

The Revelation – Gog and Magog

I know that it's been a while since I posted the last lesson. Things have been really hectic at our house since we arrived home with our little girl. I apologize for the delay, but I wanted to make sure that I could be focused on the lesson before posting. So, today we'll look at the next phase in history, found in Revelation 20:7-10, which says:

- (7) And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.

Maybe as we look at this we need a little review of the last lesson. In that lesson we found that Satan would be bound for a thousand years, commonly referred to as the Millennium or the Millennial reign. During this period the dead in Christ will be with him in the Holy City New Jerusalem. At the end of this period we were told that Satan must be loosed for a little season. This is the point that we reach in this lesson.

Now one question that comes to mind is, "Why must Satan be released to deceive the nations?" The truth is that the Bible doesn't directly tell us. I think, though, that we can make some inferences from Scripture. In order to do this I want to go to one of the parables that Jesus told. Matthew 16:19-31 says:

- (19) There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
- (20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
- (21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.
- (22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
- (23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- (24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
- (25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

- (26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that *would come* from thence.
- (27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
- (28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
- (29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
- (30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
- (31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

So you're probably asking how this has anything to do with why Satan has to be released after the Millennium. The key is in verse 31. You see, God is proving that those who are outside of Christ will never receive him, even though Christ has ruled and reigned in righteousness for 1000 years. Unless a person has received Christ as personal Savior and become a new creature (2 Corinthians 5:17) through the new birth (John 3:3) he is a slave to the sin nature that is passed down through Adam (Romans 6, 1 Corinthians 15). So all of those who are outside of Christ will choose to serve sin no matter what the circumstances. Circumstances will not be an excuse in the end.

Moving on we see that Satan gathers the people of the earth around the Holy City New Jerusalem for one final confrontation. This is the final culmination of the battle of the ages. While many have referred to Armageddon as the end, the real final battle is a thousand years later when godless Gog and Magog are gathered together against Christ.

The outcome of this battle is already written, although Satan refuses to believe it. You see, Satan knows that God is a God of mercy. He knows how reluctant God was to destroy the earth in the days of Noah. He knows that God wanted to spare Sodom and Gomorrah. He knows that God spared Nineveh in the days of Jonah. He's working on the hopes that God will change his mind and spare these millions (perhaps billions) of people. God, though, cannot lie (Titus 1:2), so this will happen just as God said.

For all of those outside the city this is the end of life. We'll talk more about what death really is in our next lesson on the Second Death. In the meantime, will you be inside the city or outside? Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life? If not it can be today. You do not have to be outside. If you'll recognize that you are a sinner and that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) but that Jesus paid the price on the cross at Calvary so that you might have eternal life, and ask God to come into your heart and cleanse you from all unrighteousness, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior you will receive the gift of everlasting life. Won't you call on him today?

I want to ask you to do something for me today. If you are a Christian I want to ask you to send me your testimony. It doesn't have to be anything elaborate, just a few words telling about what God did for you and the joy that you have in knowing that Jesus Christ is alive

in your heart today. If you are not a Christian I would also like to hear from you. I want to know what's in the way. I want to know your questions. I will keep your comments confidential unless you give me permission to use them in a future lesson. You can contact me at john@intotheword.org.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich