

Revelation 20:1-3 – Jesus has bound Satan

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: John Hagee is a famous TV preacher who (along with others) has invested a lot of time and money in trying to recruit Jews to go back to Israel. He assumes (and tries to prove from the Bible) that Israel will play a significant role in eschatology (end of the world events). Unfortunately, he does not properly understand God's promise (that we just saw in Zephaniah).

He does not understand Israel's the restoration was ultimately **not a physical restoration** but a **spiritual restoration**...-a restoration that was **not based on Abraham's blood line** but **on Abraham's spiritual line**. So it was **not biological Jews** who were restored but **spiritual Jews** – and that included the Gentiles. **They would be restored by faith in Jesus Christ, gathered, spread, and promoted.**

You see this confirmed in Acts 1:6, where the disciples asked: "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **They too were focused on biological Jews and a physical kingdom.** What was Jesus' answer? He said: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and **to the end of the earth.**" **He dismissed their assumption of a physical kingdom of Jews and sent them out to bring in the lost sheep from the nations.**

In Revelation, which is not a conceal(ation), God reveals how this gathering, spreading, and promotion would take place. This is what you will see in the next few weeks. In this first sermon **you will see how the church's greatest enemy is restricted so this Jews and Gentiles could gather and expand.**

Our headings are:

Identity of the Angel who binds Satan

Activity of the Angel who binds Satan

Our goals are: That **you will rejoice in hope, knowing that your Lord controls your enemy so you can gather together and work for the expansion of his kingdom.**

Identity of the Angel who binds Satan

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having **the key to the bottomless pit...**

1. This angel who appeared from heaven came down to earth with a key in his hand is none other than Jesus Christ.

But how do we know it was Jesus? **Christ who conquered death and hell took the keys away from the Devil.** No one else has this power. (Angel simply means "messenger of God." Jesus is often called the Angel of God in the Old Testament- like when he met with Abraham and Sarah in the middle of the day. Also, he directly claimed to have the key of death and hell.

Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And **I have the keys of Hades and of Death.**

2. And what should come to mind when you see a person with keys in his hand coming up from a bottomless pit?

This picture should conjure up in your mind an ancient prison without our modern “human rights.” It was a picture of suffering with no hope of escape. There was no cable TV, weight room, law library, and 3 meals per day. There is a picture of a powerful warden and he intends to keep the community safe. This is a picture of the work of Jesus. He has the authority.

3. Lessons:

a. Jesus conquered Satan, death, and hell for you – Jews or Gentiles - if you have faith in him. No one can stop him. No one can take his children to hell. No one can let out the wicked ones he locks in there. So this is a picture of safety.

b. Rejoice! You don't have to go to hell – ever – not even temporarily to be purged.
You are free! The price has been paid.

Activity of the Angel who binds Satan

1...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; 3 and he **cast him 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.

1. Jesus, the Angel, laid hold of the Devil and bound him.

This Devil is identified specifically by his name, his person, and his actions and by dragon, Serpent, Devil, and Satan.

And Jesus bound him up and put him in a bottomless pit with great chains. Only Christ has power to do this.

2. But was Satan really bound? What does the Bible mean when it says that the Devil was bound?

(A doctrine is never developed on one passage alone.) This is obviously a metaphorical chain. If it were a real chain, what kind of material would hold a spiritual being? The best Schlage lock couldn't keep him. And Jesus doesn't have a literal key. And the abyss doesn't have a literal lock. Look at 2Peter 2:4 and Jude to see that “chains” literally means “restriction” of angels.

Jude 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;

How did this binding – this restriction- happen?

Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil and take what the Devil claimed.

1John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

Jesus overcame Satan by entering in Satan's house. (Ever heard: My hands are tied?)

Luke 11:20 "But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. 21 "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. 22 "But when a **stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him**, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils.

Jesus said he would conquer the pretend world leader (Satan) imminently - soon.

John 12:31 "Now is the judgment of this world; now the **ruler of this world will be cast out.**

After Jesus conquered death, rose, and went to heaven, he placed restrictions on Satan. This is why we don't see as much demon possession now as before.

