

Prayer

The book of Revelation gives us a basic chronological outline of events related to the Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1).

Slide # 1

Revelation 1:19 – Inspired Outline

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- “have seen” – Past (Vision of Christ) – **Ch. 1**
- “which are” – Present (Church Age) – Ch. 2-3
- “after this” – Future (Post-Church Age) –Ch. 4-22
- - Scene in heaven –Ch. 4-5
- - Tribulation – Ch. 6-18
- - Second Coming – Ch. 19
- - **Kingdom – Ch. 20**
- - Eternal State – Ch. 21-22

The oldest book in the Bible is the book of Job. Here we see the reality of spiritual warfare as, on the one hand, Satan has his agenda, and on the other hand God has His agenda, and right in the middle is Job.

This describes the history of the world. God represents the power of righteousness, and Satan represents the power of evil, and caught in the middle is the mass of mankind. God desires all men to be saved; the devil wants all to remain lost.

God is sovereign over all. The devil is limited to what God allows. Humanity is responsible for what they will do with the truth of God. Left to themselves, mankind is hopeless and helpless, but God in His grace makes His truth known, for which people are then responsible.

In the coming day of the LORD's judgment, the truth of the Lord will eminently be made known.

Slide # 2

2 Thessalonians 2:9–12 (NKJV)

9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders,
10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie,
12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

When God's two powerful witnesses initially come on the scene in the Tribulation (Rev. 11), when the 144,000 Jewish evangelists initially come on the scene (Rev. 7), the TRUTH of God will be made known far and wide to where there is no excuse. But most in the world will reject God's truth so powerfully presented.

And for this reason God will send them the strong delusion of the Antichrist. And the world will believe what is called THE LIE – a very specific LIE, the ultimate LIE which is Antichrist's claim to be God. They will be deceitfully convinced by his manifestation of power, signs, and lying wonders. But note this will only be allowed to happen AFTER the world has flagrantly not received the love of the truth, after they refused to believe the truth.

This is the pattern of God in the history of the world. He presents His truth to people, and if they persistently reject He then gives them over to a reprobate mind whereby they are completely deceived.

Slide # 3

Romans 1:18–19 (NKJV)

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

And the text then goes on to say in Romans 1:20 that they are therefore ***“without excuse.”***

It is not that God did not make His truth available! He did, and people are then accountable for it! This is the great issue in the day of the Lord.

Slide # 4**Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)**

10 Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, **to test those who dwell on the earth.**

Note the purpose of the tribulation period is to TEST those who dwell on the earth.

The trials of this period are designed to test the wicked, either to lead them to repentance or to punish them for failing to repent (cf. 9:20; 11:13; 16:11). – **Robert Thomas**

As we have come to the end of the Tribulation Period, we find that many have come to faith and died for it, but also many have followed the Antichrist.

As God brings final judgments, the rebel earth is subdued. Heaven celebrates with the climactic praise word of “Hallelujah.” But as heaven is opened and Jesus appears on a white horse with the armies of heaven behind Him, Antichrist and his war machine declare war on the coming King of kings and Lord of lords. And then, just that suddenly, they are reduced to bird-food, and the Antichrist and his false prophet are consigned to the lake of fire.

In Revelation we have the activity of what is called “The Evil Trinity.” The devil never really comes up with anything original other than lies – he is the father of lies (Jn.8:44). Satan at every point tries to deceptively imitate God. Even the devil cannot conceive of anything greater than God. He never said, “I am going to be completely different from God.” No! Rather, he said, “I will be like the Most High” in Isaiah 14:14. We see this imitation even in the reality of the evil trinity.

Slide # 5**The Evil “Trinity”**

The Dragon (Satan) – Anti-God (Rev. 12:7-17).

The Beast – Anti-Christ (Rev. 13:1-10).

The False Prophet -Anti-Spirit (Rev. 13:11-17).

But the major player in the reality of spiritual warfare is always Satan. He is the “mastermind” behind it all. The Antichrist and the false prophet at the Second Coming are immediately cast alive into the lake of fire.

But now we see Satan himself being dealt with in Revelation 20.

Revelation 20:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

“I saw” denotes a series of chronological steps in the unfolding of events at the Second Coming.

John at this point sees an angel coming down from heaven. Some have supposed this to be Christ because they surmise that only Christ can really put Satan away like this.

However, Christ is never presented as an angel AFTER the incarnation. Prior to that, He does appear from time to time as THE angel of the Lord but never after the incarnation.

Some have suggested this may be Michael the archangel or some other powerful angel. However, we are not told the identity of this angel, as if to emphasize that any “no name” angel can do it at God’s authorization. In the end, ONE single angel binds Satan and confines him to the pit. This speaks of the overwhelming power of God working through the agency He has ordained.

This angel coming down from heaven (a holy angel) has the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

Key denotes authority to lock up – to put under lock and key.

Note that in Revelation 1:18 Christ is shown to have the keys of Hades and of death – therefore this angel is to be understood as being under the authority of Christ and acting on His behalf.

