



Time's Up

Revelation 20

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 20:1-15 NKJV] 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is [the] Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then [I saw] the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received [his] mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy [is] he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number [is] as the sand of the sea. 9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet [are]. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is [the Book] of Life. And the dead were

judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

INTRO

As we approach the end of Revelation and the end of this present age, we see that just as God had a beginning to His story, he also has an end. We tend to see time on a very linear scale, and we have a hard time imagining history and future as being interconnected and all moving along a divine plan. The closer we get to the end, the more we realize that we are going back to the beginning. We find that God is moving toward restoring an Edenic state on the earth, where God and man are one, earth and nature are restored, and every promise God made to Israel and David is fulfilled.

And it's important for us, as we struggle to see past our own nose, to remember that God has a time for everything. Right now, God has a time for you and me, Saint Joseph, Grace, the church in the world. God runs on His own timeline:

ISAIAH 46:9-10 - ...I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

One of my favorite "Christmas" verses reflects God's perfect time in coming to save us.

[Gal 4:4-5 NKJV] 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

In the same way, God has a perfect time for everything. I want His time to come back to be right now, but ultimately He alone is wise in what He allows and when He allows it.

I bring this up because we see a lot of events unfold in Chapter 20 that all have to do with time and God's perfect timing.

- **Satan gets a time out**
- **The saints get their time in**
- **Satan gets a short time**
- **Satan runs out of time**

- **All are judged at the end of time**

1 Satan Gets a Time Out

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 20:1-3 NKJV] 1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

APPLICATION

Here, we find a nameless angel that is given authority by Christ to bind and lock up Satan.

- I like how this angel has no name. It's not the great Michael or Gabriel, but just an angel, maybe the lowest of all the angels.
- Maybe he's the Clarence of the angels (**show picture from It's a Wonderful Life**)

APPLICATION: Hey, if angels don't care about getting name recognition for the awesome things they do, then why do we need it? If Jesus is glorified, isn't that enough?

ARGUMENT: This also puts the argument to rest that Satan is somehow God's equal; the dark side of the force, God's archenemy.

- Don't be deceived, Satan is more powerful than you and I, but when it comes to God, Satan will bow the knee along with every other created being.
- In fact, Satan's strength is so weak that this nameless angel comes and binds him up without any help.
- Satan's main strength doesn't lie within his physical power, but in his deceptive power.

Isaiah tells what the world will say when they see this event:

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Isa 14:12 NKJV] 12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!"

Speaking physically of the King of Babylon's fall, there is a spiritual future prophecy here of Mystery Babylon's fall. As the King of Babylon was cast down from his lofty place, when Mystery Babylon is destroyed, Satan, the Spiritual power behind it all, will be shown for who He truly is.

[Isa 14:16-17 NKJV] 16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms...'"

BIBLE PASSAGE

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

APPLICATION

Notice Satan has four names:

- *Dragon* – to identify him with the dragon who brought forth the antichrist.
- *Serpent of Old* – to remind us of his place in the garden of Eden.
- *Devil* – Literally the accuser. He is the one who slanders and brings accusations against the children of God.
- *Satan* – Literally means adversary. He who fights against the saints.

One adversary who goes by many titles and functions.

APPLICATION

Apparently, there's a special chain reserved for Satan and a nice empty pad in the bottomless pit.

BIBLE PASSAGE

3 and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

MEDIA

Issue	Premillennial View	Postmillennial View	Amillennial View
Satan's Binding:	Future	Present / Future	Present
First Resurrection:	Physical	Spiritual	Spiritual
Thousand Years:	Literal	Literal / Symbolic	Symbolic
Locale of Reign:	Earth	Earth / Heaven	Heaven

APPLICATION

Post and amillennialism falls short in two main areas:

- They overemphasize the role of the church to repair the societal damage that sin has caused. In my opinion, the bible is clear that the solution isn't man's best effort, but the hand of Jesus Himself restoring everything that sin has stolen. He did it at the cross on a physical hill in Jerusalem, and He will do it on the throne in the physical City of David.

- They oppose Biblical literalism and have to spiritualize the promises of God to Israel, transferring them from the physical nation to the church. The OT promises of God to Israel are both actual and factual.

This is why I hold a premillennial view. I believe that Jesus is physically coming back, just as he physically rose and ascended into heaven. I believe that when He does, he will make every wrong right, establish the fullness of His kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, and in the process, fulfill every single promise that God made to Israel and to the church.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[1Co 15:22-25 NKJV] 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Heb 2:8 NKJV] 8 "You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.

APPLICATION

Matthew 25 records another judgment that will take place upon Christ's second coming, the judgment of nations, where the sheep are separated from the goats. Any righteous that are left within the existing nations after the tribulation period will remain in the kingdom to repopulate the earth.

THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

A.) A Time Free from Satanic Influence

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. -Isaiah 11:9

Jeremiah 3:7 - At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk anymore after the imagination of their evil heart.

B.) A Time of Perfect Divine Justice

Revelation 2:27 - And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers.

