

# Revelation 20

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Seven years of Tribulation have ended. God has finished pouring out His judgment on the World. Babylon the Great, the world-wide economic and religious system of Satan, which has been slowly perfected over 6000 years and finally brought to its peak in the middle of the Tribulation, has been destroyed. All the armies of the Earth, drawn by demons to Armageddon, to attack the Lord Jesus Christ and keep Him from finally taking His rightful place as King over all the Earth, have been killed by the Sword which proceeded from the Mouth of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Antichrist and the False Prophet have both been cast alive into the Lake of Fire to be tormented forever.

How did the World get here?

All History, everything that's happened for 6000 years has been progressing toward one goal... 2 goals, really... God has had a goal and Satan has had a goal... God's goal is being accomplished; Satan's goal will be cut short.

Satan began his Mystery Babylonian Religious System in the Garden of Eden... causing man to doubt God and then to look within himself and to demons for wisdom and salvation. Satan attempted to prevent God's promise of the coming Savior from the '*seed of the woman*' by instigating the sexual union between fallen angels and human women, thereby polluting the DNA of the human race, but God preserved and kept for Himself a pure human line from Seth, Adam and Eve's third son, down through Enoch to Noah's family, while He destroyed all the rest of humanity in the flood.

Soon after the flood Nimrod, the first World leader, the first Antichrist, reigned over all mankind; they were all of one family line... descended from Noah and his three sons, Shem, Japheth and Ham. They all spoke the same language and they all looked the same... their shared single family heritage formed a natural bond, enabling Nimrod to rule them as one people.

At Babel, God confused their language into many tongues and scattered them over the face of the Earth; He began to spread them out and differentiate them into the different races... blacks, whites, browns, yellows and reds. This separation then, by different languages, skin colors, physical features and family ties prevented the possibility of their being held together and ruled over as one people to be led again in rebellion against God.

In God's plan... time and human history are channeled to one goal... the 1000 year Earthly Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ... one King, one Lord ruling righteously over all the separate and distinct peoples of the Earth. The entire Bible points to the coming of that Righteous King, the Lord Jesus Christ... His first coming as He brings Salvation... and His second coming as He brings His Kingdom in Judgment and Righteousness.

But Satan has had another plan.

For the thousands of years since Babel, Satan has devised and executed his intricate plan to finally bring all the people of the World together under his kingdom of darkness, under the control of his king of the World, the final Antichrist, and then to lead them in rebellion against God and His Son, the returning True King, the Lord Jesus Christ. All of World History (from Satan's standpoint) has had just one goal... to prepare the entire World to be ready to receive the Antichrist and then to prepare and bring forth that final Antichrist.

When we can understand this one truth, all recorded History begins to fall into place, making perfect sense.

Peoples were gathered together and controlled within the various past empires of the world... the Assyrian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Medes & Persians, Greek and Roman Empires. In later years they became the Empires of Spain, Great Britain, Russia, the Austro-Hungarian, German and Ottoman Empires. One thing each of these Empires had in common... they all persecuted the Jews. Satan knew, from Jesus' *prophecy of the Fig Tree*, that when God began to draw the Jews back into the Land of Israel, the time for Jesus' return would be near, so he sought to prevent that return by destroying the Jews... to annihilate them.

In the latter years, the late 1800's, when God began to draw the Jews back to Israel, the move for a modern homeland in Israel began... Zionism... and Satan recognized his time was growing short.

The first world-wide war... WW I, 1914, was planned and designed to break up the remaining empires... scattering them into weak nation-states, desperate for protective alliances... the League of Nations was born.

Then, the second world-wide war... WWII, 1939, was planned and designed to so traumatize the World's nation-states that they would cry out for the protective umbrella of the United Nations and European Union.

Now, in these 'Last Days,' the World is finally ready to fully embrace Mystery Babylon... economically and spiritually. The World is ready for one-World government, one-World religion and one man to lead them all.

Remember the words of Paul Henri-Spaak who played a major role in the founding of the EEC, the European Economic Community which became the European Union and he was Secretary-General of NATO from 1957 to 1961. He said, "What we want is a man of sufficient stature to hold the alliances **of all people** and to lift us out of the economic morass into which we are sinking. Send us such a man, and **be he god or devil, we will receive him.**"

The World is ready to receive the Antichrist. The Rapture could happen at any moment, followed by the Tribulation, culminating in the Battle of Armageddon which brings us to Revelation chapter 20:

Satan Bound 1,000 Years

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from Heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the Devil and Satan*, and **bound him for a thousand years;** <sup>3</sup> 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.**

In chapter 9, we saw an angel, probably this same angel, having the key to the bottomless pit which he opened to release the demonic locusts to torment those who had received the Mark of the Beast on their right hand or forehead. Also, in chapters 11 and 17, we saw the spirit which inhabited the Antichrist come up out of the same Abyss.

Now, at the end of the Tribulation, immediately after Armageddon, we see Satan himself being bound with a great chain, cast into the bottomless pit and covered over to be imprisoned for the entire 1000 years of the Earthly Reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan will be unable to deceive nations or individuals for those 1000 years and we assume the same is true for all the demons and evil spirits, that they will be shut up and confined also.

Other than prophetically, the only picture we've had of the coming Kingdom was in the Garden of Eden, before Adam and Eve sinned. The World was perfect and without sin where Jesus Christ reigned when He walked and talked with Adam. After the fall, sin entered the World but until the flood, it remained a lush, tropical garden. The ground was watered by a rising mist, from a vast underground water system and the Earth was enveloped within a protective canopy of water vapor which blocked the sun's harmful rays, allowing people to live very long lives, causing the whole World to be like a greenhouse.

After the Tribulation, after Armageddon, the Earth will have been brought back to a state where it can once again, over the following 1000 years, grow into something like it was at Eden and before the flood.

Huge Earthquakes will have destroyed and flattened the filthy cities of the World. The mountains will have been brought low; the valleys will have been brought up with the oceans having been dispersed. New depressions and channels will have been formed for lakes and rivers. The Polar icecaps will have melted, releasing billions of tons of clean, fresh water to flush and wash the terrible dried up muck where God turned the waters to blood. The billions of dead bodies and blood of men and animals as well as the billions of tons of dead plant life, land and sea, will have become fertilizer for the depleted Earth to begin new growth everywhere. Much of the World's oceans will have evaporated in the searing heat and drought of the bowl judgments and so much will have been evaporated that there will once again be a protective canopy of water vapor around the Earth, like before the flood, which will cause the climate worldwide to be mild while again blocking the Sun's harmful rays, enabling people to live long lives like before the flood. The remainder of the ocean waters will have been drained down into fissures formed by the land's reconfiguration from the huge Earthquakes causing, once again, like before the flood, a vast underground system of rivers and waterways which will water all the Earth, causing it to once again grow into a lush garden worldwide. With the final earthquake, God will probably have caused the Earth to actually shift its axis position so that there will no longer be frozen, uninhabitable regions at the poles.

But after these things he (Satan) must be released for a little while. Satan will be released at the end of the 1000 years but right now, we're still looking at the beginning of the 1000 years.

We, the Bride, have just returned with Jesus Christ to the Battle of Armageddon and He has destroyed all His enemies... everyone who had received the Mark of the Beast and worshipped his image has been killed. Everyone who is still alive, those who had not received the Mark of the Beast or worshipped his image, those who had trusted in the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ... they will all remain alive as mortal humans in Christ's Kingdom on Earth, repopulating and filling the Earth for 1000 years, as separate and distinct peoples and nations.

The Earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ Who will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords with us ruling and reigning with Him as His representatives. Satan, his demons and evil spirits will be restrained from deceiving those living during that thousand years but these normal, mortal humans who live through the Tribulation will all still have a sin nature; they will all trust and follow the Lord Jesus Christ Who will be ruling and reigning from Jerusalem... but many of their descendants over the next 1000 years will reject Christ's rule, choosing instead to love sin and hide rebellion in their hearts, even though they won't be tempted and deceived by evil spirits.

The Saints Reign with Christ 1,000 Years

<sup>4</sup> And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them.

We, the Bride, are these to whom judgment is being committed... this is the beginning of our ruling and reigning with the Lord Jesus Christ... but not only the Bride... it also includes resurrected Old Testament Saints in glorified bodies and resurrected Tribulation Saints in glorified bodies... the Saints of all the ages will rule and reign with Christ for 1000 years.

Then *I saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands.

These Tribulation Saints will now go through God's fiery Judgment for Rewards. We passed through this same kind of judgment when we arrived in Heaven after the Rapture... Now it's their turn.

'And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.' <sup>5</sup> But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first

resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

The term, 'first resurrection,' refers to everyone since the time of Jesus Christ's resurrection... He was the 'first fruits' of God's harvest unto righteousness as He led the Old Testament Saints out of Paradise and up to Heaven. Just as Jesus' coming to Earth has been a three-fold event... first, to Earth at His birth... second, in the clouds at the Rapture... and third, at Armageddon... so too, the 'first resurrection' has been a three-fold event... first, the Lord Jesus Christ after His Crucifixion along with the Old Testament Saints... second, the New Testament Saints at the Rapture... and third, the Tribulation Saints killed for their faith. The 'second death' will have no power over any of these and, as a matter of fact, for some of us, even the first death will have no power because we'll still be alive at the Rapture.

### Satanic Rebellion Crushed

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. <sup>9</sup> They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.

Won't everyone born during the 1000 years be Christians? Won't everyone trust and follow Jesus Christ? Why would God set Satan free again after the 1000 years?

Everyone who had been resurrected... OT, NT and Trib Saints, have been ruling and reigning with Christ for 1000 years. They all have glorified eternal bodies... perfect, sinless, with no sin nature... perfect beings like Adam and Eve before they sinned... actually like the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself... remember, John said, '...but we know that when He is revealed, ***we shall be like Him***, for we shall see Him as He is.' 1 John 3:2

Everyone left alive on Earth as mortal humans after Armageddon and everyone born to them throughout the 1000 years will still be fallen men and women, each with their own sin nature.

No one needs a demon to tempt them to sin... James says that we are all drawn into sin by our own sinful lusts. By the end of the Millennium there will be a large portion of the World's population who prefer their own sinful desires instead of truly trusting the Lord Jesus Christ for Salvation.

Even though they will have lived and grown up in a perfect world... personally ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteous representatives in every level of government... they will still, at the end, choose to rebel against God's righteous rule and follow Satan to destruction and eternal punishment.

This finally disproves completely the lie that God is in any way unjust or unfair.

'But what about those who never heard... the natives in some far corner of the World?' 'We must find a newer, better way to *'do Church.'* 'If only we could find a more clever way to tell the gospel ***story***... a new gospel for a new generation... for our modern culture... oh, if only the Church would ***be the Church***... then people would come to Christ... if only we would learn to ***'serve the world'*** better... to ***love and serve out city***... then they would fill our Church.'

Yes, they would fill our Church and they do fill the Churches... but so very many are not true believers... not sheep but rather, goats... not wheat but rather, tares. They are not ***born again*** because the Word of God never produced faith in their hearts... they never heard the true Gospel, it was never truly spoken or explained... not the true Gospel from true Pastors... just stories from story tellers... wolves in sheep's clothing.

To all the modern '*christianity*'... '*if only*' slogans... Jesus Christ says... 'Baloney!' Here's the proof! At the end of the Millennium, at the end of 1000 years of perfect life under a perfect government on a perfect Earth, billions will still rebel and follow Satan.

The heart of every man is deceitful and wicked. Jer 17:9 No one chooses Jesus Christ apart from God first choosing that person. Jn 15:16 No one is righteous, no one seeks God, no one does good. Rom 3:10

Every human, left to himself will hate God and love sin... he will hate light and love darkness.

There will be no war this time like at Armageddon... this time, at the end of the Millennium, fire comes down from Heaven, from God the Father and kills them all.

<sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Now comes the final judgment of all the lost of all the ages... **the Great White Throne Judgment.**

<sup>11</sup> Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. <sup>13</sup> The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.

All the Saints' names were written into God's Book of Life before He created the World... each one He had chosen from before the foundation of the World. We were judged according to all we had done... but our judgment was only in regard to rewards... our debt of sin had been fully paid by the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. We were accepted by God because we trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished Work on the Cross. We were crucified with Him and we were raised to life with Him. Rom 6

All of these, the lost of all the ages, are being judged for eternal punishment according to all that they have done but none of their names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Every one of them will be judged according to all they did and then cast, one by one, into the Lake of Fire...

<sup>14</sup> Then **Death and Hades** were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Death itself is personified and so is Hades... remember in Chapter 6... the fourth horse... black, ridden by Death, with Hades following after. Hades is the hellish place of the dead... the bad side of Sheol where the rich man was.

Both Death and Hades are cast into the Lake of Fire... they are the fourth and fifth ones cast into the Lake of Fire... following the Antichrist, the False Prophet and Satan... and finally, after these... all the lost dead of all the ages... the billions who rejected the God of Heaven and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ are all cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished and tormented forever.

Next time... New Heavens, New Earth, New Jerusalem... *all things New!*