

## The Book of Revelation Study 93

### *Revelation 20:1-10 (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

<sup>3</sup> *and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

<sup>4</sup> *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

<sup>5</sup> *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

<sup>7</sup> *When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

<sup>8</sup> *and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore.*

<sup>9</sup> *And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them.*

<sup>10</sup> *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Imagine a world dominated by righteousness and goodness, a world where there is no injustice, where no court ever renders an unjust verdict, and where everyone is treated fairly.

Imagine a world where what is true, right, and noble marks every aspect of life, including interpersonal relations, commerce, education, and government.

Imagine a world where there is complete, total, enforced, and permanent peace, where joy abounds and good health prevails, so much so that people live for hundreds of years.

Imagine a world where the curse is removed, where the environment is restored to the pristine purity of the Garden of Eden, where peace reigns even in the animal kingdom, so that the, *"wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together and a little boy will lead them: (Isa. 11:6)*

Imagine a world ruled by a perfect, glorious Ruler, who instantly and firmly deals with sin.

Humanly speaking, that description may seem far-fetched, a utopian fantasy, that could never be reality. Yet it accurately describes conditions during the future early kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The restored and radically reconstructed earth of the millennial kingdom will constitute paradise regained. The thousand year reign of the Savior over the earth is the divinely planned and promised culmination of all of redemptive history and the realization of the hope of all the saints of all the ages.

The millennial kingdom is called by many names in Scripture.

*“The regeneration” (Matt 19:28)*

*“Times of refreshing” (Acts 3:19)*

*“The period of restoration of all things” (Acts 3:21)*

*“An administration suitable to the fullness of the times” (Eph 1:10)*

Because the teachings on the Kingdom is throughout the Old and New Testament, we could with justice call it, “The Book of the Coming Kingdom of God”

God’s kingdom may be broadly defined as the sphere in which He reigns.

Now let’s look at verses 1-3 of Chapter 20

## THE REMOVAL OF SATAN

*Revelation 20:1-3(NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.*

<sup>2</sup> *And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;*

<sup>3</sup> *and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.*

The first matter for the King’s attention as He sets up His kingdom is the confinement of the chief rebel. The removal of:

*2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)*

*“the god of this world”*

*Ephesians 2:2 (NASB)*

<sup>2</sup> *the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.”*

By removing him it will dramatically change the world.

By this time, God will have destroyed all human rebels.

Those who survived the Tribulation judgments will have been executed at Armageddon; (*Chp. 19:11-21*) or the goat judgment of (*Matt 25:41-46*).

The ringleaders of the worldwide rebellion, the beast (Antichrist) and the false prophet, will have been thrown into the lake of fire (*19:20*)

The final step in preparation for the kingdom will be the removal of Satan and his demon hosts, so that Christ reigns without the opposition of supernatural enemies.

Now the identity of the **angel** whom John saw **coming down from heaven** to bind Satan is not disclosed, but he may be Michael the archangel, the great adversary of Satan;

*Revelation 12:7-9 (NASB)*

<sup>7</sup> *And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war,*

<sup>8</sup> *and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.*

<sup>9</sup> *And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.*

**Daniel 10:11-12 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.

Whoever the angel is, he possesses great power. He is sent to earth with a specific agenda:

To seize Satan for the thousand year duration of the kingdom, bind him, cast him into the abyss and seal it, and then release him at the end of the thousand years.

The word **abyss** (*abussos*) appears seven times in Revelations and always in reference to the temporary place of incarceration for certain demons.

The abyss is not their final place of punishment; the lake of fire is;

**Matthew 25:41 (NASB)**

<sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Nevertheless it is a place of torment to which the demons fear to be sent;

**Luke 8:26-33 (NASB)**

<sup>26</sup> Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

<sup>27</sup> And when He came out onto the land, He was met by a man from the city who was possessed with demons; and who had not put on any clothing for a long time, and was not living in a house, but in the tombs.

<sup>28</sup> Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me."

<sup>29</sup> For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.

<sup>30</sup> And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.

