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### The Judgment of Satan and the Great White Judgment Throne

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THE JUDGMENT OF SATAN AND THE GREAT WHITE JUDGMENT THRONE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
NUMBER 37  
REVELATION 20:7-15

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REVELATION 20:7-15 "And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison 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. 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. 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 for ever and ever. 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. 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. 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, And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

I have heard ministers scorn the idea of a Millennium and even say there is no such thing. Yet, here in this chapter God tells us six times there will be a thousand-year period when Christ will personally rule on this earth.

In verses 7-9 we have revolt, the greatest revolt in all human history. The Devil leads this revolt. After Christ ascended, the Church Age began and it has continued now for over 1900 years. How much longer the Church Age will continue we do not know. We do know that when the Church Age ends, the church will be raptured to heaven, then the seven-year Tribulation will begin. Right at the end of that seven-year period Christ will personally return to this earth. He will establish his throne in Jerusalem and will rule for 1,000 years. At the end of that 1,000-year period, the Devil comes back to the earth and there is a revolt.

We read that Satan is released. Back in the Garden of Eden we had the first advent of Satan. When he came that first time, he found perfect environment and he ruined it. People have always tried to explain man's problems in terms of environment. Man has always tried to show that if environment were improved, then man's problems would be solved. Now nothing is farther from the truth. Regeneration is the only solution to man's problems. During the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, during the Millennium, there will be perfect environment and this still will not solve man's problems. Even in the perfect environment of the Millennium many will not believe in Christ. The Millennium starts out with believers only, but many unbelievers arise and they will join Satan during this revolt. At the end of this revolt judgment will come. Then the earth will be destroyed and the new heaven and the new earth will be established.

This phrase in verse 7 "are expired" is aorist, passive, subjunctive and this refers to the point of time when God brings this about. The subjunctive mood shows there are both believers and unbelievers in the Millennium.

SIX POINTS ON--"SATAN SHALL BE LOOSED"

1. This phrase is a future, passive, indicative.  
This is a future event, and this means that this event will not happen until the 1,000 years are finished. The Millennium will end because Christ will have accomplished his purpose, and those who are to be saved will have been saved.  
  
The passive voice means this is the plan of God and he will cause Satan to be loosed. Satan is the most subtle imposter in the human race, and he will be able to take men who are living under perfect environment and will persuade men to revolt against God even under such perfect conditions. The indicative mood here means the reality of this revolt.
2. This release of Satan from the bottomless pit is his second advent into the world.  
Satan came the first time in the Garden of Eden. He will come the second time at the end of the 1,000-year reign of Christ.
3. In both advents Satan found perfect environment and ruined it.
4. While Satan often promises perfect environment as a solution to man's problems, he turns right around and destroys perfect environment.  
This is Satan's big lie. With his Madison Avenue techniques he tries to deceive. By his lies and deception he persuades people to turn away from God.
5. Satan constantly persuades man that by perfect environment, the elimination of the weak and unfit, and by education, man can be led to solve his own problems.  
He means to try to persuade man that man by man's efforts can produce the golden age.
6. The end of human history will end as it began.  
It began with perfect environment and Satan came and ruined it. He will come the second time and ruin perfect environment, but then Christ will step in and say to Satan, "It is enough". God's personal solution to man's problems is regeneration.

REVELATION 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." The Cause Of The Revolt.

In perfect environment the earth is still divided into nations. Jesus Christ will rule the world but he will not set up one international organization. Nations are for the protection of the human family and for making evangelism possible.

Notice that Satan in his second advent goes out to deceive the nations. The aorist tense means Satan has a definite time schedule to do this work. The active voice means that he does it himself, personally. The infinitive means that this is his main purpose, to destroy mankind. Satan will have had the longest prison record in history, and it didn't change him. He will begin in his second advent right where he left off in his first advent.

One of the principles this revolt of Satan proves is that the unbeliever is unable to enjoy anything that comes from God, even perfect environment.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Satan has such great power he will persuade men to rebel against God. Perfect environment can only be enjoyed by believers.

Now we have a title for these people who rebel-They are called Gog and Magog. We have this same title in Ezekiel, but they are entirely different. In Ezekiel it is a Hebrew word, but here it is a Greek word. In one instance this title refers to a geographical location, and in another instance it refers to a people. Gog of Magog here is the King of the North. The pre-Millennial Gog of Magog is killed with the sword, the last Gog of Magog is killed by fire.

