

Revelation 20.1-10

Time for All to Hear!

For MANY Believers THESE VERSES are MOST IMPORTANT of Book  
CONTROVERSY > Meaning of 1000 years > RAGING in Church for 2000 yrs.

3 or 4 WIDELY HELD Viewpoints > Presented and Compared in Many Books  
Difference btwn TEACHING & PREACHING > Teaching Presents ALL IDEAS  
PREACHING > Study ALL Ideas > Preach what YOU Think MOST FAITHFUL

CONFESSION > *PRO Millennial* > ALL FOR Rule and Reign of Jesus Christ  
That GOD will be Honored & Exalted in Church, World, in Me and this SERMON  
*PAN Millennial* > CONFIDENT ALL Will PAN-OUT in His Perfect Time & Plan

1. Savior Wins

2. Saints Wait

3. Servants Work

1. Savior Wins

a. Duh! > 2 Words: 'Jesus Wins!' Summarize Book > On Almost Every Page

Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler  
of the kings of the earth. Revelation 1.5

You are worthy...because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men  
for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. Revelation 5.9,10

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,  
and he will reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11.15

Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Revelation 19.6

OBVIOUS from Scripture > But is it OBVIOUS in OUR LIVES? Choices?  
Do we LIVE in the Daily, Conscious Acknowledgment > JESUS is LORD!?

b. Delegated > Jesus Wins by what HE DOES Himself & THROUGH Others

...among the lampstands was someone 'like a son of man,'... the seven lampstands  
are the seven churches Revelation 1.13,20

VICTORIOUS CHRIST leads a VICTORIOUS CHURCH

v. 4 those who had been beheaded because of their *testimony for Jesus*... They  
came to life and *reigned with Christ a thousand years*

INSEPARABLE UNION with Christ > thru All this Life, and All the Next  
v. 6 they will be *priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him* for a  
thousand years

Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him; if we  
endure, we will also reign with him. 2 Timothy 2.11,12

v. 9 the *camp* of God's people, the *city* he loves > Describes Church MILITANT  
MOBILE > Camping on the Battlefield / IMMOVABLE > Secure in His City

It is vitally important to note the presence of God's people . . . the beloved city  
right in the midst of the action. The faithful of God have not been 'raptured' out of  
the end time. In fact, they are at the very center of the action... Christians exist, not  
as some special group who will be spared the cataclysmic end of the world, but as  
those in whom God is present for the redemption of the world.

M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

Jesus Wins thru ANGELS OF GOD > Serve those who will Inherit Salvation  
vs. 1,2 *an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and  
holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon...*

The final unimportance of Satan is perhaps indicated in the fact that it is not the  
Father who deals with him, nor the Christ, but only an unnamed angel.

Leon Morris

ANOTHER UNNAMED WORKER > INCINERATES ENEMIES OF GOD  
v. 9 But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

c. Described > Jesus' Victory told by John AGAIN & AGAIN > Various Ways

WHEN SOMETHING THIS BIG HAPPENS > Can't Stop Talking About It!!

WORLD CONSTANTLY RETELLING Big Events > Red Sox win World Series  
Sept 11, 2001 / Tsunami in South Asia / Death or Election of a Pope

God saved Israel through Red Sea > 1000 years of OT Scripture REPEATS Theme

God sends SAVIOR to World > FOUR GOSPELS declare His Person and Work

God Saves SIN SICK, TWISTED WORLD > 22 Chaps of Revel > Jesus Wins!  
SEEN FINAL JUDGMENT of God ALREADY > 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls

|          |  |   |   |   |   |                              |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----------|--|---|---|---|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|          | Jesus 1 <sup>st</sup> Coming - - - - - |   |   |   |   | Jesus 2 <sup>nd</sup> Coming |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Seals    | 1                                      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6                            | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 7 |   |
| Trumpets |  |   |   | 1 | 2 | 3                            | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |   |   |   |   |
| Bowls    |  |   |   |   |   |                              |   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

ENDS w/ DETAILS of Judgment> Nature & End of 5 ENEMIES of God’s Church  
Dragon, Anti-Christ, False Prophet, Babylon, Those with Mark of Beast  
PARALLEL ACCOUNTS of ONE CLIMACTIC JUDGMENT DAY of LORD

INTRODUCED > One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, *I will show you the punishment...*” Revelation 17.1

- |  |
|--|
| A. People of God: Struggling Amidst Light and Creation, 12.1-2                           |
| B. Dragon: Satan, 12.3-6   |
| C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Beast (Anti-Christ) and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Beast (False Prophet), 13.1-8 |
| D. Bride of the Lamb: Presented in Purity, 14.1-5  |
| E. Babylon the Prostitute, 17.1-6  |
| E. Babylon Destroyed, 17.15 – 18.24  |
| D. Wedding of the Lamb: Preserved in Purity, 19.1-10                                     |
| C. Anti-Christ and False Prophet Destroyed, 19.11-21                                     |
| B. Dragon: Satan Destroyed, 20.1-10  |
| A. People of God: Secure Amidst Light and Creation, 21.1 – 22.5                          |

adapted from chiasm by Vern S. Poythress

Jesus 1<sup>st</sup> Coming - - - One Thousand Years - - - Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

Thousand Years is SYMBOLIC > LONG and COMPLETE Age or Time  
LIMITED Time > at End of Thousand Years > Satan loosed for While

The multiplication of visual features – key, chain, hand, dragon, throwing, locking, and sealing – underscores the symbolic genre of the entire vision. Dennis Johnson

TIME of MINISTRY OF CHURCH > ALREADY Described IN SYMBOLS

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| the Gentiles will trample on the holy city for 42 months | Revelation 11. 2 |
| my two witnesses will prophesy for 1,260 days            | Revelation 11. 3 |
| 42 months > 1260 days > 3 ½ years                        |                  |

d. Decisive > God JERKS Devil's Chain any way He Wants > His Will Be Done

vs. 2,3 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him.... After that, he must be set free for a short time.

v. 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

For he spoke, and it came to be...the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33.9,1

ETERNAL GOD Planned Course of History from ETERNITY to ETERNITY

v. 7 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison  
Does NOT SAY > Satan ESCAPED > RELEASED by JUST & MIGHTY GOD

| Revelation 12<br>Devil Described for First Time   | Revelation 20<br>Devil Destroyed for Final Time                                  |
|---|--|
| wondrous sign in heaven v. 1  | angel coming down out of heaven v. 1   |
| great dragon...ancient serpent...<br>devil or Satan v. 9  | dragon...ancient serpent<br>...devil or Satan v. 2                               |
| angels fought against dragon v. 7   | angel seized the dragon v. 2   |
| dragon...hurled to the earth v. 9   | dragon...thrown into Abyss v. 3  |
| his time is short v. 12   | bound for a thousand years v. 2  |
| <i>Now</i> have come the salvation...power<br>...kingdom...authority of Christ <i>for</i><br>accuser has been hurled down v. 10 | I saw thrones (of martyrs)...<br>came to life and reigned with Christ<br>vs. 4,6 |
| overcame by blood of the Lamb and<br>by the word of their testimony v. 11   | seated...given authority...because of<br>their testimony for Jesus v. 4          |

John FREELY USES SYMBOLS > Altering them from One Telling to the Next

Example > Revelation 4 Describes Heaven WITHOUT MENTIONING LAMB

THROWN to Earth // Into Abyss > Picture of GOD'S CONTROL over Satan  
 Short Time // 1000 Years > Man's Viewpoint or God's > DECREED BY GOD  
 MEANING > Satan under God's Sovereign CONTROL > Now Chained on Earth

The major point is that Satan will be finally defeated, and that even before that time God takes care of his saints and gives them enjoyment of the benefits of his triumphant rule. This assurance ought to comfort us, whatever our millennial position.  
 Vern S. Poythress

## 2. Saints Wait

a. Rescued > Satan BOUND > On God's Chain > Still Dangerous & Deadly

v. 4 those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus

when they have finished their testimony, the beast that comes up from the Abyss will attack them, and overpower and kill them. Revelation 11.7

If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints. Revelation 13.10

for they have shed the blood of your saints and prophets Revelation 16.6

IF Jesus' Millennial Reign from Ascension of X to just Before Return > As Stated  
 BIG QUESTION: How could this happen? How God's Saints Beheaded w/ AXE?

