

## 42. The Thousand-Year Rule of Christ

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children explain how Christ will judge the beast, the false prophet and all that follow them at the Second Coming of Christ to this earth. In this topic, we will see that after Christ has destroyed all in rebellion by the word of His mouth that Christ will rule on the earth for one thousand years (the millennium). We will see that the thousand years will be a time of peace.

Revelation 20:1-3 says, “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.” In the first seven verses of this chapter, we see that a thousand years is mentioned six times. In this way, the Lord made it clear that this period will come after the close of the tribulation and before the final judgments and the creation of the new heavens and the new earth.

The angel will lay hold of the dragon and bind him for a thousand years. He will then be cast into the bottomless pit. All seven times the bottomless pit is mentioned in Revelation we see that it is the place where the demons (fallen angels) are kept captive and wait for their final judgment when they will be cast into the lake of fire. We see that the dragon is described in three ways in these verses. First, he is called the serpent of old. This refers to Genesis 3:1, where we read: “Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” Here, we see that he came and deceived Eve. Second, the dragon is called the Devil. This name speaks of the fact that he is a slanderer and a liar. In John 8:44, Christ told the religious leaders, “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.” Third, the dragon is called Satan. He is the one who rebelled against God because of his pride and led one third of the angels to join him in rebellion against God.

We see that the Lord sent an angel from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit. In Luke 8:31, we read, “And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.” These were the demons that were in the man named Legion because he had many demons in him. Those demons begged not to be cast into the abyss (bottomless pit) because that is where the demons are sent to wait for their final judgment when they will be sent to the lake of fire. In Revelation 9:1-11, we see that many demons with the power of scorpions came up out of the bottomless pit. These demons were given five months to torment the people of the earth. In Revelation 11:7 and 17:8, we see that the beast came out of the bottomless pit. Here, in these verses in Revelation, we see that Satan will be bound and sent to the bottomless pit for a thousand years. The angel will shut Satan up in the bottomless pit and put a seal on him. This means that Satan will be confined in the bottomless pit and cannot deceive the nations during this thousand-year period. He will be released for a short time at the end.

Revelation 20:4-6 says, “And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. 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. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. 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.” We see that during this time that the tribulation saints will be given thrones and judgment will be given to them. This means that the tribulation saints will rule with Christ during the thousand years that Christ rules on the earth.

The description of the tribulation saints is also given. We see that many of them will be beheaded for their witness to Jesus and their witness for the Word of God. The reason that they will be beheaded is due to their witness and to the fact that they will refuse to worship the beast or his image. We see that they will also refuse to receive his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. Revelation 13:16-18 says, “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.” The tribulation saints will refuse to take this number and will be killed for their refusal.

Satan, the beast (antichrist) and the false prophet will all be judged for killing these tribulation saints. Revelation 19:2 says, “For true and righteous *are* His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants *shed* by her.” Then, Revelation 19:20 adds, “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.” Here, we see that the antichrist and the false prophet were sent directly to the lake of fire. Satan will join them after he is loosed for a short time at the end of the thousand years. Revelation 20:10 says, “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.”

The tribulation saints will rule with Christ for the thousand years. However, the rest of the dead will not be raised at this time. They will not be raised until the time of the final judgment. We will learn about that in our next topic. Meanwhile, the dead who are raised at the end of the tribulation experience the first resurrection. They are blessed because the second death (eternal judgment) will have no power over them. Instead, they will be priests of God and of Christ during the thousand years. They will also rule with Christ for the thousand years.

Revelation 20:7-10 says, “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison 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. 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. 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.” These verses tell us why Satan will not be sent to the lake of fire at the end of the tribulation. During the thousand years Christ rules on the earth, there will be children born to the tribulation saints. Each of these children will face the same choice that all others have faced ever since Adam. They must make the choice whether or not to repent of their sin of unbelief.

Those who do not turn from that sin and turn to Christ will not have a leader to encourage them in their rebellion against Christ. However, we see that Satan will be released from his prison (the bottomless pit) for a short time at the end of the thousand years. Suddenly, those with inward rebellion will have a leader. We see that Satan will go out to deceive the nations throughout the earth. Genesis 10:1-2 says, “Now this *is* the genealogy of the sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. And sons were born to them after the flood. The sons of Japheth *were* Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.” These verses show us that Magog was the second son of Japheth and the grandson of Noah. Magog is mentioned five times in the Bible. The next reference is the genealogy given in 1 Chronicles 1:5, and it repeats what Genesis 10:2 says. Twice, Magog is mentioned in Ezekiel 38 and 39, where we see that Gog and Magog will lead a great army against Israel. In those chapters, we see that Gog is the prince of Magog.

We see that Satan will gather a great army to come against Christ. In fact, the number is so large that it is compared to the sand of the sea. This great army will surround the camp of the saints and the beloved city. Jeremiah describes the beloved city where Christ will reign in Jeremiah 3:17 where we read, “At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.” Then, Zechariah 14:11-12 describes how the rebellious will be judged where those verses say, “*The people* shall dwell in it; and no longer shall there be utter destruction, but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. And this shall be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the people who fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh shall dissolve while they stand on their feet, their eyes shall dissolve in their sockets, and their tongues shall dissolve in their mouths.” This will be the result of the fire that comes down from heaven. Satan will then be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where he will be tormented forever.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to explain the thousand-year rule of Christ, the eternal judgment that will come on Satan and the physical judgment of all who join in the rebellion against Christ as the end of that thousand-year period. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children learn to explain these things.