

The Book of Revelation

Lesson Thirty

Revelation 20:1-10

THE DEFEAT OF THE DEVIL

Introduction:

1. This section of the book of Revelation began with the rising to power of Satan (the dragon), the beast, the false prophet, and the harlot.
2. John has seen the downfall of the harlot, the false prophet, and the beast.
3. Now, the defeat and final destiny of Satan is revealed.

- I. The Binding of Satan (20:1-3)
 - A. First, John saw an angel with the key to the abyss and a great chain.
 1. The angel is one conducting the purpose of God.
 2. The key symbolizes power or authority – in this case, authority over the abyss (cf. Matthew 16:18-19).
 - a. Earlier, this key was used to open the abyss to release deception, sin, and suffering upon the earth (9:1-2).
 - b. Now, this key is in the possession of the angel of God and is used to close the abyss.
 3. The abyss is the temporary home of the lost, the demons, and Satan (cf. Luke 8:31; Romans 10:7).
 4. The great chain would be used to bind Satan – figuratively, not literally, for Satan is a spiritual being (cf. 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
 - B. Next, John saw that Satan was bound for 1,000 years.
 1. The question is: How was Satan bound?
 2. His power was lessened because his allies had been defeated.
 3. His power of deception was lessened because the truth about him, his plans, and his purposes had been revealed.
 4. His ability to deceive the nations was removed.
 5. Satan continues to work, but his power has been greatly limited (cf. 1 Peter 5:8).
 - C. Finally, John saw Satan cast into the abyss, which was shut and sealed (cf. 5:1; Matthew 27:66).
 1. This is not the final punishment of Satan; for that will come later.
 2. Instead, this was symbolic of God's preventing Satan from deceiving the nations and controlling them as he had with Rome.
 - D. The 1,000 years in this passage are symbolic of an undetermined but complete period of time.
 1. Remember the other uses of time in the book:
 - a. 11:2 – 42 months
 - b. 11:3 – 1,260 days
 - c. 12:6 – 1,260 days
 - d. 12:14 – 3½ years (time, times, and half a time)
 - e. 13:5 – 42 months
 2. Each of these represented a limited time of persecution and (seeming) defeat of the saints.
 3. In contrast, the 1,000 years symbolizes the full victory gained over Satan for a complete period of time.

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II. The Victory of the Saints (20:4-6)

- A. During the 1,000 years of Satan's defeat, the church is seen as victorious – the saints lived and reigned with Christ.
 1. They sit upon thrones, indicating their reign in victory with Jesus.
 2. Judgment is given to them, representing the binding of Satan on their behalf (cf. 11:18; Daniel 7:21-27; 1 Corinthians 6:2-3).
 3. This was accomplished through their faithfulness.
- B. During this time, the rest of the dead did not experience life or victory.
 1. The "rest of the dead" are those who had been defeated by Christ (19:21).
 2. Their cause, the cause of evil and of Satan, had been defeated and would not rise again until Satan was loosed (20:7-9).
 3. Thus, the resurrection in this verse is symbolic – not a literal, bodily resurrection from the grave.
- C. Those who have part in the "first resurrection" are blessed and holy.
 1. The "first resurrection" is the victory of the cause of Christ over Satan and persecution.
 2. Those who experience it live and reign with Christ because they were faithful unto death.
 3. Thus, they have no fear of the "second death" (eternal death in Hell) because they are faithful, forgiven servants of God.
- D. Notice some things that are not mentioned in this passage:
 1. The second coming of Jesus
 2. A literal, bodily resurrection
 3. A reign of Jesus on the earth
 4. The literal throne of David
 5. Jerusalem or Palestine
 6. The conversion of the Jews
 7. This passage in no way fits the false doctrine of Premillennialism.

III. The Deceptions of the Devil (20:7-9)

- A. After this period of victory for the saints, Satan will be loosed.
 1. Satan had been bound by the faithful devotion of the saints.
 2. When the church loses an attitude of faithful obedience, Satan is able to rise to power.
- B. His attitude toward God and man has not changed, for he immediately tries to pick up where he left off – deceiving the nations.
- C. Yet, instead of relying on one single, superior world power, the devil looks to the four corners of the earth.
 1. Gog and Magog are described and discussed in Ezekiel 38 – 39.
 2. They viewed God's people as easy prey, not knowing that God was protecting them with the fire of His wrath.
- D. Even though God's people are surrounded by the errors and sins of the world, God still protects them.
 1. Though the church is besieged, God will deliver the victory.
 2. The Christian must be faithful unto death (2:10).

IV. The Final Defeat of Satan (20:10)

- A. Finally, Satan is defeated and punished – cast into the lake of fire.
- B. He, too, will endure the torment and torture of Hell.
- C. The final judgment will occur at the end of time when Jesus returns.