

REVELATION: CHAPTER 20

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from Heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

- an angel (?) - Seems fitting that Michael would be the one to bind Satan. He had the ability to defeat Satan (12:7) but held back because God wasn't finished with him (*yet at that time*). Whoever this angel was, he was on an authoritative mission from God. (*Jude 9*)

- key - This key (*control*) was given to the angel by Christ (*Even this part of the creation is under Divine control. - 1:17-18*), not to open it (*it had been opened by Satan- 9:1*) but to lock the dragon in (*along with those of 19:20*).

- pit - here it is the spiritual underworld and abode or stronghold of Satan (*11:7; 17:8*).

G5421 φρεάρ phrear *freh'-ar*

Of uncertain derivation; a *hole* in the ground (dug for obtaining or holding water or other purposes), that is, a *cistern* or *well*; figuratively an **abyss** (as a *prison*): - well, pit. (*Emp. added*)

- chain - Here used as a restraint, it represents the word of God (*as a junkyard dog on a leash*), the Gospel (12:11; 14:6). (*See other examples of restrictive use of chains below.*)

G254 ἅλυσις halusis *hal'-oo-sis*

Of uncertain derivation; a **fetter** or **manacle**: - bonds, chain. (*Emp. added*)

Read: Mk 5:1-4; Act 12:7; 26:28-29; 28:20.
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Rev 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

- Satan here is controlled by the word of God (*as in Job 1:12; 2:6*) via the Gospel during this (*figurative*) 1,000-year reign given to the church (*v. 4*).

- ancient serpent- This defines who the serpent was in Eden, a.k.a. the devil and Satan: Gen 3:1, 14-15.

- thousand years- 2 Pet 3:8 shows that God is not constrained by time (*even though He works within it for man's sake*), 1,000 years being God's perfect timeline according to completing His will.

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Rev 20:3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

- Even though Satan was cast down (*12:9*) and made war with the church (*12:17*) he is presently hindered by the word of God (*i.e., the Gospel*). Satan is here kept under house arrest during these figurative 1,000 years.

- Satan's binding (*seal*) **limits** him (*1 Pet 5:8*) from deceiving the nations as he did the Roman Empire with the satellite nations in their persecution of the church. The availability of the truth did not fail and nor will it ever (*Isa 55:11*).

- Satan's loosing will be but for a little season (*Gk. 3398- mik-ros' small /5550- khron' -os [from which we get chronology] space of time. See verse 7*). Once Satan is loosed from this chain, the sequence of events that follow will be microscopic in *space of time*.

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Rev 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them

that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

- thrones- this shows who is in control: Dan 7:23-27.

- they sat upon them- occupiers here are the martyrs of 6:9-11 along with all those who have taken or will take part in the “first resurrection” (v. 5).

- judgment was given- this is partly in answer to the martyrs under the altar (6:11) as to how long before they would receive their retribution, i.e., the fall of Great Babylon (*Jerusalem*). See also Mat 19:28; 1 Cor 6:3.

- them that were beheaded- this group of souls became martyrs via the Jewish and Roman persecutions, along with all who have died faithful since. Martyrdom here is used partly as hyperbole since not all the faithful saints that died were slain. Rome beheaded these saints as a “courtesy” since crucifixion was outlawed for Roman citizens.

- for- Gk.1223-*dia*; because of (that)...1) the witness (Gk.3141- *evidence*) of Jesus (12:11), 2) the word of God (*the Gospel*) and 3) they did not worship the beast (*Caesar*) neither his image (Gk.1504-*statue, likeness*-13:14).

- mark- 13:16; indicates ownership. These were owned by God alone (3:12).

- foreheads- 13:16; mindset. Their thoughts were either controlled by God or by Satan (1 Pet 3:21): Rom 2:15; 1 Cor 2:16; Php 2:5; Eze 9:4 (*here concerning spiritual Israel*).

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- hands- 13:16; they held no fellowship with or approval of pagan worship (*2 Cor 6:14; Gal 2:9; Eph 5:11*).

