

## The Last Battle

Revelation 20; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 5-28-2023

In the End, God brings an end to evil and the suffering it causes in order to make all things new.

- God brings an end to the 'great harlot'. (Revelation 19:2)
- God brings an end to the 'beast' and the 'false prophet'. (Revelation 19:20)
- God brings an end to the devil. (Revelation 20:10)

### Binding the Strong Man (1-3)

- **Apocalyptic Symbolism:** This is a symbolic representation of true events. (Revelation 12:1-9)
- **The Binding of Satan:** Satan was bound or limited in one sense: not being able to thwart the progress of the gospel or gather the nations against the Church. (Luke 10:17-20)
- **The Day of Salvation:** This 1,000 years is figurative of a very long time that began with the ascension of Christ and will end just before Christ's return. (2 Peter 3:3-13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10)
- **The Binding of the Strong Man:** Jesus said that the 'strong man' would have to be bound in order for his house to be plundered. (Mark 3:22-27)
- **Application:** We can proclaim the good news with hope that many will believe. (Matthew 28:18-20; Revelation 5:9; Psalm 2:7-8)

### The Kingdom Not of This World (4-6)

- **Heavenly Vision:** These thrones are in heaven and are filled with believers who were faithful until death. (Ephesians 2:4-7)
- **Reigning with Christ:** These believers are reigning with Christ in heaven. (2 Timothy 2:12)
- **First Resurrection:** These believers have been raised to a new heavenly life in that their souls have gone to be with the Lord until the bodily resurrection. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- **Not of This World:** Jesus said that his kingdom was not of this world but was a heavenly, spiritual reign in and through His people in heaven and on earth. (John 18:33-38)
- **Application:** We should proclaim the gospel and the Lordship of Christ over all the world even though it is uncertain how much progress will be made in society while it is certain that opposition will always be found. (1 Corinthians 16:9; Acts 17:5-8)

### The Removal of Restraint (7-10)

- **The Unbinding of Satan:** At the end of the millennium, Satan will be given the authority to deceive the nations for the great war, the battle of Armageddon. (Revelation 13:5-8; 16:13-16; 19:17-21)

- ***The Removal of Restraint:*** At the end there will be the great ‘apostasy’ and the rise of the ‘man of lawlessness’ (Antichrist) who will set himself up as God. (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Daniel 12:1-4)
- ***The Great Tribulation:*** This will be the great tribulation in which Satan will, through the ungodly (pictured as Gog and Magog), ruthlessly persecute and attempt to annihilate the Church. (Matthew 24:9-22; Luke 18:1-8)
- ***The Return of Christ:*** At this time, Christ will return to rescue His people and judge His enemies. (Matthew 24:29-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-10; Ezekiel 38:1-23; Psalm 18)
- ***The Devil’s End:*** Instead of winning the victory, Satan will be thrown into a place of just punishment forever and all the enemies of God will be vanquished. (1 Corinthians 15:22-28)
- ***Application:*** In the End, the persecution against the Church will be universal and unprecedented so we must pray for grace to be faithful to the end. (Luke 21:34-36)

### Our Day in Court (11-15)

- ***Great White Throne:*** God will judge every person through Jesus Christ. (Romans 2:16)
- ***According to Personal Deeds:*** Every deed will be recorded and either punished or rewarded. (Romans 2:4-6; Daniel 7:9-10)
- ***Book of Life:*** The books of deeds will be viewed through the book of Life. (Revelation 17:8; 21:27)
- ***Lake of Fire:*** The lake of fire is a picture of terrifying yet just consequences for rebellion against a holy God and refusing His mercy in Jesus. (Matthew 25:41; Hebrews 10:26-30)
- ***Victory of the Lamb:*** Those who are thrown into the lake of fire will be the exception rather than the rule on the day of judgement and the glory of God’s grace in Jesus. (Revelation 7:9; Colossians 1:15-20)
- ***Application:*** Prepare to meet God through resting in Jesus, hoping in God and pursuing love. (Amos 4:12; Romans 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Matthew 24:1-13, 14-30, 31-46)

### Conclusion

There are many things about the End that are hard to understand (2 Peter 3:14-18), but they are intended to:

- Convey a message of *warning* to unbelievers and encourage repentance and faith in Jesus.
- Convey a message of *winning* to believers and encourage trust and love.

If we are Christians ... rest in Jesus, hope in God, and pursue love!

If we are not Christians ... agree with God about sin, believe the good news, and call on God for mercy and grace!