



THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 20:1-6

Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

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Introduction: The Full Churches, Ch. 2-3

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- II. SMYRNA: THE FEARFUL CHURCH, 2:8-11 (A.D. 200-325)
- III. PERGAMOS: THE FALTERING CHURCH, 2:12-17 (A.D. 325-500)
- IV. THYATIRA: THE FALSE CHURCH, 2:18-29 (A.D. 500-1000)
- V. SARDIS: THE FRUITLESS CHURCH, 3:1-6 (A.D. 1000-1500)
- VI. PHILADELPHIA: THE FEEBLE CHURCH, 3:7-13 (A.D. 1500-1900)
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Part Three – THE PROPHECY: REVEALING GOVERNMENTS – “...the things which shall be hereafter;” Ch. 4-20

I. THE SUPREME SOURCE OF DIVINE GOVERNMENT, 4:1-5:14

- A. The Unforgettable Throne, 4:1-6
- B. The Unforgettable Throng, 4:7-11
- C. The Unforgettable Thrill, 5:1-14

II. THE SUBLIME COURSE OF DIVINE GOVERNMENT, 6:1-20:15

- A. The World Ruined by Man, 6:1-7:17
- B. The World Ruled by Satan, 8:1-13:18
- C. The World Rescued by God, 14:1-20:15
 - 1. The Formal Warnings Described, 14:1-15:8
 - a. The Special Commission in Heaven, 14:6-13
 - b. The Special Command in Heaven, 14:14-20
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 - 2. The Fatal War Described, 16:1-19:21
 - a. The Terrible Bowls Spilled, 16:1-21
 - b. The Two Babylons Spoiled, 17:1-19:6
 - c. The True Bride Seen, 19:7-10
 - d. The Tragic Battle Stilled, 19:11-21
 - (1) The Lord’s Coming Described, 19:11-16
 - (2) The Lord’s Conquest Described, 19:17-21

Tonight, we begin chapter 20. In chapter 19, we observed the return of Christ to earth. We made note of the first of seven final things that John saw and recorded. These things are:

1. Christ's return;
2. Satan's capture;
3. Satan's binding;
4. The Millennium;
5. Satan's final end;
6. The last judgment;
7. The new heavens and earth, including the New Jerusalem.

Tonight, we observe “The Final Woes Described” in chapter 20.

3. The Final Woes Described, 20:1-15

❖ There are a number of theological positions that are keyed to this passage:

Amillennialism holds that the thousand-year reign of Christ is a symbol for the period of the Christian church (Augustine; Roman Catholic; Reformed; Presbyterian);

➤ *Postmillennialism* holds that the kingdom of Christ is a reality in the hearts of Christians and that the conversion of all nations will occur before the return of Christ, though the term 'thousand years' refers to the quality of life and not to a literal length of time (Lutheran);

➤ *Premillennialism* holds that the return of Christ will occur before the beginning of the millennium, which is understood as a literal period of a thousand years (Dispensationalism)."

Aune, David E. *Revelation 17—22*, p. 1089. Word Biblical Commentary series. Dallas: Word Books, 1997.

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a. The Great World Threat at the End of the Millennium,
20:1-10

(1) The Millennial Postponement of the Last Rebellion,
20:1-6

(a) The Period When Satan is Bound, 20:1-2

Rev. 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

❖ The “chain” is literal, however, it is not physical.

2 Pet. 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, **but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness**, to be reserved unto judgment;

Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

❖ Four titles occurring in this same verse make the identity of the bound creature certain:

