



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Holy Book of Revelation

Chapter 20

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Introduction

- Previous chapters have illustrated the defeat of agents used by Satan to persecute God's people
- One by one we have seen the fall of Babylon, the beast, the false prophet, and the armies they had gathered
- This chapter is considered as an introduction, or a preparation for the two following chapters; therein he tells us about *“the kingdom of God that is within us”* Luke 17:21



Introduction

- This chapter is one of the most controversial chapters in the Bible
- The controversy centers around the meaning of the Millennium, Latin for "thousand-years", reign of Christ
- Since the early 19th century the Millennium has been an obsessive preoccupation of conservative Christianity



Introduction

Chapter Outline

- Satan Bound 1,000 Years 1-3
- The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years 4-6
- Satanic Rebellion Crushed 7-10
- The Great White Throne Judgment 11-15

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- *having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand*, The description of this angel can agree to none but Christ
- Or one that exercises power by delegation from Him; with a commission from God, authorized with power to open or to shut *the bottomless pit*
- For, Revelation 1:18, it is He who has the power of hell and death; and it is He who alone is stronger than the devil
- The bottomless pit is the abyss, as we have had elsewhere, Revelation 9:1, 11:7, 17:8; Luke 8:31; it is figuratively the dwelling of the devil and his associate angels, Matthew 25:41

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The four words are thus used to describe the enemy in verse 2; are the same as those used for the same purpose in Revelation 12:9
- Over the world he has exercised in every quarter his power as prince of this world, and he has been found fierce as the dragon, subtle as the serpent, the slanderer of God and His people, and the adversary of all righteousness
- He is bound as Christ declared, Matthew 12:29; and also in Colossians 2:15

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- As the Holy Bible says, *“...now the ruler of this world will be cast out”* John 12:31
- *“Having wiped out the writing of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us, and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, and He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it, that is the cross”* Colossians 2:14-15
- *“I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you”* Luke 10:19

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- We find in the New Testament many quotations to reassure our souls not that Satan's behavior is tied down, but his authority is confined
- Therefore he cannot have dominion over man so far as man gives him no place into his heart
- But if man chooses to allow something of Satan's belongings to enter in his heart, thus he surrenders willingly to the enemy

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Many are the writings of the early Church Fathers who give to the believers hope and courage to fight Satan without fear nor trouble
- Thus the believer is reassured that with the cross of the Lord, he will tie him down and destroy him
- St. Augustine says, that the Angel coming down from heaven is the Lord Jesus, who rescued those who had the hope for salvation from hell. He as well tied down the power of Satan, so that he would not have dominion over His militants during their struggle on earth

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



a thousand years, The Millennium

- In the first centuries of Christianity this idea was endorsed by the so-called Chiliasts or Millennialists
- It is chiefly derived from Jewish eschatological expectations of an earthly kingdom
- Against them rose the entire ancient Church

What is the Millennium?

- Some Protestant sects interpret these verses literally and teach that there will be an **earthly** kingdom for Lord Jesus Christ and that the believer will reign with Him for one thousand years

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- These years, according to them, will be a time of unprecedented peace, of rampant prosperity, of great purity, of perpetual health and of joy
- Those who believe in a literal millennial reign are divided among themselves into two groups:
 1. **The Historic Pre- Millennialists** who believe that Lord Jesus Christ will return to the earth physically before the start of the 1,000-year period
 2. **The Post-Millennialists** who believe that Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth physically after the end of the 1,000-year period

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- **Dispensationalism**, Is another view and is a latter-day doctrine, appeared for the first time in the early nineteenth century
- It was an invention based on a 'vision' ascribed to a young Scottish girl named Margaret MacDonald
- As they tell it, in 1830, she had a vision about the end of the world and when she came out from under her trance, she wrote it down
- It was adopted and disseminated by a visitor to her church, the Reverend J. N. Darby, founder of the Plymouth Brethren

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Dispensationalism separates the Second Coming into a two-part event — a secret Rapture that is to precede the public Revelation by as many as seven years
- This doctrine of a secret Rapture belongs exclusively to dispensational premillennialism
- The only biblical passage that comes even remotely close to mentioning the term "rapture" is 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
- There the "catching up" of living believers is not pictured as an event distinguishable from the Second Coming of Christ

