusalem

- ✓ Conditions are similar that prior to the flood with one added bonus = no Devil!
 - ✓ People are living much longer (**Isaiah 65:19-25**); there is an ideal government.
 - ✓ Even a 1000 years of ideal conditions will not cure a sinful heart.
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Verse 10 – The third resident enters Hell

Verse 11 – What a blow for the ecologists.

- ✓ So, the earth can't be saved? **Isaiah 65:17**

Judgment is never God's first or preferred option if it were, none of us would be here.

- ✓ "Not willing that any should perish, but all come to repentance", but there will come **a day when Grace expires.**
- ✓ **Revelation 20:11-15**
- ✓ How long will God hold His hands to people who hate Him and malign His name?
- ✓ How long will He hold back wrath upon those who trample underfoot His offering of peace through the sacrifice of His One and Only Son?? **Not forever — One day grace will expire!**
- ✓ A day is coming when every wrong will be exposed and every sin will be paid for: either by Christ, or the person who committed the sin.

Everybody thinks it won't happen to them! The Atheist is hoping God doesn't exist, the Hindu hopes he just gets reincarnated, most just feel that they haven't been all that bad.

- ✓ The Holy Spirit makes this comment: **II Corinthians 10:12**
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