

Come Follow Me
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Week 53
Revelation 15-22

We have come to the end of the New Testament. This week we will be studying the concluding chapters of the book of Revelation. There are a lot of amazing things that John saw in this vision.

In Chapter 20 he tells us about the Millennial reign, one thousand years of peace where the adversary has no power on earth. We learn about this when we study the plan of salvation. But there are some important details that we sometimes brush over that I feel are really important to understand.

A couple of weeks ago we talked about the seven years of tribulation and the rapture of the church. A time when the devil's power is unleashed and he will rule over all the earth with his antiChrist and false prophets. Chapter 20 tells us about the end of the seven years of doom and gloom. It says:

“And I saw an [angel](#) come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless [pit](#) and a great chain in his hand.” (Revelation 20:1)

We don't know who exactly this Angle is or will be. We do know that it is not Jesus. But the Angel is directed from Jesus because Jesus has the key to the bottomless pit.

But, what is this place? In Greek the word is “Abussos”, It is where we get our English word “Abiss” from. This word is used nine times in the New Testament. Eight times here in the book of Revelation and one time in the book of Luke.

If you recall, Jesus went to a city near Galilee and met a man who was possessed by demons living in the tombs. His name was Legion because he had many demons that possessed his body. A legion in the ancient Roman times was six thousand soldiers. We don't know that there were six thousand demons that possessed him but there were a lot. And these demons asked Jesus not to cast them out into the abyss but to allow them to go into a herd of swine. So Jesus allowed them to go and the pigs ran down the hill and into the lake and drowned. (Luke 8:26-33)

This is where we first learn about this place called the abyss or the bottomless pit, or in the King James version the deep. It seems to be a place with the worst of the worst that were cast out of God's presents in the premortal existence. A place so bad that even the devil's demons don't want to go there. Jude gives us a little more insight as to the nature of this place:

“And the [angels](#) which kept not their [first estate](#), but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the [judgment](#) of the great day.”

(Jude 1:6)

It sounds awful, darkness and chains, deep and remote. Perhaps this is where the world gets its idea of Hell from.

So this Angel comes down from Heaven with the keys to this bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand,

“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old [serpent](#), which is the [Devil](#), and Satan, and [bound](#) him a thousand years,” (Revelation 20:2)

The repetition gives us a hint that this is important that we understand who this is. The Dragon, this is the most common name for Satan in the book of Revelation. That old serpent: this is a reference to him as he deceived our first parents Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The Devil, in Greek Diavolos meaning the accuser. And lastly Satan which means Adversary or enemy. It is obvious that God wants to make it very clear that we know who He is talking about here. This is the guy. The source of misery and torture, the father of lies the instigator of lies and war in this mortal realm. This guy is going to be bound with a great chain and cast into the bottomless abyss. This is Lucifer.

“and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the [nations](#) no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled:” (Revelation 20:3)

What a wonderful day that will be. Could you imagine the shouts and cheers that will come from the heavens as we watch this event taking place?

One thousand years he will be bound. Unable to tempt or harm us. But then...then, after a thousand years Satan will be loosed for a little season. Why???

Starting in verse 7 it says: “And when the [thousand](#) years are expired, [Satan](#) shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, [Gog](#) and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom *is* as the sand of the sea.” (Revelation 20:7-8)

Why? Why the peace and why the massive battle afterwards. This is an important principle to understand and the point I really wanted to focus on this week.

During the one thousand year millennial reign, first, who will be there? And second, what will it be like?

Verses 4 through 5 tells us who will be there:

“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and **judgment** was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and **reigned** with Christ a **thousand** years.

5 But the rest of the **dead** lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection.” (Revelation 20:4-5)

Here we see three groups. First are those that sat on thrones and reigned with God, and judged the world. But all it tells us about that is that they are a they. This verse does not specify who they are. But first Corinthians does. Paul teaches us who these will be when he says:

“Do ye not know that the saints shall **judge** the **world**? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?

3 Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?” (1 Cor 6:2-3)

So, these are those that were righteous saints who have been exalted in the next life to sit on thrones with God and his angels. Hopefully that means you and me.

The next group are those that were killed during the seven years of tribulation. Specifically those that were beheaded for their witness of Christ, those that did not worship the beast or take the mark of the beast. These could be ones that received Jesus as their Savior and converted from their evil ways during the seven years of tribulation.

But then there is another group, the bible calls them “the rest of the dead”. These are those that are not allowed to live during the thousand years of peace. And these will not be resurrected until after the thousand years are over.

Which leads us to the most important topic: What will it be like? There are 2 other passages that give us a glimpse of this time. One is in Matthew, The words of our Savior and the other is in Isaiah. This is what they say:

“**31** ¶ When the **Son of man** shall come in his **glory**, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32 And before him shall be gathered all **nations**: and he shall **separate** them one from another, as a **shepherd** divideth *his* **sheep** from the goats:

33 And he shall set the sheep on his **right hand**, but the goats on the left.

34 Then shall the King say unto them on his **right hand**, Come, ye **blessed** of my Father, **inherit** the **kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world: " (Matt 25:31-34)

These are the righteous that are His chosen elect. Those that fed the hungry and clothed the naked. Those that gave their life to be a life like the life of Jesus. (Matt 25:35-36)

Then in Isaiah, this should sound familiar to you:

"2 And it shall come to pass in the **last days**, *that* the **mountain** of the LORD's **house** shall be **established** in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all **nations** shall flow unto it.

3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us **go** up to the **mountain** of the LORD, to the **house** of the God of Jacob; and he will **teach** us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of **Zion** shall go forth the **law**, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 And he shall **judge** among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn **war** any more.

5 O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us **walk** in the **light** of the LORD." (Isaiah 2:2-5)

So, life will be fairly normal. We will still have jobs and school, homes and cars, family and sports, vacations and activities. But there will be one major glaring difference. There will be no political powers, no Kings or Presidents, no war or conflict. Jesus will be the King that will rule over the whole earth. And only those that are decent people will be living on the earth during this millennial time. But, and this is a big But. Just because Satan is bound and only good people are around that does not mean that we will be perfect. We will still have a sin-nature. We will still be able to sin and make mistakes. We will still need to go to church and partake of the sacrament, repent and help others. In short: we will still be mortal flawed beings. Which is why after the thousand years are over and the devil is released there will be a huge battle. A war just like that in the premortal life. When you and your loved ones will have to pick a side. Even those that lived in that millennial society will turn away from God and choose to follow the devil and fight against freedom, will and the plan of God.

And now that we know this, how do we prepare for this time? What can we do today that will allow us to be strong and faithful in the days and years to come? We can, and should seek to have a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He is our only hope. If we can not attach our will to His then we have no hope of standing against the fiery darts of the adversary. We can not win alone. We must choose Jesus and stand behind Him, trust Him during all this chaos in the world. We must be able to hear and recognize His voice. And if we wait until that great trumpet sounds we will find that we are too late. Now is the time to prepare

to meet God, now is the time to repent and forsake all our sins and attachments to the world. Now is the time to be Christlike. Because if we choose to wait it will be too late. Of this great truth I testify.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.