

Rev. 20:1-15 “Out of the Frying Pan”

For the Children: The expression, “out of the frying pan into the fire” refers to situations where people only get out of one bad situation, to find themselves in one that is even worse. The devil is in a bad situation because of the Lord Jesus’ death and resurrection. But it’s going to get worse. It will also get worse for those who serve the devil. For God’s children, our good situation is going to get even better! **Questions:** What is bad about Satan’s situation now? How will it get worse? What is good about our situation now? How will it get better?

Introduction:

First Point: Satan Bound

- 1) Key and Chain: In this vision an angel comes with God’s authority to lay hold of the dragon (Satan), throw him into the abyss and seal it shut. Every aspect of Satan’s character is affected – the dragon, Satan, the serpent, the devil –i.e., the liar, deceiver, tempter and destroyer. His activity is restricted, though not entirely ended during the “millennium”
- 2) The Millennium: The “1,000” years is the reign of Christ, with His victorious saints in heaven. It began with Christ’s first coming and will end when He returns. See the similar wording of Mt. 12:29, Lk. 10:17-19 and Jn. 12:31-33 to show the truth of this
- 3) The Nature of the Binding: Satan’s restriction as a result of Christ’s first coming is that he can no longer deceive the nations as he did when the Gospel was mainly heard in Israel (in the OT). He is also now prevented from accusing the saints before God in heaven (as he did with Job). See Rev. 12:10

Second Point: Satan Unbound

- 1) Satan Released: The vision also shows Satan being unbound at the end of the millennium, for a brief time. Many tie this in with a time of great apostasy and tribulation just before Christ returns – a plausible interpretation of these verses
- 2) Symbol Versus Literal: Remember, this is a vision about the whole present age, and full of symbolism – not a chronological account of the future. 2 Pet. 3 indicates “business as usual” before Christ returns, not crisis. Besides, the millennium is about the reign of Christ and His saints, ended only by His return – not a time of crisis *after* the end of His millennial reign. This vision is making a more general point, as was the vision of Armageddon (ch. 16) and 19:19, with their “Last Battle” scenes
- 3) Bound Yet Unbound: The point is that while Satan is bound in this age as outlined above, yet he is also unbound throughout this age too – he can still deceive many into rejecting the Gospel he cannot silence and opposing the church he cannot destroy. This is depicted as brief, because it is nothing compared to Christ’s comprehensive reign; and as coming at the end, to show that Satan will be found deceiving in this way when Christ returns – yet it is ultimately only an “appendix” to the history of His great reign, suddenly ended by His return. See Ezk. 35f re Syria’s opposition in the inter-Testamental period. All this explains why Satan seems so powerful now, even though Christ reigns

Third Point: Satan Bound Again

- 1) The Final Solution: Satan’s instruments were previously shown being finally punished; now Satan himself is dealt with finally, along with all his allies – in the lake of fire forever. All that comes from sin is also removed. Heaven and earth “flee” from God’s wrath. See 2 Pet. 3:10. Christ’s work even brings about the eventual end of “death and Hades,” the “last enemy” (1 Cor. 15:26)
- 2) Works and Mercy: The final judgement is put in terms of the opening of books/ records. The wicked are condemned by their own deeds; while God’s elect are saved by grace, their names being written in the “Book of Life” – though they, too, have deeds that reflect their nature in Christ
- 3) Two Deaths, Two Resurrections: These two destinies are put in terms of 2 “deaths” – physical, then everlasting; and 2 resurrections – spiritual, when we are born again, then physical when Christ returns

Conclusion: