

REVELATION 20

Chapter 20

20:1 And I saw an angel [*Symbolic of the 144,000?*] come down from heaven, having the key [*Their authority from God because they keep 10 Commandments*] of the bottomless pit and a great chain [*The power of authority upon which this angel is clothed, upon this occasion. Symbolic: law of 10 Commandments, a chain of 10 links. God's law can be kept and that fact binds Satan for destruction.*] in his hand.

20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound [*a state of hopeless inactivity*] him a thousand years.

20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit [*darkness & desolation of the earth- Rev 9:1, 2; Rom 10:7; Gen 1:2; Isa 24:1, Jer 4:19-26*], and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed [*can again exercise his power*] a little season.

20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and [I saw] the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received [his] mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. [*Saints reigning with Christ*]

20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.

20:6 Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power [*Saints can pass unharmed through the elements which destroy the wicked like chaff- Isa 33:14, 15; 66:24*], but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

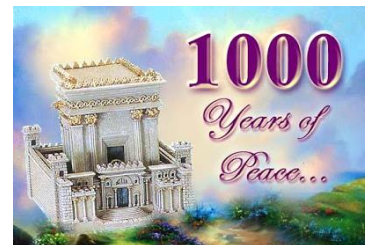
20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, [*Isa 34:8-10*]

20:8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea.

20:9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured [*intensive; to eat up; utter excision- 2Pet 3:7, 10; Obadiah 16*] them.

20:10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false

The First and Second Resurrection 1000 Years



in the first resurrection: on such



REVELATION 20

prophet [are] ["were cast"], and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever [Rev 18:8; Mal 4:1: Matt 25:41; Isa 30:33; Prov 11:31].

20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life [a record where deeds/acts are faithfully recorded]: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works [execution of sentence- Rom 2:6-10].

20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

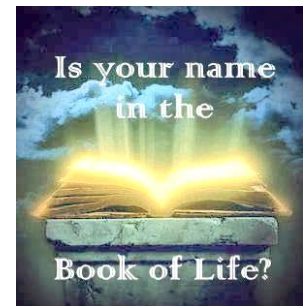
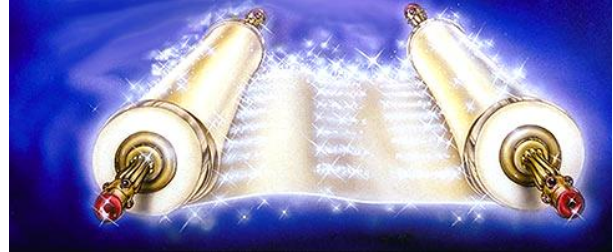
The Final epitaph of all the forces that have risen up, from first to last, to oppose the will and work of the Lord Almighty- Matt 25:41

20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire [Gehenna- Mk 9:43-48; Isa 66:24; 33:14; Matt 25:41].

Verses 11-13:

Wicked to receive their sentence for their deeds- 2Pet 3:7-13]



During the thousand years between the first and the second resurrection the judgment of the wicked takes place. The apostle Paul points to this judgment as an event that follows the second advent. "Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts." 1 Corinthians 4:5. Daniel declares that when the Ancient of Days came, "judgment was given to the saints of the Most High." Daniel 7:22. At this time the righteous reign as kings and priests unto God. John in the Revelation says: "I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them." "They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." Revelation 20:4, 6. It is at this time that, as foretold by Paul, "the saints shall judge the world." 1 Corinthians 6:2. In union with Christ they judge the wicked, comparing their acts with the statute book, the Bible, and deciding every case according to the deeds done in the body. Then the portion which the wicked must suffer is meted out, according to their works; and it is recorded against their names in the book of death. {GC 660.4}

Satan also and evil angels are judged by Christ and His people. Says Paul: "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" Verse 3. And Jude declares that "the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." Jude 6. {GC 661.1}

At the close of the thousand years the second resurrection will take place. Then the wicked will be raised from the dead and appear before God for the execution of "the judgment written." Thus the revelator, after describing the resurrection of the righteous, says: "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Revelation 20:5. And Isaiah declares, concerning the wicked: "They shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited." Isaiah 24:22. {GC 661.2}

The book of life contains the good deeds of the saints, and the book of death contains the evil deeds of the wicked. **These books were compared with the statute book—the Bible—and according to that they were judged.** The saints in unison with Jesus passed their judgment upon the wicked dead. Behold ye, said the angel, the saints sit in unison with Jesus and mete out to each of the wicked according to the deeds done in the body, and it is set off against their names what they must receive at the execution of the judgment. This I saw was the work of the saints with Jesus through the 1000 years. {Ms14-1850.9}



REVELATION 20



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

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

3

This chapter continues the flow of chronological time we have seen since chapter 18. The seven last plagues have already fallen and left the earth desolate and destroyed. Christ has returned and raised the righteous dead and the living saints are caught up with them to meet Him in the air. The living wicked were slain by His glorious return.

