

## Revelation Chapter 20

### 1) Introduction

- a) The beast and the false prophet have been thrown into the lake of fire (19:20).
- b) The devil is going to show himself again and attack again, but not with the beast and the false prophet as his allies.
- c) The devil will finally join the beast and the false prophet in the lake of fire and sulfur, to be tormented day and night forever. (20:10)
- d) Referring to Revelation 20:1-6, Frank Pack said, “These few verses are used by many as the most important part of the entire Bible and the key to interpreting the whole of the scriptures.”
- e) “Victory” is the continuing theme in chapter 20.

### 2) The Binding of Satan (20:1-3)

- a) **1** Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. **2** And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, **3** and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.
  - i) The angel had authority over the abyss, to open and close.
  - ii) In chapter 12, the devil is depicted as powerful, sweeping a third of the stars from the sky, but he failed three times.
  - iii) Here, one angel is sufficient to apprehend, chain, and throw the devil into the abyss, then seal it shut.
  - iv) The reason: that he might not deceive the nations any longer.
    - (1) His agents of deception, the beast and the false prophets, were gone.
    - (2) Persecuting Rome was no more.
  - v) How long: for a thousand years.
  - vi) Is the thousand years literal?
    - (1) Was the beast with seven heads and ten horns literal?
    - (2) Does Jesus literally have a sword proceeding from his mouth?
    - (3) Are the 144,000 in chapters 7 and 14 literal?
    - (4) Psalm 50:10 - For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills.
      - (a) Does that mean the cattle on hill number 1,001 are not God's?
    - (5) Deuteronomy 7:9 - Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a **thousand generations**,
      - (a) Does God's steadfast love cease with generation 1,001?

- (6) A thousand years is symbolic – the people of God who have been persecuted will have no need of worry that he will deceive the nations again anytime soon. Rome was no longer a threat!
- vii) Jesus had bound the “strong man” (Satan) in order to cast out demons
- (1) Matthew 12:25-30 - Or how can someone enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.
- (2) Luke 11:14-23 - **21** When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; **22** but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.
- viii) Rev. 12:10-12 - **10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. **11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. **12** Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!"
- ix) A little while
- (1) Symbolic of a short time.
- (2) When Satan is loosed (see 20:7-10), the result is torment for him – forever and ever!

### **3) The Thrones of the Righteous (20:4-6)**

- a) **4** Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. **5** The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. **6** Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.
- i) *“If verses 4, 5, and 6 of chapter 20 had been omitted, no one would ever have dreamed of a literal thousand years of Christ’s reign upon the earth – his setting up a temporal throne in Jerusalem and inaugurating a millennial reign as an earthly monarch. Yet whole systems of*

*eschatology, theology, and philosophy of history have be constructed on the precarious basis of highly symbolic verses.” – Ray Summers*

ii) Thrones, authority to judge (20:4)

(1) Daniel 7:9-10, 26-27 - **9** “As I looked, **thrones were placed**, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. **10** A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; **the court sat in judgment**, and the books were opened. ... **26 But the court shall sit in judgment**, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. **27** And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

(2) A question which might be asked is, “Who were those seated on the thrones, to whom judgment has been committed?”

(a) 1 Cor. 6:2-3 - **2** Or do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? **3** Do you not know that we are to judge angels? How much more, then, matters pertaining to this life!

(b) Rev. 2:26-27 - **26** The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, **27** and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father.

(c) Rev. 3:21 - **21** The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

iii) the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. (20:4)

(1) souls were seen, but they came to life – verse 5.

**(2) Two groups**

(a) Those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God.

(i) Rev. 6:9-11 - **9** When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. **10** They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you

will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" **11** Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

(b) Those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

(i) Rev. 15:2-3 - **2** And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. **3** And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb,

(ii) Rev. 19:6-9 –

(3) What John saw is: the victorious saints – the overcomers!

(4) The devil had been bound, and now they sit in judgment over their persecutors.

iv) They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (20:4)

(1) To sit on the throne is to reign, reign with Christ.

(2) The faithful dead were alive and reigning!

(3) Here is a great contrast.

(a) Satan is completely bound (20:2-3)

(b) The martyrs and overcomers are completely victorious.

(4) It is not a new promise – the same promise has been made before.

(a) John 5:24 - **24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, **but has passed from death to life.**

(b) Eph. 2:4-6 - **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

(c) Col. 3:1 - **1** **If then you have been raised with Christ**, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

v) The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. (20:5)

(1) This is the first resurrection refers to the martyrs and overcomers - they are reigning with Christ.

(2) The rest of the dead are not God's people.