3. Even the demons anticipated their destruction with Christ's coming.

Mark 1: 24 saying, "Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? **Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are**—the Holy One of God!"

Matthew 8:28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us **before the time?**"

Jesus asserted authority over the demons and constantly cast them out of the possessed.

Colossians 2: 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

4. But Satan being put into a bottomless pit was not referring to the end of the world here;

"Bottomless pit" must be explained in context.

Example 1: We might say of children who don't study hard and cost us a lot of money: "It is like throwing money in a bottomless pit." We don't think we are throwing our money to hell.

Example 2: The Bible speaks of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah as being done with fire and brimstone. There again, it doesn't mean hell, though there is fire and brimstone in hell.

So how do we know that this binding of Satan was not the end of the world? Satan will later come out from this restriction and go back into the world to try to deceive it again. If it were the end of the world, Satan would never be freed from hell.

5. And while Satan has been bound it does not mean that all his activity has ceased.

He was simply restricted from his regular activities so the Gospel could spread. Think how a dog is chained. It has movement, but it is restricted. You can avoid him and do your work.

6. Why does the Bible use all these graphic descriptions of the Devil and his power?

This shows the greatness of Christ's power over him. The Devil was a monster, but Christ was greater than he. And it is up to Christ when the Devil is restricted or let go. Yes, the Devil will have some freedom for a brief while later before Jesus returns, but that is at Christ's decision and Christ's time. Christ now sits on the throne in heaven and literally "calls the shots." Saint Augustine wrote: "The devil was conquered by his own trophy of victory. The devil jumped for joy, when he seduced the first man (Adam) and cast him down to death. By seducing the first man, he slew him; by slaying the last man (Jesus), he lost the first man (Adam) from his snare."

7. With Christ chaining Satan, his people are now free to advance his kingdom.

Luke 10:18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
19 "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.

Matthew 10:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

So you can boldly work for the kingdom!

8. This work of destroying the Devil is what you continue to do today through Christ's church as you proclaim the message of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Heb 2:14

Romans 16: 20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

And the Lord gave to his people power over demons (snakes, lions – and scorpions – Luke 10:18-19 above). "Snakes, lions, and scorpions" were not literal, of course. People don't play with lions. These were representatives of the dangerous enemies of God's people. So through preaching God destroys the enemies and cause his church to be gathered, restored and expand.

9. Lessons:

a. The chained Devil might rage but he is ineffective and impotent 无力的 to stop God's kingdom.

b. Christ is mighty to save. He is omnipotent. You don't need to fear the dog that is tied. He and his cohorts: Evil civil governments, anti-Christian advocates, atheists, those from

other religions will continue to be conquered. They can never destroy God's kingdom.

c. With the Devil chained, you must continue the fight...fight with the Sword of the Spirit to destroy the Devil's work and set men free from the bondage they are in.

Conclusion:

Before the coming of Christ, Satan largely controlled the nations, but his strong, deadly grip was shattered by the **preaching of the Gospel** and **conversions taking place** around the world. The Jews who rejected the Gospel were destroyed. If they rejected Pentecost they would face the holocaust. But the nations were brought in by faith in Jesus and joined with the godly Jews.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

First, hear these words of encouragement to face the challenges of bringing many to Christ's kingdom: 1John 4:4 – "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world." John's point is that **you are assured of victory** because of who you are and who is on your side. Don't give up serving the Lord even when things look dark or the heart of the unbelievers seems cold.

Second, remembering the darkness in which the world is, **love those in darkness**. Acts 26:17 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 **'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light,** and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' Enlarge your tent; make room for more. Go out and conquer for Christ. Use his Word and pray for his Spirit to work.

Third, **praise the Lord more and better for your freedom from sin, death, and hell**. You are the true Jew.

Finally, if you are not trusting Jesus that he will take away your sins by his death, I urge you, plead with you, avoid hell and ask him to forgive your sins and make you his child. He died for the sins of all kinds of people.