

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Turn your bibles with me to Revelation 20

Like I said on Sunday morning – we only have two more Wednesday night studies before we finish the book of Revelation.

Just to recap what we have studied so far –

From chapter 6-18 we were introduced to **Great Tribulation** –

This is the seven year period where the antichrist will rule the earth and God pours His wrath upon those that rejected the Lamb.

The scriptures tell us that the church will not be here during this time – as we will be caught up in heaven during the rapture that happens just before the antichrist is revealed.

1Cor. 15:51-52;

1Thess. 4:17

During this time, the Holy Spirit will continue to work on individuals here on earth and there will be many that will turn to Jesus Christ – however, many of those will be lose their life at the hands of the antichrist and his minions.

Last week – in chapter 19, we saw the end of the Tribulation Period with the Second Coming.

Jesus Christ returns on His white horse with us following behind Him – and He defeats the forces of the antichrist and sends the antichrist and the false prophet directly to the lake of fire where they will remain for eternity.

In our study this evening, we are going to find out what will happen to Satan, what will happen to those believers that will somehow manage to make it through the Tribulation Period alive and we will also see Jesus Christ establish His kingdom here on earth for 1000 years and we will see the role that we play in it.

Let's pray...

So the first thing we are going to see in our study is what happens to Satan.

[Rev 20:1-15 NKJV] 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Notice that it is – an angel

God is not going to deal with Satan Himself, He is not going to send Michael or Gabriel or one of the mighty angels that we read about over the last few weeks.

God is going to send an unnamed ordinary angel to take care of Satan.

Once again, sometimes we make the error in thinking that Satan is God's equal.

God has no equal.

So, not only does God give this angel the assignment to go get Satan, God gives this angel the key to the bottomless pit.

This is not hell – **this is the abyss.**

A physical place here on earth where demonic forces are tormented and locked up.

Turn with me to Luke 8 -

[Luk 8:26-31 NKJV] 26 Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!" 29 For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. 30 Jesus asked him, saying, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him. 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into **the abyss.**

This is the same place that we saw the demonic locust creatures that come out to torment the earth. (Rev 9)

So God gives this angel the key to the abyss and a chain to bind Satan.

By the way – we also see another examples of demons bound in chains in the book of Jude 6.

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.

So Satan is going to be bound and placed in the abyss for 1000 years.

And the assumption is that if Satan is bound – then all the demons will there with him as well.

The reason he is placed in the abyss has nothing to do with punishment.

The reason that he is placed in the abyss is to shut him up.

All spiritual influences of evil will be removed from earth & locked away in this spiritual prison for a thousand yrs.

Now, the question that is often asked is – why doesn't God simply do away with Satan after chapter 19 for good – why only 1000 years and release him one more time for a short while only to defeat him again.

And the reason is in what is going to happen for the 100 year period here on earth.

Which we start to see here in verse 4 -

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.

So after Jesus Christ' triumphant return – He will establish His kingdom here on earth for 1000 years.

Those who will rule with Him will be the believers that were raptured – us - and those believers that were executed during the Tribulation Period.

We will have glorified bodies and will reign with Jesus Christ for 1000 years.

This is what is known as the millennial kingdom.

The question is:

Who are we going to rule?

Over those who managed to survive the Tribulation Period.

When Jesus returns, those who've received the mark of the beast will be judged & wiped out.

All that will be left are those believers who managed to survive; & those few who somehow escaped taking the mark.

In Matt 25, Jesus speaks of the judgment of the nations.

Where Jesus separates the sheep from the goats -

That's not a judgment for salvation.

It's a judgment to see who will be allowed into the Millennial Kingdom.

The unworthy will be executed while the worthy will be allowed into the Millennium.

So what is this 1000 year period going to be like?

What do the scriptures tell us?

We know that Jesus will reign from Jerusalem (Isaiah 2:3)

We know that Satan's influence is going to be absent from it -

We know that it will be like during the times of Adam and Eve – those that make it to the Millennium and those that are born during this time period, will live long lives just like they did.

[Isa 65:20-22 NKJV] 20 "No more shall an infant from there [live but a few] days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner [being] one hundred years old shall be accursed. 21 They shall build houses and inhabit [them]; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22 They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, [so shall be] the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

The scriptures tell us that even the way animals interact with each other will be different than what we see today.

Turn to Isaiah 11 -

[Isa 11:6-8 NKJV] 6 "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.

God didn't allow man to eat animals until after the flood (Gen 9:2)– so this means that those living during this time will most likely be vegetarians.

There will be no wars –

We know that there will be a rebuilt temple – and the restoration of temple services – not as a covering of sin but as a memorial of God’s work in the past. (Ezekiel 40-48)

5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.

The rest of the dead???

We know that believers who died before the rapture – they get their new bodies when the church is raptured.

We know that believers that are raptured – they get their new bodies when they are raptured.

The Tribulation Saints get their resurrected bodies – as they will reign with the church during the millennium.

The rest of the dead - This is in reference to nonbelievers.

The nonbeliever – the ones who died without putting their faith in Jesus Christ, they will get resurrected bodies as well – it will happen after the 1000 years when they stand at the Great White Throne Judgment – which we will see later on in this chapter.

I asked you to make a note of the first resurrection –

This is the first resurrection in context with this chapter – it is speaking about the Tribulation saints that are going to be receiving their new bodies.

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.

A person's "first death" occurs when their physical body dies, when their spirit and body are separated.

Everyone, with the exception of those that are raptured, will have to go through the "first death"

When a person rejects Jesus, they will suffer the "second death", being eternally separated from God as they are thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

The believer does not experience the 2nd death because when Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price of our "second death".

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.

Here we have the reason that God binds Satan for 1000 years.

