

IMPRISONMENTS OF SATAN

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First, let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

INTRODUCTION:

All believers are looking forward to the time when Satan, their archenemy, will be imprisoned and no longer able to attack them. This will happen in two stages, both of which are taught in this chapter. Satan will be bound for a thousand years (20:2) and he will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever (20:10).

AIM OF THE LESSON:

Teach the believers to think of Satan as their defeated foe and to trust Christ as their victorious Friend.

OUTLINE OF THE LESSON (use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you):

I. Satan Bound for a Thousand Years (20:1-3)

A. Place of Satan's Binding – 20:1

An angel will be given a key (the authority to open the abyss) and a chain (the authority to bind Satan). He will bind Satan in the abyss (the bottomless pit). This a deep place in Hades (Dt 32:22; Ps 86:13; Lk 8:31).

B. Period of Satan's Binding – 20:2

This angel has God's authority to lay hold of this powerful dragon and bind him for 1000 years, the entire length of the Millennial Kingdom.

C. Purpose of Satan's Binding – 20:3

Satan is bound so he cannot deceive the people in Christ's Kingdom and cause rebellion during Christ's rule of the earth.

APPLICATION: If you are a believer, you should think of Satan as a defeated foe and be bold. He will be bound during Christ's Kingdom when you are reigning with Christ on the earth for 1000 years.

II. Saints Resurrected for Christ's Kingdom (20:4-6)

A. Concerning the Judges (20:4a)

John sees thrones and judges sitting on them. Who are these judges? Are they the Apostles who will judge the 12 tribes of Israel (Mt 19:28)? This is not likely since they have not been specifically mentioned in this context. Are they the Tribulation martyrs that will reign with Christ (20:4b)? Not likely since these judges appear to be on their thrones before the martyrs are resurrected. The Church saints that just returned with Christ in His army (19:14) are the most likely ones to be the judges. They will judge the world (1 Cor 6:2); they have been judged by Christ in Heaven (2 Cor 5:10), so now they are prepared to be judges (19:7-8) when they rule with Christ in His Kingdom (Rev 2:26-27; 3:21).

B. Concerning the Martyrs (20:4b)

John sees the souls of those beheaded for their testimony of Jesus Christ and for the Word of God. They did not worship the image of Antichrist during the last half of the Tribulation when all people were told to worship the image or be killed. They refused to receive the mark of Antichrist so they could buy and sell food and goods (13:15-17). These believers had their heads cut off. However, they will be resurrected after the Tribulation and they will reign with Christ for a thousand years along with the Church believers.

C. Concerning the Unbelievers – 20:5

The unbelievers of all ages will be resurrected after the thousand-year reign of Christ and judged by

Christ at His great white throne (20:11-15). This includes the unbelievers that live through the Tribulation, but do not receive Jesus as Savior. They will be put to death before the reign of Christ (Mt 25:41-46). It also includes those that live through Christ's Kingdom, but do not receive Him as their Savior. They will die when they join Satan in his attack on Jerusalem (20:7-9). All unbelievers will be resurrected at one time to be judged and sent away to everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire.

D. Concerning All Believers – 20:6

All believers that have died will be resurrected, but at different times. Church believers will be resurrected before the Tribulation (3:10), the two witnesses during the Tribulation (11:11) and Old Testament believers and Tribulation believers after the Tribulation (20:4; Dan 12:1-2). Believers are blessed for two reasons: one, the second death in the Lake of Fire has no power over them; two, they will be priests of God and will reign with Christ for 1000 years in His Millennial Kingdom. Since Satan will be bound during this time, it will be a kingdom of peace and prosperity.

APPLICATION: If you are a believer, be fearless like the Tribulation believers. Remember that the followers of Satan may kill your body, but they will not be able to kill your soul. You will live and reign with Christ for one thousand years and then live with God forever in the New Jerusalem.

III. Satan Loosed for a Short Time (20:7-10)

Everyone that enters the Millennial Kingdom must be born again and receive the divine nature. Those who did not die in the Tribulation will be able to marry and have children, but their children will have sinful natures, so they will need to be born again. Many will live good moral lives, but will not receive Christ as Savior and be born again with a divine nature. They will go along with Christ's rules, but not from their hearts. There is no perfect society without the new nature that Christ gives to those that receive Him as Savior. Some believe that we can have a perfect society, if we live in a perfect environment. The Millennial Kingdom will be a perfect environment, but the sinful nature of each person born during those thousand years will need to be born again by the Holy Spirit. Those who are not born again will eventually rebel against the Lord. When Satan is released from his prison, he will go to these unbelievers and attract them to follow him. He will deceive them and lead them in rebellion against Christ. They will attack Jerusalem and seek to kill Christ, so Satan can rule the earth once again. When he and his armies surround the beloved city, they will be destroyed with fire coming down from God out of heaven. Then Satan and all his followers will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever.

APPLICATION: If you are a believer, you should be encouraged when trials come that the Lord will defeat Satan. You should rejoice that the Lord will imprison Satan forever. But, if you are an unbeliever, you need to heed the warning that Satan and his followers will be defeated and be in prison forever. You need to be born again (John 3:3). There is no hope for you without Jesus Christ as your Savior.

IV. Sinners Standing Before the White Throne (20:11-15)

After the Millennial Kingdom, Jesus Christ will sit on His great white throne. Heaven and earth will pass away at that time (20:11). This is the end of the earth and the heaven where the sun, moon, planets and stars exist. All unbelievers that have ever lived will be resurrected to stand before the great white throne and be judged. They will be judged out of the books that contain the record of their works (20:12, 13). No mercy will be given to these unbelievers. They will receive what they deserve. When they are judged, all of them will be found guilty (Jam 2:10; Rom 3:23). As a double check, the Book of Life will be opened. Those who have received Jesus Christ as their Savior will have their names recorded in it. However, those who are guilty and whose names are not in this Book will be cast into the Lake of Fire (20:15).

APPLICATION: Have you trusted Jesus Christ to save you? If not, you need to do it now. You may die suddenly with no time to repent and receive Jesus as your Savior. Then you will be judged, found guilty and sent to the Lake of Fire to suffer with Satan and his followers forever. Do not let that happen to you.

FOLLOW CHRIST AND REIGN WITH HIM; FOLLOW SATAN AND SUFFER WITH HIM