

Steve Greenberg's Handout: October 22, 2025 (Wed p.m.)

Week 35: Rev 20:1-15 Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years

Extra notes and charts at end

Rev 20:1-3 Satan Bound for 1000 Years (

Rev 20:1 Then I (John) saw an angel coming down (descending) from heaven, having (holding) the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in (Lit: upon) his hand (bottomless pit or Greek abyss, the underworld; also in 20:3).

The great tribulation has ended. The millennium begins, so Satan must be chained up, so an angel is sent down from heaven.

The Greek words for “And or then I saw” are used seven times in chs 19-21 to indicate a progression or end: example marriage supper: millennium; new heaven and new earth.

Rev 20:2 He(angel) laid hold of (overpowered and seized) the dragon, that serpent of old (ancient serpent), who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him (tied him up, secured in chains) for a thousand years (aka the millennium);

John uses four names for the fallen angel, anointed cherub (Eze 28:12-18), O Lucifer, Lit: Day Star (Isa 14:12-16) who is the enemy against God: Dragon, Serpent, Devil and Satan

Rev 20:3 and he(angel) cast him (Devil, Satan) into the bottomless pit (abyss), and shut him up, and set a seal on him (preventing any type of escape or rescue), so that he (Devil) should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years were finished. But after these things, he(Devil) must be released for a little while (brief period of time).

“Is this a literal transaction? Certainly it is. The battle is literal; the taking of the Beast and the False Prophet is literal; the slaying of the kings and their armies is literal; Satan is literal; and his binding must be equally literal. It will not resolve itself into anything else.” (Quote from Seiss)

Satan was previously thrown out of Heaven

Rev 12:7 And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,

Rev 12:8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

Rev 12:9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Pastor Chuck Smith quote:

The bottomless pit" is also called the abussos or shaft which goes from the surface to the center of the earth. Hades, in the center of the earth, is where dead men go; the abussos is where the demons go.

Rev 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I (Jesus) have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Luk 8:31 And they (demons, Legion) begged Him(Jesus) that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

Correlation passage:

2Pet 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Jde 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Set a seal on Satan, A seal was placed on the door to not let Daniel out of the lions den.

Dan 6:17 Then a stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signets of his lords, that the purpose concerning Daniel might not be changed.

Quote from David Guzik, Blue Letter Bible

There is no need to say that Satan is only bound in a spiritual sense, and Jesus only rules in a spiritual sense. When we consider the rest of the Scriptures, the earthly reign of Christ and His people on this earth is plainly taught in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, we see it in Psalm 72, Isaiah 2:2-4, Isaiah 11:4-9, Jeremiah 23:5-6, and in many, many more passages. In the New Testament we see it in Luke 1:32-33, Matthew 5:18, Luke 19:12-27, among other passages. All in all, there are more than 400 verses in more than 20 different passages in the Old Testament which deal with this time when Jesus Christ will rule and reign personally over planet earth.

iv. Who will be on the earth in the Millennium? Even after the rapture and the vast judgments of the Great Tribulation, there will be many people left on earth. After Jesus returns in glory, He will judge those who survive the Great Tribulation in the judgment of the nations (Matthew 25:31-46). This is not a judgment unto salvation, but a judgment of moral worthiness, and entrance into the Millennial Kingdom of Jesus. The unworthy will be sent into eternal damnation, and the worthy will be allowed in Jesus' Millennial Kingdom.

Rev 20:4-6 Saints Reign with Christ 1000 Years (Millennial Reign)

Rev 20:4 And I (John) saw thrones (in a vision), and they sat (were seated) on them (the thrones), and judgment was committed to them (they were given authority to judge). Then I (John also) saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to (testimony, and proclamation of) 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 (came to life) and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

John sees those enthroned in heaven with authority to rule and judge. These are the saints of the church age who will reign with Christ as His bride. These resurrected believers will assist with Christ's thousand-year reign as righteous King Jesus will rule over the whole earth, based in Jerusalem.

The second group of people are the tribulation saints who died for their faith. Both groups will rule with Christ in the Millennium.

Mat 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.

Rev 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.

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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

Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead (**refers to unbelievers of all ages**) did not live again (**come to life again**) until the thousand years were finished (**ended, completed**). This is the first resurrection (**refers back to verse 4 and is not a single event but resurrections at different times: rapture of the church (1 Thes 4:13-18), two witnesses (Rev 11:11), tribulation saints and all true believers including Christ (1 Cor 15:23).**

1Cor 15:20-24 But now Christ is risen from the dead (**first to be resurrected**), and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1Cor 15:21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

1Cor 15:23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

1Cor 15:24 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.

The unbelievers will be raised at the end of the Millennium to stand before the Great White Throne Judgement.

Rev 20:6 Blessed (**oh how happy, prosperous, wellbeing**) (**This is the fifth of the seven promised blessings, see chart in notes at end**) and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death (**which ends up at Great White Throne judgement for unbelievers (Rev 20:11–15) who will be judged and then separation from God, tormented in the lake of fire forever**) has no power (**or authority**), but they (**believers and those martyrs will be in heavenly bodies and, thus, will not be subject to the deceptions of Satan**) shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him, a thousand years (**Millennial Kingdom**).

Those who participated in first resurrection are blessed because they will not be included in the second death.

Second death: The unbelievers (**wicked ones, not written in the book of life**) are returned to bodily existence and condemned for their evil deeds. They will be cast into the lake of fire and separated from God forever.

Dan 12:2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Final Judgement, the Great White Throne judgement for those who previously worshipped the beast

Rev 14:9 Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand,

Rev 14:10 "he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Rev 20:7-10 Satan is Released and Leads Rebellion (cf. Eze. ch38-39) The Final Rebellion

Rev 20:7 Now when the thousand years have expired (**finished, completed**), Satan will be released from his prison (**bottomless pit, the abyss**)

Rev 20:8 and will go out to deceive (**mislead**) the nations, which are in the four corners of the earth, (**including**) Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle (**war**), whose number is "**as**" the sand of the sea (**numberless**) (**Lit: sea, not seashore**) (**these were unbelievers, children born from the survivors of the Tribulation, who were able to enter into the Millennium (Christ 1000 reign) because they we believers**).

Many people will choose to follow Satan, though they will have lived on earth during the righteous reign of Christ. They will rebel against the "rod of iron"-and choice to disobey and attempt to go to war against God.

Gog and Magog: Don't get confused with battle at end of tribulation (Ezek 38-39), we are at end of Millennium. Here Gog and Magog is a general term for nations hostile to Christ.

Rev 20:9 They (**unbelievers who joined Satan**) went up on the breadth (**or broad plain**) of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints (**believers**) and the beloved city (**Jerusalem, the world's capital of which Christ reigned during the Millennial Kingdom**). And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them (**consumed them completely**).

Rev 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast (**thrown, hurled**) into the lake of fire and brimstone (**burning sulfur**) where the beast (**aka the Antichrist appears in 1 & 2 John**) (**Biblically, they aren't given the same name but they describe the same figure in different terms, see chart, in notes below**) and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (**or from the ages to the ages**).

Rev 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two (**beast & false Prophet**) were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev 20:11-15 Great White Throne Judgment (The Final Judgment)

Rev 20:11 Then I (**John**) saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it (**white throne**), from whose face (**presence**) the earth and the heaven fled away (**passing away**). And there was found no place for them (**to hide**).

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream and Daniel Interprets

Dan 2:35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

This removal of the first heaven and earth (Hag 2:6-7; Heb 12:26–28; and described in Rev 16:18–21) this prepares the way for the new heaven and earth (21:1, 4–5; Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:10–13).

Rev 20:12 And I (**John**) saw the dead, small and great, standing before God (**God's throne**), and books (**or scrolls**) 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 (**recorded**) in the books (**everything done while on earth**).

The books that will be opened, means God keeps track of our actions and there are different degrees of punishment.

God's Righteous Judgment

Rom 2:2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth and against those who practice such things.

Rom 2:6 who "will render to each one according to his deeds":

Rom 2:7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality;

Rom 2:8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath,

Vision of the Ancient of Days (correlation passage):

Dan 7:9 "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Dan 7:10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Dan 7:11 "I watched then because of the sound of the pompous words which the horn was speaking; I watched till the beast was slain, and its body destroyed and given to the burning flame.

Dan 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Dan 7:14 Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

Rev 20:13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades (**holding area, the realm of the dead**) delivered (**gave**) up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works (**deeds**).

All the dead will be raised from the grave and the sea, to be judged by their deeds.

God will judge the secrets of men Gentiles & Jews by Jesus Christ and the gospel

Rom 2:12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

Rom 2:13 (for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;

Rom 2:14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

Rom 2:15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

Rom 2:16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Rev 20:14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death (**means the complete person soul and body, the spirit is dead but all thrown into the lake of fire and is eternal separation from God forever**).

Death, the last enemy, will be destroyed by Christ, Jesus.

Rev 20:15 And anyone (**name**) not found written in the Book of Life was cast (**throne**) into the lake of fire (**Those that put their faith in Christ, Jesus as Lord (see Ps 69:28; Phil 4:3; Rev 3:5 were written in the Book of Life)**).