There are many people who think that man's sinfulness is simply a matter of his environment or the circumstances in their life.

And the argument is - If you only clean up man's environment, give him a better place to live, give him a better education, prosperity etc., then man will be better.

It is the argument that we hear all the time – I am this way because of the environment I grew up in.

After being under Christ's wonderful rule for 1000 years, a perfect environment - mankind will once again be deceived by Satan and reject God.

The Millennium will prove once & for all - the problem isn't the environment or circumstances – the problem is man's heart.

The Millennium vindicates the Holiness of God and all He's done throughout history.

So Satan will deceive and gather these people to fight against God – and this time, no battle. God simply rains down fire on them and consumes them.

Just like God did to Elijah's enemies.

Just like God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.

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.

So Satan is cast into the lake of fire where – notice, the antichrist and the false prophet are still there 1000 years later and they all will continue to be tormented for eternity.

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

Here we have the Great White Throne judgment.

This happens after the 1000 years – after Satan is thrown in the lake of fire and at that time, God will destroy earth and heaven.

[2Pe 3:10 NKJV] 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

So this Great White Throne Judgment -

This is the judgment of non-believers – those who don't put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

Who sits at the Great White Throne judgment? – Jesus Christ

How do we know?

[Jhn 5:22 NKJV] 22 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son,

Now, believers will have their own judgment –

We don't know if it occurs when we die or when we are raptured.

However, it will not be at the great white throne judgment

[2Co 5:9-10 NKJV] 9 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things [done] in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

The Greek word for judgment seat is the word bema –

So we will stand before the bema seat of Christ –

And before the bema seat is where our works, our motives are going to be judged.

Did we do things in love or did we do them grudgingly?

Did we do things to get noticed / to anticipate a reward or did we do things unto the Lord.

And the scriptures tell us that it will be a trial of fire.

Everything we did according to the flesh – will be burned up.

Whatever survives the fire will be our reward.

Let's get back to the GWTJ

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.

Here we see that no one will be able to escape this judgment – all will be there, small and great.

And as the nonbeliever stands before God, a book will be opened and everything they have done will be in that book their entire live is going to be read back to him/her.

Every time they heard the Gospel and were moved by the Holy Spirit to repent and put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ – and they rejected it. It will all be there.

One of the thing we have to remember is that this will not be a trial – God has all the facts –

It is a sentence hearing.

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.

No one is going to be able to escape judgement –

Nonbelievers at the bottom of the sea – God is going to resurrect them and they will face the GWT judgment

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.

Just as the righteous are raised with bodies suited to spend eternity in the presence of God, the wicked are also given bodies suited to spend eternity away from God, in the torments of the lake of fire. The lake of fire is forever, it never ends.

Let's pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

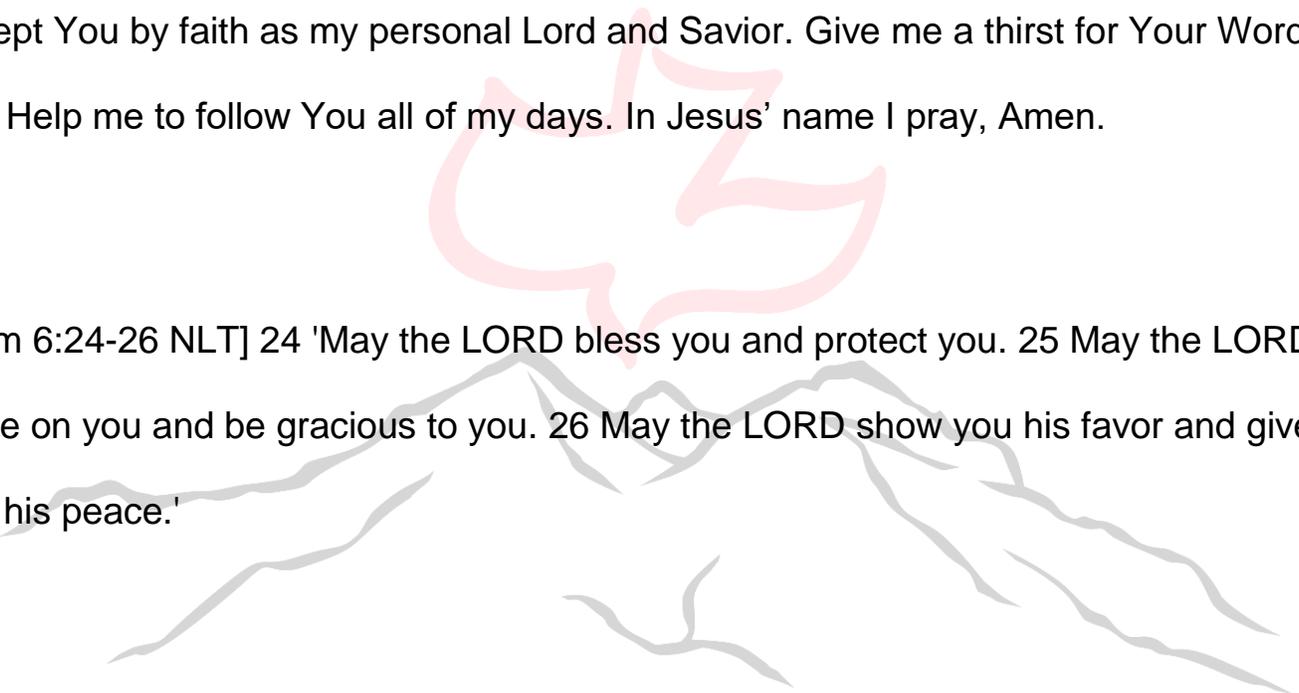
Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

[Num 6:24-26 NLT] 24 'May the LORD bless you and protect you. 25 May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you. 26 May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.'



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