

Great White Throne

Revelation 20

1 And I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he should not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

Abyss-bottomless pit –*demoniac-legion* Lk 8:31 *And they were entreating Him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Locust 9:1 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him.—Center of earth?. Satan-dragon-serpent*-devil first cast out heaven 12:9 *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....* now cast out of earth into the abyss—we see him again after 1000 yr reign—abyss holding cell

A-millennial (no 1000 yr) Say Satan bound at 1st coming--chained by Cross & resurrection. *Dr M. Gray 'if Satan is already chained his chain is too long'. 1Pet 5:8 'your adversary the devil prowls about like roaring lion.....*

But Pre-millennial view (**Christ returns 1000 yr begins Satan bound**) The angel **1** lays hold, **2** binds 1000 yrs, **3** casts abyss, **4** shuts up--locks down **5** seals over, neutralizing activities, **6** let loose after 1000 yrs = **Pre-mill view**

A-millennium view is flawed & weak because Satan is on the loose & working. **Lk 22:31** sift as wheat, **Acts 5:3** A/S fill heart to lie, **2Cor 4:3-4** blinds minds, **1Cor 11:14** transforms into angel of light to deceive, **Eph 2:2** prince of power of air, **1Thes 2:18** hindered Paul, **2Tim 2:26** takes captive to do his will, **1Pet 5:8** roaring lion, devouring. The devil is more active today worldwide than at any other time (**he knows he only has a short time left 12:12**) – Work while day darkness comes when no man can work—*“In last days... seducing spirits and doctrine of demons” 1Tim 4:1*

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In Millennial kingdom when Christ reigns, Satan is bound—no temptation, no sin, no spiritual warfare...R, peace & joy fill land. 6x's mill (1000 yr) :1-7.

Apocalyptic writers prior to Christ anticipated this—**Jude ref Enoch Book of secrets of Enoch 32:2; 33:1-2** History of man will run for 7000 years, the last millennium of which will be one of great blessedness & will precede the 8th millennium which is eternity...**According R.H. Charles 19th C Irish scholar, theologian expert & Apocryphal writer**—As the world was made in 6 days, so its history will be accomplished in 6000 years, & as the 6 days of creation were followed by one of rest, so the 6000 years of world's history would be followed by a rest of 1000 years. On its close would begin the 8th eternal day of blessedness when time should be no more.

So before NT & book of Revelation there was common belief of 1000 yr reign--millennium—all numbers in Revelation are literal not figurative.

Also Jewish tradition of [Yahweh](#) restoring the nation **Hosea 6:1,2**...A time will come when His covenant people will acknowledge their sins & seek redemption & restoration as they cry *'Come let us return to the LORD; for He has torn us, that he may heal us; He has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.*

Interesting prophecy w/ end times application. It has been about 2000 years since Israel existed as a sovereign nation. **2 Peter 3:8 says a thousand years is as a day to the Lord and a day is as a thousand years.** Using this method two days would be 2000 years thus we've seen Israel **torn, struck down** for 2000 years & now in our generation seeing the nation revived. In the 3rd day 3rd millennia he will raise Israel up to live in His sight—or Messiah's reign over Israel as promised, 1000 years---Slaves in OT served 6 years & 7th year set free. Earth under Satan 6K—7K close.

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4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of the 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 upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

Who are these? Jesus & all believes OT & NT – 5:10 we saw 24 elders who are to reign w/ Christ, representing OT (12 tribes-Jewish believers) & NT (12 apostles-believers in Christ). Also in view are tribulation saints who are rewarded by reigning w/ Christ—important to note all who believe & are Christ's are raised & ready to reign w/ Him. 1000 yrs separate these from wicked dead. They raised & judged at end of 1000 yrs at great white throne

Dan 12:2 *“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.*

Paul to Felix *“there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked Acts 24:15*

5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. 6 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.

Jesus is called *First fruits from the dead 1Cor 15:20* when He rose, other OT saints followed **Mat 27:52,53** *The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. **isn't that uncle Ezra--didn't we just bury him last week?**—proof we follow*

As millennium begins tribulation saints are raised to enjoy kingdom & reign w/ us—all these are called *first resurrection*. Not one event—Jesus, saints w/ Him, Rapture of church, tribulation saints **all** 1st resurrection. Those who will be raised to go into Millennium have now all been raised & will be w/ Lord eternally.

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Second death? Is eternal separation from God in lake of fire. *If you are Born once you'll die twice but if you are born twice you'll die once.* After 1000 (Latin mille) year (annum) reign of Christ there will be another or 2nd resurrection. This will be of wicked dead, judged at Great White Throne as books opened & cast into lake of fire, this is 2nd death—never born again.

During millennium there will be both glorified saints (us in eternal bodies-incorruptible, undefiled, not fade away) & non-glorified people (bodies of flesh & blood) yet w/o opportunity to choose evil or rebel.