<sup>31</sup> They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission.

<sup>33</sup> And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

The prisoners in the abyss are among the most vile and evil of all demons and includes;

**1 Peter 3:19-20 (NASB)**

<sup>19</sup> in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison,

<sup>20</sup> who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah,

Some of these worst demons will never be released, but they will be transferred directly from their temporary incarceration in the abyss to their permanent place of punishment, the lake of fire.

**Isaiah 24:21-22 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> So it will happen in that day, That the LORD will punish the host of heaven on high, And the kings of the

earth on earth.

<sup>22</sup> *They will be gathered together Like prisoners in the dungeon, And will be confined in prison; And after many days they will be punished.*

Other demons sentenced to the **abyss** will be released at the fifth trumpet judgment to torment sinners  
(*Chp. 9:1-12*)

Now the key given to the angel by God signifies his delegated authority;  
He has the power to open the **abyss** and then to shut it after casting Satan inside;

The metaphor of binding demons with a chain also appears in *Jude 6*.

*Jude 1:6 (NASB)*

<sup>6</sup> *And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds(chains) under darkness for the judgment of the great day,*

The chain is a great one because of Satan's greatness and power as the highest created being;

*Ezekiel 28:13-15 (NASB)*

<sup>13</sup> *"You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared.*

<sup>14</sup> *"You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

<sup>15</sup> *"You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.*

The angel **laid hold** of Satan, who is unmistakably identified by the same four titles given him in *Chapter 12 verse 9*

First he is called **the dragon**, a title given him twelve times in Revelation.  
It emphasizes his bestial nature, ferociousness, and oppressive cruelty.

Secondly he is called **the serpent of old**, and this hearkens back to the Garden of Eden and Satan's temptation of Eve.

Thirdly, he is also called **the devil** (*Diabolos*) which means "slanderer," or "malicious gossip" certainly a suitable title for the accuser of our brethren. He is a malignant liar, in fact he is the father of lies;

*John 8:44 (NASB)*

<sup>44</sup> *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*

Fourthly, he is called Satan (*Satanas*) Satan and its Hebrew root (*satan*) is used fifty three times in Scripture. Both words mean "adversary," since Satan opposes God, Chris, and all believers.

The length of time for which Satan will be **bound** is defined as a **thousand years**, the first of six precise and important references to the duration of the Millennium.

When Satan is bound for a **thousand years** it says that he cannot **deceive the nations any longer**. His activity in the world will not be merely restricted or restrained, but totally curtailed; He will not be permitted to influence the world in any way

As will be explained later that does not mean that the living people in the Millennium will be incapable of sinning.

Amazingly, a vast part of the population, born of the believers who alone entered the kingdom will in that perfect environment love their sin and reject the King.

They will be judged with a rod of iron, and those who engage in open rebellion under Satan's leadership when **the thousand years are completed** and Satan **must be released for a short time** will be utterly destroyed.

## THE REIGN OF THE SAINTS

*Revelation 20:4-6 (NASB)*

<sup>4</sup> *Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

<sup>5</sup> *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.*

<sup>6</sup> *Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.*

With Satan, his demon hosts and all God-rejecting sinners out of the way, the millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness will be established.

The supreme leader in that kingdom will, of course, be the lord Jesus Christ. He alone is "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords;

*Luke 1:32 (NASB)*

<sup>32</sup> *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;*

*Revelation 19:16 (NASB)*

<sup>16</sup> *And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."*

Yet He has graciously promised that His saints will reign with Him.

They will rule subordinately over every aspect of life in the kingdom, and being glorified and perfected they will perfectly carry out His will.

In this vision John sees the panorama of God's people resurrected, rewarded, and reigning with Christ.

He saw **thrones**, symbolizing both judicial and regal authority, **and God's people sat on them, and judgment was given to them.**

The glorified saints will both enforce God's will and adjudicate disputes.

There are several suggestions that have been given as to who these are who sit on the thrones. But they can best be identified by determining who God promised would reign.

*Daniel 7:27 (NASB)*

<sup>27</sup> ~'Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him.'