Bottomless pit is best translated “abyss” (a deep, immeasurable hole).

The Greek word used here is found 7 times in Revelation (9:1-2, 11; 11:7, 17:8; 20:1, 3).

It denotes a prison of depths in the lower regions of the earth – the netherworld or underworld (cf. 9:1-2). It is the place from which the antichrist comes back after he dies and comes back to life (cf. 11:7, 17:8). It is the place where Satan is said to be king of the demons who are confined there (cf. Rev. 9:11).

Many demons are currently being held there because they are evidently especially wicked demons (cf. 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). However, not all demons are presently there. Many are currently roaming free on the earth and working as Satan's army in the matter of spiritual warfare (cf. Lk. 8:31).

Slide # 6

Luke 8:31 (NKJV)

31 And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss.

It is from this place as seen in Rev. 9:1-12 at the blowing of the 5th trumpet that a large of army of demons will be released to torment people and wreak havoc on the earth during the Tribulation Period.

This realm of the underworld in the OT had a torment section and a paradise section, as seen in Luke 16. The torment section is still open for business, and that is what is in view here in Revelation – called “the bottomless pit.”

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There is evidently a special category of the very worst demons that are being held in a special place called Tartarus in 2 Peter 2:4. This evidently is the lowest compartment related to the Abyss. The demons that reside there relate to the days of Noah (1 Peter 3:19-20), who evidently in some form sought to corrupt the human race by cohabiting with human women (Gen. 6:1-4). They will never get out until the final day of judgment, as seen in Jude 6. Again, Tartarus is thought to be closely related to the Abyss (the bottomless pit), perhaps being the lowest region of it.

In summary, the word bottomless pit (Abyss) refers to the underworld, which is a place of confinement for evil beings.

The angel coming down from heaven had a great chain in his hand.

Some have mistakenly taught that ever since Christ's first coming Satan has been bound. Someone has retorted: "***Then he must have an awfully long chain***".

The fact of the matter is that at present Satan is not bound in shackles, which is what this chain pictures. Satan at the Second Coming will be subdued, tied up, and confined, but that is not true of the present. In fact, right now we find ourselves in a major spiritual battle with Satan.

Slide # 8

Ephesians 6:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand **against the wiles of the devil.**

12 For we do not **wrestle** against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Slide # 9

1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the **devil walks about** like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

Right now Satan has full access to the earth and limited access to the heavens. He is called the "**prince of the power of the air**" in Ephesians 2:2. Jesus called him the "**ruler of this world**" in John 12:31, 14:30, and 16:11. In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Paul called him "the god of this age." He is presently accusing God's people before God day and night (Rev. 12:10).

In Revelation 12, at the midpoint of the Tribulation, Satan will be **cast out of heaven** and confined to the earth. At that time he will be enraged, realizing that his time is short, and he goes to take it out on Israel and God's people (Rev. 12:13-17).

It is only at the Second Coming that Satan will be banished from earth as he is confined to the bottomless pit as seen here in Revelation 20:1.

2 He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years;

Although only Satan himself is mentioned, it would seem that his angels are also confined with him. In reality, the devil's angels are really an extension of him and his work.

For example, in 1 Peter 5:8, when it says, "the devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour," most think this applies not only to the devil alone, but also to his work through his organized army of demons. Also, in Ephesians 6:11 it speaks of standing against the wiles of the devil, but then immediately says we wrestle against the rulers of the darkness of this age (v. 12). The wiles of the devil involve not only him, but also all the demons who serve under him. So commonly when the Bible speaks of what pertains to Satan it also has in view his demons as they work in concert.

In the kingdom we see nothing of Satan's work or that of his demons. So it is reasonable that this binding of Satan by extension includes his angels (demons).

"This includes not only Satan but the demons as well. Their imprisonment will dramatically alter the world during the kingdom, since their destructive influence in all areas of human life will be removed." – ***John MacArthur***

This view would seem to be consistent with the prophecy of Isaiah 24:21-23.

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Isaiah 24:21–23 (NKJV)

21 It shall come to pass in that day **That the LORD will punish on high the host of exalted ones,** And on the earth the kings of the earth.

22 **They will be gathered together, As prisoners are gathered in the pit, And will be shut up in the prison;** After many days they will be punished.

23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed; For the LORD of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before His elders, gloriously.

In the book of Revelation, Satan is given four titles that pretty much define him and his activity. Those titles are “the dragon”, “the serpent of old”, “the Devil”, and “Satan” as listed here in Revelation 20:2.

The title “**dragon**” is used 12 times in the book of Revelation to define Satan. It is the name used most frequently for him in the book. It speaks of him being a powerful, cruel, and ferocious being.

Under God, Satan is the most powerful supernatural being in the world. And he is full of cruel hate. He comes to try and destroy anything and everything that relates to God! He is ruthless! Have you seen what he does to people? It is horrendous! He is a “dragon,” showing no mercy in his relentless pursuit to destroy.