Psalms 2:9 - You will break them with an iron rod and smash them like clay pots.

And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one. Zechariah 14:9

C.) A Time of Sinless Human Leadership

- The resurrected martyrs from the tribulation period, the Apostles, the redeemed (you and I) and the OT saints will all have a part in ruling and reigning with Christ over the earth.
- Whose thrones are they, and what are they for? John doesn't specify, but let's look at other scripture. We know that at least some of these thrones are reserved for the original 12 Disciples of Christ who will assist in ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel.
Matthew 19:28 - So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

We also know that the church, those who have died, those who were raptured, and those who went through the tribulation period, will rule on these thrones with Christ in this kingdom.

1 Corinthians 6:2-3 - Do you not know that the saints will judge the world... Do you not know that we shall judge angels?

For 1000 years, we will serve the Lord by ruling over the world and even the angels.

- I'm not sure how this will work, but it sure is exciting. We will be in immortal bodies and get to enjoy ruling and reigning with Jesus.
- John singles out a group that he notices in particular, most likely to encourage this group of people when they are enduring this time.
- The tribulation saints – Beheaded – literally means, “cut.” This could mean that they were all beheaded, but probably means that they were executed.

I like this word Reign – This is what we will do, not simply judge but reign.

Reign – to exercise the highest influence.

2 Timothy 2:12 - If we endure, We shall also reign with Him.

The song of the redeemed in Revelation 5 declares:

Revelation 5:10 - You have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

D.) A Time of Prosperity for Humanity - the food supply will be abundant. All people will have plenty. People will live long, fulfilling lives.

I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. 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 will be thought accursed. -Isaiah 65:19-20

Isaiah 11 tells us that God will remove the fear that protects humans from animals, and vice versa. Verse 8, “The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den.” Mom, your baby’s favorite pet will be a copperhead.

Isaiah 2:2-4 describes how people will flow to the King in Jerusalem, and Jesus will teach us His ways. Verse 4 tells us, **“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.”** Under the influence of King Jesus this war-torn world will finally know peace.

This age will not be perfect, but it will be as perfect as possible while there are still human beings on earth who are capable of sin. In the new heavens and new earth, everyone will have redeemed, sinless bodies, and then it will be perfect in every sense, but this 1000 years on this earth will be the most prosperous, peaceful time humanity has ever experienced, and it will all be because of Jesus.

2 The Saints Get a Time In

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 20:4 NKJV] 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 20:5-6 NKJV] 5 But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

APPLICATION

We discover in verses 5-6, that there are two options available for humanity. You can either partake of the first resurrection or the second death.

- The first resurrection is a culmination of all those who have believed in Christ.
- Christ was the first to resurrect from the dead. I believe that all those who died in faith, died in Christ, were raptured, or died in the tribulation period; all makeup “the first resurrection.”

Sometimes as Christians, we think that when we die, we just go to heaven, and that’s where we’ll be forever.

That's not completely biblically accurate; that's actually only the first of three locations where we will be.

- *Paradise or heaven – where our spirits go when we die.*
- *1000 year reign on earth, were we live after Christ returns*
- *The heaven and new earth – our final and eternal destination.*

For the non-believer, the story is different.

- When the non-believer dies, their spirit goes to a place of torment called Hades (the grave). We find this place Jesus described in great detail in Luke chapter 16.
- They remain there throughout the millennial kingdom and don't receive a resurrection body until the final white throne judgment after the 1000-year reign of Christ at which point they reach their eternal destination, the lake of fire (the second death). But we'll get there.

Hey, do you want to have the blessing of reigning in Christ's kingdom with Him? Do you want to make sure that the second death has no power over you? If your answer is yes, the only way is to be born again and to place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ to forgive you of your sins.

3 Satan Gets a Short Time

BIBLE PASSAGE

In verses 7-9 we see that Satan is given a short time:

[Rev 20:7-9 NKJV] 7 Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.

ILLUSTRATION

Did you hear about the devoted Christian lady who was dirt poor. She lived hand-to-mouth. Yet she trusted God for all her needs, and the Lord always supplied. Of course her atheist neighbor couldn't figure her out. If her God existed, why was she always in need? One day, he overheard her desperate prayer. "Lord, please, I'm hungry." The atheist decided to teach the woman a lesson. He went down to the supermarket and loaded up several bags of groceries. He set them on her doorstep, rang the bell, and hid in the bushes. As soon as she opened the door and saw the food, she shouted, "Praise the Lord, God heard my prayer." That's when the atheist jumped out, and scoffed at the lady, "God didn't bring you those groceries, I did." The woman answered, "Praise the Lord! He heard my prayer, and sent the Devil to make the delivery."

APPLICATION

The question must arise, "Why does God allow Satan to be free again?"

- There are some questions that we won't be able to answer this side of heaven. I think this might be one of them.
- Remember when the children of Israel were in the wilderness and God provided them manna from heaven. After a while, they begin to complain about what God provided them... they wanted meat. God said, "You want meat, you got it." He gave them so much quail that they stuffed themselves and died.
- Part of me wonders if those living in this environment after 1000 years take it for granted. They forget what it was like under the influence of Satan, and just as God judged the world of Noah, perhaps it is necessary to bring his final judgment on the world at that point in time. Only God knows in His perfect wisdom.

Another thought is maybe this whole thing has to end the same way it began.

- Why did Adam and Eve sin against God when they were in a perfect environment?
- Satan comes, offers a deception, they give in and willingly disobey God, they are kicked out of the garden, and Satan has been awaiting his final judgment since.
- Now in the end we again have mankind living in a close-to-perfect environment, Satan offers them a deception, they willingly make a choice to rebel against Christ, and they are ultimately judged along with Satan.

Verse 8:

Satan goes back to his same old strategy and speaks deception to the rulers of the world once again, and all of the nations are convinced that with their great number of people, they can overcome Christ.

- We aren't sure how long Satan is free on the earth, but it's obviously long enough to organize all the nations and armies to come against the Lord.
- This just again confirms to us the nature of the human heart. Once Christ lifts his iron rod of righteousness Satan goes out to men, it doesn't take long for men's evil hearts to turn once again against God.
- I know it's difficult to understand how or why the people of the world would do this, but when you look at history and the things that men have done since creation, is it really that much of a surprise?

The number of the army that Satan gathers is as the sand of the sea, just a fancy way of saying that there are more people than is possible to count.

Verse 9:

9 They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 tells us that Israel is the center of the earth at this time and Jerusalem is the capital of Christ's kingdom.

So the army surrounds the city.

- You can only imagine the technological advances that will take place on the earth over the period of 1000 years of peace.
- This army comes in all its splendor and glory and what happens?
- There is not even a battle! Fire comes down from heaven and in an instance; all the armies of the world are destroyed.

The Lesson: Don't fight against God!

4 Satan Runs out of Time

APPLICATION

Verse 10:

[Rev 20:10 NKJV] 10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan's sentence is finally carried out. And for all the tormenting he has done over the millennia, he will now be tormented for eternity.

Forever and ever – John couldn't use any plainer language to convey that this is forever, eternal, without end.

- We see that after 1000 years, the antichrist and the false prophet are still in the lake of fire.

5 All are Judged at the End of Time

BIBLE PASSAGE

[Rev 20:11-15 NKJV] 11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

APPLICATION

Time's up for the universe!

2 Peter 3:10 tells us of this day in Revelation, **“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.”**

Physics teaches that “like charges” repel. Yet at the center of every atom is a cluster of bonded protons. Scientists explain the mystery with terms like “atomic glue.” They talk of “a God particle.” Their explanations are vague at best. The Bible on the other hand is quite clear. Colossians 1:17 tells us that in Christ “all things consist.” It’s Jesus Who’s holds together the universe. And one day He’s going to let go. He’ll loosen the glue - “and the elements will melt with fervent heat.”

APPLICATION

Verse 11, “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it...” What an ominous sight this is... “White” is the color of holiness and *purity*. A “throne” speaks of *power*. And “great” has the sound of *permanence*.

Think of the long list of people who judged Jesus... Caiaphas the Priest, King Herod, the Jewish Sanhedrin, Pontus Pilate, the Jewish mob who screamed crucify Him. How many today take it upon themselves to be the judge of God? Well, the tables will be turned at the end of time as all those who sat in the place of judge and determined that Jesus wasn't for them will now answer for their own lives, their own actions, their own thoughts, and their own sin.

There's a lot that can be said, but the most important thing is not what is written in the books, but which book your name is written in.

- In the book of works, everything is recorded. But notice that at the end of the day, the good things written about one's life will not outweigh the bad. All your good works didn't get your name in the right book.
 - Philippians 4:3 tells us that those who are in Christ have their names written in the Book of Life. Chapter 21 tells us another title for this book: The Lamb's Book of Life, and it's the only way to gain entrance into the new earth that God will create for the eternal dwelling place of all who trust in Him.

- It's been said that the only sin that gets you into hell is your rejection of Christ. That's not fully accurate. What gets you into hell is your sin. You chose rebellion against God, so he must choose to punish that rebellion. Jesus didn't come to earth, live, die, and rise again just so you can "accept him." He died "for your sin."
- **[1Pe 3:18 NKJV] 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,**

God is fair and just: He will give every person a fair trial. Every ounce of evidence will be thoroughly examined and weighed. Not one good deed will go unnoticed, and not one evil thing, no matter how small will go unhidden. The problem isn't God's fairness. The problem is that everyone is guilty!

In the end, all unredeemed humanity will receive their eternal bodies as well. You see, all people will be equipped and clothed for eternity, but your eternal destination will be determined by the king you choose to follow and the savior you choose to trust today.

Your choice: *the first resurrection or the second death.*

- ***And when you hear "second death," don't be deceived to think that you just get to die a second time, and it's over. The second death for the unredeemed is like the life for the redeemed... it's eternal.***