

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

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THE TOTAL VICTORY OF CHRIST OVER SATAN AND THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM

I. THE DEVIL'S SENTENCE

Rev.20:1-2 *"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."*

- A. This scene that John saw comes after the total victory of Christ at His second coming to take Jerusalem, defeat and destroy His enemies. It is logical that, having judged the beast and the false prophet (**Rev. 19:20**), Jesus Christ must deal with Satan himself by sentencing and imprisoning him. Here is the legal and factual fulfillment of what Jesus obtained on the cross at His first coming.

Col. 2:14-15 *"[Jesus] having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."* (NIV)

- B. Although Jesus Christ defeated Satan on the Cross (**Lk. 10:18; Jn. 16:11**), He did not totally annul him at that time, nor will He do so until the beginning of the Millennium. There are many things that Jesus accomplished and whose full manifestation will manifest at the end of the age but they are ours.

1 Jn. 3:2-3 *"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."*

1 Cor. 13:12 *"Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely."* (NLT)

- C. God assigned **"an angel"** who will descend from heaven to bind Satan who appears **"having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand"** to arrest him and lock him in the abyss. This scene is like when the police arrive for a criminal and he has no escape. Here the devil looks passive, he cannot do anything against God's sentence. Previously God had cast Satan out of heaven (**Rev. 12:9**), and now He excluded him from the earth.
- D. In this passage there are four titles that ensure the identity of this creature that will be bound and imprisoned:
1. **"The dragon"** is the most frequent name of the devil in **Revelation (12:3, 4, 7, 13, 16, 17; 13:2, 4, 11; 16:13)**. This title refers to the **"serpent of old"** (**Gen. 3**) which basically expresses its deceptive nature and indicates its ancient and powerful cruelty without any capacity for mercy.
 2. **"The Devil"** (**Rev. 20:10; 2:10; 12:9**) means the slanderer, accuser and slanderer.

3. **"Satan"** (Rev. 2:13, 24; 3:9) describes him as the adversary, who opposes the work and people of God.
- E. In spite of all the terrible evil and the tricks of Satan we who are in Christ have total security.

Ro. 8:38-39 ***"And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,[p] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."*** (NLT)

II. THE RESTRICTION OF SATAN FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

Ap.20:3 ***"and he cast him [Satan] 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."***

- F. The angel will throw Satan **"into the abyss"** and then "close" or seal the opening to ensure that he does not escape. This action ensures the confinement of Satan, who will no longer have access to the earth, because he will be in **"the bottomless pit"** (bottomless pit, Rev. 9:1-2; 11: 7; 13:4, 7; 17:8) throughout the millennium. His confinement will prevent him from doing what he has been doing throughout history and especially at the end of the era: deceiving the nations (Rev. 13:14; 16: 13-14).
- G. This plan was prophesied since ancient times and this is simply the final fulfillment of God's decree.

Is. 24:21-23 ***"It shall come to pass in that day That the Lord will punish on high the host of exalted ones [fallen angels of Jud. 1:6; Rev 12:7], And on the earth the kings of the earth. 22 They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison; After many days [1,000 years] they will be punished. 23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the Lord of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously. [Millennium]."***

- H. What a glorious time is coming, the devil will no longer be able to deceive anyone. **When the devil wants to remind you of your past, remind him of his future.** The demons are terrified of the abyss; as they showed in the encounter that Jesus had with the demonic gadareno.

Lk. 8:28 y 31 ***"When he [the Gadarene Demon-Possessed man] saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!... 31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss."***

- I. **"till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while"** Through releasing the devil for a little while after a thousand years, the entire universe will see that after his imprisonment Satan is incurably evil and the hearts of men are still perverse enough to allow him to assemble an army of such an immense size. to try again to fight against Jesus.

Rev. 20:7-9 "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 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"

- J. Life will be much longer in the Millennium (**Isa. 65:20**), so the population of the Earth will increase rapidly, as was the case before the Flood but children who will be born during the Millennium will need to believe in Jesus Christ to be saved, but many of them will not. This large group of people, born during the 1,000-year period, will constitute the unbelievers whom Satan leads in rebellion at the end of the Millennium (**Rev. 11:13; 12:13-17**).

III. THE BEGINNING OF THE MILLENNIUM

Rev. 20:4 "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."

- A. John saw a new scene in which there were "**thrones**" as one of the most important details in **Rev. 20**. The faithful saints who were raptured come with Jesus in **Rev. 19:14, 19** and are what they will sit down to rule and judge with Christ (**Dan. 7:9-10, 22**). Jesus will rule the earth forever in association with the resurrected saints (**Rev. 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12; Ro. 8:17**). They will receive God's authority to rule over the earth ("**judgment was committed to them**") All government authorities will be replaced and placed in the hands of those who exhibited love and meekness with a spirit of truth, while on earth (**Mt 5:5**).

Rev. 2:26-27 "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations— 27 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels."

Ap. 3:21 "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."

- B. Then, John specifically highlights the group of "**martyrs of the Tribulation**" reigning on thrones with Jesus during the Millennium. John saw "**the souls of those who had been beheaded ... who had not worshiped the beast**". These are clearly martyrs of the tribulation, who died because they stood firm to the "testimony of Jesus" and the "word of God" (**Rev. 6:9; 12:17; 18:24; 19:2**). They refused to take "**the mark**" of the beast, or worship "**his image**", and had died for their faith (**Rev. 13:15**). John saw these martyrs come back to life; that is, they experienced the bodily resurrection (**Rev. 19:5; 1:18, 2:8; 13:14; Jn. 11:25; Acts 1:3; 9:41**).
- C. These martyrs of the Tribulation are specifically highlighted to encourage us to stand firm and suffer or have "**patience**" and overcome all fear (**Rev. 13:10; 14:12**).

IV. REVELATION NOW

- D. This whole section (**Rev. 19: 11-21:8**) gives us the clearest picture of the end of the story. However, we need more than a simple notion that in the end we "win." Jesus said that at this hour: **"the heart of man would faint with fear"** (Lk. 21:26). **Therefore, we must feed our spirit with these truths, which have been given to us in advance in the Word of God, not only so that we may be refreshed and washed away from the contamination of fear but also so that we have a sense of clarity, boldness and confidence while facing all kinds of struggles.**
- E. **Rev. 19: 11-21:8** is our "compass in the storm" and will be somewhat disconcerting for the unbelieving world, which will be shaken to the core by these events. **God would not have given us this information unless we needed the details to be able to see the "complete picture" and understand where we are in the timeline.** Knowing this is essential to understand the complete prophetic plan that is displayed in Scripture and what is our part in all this. The goal is to respond appropriately from now on.
- F. Mariano Sennewald told us: **Revelation is a book of intimacy and war.** What comes for the body of Christ is the most intense time in history. There is a lot of intimacy with God in your life but also a lot of war. Jesus tells us: Follow me to intimacy and also to war. When you align to the will of God it does not become easier but more difficult but victory is certain.
- G. **We need to be prepared to face all this by overcoming fear:** If you do not live according to the truth, fear will defeat you. This was a message for the church in Smyrna and it is also for us (**Rev. 2: 8-11**). To God, they were rich, although they had tribulation and attacks. Difficulties come and we feel poor but God says: you are rich. Jesus gave a message that prepares us for war: **"I am the first and the last"** (**Rev. 2:8**). **The one who saw your end from the beginning tells you that you will win.**
- H. **Fear is the result of believing the lie.** You must be filled with the truth; You must say: I will live the truth 24 hours a day. Fear will be one of the weapons of darkness. Many of us believe lies. I don't know what the lie you have believed. **Great turbulence is coming but only those who have learned to see the Father will overcome the storm.** Those who choose the best part; those who do not lose that lifestyle.
- I. **Psalm 144: 1 "Blessed be the Lord my Rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle;"** God wants to anoint you in two dimensions: That you may win your personal battles; God wants to give train you fingers to win the war of the nations.

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. **Why do you know that you can feel safe even if the devil attacks you?**
2. **How can you overcome fear?**
3. **How can you cultivate intimacy with Christ to be ready to face the spiritual storm that we face and that will increase in the end times?**