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- they lived and reigned- This does not support the doctrine of “the thousand year reign of Christ” which falsely claims that Christ will return and establish His kingdom on earth as an earthly reign for a literal 1,000 years. This passage states clearly that “they lived and reigned **with** Christ a thousand years”. This is a complete period (*figurative 1,000 years*) in which the events described here are to take place (*between Pentecost and Christ’s return*).

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- thousand years- (*see notes v. 2*) This is the same timeframe in which Satan is bound (*v. 2*). At the end of this period Satan will go into utter defeat (*v. 10*).

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Rev 20:5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

- rest of the dead- “those who have done evil”: Jn 5:28-29; 11:26.

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- The conversion of sinners by the Gospel (*N.T. - Rom 6:4; Mat 28:19*), along with the saints “under the altar” (*O.T. - 6:9-11*), is what constitutes the first resurrection. Those in sin who do not pass from death into life are the unrepentant under the O.T. (*Heb 10:28*) along with those who do not “put on Jesus Christ” but make “provision for the flesh” (*Rom 13:14*) in the N.T., equaling all who have died or will die in sin throughout all ages; they are “the rest of the dead”. (*The first resurrection for the obedient is “spiritual”, the second will be physical. For those outside of Christ, since they wouldn’t have taken part in the “first resurrection”, their first resurrection will be physical only to be followed by the “second death”.*) Following their (*the unrighteous*) physical deaths, they will only be raised

up in judgment after the 1,000-year reign to be judged (*John 5:29*). Until then they exist in a state of separation from God (*Lk 16:23; 2 Thes 1:9*).

“The first resurrection, then, pictures the resurrection of the righteous soul on the other side of death as it is raised a soul in Paradise having gained the ultimate victory.”

Arthur Ogden

A Christian who has a fear of the “second death” (*2 Thes 1:9*) equates to not having “the faith of the operation (*powerful working*- *ESV*) of God, Who hath raised [Jesus] from the dead” (*Col 2:12*). Citing passages such as *Mk 12:26-27; Jn 8:51; 11:25-26; 12:25-26*, etc., does not make the case since there is not even a hint of a “resurrection” in these or others mentioned.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He (*Jesus*) also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (*Gen 3:15*); 15 And **deliver** them who **through fear of death** were all their lifetime **subject to bondage**. (*Emp. added*)

Fear is considered bondage whereas “the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made [us] free from the (*Mosaic*) Law of sin and death” (*Rom 8:2*).

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Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

- *Mat 22:32; Jn 5:25; Rev 14:13*. Presently (*hath*), faithful Christians, as priests of God, already enjoy the hope of eternal life...possessing the promise of it (*2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:14*). The faithful saint that hath (*presently, indicative of being in a current obedient state*) part (*Gk.2192, 3313- to hold an allotment*) in the

first resurrection (*having obeyed the righteous ordinance of baptism [Mat 3:15; Rom 6:3] into the body of Christ, the church, which consists of both spiritual realms- Paradise and on earth*) has a future home waiting in Heaven after the general resurrection when Christ comes to “present the church to Himself” (*Eph 5:27*). Having begun at Pentecost, the “souls under the altar” (*6:9*) were released having received their “white robes” (*6:11*) in order to reign with Him. Christ paid for their release (*along with that of the Gentiles according to Rom 2:14*) with His blood (*Mat 26:28*) thus they were “sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise” (*Eph 1:13*).

- Just as having a promised deed waiting once a mortgage is funded in full, we can redeem that home that awaits us, with having the down payment already paid toward it (*Eph 1:14*). The home we have here (*i.e., the church*) will go through a renovation process (*1 Cor 15:51-53*) when Christ returns in order to be fully without sin and be like Him (*1 Jn 3:2*). Only then will He present His bride to the Father (*1 Cor 15:28; Col 1:22*). But if we fall away from ultimately owning that heavenly home, we forfeit ownership. In this case we not only lose that residence in Heaven, we lose our eternal souls: *Heb 10:26-27*.

