

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### "Satan Bound"

Revelation 20:1-3

#### Introduction

1. Chronologically, the text of Revelation has come to the end of the tribulation (19:17-21). Christ has come and the great Battle of Armageddon has been concluded. All human efforts to oppose God's purpose have been totally destroyed. The way is now clear for the next stage in God's plan for the ages.

2. The dispensational view of interpreting the Bible holds that there are three major groups with whom God works (1 Cor. 10:32): Jews (descendants of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob), Gentiles (all people who are not Jews), and the church (both Jews and Gentiles who have been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ which is the church (1 Cor. 12:12, 13; Eph. 1:22, 23). The tribulation focuses on Jews and Gentiles in judgment.

3. Now comes the next great event after the tribulation. All three groups (Jews, Gentiles, and church) are involved. Study and see how this is all worked out:

#### 1. WHEN?--the millennium Rev. 20:1-3.

That there is such a time period in God's purpose cannot be doubted. It is mentioned six times in this text (vv. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6). In this text, the focus is on Satan, a term meaning adversary. He is given three other names here: dragon (cf. 12:3), serpent (12:9), and devil (meaning slanderer). The language obviously purports this being to be a real person. He is not a force of evil.

It is an angel of God, who has an assignment relating to the keys of the bottomless pit, who figures in God's plan here (v. 1). He is more powerful than Satan (9:1-2). The chain should not cause any problem, for other beings are also chained (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). This angel deals with Satan. Five verbs tell the account: He is laid hold on (Greek: seized), bound for 1000 years, cast into the abyss, shut up and sealed there (both effective aorist verbs). This prohibits Satan from deceiving the nations (political term) for 1000 years (millennium). Following this period, he will be loosed for a short time (Greek: little time).

NOTE: Three "kingdoms" in the Bible: 1) Eternal kingdom: the timeless and eternal control of God over all things (Psa. 10:16; 103:19). 2) Theocratic kingdom: the development of

the eternal kingdom in time. One form of this is the mediatorial reign of Christ (reign of Christ for 1000 years on earth). 3) Spiritual kingdom: Present form of the kingdom where our Lord rules in the hearts of saved men today (John 3:3). The two phrases "kingdom of God" and "kingdom of heaven" are used interchangeably, depending upon the context, and may refer to the mediatorial or eternal kingdom.

## 2. WHY?--the purpose.

There have been various ideas about a millennium. Three major views obtain: 1) Premillennial view. This holds that Christ will come before the millennium as outlined in these studies, 2) Postmillennial view. This holds that things will get increasingly better and Christ will come at the peak of good times. 3) Amillennial view. This holds that there will not be a millennium at all. We believe that there are significant reasons for a millennium. Here are some of them:

a. It demonstrates God's kingdom to the world. Here is God's open show of what a theocratic kingdom is like upon the earth under the direct rule of Christ (Psa. 2; 110).

b. It demonstrates that a perfect environment, without God, is no solution to man's sin problem. Men still revolt against God at the end (Rev. 20:3, 7-10).

c. It demonstrates God's faithfulness to His promises (Luke 1:32). All the promises to Israel in the Old Testament will find literal fulfillment (Isa. 2:2-4; 9:6, 7).

## 3. WHAT?--the events.

Events on God's calendar for the millennium are provided in the Bible. Look at some of these:

### a. People

The church (19:14), nations (Matt. 25:31-34), and redeemed Israel will be there (Isa. 62:1-7).

### b. War (Isa. 2:2-4).

### c. Salvation (Isa. 52:7-10; 61:6; Rom. 11:15).

Conclusion Here is one of the great goals of God's history. It is the golden age for which all men have waited. Many think of it in nonbiblical terms. Here is the true account of its establishment. It begins with Satan being bound. What a magnificent hope for the true child of God. Hopefully, you are one of the redeemed to participate in this earthly kingdom of God. You can be if you submit to His rule in your heart today (Isa. 1:18; John 3:3, 5).