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The Bible does not present the Rapture as an eschatological event that is distinct from the Second Coming — that is, separated from it in time — by three and one-half or seven years, as in the speculations of dispensationalists
- It is what will happen to living Christians when Christ returns, just as resurrection is what will happen to dead believers
- It is certainly not a secret coming of Christ in advance of a public coming
- And it certainly does not prepare for a period of tribulation during which time rebellious humanity has a second chance to repent in advance of "the real thing"

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Dispensationalists generally presume that an eschatological event described in the so-called "Little Apocalypse" in Matthew 24; Mark 13; and Luke 21 is to be identified as "the Rapture"
- *"Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left."* Matthew 24:40
- The Greek term that may be translated as "Rapture" in 1 Thessalonians 4 nowhere appears in Matthew 24; Mark 13; and Luke 21

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The Coptic Orthodox Church believes in the Millennium period but not the Pre or post-millennial Protestant fundamentalist or evangelical concepts
- The Orthodox view is that the Millennium period is A-millennial
- The Orthodox Church does not believe in a literal interpretation of these verses and in fact considers the idea of a literal kingdom a false teaching
- The 1,000-year reign is a symbolic and spiritual period that started from the Lord Jesus' Resurrection and will continue until His Second Coming for judgment

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Our Lord said, *“now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.”*
John 12:31-32
- Our Lord said, “NOW” Satan will be bound when He was talking about His crucifixion
- Thus the thousand years reign of Lord Jesus Christ has started by His redemption of humanity through His blood
- He bound and restrained the power of Satan over mankind

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- As St. Paul said, *“having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”*¹⁵ *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”* Colossians 2:14-15
- The number 1,000 is a mystical number that is understood to symbolically mean an indeterminate number of years, *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”* 2 Peter 3:8

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- *“For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past.”* Psalm 90:4
- The reminder in 2 Peter 3:8-15 should have been sufficient
- The Lord does not use our calendar
- For him, a day is as a thousand years; and a thousand years as a day
- Delay in the fulfillment of his promises is not a sign of His failure, but of His patience

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Delay gives more people more time to repent, so they can be saved
- Following Jesus' resurrection, the disciples asked him, *"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"*⁷ *And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority."* Acts 1:6-7
- Thus, it is not only useless and pointless, it is misguided to attempt to know God's mind on this subject

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The Holy Book of Revelation contains many mystical, symbolic, and allegorical expressions that cannot be interpreted literally but carry exalted and spiritual meanings often completely different from that readily apparent
- Those who teach that Lord Jesus is coming to reign on earth for one thousand years and then will come again for judgment are in fact teaching that there are three comings for the Lord

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The first in His Incarnation, the second for the earthly kingdom, and the third for Judgment
- This is totally absurd and illogical
- The Second and final Coming of Lord Jesus Christ will be for Judgment, Matthew 24, 25; John 5:28-29
- Holy Scripture points in the direction of a spiritual kingdom rather than an earthly one

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Our Lord never spoke of an earthly kingdom for Himself
- In fact, He spoke against such a kingdom, John 18:36; John 15:6; Romans 14:17
- Moreover, our Lord said, “*Indeed the Kingdom of God is within you.*” Luke 17:21
- This is a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly one
- The Lord said afterwards, “*The days will come when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it.*” Luke 17:22

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- This clearly contradicts any notion of an earthly kingdom
- This spiritual kingdom does not have a time limit of 1,000 years or any number of years
- Believers in the literal millennial reign speak of earthly rewards and earthly joy
- However, our Lord Jesus Christ said, “*great is your reward in heaven.*” Matthew 5:12
- St. John also said, “*Do not love the world or the things in the world ... the world is passing away, and the lust of it*” 1 John 2:15-17

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- Christ Himself established this kingdom and explained in His parables how it will appear, who it will include and what power it will possess
- His reign will not endure for a thousand years, but eternally, Luke 1:33
- It was written, *“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.”* Hebrews 13:14
- Thus St. Paul said, *“our citizenship is in heaven”* Philippians 3:20

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- *“I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.”* Philippians 1:23-24
- If an earthly kingdom was to be expected St. Paul would have said, “I can’t wait until the Lord comes to reign over His people here on earth” but on the contrary we see him wanting to depart from this vain world
- The post- millennialists who teach that Lord Jesus is coming after the end of the 1,000-year period contradict the straightforward biblical teaching of the element of surprise associated with the Last Day

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The early Fathers taught, and the Orthodox Church teaches today, that the Millennium period is here and now and to re-enforce that understanding, included "and His Kingdom will have no end" in the Apostolic Creed
- The Fathers taught that the Millennial period began with Christ's Resurrection because this signaled the defeat and binding up of Satan
- To some of the Fathers, Irenæus, Polycarp, Justin Martyr, Tertullian, the picture of the world during the Christian centuries would have the aspect of a millennium, when contrasted with the age of Pagan domination

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- In their eyes, accustomed to the darkness of heathenism, the world as influenced by a widely diffused Christianity would seem to be a world in which Christ ruled
- They would see in the acknowledgment of apostles and martyrs and confessors the wondrous resurrection power of God's truth
- They would see how those who fell for Christ had stepped from their forgotten graves to sit down with Christ in His throne
- The apostles, the martyrs, the faithful do reign with Christ
- The sovereignty of the world belongs far more to St. Paul and St. John than to Nero and Galba

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- And the fathers also understood that when He comes back, it would be as the great Judge, i.e., "and He will come in glory to judge the living and the dead", again included in the Apostolic Creed
- If the date of the Second Coming of Christ cannot be determined, as neither the angels nor even the Son of Man, as man, have been informed of it, Matthew 24:36-44, then surely neither can the date of the beginning of the millennium be determined

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- The Chiliasts cannot make human calculations and determinations for mysteries that are unknown to the angels, and even, in His humanity, to the Son of God Himself
- A read of these verse indicates he is in chains BUT, as other scripture indicate, he is able to roam, 1 Peter 5:8
- This shows the chains are figurative and that he is only restricted in his actions having been defeated by Christ
- At the end Of the Church age, Satan will be released, *for a little while*, the Antichrist will come, the Tribulation will be upon us and the Second Coming of Christ will shorten the days

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- But why *he must be released for a little while?*
- Because at the end of days many will be lukewarm, live in sin, and deny Him, *“And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.”* Matthew 24:12
- Jesus was wondering, *“when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”* Luke 18:8
- St. Paul also said, *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, ² speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,”* 1 Timothy 4:1-2

Satan Bound 1,000 Years 20:1-3



- *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy ... having a form of godliness but denying its power” 2 Timothy 3:1-5*
- *“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first,” 2 Thessalonians 2:3*
- People will seek worldly matter and reject Him, and God will grant them their wish



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- In these verses we see a picture of what is happening during the 1000 year
- There are righteous people die and others are martyrs for Christ
- There is an importance given to the thrones, because the thought of the reign of the saints is uppermost in the mind of the seer, St. John
- The thrones are seen, and those who sat on them
- These are all the real servants of God
- They appear before the seer in two great classes



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- First, the martyrs who have been faithful unto death
- Second, the 12 apostles and the saints as Christ promised them, Matthew 19:28-19
- *And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years,* Those who reign with Christ are souls, not bodies, so where the idea of the millennium where Christ lives among people is coming from?
- Death is not an end but a beginning of a life with Christ in heaven



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- *the rest of the dead* , Those who did not reign with Christ and did not repent
- And they are those who *worshiped the beast and received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands*
- Those who died spiritually have no place in the Paradise
- What is *the first resurrection*?
- We know that sin entered the world, consequently death reigned over all souls



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- And although we were carnally alive, our souls were dead because of its separation from the source of its life, “God”
- Therefore, God came to give us a spiritual resurrection for our souls, before the general resurrection on the Day of Judgment
- The adoption and entrance into this kingdom takes place only *“through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”* Titus 3:5; or birth from above John 3:3



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- No one can enter into this reign of God except through baptism, Romans 6:3, which is to say by being born again from above or being born of water and the spirit, according to the word of the Savior, John 3:5
- Thus those who repent and believe are considered to have joined the spiritual reign of Lord Jesus Christ— *“Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall ... reign with Him a thousand years.”* Revelation 20:6



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- This heavenly birth by the power of the Holy Spirit is a true resurrection from the dead, Colossians 2:12-13, and hence the reason why Baptism is so often referred to as resurrection, Romans 6:3-5
- For sure, we can say that the Church in her struggle, in spite of her suffering pains, is living in the millennium which is the first resurrection, tasting the pledge of the heavenly places



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- St. John Chrysostom says, “Man was the last reasonable creature, but behold! the foot became head, and through Christ, the First-born of all creation we reached the royal throne. He sanctified our nature at the divine throne, therefore St. Paul declares, *“and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”* (Ephesians 2:6-7). What is the exceeding riches of His grace? He gives His grace free for all people, for He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell in every heart. But the true believer alone realizes the exceeding riches of His grace, enjoys it, working within him and overflows. The Lord deals wondrously with His saints, but those who reject will not receive.”



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- *Blessed and holy*, This is the 5th of the 7 blessings in Revelation
- In these verses two classes of people are being identified
- The faithful who *has part in the first resurrection* through repentance and baptism and are promised that they will live and reign with Christ "for a thousand years"
- And the rest of the dead, the unbelievers
- Those who carry the cross with the Lord Jesus, and witness to Him until death, will enjoy here the first resurrection



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- But the rest who are spiritually dead do not enjoy the first resurrection, and fall under the eternal second death Rev. 21:8
- St. Augustine says, “There will be no coming of Jesus before His last appearance for judgment, for His coming is actually happening now in the Church and in her members. As for the first resurrection in the book of Revelation, it is metaphoric, and points to the interpretation of what happens to those who die in sin, then rise for a new life through repentance. So the millennium has indeed began, for Christ has conquered death and won on the cross, and now we His saints rule with Him, and through Him.”



The Saints Reign With Christ 1,000 Years 20:4-6

- Living and believing in God protects from the second death
- according to Christ's word of such, *"they shall never die"* John 11:26;
- *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."* John 10:27-28
- Theirs is the priesthood of life who have offered themselves a living sacrifice to God, Romans 12:1
- The kingship of life is theirs, who have overcome the world-powers in the word of God and in the blood of the Lamb; these truly reign, Revelation 5:10

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- When God deems the time is ready for the final defeat of Satan, he will be released from the Abyss to initiate the last great battle
- The reign of Christ with His saints has been a witness to the power of our Master over the wicked one
- This witness has been an opportunity also to the world
- But the time of opportunity must end
- When the time comes that the Antichrist appears, he would be given Satan's dominion and power to rise and destroy, even if possible to mislead the chosen ones

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- Therefore it is said that Satan is released from hell, his prison, to appear working with remarkable power
- When both the wheat (believers) and the tares (those who reject Christ) come to full maturity, Satan will be released for a short time to deceive the nations in one last attempt to overthrow the Kingdom of Christ
- This has been his goal from the very beginning

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- There was sudden concentration of demonic activity during Jesus' ministry
- Satan knew he was facing the ultimate fight
- But God used Satan to fulfill His plan by allowing Satan to engineer his own defeat at the cross!
- This last and final battle will be the sequel to the last attempt to defeat God's plans for man's salvation
- Satan will be released to bring about the last rebellion

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- In this Last Battle sequence John uses vivid imagery from the book of the Prophet Ezekiel
- In Ezekiel 38-39 the prophet predicts the Maccabee's victory over the pagan Syrians and the reestablishment of Judah as an independent nation in the 2nd century BC
- Ezekiel writes about Gog and Magog but they are not the same Gog and Magog of Revelation chapter 20
- In Revelation Gog and Magog are the standard expression for rebellious nations

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- Gog and Magog are a "type" of the rebellious nations under the influence of Satan in the Last Battle
- These rebellious nations, symbolized by Gog and Magog, are *"from the 4 corners of the earth"*
- They are numbered *"as the sands of the sea"* which is hyperbolic imagery to express their great numbers, Joshua 11:4; Judges 7:12; 1 Samuel 13:5; 2 Samuel 17:11; 1 Kings 4:20,29; Job 6:3; Isaiah 15:8; 33:22; Hosea 1:10; etc

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- The hostile multitudes spread like swarms over the earth, and surrounded *the camp of the saints and the beloved city*
- Jerusalem is the beloved city; in it was the Mount Zion which God loved, Psalm 78:68
- It is the figure of the true spiritual Zion and Jerusalem which has been faithful to her king, the Church
- The beloved city has its camp; it is ready for war

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- It has waged its spiritual warfare against all forms of evil, its citizens, like the returned exiles, Nehemiah 4:17-18, could never lay down the sword, Ephesians 6:11; but the hostile demonstration is arrested by divine intervention
- Like Ezekiel's vision the invasion is suddenly halted by the overwhelming power of God who destroys the unbelievers with fire and condemns the devil to Hell and eternal torment