- Concerning the second death, death being a form of ‘separation’ (*2 Thes 1:8-9; Heb 2:15*), whether in the physical or spiritual realm, it has no hold over the faithful saint who has remained such until death.

Mat 7:13 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are **many**. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are **few**. (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

- Therefore, we (*of the church on earth*) are paid up and current on the heavenly mortgage **if** we remain faithful

to our mortgage Holder by taking care “lest there be in any of [us] an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (*Heb 3:12*).

- priests- presently, already enjoy eternal life, possessing the promise of it (*along with those reigning in Paradise- v. 4*): Act 2:39; Eph 1:13-14; 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6.

1Co 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law. 57 But thanks *be* to God, which **giveth** (*presently*) **us the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Emp. added*)

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Concerning verses 7 thru chapter 22:5 are things still **yet to occur**.

Rev 20:7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

"Very near the end, faith will practically vanish from the earth."- Burton Coffman.

Luk 18:8 ... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on earth?"

- Consider Israel- when she fully rejected God, as a kingdom (*spiritual- Eze 39:29*) she lost her existence/recognition (*Heb 8:13*). She only continued (*12:1*), as a remnant, through the church (*having been "grafted back into their own olive tree" [Rom 11:24], "the church in the wilderness" [Act 7:38]*) since physical Israel was rejected (*Rom 11:17-18*). These thousand years, as a reign, include those faithful (*Jew/Gentile*) to God of all ages (*Rom 11:26*): Rom 2:14, 28-29.

- Satan shall be loosed- Very shortly after his release (*v. 3*) and with the end of the thousand-year reign (*v. 9*)

will come the general judgment of all people who have existed since the beginning of time.

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Rev 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.

- With the release of Satan (*and his deceptive practices- 2 Cor 2:11*) the nations, as did the Roman Empire, once again resume a global persecution of the church and it won't be long before Christ returns: Eze 38-39.

- Gog-

G1136 Γῳγ Gōg *gogue* Of Hebrew origin [H1463]; *Gog*, a symbolic name for **some future Antichrist**: - *Gog. (Emp. added)*

H1463 גִּיגֹג *gohg* Of uncertain derivation; *Gog*, the name of an Israelite, also of **some northern nation**: - *Gog. (Emp. added)*

- Magog-

G3098 Μαγῳγ Magōg *mag-ogue'*

Of Hebrew origin [H4031]; *Magog*, a foreign nation, that is, (figuratively) an **Antichristian party**: - *Magog. (Emp. added)*

H4031 מָגוֹג *mâgôg maw-gogue'* From H1463; *Magog*, a son of Japheth; also a **barbarous northern region**: - *Magog. (Emp. added)*

1Jn 2:18 Children, **it is the last hour** (*written before 70 AD*), and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now **many**

antichrists have come. Therefore we know that **it is the last hour**. (*Emp. added*) (ESV) *(This passage concerns what led up to Jerusalem's fall and is not what John is referring to in the Revelation, which is the end of time and the destruction of all things physical- see also 2 Pet 3.)*

G500 ἀντίχριστος antichristos *an-tee'-khris-tos* From G473 and G5547; an **opponent of the Messiah**: - antichrist. (*Emp. added*)

- Gog and Magog will exist here once all nations and peoples in unison become hostile toward Christianity.

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Rev 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.

- The church is surrounded (3:12; 21:2, 10): Gal 4:26; Heb 12:22. When this will happen has been speculated by many of the modern denominational “prophets” who have made so many predictions of which have proven false since their timelines have come and gone, yet they continue to “prophecy” to their “unlearned” followers (2 Pet 3:16).

- camp- Gk.3925- *battle array, encampment or barracks*: -army (12:6, 14). This is known as “the church militant”. The beloved city (Heb 11:10, 39-40) serves as a fortress amidst the onslaught until Christ returns.

- The Satanic institutions (*religious/ secular/ political*) like the beast and the false prophet (19:20) will suffer God's wrath. The “beast” and “false prophet” are being reserved in torments (Lk 16:23) until the judgment (v. 12). Seemingly instantaneous after Satan's release will come his sentence (*see notes v. 3*): 1 Cor 15:52.

- from God out of Heaven- the origin of this judgment which will be evident and unbendable: Num 23:19.

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Rev 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.

- lake of fire and brimstone- See Mat 25:41.

- beast and the false prophet- Satan will here meet his ultimate fate. See notes in 19:20.

- day and night forever and ever- (*Dan 7:11*) Adding “ever” takes this phrase out of a special timeframe that lasts within the context referred to here. The context (*adding “ever”*) makes this phrase perpetual and never ending. Thus defeating the “doctrine of annihilation”. Speaking in ‘past tense’ recognizes this prophesy as being so imminent (*“prophetic perfect”*) as if it had already happened: Mat 25:41.

G1067 γέεννα *geenna gheh'-en-nah* Of Hebrew origin ([H1516] and [H2011]); *valley of* (the son of) *Hinnom*; *gehenna* (or *Ge-Hinnom*), a valley of Jerusalem, used (figuratively) as a name for the place (or state) of **everlasting punishment**: - hell. (*Emp. added*)

G5020 τάρταρος *tartaroō tar-tar-o'-o* From Τάρταρος *Tartaroō* (the deepest *abyss* of Hades); to **incarcerate in eternal torment**: - cast down to hell. (*Emp. added*)

Read Lk 13:27-29.

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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 away; and there was found no place for them.

- **great white throne-** (4:2ff) Described here in its purity and magnitude. The Occupant/ Judge (3:21) showing once again that Jesus **is** Deity! Read: Jn 5:27; 12:48; Rom 2:16; 14:10; 2 Cor 5:10.

- Immediately before the judgment the **physical** creation is completely dissolved. Read 2 Pet 3:10-13 with Rev 21:1-2.

G3772 οὐρανός ouranos oo-ran-os' Perhaps from the same as G3735 (through the idea of *elevation*); the *sky*; by extension *heaven* (as the abode of God); by implication *happiness, power, eternity*; specifically the *Gospel (Christianity)*: - air, **heaven** ([*-ly*]), **sky**. (*Emp. added*)

G4747 στοιχεῖον stoicheion stoy-khi'-on Neuter of a presumed derivative of the base of G4748; something **orderly in arrangement**, that is, (by implication) a *serial (basal, fundamental, initial) constituent* (literally), proposition (figuratively): - **element**, principle, rudiment. (*Emp. added*)

- **earth- G1093** γῆ gē ghay Contracted from a primary word; *soil*; by extension a *region*, or the solid part or the whole of the *terrene globe (including the occupants in each application)*: - country, earth (*-ly*), ground, land, **world**. (*Emp. added*)

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Rev 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 is the general judgment in which all people from every status/walk of life are to attend. Only those written in the book of life will “not come into condemnation; but [will pass] from death into life” (Jn 5:24).

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- books- According to Jay Lockhart (*The Spiritual Sword-Vol. 49/Jan 2018/ No. 2- pg. 43*), these books are the books of the Bible; the Jews under the Law of Moses will be judged accordingly, the Gentiles will be judged according to how they did “what the Law requires” (*Rom 2:14*) and those after that from “every nation”, are to be judged according to the inspired writings of the New Covenant. True. But in the context of this passage, after speaking of the book of life with the names of the faithful in it, this writer believes these books contain the names and deeds of the unrighteous according to what they had done.

Mat 7:13 "...and **those who enter** by it are **many**. (*Emp. added*) (ESV)

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- book of life- (*3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:15; 21:27*) This is the book that contains the names of the righteous since the death of Abel (*Mat 23:35*) and onward.

Mat 7:14 ... and **those who find it** are **few**. (*Emp. added*) (ESV)

Read **Exo 32:30-33**; Isa 4:3; Psa 69:28; Lk 10:20; Php 4:3; Heb 12:23.

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Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and Death and Hell (Hades) delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

- sea- The physical sea is to be destroyed along with the earth (*v. 11*). This sea is “before the throne” (*4:6; 7:15*); upon which the righteous dead stand whose names are in the book of life. It is also where Paul longed to go (*Php 1:23*). Notice how they are separated from the Hadean realm (*thus no longer separated from God in Heaven*) before (*1 Thes 4:16-17*) it is thrown into the lake of fire (*next verse*).

“The unseen realm of the dead, where conscious spirits reside until judgment, will have served its purpose, and all people who have ever lived will be consigned to one of two places: heaven or hell.”

Dave Miller, Ph.D. Apologetics Press © 2003
“One Second After Death”

Rev 7:15 "Therefore they are **before the throne** of God and serve Him day and night in His temple; and He Who sits on the throne will **shelter them with His presence**. (*Emp. added*) (*ESV*)

G1799 ἐνώπιον enōpion *en-o'-pee-on*

Neuter of a compound of G1722 and a derivation of G3700; *in the face of* (literally or figuratively): - before, **in the presence (sight) of, to.** (*Emp. added*)

- Death and Hades- (6:8) the rider of the “pale horse” took lives and Hades collected them (*2 Thes 1:9*). Here, as the two places of separation from God, they are consigned to the ultimate, eternal place away from the presence of Deity (*2 The 2:12*); unlike those from the sea “before the throne” (*4:6- Paradise*) (*Jud 15*).

- works- Of the saved they are “the righteous deeds of the saints” (*19:8*) done “in the Lord” (*1 Cor 15:58*) that will “follow them” (*14:4; Heb 11:4*). Of the lost they are “deeds of ungodliness” (*Jud 15*) committed “in vain” (*Mat 15:9; Mk 7:7*).

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Rev 20:14 And Death and Hell (Hades) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

- lake- Gk.3041- (through the idea of nearness to shore); a *pond* (large or small). Body of fire that will house these souls away from the presence of God (*Lk 16:26*).

- Once God accomplishes His divine purpose, these two elements of separation are cast into the only place

where any of God's creation will be apart from Him throughout eternity; Hell! (2:11; 21:8) Read Rom 5:13-17; 2 Thes 1:3-10.

- second death- (see notes v. 6)

1Co 15:26 The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed is death.

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Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Only those judged righteous (*who've taken part in the first resurrection*) will escape the torments of Hell and delight in the joys of Heaven.

Worksheet

Revelation: Chapter 20

1. What did the "angel coming down from Heaven" have "in his hand" and what do they signify? (v. 1)
2. Who did he seize, for how long is he to be "bound" and for what reason? (v. 2)
3. Explain the "thrones" and those "seated on them". What "authority" was given them? (v. 4)
4. What was the fate of those who held "the witness of Jesus"? (v. 4)
5. The reign of "a thousand years" is significant of what? What does it run concurrent to? (v. 4)
6. Who "is the one who shares in the first resurrection"? Explain what that is. (v. 6)
7. What is the meaning of "the second death" and why it "has no power" over those of "the first resurrection"? (v. 6)

8. What happens “when the thousand years are ended”?
(*v. 7*)
9. Who are “Gog and Magog” and what will they do to
“the camp of the saints”? (*v. 8*)
10. After “Gog and Magog” finish their task, what will
happen to them? (*v. 9*)
11. How long are “the devil”, “the beast and the false
prophet” to “be tormented” and where? (*v. 10*)
12. How does 2 Pet 3:10 relate with what will happen to the
“earth and the heaven” of verse 11 here? (*v. 11*)
13. Explain the difference between the “books” and the
other “book” and how “the dead” are to be “judged by
what was written... according to what they had done”.
(*v. 12*)
14. Explain “the sea [that] gave up the dead who were in it”
in verse 13.
15. What will happen to “Death and Hades” and why is it
considered “the second death”? (*v. 14*)
16. Why is it good to have your “name... found written in
the book of life”? (*v. 15*)