

The Book Of Revelation Study 94

Revelation 20:7-8 (NASB77)

⁷ *And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,
⁸ 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.*

We have been talking about the one thousand year reign of Christ, the Millennium, where the Lord will sit on the throne of His father David and rule the earth with a rod of iron.

But when that time is over, Satan will be released

THE RETURN OF SATAN

Revelation 20:7 (NASB77)

⁷ *And when the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison,*

As previously noted, Satan and his demon hordes will be imprisoned in the abyss for the duration of the Millennium, in which the Lord Jesus Christ will rule with unopposed sovereignty.

They will not be allowed to interfere in the affairs of the kingdom in any way.

Satan's binding will end, however, **when the thousand years are completed** and he is **released from his prison** to lead a final rebellion of sinners.

To review briefly, Scripture teaches that no unsaved people will enter the kingdom.

Only the redeemed from among the Jewish and Gentile survivors of the Tribulation will go into the kingdom in their normal, physical bodies.

Revelation 12:6 (NASB77)

⁶ *And the woman fled into the wilderness where she •had a place prepared by God, so that there she might be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.*

Revelation 12:13-17 (NASB77)

¹³ *And when the dragon saw that he was thrown down to the earth, he persecuted the woman who gave birth to the male child.*

¹⁴ *And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, in order that she might fly into the wilderness to her place, where she •was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.*

¹⁵ *And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.*

¹⁶ *And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth.*

¹⁷ *And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.*

Isaiah 60:21 (NASB77)

²¹ "Then all your people will be righteous; They will possess the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.

Romans 11:26 (NASB77)

²⁶ and thus all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, " THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB."

Revelation 7:9-17 (NASB77)

⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands;

¹⁰ and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, " Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

¹¹ And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

¹² saying, " Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

¹³ And one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and from where have they come?"

¹⁴ And I said to him, "My lord, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵ "For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne shall spread His tabernacle over them.

¹⁶ " They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun beat down on them, nor any heat;

¹⁷ for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

This is the perfect environment and social conditions of the Millennium, coupled with the lengthened life spans of those physically alive will cause their children to proliferate.

Isaiah 65:20 (NASB77)

²⁰ "No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, Or an old man who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of one hundred And the one who does not reach the age of one hundred Shall be thought accursed.

Though the initial inhabitants of the millennial kingdom will all be redeemed, they will still possess a sinful human nature.

And as all parents have done since the Fall, they will pass that sin nature on to their offspring.

Each successive generation throughout the thousand years will be made up of sinners in need of salvation.

Many will come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But amazingly, despite the personal rule of Christ on earth, despite the most moral society the world will ever know, many other will love their sin and reject Him.

Romans 8:7 (NASB77)

⁷ because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so;

Even the utopian conditions of the Millennium will not change the sad reality of human depravity.

As they did during His incarnational presence on earth, sinners will refuse the grace and reject the Lordship of the King of all the earth.

That is not surprising since even the perfect conditions of the Garden of Eden were not sufficient to keep sinless Adam and Eve from rebelling against God.

The issue regarding salvation is never lack of information; it is the love of sin.

Romans 1:18-20 (NASB77)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

John 3:19 (NASB77)

¹⁹ "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil.

Those who openly rebel will face swift judgment, including the withholding of rain on their land;

Zechariah 14:16-19 (NASB77)

¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.

¹⁸ And if the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the LORD smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

¹⁹ This will be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of all the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

But enough unrepentant sinners will be alive at the end of the Millennium for Satan to lead a worldwide rebellion.

When Satan is loosed, he will provide the cohesive supernatural leadership needed to bring to the surface all the latent sin and rebellion left in the universe.

He will pull together all the rebel, revealing the true character and intent of those Christ rejecting sinners and making it evident that God's judgment of them is just.

Satan's desperate wickedness and violent hatred of God and Christ will not be altered by his thousand years of imprisonment in the abyss.

When he is released, he will immediately set about fomenting his final act of rebellion.

THE REVOLT OF SOCIETY

Revelation 20:8-10 (NASB77)

⁸ *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.*

⁹ *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.*

¹⁰ *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.*

At the end of his thousand year imprisonment, Satan will come out to deceive the nations.

As noted above, Satan's imprisonment cannot alter his God hating nature.

In fact, he will hate Christ more than ever.

And as also noted, Satan will find fertile soil in which to sow his seeds of rebellion.

Many unsaved descendants of those who entered the millennial kingdom in their physical bodies (all of whom were redeemed) will love their sin and reject Christ.

They will be as unmoved by the peace, joy, and righteousness of the Millennium as sinners were by the devastating judgments of the Tribulation.

The actual strategy and method of Satan's deception is not revealed, but it will succeed in duping the unregenerate people of the world into revolting against the Lord, however, all of this will fit within God's purpose, which as noted above is to manifest His justice when He destroys the rebels.

Satan's actions are always under God's sovereign control, and his gathering together of these wicked rebels will be no exception.

Satan will collect the deceived nations from the four corners of the earth, an expression referring not to a flat earth but of the four main points of the compass; north, south, east, and west.

In other words, the rebels will come from all over the globe.

John gives these enemies of the King of kings the symbolic title **Gog and Magog**, naming them after the invasion force that will assault Israel during the Tribulation (Ezek 38-39)

The name **Gog** appears to be used here as a general title for an enemy of God's people (the Septuagint uses it to translate "Agag" in Num 24:7).

The name **Gog**, here then, describes the final Antichrist of the Tribulation. The human leader of Satan's forces.

The term **Magog**, is used here to describe the sinful rebels from all the nations who will gather together for the final war in human history.

Notice, the number of the rebels, John says they were as the sands of the seashore.

This is a figure of speech used in scripture to describe a vast, uncountable multitude.

Genesis 22:17 (NASB77)

¹⁷ *indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.*

Joshua 11:4 (NASB77)

⁴ *And they came out, they and all their armies with them, as many people as the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.*

1 Samuel 13:5 (NASB77)

⁵ *Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven.*

Hebrews 11:12 (NASB77)

¹² *therefore, also, there was born of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants **AS THE STARS OF HEAVEN IN NUMBER, AND INNUMERABLE AS THE SAND WHICH IS BY THE SEASHORE.***

These verses show us how it was used.

As previously noted, the ideal conditions of health, prosperity, safety, and peace that will prevail during the Millennium, coupled with the long life spans of its inhabitants, will lead to a massive population explosion. Incredibly, vast numbers of those people will join Satan in his final act of rebellion against God.

The earth's topography will have been drastically reshaped by the catastrophic events of the Tribulation. That will allow the rebel forces to come **up on the broad plain of the earth** and surround the **camp of the saints and the beloved city**.

Camp is used six times in Acts to describe a Roman military barrack.

The saints will be encamped around the **beloved city of Jerusalem**, which is the place of Messiah's throne and the center of the millennial world.

They will be enjoying the glorious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ when the attack comes.

Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier, the "battle" will in reality be an execution.

As the rebel forces moved in for the attack, **fire came down from heaven and devoured them**.

They will be swiftly and totally exterminated.

Fire down from heaven is often the way God judges sinners.

Satan's forces will be physically killed, and their souls will go into the realm of punishment, awaiting their final sentencing to eternal hell, which will take place shortly.

And their leader, **the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**.

There he will join his cronies, **the beast and the false prophet**, who by that time will have been in that place of torment for a thousand years.

Note, the fact that those human beings are still there after that time refutes the false doctrine of annihilationism

Hell is a place of both mental;

Daniel 12:2 (NASB77)

² *"And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.*

Matthew 8:12 (NASB77)

¹² *but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

And of physical torment;

Matthew 25:41 (NASB77)

⁴¹ *"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;*

Mark 9:43-44 (NASB77)

⁴³ *"And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,*

⁴⁴ *[where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.]*

Luke 16:23-24 (NASB77)

²³ *"And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

²⁴ *"And he cried out and said, ' Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.'*

Those sentenced to this terrible place will be tormented day and night.

There will not be a moment's relief forever and forever.

This same phrase is used, (forever and forever) to speak of Christ's eternity, and the duration of Christ's reign.

Unbelievers will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Revelation 14:10-11 (NASB77)

¹⁰ *he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.*

¹¹ *"And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

Jesus taught that the punishment of the wicked is as eternal as the eternal life of the righteous;

Matthew 25:46 (NASB77)

⁴⁶ *"And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

He also taught that hell is a place of "unquenchable fire";

Mark 9:43 (NASB77)

⁴³ **"And if your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire,**

He said it is where their worm never dies;

Mark 9:48 (NASB77)

⁴⁸ **where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.**

We are taught that the destruction of the wicked in hell stretches throughout all eternity.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (NASB77)

⁹ **And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,**

Believers are already citizens of God's kingdom;

Philippians 3:20 (NASB77)

²⁰ **For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

Colossians 1:13-14 (NASB77)

¹³ **For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**
¹⁴ **in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12 (NASB77)

¹¹ **just as you know how we were exhorting and encouraging and imploring each one of you as a father would his own children,**

¹² **so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.**

We are blessed to be in fellowship with the King.

And we will have a glorious future, and a wonderful inheritance that is, "imperishable and undefiled which will not fade away" (1Pet 1:4)