

*The devil, also called the dragon, is bound and sealed in the abyss for a thousand years.*

**Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, that he should not any more deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be loosed for a little time.** Rev 20:2-3

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#### Sources -

All bible text, unless otherwise indicated, is the Darby Translation. ASV indicates the American Standard Version, with KJV indicating the King James Version. Quotations are often included from various classic Christian commentaries such as John Gill's Expositor, Jamieson, Fausset and Brown, Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures, and others. Greek and Hebrew word definitions are often included which are from the Strong's Concordance, unless otherwise indicated. All of these sources, both the bible texts, commentaries, and word definition's are taken from the excellent source, the e-Sword Bible computer program, or the pocket e-Sword version, unless otherwise indicated.

#### Introduction -

In this twentieth chapter of the Revelation we will see an angel throw Satan into the abyss, and seal him in it for the next one thousand years, which is the time we call the Millennium. He will not be able to deceive the nations easily, as he now can. Then we will see the martyrs, who would not submit to the beast, nor take his number. They reign with God during that one thousand years. After that time God will release Satan for a short space, and he will again deceive Gog and Magog who will lead a last rebellion against God. But they will be utterly destroyed by Him. We will see Satan finally cast into the lake of fire, where the beast and false prophet are. After

**this, God will judge mankind. Those not written in the book of life will be thrown into the lake of fire as well.**

### **Lesson Text - Revelation Chapter 20:**

**And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel descending from the heaven, having the key of the abyss, and a great chain in his hand.

**the abyss** - G12 – ἄβυσσος Abussos ab'-us-sos From G1 (as a negative particle) and a variation of G1037; **depthless**, that is, specifically), (infernal) "abyss": - deep, (bottomless) pit.

#### **The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia from the pocket e-Sword Bible program -**

**Abyss,**

The a-bis, (ἡ ἄβυσσος, hē ábussos): In classical Greek the word is always an adjective, **and is used (1) literally, "very deep," "bottomless"; (2) figuratively, "unfathomable," "boundless."**...

**chain** - G254 ἅλυσις halusis hal'-oo-sis Of uncertain derivation; **a fetter or manacle:** - bonds, chain.

#### **COMMENTS -**

**the abyss** - The picture is of an unendingly deep, or bottomless, chasm that goes down into the bowels of the earth. God apparently uses this deep and vast area as a prison, of sorts, to hold those evil beings, which we know of as fallen angels and demons, who are captive there awaiting judgment.

Rev 20:2 And he laid hold of the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

#### **Comments -**

**the dragon, the ancient serpent who is the devil and Satan** - Clarifying that the powerful, and evil being, whom we call Satan, is the same as the devil, and he is also symbolized as the dragon, that mysterious mythical, serpentine creature seen in cultures world wide. It was in possessing and using a serpent, or in taking the form of a serpent, that Satan talked with Eve, in the Garden, and deceived her. From that he is symbolized by a serpent or a dragon.

Rev 20:3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut it and **sealed it** over him, that he should not any more deceive the nations until the thousand years were completed; **after these things he must be loosed for a little time.**

**sealed it** - G4972 - σφραγίζω

Sphragizo sfrag-id'-zo From G4973; **to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation** (literally or figuratively); by implication to keep secret, to attest: - (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

**little** - G3398 - μικρός μικροτέρος mikros mikroteros mik-ros', mik-rot'-er-os Apparently a primary word,

including the comparative (second form); **small (in size, quantity, number or (figuratively) dignity):** - least, less, little, small.

**Comments -**

**Even though God had, at the end of the great tribulation, bound Satan in the deathless abyss for the ensuing one thousand years that we call the Millennium, He will still cause him to be released for a short time, so that he might go out and deceive the nations of the world. So God is, at that time, specifically allowing Satan to deceive those who will listen to him.**

***the rest of the dead did not live till the thousand years had been completed. This is the first resurrection.***

Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones; and they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them; and the souls of those beheaded on account of the testimony of Jesus, and on account of the word of God; and those who had not done homage to the beast nor to his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and hand; and **they lived and reigned with the Christ a thousand years:**

**judgment** - κρίμα krima kree'-mah

From G2919; a decision (the function or the effect, for or against ["crime"]): - avenge, condemned, condemnation, damnation, + go to law, judgment.

**Comments -**

***they lived and reigned with the Christ a thousand years* - These saints will live, in their newly resurrected bodies, with Christ; and will reign with Him for the one thousand years of the Millennium. During that time Satan will be sealed within the abyss, unable to come up on the surface of the earth, and tempt the peoples of the nations as fully or as easily as he can now.**

Rev 20:5 the rest of the dead did not live till the thousand years had been completed. **This is the first resurrection.**

**Comments -**

***the rest of the dead did not live* – The remainder of the dead will be resurrected to judgment after the one thousand years. Remember that, the dead believers in Christ will be resurrected and joined with those still living at that time as they are all taken, instantly, in the twinkling of an eye, from this world to be with Christ. This is the hope of the church , however ridiculous it may sound to the unbelievers.**

***This is the first resurrection* - We must also remember that this is the first of a series of resurrections that occur at this time, and after. There had already been some resurrections in the churches history. Christ was raised from the dead, never to die, and is our example and hope, as believers. He raised Lazarus from the dead. The gospels record that numerous people were resurrected at the time of Christ's crucifixion, and they were seen around Jerusalem by the people. Lazarus must have eventually died, as did those saints seen in Jerusalem. Also, in the Old Testament, the prophet Elijah was taken bodily into heaven, never seeing physical death as all do.**

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy he who has part in the first resurrection: over these

the second death has no power; but they shall be priests of God and of the Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

**priests** - G2409 – ἱερευ´ς hierous hee-er-yooce' From G2413; a priest (literally or figuratively): - (high) priest.

**Comments -**

They will be priests of God, and will reign with Christ for a thousand years. It does not say exactly what the nature of that reign is or what type of work they do, but the fact of reigning and ruling implies work, and accomplishments. They will presumably have some oversight of the matters. We do not float on a cloud, and play a harp.