"To gather them to battle". Now remember there has been 1,000 years of perfect peace, yet Satan has means of getting implements of war so he can wage warfare. There is no way to stop war when evil unbelieving men want to wage war. War and crime come from the old sin nature and these unbelievers, following Satan, even in the Millennium can produce implements for war.

In our time, the only way to control crime is through capital punishment. The only way to stop war is to be prepared for war. Then when the old sin nature is removed, it will not be difficult to stop war.

REVELATION 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 them." This describes the actual warfare of Satan's revolt. Satan will have a world plan of attack and his attack will center on Jerusalem. Satan will attempt to wipe out the Jews so God cannot fulfill the four unconditional covenants. If Satan could break even one of the promises of God, he could win, but he will not be able to break one of them. Some of the outstanding promises of all times have been made to the Jews. Satan therefore will center his attack on them. But he will not succeed in this last desperate effort. Since there has been no military for a thousand years, it is a tribute to Satan's power that he is able to wage war at all. But Satan's organization ability is amazing. But right at the moment when Satan thinks he is going to take over the world, fire comes down from God and destroys Satan's plan. Here we see the divine flame thrower go into action. This slaughter comes directly from God. This is the most decisive battle in history. So again "GOD KEEPS HIS WORD".

In the next verses we are to study about the great White Judgment Throne.

REVELATION 20:10 "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 for ever and ever." This is the judgment of Satan. Satan is primarily a lawyer and he went into court to enter a plea of not guilty based on the character of God.

Satan claimed that God was unfair because he had sentenced him to a lake of fire. So the Devil's case was this--"Look, God, on the basis of your character you are unfair to make this sentence". So God said, in essence something like this--"Stand back and watch--so here is the human race to dissolve this conflict and to prove that I am fair". Man was created as exhibit A to show that God was fair. So we have the word Devil. Devil is not his name. Lucifer is his name, meaning brilliant one, Son of the morning. Devil is simply the Greek word. Satan comes from "Shatan" and means accuser, deceiver. So "The Devil that deceives" was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone. It is perpetual heat--It is literal. The beast, who is the Dictator of the Revived Roman Empire, and the false prophet, who is the Dictator of Palestine are thrown into that same lake of fire. Please notice that they will be tormented forever and forever.

REVELATION 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." Now we come to the judgment of unbelievers. The reason it is called the Great White Throne Judgment is that God is perfect righteousness. The one that is to sit on this throne is none other than Jesus Christ. Christ is presented as the judge also in John 5:22-27. This is a picture of the destruction of the world. The universe as it now exists will be destroyed. The earth and heaven will both be destroyed. It is this destroyed universe from which the lake of fire is made. It will contain millions of fallen angels and millions of unbelievers.

2 PETER 3:7 "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."

2 PETER 3:10-12 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"

This was cleared away to make place for the new heaven and the new earth. This is a nuclear destruction of the earth and the formation of the lake of fire. Into this gigantic furnace will go the fallen angels and Satan and all unsaved. No other place could be found for them.

HEBREWS 12:25-27 "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: Whose voice then shook the earth: but now he hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain."

REVELATION 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: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

This refers to all the "unsaved dead". No saved person will be at this judgment. "They stand" is perfect, active, participle and it means they keep on standing until the judgment is done.

Let us now get an understanding of these books. Every person who ever lived is at one time listed in the Book of Life. The Lamb's Book of Life is the book that contains the names of the saved, but if a person is not saved his name is dropped out of the Book of Life and is recorded in the book of works. The book of works contains the names and deeds of every unsaved man in history. They are judged on the basis of their unbelief in Christ and their desire to stand on their own human good. Sin is not the basis of condemnation, for Christ judged their sins at the cross. Their works are called "Dead works".

HEBREWS 6:1 "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God"

ISAIAH 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

EPHESIANS 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God"

REVELATION 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." "Abusson" is the word here translated bottomless pit. It is referred to here as the sea. The abyss is beneath the sea. Job 38:8 suggests that the sea has doors. The sea refers to the place where fallen angels are located. Death and Hades delivers up their dead. When an unbeliever died this is where his soul and spirit went, waiting for the resurrection and the judgment. It is located in the heart of the earth. Notice that they were not judged according to their sins, but according to their works.

REVELATION 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." This is called the second death. They died physically and here they die spiritually. "Were cast" is an aorist passive, and means at this exact point of time they received this kind of treatment. They rejected the cross and that's why they were cast into hell.

REVELATION 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." This is the most horrible "who-soever" in the Bible. "Not found written"--this means at the end of time, they were not found written in the Book of Life because of their unbelief. These verses are written here to help unbelievers realize their future state and turn to Christ before it is too late.