Here the reign is given *"to the people of the saints of the Highest One"* this is a promise that the Old Testament saints would reign during the millennium.

Jesus promised the apostles and others who have followed Him;

*Matthew 19:28-29 (NASB)*

<sup>28</sup> And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

<sup>29</sup> "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life.

*1 Corinthians 6:2 (NASB)*

<sup>2</sup> Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? If the world is judged by you, are you not competent to constitute the smallest law courts?

*2 Timothy 2:12 (NASB)*

<sup>12</sup> If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

*Revelation 5:10 (NASB)*

<sup>10</sup> "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

This present passage now introduces the last group of saints who will reign with Christ in His kingdom. In his vision continued, John saw *the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand.*

These are the martyred believers from the Tribulation.

*Pelekizo* beheaded literally means "to cut off with an axe," and is a figure of speech meaning "to put to death" or "to execute."

The empire of Antichrist exterminated Tribulation saints *"because of their testimony of Jesus, and because they faithfully proclaimed the word of God and because they had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark of their forehead and on their hand."*

Because the Tribulation saints were faithful to the death, evidencing their true salvation, **they too came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years**

**Then John adds the parenthetical footnote that the rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed.**

These are the unbelieving dead of all ages, whose resurrections to judgment and damnation is described in *verses 11-15*

For clarification;

John calls the resurrection of the saints from all ages **the first resurrection.**

So the later resurrection, is that of the dead unbelievers.

Those in the first resurrection are said to be **blessed and holy.**

**The first blessing here is that the second death has no power over them.**

**The second blessing is that they will be priests of God and of Christ.**

**And the final blessing is that they will reign with Him for a thousand years.**

The rule of Christ and His saints will be universal

*Psalm 2:6-8 (NASB)*

<sup>6</sup> *"But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."*

<sup>7</sup> *"I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.*

<sup>8</sup> *'Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.*

It will be absolute

*Psalm 2:9 (NASB)*

<sup>9</sup> *'You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.'*

And it will be righteous

*Isaiah 11:3-5 (NASB)*

<sup>3</sup> *And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;*

<sup>4</sup> *But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.*

<sup>5</sup> *Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.*

Spiritually it will be that during this time of rule, that the remnant of Israel will come to Him and worship Him.

*Jeremiah 30:5-8 (NASB)*

<sup>5</sup> *"For thus says the LORD, 'I have heard a sound of terror, Of dread, and there is no peace.*

<sup>6</sup> *'Ask now, and see If a male can give birth. Why do I see every man With his hands on his loins, as a woman in childbirth? And why have all faces turned pale?*

<sup>7</sup> *'Alas! for that day is great, There is none like it; And it is the time of Jacob's distress, But he will be saved from it.*

<sup>8</sup> *'It shall come about on that day,' declares the LORD of hosts, 'that I will break his yoke from off their neck and will tear off their bonds; and strangers will no longer make them their slaves.*

*Romans 11:26 (NASB)*

<sup>26</sup> *and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."*

It will be the time that the nation will be restored to their land that God gave to them.

*Genesis 13:14-15 (NASB)*

<sup>14</sup> *The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the*

*place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward;*  
<sup>15</sup> *for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.*

*Genesis 15:18 (NASB)*

<sup>18</sup> *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:*

It will be a time when the Gentile nations will worship the King.

*Micah 4:2 (NASB)*

<sup>2</sup> *Many nations will come and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD And to the house of the God of Jacob, That He may teach us about His ways And that we may walk in His paths." For from Zion will go forth the law, Even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

*Zechariah 14:16 (NASB)*

<sup>16</sup> *Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.*

The millennial reign of Christ and the saints will also be marked by the presence of righteousness and peace, and joy.

Physically it will be a time when the curse is lifted, when food is plentiful, and when there will be physical health and wellbeing, leading to long life.

Thus we have the removal of Satan and his hosts and the establishment of a kingdom ruled by Jesus Christ and His saints. It will be a time when Israel will come to know her true Savior and King.