

REVELATION – CHAPTER 20

The Binding of Satan – verses 1-3

Vs 1 John sees another angel,
(Rev 7:2; 8:3; 10:1; 14:6,8,9,15,17,18; 17:1; 18:1; 19:17)
operating at the command and in the authority of God.

This angel possesses the key to the abyss (bottomless pit).
(Rev 9:1,2,11; Lk 8:26-33 esp. vs 31; Rev 10:5-8)

Vs 2-3 The angel is empowered to perform 5 functions:

1. to lay hold of the dragon Rev 12:3-4
(the serpent of old Gen 3:1-7; devil, Satan)
2. bind him for a thousand years (with the great chain, vs 1)
NOTE
 - a. Is this the language of appearance?
How is a spiritual being bound by a chain?
 - b. The word translated "chain" is found in:
Mk 5:3; Acts 12:7; 28:20; 2 Tim 1:16
 - c. Spiritual chains – different words – are also found
elsewhere in the Bible. 2 Pet 2:4 with Jude 6
 - d. Picture – Satan is not merely restricted, but he is
rendered completely inactive.
 - e. Would not the thousand years referenced in verse 2 be
as literal as the same thousand years referenced in vs 6?
 - f. Consider the quantity of life when Satan is loose –
Tribulation period and Gog and Magog with life when he
is bound – Millennial Kingdom.
3. Throw him into the abyss.
4. Shut and seal the abyss – he is out of the picture.
5. Possibly release him after the Millennium. Rev 20:7

The Resurrection and Judgment of the Tribulation Believers – vs 4-6

Vs 4 Who are “they” who are sitting on thrones, who are granted the right to judge?

1. bond servants Rev 22:3-5; Rev 5:8-10
2. twenty four elders Rev 4:4
3. Apostles Lk 22:25-30; Matt 19:28

John also sees the Tribulation Believers who had been martyred during the Tribulation.

1. beheaded for their witness for Christ and the Word of God
2. had not worshipped the beast
 - a. not his image
 - b. neither had they received his mark
3. Rev 6:9; 12:11; 7:9-17

These come back to life Jn 5:29; 11:25
and reign with Him for 1000 years. 2 Tim 2:12

Vs 5-6 The statement of the completion of the “First Resurrection”

The following is taken from my notes “God’s Prophetic Program for the ages pg 13

VI. RESURRECTIONS

- A. All people everywhere from all time will be resurrected **1 Cor 15:21-28, 35-49; 2 Cor 5: 1-9!!**

Resurrection is not the same as restoration. In more than 40 New Testament references to resurrection, with the possible exception of **Lk 2:34**, it always refers to a literal resurrection, never in a spiritual or nonliteral sense, and has to do with the raising up of the physical body.

Dan 12:1-3; Jn 5:25-29; 1 Cor 15:12-58; Isa 26:19-21

- B. There are two kinds of resurrection in God's program:

1. **The Resurrection UNTO LIFE (First Resurrection) Lk 14:13-14 Phil 3:8-11**

The time order or sequence of the first resurrection is given as follows:

1 Cor 15:23

- a. Christ - **Matt 28:1-7; Heb 6:19-20; Jn 5:22; Heb 2:14-18**
- b. A handful of Old Testament believers - **Matt 27:50-53**
- c. The church prior to the tribulation - **1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-58**

d. Believing Israel at the end of the tribulation (all O.T. believers)
Job 14:13-15; Dan 12:9-13; Ezk 37:1-14 (May represent the Nation of Israel in 1948); Isa 26:19-21

**2. The Resurrection UNTO DAMNATION - GREAT WHITE THRONE
JUDGEMENT**

Rev 20:5-15

NOTE: This passage clearly teaches that there is a 1000 year gap between the First and the Second Resurrection. Other passages such as Dan 12:2 and Jn 5:28-29 refer to the truth that both the righteous and the wicked will be resurrected rather than the timing of those resurrections.

The "loosing" of Satan and the Final Revolt – vs 7-9

This final rebellion can only be appreciated when the context in which it occurs is remembered. For 1000 years man's experience can be summarized as follows:

1. Jerusalem will be the capital of the earth.

2. Peace will be the universal experience.

Isa 11

3. There will be justice for all.

4. The wicked will be dealt with.

5. The animal kingdom will become tame.

Revelation – chapter 20 continued

6. The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord.

7. All nations will serve Him.

8. The earth will be filled with the glory of the Lord.

9. No Satanic oppression or evil

10. For the period of 1000 years, the earth will experience the presence of God and His perfect, divine government.

11. Israel will be exalted and Gentiles will be blessed.

12. God's purpose for creating the Garden of Eden will be realized.

13. At the beginning of the reign all rebels will be purged out. Ezk 20:34-38

At the conclusion of the above experience, organized opportunity to express open rejection of God will become available.

The descendants of those who enter the kingdom age will make up this vast body of rebellious people.

This final battle is referred to as being spearheaded by Gog and Magog.

These two powers are mentioned in Ezk 38 and 39.

They appear to refer to two unrelated events which are separated by more than 1000 years.

Consider the following observations

GOG and MAGOG

- a. That which occurs after the Millennium Rev 20:7-9
- b. That which occurs prior to the Millennium Ezk 38-39
 - 1a. Satan is prominent
 - 1b. Satan is not mentioned

 - 2a. Participants will come from the four corners of the earth.
 - 2b. Participants will come from the north of Israel.
Ezk 38:6,15; 39:2
 - 3a. The number of soldiers will be beyond count.
 - 3b. Many nations will be represented in the battle.
Ezk 38:5, 22

 - 4a. Heaven and earth will disappear
Rev 20:11
 - 4b. There will be at least 7 months following the battle.
Ezk 39:9-16

 - 5a. The GWT, which necessitates the resurrection of all the lost, follows immediately after the battle.
Rev 20:11-15
Also the dead are said to be burned up!
 - 5b. Why bury the dead over a seven month period, Ezk 39:12-13, if they are going to be immediately raised from the dead when they are?