Satanic Rebellion Crushed

20:7-10



- Satan's release from the Abyss was a trap intended to draw the forces of evil out into the open so that they could be destroyed
- Once again Scripture teaches the everlasting duration of divine punishment, Matthew 18:8, 25:41,46; Mark 9:43,48
- The three enemies have been overthrown and driven forth from the earth which they have sought to destroy, Revelation 11:18
- The judgment of human beings must follow

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- Previously we were taught about the Kingdom of God which is within us, that we enjoy, the power given to us, and the tribulations that will happen to the Church as a result of the release of the devil at the end of ages
- However God never forsakes us, but is working in the Church through His Holy Spirit
- Now we are reassured as His children, that shortly the coming of the Lord for Judgment will follow
- Here the Lord appears sitting on a white throne, as an indication of peace

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- The throne is described as great and white, to set it in strong contrast to other thrones mentioned in the book, e.g., Revelation 4:4, 20:4
- It is a white throne, in token of the purity of the judgment which follows
- He comes without a sword in His mouth
- He does not appear here as a Horseman to fight, nor as a Lion to assure the fainting souls, but sitting on the throne to grant the victorious a share in the heavenly glories

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- *the earth and the heaven fled away*, Everything transient disappears and is laid bare before the awesome judge on the great white throne
- The way is now made for the New Heavens and earth, Revelation 21:1; 2 Peter 3:13; Romans 8:23

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- In one moment the righteous, old and young, whose names are written in the Book of Life will be judged according to their works
- And the wicked who were in Hades, those who are spiritually dead, will also be judged according to their works, for God judges without partiality
- All the dead, good and bad, as in Matthew 25:31-33
- One book records the actions of all people, Daniel 7:10; Isaiah 65:6

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- The second book contains the names of those chosen for eternal life, Daniel 12:1; Exodus 32:32; Revelation 3:5 *"He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels."*
- The books" show fully why certain names are selected and inscribed in the "book of life"
- Here is enforced again the lesson with which the Apocalypse opens in the epistles to the seven Churches, viz. that the reward will follow according to the works, Revelation 2:5, 3:15

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



St. Augustine on the two kind of books

- *books were opened*, St. Augustine thinks that it symbolizes the opening of the secrets of all mankind, which is their hearts, and consciences in order that all understand God's equity
- *another book was opened*, which is the revealing of the Person of the Lord Jesus, and His work, as a Tree of Life, and whoever eats from it during the days of his struggle on earth, lives forever
- In the opened book the believers read about their righteousness which is not out of themselves but in the Person of Lord Jesus Himself

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- Then they rejoice saying, “*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*” Romans 8:1-2 [City of God]
- The sea being a type of the ungodly nations, the sentence may mean those spiritually dead, but living on the earth at the time of the judgment
- The next clause seems to support this view

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- *and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them,*
As in Revelation 6:8, the two are mentioned separately
- This clause, taken in conjunction with the preceding one, may mean - From the ungodly nations, those physically living but spiritually dead were called up for judgment, and also those who were actually dead, having been seized by death and Hades
- And they were judged every man according to their works

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- Three times in these two short verses we have the terrible words “the lake of fire”
- Into this lake of fire Death and Hades are thrown
- It is clearly figurative language, implying that Death, the last enemy, 1 Corinthians 15:26 is destroyed, together with Hades
- So we read in the next chapter, Revelation 21:4 *“there shall be no more death”*
- The lake of fire into which Death is thrown is the second death!
- We have read of this before in this book Revelation 2:11, 20:6

The Great White Throne Judgment 20:11-15



- It is a death of which the first death—the physical death, now destroyed
- St. Augustine thinks, that it points to Satan who is the leader of the spiritual death, and chief of the inhabitants of Hades
- He is cast into the lake of fire
- Thereby, the image of sin is completely removed
- In the following two chapters, the Apostle records to us the joyful picture of the heavenly matrimonial home full of trust and security, for the wicked is cast far away forever



Discussion

- Mark 3:27 suggests that Satan was bound through the work of Christ on the cross. How would you respond to this in light of Revelation 20:2-3 and 1 Peter 5:8?
- How does Satan deceive you? Why is Satan not permanently bound or cast directly into the lake of fire? Why is it necessary for him to once again be released?
- What is the difference between the first and second resurrections?



Discussion

- Why does God release Satan from the Abyss? Are there any reasons implied in the text or the whole of Scriptures? Satan is successful in his attempt to “*deceive the nations.*” What does this tell us about the nature of man?
- Is there a difference between the great white throne judgment and the judgment seat of Christ? If so, what is the difference(s)?