

Studies in Biblical Eschatology
What About Revelation 20:1-10?
Feb. 11, 2001 (Message #13)

I. Satan is Bound for One Thousand Years (1-3)

- A. The angel from heaven (1)
 Rev. 1:18
 Rev. 9:1-4

- B. Satan is seized and bound (2)
 Matt. 12:29
 Lk. 10:17-19
 Jn. 12:31-32
 Col. 2:15
 Heb. 2:14

- C. The purpose of the binding (3)
 Isa. 24:21-22
 Jn. 12:31-32
 Rev. 12:5-7
 Psa. 2:7-8
 Jn. 12:31-33
 Mt. 28:19-20

Parallel to 2 Thess. 2:6-12

The mystery of lawlessness is already at work, but is presently restrained.	Satan is bound so that he cannot deceive the nations at the present. He is restrained in his deceptive activities.
The one who restrain will be taken out of the way, full activity of deception will take place.	Satan is released for a short time, to deceive the nations and make war.
Christ will destroy Him with the breath of His mouth.	Fire from heaven will devour Satan.

Summary of 20:1-3

Because of Christ's triumph in death and resurrection, Satan is bound, that is, his rule over death and Hades is no more and his ability to deceive is curtailed. During this time of being bound, he cannot rally the nations against the church. This fulfills Jesus' promise, "I will build My church. . . the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. . . I have given you the keys of the Kingdom" (Matt. 16:18-19). The Gospel goes to the nations, disciples are made for King Jesus. Satan is restricted in his work, he cannot stop the spread of the Gospel. At the end of the age, for a short time, Satan is given back his power to deceive the nations in order to destroy the church.

II. The First Resurrection (4-6)

- A. Faithful martyrs are enthroned (4)
 - 1. the souls of those who were beheaded
 - 2. They came to life (not the usual word for resurrection)
 - Premillennialists argue for literal, physical resurrection
 - a reference to the New Birth and participation in the resurrection life of Christ (Jn. 5:24-25; Rom. 6:4; Eph. 2:6).
 - “came to life” could be a reference to the saints who leave this world through death and martyrdom, being translated into Heaven with Christ (Lk. 20:38; 1 Pet. 4:6).
 - 3. They reigned with Christ for 1,000 years
Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 2 Tim. 2:11-13
 - 4. The picture of verse four is either the heavenly reality for all who are born-again, or more likely, the heavenly reality of the church triumphant, the saints in heaven, during this present age.
- B. The First Resurrection (5-6)
 - 1. “the rest of the dead did not come to life until the 1,000 were complete” -
 - 2. “This is the first resurrection” is a reference to 4b.
 - 3. The common objection: how can the first resurrection be spiritual and the second physical?

III. Satan’s Release and Final Doom (7-10)

- A. the 1,000 years are complete, Satan is released = “the short time” in v. 3.
- B. Satan deceives and gathers the nations for the war
 - same event spoken of in 16:14, 16; [17:14]; 19:11-21 (supports recapitulation)
- C. Surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city
- D. Fire from heaven devours all of them! (Christ is the Victor // 19:11-21)
- E. Eternal torments for the counterfeit trinity.