

# The Book of Revelation

## Chapter 20

### Introductory Notes

- In this chapter we cover the Millennial Kingdom and the Final Judgment.
- Very little detail is given to the Millennial Kingdom in this chapter, as the focus is on the fates of Satan and his followers.

### Outline

- Satan Imprisoned - vs. 1-3
- The Millennial Kingdom - vs. 4-6
- Satan's Final War - vs. 7-9
- The Final Judgment - vs. 10-15

### Notes

- vs. 1 - bottomless pit - same as in 9:1, not the lake of fire we just saw in 20:10. This appears to be a prison of sorts for demons.
- vs. 2-3 - two important points in these verses: (1) Satan is imprisoned and not allowed to work for (2) a 1,000-year period.
- vs. 4 - they sat upon them - John does not here identify who is on the thrones, but I think Believers of all ages are included. See II Timothy 2:12 for one example.
- vs. 4 - judgment - Matthew 25:31-46 describes nations being judged at Christ's Second Coming, and Ezekiel 20:33-38 describes Israel being judged.
- vs. 4 - souls of them that were beheaded - I think the special emphasis of the Tribulation martyrs is further proof of Satan's failure and defeat.
- vs. 5-6 - two resurrections are described in this chapter. The First is a resurrection of the righteous at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom, the Second is a resurrection of the wicked that takes place after the Millennial Kingdom.
- vs. 7 – Satan is loosed from his prison at the close of the Millennium.
  - J. Vernon McGee - "Apparently Satan is released at the end of the Millennium to reveal that the ideal conditions of the kingdom, under the personal reign of Christ, do not change the human heart. This reveals the enormity of the enmity of man against God. Scripture is accurate when it describes the heart as 'desperately wicked' and incurably so. Man is totally depraved. The loosing of Satan at the end of the 1000 years proves it."
- vs. 8 - Gog and Magog - There is great debate about who or what these are, but it is unclear at best. Many today point to this as Russia. See also Ezekiel 28:2.
- vs. 8 - the number - an innumerable number of unsaved in rebellion against Christ.

- A.C. Gaebelein: “And the Gentile nations in the beginning of the millennium will also be converted. However, the human conditions of the will continue. The nations are not in a glorified state. Marriage will continue. Children will be born during the millennium. Indeed the earth will be populated as never before.... No every child born during the millennium of the converted nations comes into the world the same as the children in the present age, it is still true, conceived and born in sin. And it is equally true, they must be born again.”
- vs. 9 - The Final Battle
- vs. 10 - lake of fire and brimstone - refer back to 19:20. This is the final destination for those that reject Christ.
- vs. 11 - The Great White Throne judgment. It is the final condemnation of the Lost, who are here part of the second resurrection alluded to in vs. 6.
- vs. 11 - earth and the heaven fled away - compare to II Peter 3:10-11. This world, broken by sin, is destroyed by a holy God.
- vs. 12 - the dead, small and great - this is every unbeliever from every era.
- vs. 13 - “judged... according to their works” - While works have nothing do with salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9 for example) they are still important to God in reward for the believers and also here in punishment for the unbelievers.
- vs. 14 - the second death - you are either born twice (John 3:3) or die twice!
- vs. 15 – the most sobering truth in Scripture.

## **Quick Notes on the Millennial Kingdom**

- Satan is bound for 1,000 years - Revelation 20:1-3
- Christ establishes the kingdom in Jerusalem - Zechariah 14:4-11
- The saved rule and reign with Christ - Revelation 20:4,6
- The earth is in an Eden-like state - Isaiah 65:18-25
- The promises to Israel are fulfilled - II Samuel 7:10-13, Isaiah 11