

“Winners and Losers!”

Revelation 14:1-5; 20:1-3

East Berlin Community Church

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March 19, 2023

Introduction

- “March Madness” selection to determine those who are “in” and those who are “out”
- We love winners! But in life there are both winners and losers!

“Winners and Losers”

A. The “Winners”-- those who are “in” the Kingdom

1. The regenerated Jewish remnant who embrace Jesus at His second coming.

- Romans 11:26-27-- *“And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”*

2. Living Gentile Believers

- Matthew 25:34-- *“Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”*

3. Those raised to life at the First Resurrection

- a. The church saints at the rapture of the Church
- b. The two faithful witnesses of Revelation 11
- c. Resurrected tribulation saints
- d. Resurrected Old Testament saints

4. The 144,000 Jewish Evangelists-- The Ultimate Overcomers!

- Revelation 14:1-5-- *“Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father’s name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps. They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.”*

a. Sealed at the end of the sixth sealed judgment

- Revelation 7:2-4-- *“another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God. And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels to whom it was granted to harm the earth and the sea, saying, “Do not harm the earth, the sea, or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of those who were sealed. One hundred and forty-four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel were sealed.”*

b. These overcomers are known for...

- Revelation 14:4-5-- *“These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.*

- 1) **Their purity**-- *“These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins.”*

- a) Current moral conditions-- sex saturated society
 - b) What we see today will pale in comparison to the sexual perversion during the tribulation
 - c) In the midst of all the perversion, the 144,000 will shine like beacons of purity.
 - d) Does not mean that they are unmarried, since sex within marriage is honorable.
 - Hebrews 13:4-- *"Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge."*
 - e) Sexual purity is essential for triumphant Christian living!
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6-- *"For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified."*
 - 2 Timothy 2:22-- *"Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart."*
- 2) **Their Commitment to Christ**-- *"These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes."*
- Matthew 16:24-25-- *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*
- 3) **Their Salvation experience**-- *"These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits to God and to the Lamb."*
- 1 Peter 1:18-19-- *"they were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*
- 4) **Their Holiness of Life**--*"in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God."*
- a) **Faithful**
 - Zephaniah 3:13a-- *"The remnant of Israel shall do no unrighteousness and speak no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth."*
 - b) **Faultless**
 - Ephesians 1:4-- *"Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love"*
 - 1 Peter 1:15-16-- *"but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"*
- c. **Are they standing with Christ on earth or in heaven?**
- Hebrews 12:22-- *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels."*
- d. **To commemorate their victory, they are singing a "new song", the song of Redemption**
- Revelation 14:3 -- *"They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth."*
- 1) **First sung by the four living creatures and 24 elders**
- Revelation 5:9-10-- *'And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*

- 2) **We will join in and sing the song of redemption**
 - Revelation 5:12-- *"saying with a loud voice: 'Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!'"*
- 3) **All creation will join in.**
 - Revelation 5:13-- *"Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"*
- 4) **Also sung by the martyred tribulation saints**
 - Revelation 7:10-- *"Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*
- 5) **It is the song of victory, of overcoming**
 - Revelation 15:3-4-- *"They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: 'Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, For Your judgments have been manifested.'"*
- 6) **Only redeemed people can know and sing it!**

B. The "Losers"-- those who are "out", banished from the Kingdom

1. The Unbelievers

- a. Those who refused to believe the gospel
- b. The "professing believers" who did not possess the real thing. Never born again.
 - Matthew 7:21-23-- *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

2. The Supporters of the Antichrist

- Revelation 14:9-11-- *"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, 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. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.'"*

3. The Antichrist and the False Prophet

- Revelation 19:19-21-- *"the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 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 were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."*

4. The BIGGEST LOSER OF ALL: SATAN

- Revelation 20:1-3-- *"Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; 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."*

- a. **Satan will be captured, bound, cast into the abyss for 1,000 years (the duration of the Kingdom) after which he will be released for a short period of time to lead a rebellion against the reign of Christ. Eventually he will be cast alive into the lake of fire, the permanent place of torment.**
- b. **The “abyss” is the temporary place of incarceration.**
 - Luke 8:31-- *“begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.”*
- c. **“Chains” are used to bind demons**
 - Jude 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”*
- d. **Lest we misidentify the prisoner, he is called by his four titles**
 - 1) “Dragon”-- ferocious beast-like character and oppressive cruelty
 - 2) “serpent of old”-- the deceiver
 - 3) “The Devil”-- the “slanderer”, the “accuser of the brethren”, the “liar” and the father of lies
 - 4) “Satan”, the adversary of God
- e. **Does the binding of Satan take place at Christ’s first advent or at His second advent?**
 - 1) The view of the a-millennialist is that Satan was defeated at the cross and was then bound by Christ since we are today living in the spiritualized Millennium.
 - a) Satan is “bound” for believers since he no longer deceives them, but is “loose” for unbelievers who continue to be deceived.
 - b) Jesus Christ bound the “strong man” at His first advent
 - Mark 3:27-- *“No one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house.”*
 - 2) **Satan was defeated at the cross and the empty tomb.**
 - a) **Jesus Christ disarmed Satan by paying in full for our sins.**
 - Colossians 2:13-15-- *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 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. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*
 - b) **Jesus Christ destroyed the power of Satan to enslave us by conquering death--**
 - Hebrews 2:14-15-- *“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
 - 3) **But while Satan was defeated at the cross, he was NOT bound.** He is still very much alive and active on planet earth.
 - 1 Peter 5:8-9-- *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”*
 - 4) **Results: the spiritual conditions during the Kingdom will be drastically different from the world in which we live today.**