SIMILAR QUESTION > NO MATTER one's Millennial Viewpoint  
 NT TEACHES CLEARLY > Jesus is LORD and KING NOW

Jesus Announced before Ascension:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Matthew 28.18

Peter Preached on Pentecost:

God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Acts 2.36

Paul's Dying Confidence: The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4.18

DUAL Themes > Jesus Wins & Followers Suffer > Jesus Wins thru Suffering

Jesus to Church at Smyrna: Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you...Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2.10

These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?...They have come out of the great tribulation Revelation 7.13,14

b. Risen > Wearing White Robes, Seated on Thrones with Christ

The primary point of the millennium is to demonstrate the victory of suffering Christians. G.K. Beale

1) First Death > NORMAL EXPERIENCE OF ALL HUMANITY

man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment Hebrews 9.27

THESE SAINTS SUFFERED GRUESOME EXECUTION > With an AXE  
v. 4 those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus

ONE of WEAPONS > BOUND DEVIL Still HOLDS > FEAR OF DEATH  
Too Many Christians LET DEVIL USE THAT WEAPON ON THEM!! REFUSE!

he (Jesus) shared in our humanity so that by his death he might *destroy* him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and *free* those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death Hebrews 2.14,15

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10.28

2) Second Death v. 6 The second death has no power over them

Following FINAL BATTLE > SECOND DEATH for UNBELIEVERS ONLY

The lake of fire is the second death. Revelation 20.14

To the FAITHFUL CHURCH at SMYRNA > Jesus said:  
He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2.11

IF you've been BORN TWICE – thru Faith in Jesus Christ – Will Only DIE ONCE

### c. Reigning

v. 6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection.... they will be priests of God and of Christ and will *reign with him* for a thousand years.

Priestly and Kingly Status > derives from Believer's Union with Son / Priest-King

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has *made us to be a kingdom and priests* to serve his God and Father Revelation 1.5,6

v. 4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded > SOULS on Thrones

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to *sit with me on my throne*, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. Revelation 3.21

COMMENDATION for VALIANT HEROES > NOT ONLY MARTYRS SAVED  
Whether you DIED in SLEEP with Jesus OR DIED from SWORD for Jesus

ULTIMATE COMMENDATION > LOYALTY TO OUR LORD

v. 5 They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them. Revelation 14.13

You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and *sit on thrones* Luke 22.28-30

It is this kind of 'reigning' that enables faithful martyrs to go to death singing and forgiving their killers...that enables God's faithful to love their enemies and pray for those who persecute them... that enables the citizens of New Jerusalem to 'turn the other cheek', to go 'the second mile'... that enables a Mother Teresa to become a saint losing herself among the lowest and least of the dregs of Calcutta. It is a

‘reigning’ in which one gains one’s self by losing one’s self, lives by dying, wins by losing, is strong through weakness and exalted through lowliness. It is a ‘reigning’ that comes only by radical abandonment to the One who reigns forever and ever.  
M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.

## 1) First Resurrection

v. 6 those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them

Those true to Christ during the comparatively brief period of persecution will reign with him for a long time; it is worth dying to remain true to Christ. Harry Buis

v. 4 I saw *the souls* of those who had been beheaded

SOUL = DISEMBODIED SPIRIT > SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION  
IMPORTANT POINT > They’re ALIVE, LIVING with CHRIST, VICTORIOUS

AT MOMENT OF DEATH > BELIEVER IS TAKEN TO PRESENCE OF LORD

SAVIOR > REIGNING on a CROSS > LORD OF HEAVEN > Tells Dying Sinner  
I tell you the truth, *today* you will be with me in *paradise*. Luke 23.43

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be *away from the body and at home with the Lord*. 2 Corinthians 5.8

I desire to depart and be with Christ Philippians 1.23

BLESSED > BUT INCOMPLETE > Restored Spirit SEPARATED from BODY  
UNION of RENEWED SPIRIT and GLORIFIED BODY > at SECOND COMING