 - 6a. No time remains after.
 - 6b. Seven years remain after.

Ezk 39:9-10

7a. Israel was drawn to God 1000 years prior to the stated event.

Rom 11:26-27

7b. In Ezekiel, the battle is a catalyst which God will use to draw

Israel to Himself.

Ezk 39:7, 22-29

As seen above, the events after each battle are so different that two separate battles must be being spoken of!

In Revelation 20, we have very little information provided relating to that battle.

In Ezekiel 38 and 39, we have a great deal more information provided:

1. The invading armies – chapter 38

vs 3 Magog (Rosh) – Russia
 Mesheck - Moscow
 Tubal - Tobolsk

vs 5 Persia - Iran
 Ethiopia - Ethiopia
 Put - Lybya

vs 6 Gomer - Germany
 Beth – togarmah – Turkey

vs 13 Sheba – Arab states surrounding Israel
 Dedan – Arab states surrounding Israel
 Tarshish – Spain

2. The setting

> The invasion takes place at a time when Israel occupies the Land. Ezk 38:8

This re-gathering is described in Ezk 37:1-14.

It is a time in Israel's life when she will be back in the Land, yet be unsaved. (1948 – 2nd Advent).

> The anti-christ will be the leading force in the Revived Roman Empire and will provide Israel with a commitment to allow her to stay in the Land, setting the Arab-Israel confrontation concerning her right to be in the Land.

Dan 9:27

Isa 28:18 refers to the covenant as a "covenant of death"

and a “pact with Hell”.

At its beginning, Israel will experience a time of peace.

Ezk 38:11

3. Ezekiel further states that this invasion will occur in:
 - a. the latter years Ezk 38:8 – time prior to the last days
Deut 4:27-30; Dan 2:28; 8:23; 10:14
 - b. the last days Ezk 38:16 is related to the time of Israel’s salvation or Millennial age.
Isa 2:2-4; Micah 4:1-7

Will the battle take place before the Tribulation or in the First Half of the Tribulation?

Dwight Pentecost of Dallas Seminary offers the following as to how he sees the battle of Gog and Magog of Ezekiel 38 & 39 taking place:

1. Israel makes a covenant with the beast and occupies her land in a false security.
Dan 9:27; Ezk 38:8,11
2. Because of a desire for spoil at the expense of an easy prey, the king of the north, satanically motivated, invades Palestine.
Ezk 38:11; Joel 2:1-21; Isa 10:12; 30:31-33; 31:8-9
3. The beast breaks his covenant with Israel and moves into the Land.
Dan 11:41-45
4. The king of the north is destroyed on the mountains of Israel.
Ezk 39:1-4
5. The Land of Palestine is occupied by the armies of the beast.
Dan 11:45
6. At this time the great coalition of nations takes place that forms one government under the beast.
Ps 2:1-3; Rev 13:7
7. The kings of the east are brought in against the armies of the beast (Rev 16:12) as a result of the desolution of the government of Gog.
8. When the nations of the earth are gathered together around Jerusalem, Zech 4:1-3 and the Valley of Jehosaphat Joel 3:2, the Lord returns

to destroy all Gentile world powers so that He might rule the nations Himself.

This is further described in:

Zech 12:1-9; 14:1-4

Isa 33:1 – 34:17; 63:1-6; 66:15-16; Jer 25:27-33; Rev 20:7-10

(taken from Bib Sac 114:456 (Oct 57) p 347)

Vs 10

The doom of Satan

1. The deceiver – who was first deceived himself when he launched his career to be like God Isa 14:14, and then deceived Eve in the Garden.
2. Satan joins the beast and the false prophet who have been in this fire for 1000 years.
The Word of God clearly declares that death is not annihilation and that the wicked exist forever in torment. (See my notes on Hell.)

Vs 11

The Great White Throne

Our first view of “a throne” is found in Rev 4:2.

It is mentioned more than 30 times in this book.

This throne is probably different and Jesus Christ is probably the One sitting upon it.

Jn 5:22; Matt 19:28; 25:31; 2 Cor 5:10

The majesty of the One sitting on the throne causes the present Heaven and earth to flee away.

(In Rev 21:1, John sees a New Heaven and a New Earth replace the first.)

The end of this present world is found in many places in the Bible: Matt 24:35; Mk 13:31; Lk 16:17; 21:33; 2 Pet 3:10

Vs 12-13

The Resurrection of the Lost

These are those passed over at the times of the First Resurrection.

Those raised will come from all walks of life and degrees of greatness. Their time has come Heb 9:27.

There is also a judgment of works – their last conviction, no propitiation appropriated by them, and hard work on their part to earn their level in the Lake, all become factors in their eternal destiny.

Overview of the scriptural revelation of God declaring the importance of works in eternity.

As to death and Hades giving up the dead which are in them – see “Where do we go when we die”.

Vs 14-15

The Lake of Fire

All who died physically and were in Hades, the intermediate state, are now cast into the Lake of fire.

The fact that their name was not found in the Book of Life is what sets their destiny in the Lake.

God’s means of being propitiated was not appropriated by these individuals.

This, and this alone, is what determines whether an individual ends up in Heaven or Hell; all others are secondary.