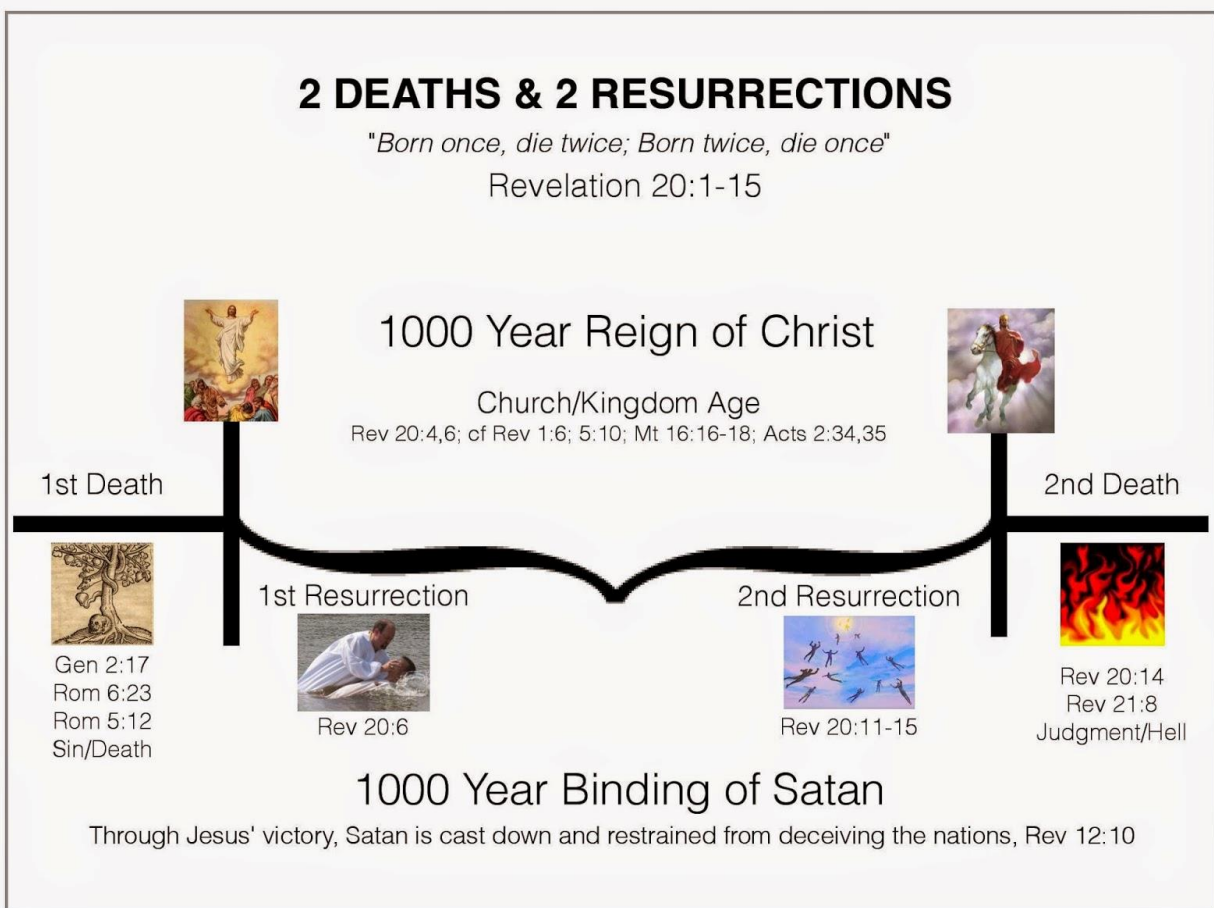
John then sees an angel come down from heaven, having a key and a chain. The key and chain are symbols of this angel's power and authority to lay hold on the devil and cast him, that is bind him, to a bottomless pit for a thousand years. The words bottomless pit signifies an abyss, bottomless, deep and profound. Its use denotes any place of darkness, desolation, and death. Thus in Revelation 9:1-2, it is applied to the barren wastes of the Arabian Desert and in Romans 10:7, to the grave. But the use which especially throws light upon the meaning of the word here is found in Genesis 1:2, where we read that "darkness was upon the face of the deep". The word there rendered "deep" is the same word that is here rendered "bottomless pit", and the text might have been translated, "Darkness was upon the face of the abyss, or bottomless pit", the earth in its chaotic state. This is precisely what it means in this third verse of Revelation 20, the earth, desolate, empty, in a state of chaos.

Let us more closely examine the time when the angel does this work, of binding Satan and his angels to the bottomless pit, and the condition of this earth. Christ has returned to redeem the Saints. The voice of God has shaken the earth to its foundations; the islands and mountains have been moved out of their places; a great earthquake has leveled the earth of the mightiest works of man; the seven last plagues have left their all-desolating trail over the earth; the wicked have been given to the slaughter, and their putrefying flesh and bleaching bones lie unburied and unlamented from one end of the earth to the other. The earth, desolate, leveled, covered with dead bodies, a "bottomless pit" indeed!

Satan, in order to work, must have subjects upon whom to work. Without these, he can do nothing. But during the thousand years of his confinement to this earth, all the saints are in heaven beyond the power of his temptations, and all the wicked are in their graves beyond his power to deceive. His sphere of action is circumscribed, and thus is he bound, being condemned throughout this period to a state of hopeless inactivity.

REVELATION 20

To a mind that has been as busy as his has been for the past six thousand years in deceiving the inhabitants of the world from generation to generation, this must be a punishment of the most intense severity. The "binding" of Satan means simply placing beyond his reach the subjects upon whom he works. The place of ruin he has wrought now becomes his gloomy prison house until he is led out to his execution at the end of the thousand years.



4

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.



From the devil in his gloomy confinement, John now directs our attention to the saints in victory and glory, the saints reigning with Christ. Their employment is to assign to the wicked dead the punishment due their evil deeds. From that general assembly, John then selects two classes as worthy of especial attention: the martyrs who had been beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and those who had not worshiped the beast and his image. The latter class is composed of those who

REVELATION 20

refuse the mark of the beast and his image; the one who hear and obey the third angel's message of Revelation 14.

Chapter 19 has informed us that the wicked had all been slain, and the seal of death had been set upon them for a thousand years. Here John is viewing only the righteous company who were raised in the first resurrection, along with those who were translated, never seeing death. No language could more plainly prove two resurrections. The first is a resurrection of the righteous at the beginning of the thousand years. The second is that of the wicked at the end of the millennium. On such as have part in the first resurrection, the second death will have no power. The difference between the righteous and the wicked is clearly seen in the fact that while God is to the wicked a consuming fire, He is to the righteous both a sun and a shield.

The wicked, raised at the end of the thousand years live again as they have once lived on the earth. To deny this is to do violence to this scripture. In what physical condition they will be raised, we are not informed. It is reasonable to conclude they are brought back to the average mental and physical condition which they possessed during the life and period of their probation.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

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 came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.



5

At the end of the one thousand years, the holy city the "New Jerusalem" located in heaven comes down and is then relocated upon the earth. It then becomes the "camp" of the saints. The resurrected wicked, numberless as the sand of the sea, now gather around it. The devil has deceived and persuaded them to attack and overcome the city of the saints and possess it for themselves. But fire comes down from God out of heaven and devours them.

This is the time of the perdition of ungodly men; the time when "the elements shall melt with a fervent heat, the earth also", and when the works that are in the earth shall be burned up, 2 Peter 3:7, 10. In the light of these scriptures, we can see how the wicked are to receive their reward in the earth, Proverbs 11:31. We can see also that this reward is not eternal life in misery, but an "utter excision", entire and complete destruction which will last for all eternity. This then is the final moment of terminating the great controversy; the end of sin and sinners once and for all. The wicked will never "tread" this earth made new. They will never mar the heavenly New Jerusalem, come down to the earth made new. Once again, restored to the former glory it had when Adam walked the earth before his fall.

The saints were with Christ in heaven during the thousand years while the earth lay desolate and the devil was bound to the bottomless pit. The saints and the city come down, and the wicked dead are raised and come up against it. The wicked see this as their last chance, their last opportunity to overthrow the city. Being so large in number and urged on by the author of evil, they feel empowered to overthrow the Saints and possess the New Jerusalem. But instead of victory, they receive their judgment. From the purifying fires which destroy the wicked, Satan and his angels (verse 10) the new heavens and the new earth are brought forth; to be the abode of the righteous throughout the endless ages. It will be noticed in the expression, "where the beast and the false prophet are", the word "are" is a supplied word. It would be more proper to supply the words "were cast", coordinating with what was spoken of the devil just before. A more exact translation, too, supplies the word "also" after "where". The sentence would then read, "The devil was cast into the lake of fire, where also the beast and the false prophet were cast". The beast and the false prophet were cast into the lake of fire and destroyed, at the beginning of the

REVELATION 20

thousand years, Revelation 19:20; in death, they wait with all the wicked dead, for the second resurrection, which only concerns itself with the wicked and their final judgment. This final destruction is visited upon them under the names Gog and Magog. Gog, the Beast, Magog, the false prophet.