UNNATURALNESS of State > the souls of those who had been slain... called out in a loud voice, ‘How long, Sovereign Lord...?’ Revelation 6.9,10

## 2) Second Resurrection > GENERAL RESURRECTION, ALL MANKIND

v. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.

the dead, great and small, standing before the throne Revelation 20.12



The first resurrection, like the first death, is preliminary, while the second resurrection, like the second death, is final. Vern S. Poythress

FINAL BATTLE > Immediately Precedes > Second Resurrection of All Humanity

vs. 7-9 When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

SATAN > FREED FROM HIS DOGHOUSE > NOT UNLEASHED from Chain  
REMAINS INSTRUMENT of ALMIGHTY GOD > he Hastens Christ's Return

Sand on Seashore > Counterfeit Abrahamic Promise > the dragon stood on the sand of the sea shore... he was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the book of life belonging to the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world  
Revelation 13.1,7,8

GOG AND MAGOG > SYMBOL of REBELLIOUS MANKIND  
NOT Particular POLITICAL STATE or PEOPLE GROUP > Federation of Sinners  
SAME BATTLE Previously Described: Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war against the rider on the horse and his army. But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet  
Revelation 19.19,20

Ch 20 is FLASHBACK > What Happened BEFORE Jesus Came on White Horse  
Satan Organized the Nations in FINAL OPPOSITION to their Lord and Maker

John Paraphrases WORD OF JUDGMENT on Gog of Magog from EZEKIEL

The word of the LORD came to me: 'Son of man, set your face against Gog of the land of Magog...I will execute judgment upon him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.'  
Ezekiel 38.1,22,23

Chs 18,19,20 > Three PICTURES of FINAL BATTLE > God-Exalting Emphasis  
 ch 18 END of Babylon / ch 19 of Antichrist & False Prophet / ch 20 of Satan

### 3. Servants Work

What would Millennium mean to members of 7 Struggling Churches in 1<sup>st</sup> C Asia?  
 SAINTS in Glory NOT Reading John's Book or Hearing My Sermons  
 MESSAGE for STRUGGLING SAINTS > Church MILITANT > In Heat of Battle

1000 Years > SYMBOL LONG, LONG TIME > Longer than Any Man Lived  
 Even Methuselah > Oldest Man in History > ONLY Lived 969 Years  
 PRESS ON in Hope > You WILL GO to Jesus BEFORE He Will Come for YOU

When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth? Luke 18.8

a. Duty > Purity and Proclamation

v. 4 testimony for Jesus....They had not worshiped the beast

the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus  
 Revelation 14.12

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;  
 they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Revelation 12.11

EARLY CHURCH > Martyrdom was HIGHEST VIRTUE > Eager to DIE

PENDULUM SWINGS > 'Don't go there!!' > PLAY IT SAFE, CAUTION  
 TENT-MAKING > Secret Service for Jesus > Free from Gov't Knowledge

TENT-MAKING in NT > ECONOMIC SUPPORT STRATEGY  
 NOT Connected to DEGREE of PUBLIC DECLARATION  
 Paul THE Tent-Maker of NT > was OPENLY, OPEN! Everyone KNEW

These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here  
 Acts 17.6

AS WITH EVERY PENDULUM there is a PROPER BALANCE  
 Between PROVOKING YOUR MARTYRDOM through FOOLISHNESS  
 And DENYING THE MASTER through FEAR of MAN

## b. Deception > from Blindness to Blessing

### 1) Nations Blinded

FLOOD during time of NOAH > CHANGED Every Inch of Planet Earth  
BUT ONE THING did not Change > SPIRITUAL CONDITION OF MAN

BEFORE Flood God said: every inclination of his heart was only evil all the time  
Genesis 6.5

AFTER Flood God said: every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood  
Genesis 8.21

MAN'S EAR is TUNED to SATAN'S VOICE > Not his GOD & MAKER  
Satan, who leads the whole world astray Revelation 12.9

Paul at Lystra: In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Acts 14.16

advantage in being a Jew...entrusted with the very words of God Romans 3.2

Gentiles by birth... were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel  
and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in  
the world Ephesians 2.11,12

EVEN Righteous Jew Named DANIEL had PRAYERS Hindered in Pagan Persia  
Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain  
understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard,  
and I have come in response to them. But *the prince of the Persian kingdom*  
*resisted* me twenty-one days. Daniel 10.12,13

### 2) Satan Bound > PRIMARY ELEMENT OF MILLENNIUM

v. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him  
from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended.

