

Revelation
Chapter 20
“He Shall Reign Part I”

All scripture references are from the NASU unless otherwise noted

Calvary Chapel Fellowship of Enid
Matthew W. Thoms, Pastor/Teacher
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10:00 -10:05 Announcements & Prayer

10:06-10:26 Praise & Worship

10:27-11:15 Teaching

11:16-11:20 Praise & Worship

11:21 Dismiss or Other Function

Announcement:

Teaching: You know one of the most frequently asked questions by non-believers and skeptics is ...

1. Q. Why would God allow evil to exist? Why would He continue to allow mankind to suffer under in the injustices of evil?

And the philosophical logic behind their skepticism says that the existence of evil proves that there is no all-powerful, all loving God because ...

a. Either He is all powerful, but not all loving and so therefore does not stop evil or ...

b. He is all loving, but not all powerful and therefore cannot stop evil.

So in their philosophical world they deny the God of the Bible.

2. Q. And one of the most perplexing questions that, you and I, as believers face is the one the Apostle Paul expressed in ...

Rom 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

We're familiar, not only with the passage, but even more ... with the sentiment because he's talking about his sin nature. His propensity to do what his own spirit finds deplorable.

As believers, thanks be to God ... we've been set free from the eternal penalty of sin, but we have certainly not been set apart from the presence of sin.

We still sin ... and in a sick sort of way, I'm okay with that ... I've come to complacent grips with that fact, but what gets me is this truth ... **we sin because we want to! I sin because I want to. You sin, not because you have to, but because you want to.**

And therein lies the argument ... therein lies the confusion because with Paul, we say "But I don't wanna sin ... it grieves me deeply and yet I do sin and since I know that I'm indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit ... I know that I don't have to sin, so ... **I do what I don't want to do because I want to do it!**"

If you ask believers what they think the single most potent and effective thing would be in our struggle to overcome our love for sin ... the most common answer would probably be ... "Get rid of Satan" so that we would no longer be tempted by him.

But we find in the text before us, a problem with that theory as well as an answer to the question of why God allows sin.

1. Having prophetically past through the Church Age and the Rapture –
2. We then looked at two events in Heaven; The Bema Seat Judgment and the Marriage of the Lamb –
3. Even as the Tribulation Period was unfolding on earth.
4. Last week we looked at the Lord's Second Coming and the Battle of Armageddon –
5. Which brings us this week to The Millennial Reign.
6. And next week ... The Great White Throne Judgment.

... so let's have a look ...

Verses 1-3: The "Abyss" is not Hell. Rather ... it's some place of confinement that's mentioned here and several other places in scripture ...

Jude speaks of it in ...

Jude 6 And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day

So it's a dark place of confinement that some have likened to being in jail awaiting trial.

We also learn there in **Jude** that it's God who closes the door to this place and it is God

who opens it.

Now let's read a story together. It's a story of a Gadareen man who was demon possessed until he had an encounter with the Living God. You can find it in **Luke chapter 8** ... and keep in mind that it's a story told from the perspective of the chief demon who had possessed this poor man ...

Luke 8:28 Seeing Jesus, he cried out and fell before Him, and said in a loud voice, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." 29 For He [Jesus] had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had seized him many times; and he was bound with chains and shackles and kept under guard, and yet he would break his bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert. 30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. 31 They were imploring Him not to command them to go away into the abyss. 32 Now there was a herd of many swine feeding there on the mountain; and the demons implored Him to permit them to enter the swine. And He gave them permission. 33 And the demons came out of the man and entered the swine; and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. [Explanation added]

So these demons recognized the Lord's power to sentence them to the Abyss. But in our study of **Revelation chapter 9 (verses 1-6)**, we read about the Lord letting out hordes of confined demons so that they might go out and torment unbelievers for 5 months.

So that's the Abyss and we see here that it becomes a sort of holding cell for Satan for 1,000 years.

But what, to me, is the coolest part of this is how he winds up in confinement.

You know how in almost every action movie ... it climaxes with a showdown. The best of the good guys takes on the best of the bad guys in a prolonged and dramatic battle.

But that definitely doesn't happen here. In fact ... God doesn't even show up. He doesn't even send an archangel ... just some unnamed angel who, in the power of the Almighty ... handles Satan like a kiddy doll.

And this has a couple of profound implications:

- 1.** It provides an answer for those who argue that God's not powerful enough to put a stop to evil. That evil is, somehow, beyond His control.

Looks to me like He's absolutely in control of evil!

O. But wait ... that means that God's in control when a baby dies? – Yep, God's in control of that.

Q. What about murder? ... Yep, God controls that too.

Q. Car accidents? – Well ... there's really no such thing as an accident, but ya ... He's still in control.

Sometimes ... people will credit Satan when things happen that we don't understand or don't like, but as we read this verse, we have to acknowledge that God CAN stop Satan anytime He wants.

Again ... He doesn't send an angel army. He empowers one angel with an arrest warrant and the necessary strength and Satan is rather un-ceremoniously tossed into the Abyss.

So we're forced to acknowledge that the Lord could stop Satan from doing anything that wasn't a part of the divine plan.

Q. Like a premature death? – Uh huh ... except in reality, no death is premature ... they're all right on time ... that is ... God's time (**Job 14:5**).

Q. What about the Holocaust? Could God have stopped that too? – God could have bound Satan before he ever whispered in Adolph Hitler's ear for the first time ... but He didn't.

Which means that if you don't like what happens in life ... you can't just call it bad luck or blame it on Satan. You must take the responsibility for it ... right where it belongs. You must take it, like everything else ... to the Lord.

And folks ... this is important because people who don't get this ... people who persist in calling it bad luck and blaming Satan ... will inevitably become angry and discouraged. If you think about it ... you've seen it happen to people!

But when we'll faithfully take our complaints before the Lord and recognize Him as the One responsible for it all ... He has such a special way of showing us why it was the best possible thing (**Isaiah 1:18**).

And there is no better recipe for the prevention of bitterness!

2. Now the **second thing** that the binding of Satan means is that it's Millennial Reign time!

I wish we had time to read all of the passages that describe for us the incredible scene on earth during this period, but I think we'll have to settle for a synopsis.

I would however, strongly encourage you to jot down these scripture references and read them through on your own. Let them blow your mind this week.

One thousand years of peace ... Satan is bound, the demons are either confined or rendered impotent and man has been subjected to the iron-fisted rule of Christ.

Q. So what will that be like? -- Well ...

Isaiah 2:3 says that we will somehow be able to travel to Jerusalem anytime we want and in the synagogue there we can pop in and Jesus Himself will be teaching.

Isaiah 2:4 says that all the implements of war will be re-forged into the implements of peace – worldwide!

Daniel 7:14 and Zechariah 14:10 both say that during the one thousand years, Christ's rule simply will not be challenged. There will be no elections and subjection to Him will be universal.

Isaiah 35:1-2 tell us that the glory of the earth will be restored. The deserts will once again be made fertile and the nutritional status of all land is somehow greatly enhanced.

And along those same lines, **Isaiah 55:13** says there won't be any more weeds and no more thorns or nettles.

Joel 2:24-26 says that as a result ... food will be plentiful. The storehouses will overflow.

And one for the coolest things ... **Isaiah 11:6-9**, says that animals will get along with other animals and even the deadliest snake will not harm humans. The wolf and the lamb will lie down together and a child will play with the cobras and rattlesnakes.

Isaiah 30:26 tells us that, in contrast to the darkness of the Tribulation Period, during the Millennial Reign, everything will get a lot brighter. In fact seven times brighter. The sun and it's reflection off the moon will be greatly intensified.

But **Isaiah 60:19-20** say that the extra light won't really mean anything because the planet will be aglow with the glory of God. What's known as His Shkinah glory.

I don't know that we can really imagine what this planet would be like without the influence and deception of Satan. No one to stir up strife and hatred. No one to fan ungodly lusts. No one to fire the first shot of war.

And yet ... we need to realize ... man will still be rotten. Man's heart will still be

wicked as we will see.

As one commentator put it ...

“It will be like a magazine of gunpowder without a spark to ignite it.”

Verses 4-6: So three people groups:

1. Those who are seated on the thrones.
2. Those who come to life to reign with Christ during the Millennium.
3. And the rest of the dead ... those who come to life after the 1,000 Year Millennial Reign.

And two resurrections:

1. One before the Millennial Reign which is the resurrection unto life.
2. And one after the Millennial Reign which is the resurrection unto judgment.

John 5:25 "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. 26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, 29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

And finally ... two deaths (the First Death and the Second Death):

1. The first death is physical death ... the heart ceases to beat and the brain ceases to function.
2. The second death is spiritual death. Eternal separation from God. This is what occurs at The Great White Throne Judgment as we'll be studying next week.

Conclusion: Now ... I know we've done it before, but I enjoy it so much that I'd like to do it again. Close your eyes and picture it ... the Millennium ...

No more presidents

No more kings

No more famines

No hunger

No homelessness

No terrorism

No more Christian Scientology, no more Islam, no more Mormanism or Jehova's Witnesses. No more Budhists or Hindus or Hari Krishna's or wickens or satanists or any other false religions.

No orphanages

No foster homes

No abortion centers

No pornography

No drugs

No alcohol

No medicine

No surgery

No cancer

No disease

No miscarriages

No infertility

No FBI

No IRS

No crack houses

No immorality

No bigotry

No discrimination
No divorce
No custody battles
No infidelity
No bribes
No corruption
No cults
No heresy
No astrology
No psychic hotlines
No infomercials
No inflation
No ACLU
No environmentalists
No biting dogs
No hurricanes
No earthquakes
No bee stings
No snake bites
No kidnappers
No more prime ministers
No more congress
No more senate

No more legislature
No more cabinet members
No more governors
No more city councils
No more generals ... in fact, no more military at all
No more police force or sheriff's office or state troopers
No more prisons or jails
No more criminals
No more hospitals or doctors
No more courts or judges
No more lawyers
No more dentists
No more nursing homes
No more mental institutions
No more bars
No more casinos
Oh ... and no more churches ... just The Church!

Now ... just for one minute, consider what this list really represents ... it represents the result of doing things God's way!

O. So how foolish are we to do otherwise?

Invitation as the Spirit Leads: Scharry, [_____] and I will be available in the back of the sanctuary and if you've never made a commitment to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior or need to recommit or just have questions about what was covered this morning ... please come and visit with one of us.

Invite to fellowship: Christian Fundamentals at 6:30