Longevity restored *Is 65:20 No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a 100 years old, 22 for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be 25 lion lay down w/ lamb they feed together*

Utopia where lion lay w/ lamb illus Moscow Zoo-70's Soviet 'peace offensive' at it's height--to prove point exhibit at Moscow Zoo a lion & lamb living peacefully in same cage. Tourists amazed proof of possibility of peace. One reporter not convinced. After hours came talked to zookeeper. "Tell me truth" – 'no big deal, we put new lamb in cage each morning'

Non-glorified people, marry & children during 1000 years as God intends w/ no opportunity to rebel--only benevolent dictatorship-Theocracy-God rule

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. 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.

Paradise lost in Genesis is paradise regained in Revelation Jesus will Reign w/ capital in Jerusalem. *Is 2:3... "Come, let's go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; So that He may teach us about His ways, And that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go out from Zion And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

There will be no war *2:4 And they will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning knives. Nation will not lift up a sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.*

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Is 11; Ps 72 Describes Messiah reign--Righteous reign of Christ as God fulfills covenant to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob **Isaiah 2:1-5; 4:1-6; 11:1-9; 12:1-6; 30:18-26; 35:1-10** But at end 1000 yrs Satan is let loose, out of Abyss w/ renewed zeal to deceive—makes his final stand on earth to seduce the repopulated earth to rebel—Those born during 1000 year reign of Christ never had free will to rebel or choose evil, only for good & Lord. **Robots?**

Hoste (**Director China Inland Mission**) - The Golden age of the kingdom will last a 1000 years, during which righteousness will reign, & peace, prosperity, & the knowledge of God be universally enjoyed. But this will not entail universal conversion & all profession must be tested....Will not a 1000 years under the beneficent sway of Christ & the manifested glory of God suffice to render men immune to Satan's temptations, will they not have radically changed for the better & become by the altered conditions of life & the absence or Satanic temptations children of God & lovers of His will? Alas! It will be proved once more that man whatever his advantages & environment, apart from the grace of God & new birth, remains at heart only evil & at enmity w/ God.

Why Satan let loose? **1**Show mans sin nature not environment but a choice even w/ ideal state. **2** Reveals all knowing nature of God in affairs of man & uses Satan to expose evil in man's heart. **3** Shows Satan for who he is—eternally evil inside & out. **4** Just punishment after 1000 yrs paradise.

Gog and Magog not same as Ez 38,39 which happens when Russia, Iran and confederacy of Nations (**muslim**) descend on Jerusalem to take a spoil & God destroys on hills of Israel. The 2 event separated by at least 1000 yrs

Baines-Gog & Magog are here used in a wider sense than in Ez & their invasion differs in time & details, tho agreeing in character & object. Ez predicts an incursion by a great northern power called Gog, which from certain geographical indications, is easily id w/ Russia. In the Rev however, Gog & Magog are used to designate the nations, not merely from the north but from all parts, the 4 quarters of the earth. Again, the invasion named by Ez is at the beginning of Christ's reign; that in the Rev at the end. The hosts in Ez, too, fall on the mts & their bodies are buried; whereas the forces assembled in the Rev are devoured by fire from heaven. The judgment is instantaneous. Christ's reign is a reign of righteousness, during which evil is not tolerate as now, but promptly crushed.

These verses expose the myth that a person is the product of their environment – no everyone is responsible for their own actions & choices

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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.

The nature of Satan is a deceiver *Devil-diabolos*--accuser, slanderer. *Satan* adversary, opposer—*Lake of fire* final *'resting place'* but no rest--a place of torment—not annihilation as cults claim but horrible eternal existence.

11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

Throne 30 times in Rev & here *'great'* white throne--so overwhelming & awesome heaven & earth fled--Christ on throne to judge *Jn 5:22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,*— End of 1000 year reign in view—present earth to be destroyed & New Heaven and New Earth **21:1**

2Pet 3:10-13 NJK 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. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Scientist say the Universe is like a giant clock that is winding down--Sun loses 4 million metric tons of mass per second

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

Wicked dead raised & judged-*standing position* place of expectancy--final sentencing--*appointed once to die but after this the judgment Heb 9:27—"I'm a good person"*

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Lk 8:17 *NLB For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all. **Matt 12:36** But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment.*

Works judged, **no salvation**, only determines degree of punishment— *Mat 11:24 “Nevertheless I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.”* Those in Hades--Millennial rebels followed Satan--all unrighteous dead raised & judged-- individuals one by one are sentenced.

Books opened Jn 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.

*14 And death and Hades were thrown into the **lake** of fire. This is the **second** death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the **book** of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Lake of fire which is *second death* in contrast to first resurrection –wicked and righteous permanently assigned to eternal destinies.

Book of life – All living? Wicked deleted--blank space where could have been name—cast *lake of fire*, a real place not *allegorical* but literal--2 destinies a real heaven & a real hell.

Dt 30:19.... I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants,