

# Revelation 20

Revelation Chapter 20

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*And I saw an Angel come down from heaven having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon that old serpent which is the devil, and Satan and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit and shut him up and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be fulfilled, after that he should be loosed a little sea*

God leaves no doubt as to whom is being bound here, as the dragon he showed his power, as the serpent, which is the Devil and the accuser, he showed his cunning, as Satan he showed he is the adversary. And he is bound for a thousand years with the chain the Angel was given. This great chain will be given to this Angel with the power to overcome Satan and put him in the bottomless pit. The bottomless pit serves as a holding place or prison for all demonic spirits, fallen angels and the devil himself (Luke 8:31. 2 Peter 2:4). He is not put into Hell that is reserved for his final punishment. This quarantine will remove a powerful destructive force in the life of all mankind during Christ's Kingdom and the earth will be free from Satan's harassment until the 1000 years is finished when he will be loosed for a short time to deceive the nations again, how long that 'short season' will be we are not told.

Verse 4

*And I saw Thrones and they sat upon them and judgment was given unto them and I saw the souls of them who 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.* John saw the thrones of the saints and that the saints, the redeemed of all ages, were seated on them and they were given the power to judge proving that the Saints will rule with Christ in the capacity of kings and priests. (Luke 22: 30. 1. Corinthians 6; 2-4. 2. Timothy 2; 12). John also saw the souls of those who were beheaded for the sake of the Gospel, those that had not worshipped the beast or his image. John saw that these were to reign with Christ a thousand years. It is worth noting that John saw the souls of these people not the bodies, whereas we tend to preen our bodies; make sure our appearance competes with our fellow man. It is our souls that will last for ever either in heaven or in Hell when our bodies have been done away with. If our bodies have been damaged or beaten up, drowned, burnt or destroyed God will reward our souls for what we have done for him, we will get a new body anyway. Look after your soul!

Verse 5

*But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.*

This refers to the first resurrection and refers to all the unsaved who had lived and died since the beginning of time, the souls of these people are living in hell because they rejected Jesus. Luke 16: 19-31 tells us of the rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. They were able to talk to one another across the great divide, and share their present predicament. When the rich man died he woke up in Hell, when the beggar died he was carried by the angels into the presence of God proving there is a Heaven and a Hell and there will be conciseness in both. At the end of the thousand years the wicked dead will be raised to face Christ at the great white throne judgment, following the millennial kingdom this will be an awesome

event.

#### Verse 6

*Blessed and Holy is he who has part in the First Resurrection on 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.*

This is the resurrection of Life and will include every Saint of God who ever lived from Abel to the last Tribulation Saint when we will all be given glorified bodies. According to verse 6 those who take part in this Resurrection will be blessed and they will have no part in the 2nd Resurrection.

All believers who take part in the First Resurrection will serve as mediators between the peoples of the world and God.

#### Verse 7

*And when the thousand years are finished Satan will 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.*

This verse introduces Gog and Magog and there is a lot of speculation as to who these are, what they are and where they come from. I want you to read and make your own mind up about this, because when you come to your own conclusion based on the Bible it will mean much more to you. However some believe it is a coalition army made up of Russia, Iran, Sudan, Turkey, and a number of Muslim nations. I believe we are dealing with a person and that person is the Antichrist. Ezekiel 38 tells us the thoughts and plans of the Antichrist, presented as God's opponent, to go up against Israel and God challenges him and calls him Gog several times, so I believe Gog is another name for the future Antichrist. He will not come from Russia as some suppose because scripture reveals that he will come from inside the old Roman Territory. Daniel 7: 8 describes Daniel considering the beast with ten horns when there arose a little horn with eyes like a man, a mouth speaking great things. The chapter speaks of the Roman Empire and at the time of Daniel's writing the Roman Empire had not yet fallen and the ten horns or kingdoms, had not yet risen to power, and the little horn, being the Antichrist has not appeared. Since Russia is not a part of the old Roman Empire, Russia is not a nation or country the Antichrist will come from.

Careful reading of Daniel 7:8 and verse 21 to 24 will confirm to us that he will come from inside the old Roman Territory. The rough goat is the king of Grecian Empire, which is the belly and thighs of the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the great horn between his eyes is the rise of Alexander the Great who founded the Old Grecian Empire in only 13 years. The breaking of the Great Horn (v22) represents the death of Alexander and the 4 kingdoms that stood up in their own right divided the kingdom among themselves. History tells us that Alexander and his 4 generals all died within 15 years leaving 4 kingdoms.

Cassander took the Western part of the Empire.

Lysimachus took Asia Minor or present Turkey and Thrace in the Northern part of the Empire,

Seleucus took the Eastern part including Syria, Babylon, which are today's Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran.

Ptolemy took the southern kingdom of Egypt.

Alexander's Empire was divided into 4 as the scripture says in Chapter 8v8. These divisions formed a large part of the old Roman Empire, from which the 10 kingdoms of the last days will come, known as Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt. These kingdoms will not cease to exist before the little horn (the Antichrist) comes from one of them. All these kingdoms exist today and the Antichrist has not yet been revealed, then his emergence from one of them is still future but the stage is set for him to come soon.

The little horn came up after the 10 horns or kingdoms were fully grown. It will be the

Antichrist who will reduce the 10 kingdoms to 7 in war, the 3 kingdoms 'being plucked up by the roots' (Verse 7: 7-8. 23-24. 8: 20-23). The Antichrist will be able to speak and see as in verse 8. In Daniel 8: 9 we have strong belief that Gog, or the future Antichrist will come from one of the 4 original divisions of the old Grecian Empire which is also part of the old Roman Empire that is Greece, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. So we can eliminate the other 6 nations. The Bible tells us he will come from one of the 4 original divisions of the old Roman Empire Territory mentioned above and in Daniel 8: 23 says ;

*...in the latter time of their kingdom when the transgressors are come to the full, a king of fierce countenance and understanding dark sentences shall stand up.*

These 4 divisions are known today as Greece, Turkey, Syria and Egypt. These kingdoms still exist so his emergence must still be in the future. If we did not have what Daniel saw in Daniel 8 we could believe that Antichrist could emerge from England, France, Holland or Italy and so on. The Bible limits his coming from one of the 10 kingdoms to one of the 4 kingdoms and from one of the countries mentioned above. So he cannot come from the Vatican, America, or Germany or some other part of the old Roman Territory outside the 4 divisions of the Grecian Empire.

4 Things concerning the Antichrist.

- 1. He will speak great words verse 8.11, 20, 8: 23-25. Rev.13:5.
  - 2. He will be slain. Verse 11, 8: 25. Isa. 11:4. Rev. 19: 20. He will need to be a mortal man , one who will die like us all for the first and last time his own appointed death. He will not be an incarnation of Satan or Hitler, Stalin or any other dead person.
  - 3. His body will be destroyed Mathew 10:28. Luke 12: 5.
  - 4. His body will be cast into hell verse 11. Revelation 19:20. 20: 10.
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- So to remind ourselves that since Russia was never a part of the old Roman Empire the Antichrist or Gog could not come from there.
  - Let's put down a few more facts and see how we go.
  - He is the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal Ezekiel: 39:1.
  - Personal pronouns are used of him, Ezekiel: 39: 1-6.
  - He is leader of a great army that will fight at Armageddon Ezekiel 39: 1-7.
  - He has a mind and can think and make decisions. Ezekiel 38: 10-12.
  - He travels from place to place just like any other person. Ezekiel 38: 8-9.
  - He has the power of speech Ezekiel 38: 11-12.
  - He is recognized by others Ezekiel 38: 13.
  - He uses ordinary weapons Ezekiel 39:3.
  - He will fall in battle like many others Ezekiel 39.4-5.
  - He is the same as the little horn of Daniel 7and 8.
  - He is the prince that will come in Daniel 9.
  - He is the king of the north in Daniel 11.
  - He is the man of sin, the son of perdition and that wicked in 2 Thessalonians 2.
  - He is the Antichrist of 1John 2.
  - He is the beast of Revelations 13.
  - All these scriptures speak of a man, who will come in the last days, get to know your enemy!
  - Revelation 20: 7-8-9

*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 to battle: the number of whom is as the sand on the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the Saints about, and the beloved city and fire came down from God out of Heaven and devoured them.*

One can imagine the scene as the chains come off of Satan and he is set free! Free once more to deceive, tempt, and lie to everyone everywhere. The millennial kingdom will be populated only with believers but some of their descendants will not believe in Jesus. These are the people Satan will seek to gather against God in one final rebellion. Satan is given yet another chance to repent and join the hosts of heaven in support and worship of God. Satan has a free will and a choice; in heaven he made the choice to exalt himself above God, he made the choice to take a third of the angels with him when he was thrown out of heaven onto the earth. He will, in spite of seeing all that has gone on since the Lamb opened the Book, continue to pursue the throne of God. And now he leads the Antichrist up to Jerusalem to surround the Saints and the beloved city to destroy it. For thousands of years Jerusalem has been envied and fought over by all manner of nations and armies, as we know even today the Temple Mount has to be shared to avoid war. It was on that Temple Mount Abraham offered his son Isaac under God's instructions before all these other nations were thought of. The Bible teaches The Mount belongs to God as dose Jerusalem and the next Holy Temple will be built on the top of that mount. How and when this will happen is entirely in God's hands but it will happen. It is therefore no surprise to us that the Antichrist will attack Israel and Jerusalem with all the might of his vast armies because he wants to sit on God's throne in that Temple.

Verse 9

*And they went up on the breadth of the earth and compassed the camp of the Saints about, and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of Heaven and devoured them.*

*And the Devil who deceived them was cast into the Lake of Fire and brimstone, where the Beast and the False Prophet are and shall be tormented day and night.*

The Beast and the false prophet were cast into the Lake of Fire 1000 years before this, see chapter 19: 20. And 1000 years later they are still there proving hell and eternal torment are true realities. All humanity who rejects Christ will join the rebellious satanic trinity in Hell for ever. The Bible has a number of verses to describe the horrors of hell:

- The fiery furnace Mathew 13:42
- Unquenchable fire Mark 9: 47:48
- The lake of fire Revelations 20: 15
- Eternal fire Mathew 18:8
- Eternal punishment Mathew 25:46
- Destruction Mathew 7: 13
- Eternal destruction 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9
- The place of weeping and gnashing of teeth Mathew 13:42
- The second death Revelation 20:14
- **The Great White Throne Judgment.**
- **2 Peter 3: 10-13**

*The heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. The heavens will be set on fire and dissolved and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.* With Satan and his fallen angels, the Antichrist and the false prophet and all demons are all out of the way, it is time for the Righteous Judge, Jesus Christ to sit in judgment of the wicked dead.

All the wicked dead both small and great will stand before God to be Judged by He who knows the end from the beginning. You will not be able to buy your way out of this no matter how much money you have. A strong sense of helplessness, dread and fear will

prevail. And the books will be opened; these are the books detailing the deeds of the wicked dead. These books will detail the evidence to substantiate God's verdict of an everlasting destiny in the lake of fire.

The works judged will include their works of actions

Mathew 16:27

- *For the Son of man shall come in the Glory of His Father with His Angels then He shall reward every man according to his works.*
- *Mathew 12: 37*
- *For by your words you shall be justified and by your words you shall be condemned.*
- *Luke 8: 17 Romans 2: 16.*
- *For nothing is secret that shall not be made manifest or anything hid that shall not be made known.*

Nothing will be hidden from the all-seeing eyes of Jesus you may shut your eyes, think of something else entirely, you may look away but it will be no good His eyes will search out your sin and expose it.

Every area of sin in your life will be judged and while you may hide your sin from friends and family, neighbour or workmates you cannot hide it from God. My advice is deal with it now, give your life to Jesus today, seek out a Christian friend or the Pastor of a good Bible believing church and talk with them, or you can kneel beside your bed and simply tell Jesus you want Him to forgive you for all your sins and wrong doings and ask Him to come into your life. He will because He loves you.

