



I. Satan is Bound in the Abyss (20:1 - 3)

Verse 1

And I saw (horao)
an angel

coming down out of heaven,
having (echo = holding/owning)

1) **the key** (kleis) **to the Abyss** (abyssos)

The same abyss we dealt with at the fifth trumpet in Rev. 9:11.

2) **and holding in his hand**

a great chain. (halysis = handcuffs)



Note: 1) Unknown/unnamed angel
2) Hold the key to THE ABYSS
3) The means to completely control Satan

Verse 2

He **seized** (krateo = overpower/hold) **the dragon**, (drakon)

In case you are not sure who this is...

1) **that ancient serpent**, (ophis = sly, cunning, evil)

2) **who is the devil**, (diablos = slanderer/lying)

3) **or Satan**, (satanas = adversary/enemy)

and **bound** (deo = tie together) **him**
for a thousand years.

Five verbs of control in verses 2 and 3: 1) seized, 2) bound, 3) threw, 4) locked, and 5) sealed!

Verse 3

He **threw him** (ballo = physically cast someone or something)
into the Abyss,
and **locked** (kleio = to close with a key)
and **sealed it** (sphargizo = stamp for security) **over him**,
to keep him
from deceiving (planao = seduce) **the nations**
anymore
until the thousand years were ended. (teleo)

After that,

he **must** (dei = necessary) **be set free** (lyo = released)
for a short time. (chronos = human time)

Satan is taken out of the earthly equation for a period of time.

II. Saints Rule with Christ (20:4 - 6)

Verse 4

I saw **thrones**

on which were seated

those who had been given authority to judge.

Takes us back to Dan. 7:22. These are not thrones of kings but seats of judgement. The "judgement" spoken here is governmental authority.

And I saw

the souls

of those who

1) **had been beheaded** (pelekizo)

2) **because of their testimony for Jesus**

3) **and because of the word of God.**

4) **They had not worshiped the beast**
or his image

5) **and had not received his mark**
on their foreheads
or their hands.

They came to life (zao = physical existence – resurrected body)
and reigned with Christ (on earth)
a thousand years.

This is called the "millennial kingdom". In all there are over 400 verses in over 20 passages in the OT that deal with the this time when messiah will rule and reign personally over planet earth.

This is NOT limiting the ones who reign with Christ to those who died in the tribulation period – because the bride has already been resurrected and has been promised to rule with Christ already.

A Few Things We Know About the Millennium Period from Old Testament Prophecy

- I. Israel will be the superpower of the world (Isa. 2:1-3. Ezek. 17:22-24; Amo. 9:11-15) – Messiah will rule from Jerusalem.
- II. Only believers will be part of the millennial kingdom (Isa. 2:1-5; Zech. 13:1-9)
- III. No war during this time - there will be conflicts, but they will be judged and dealt with righteously by Christ and the saints. The flesh remains – people will still have to choose Christ as Lord and Savior. (Isa. 2:1-5)
- IV. Animal and human relationship return to pre-sin garden conditions. (Isa. 11:6-9)
- V. King David has a prominent role (Isa. 55:3-5; Jer. 30:4-11; Ezek. 34:23-31, 37:21-28; Hos. 3:5)
- VI. The rebuilt temple has a large role to play (Ezek. 40-48)

Verse 5

(The rest of the dead (nekros = physical death)
did not come to life (zao)
until the thousand years were ended.)

This is the first resurrection. (anastasis = to rise up or stand up)

This is called the “first resurrection” because there will be a second resurrection (general resurrection) right before the white throne judgement where all men will stand before the throne of God.

Verse 6

Blessed (markarios)
and holy (hagios)
are those who have part
in the first resurrection.

The second death (thanatos = more than death - separation)
has no power (exousia = authority) over them,
but they will be priests (hiereus - mediators) of God
and of Christ
and will reign (basileuo = rule/judge) with him
for a thousand years. (millennial period again)

III. Satan Leads the Final Battle (20:7 - 10)

Verse 7

When the thousand years are over,
Satan will be released
from his prison

} God remains in
absolute control
of Satan!

Verse 8

and will go out
to deceive (planao) the nations (ethnos)
in the four corners of the earth (from all areas)
--Gog and Magog-- (Ezek. 38-39)
to gather them for battle.

In number they are like
the sand on the seashore.

Even after the thousand years of Jesus' reign and without the evil influences of Satan – humanity still rebels against God and Israel.

Verse 9

They marched
across the breadth
of the earth
and surrounded the camp (parembole = army encampment)
of God's people, (hagios = saints)
the city he loves. (agapao polis = the beloved city)

Who are these people? Descendants of believers who followed an outward rule without an inward lordship. The heart is the matter!

But fire came down
from heaven
and devoured them. (kathesthio = to consume)

This was not a battle this was a demonstration, presented in the future to make a point in the present.

Verse 10

And the devil, (diablos)
who deceived (planao) them,
was thrown (ballo)
into the lake of burning sulfur,
where the beast
and the false prophet
had been thrown. (Rev. 19:20)

They will be tormented (basanizo = torture/harass/distress)
day and night
for ever and ever.

The beast and false prophet get to enjoy the devils presence in hell – the devil is not in charge of hell – he is in torment in hell.

IV. The Great White Throne Judgement (20:11 - 15)

Verse 11

Then I saw

a great white throne
and him who was seated on it.



Who judges all men? – answer – Jesus (John 5:22-30)

Earth and sky } This refers to everything and everyone on earth and in heaven.

fled (pheugo = to escape/vanish) from his presence,
and there was no place for them.

This scene takes us to heaven and the attention focuses on the throne of God and Jesus is seated in the judgement seat preparing to judge all unbelievers. Even though some would like to escape, there is no escaping this moment and this judgement.

Verse 12

And I saw

the dead, (non-resurrected)
great and small, (everyone)

standing before the throne,



This is not a trial – this is a sentencing! Our life is our trial!
and books (biblion) were opened.

This is the general resurrection of the dead. The bride (church = saints) have already been resurrected, the believers during the tribulation have already been resurrected – these are unbelievers who stand before the white throne from throughout the history of humanity.

Books?

Another book was opened,

which is the book of life. (Rev. 3:5; Phil. 4:3; Ps. 69:28)

The dead were judged (krino = measured according to truth)
according to what they had done (ergon = deeds)
as recorded in the books.

Jesus explains that the deeds that lead to judgement is the repeated rejection of Christ, God has sent, as the Holy Spirit knocks on each heart. (Matt. 11:20-24)

For those who never had the opportunity to hear the name of Christ, God will hold them responsible for their view of God that was possible in their environment. (Rom. 1:20)

Even believers will be judged, but not for sin, but for the way they lived their opportunities to serve Christ (I Cor. 3:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:10)

Verse 13

The sea

gave up the dead
that were in it,

and death and Hades

gave up the dead
that were in them,

and each person
was judged

according to what he had done.

} Those who were utterly destroyed

} Those who died unbelievers, who were in the “realm of the dead” (Sheol/Gehenna)

Verse 14

Then death
and Hades

were thrown into the lake of fire.

There was no further need for these places!

The lake of fire

is the second death. (thanatos = relationship than
function)

Final separation – eternal life without God = hell.

In other words, everybody has eternal life – the question is where
you will live it for eternity.

Verse 15

If anyone's name

was not found written

in the book of life,

he was thrown

into the lake of fire.

A summary statement. Make sure that your name is in the book
of life! This will be repeated in Rev. 21:27.