**And when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed from his prison,**

**Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years have been completed, Satan shall be loosed from his prison,**

**Rev 20:8 and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war, whose number is as the sand of the sea.**

**Rev 20:9 And 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 the heaven and devoured them.**

**Comments -**

After the one thousand years of the millennium are over, God will release Satan from his prison, in the abyss, where he has been sealed, and will allow him to again move about freely on the earth, tempting and deceiving the nations. It may seem strange to we believers that God would specifically release Satan from the abyss, where he was held captive; prevented from influencing the peoples of the earth as strongly as before. Why is he released, and allowed to go out again, knowing that he will tempt, and decieve the nations, and bring about sin, and rebellion once more on this earth? We will never fully understand the mystery of iniquity in this life.

It is equally hard to understand how the peoples of Gog and Magog can, once again, fall under his deception. Some believe that the names Gog and Magog here represent the nations of the world in general. Numerology of the Hebrew letters values, it is observed, yields the number seventy for those names. And, there are seventy nations indicated in the Table of Nations given after the flood, in Genesis 10-11. Perhaps there is a degree of that meaning here. But possibly such a specific calling out of those exact same names, once again, indicates a literal reference to those very same national groups as the leading elements in this rebellion. Gog and Magog are the same groups of peoples that we saw mentioned in the invasion of Israel described in Ezekiel chapters 38-39 (which takes place during the great tribulation). They are located to the far north of Israel. Some commentators have seen this referring to Russia. The name of their leader, Gog, seems possibly connected to Edomite lineage, and those relatives of the Israelites are destined to strive against Israel until God destroys them. Some ancient Jewish sages saw the great empires that dominated Israel as, in some way, Edomite kingdoms, still striving to gain the ascendancy over them, as Isaac had prophesied to Esau, their progenitor, that they might

do.

Despite the terrible judgments of the tribulation, and even with God's presence manifested among His people of Israel more clearly during the millennium, these nations will still be easily deceived by Satan. They will, again a second time, invade Israel after the Millennium, with a great host, but will, this time, be utterly destroyed by God.

**And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled, and place was not found for them.**

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was cast **into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are both the beast and the false prophet**; and they shall be tormented day and night for the ages of ages.

**brimstone** – θειόν theion thi'-on Probably neuter of G2304 (in its original sense of flashing); **sulphur**: - brimstone.

**Comments -**

**where are both the beast and the false prophet** - These evil rulers who come to power during the time of the great tribulation, have already been thrown into the lake of fire, where they will be held throughout all eternity. The devil has been allowed by God to lead his last rebellion, and is now thrown into the lake of fire, with those evil rulers whom he used during the great tribulation.

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled, and place was not found for them.

**And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is that of life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books according to their works.**

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is that of life. And the dead were judged out of the things written in the books according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And **the sea gave up the dead** which were in it, and **death and hades gave up the dead** which were in them; **and they were judged each according to their works**:

**works (in both vs. 12 and 13) -**

G2041 ἔργον ergon er'-gon From ἔργω ergō (a primary but obsolete word; **to work**); **toil** (as an effort or occupation); **by implication an act**: - deed, doing, labour, work.

**Rev 20:14 and death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire.**

**Rev 20:15 And if any one was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.**

### Comments -

All shall stand before the judgment throne of God, to receive their judgment or rewards based on their life and deeds. But we, as believers in Christ, will not be judged on the basis of our works, but rather, based on our faith in Christ and His sacrifice on the cross in our place, and on the forgiveness we have received through His sacrifice, granting us Christ's righteousness in place of our own imperfect works. The others are judged by God on the basis of their works during their lives. Some are written in the book of life and are allowed into God's presence forever. The rest are thrown in their resurrected bodies, which are physical and eternal, into the lake of fire, never to be released. There is not a more horrible judgment that could be imagined. God has great love, and boundless forgiven, and unimaginable wrath for those whom he does not accept. We must make certain of our salvation by asking God to forgive us of all sin, and then determining daily to continue in that faith, actively believing that God will forgive, and work His will in us. There simply is no other sane alternative.

### Conclusion -

In this twentieth chapter of the Revelation we have seen an angel come down from heaven, and throw Satan into the abyss, and seal him in it for one thousand years. That is the time we know as the Millennium. He wasn't able to deceive the nations easily, as he now can. Then we saw the martyrs, who did not submit to the beast, nor take his number. They reigned with God during that one thousand years of the millennium. After that God released Satan for a short space, and he again deceived Gog and Magog, who lead a last rebellion against God. But they were utterly destroyed by Him. We also saw Satan finally cast into the lake of fire, where the beast and false prophet already were. After that, God judged all of mankind. Those who weren't written in the book of life were thrown into the lake of fire as well.