

Revelation 20

The Millennium: on earth or in heaven? Fire from heaven - to devour the wicked? The “Second Death” - What is it?

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1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit (submerged chaos) and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil, and Satan (the Adversary), and bound him a thousand years.

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit (submerged chaos), and locked it, and seals it over him, (lest he should be deceiving the nations - the unbelievers - those who don't believe in the true God), until the thousand years should be finished: and after that he must be loosed a little time.

This “thousand years” is the period of time spoken of in Christianity as “the millennium.” The word “millennium,” (meaning a thousand) is not specifically mentioned in the Bible, but this “thousand years” is mentioned repeatedly.

Some organized Christian groups and denominations, including the Lutherans, say they do not believe in a “millennium.” This is difficult to understand as this “thousand year” period is mentioned many times in the Bible, including in **six consecutive verses** in the passage of Revelation 20:2-7.

Martin Luther had difficulty understanding Revelation, a problem all students of Scripture have, and felt that it should not be included in the Bible, or at least it should not have the same authority as the rest of Scripture. That may well be the reason that Lutherans of today do not study Revelation.

But Revelation CAN be understood with diligent study and understanding from God.

Evangelical Christians DO study Revelation, but their interpretations are erroneous because they interpret the book literally, by sense-knowledge – apart from God's Spiritual symbolism which requires “revelation knowledge” – the opening of one's mind by God.

However, we are told that there is a Blessing for those who study Revelation and that it is the “Unveiling” (Revelation) of Jesus Christ! This particular book does “unveil” Jesus Christ to the Christian - it reveals who Jesus Christ really is! Obviously, it is very important to study this book.

In addition, all interpretation of the book of Revelation **must** agree with Jesus’ life on earth. Because Jesus is “the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8), the Jesus Christ of Revelation **must** agree 100% with the character exemplified by Jesus when He was living on earth.

Jesus cannot be gentle when on earth - - but a fierce destroyer God in Revelation. What Jesus does in Revelation **must**, in **ALL** points, agree with the character Jesus manifested when He was on earth!

“Bottomless Pit”

The Greek word translated “Bottomless Pit” is #12 in Strong’s Concordance: *abussos* or *abyss*. (This word is also used in Rev 9:1,2,11; 11:7; 17:8; and 20:3)

In Genesis 1:2, this same word, *abyss*, (in the Hebrew) is used in the following way:

Genesis 1:1-3 In **A** beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Yet the earth **BECAME** (there is NO word “was” in the Hebrew) a **chaos** and vacant, and darkness was on the surface of the **submerged chaos**.

Yet the spirit of God is vibrating over the surface of the water. And saying is God, “**BECOME** light!” And it is **BECOMING** light.

The earth “**Became**” a **chaos** and vacant. Again, there is no word for “was” in the Hebrew. In addition, the Hebrew word used here in Genesis 1:2 is the same word used in Genesis 1:3 and in many other places in Genesis as well as in the Old Testament, in general. In EVERY instance, except in Genesis 1:2 in the King James Version, this Hebrew word is translated **BECAME** and NOT “was.”

It is obvious that God did NOT create the heavens and the earth as a “chaos and vacant.” God creates things perfectly. THEN, later, it **BECAME** chaos and vacant - or a submerged chaos - an “abyss.”

Isaiah 45:18 tells us that the earth was NOT created as “chaos and vacant.”

“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it; He has established it; **He created it NOT empty or a waste (“without form” Hebrew word *tohuw* #8414 in Strong’s Concordance)**, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord, and there is none else.”

This Hebrew word #8414 used in Isaiah 45:18 to tell us that God did NOT create the earth “without form” or as a “submerged chaos” is EXACTLY the same word used in Genesis 1:1-3 where God tells us that the earth BECAME a “chaos and vacant - a submerged chaos - an abyss!

In addition, in the Septuagint, the translation of the entire Bible (including the Old Testament Hebrew Scriptures) into Greek, the word used in Genesis 1:2 for “**without form**” and “face of the **deep**” is the word *abussos* = abyss.

The point of all this is to show us that God created the earth as a perfect earth, then something, or rather someone (Satan), came along (before humanity was created) and made the earth into a submerged chaos - an abyss.

