

## The Golden Age

Good Morning Saints brothers and sisters hope you are all well this being the Lords day. We continue with our series on revelation, the text I'm going to preach from today is Revelation 20:7-10 I do apologies for skipping verses 1-6 which is a rather complex and controversial subject the millennium which will be looked at in a couple of weeks by very own Rev Julio R M Abraham.

But there is a passage that I would like to look at in Revelations 20 verse 3 that I wish to draw your attention to.. AFTER That! After that Satan must be set free for a "short time"

Now the logical ? one must ask is Why?

Why set the Devil free for a even for a short time?

**20:7-10 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth--Gog and Magog--to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.**

Now as you know CJ's Mediaworkz was an urban youth development centre (glorified youth center) and I have the good pleasure of ministering to many of our young adults with some of you. But some of our youth have managed to get themselves tangled up with the law and the criminal justice system. Often these guys would be let out on license or parole or tagged only to commit more crime apparently with the first 20mins of release.

Now I guess we would expect that from an imperfect institution such as the criminal Justice System to make these kind of mistakes. But why should God deliberately turn this demon loose upon the earth again, just when things have been going so well for 1000 years?

You could also ask what reason is there for a millennium after Jesus comes back? Why not just bring about the new heaven and

the new earth at that time and be completely done with Sin and Satan?

The Answer: **A 1000 years of peace and blessing in a world without Satan is designed to demonstrate beyond question that the bible's diagnosis of the human condition is true** let me say it again!

We belong to a fallen race, and every human being born has an essentially evil nature!

Now I know today very few people are willing to believe that! Why? Well how many have we heard the old classic line I'm not a bad person really..no I'm not trying to hurt anyone! I keep myself to myself. They think people are basically good and when they do wrong, we hear things like. Its not my fault, its my background, my parents the government, my teachers, excuses apportioning blame but not taking responsibility.

Somehow the idea that people are basically sinful by nature is viewed as quaint or old fashioned its just something we do! Our entire education system is based on the idea that people are born with a good nature, plus some potential for evil.

But that's not what scriptures teach. The famous theologian of the 1970's Flip Wilson, made a career out of the statement, "the Devil made me do it!" This has become the standard excuse of man for the evil he has created in the world.

Certainly much of the evil in the world does come from the devil. So to inaugurate an era of global peace, God must remove the devil from the scene.

But not all evil comes from the devil. God wants to impress upon humanity what Jeremiah so plainly states and what my dad so often quotes to me is Lloyd's – The heart is desperately wicked man and beyond cure who can understand it? In other words

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it 14 That is why everyone needs salvation. We are desperate and hopeless without it. The evil is not "out there" it's "in here" We have no hope without a Savior.

I've been a Christian for about 12 years traveled a few place mostly with Rev. Julio M Abraham and others and have had the pleasure of ministering you and serving with you in the inner city of London. One thing I've found is that people are very encouraging, and say nice things to me about all sorts of things. But even as I stand here before you today!

I am very aware of my own shortcomings, all those hidden places of my own behaviour. How do I know this well I live me 24 -7. I know the selfishness and the impatience and other evils that spring from my own heart. The distracting thoughts that I allow to lodge in my own mind if one is not careful. I experience the same struggles as anyone else the same temptations. There are no exceptions to the human condition, the picture of man is accurate and universal. We are all born with a fallen nature.

The millennium will prove that to be true. No one will be able to say "the devil made me do it!" because the devil will be sealed up in the Abyss.

Life on earth will be vastly improved once satan has been removed from the scene. Nations and individuals will live together in peace during the Millennium. As the prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 2:4 **He will Judge between the nations and settle disputes for many people. They will beat the their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks**

Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. What a stark contrast to what is going on today. This is a beautiful picture of the coming Golden age, the 1000 year Utopia. But lets look again in Isaiah 2:4 notice that the Lord will be called upon to "Judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many people."

Now Why is that? **Well that's because there will still be sin even when the devil is gone!** Repeat!

Again in Isaiah 65:17-25

The curse will be lifted from nature. The land will produce abundant food and flora. Think of the most tropical holiday dream destination but without the tourist!

Animals that are now predators will be herbivores and live in peace with their former prey. "The wolf and the lamb will feed together says Isaiah, "and the lion will eat straw like the Ox! Another contrast when you watch those wildlife programs as the lion captures his prey. But in this age it's a different matter altogether.

Man will live long – perhaps as long as the Old Testament patriarchs 700–800–900 years or more. "He who dies at a 100 will be thought a mere youth," stats Isaiah prophesying about this utopian age. Yet even though death will be a rarity, it will still occur. And not only death but sin will occur also. "The sinner will be considered accursed,"<sup>18</sup>. there will still be sin in the millennium age, and that sin will effect the sinners lifespan.

The continuing presence of sin is the reason why Jesus must rule with an Iron scepter. Yet even though sin remains righteousness obtains.

Today, self-gratification and the selfishness of sin are the dominant philosophy of the masses. Righteousness struggles bravely to exist against the tide popular opinion. But in that day the tables will be turned. Justice will dominate. Evil will be restrained by the iron rule of Jesus.

But the text tells us, that at the end of this 1000 year period Satan will be loosed from the Abyss.

Its amazing thing that even in this utopian era, there will be people who resent the Lordship of Jesus Christ, who will hate his restored nation Israel, who will deliberately hide themselves as far from the presence of the Lord's Throne as they can get – "in the four corners of the earth"

Returned from exile, Satan will scour the four corners of the earth to find these renegades and gather them together for one last attempt to overthrow the Government of God.

Those who would destroy Israel, even after the 1000 years of glorious peace with Israel at the center, immediately respond to Satan's demonic leadership when he is again released into the world. They are called Gog and Magog after Israel's antagonists in the Battle of Armageddon. The individuals and nations which

set themselves against Israel, King Jesus, and the government of God clearly demonstrate for all time that there is an evil inheritance locked within man. Until we are born again by the Spirit of God, our nature remains unchanged.

The forces under the dominion of Satan march upon Jerusalem but they are instantly destroyed with fire from heaven in verse 9. The devil, the ancient enemy of man and God, is at last thrown down for the final time, consigned along with the beast and the false prophet to the lake of fire. The devil's punishment, and the punishment of all who lived lives of rebellion or indifference toward God, will not last a mere thousand years. In verse 10 "They will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

It is a horrid picture I know. But the scriptures are clear-cut and explicit on the subject of eternal punishment. The destiny of human beings is not annihilation or evaporation into nothingness. There are some Christians who hold to that view and well known too. But scripture does not teach that! Bible talks about weeping and gnashing of teeth! **Math 25:30** Jesus makes reference to Hell more times than He does about Heaven.

Our lives had a starting point somewhere in time, but they have no end. We remain alive forever.

Whether we spend the span of eternity in the presence of Jesus or in an abyss of unending despair is a matter of our own choice, eternal separation, eternal Heaven. I know which side I'd want to choose its up to you here and now!

I would just like to end with these points as we come to land.  
As Believers we are confident in the Doom of Satan in v 10 it is a  
done deal Finito the End.

No longer will Satan be able to deceive nation and individuals or  
have any influence. No longer will that ancient enemy of God and  
mankind be able to wield his weapons of lies deceit or his  
spiritual assignments be carried out against Gods people or cause  
destruction or devour.

In the Movie Highlander there was a famous line the "there can  
only be one, Brothers and Sisters from this Bible *hold up* from  
cover to cover from start to finish from beginning to end from  
Genesis to Revelation there was only ever going to be one  
outcome there was only ever going to be one victor Christ Jesus  
Hallelujah. So let us stand firm and stand firm in Him and Him  
alone.