Those who participate in the Great White Throne Judgment John 5: 27-29, will stand before that throne in much the same way you would stand before the judge in a criminal court. Warren Wierbe notes some differences though.

'There will be a judge but no jury, a prosecution but no defense, there will be a sentence but no appeal. No one will be able to ask God a question, or a point of Law, He is the Law. You are answerable to God and God alone'.

Revelation 20:12

*And I saw the dead small and great, stand before God and the books were opened: and another book was opened which is the book of life, and the dead were judged out of the things that were written in the books according to their works.*

These books detail the lives of the unsaved and provide the evidence to substantiate the divine verdict given namely a destiny in the lake of fire.

Read Mathew 12:37. Mathew 10: 14-15. Mark 12: 38-40. Luke 8:17. Luke 12: 47-48. Romans 2:16.

These books will contain the Book of Life and in it will be the names of all those who love the Lord and have their names written in it. Philippians 4: 3 Tells of Eudias and Syntyche who had a disagreement which affected the whole church. Paul sent a letter to ask that these two women be given counsel and help to overcome the problem. Paul distinguishes them by referring to their names being written in the Book of Life therefore born again Christ followers, and the problem had to be resolved for the Testimony's sake. Revelation 21: 27 also tells us that there shall not be anything that defiles or is an abomination, or makes a lie that will enter heaven but only those who are written by name into the Book of Life. No

unsaved person will have their name written in that Book which belongs to the Lamb. The sea gave up their dead and death and hell delivered up the dead that were in them and they were judged according to the works they had done. Verse 14 says death and hell were cast into the lake of fire, meaning the spirit of death, the demon of death. Verse 15 says: *Whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of fire.*

At that very point of being called out by God all those who stand in line before me may be sent into His kingdom and when it comes to my turn because I am next in line, I stand alone, I cannot call for my wife's support, or my Pastor's recommendation, I stand alone before Christ, wondering, hoping, praying. Is my name in the Book of Life? I think it is, yes I wrote all those studies on the Web, I took a Bible class for years, my wife and I ran a youth club for 15 years that will count won't it? ...no not according to the Bible! But I have led souls to Christ, I worked with a healing team, I've prayed for the sick, I've seen legs grow to the same length after prayer, I have seen demons shout and scream as they come out of the man all six of us were trying to hold down. Surely that will count for something? NO! There is no other way to Christ than through the cross and His shed blood, we must bow before Him at the cross in repentance before Jesus will even look at us. You may have a testimony much better than I but unless we both have our names in that Book of Life all we have done for the Lord counts for nothing!

We are waiting for our names to be called out by Jesus but He looks up and down the list only to find our names are not there. In view of all the scriptures we have looked at, all the clarification of them, in spite of all the works you have done in the church, unless your name is in that Book you will not get to heaven. My name is in that book. I know it is. On the 8th April 1945 at 9.45pm in a little chapel Netherden Road Wickford Essex with the help of my Dad and at the age of 10 I gave my life to Jesus. According to His Word my name was then written in that Book, when was yours written in the book of life? Revelation Chapter 20 verse 14 and 15.

*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death and whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Throughout the church age, some 2000 years or more, right up to this verse of scripture mankind has had the opportunity to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and he will be accepted by Him. At this point in Scripture believers and unbelievers will have made their choice, an eternal choice to accept Christ or reject Him, those who have rejected Him will have a horrible destiny ahead of them.

Weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 13: 13:41-42)  
Condemnation (Matthew 12:36-37)  
Destruction (Philippians 1: 28)  
Eternal punishment (Matthew 25: 46)  
Separation from God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9)  
Trouble and distress (Romans 2: 9)

At the end of every story we have always found the words '*the end*'. Also most of our stories finish with the sentence '*And they all lived happily ever after*'. Unfortunately for the sinner that is not the case on both counts. The torment, punishment and distress go on and on for eternity, so the end is not a happy one at all. Take note:

**And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.**

I am grateful to my friend Graham Towse for his valuable support and contribution.

Be blessed

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