Wherever Satan is, things become an “abyss” or “chaos.”

So here in Revelation 20:1,3 we know that the word “bottomless pit” means an **abyss**, or utter desolation. Satan and sin have turned the earth into utter desolation. Nothing could have lived on the earth spoken of in Genesis 1:2 - it was utter desolation - uninhabitable. The earth will again be brought to that state by Satan, and those who follow him, at the end of this era - when Jesus returns at the Second Coming.

The earth will be uninhabitable for the thousand years (the millennium). Only Satan and his demons will be on the earth, “chained” by a “chain” of circumstances, meaning they will have no human beings to tempt, because ALL humanity will be dead except for the righteous who will have gone to heaven with Jesus at the Second Coming.

As we will see further on in this chapter, those who are not raised in the first resurrection (when Jesus comes) will be dead during the millennium and will not live again until “the thousand years are finished” - AFTER the millennium.

“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”
Rev 20:5

THEN Satan will be “loosed” - he will be allowed to, once again (temporarily), deceive the “wicked” -those raised in the Second Resurrection.

4 And I saw thrones, and they (who? - the 24 elders?) sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and the souls of them that were beheaded because of the testimony of Jesus and the word of God, and those who did not worship the beast or its image, and did not get the mark upon their forehead and in their hand — they also live and reign with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead (the unsaved) do not live until the thousand years are finished. This is the first (former) resurrection (the resurrection of the righteous).

This “living and reigning” with Christ for the thousand years, in Verse 4, MUST be in heaven, as the earth will be desolate - an abyss. The earth will be as desolate for that one thousand years as it was just before God re-created it in Genesis 1:3.

The wicked, or those who are unsaved when Jesus comes at His Second Coming, will remain dead until they are resurrected AFTER the millennium.

6 Blessed and holy is he that has part in the first resurrection (the resurrection of the righteous) on such the second death has no power (jurisdiction) (the righteous have already “died” the second death - death to sin- see Verses 14,15), but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

Who will they reign “over”? They will reign, with Christ, over the entire Universe!

7 And when the thousand years are finished, Satan will be loosed out of his prison.

8 And he shall go out to deceive all the nations that are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, their number being as the sand of the sea.

After the millennium, the thousand years, the wicked (the unsaved), will be resurrected and Satan will again have people to tempt. Satan will again deceive the nations in the “four corners” (meaning “all over”) the earth.

The words “Gog and Magog” are found only in one other passage in the Bible, in the Old Testament - Ezekiel 38 and 39. The prophet, Ezekiel, described the end-time assault of Gog and his allies upon the Israel of God in her homeland, as follows:

Verses 2,3 “Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal (Tubal: an evil man in the Bible whose name is revered in Freemasonry) and prophesy against him.

And say, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal.

Verse 14 Therefore, son of man (Ezekiel), prophesy and say unto Gog, ‘Thus saith the Lord God; In that day when My people of Israel dwell safely, shall you not know it? And you will come from your place in the far north, (Babylon was

the northern enemy of God's Old Testament people), you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, O Gog, I will bring you against My land, so that the nations may know Me when I show Myself holy through you before your eyes.

In My zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. . . I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, against his brother. I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him (Ezek 38:15-22).

On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion (scavenger) birds (birds that eat up refuse and rotting carcasses) and all the wild animals: 'Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will **eat flesh and drink blood**. . . You will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,' declares the Sovereign Lord (Ezek. 39:17-20).

"The entire world will be one "mountain of slaughter." All people on earth will finally be involved. The birds 'flying in midair' are called to gorge themselves on the flesh of all the slain warriors who fought against the Divine Ruler."

The depiction in Ezekiel of the literal slaughter of Gog and Magog looks forward to the spiritual destruction of sin, the Gog and Magog who are coming against God's people after the millennium. There well may be physical slaughter of the wicked (they will be reaping what they have sown) as well as ultimate spiritual destruction of sin in that last eon.

But the physical slaughter cannot be permanent, because God says, "Behold, I make ALL new." (Rev 21:5) And, "Death and the Grave (improperly translated as "Hell) will be abolished." 1 Cor 15:26

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: And fire descended from God out of heaven and devoured them.

When God's fiery law burns the sin out of our life, the sin is "devoured" – not the sinner. When the "wickedness" is devoured, the sinner is no longer a "sinner."

10 And the Adversary who is deceiving them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone (brimstone is the word *theion* - meaning “divine” - divine fire), where the beast (One World Political Government) and where the false prophet (One World Religion) are also. And they shall be tormented day and night for the eons of the eons.

(The beast and the false prophet had already been thrown in the “lake of fire” when Jesus came - at the Second Coming. Now, in the last eon - AFTER the millennium - it was time for the Adversary - Satan - to be thrown into the divine fire - for spiritual death, death to sin.)

“And they shall be tormented day and night” - In Rev. 14:11, the Third Angel’s message, those who take the mark of the beast will be “tormented with fire and brimstone (divine fire)” “and the smoke of their torment ascends up for the eons of the eons: and they have NO REST day nor night. . . Hebrews 3:7-11 and Hebrews 4:1-6 tells us that “They CANNOT enter into My (God’s) REST,” because they have NOT known God’s Ways.

God says that in the Rebellion in the Wilderness (The Exodus of Israel when they had the Law on tables of stone rather than in their hearts) they were NOT able to enter into God’s Rest - they were unable to Rest completely in God - to Trust completely in God - because they did not understand God’s ways.

The Ten Commandments “on tables of stone” don’t work. Only when God’s commandments are in the heart, when the law of God is written in our hearts, can we enter into God’s Sabbath Rest.

The Seventh Day Sabbath spoken of in this Hebrews’ passage (Heb 4:4) requires us to STOP all our work, all our secular activities, and focus on God, His Word and His creation. It is meant to teach us how to begin to Rest **completely** in the Lord.

If we are unable to stop our work on the Seventh-day Sabbath, just ONE day of the week, and commune with God, how can we ever believe that we can rest our life and the lives of our family in God’s hands?

“. . .**for the eons of the eons** (mistranslated “forever and ever”).

An “eon” is a period of time with a beginning and an end. Its length is dictated by God. When the Bible refers to the “eons of the eons” – it is referring to the last two eons: the millennial eon (the thousand years between the Second Coming of Christ and the Great White Throne Judgment), and the eon that follows after that (when the unsaved will be reaping what they have sown) BEFORE we enter eternity (which may also be 1,000 years, though the Bible does not say).

Verse 11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him Who sat upon it, from Whose face earth and heaven fled, and no place was found for them.

Verse 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne of God. And the books were opened. And the dead were judged by those things that were written in the books in accord with their acts (actions).

Will these books be literal books? No, God has kept a record of everything we have thought, seen, said or done. But the record is kept in our own minds, in our conscious and subconscious mind. God will bring their individual sins to their own memory. That means that the only two individuals who will know about the secret sins of the unsaved will be God and the specific individual. That's the way God works. He never humiliates unnecessarily.

Private individual sin is between the sinner and God – ONLY! Sin between two individuals is between those two individuals, only. And Public sin will be made Public to everyone, such as the sins of the President, other leaders, and the Zionist Jews - against the citizens of the U.S., U.S.S.R and many other countries.

13 And the sea gave up the dead in it, and death and the grave (not hell) gave up the dead in them. And they were judged, each in accord with their acts (works: actions).

14 And death and the grave (NOT "hell") were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death - the lake of fire.

How does one "cast death and the grave" into a literal "lake of fire"? Obviously, this is not possible. **This is symbolic language meaning that death is abolished - it will be no more.**

If there is a "second death", then there must be a first death. We know that Jesus, Himself, spoke of a "first birth" (a physical birth) and a "second birth" - being "born again" ("born from above" – when one's life is completely changed by Jesus Christ) in John, Chapter 3 when the Pharisee, Nicodemus, visited Jesus at night.

Nicodemus didn't understand the difference between the "first - physical" birth and the "second - spiritual" birth. He was so focused on sense knowledge - what he could see, hear, touch, etc., with his five senses, that he couldn't understand the spiritual application of what Jesus was saying.

Nicodemus was a very high leader in the "organized church" of the day (the synagogues). He was a Pharisee, yet he did not understand, spiritual things, at all!

"Are you a teacher in Israel and you don't know these things?" Jesus replied.
John 3:10

In 1 Cor 2:14, we are told:

"The natural man (literal translation - the soulish man: one who understands things ONLY through his five senses) receives NOT the things of the Spirit of God (he doesn't understand spiritual things); for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know (understand) them, because spiritual things are spiritually discerned (understood)."

In addition, 1 Cor 15:44-48, again gives us the Bible principle that Jesus taught to Nicodemus, which is: The first is ALWAYS physical and the second is ALWAYS spiritual.

"It is sown a natural (soulish) body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural (soulish - one that detects information by the five senses) body, and there is a spiritual body (one that understands spiritual things because he or she has received the spirit of Christ).

And so it is written, 'The first man Adam was made a living soul (one who gathers information through the five senses); the last Adam (Christ) was made a life-giving spirit (the One who gives us the ability to understand things spiritually - to have "the mind of Christ" to see things the way Christ sees them).

"Howbeit, that was NOT first that is spiritual, but that which is natural (soulish)."

The FIRST is ALWAYS natural (soulish - gains information through the five physical senses) - The FIRST is ALWAYS physical.

". . . and afterward that which is spiritual."

The SECOND is ALWAYS spiritual - it CANNOT be detected with the five senses. Being "born again" cannot be detected with the five senses. Only AFTER someone is "born again" can we detect a spiritual change in their life.

It is the SAME with the SECOND DEATH. It is a "spiritual" occurrence - dying to sin, the same process as being "born again." Paul frequently talks about "crucifying the old man of sin," of "dying daily," of being "crucified with Christ

"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live, but not I, but Christ lives IN me."
Galatians 2:20

This “dying to sin” IS the SECOND DEATH. It is spiritual, it is NOT a physical death!

The FIRST DEATH is the one that is born in us - a physical death. After Adam sinned, “**death** passed to all” his progeny.

“Wherefore as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so **death passed upon all men**, for that all have sinned: Romans 5:12

As soon as we are born, we begin to die. Cells begin dying the moment a child is born. And the dying process continues until the person actually dies a physical death.

It is obviously possible to die the Second Death - the death to sin - BEFORE one literally dies the FIRST (physical) Death. However, the First Death has been operating in EVERYONE from the moment of birth.

One must have the Spirit of God in him in order to understand things spiritually.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into (the same - obviously symbolic) lake of fire.

If the “Lake of Fire” in Verse 14 is symbolic, and not literal, then the “Lake of Fire” in Verse 15, in the very next sentence, **must** be the SAME “Lake of Fire” and it, too, **MUST** be symbolic.

As we have seen, God purifies us with His “fiery law” (Deut 33:2). Purification by “fire” is used in the New Testament to symbolize our “dying to sin”, crucifying the old man of sin, being “born again” a “new creature in Christ.”

John the Baptist said:

“I indeed baptize you with **water** unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall **baptize you** with the Holy Spirit (God’s Breath of holiness – Jesus will put his disposition and character in you), **and with fire** (spiritual **fire** = allowing you to reap what you sow in order to “burn” the sin out of your life).” Matt 3:11

When Jesus “**baptizes us with fire**,” He doesn’t burn us up. He burns the sin out of our life by His *fiery law* – through trials and temptations.

If anyone's work is burned up, he will experience loss, but he himself will be **saved--but only as through fire.**” 1 Cor 3:15

We are Saved – NOT Lost – through “fire.”

In addition, there is NO record of Jesus **ever** killing, or even hurting, **anyone** when He was on earth. The book of Revelation is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” as stated in Rev 1:1, therefore Jesus’ life when He was on earth must agree with the depiction of His character in the book of Revelation.

Notice also that when “**Death**” is **abolished**, then **everyone** will have to be alive. It does NOT say that “dying” will be abolished, but that “death” will be abolished. In that situation, EVERYONE will have to be alive. Then in 1 Corinthians 15:25-28, we are told that when “**Death is abolished. . . God will be ALL in ALL.**”

That clearly means that **everyone** will eventually be saved and restored to the way God intended them to be, a promise found in over 50 texts in the Bible!

That’s the **Good News About God!**
That’s the True Gospel

UNIVERSAL RESTORATION!

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