- 1) the dragon,
- 2) that old serpent,
- 3) the Devil,
- 4) Satan

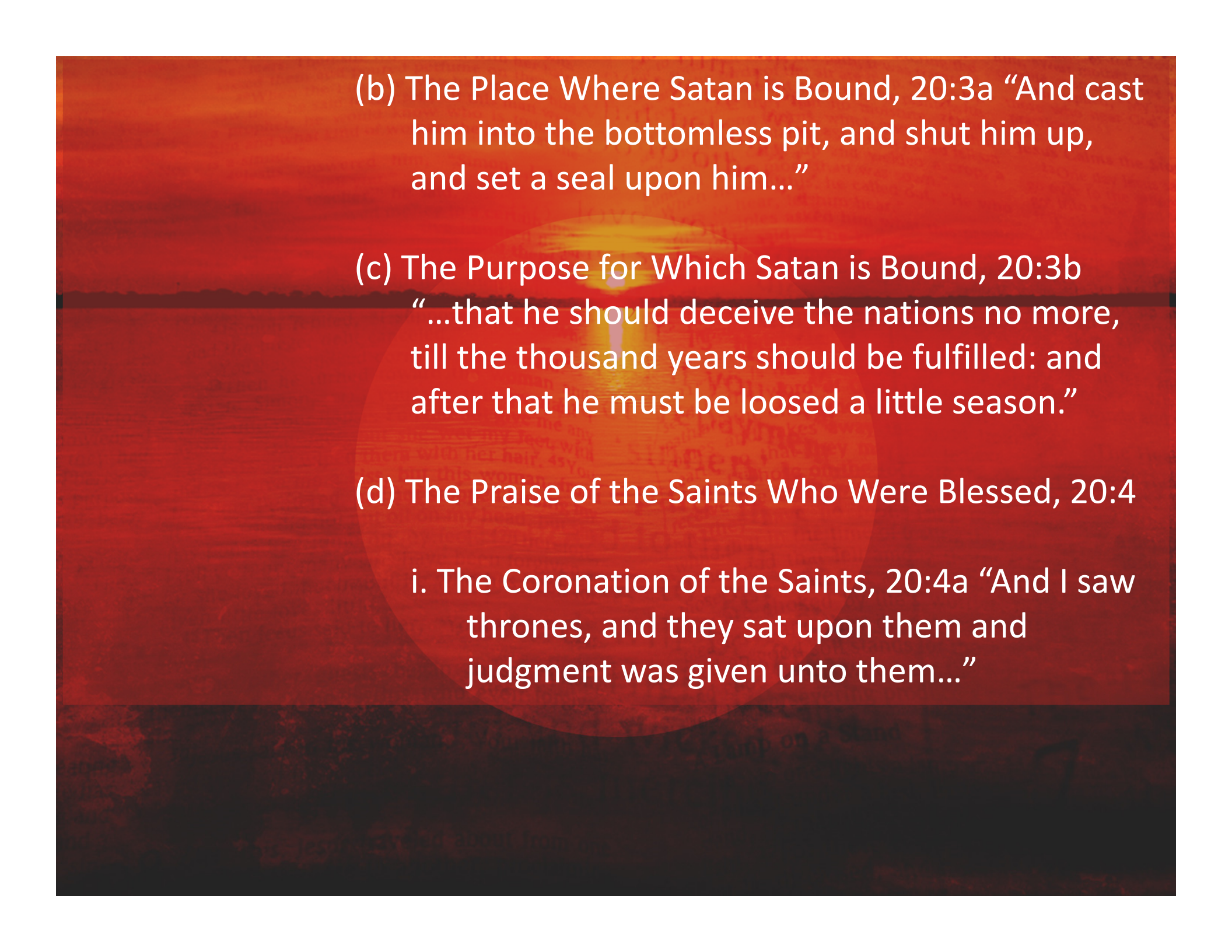
Rev. 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a **thousand years**,
3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the **thousand years** should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a **thousand years**.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the **thousand years** were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a **thousand years**.

7 And when the **thousand years** are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,



(b) The Place Where Satan is Bound, 20:3a “And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him...”

(c) The Purpose for Which Satan is Bound, 20:3b
“...that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”

(d) The Praise of the Saints Who Were Blessed, 20:4

i. The Coronation of the Saints, 20:4a “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them and judgment was given unto them...”

Various views of those on the thrones:

- either the 24 elders viewed as representatives of the church age,
- the Tribulation saints,
- the apostles,
- perhaps some other saints.

Mt. 19:27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

28 And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, **ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

30 But many *that are* first shall be last; and the last *shall be* first.

Mt. 8:11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

ii. The Courage of the Saints, 20:4b “...and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands...”

iii. The Compensation for the Saints, 20:4c “...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”

Rom. 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; **if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together.**

2 Tim. 2:12 **If we suffer, we shall also reign with *him***: if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

❖ There are four good reasons why Jesus Christ's reign will be a physical, earthly reign rather than a spiritual, heavenly one:

- 1) First, Christ will be on earth after He returns (19:11-16).
- 2) Second, at the end of His reign, the saints, who have reigned with Him, will still be on the earth (v. 9).
- 3) Third, God promised the saints an earthly reign (5:10).
- 4) Fourth, the Old Testament messianic prophecies anticipated an earthly kingdom (e.g., 2 Sam. 7:10-16; Ps. 2:8; Isa. 65:17—66:24; Dan. 7:27; et al.).

❖ Below is a list of the following early church fathers who held some form of Premillennialism:

- Clement of Rome,
- Polycarp,
- Papias,
- Ignatius,
- the author of the Epistle of Barnabas,
- Justin Martyr,
- Tatian,
- Irenaeus,
- Hippolytus,
- Tertullian,
- Cyprian,
- Commodianus,
- Victorinus,
- Lactantius, and
- Methodius
- Melito.

Aune, David E. *Revelation 17—22*, p. 1089. Word Biblical Commentary series. Dallas: Word Books, 1997.

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iv. The Culmination for the Saints, 20:5 “But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.”

❖ The “first resurrection” has three parts:

1) The Firstfruit (Old Testament saints with Christ)

1 Cor. 15:20 But **now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits** of them that slept.

2) The Harvest (New Testament saints at the Rapture)

3) The Gleanings (Tribulation saints in Rev. 20:4-5)

Deut. 16:16 **Three times** in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in **the feast of unleavened bread**, and in **the feast of weeks**, and in **the feast of tabernacles**: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

1 Cor. 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.**

24 **Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God**, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

v. The Character of the Saints, 20:6a “Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection...”

vi. The Confidence of the Saints, 20:6b “...on such the second death hath no power, but **they shall be priests** of God and of Christ, **and shall reign** with him a thousand years.”

Ex. 19:6 And **ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation**. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

1 Pet. 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Rev. 1:6 And hath made us **kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 5:10 And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests**: and **we shall reign on the earth.**

❖ There are three major schools of interpretation that deal with millennial prophecies:

1) Amillennialists interpret the Millennium figuratively, and believe it does not correspond to any specific era. Some of them teach that it refers to Jesus Christ's rule in the hearts of His people *presently* living on earth.

2) Postmillennialists hold that Christ will return *after* the Millennium.

3) Premillennialists take the revelation in these passages more literally, as a description of events that will proceed *chronologically*, in precise order.

Conclusion

2 Pet. 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 *Seeing then that* all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,**

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

17 Ye therefore, **beloved, seeing ye know these things before,** beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But **grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** To him *be* glory both now and for ever. Amen.