

Revelation 20

INTRODUCTION: This is one of the great chapters in the Bible in that it deals with the millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment. In Revelation 19 Jesus has come with his own in the clouds of glory back to earth again. This is after the tribulation period. Our little outline that has been used so often is: (1) Jesus came in Bethlehem to His own; (2) He will come at the Rapture for His own; and (3) He will come seven years later to usher in the millennium with His own. Let us notice some of the conditions of the kingdom age as mentioned in Revelation 20.

I. SATAN IS BOUND FOR 1,000 YEARS. Read Revelation 20:1-3.

1. Satan was originally an archangel in Heaven with one-third of Heaven's angels under his jurisdiction.

2. He sinned, and in so doing, he fell from Heaven. He and his angels were cast out of Heaven to earth. Immediately Hell was prepared as an eternal abode for them. See Matthew 25:41.

3. He caused Adam and Eve to sin. and he corrupted the human race.

4. Though cast out of Heaven, he nevertheless has access to Heaven, as is found in the book of Job. To be sure, most of his time is spent on the earth going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He does, however, have access to Heaven as the accuser of the brethren. He accuses us before God.

5. At the middle of the Tribulation Period, he will no longer have access to Heaven. He will be cast out of Heaven and will center his entire attention on earth. He will enter into the body of the Antichrist (the great dictator who will conquer the world in the Tribulation Period). The Antichrist, who has been deceitfully peaceful during the first three and one-half years, becomes Satan incarnate just as much as our Lord was God incarnate. He then pours out his wrath upon the earth without measure, and the most terrible time in the world's history will take place.

6. He will be bound for 1,000 years. When Jesus returns to earth to set up His kingdom, this kingdom age will be characterized by the binding of Satan for the 1,000 years that Christ reigns on the earth.

7. He will be loosed a little season. At the end of the 1,000 years, he is loosed a little season. He gathers an army together and tries to defeat the forces of Christ.

8. He then is defeated and is cast into the lake of fire with his angels. Here he will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

II. THE REIGNING OF THE SAINTS. Read Revelation 20:4-6. Jesus will rule the earth for 1,000 years as King of all the world. We, as Christian people, will rule and reign with Him. We will control the earth as kings, priests, governors, mayors, etc.

1. The knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. Righteousness shall prevail.

2. Animals will be tame. The Bible teaches that the lamb and the wolf shall lie down together. It also teaches that a little child shall play with snakes, and little children will lead lions down the street. Animals that are now wild will not hurt or destroy during that time.

3. Life span will be increased. When a man dies at 100 years of age, people will consider it to be somewhat of a pity for one to die so young.

Many other blessed and wonderful things will take place. It will be a restoration of the Garden of Eden in many respects. For 1,000 years we, in our glorified bodies, will rule and reign on the earth. Bear in mind, we will have been in our glorified bodies for seven years, having received them at the Rapture.

III. THE UNSAVED ARE JUDGED. All of this time, the dead who are unsaved have been in Hades; that is, their souls have been in Hades. Their bodies have been in the grave. At the end of this 1,000-year period, the bodies are raised from the dead, and the souls are brought forth from Hades (a place of torment) and again inhabit the bodies. They will appear before the Great White Throne Judgment, where the following events will transpire:

1. Jesus will sit on a great white throne. See Revelation 20:11 a.
2. The earth and the heaven will flee away. Read Revelation 20:1 lb.
3. All the unsaved dead will stand before God. Notice Revelation 20:12a.
4. The books will be opened. See Revelation 20:12b. These will be the books of the deeds and lost opportunities of the unsaved. What is found in these books will determine the degrees of punishment they will suffer forever in the lake of fire.
5. The unsaved will be judged according to their works. Notice Revelation 20:13.
6. Those not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire. See Revelation 20:14,15.