The lake of fire is literal fire and will, of course, be largely employed in this work. We can better describe its effects than the thing itself. At the Second Coming of Christ, it is the flaming fire in which the Lord Jesus is revealed, the spirit of His mouth, and brightness of His coming by which the man of sin is to be consumed, the fire in which great Babylon shall be utterly burned, Revelation 18:8. At the end of the thousand years, it is that day that shall burn as an oven, Malachi 4:1; it is the fervent heat that shall melt the elements and the earth, and burn up the works that are in it; it is the fire of Tophet prepared for the king (the devil and his angel, Matthew 25:41), the pile whereof is deep and large, and which "the breathe of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle", Isaiah 30:33. In short, it is the fire that comes down from God out of heaven. On the expression, "tormented day and night forever and ever," see the comments on Revelation 14:11.



11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

With verse 11, John introduces another scene in connection with the final doom of the ungodly. It is the great white throne of judgment, before which they are assembled to receive their awful sentence of condemnation and death. Before this throne, the heavens, and the earth flee away so that no place is found for them. A moment's reflection on the changes which must then take place in the earth will bring out the great force of this language. The scene is that of Peter's burning day, which is the "perdition of ungodly men," and in which even the "elements" melt with fervent heat, 2 Peter 3:7-13.

Fire comes down from God out of heaven and all that is in this world is burned up; the wicked are destroyed. This is the fire of Gehenna, which contains all the elements necessary to consume utterly every mortal being that comes under its power, Mark 9:43-48. Then will be fulfilled Isaiah 66:24: "They [the righteous] shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched: and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh." Then also will be fulfilled in Isaiah 33:14: "Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?" The answer in the following verses shows it to be the righteous. This must be the time to which Isaiah's questions and answers apply.

In this conflagration the elements are not destroyed, they are only melted and purged from the taint of sin and every token of the curse. The almighty fiat then goes forth, "Behold, I make all things new. . . . It is done." Revelation 21:5-6. At the first creation, "the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. At this new creation, that song and shout will be augmented by the glad voices of the redeemed. So will this earth, wrenched for a time by sin from its intended orbit of joy and peace, be brought back renewed into harmony with a loyal universe, to be the everlasting home of the saved.

REVELATION 20

Men are judged out of the things written in the books, from this we learn the solemn fact that a record of all our deeds is kept on high. A faithful and unerring record is made by the angelic secretaries. The wicked cannot conceal from them any of their deeds of darkness. They cannot bribe them to pass over in the record their unlawful acts. They must meet them again, their life record and be judged accordingly.

The wicked are to be punished according to their works. The Scriptures declare that they shall be rewarded according to their deeds. That the degree of suffering which each one is to endure is taken into the account as a part of the punishment for his sins, is evident: "That servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required." Luke 12:47-48.

The Book of Life is *only one of the books of records*. Why, it may be asked, is the book of life brought forth on this occasion, when all who have a part in the second resurrection, beyond which this scene is located, are already forejudged to the second death? At least one apparent reason is that all may see that none of the names of the multitude who die the second death are in the book of life, and why they are not there; and if the names have ever been there, why they are not retained, but blotted out. Thus, all the intelligences of the universe may see that God acts with justice and impartiality.

It is stated also that "death and hell were cast into the lake of fire, this is the second death." Here is the final epitaph of all the forces from first to last that have risen up to oppose the will and work of the Lord. Satan originated and led out in this nefarious work. A part of heaven's angels joined him in his false position and murderous work, and for him and them the everlasting fire was prepared, Matthew 25:41. Men become involved only because they join him in his rebellion. But here the controversy closes. The fire is to them everlasting because it allows no escape and no cessation until they are consumed. The second death is their punishment, and it is "everlasting punishment", Matthew 25:46, because they never find release from its dread embrace. For eternity they will cease to exist, no memory of them will remain. "The wages of sin is death," not punishing forever, Roman 6:23. To sum up the argument, "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Reader, is your name written in the book of life? Are you striving to avert in your own case the fearful doom that awaits the ungodly? Rest not until you have reason to believe that your name is among those who are to share at last in eternal life.



**IS YOUR NAME
IN THE BOOK?
REVELATION 20:11-15**



[Habakkuk's Tables – Firm Truth to Stand Upon \(iwillstanduponmywatch.com\)](http://iwillstanduponmywatch.com)

Compiled by M Harris 3/10/20; Updated 2/28/21 Note contributor: ReturntoDAR.com

REVELATION 20

Desiring to get these studies into the hands of the people, we are making these chapters available to folks of what we have acquired thus far.

Currently, there is a series of ongoing lectures (over next year) on the Book of Revelation in which I am acquiring pioneer quotes as they become available. So, there will be more notes added to this document when available. Please check the last page for the latest update to know if you have the most recent document. Once these updates are completed, this message will be removed from this document.

May our heavenly Father bless you abundantly in your studies.

Darrel and Melinda