

## 95. The Book of Revelation—20:7-10

---

A message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier  
(10-13-22)

---

Find this weeks' Study Audio & Video [Here](#)

---

Tonight, in our study of Revelation, we find ourselves in Chapter 20 and what is commonly referred to as the **Millennial Kingdom**.

The word "*millennium*" comes from two Latin words—*mille* and *annum* which together literally means, "*a thousand years*" which is repeated 6 times in this one chapter—signifying that this will be a *literal* thousand-year period of time.

Tonight, we're going to start with verse 7—

**Revelation 20:7 (NKJV)**

**<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison.**

This takes us back to the opening verses of chapter 20 where we read—

**Revelation 20:1–3 (NKJV)**

**<sup>1</sup> Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is *the* Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**

The question is—*"Why does God let Satan out of prison after a thousand years of peace and paradise during the Millennial Kingdom to start causing trouble again by organizing another rebellion?"*

The answer is simply—*"Because the people who have been born during the Millennial Kingdom have never had to make a choice to willingly follow Jesus in their hearts."*

*Outward* conformity to Jesus' rule will be mandatory during His reign—but that doesn't mean everyone will inwardly love Him and want to obey Him from the heart.

It's like the story of the little three-year-old boy named William who stood defiantly when his father told him to sit down.

After the third time the father went over and placed his hands on the boy's shoulders and gently forced him to sit—to which the little boy responded, *"I'm sitting on the outside but I'm standing on the inside!"*

That's how it will be for many of the people who have been born during the Millennial reign of Christ—they will have no choice but to obey Him outwardly but inwardly many of their hearts will be full of resentment and rebellion.

So, Satan is here fulfilling the purpose of God by God allowing him to tempt these people so that they will have the opportunity to exercise their free will in deciding to submit to Jesus' authority *willingly*—or to rebel against Him *openly* by following the devil in one final rebellion against God.

God never forces people into heaven—this will be the “*final call*” to the unsaved people of the earth to make a choice to live with God in heaven forever by bowing the knee willingly to His Son or not.

**Revelation 20:7–9 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> **and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.** <sup>9</sup> **They went up on the breadth of the earth [‘on a broad plain’] and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city...**

Don't confuse “**Gog and Magog**” *here* with the ‘Gog and Magog’ of Ezekiel 38 & 39—

**Ezekiel 38:1-2 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now the word of the Lord came to me, saying, <sup>2</sup> “Son of man, set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the prince of Rosh, Meshech, and Tubal, and prophesy against him,

Here in Ezekiel, we see that ‘Gog’ is the leader of the ‘*land of Magog*’.

**Magog** speaks of the descendants of Noah's grandson Magog (Gen. 10:2)—they later became known as the ‘Scythians’ and inhabited the region north of the Black and Caspian Seas who were the ancestors of the people of Russia.

So, ‘**Gog**’ would be the leader of Russia and ‘**Magog**’ would refer to its people who will lead a group of Muslim nations to battle against Israel—probably sometime *before* the Tribulation Period begins (Ezekiel 38 tells us).

Many read **Revelation 20:8** with its reference to ‘**Gog and Magog**’ and try to associate it with the battle mentioned in Ez. 38 & 39 in that they believe that Revelation 20:8 is teaching that the battle mentioned in Ezekiel 38 & 39 happens—at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.

But listen, these are two different battles—in that in the war of Ezekiel 38-39 the armies come primarily from the *north* (the area of Russia) and involve only a *few* nations of the earth (mostly Muslim nations)—but the battle in Revelation 20:7-9 will involve *all* nations sending armies from every direction on the face of the earth.

Furthermore, nothing in the context of Ezekiel 38-39 is similar to the battle in Revelation 20—as there is no mention of Satan tempting anyone or of any millennial conditions existing upon the earth at that time.

Ezekiel 39:4 and verse 17 describe the invaders in that battle perishing on the ‘*mountains of Israel*’—but according to Revelation 20:9 the rebels in this battle will be destroyed on a “*broad plain*.”

As I said the timing of each of these battles is different—the battle in Ezekiel 38 & 39 coming before the Tribulation Period—and the one mentioned in Revelation 20 coming at the end of the Millennial Kingdom. So why does John, in Revelation 20, make reference to Gog and Magog with regard to this final battle?

The reference to Gog and Magog in Revelation 20 could simply be looking back (the Holy Spirit could be using it to draw our attention back) to the earlier battle mentioned in Ezekiel as a *foreshadowing* of this final battle—a kind of “preview” of things to come.

It may be the usage of “**Gog and Magog**” in this passage is similar to our usage of “Waterloo.”

Because Napoleon was defeated in the Battle of Waterloo, the term “Waterloo” has come to signify—a decisive or final battle of defeat.

So, too, I believe the reference to Gog and Magog in this passage speaks of Satan’s final battle against God and His people—a battle that becomes his own personal “Waterloo” signifying his final defeat and ultimate demise.

But also, we discover from Amos 7:1 (it only reads this way in the Septuagint—the translation of the Hebrew into Greek by 70 scholars in 270 B.C.) that “**Gog**” is the title of the leader of a powerful demonic army.

That being the case it could be that the reference to Gog and Magog in Revelation 20 could be referring spiritually to the same demonic forces working behind the scenes in the prophecy of Ezekiel—will be the same demonic hordes working through the final rebellion at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.

**Revelation 20:7–8 (NKJV)**

<sup>7</sup> Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> **and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.**

During the Millennial Kingdom there is going to be the greatest population explosion in the history of the world. The earth will be turned into a utopian, tropical paradise where the earth’s climate will be restored to the time prior to the Flood.

Food will be in abundance; sickness will be either non-existent or very rare; people will be able to live anywhere on the face of the earth because there will be no harsh climates. There will be no wars during this time; crime and injustice will not be tolerated as the people of this world will live under the perfect and absolutely righteous government and reign of the King of kings Jesus Christ.

Not only all of that—but God will restore the earth’s atmospheric canopy so that harmful radiation from outer space will be shielded from those living on the earth at that time allowing most people to live the length of lives spoken of in the Bible before the Flood came (upwards of 900 years).

**Isaiah 65:20**

"No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old...

All of this will cause the earth’s population to explode like never before in human history. Understand, the people born during the Millennial Kingdom will not be born ‘redeemed’—they will be born like we were on the earth—with a fallen sin nature.

These people will grow up, marry and have children—and all will be forced to outwardly conform to our Lord’s righteous rule during this thousand-year period—no rebellion will be allowed. (Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15)

Incredibly, many will not give their hearts to Jesus and be born again as the Millennium progresses—which explains why Satan will be able to gather a great army of rebels at the close of the Kingdom Age (Revelation 20:8).

The truly tragic thing to think about is that after living in paradise for a thousand years with all of these ideal conditions and with Jesus, the perfect King, on the throne—once given the opportunity millions (and probably billions) will chose to rebel and follow Satan in an attempt to overthrow Jesus as their King.

At this time Satan will be able to get many of those living in the Millennium to echo the cry of Jerusalem: *“We will not have this Man to reign over us.”* (Luke 19:14)

You might be thinking, *“Why will the Lord allow this to happen?”*—because God is love, and love requires a choice.

If my wife agreed to marry me simply because I was the only man on earth or because I held a gun to her head—our relationship wouldn’t be based on love, but on the absence of any other choice or by sheer force.

For a thousand years it only been Jesus—so, God lets Satan loose for a short season in order to give people a choice.

In one sense, the Millennial Kingdom will prove what God has said about the fallen heart of man throughout human history.

God said in Jeremiah—*“The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked.”* (Jeremiah 17:9)

God has said in His Word that fallen man is inherently evil—which Jesus made reference to in Luke 11—

**Luke 11:11–13 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Yet modern man says, *“I’m not basically evil—no I’m basically a good person—it’s my environment or my upbringing (or both) that has made me do bad things. It’s not my fault I’m a victim!”*

So, to silence man once and for all from the excuse that he is not really responsible for the evil things he does as he tries to blame everyone and everything else for his sin (*“Why am I being punished for Adam’s sin? If I was there in the Garden of Eden, I wouldn’t have sinned...”*)—God puts man in a perfect environment for a thousand years—paradise, just like He did with Adam and Eve.

But after a thousand years of living in heaven on earth many choose to turn against God and try to overthrow Him.

Look, the perfect environment will never produce a perfect heart—man is not the product of his environment (which can influence but not force him to be what he doesn’t want to be) he is the product of his fallen heart—which God says is deceitful and desperately wicked.

God never tries to *“repair”* or *“rehabilitate”* a fallen human heart—He replaces it with a new one through the new birth.

**Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV)**

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...

**Revelation 20:9 (NKJV)**

**<sup>9</sup>They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.**

“**The saints**”—does not refer to all the saints as we will be spread out over the whole earth serving the Lord during the Millennial Kingdom.

But this could possibly be a reference to the 144,000 Jewish believers in Jesus that served Him during the Tribulation Period and were eventually martyred by the Antichrist.

These could possibly be the saints spoken of here who will be living in and around the “**beloved city**” of Jerusalem which will be the place of Messiah’s throne and the capital of the millennial world during the Kingdom Age.

**Revelation 14:4–5 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from *among* men, *being* firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. <sup>5</sup> And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Whoever these saints are—they will be enjoying the glorious presence of the Lord Jesus Christ when the attack comes. Like Armageddon a thousand years earlier (19:11–21), the “battle” will not really be a battle at all but will in reality be an *execution*, as the rebel forces move in for the attack—“**fire came down from heaven and devoured them.**”

Satan’s forces will be physically killed, and their souls will go into Hades, the temporary place of incarceration for the unbelieving dead where they will await their final sentencing in eternal hell, which will take place shortly (20:11–15).

**Revelation 20:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> **The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.**

Once cast into hell, Satan won’t be ‘ruling’ there as the ‘king of hell’—he will be tormented like everyone else and no doubt more than anyone else forever and ever.

There he will join his cronies **the beast and the false prophet**, who by that time will have been in that place of torment for a thousand years (19:20)—“**where the beast and the false prophet are**” (verse 10)

The fact that the Antichrist and False Prophet are still being tormented in the Lake of Fire (Hell) after a thousand years refutes the false doctrine of *annihilationism*.

I’d like to spend the remainder of our time this evening setting things up for next week’s study. The main reason that people have such a hard time dealing with the reality of hell is because— they can’t reconcile it with the concept of a loving God (Matthew 25:41).

But also, because it’s just easier for them to dismiss the existence of hell than it is to get their life right with God—their logic goes this way, “*If hell doesn’t exist, then I have nothing to worry about and I can go on living the way I want*”— so they bury their head in the sand and pretend hell isn’t real.

Paul the apostle talked about those who suppress the truth of God because they want to live unrighteously. (Romans 1:18)

People can joke about hell—they can ignore it or dismiss it or try to get around it by saying it isn't really hot or that it isn't forever but none of that matters. The only thing that matters is what God has to say about hell!

Jesus talked about hell more than anyone else—in fact He talked about it more than He talked about heaven or even love, because—He didn't want anyone to go there! Yet today almost all evangelism is based on the love of God—but we hear very little based on coming judgment.

Jesus was the first *'hell fire and damnation preacher'* (John the Baptist was the last prophet of the Old Testament—Jesus was the first preacher of the New Covenant).

Jesus often talked about hell in the same sentence that He talked about heaven—

**Matthew 25:46**

And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Here not only did He talk about both heaven and hell in the same sentence—but He said that they were both eternal. You don't have to like it but you're going to have to live it (eternity in one or the other).

**So, you would be wise to accept the reality of hell  
and do something about it right now while there's still time.**

**By that I mean—repent of your sins and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.**

Here's the problem with most people today—they just don't understand the holiness of God or the severity of their situation as a violator of His laws (think of the Ten Commandments).

Here's how most people think—

*"I know I'm not perfect, but I believe I'm good enough to get into heaven because I believe I've done more good things in my life than bad. And so, because of it I believe my good deeds will outweigh and therefore cancel out the bad things I have done, and God will let me into Heaven."*

That folks is a very common way of looking at the problem of sin today—that 'good' deeds cancel out bad ones in the eyes of God—let's examine that reasoning for a moment.

First of all, that logic wouldn't even work in a court of law on earth with a flawed human judge presiding.

Imagine this line of defense coming from a person that had been arrested for stealing a car—

*"Your honor, you shouldn't punish me for this crime seeing as this is the first time I've ever stolen a car—surely all the good things I've done in keeping the law over the course of my life should cancel out this one violation..."*

That defense wouldn't work in a human court with a human judge—how much less would it work in the Supreme Court of the universe with the Righteous Judge of all the earth presiding!?

Yet that is the very defense many are planning to use when they stand before God someday—

- *"I know I'm a good person (not perfect but good enough) and when I stand before God I'll plead my case and show Him all the 'good things' I've done. I believe He'll be fair and let me into Heaven."*

**Proverbs 20:6 (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> Most men will proclaim each his own goodness...

**Romans 3:10-12 (NLT2)**

<sup>10</sup> As the Scriptures say, “No one is righteous— not even one. <sup>11</sup> No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.  
<sup>12</sup> All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.”

**Romans 3:23 (NKJV)**

<sup>23</sup> ...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

**James 2:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

*“In Adam all die”*—because all bear Adam’s guilt and thus we are born with original sin—and then everyday people add to that guilt by continuing to break the commandments of God.

The Bible teaches that we are not ‘good people’ who need a little help from God to be saved—it teaches that we are condemned sinners who condemned and doomed to spend eternity in hell.

Jesus came to pardon those who were already condemned—already pronounced guilty by God.

**John 3:17-18**

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**Only Jesus, the sinless Son of God in human form could take our judgment and atone for it completely.**

He alone is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world—

**1 Timothy 2:4 (NKJV)**

<sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Luke 19:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup> for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

**Ezekiel 33:11 (NKJV)**

<sup>11</sup> Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’

***“Today is the day of salvation, if you hear His voice do not harden your hearts...”***

Don’t put off making a decision to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior to another day—that day may never come—*“Our life is like a vapor—here today and gone tomorrow...”*

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower—please reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Want to know more? Click [here](#).

Reach out to us [here](#).