Unbelievers will be rightly condemned for their sins

Rev 13:8 All who dwell on the earth (**unbelievers**) will worship him (**beast**), whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Believers, listed in the “book of life”, will enter into “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev 21:1) because they are redeemed by “the Lamb who was slain” for their sins (1:5; 13:8). Their recorded deeds give evidence of their trust in Christ.

End

Notes:

Seven Beatitudes of Revelation: "Blessed" (*makarios*)

1. Blessing upon the reader & heeder of Revelation (1:3)
2. Blessing upon the Tribulation martyrs (14:13)
3. Blessing upon the spiritually prepared (16:15)
4. Blessing upon the Marriage Supper invitees (19:9)
5. Blessing upon the First Resurrection's participants (20:6)
6. Blessing upon the heeder of Revelation (22:7)
7. Blessing upon the eternal city's citizens (22:14)

Quote: John F. Walvoord, "Revelation," in Bible Knowledge Commentary, ed. John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck (Colorado Springs, CO: Victor, 1983), 929.

Most biblical scholars believe these three names point to the same final figure, viewed through different lenses:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Emphasis</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Antichrist:	1 & 2 Jn	Spiritual deception, denying Christ	End-times false messiah and false teacher & teachers
Beast:	Rev 13–20	Political/military power, by Satan	Final world ruler + empire/system
Man of Sin:	2 Thes 2	Religious deception, self-exaltation	Final blasphemous leader under Satan's power

Reasons for Understanding 1000 Literally

Numbers taken literally

Two witnesses (11:3), 7000 people (11:13), 4 Angels (7:1) 7 Angels (8:6), 144,000 Jews (7:4), 42 months (11:2), 1260 days (11:3)

Not always a symbolic interpretation, look for OT passage

In Revelation's Symbols and Figures of Speech

"Spiritually" (11:8)

"Sign" (12:1)

"Like" or "as" (8:8)

OT correspondence (Rev 13:2; Dan 7)

Contextual interpretations (Rev 17:18)

Seen as an Absurdity (Rev 12:1)

Robert Thomas observes that, "no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number."
Robert Thomas. *Revelation chs 8 to 22: An Exegetical Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1992), 408.

OT Scriptures which describe the Millennium

Established by God (Dan. 2:44)

Eternal (Dan. 7:27)

Christ's direct rule (Zech. 9:9-10)

Earthly (Zech. 14:9)

Land promises realized (Gen. 15:18-21)

Israel's preeminence (Isa. 49:22-23)

Millennial Temple (Ezek. 40–46)

Millennial David (Jer. 30:9)
Righteousness (Isa. 9:6-7)
Curse curtailed (Isa. 65:20, 22)
Peace (Isa. 2:4)
Prosperity (Amos 9:13-14; Isa 65:22)
Topographical changes (Ezek. 47:1-12)
Immediate answers to prayer (Isa. 65:24)

David Hocking Quote

The Book of Revelation: Understanding the Future
(Tustin, CA: Hope For Today Publications, 2014), 530

God demonstrates by this one final event that even under the best conditions, mankind's problem is the heart. God demonstrates that Satan's depravity cannot be cured. God demonstrates that He is fully justified in exacting eternal punishment."

Second Coming and Millennial Comparison

EZEK. 38-39

Northern invasion
Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)
Invasion leads to Millennium (Eze 40-)
7 months dispose of the dead (39:12)
Satan not bound prior to invasion
Pentecost, Things To Come, 349-50

REV. 20:7-9

All nation invade
Invasion at end Millennium
Invasion leads to Eternal State (Rev 21-22)
Dead disposed, instantly (20:9)
Satan bound prior to invasion (Rev 20:2)

Quote from David Guzik

- i. Sheol is a Hebrew word with the idea of the "place of the dead." It has no direct reference to either torment or eternal happiness. The idea of Sheol is often accurately expressed as "the grave."
- ii. Hades is a Greek word used to describe the "world beyond." In the Bible, it has generally the same idea as Sheol. Revelation 9:1 speaks of the bottomless pit; this place called the abyssos is a prison for certain demons (Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6). Or more generally, it is considered part of the realm of the dead (Romans 10:7 uses it in the sense of Hades).
- iii. Gehenna is a Greek word borrowed from the Hebrew language. In Mark 9:43-44, Jesus speaks of hell (gehenna). Hell is a Greek translation of the Hebrew "Valley of Hinnom," a place outside Jerusalem's walls desecrated by Molech worship and human sacrifice (2 Chronicles 28:1-3; Jeremiah 32:35). It was also a garbage dump where rubbish and refuse were burned. The smoldering fires and festering worms of the Valley of Hinnom made it a graphic and effective picture of the fate of the damned. This is the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41). Men only go to this place prepared for the devil and his angels if they reject God's salvation and condemn themselves.