**Revelation Bible Study**

***Remember, Revelation is a book of comfort to the Christian!!***

**Chapter 20:1-10**

Camera angle Six

*Remember – What happens in these verses has been going on since the beginning of time and will go on until the Judgment.*

At this time view the picture labeled chapters 20:1-10. It describes the Binding of Satan.

The Restriction and Binding of Satan

**20:1-10**

**(Notes to help understanding)**

*20:2 Bound Him.* According to the four gospels, the devil was bound, conquered, judged, and cast out as a result of Jesus’ saving ministry, culminating in his death on the cross and his resurrection. Therefore, the binding of Satan took place at Jesus’ victory, accomplished by his ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension – at the beginning of the thousand years.

*20:2 Thousand Years.* The thousand years (10 symbolizing completeness, and a thousand being the cube of 10) represent a complete period of time whose length is firmly fixed by God—it is the entire NT period, beginning with Jesus’ vicarious atonement and Great Commission and ending with his second advent at the day of judgment.

*20:3 Free for a Short Time.* The devil will not be released in order to harm the church but only to gather all his servants and agencies together for their combined and final overthrow and everlasting damnation.

*20:4 Authority to Judge.* The way in which the church exercises judgment may be seen, for example, in Mt. 16:16-19 and John 20:1-23, where Jesus authorizes the church to open and shut heaven by forgiving the sins of the penitent and retaining the sins of the impenitent. These pronouncements by the church, of forgiveness or condemnation, are judgments proclaimed in the stead of Christ and on behalf of God.

*20:5 Rest of the Dead.* These are they who did not believe the gospel.

*20:5 First Resurrection.* Nowhere else does Scripture speak of two physical resurrections. Nor must one hear Revelation 20 as though it were speaking of two physical resurrections. Granted that this chapter does describe two different resurrections, the first one is spiritual and the second is one physical and bodily.

*20:5 Second Death.* This is the eternal death of unbelievers, damnation in hell.

*20:7 Released.* Now he is released to confront the church directly, and through devilish deceptions and force he attempts to keep the nations from hearing the witness of Christ as it is proclaimed by God’s people. The limitations and restraints placed upon him by God during the millennium are now removed so that the world becomes increasingly hostile and violent toward the church and the message of Christ. God will permit Satan to assault and nearly destroy his people so that he can show his might and saving grace as he delivers his church and judges Satan and casts him into hell. The church would be totally annihilated were it not for God’s direct intervention. Unless the Lord would cut short those days, no flesh would be saved (Mk. 13:20). God will use this testing of the church and her fidelity to her Lord Christ as a way to demonstrate the power of the Gospel and to judge Satan visibly. The church will be a witness to the sustaining power of God’s grace in his Christ, by which he holds his saints true to the End. That may well be the purpose for which God releases Satan. (CC)

*20:8 Gog & Magog.* Symbolize all the spiritual and moral evil with which the church must contend (cf. Eph 6:11). The OT background is Eze 38–39. Undoubtedly the same battle as the battle of Armageddon in ch. 19.

*20:10 Tormented Day & Night.* When the devil is thrown into the fire, all the church’s enemies are put out of action.

**Summary of 20:7-10**

These verses describe the last battle in which the dragon desperately attempts once and for all to destroy the church and her mission of witness to Christ. This is the third and last view in which John sees this great battle. In the sixth scene (the sixth trumpet-angel, 9:13–21) of the second sevenfold vision of events on earth (8:6–11:19), John saw for the first time a glimpse of this battle. He saw a host gathered at the great river Euphrates, restrained and held back until the predetermined time when they would be released just before the End. In the sixth scene (the sixth censer-angel, 16:12–16) of the third sevenfold vision of events on earth (15:1–16:21), John saw a second view of this last battle. That time he saw the gathered host unleashed and engaged in actual battle at Armageddon. And now for a third and final time here in 20:7–10 John sees this terrible last battle—its conclusion. (CC pp. 571-572)

**(Meditation/Discussion)**

1. What lessons did you learn from this section? How will they impact your life?
2. What comfort can you take from this section?
3. What is a favorite verse in this section?