Passage does NOT Mention > 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, World Peace, End of Suffering  
SIMPLY SAYS THAT SATAN WILL BE BOUND > WHEN does this Happen?

OLD MAN NAMED SIMEON > Dedication Prayer of Baby Jesus in the Temple  
 For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of *all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles*  
 Luke 2.30-32

AFTER Recording JESUS DEFEAT of Satan in Desert > Matthew Quotes Isaiah  
 ‘the people living in darkness have seen *a great light*; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned’ From that time on Jesus began to preach,  
 ‘Repent, for the *kingdom of heaven* is near.’  
 Matthew 4.16,17

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but *now he commands all people everywhere to repent*. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by *raising him from the dead*.  
 Acts 17.30,31

Not WILL BE Bound at RETURN > Satan WAS BOUND at Jesus’ RAISING Resurrection of Jesus > Spiritual Watershed for Nations > Good News for World

Pharisees Accused Jesus of Being EMPOWERED by Satan > SHEER FOLLY  
 How can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he *first ties up the strong man*? Then he can rob his house.  
 Matthew 12.29

WORD Used here for ‘Tying Up’ = Word used by John for ‘Binding’ SATAN

70 MISSIONARIES > Returned to their Commissioner the Lord Jesus with JOY  
 ‘Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.’ He replied, ‘I saw *Satan fall* like lightning from heaven.’  
 Luke 10.17-18

GREEKS Come to See Jesus > God Speaks from Heaven in Approval Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the *prince of this world will be driven out*.  
 John 12.31

Having *disarmed the powers and authorities*, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.  
 Colossians 2.15

He who deceived and defeated the first Adam has met his match, and more than his match, in the person of the incarnate Son, who is the Second Adam. The advent of Christ brought about a change in the relationship between Satan and the nations.  
 Philip E. Hughes

NOW Don’t WASTE TIME > Binding TERRITORIAL SPRITS > IF they Exist DON’T TALK TO SATAN or Prince of Persia or Demon over Almaty > JESUS!

The devil is not bound in every sense...A dog securely bound with a long and heavy chain can do great damage within the circle of his imprisonment...But there is one thing he cannot do. He cannot destroy the church as a mighty missionary organization heralding the Gospel to all nations. William Hendriksen

3) Nations Blessed > Not that ALL WILL COME but Now ALL CAN COME

PREMISE of Revel. > and Entire NT > Door for Ministry is Open GLOBALLY NEVER PROMISED that it will BE EASY or WITHOUT SUFFERING

Every time we see a new convert added to the church, Satan's inability to deceive the nations is proclaimed afresh. Michael Wilcock

BINDING OF SATAN > Described in CONTEXT OF MISSION  
70 M's who GO OUT to PREACH THE KINGDOM > GREEKS who Seek Him

SMALL, STRUGGLING EARLY CHURCH > Picked up this MANDATE  
CONFIDENT > Christ was Ascended > Therefore, ENEMY WAS BOUND

PENTECOST DAY Holy Spirit fell on > God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven Acts 2.5

PAUL to Gentile Colossians: *All over the world* this gospel is bearing fruit and growing...This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to *every creature* under heaven Colossians 1.6,23

LUKE Summarizes Ministry of Paul in FINAL VERSE of ACTS  
Boldly and without hindrance he preached the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 28.31

Believing the Millennium is NOW is BOTH a BLESSING and BURDEN  
Confidence in Christ: PEACE Now > Command of Christ: PREACH Now

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness...He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust...All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him...May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed... Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen. Psalm 72.1,8,11,17,19

\* \* \* \* \*

<sup>1</sup>And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup>He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

<sup>4</sup>I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

<sup>7</sup>When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup>They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God's people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them. <sup>10</sup>And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