- (a) In contrast to the first resurrection, the rest of the dead did not keep the testimony of Jesus, but received the mark of the beast.
- b) Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years. (20:6)
- i) The first resurrection is of the people of God.
- (1) 1 Cor. 15:50-57 - [50](#) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. [51](#) Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, [52](#) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. [53](#) For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. [54](#) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” [55](#) “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” [56](#) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. [57](#) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. [58](#) Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
- (2) They only die once, (or are still alive and changed at Christ’s coming).
- (a) For the people of God, there is no second death.
- (b) Rev. 20:14-15 - [14](#) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15](#) And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- ii) They will be priests of God and of Christ
- (1) Rev. 1:4-7 - John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, [5](#) and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6](#) and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [7](#) Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
- (2) Rev. 5:9-10 - [9](#) And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your

blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, **10** and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

(3) 1 Peter 2:5, 9 - **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, **to be a holy priesthood**, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... **9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

iii) and they will reign with him for a thousand years

(1) Notes were included under verse 3 about the thousand years.

(2) 10 is a complete number;  $10^3 = 1,000$  – exponential completeness.

(3) For those who have overcome, been victorious, their service as priests will not be limited.

#### 4) The Devil's Future Attack (20:7-10)

a) **7** And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison **8** and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. **9** And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, **10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

*i) Much zeal is expended upon making this part of several different systems of eschatology – something foreign to John, who was simply following the command to write what he saw and heard (Rev. 1:11).*

ii) Satan will be released for a little while (20:3)

iii) And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison (20:7)

iv) and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. (20:8)

(1) Gog and Magog – ancient enemies of God's people.

(a) Genesis 10:2 - **2** The sons of Japheth: Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshech, and Tiras.

(b) Ezekiel 38:1 – 39:xx

(i) **2** “Son of man, set your face toward Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him **3** and say, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I am against you, O Gog, chief prince of Meshech and Tubal. **4** And I will turn you

about and put hooks into your jaws, and I will bring you out, and all your army, horses and horsemen, all of them clothed in full armor, a great host, all of them with buckler and shield, wielding swords. **5** Persia, Cush, and Put are with them, all of them with shield and helmet; **6** Gomer and all his hordes; Beth-togarmah from the uttermost parts of the north with all his hordes—many peoples are with you. . . . **39:11** “On that day I will give to Gog a place for burial in Israel, the Valley of the Travelers, east of the sea. It will block the travelers, for there Gog and all his multitude will be buried. It will be called the Valley of Hamon-gog. **12** For seven months the house of Israel will be burying them, in order to cleanse the land. **13** All the people of the land will bury them, and it will bring them renown on the day that I show my glory, declares the Lord God. **14** They will set apart men to travel through the land regularly and bury those travelers remaining on the face of the land, so as to cleanse it. At the end of seven months they will make their search. **15** And when these travel through the land and anyone sees a human bone, then he shall set up a sign by it, till the buriers have buried it in the Valley of Hamon-gog. **16** (Hamonah is also the name of the city.) Thus shall they cleanse the land.

- (ii) The message of Ezekiel - The devil can never gather an army big enough to threaten the city of God. That is a reoccurring message in the Bible. God raised up an army against Gog, of the land of Magog. The number of the soldiers of Gog and all his hordes was so large that it took the house of Israel seven months to bury them all. That number is estimated to be 400–800 million men. If all of those old enough to go to war in the world today were gathered into one army, the army might number about that many. No army has ever been that big.
- (c) It has been proposed that Gog is the name for Antiochus Ephianes, and Magog the name for the nation over which he was prince.
  - (i) This is not recorded in scripture but is discussed in the Jewish Talmud and in apocalyptic writings.
  - (ii) A Jewish revolt defeated Antiochus Ephianes and his army, thus giving Israel her only taste of freedom from the Babylonian captivity until Rome took possession of the land of Palestine.
  - (iii) The symbols serve well for the final attempt of Satan to defeat God’s people.

- v) And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, (20:9)
  - (1) When Satan deceives this time, he believes that a great army can defeat the people of God.
  - (2) The battle is very short – fire comes down from heaven and consumes them. Perhaps Satan had not counted on the forces of heaven being his opponent.
  - (3) The beloved city in this vision is probably Jerusalem with the camp of the saints outside the walls of the city.
- vi) and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. (20:10)
  - (1) The defeat of Satan is eternally final!

### 5) The Great White Throne (20:11-15)

- a) **11** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- b) I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it (20:11)
  - i) Rev. 4:2-3 - **2** At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. **3** And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.
  - ii) Rev. 4:9-11 - **9** And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, **10** the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
  - iii) That Rev. 20:11-5 is speaking of the final judgment may be understood from the following:



- (1) This judgment scene is preceded by something which is not found in any other judgment scene in Revelation – the banishment of Satan.
  - (2) This passage contains the basic elements of the final judgment day found in other parts of the New Testament:
    - (a) The dead are raised
    - (b) Everyone stands before the Lord to be judged
    - (c) The unredeemed go into hell
    - (d) The redeemed reign in heaven.
    - (e) Matthew 25:34, 41, 46 - [34](#) Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ... [41](#) “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ... [46](#) And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
  - (3) This judgment scene contains another element that is not part of any other judgment scene in Revelation – death is abolished.
    - (a) 1 Cor. 15:24-25 - [24](#) Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25](#) For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26](#) The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- c) From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. (20:11)
- i) One interpretation given by some is that they faded in the presence of the one seated on the great white throne.
  - ii) A second interpretation is the all attention will be focused on the one seated on the throne
  - iii) A third interpretation can be seen from the following scriptures:
    - (1) 2 Peter 3:10 - But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.
    - (2) Psalm 102:25-26 - [25](#) Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. [26](#) They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,
    - (3) Isaiah 51:6 - Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.

- (4) Hebrews 1:10-12 - **10** And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; **11** they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, **12** like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”
- (5) Rev. 21:1 - **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
- d) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. (20:12)
- i) A general resurrection, second resurrection.
- ii) All the dead, except those who were blessed to be part of the first resurrection (20:4-6).
- iii) Daniel 7:9-10 - **9** “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. **10** A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; **the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.**
- iv) Books were opened
- (1) John 12:47-48 - **47** If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. **48** The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- (2) This set of books may well be the Word of God.
- (3) Reference is also made to “what was written in the books” – what they had done.
- (a) The Word of God supplies that need, or it may be a recording of all that was done by those standing in judgment.
- (b) Exodus 32:30-34 - **30** The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” **31** So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. **32** But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” **33** But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. **34** But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my

angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.”

- (c) Deuteronomy 29:20 - The Lord will not be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the Lord and his jealousy will smoke against that man, and the curses written in this book will settle upon him, and the Lord will blot out his name from under heaven.
  - (d) Psalm 139:16 - **16** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.
  - (e) Malachi 3:16-18 - **16** Then those who feared the Lord spoke with one another. The Lord paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the Lord and esteemed his name. **17** “They shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. **18** Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him.
- v) Another book was opened, which is the book of life.
- (1) Daniel 12:1-4 - **1** “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. **2** And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **3** And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. **4** But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”
  - (2) Luke 10:17-20 - **17** The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!” **18** And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. **20** Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”
  - (3) Romans 2:5-8 - **5** But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed. **6** He will render to each one according to

his works: **7** to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; **8** but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.

- (4) Philippians 4:2-3 - **2** I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- (5) Rev. 3:4-5 - **4** Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. **5** The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and **I will never blot his name out of the book of life.** I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.
- (6) Rev. 13:8 - and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.
- (7) Rev. 17:8 - The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.
- e) And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. (20:13)
  - i) Neither the circumstances nor place of death will exempt anyone from standing before the judge.
- f) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (20:14)
  - i) 1 Corinthians 15:25-26 - **25** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **26** The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
- g) And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (20:15)
  - i) The soul does not die in this second death, but is eternally tormented, separated from God, hope, life, happiness, or anything this might be called good.
  - ii) Matthew 25:46 - And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."
  - iii) 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10 - **5** This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which

you are also suffering— [6](#) since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, [7](#) and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels [8](#) in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. [9](#) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, [10](#) when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

## 6) Conclusion

The devil had been bound for a thousand years to indicate that he had been perfectly and totally defeated in his use of Rome against the Lamb and His saints. He was going to be set free for a short amount of time so that the saints would know that even after Rome had fallen there would be others who would oppose the Church. The saints needed to be prepared for the opposition so that when it occurred, they would not fall. Revelation has the same message for saints today.

The authority to judge had been given to those who were sitting on the thrones surrounding the throne of God. These were representatives of the saints who had lived to see the fall of Rome. They were the ones who had died in faith to Jesus. They had been resurrected to reign with all their brethren who were still on the earth. The time of this reign is said to be “*a thousand years*” simply to indicate the perfect completeness of this reign. They were a part of the “*first resurrection*” because theirs was a resurrection to life.

The second resurrection is seen in [Rev 20:12-13](#) where John saw “*the dead . . . standing before the throne.*” These were “*the rest of the dead [who] did not come to life until the thousand years were ended*” ([Rev 20:5](#)). These were those who had died in service to the beast. They would endure a thousand years of death while the saints would be living and reigning. They would also have to endure a second resurrection which would take them to a “*second death.*” The “*second death*” symbolizes utter, total, irrevocable defeat for those who had followed Satan.

The final destiny revealed in the Book of Revelation is for those who follow the Lamb. There are two resurrections. The first resurrection is being raised to live and reign with Jesus in an abundant and complete life. The second resurrection is to death, but it is going to be an abundant and complete death. There is a choice to be made. Follow the world and receive the second death of an eternal fire or follow Jesus and receive the first resurrection into an abundant life. It is a life of perfect provision, perfect protection, and perfect fellowship where there will be no sorrow and every need will be supplied.