Serpent of old: This title goes back to the Garden of Eden in Genesis 3. It speaks of his cunning, slick, smooth, deceptive nature. He is full of trickery and guile that is deceptively poisonous and deadly. He always is preparing to “strike” the unsuspecting. He comes off with “sweet reasonableness.” As the Bible says, “an angel of light.” (2 Cor. 11:14).

Devil: This name means slanderer, or accuser. It has the idea of malicious, destructive talk. The intent of slander is to destroy. Slander is the malicious spreading of lies. It is couched in deceptive lies.

Sometimes the truth needs to be shared as a matter of exposing, evaluating, warning, or confronting, and the mere sharing of truth is not slander. Slander is non-truth shared with the intent to harm! The devil’s world is a backwards world. The slanderer should be exposed but is often sided with because, in their depravity, they are very good at deception. Thus the innocent person is slandered and made to look like the bad guy, when the opposite is true. This is the devil’s game. He slandered Christ to death. He slandered the apostles to death. He slanders and damages all God’s children to the full extent that he can – and he wants to use you and me in the process.

Remember the very name DEVIL means slanderer! He is a master at what he does. And he uses people as his instruments!

Satan: Means adversary or opposer. He is the arch enemy of God and His people. Satan never does anything that helps you! His constant activity is against you! He is the ultimate enemy of all that is good and of God!

These four names form a good summary of the PERSON of Satan. He is a cruel, cunning, malicious-lying adversary who intends nothing but harm for people.

It is this being – Satan – who was behind the rebel CITY and the SYSTEM of Babylon. It was he who was the power behind Antichrist that swayed the entire world.

But now look – he is BOUND AND PUT IN PRISON – that is the bottomless pit by a single unnamed angel. He is not “all that” as he made himself out to be.

Slide # 11

Isaiah 14:15–17 (NKJV)

15 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

16 “Those who see you will **gaze at you**, And consider you, saying: **‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble,** Who shook kingdoms,

17 Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’

When the lost souls in the pit see the devil in person, they will be totally unimpressed. Here he is a total sniveling weakling with no power whatsoever. He is reduced to the bottomless pit as a nothing being!

And here he will remain bound for a thousand years.

Right here we are introduced to the reality of the Millennium, which means 1000 – 1000 years. And right here we face a major fork in the road – theologically speaking.

In Revelation 20:2-7, the phrase “a thousand years” is found 6 times. It is used in reference to Satan being bound for a thousand years and at the same time in reference to the 1000 year reign of Christ.

The great debate arises over how to understand “a thousand years” in this context! The most natural thing in the world is that “a thousand years” means “a thousand years.” Profound, I know, and yet huge numbers of theologians don’t take it for what it plainly says.

Taking the Bible for what it plainly says is called “The Golden Rule” of Interpretation.

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“When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense; therefore, take every word at its primary, ordinary, usual, literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context, studied in the light of related passages and axiomatic [*self-evident*] and fundamental truths, indicate clearly otherwise.”

–**Dr. David L. Cooper** (1886-1965),

As dispensationalists, we live by this rule! We interpret the Bible literally (meaning normally), allowing for figures of speech, etc., as we do in normal conversation. We don’t have one set of interpretive rules for one part of the Bible and another set of rules for prophecy. No, we approach the whole Bible with the same consistent set of hermeneutics (principles of interpretation).

This chapter serves as a Continental Divide of Scripture. If one follows a single, constant hermeneutical principle in interpreting Scripture, it will lead him to one perspective on this chapter. If, on the other hand, one should employ a dual hermeneutic (one for non-prophetic portions of Scripture and another for the prophetic parts), it will carry him to a totally different interpretation of this pivotal chapter.

- **Charles Feinberg**

This chapter presents the fact that Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years. If this chapter is taken literally, it is relatively simple to understand what is meant. – **John Walvoord**

Slide # 13

Chilias – (Greek) – meaning “one thousand”

Mille – (Latin) – meaning “one thousand”

Mille – one thousand

Annus – year

Millennium – One thousand years

For the first 300 years of the Church Age, the Church took “one thousand” years in Revelation 20 literally. There was no debate! It said it! That is the way it is.

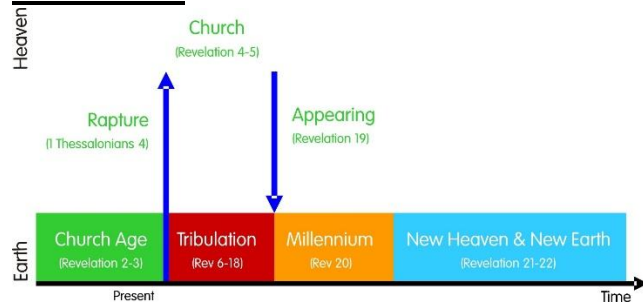
The Church historian Philip Schaff writes:

The most striking point in the eschatology of the ante-Nicene age [AD 100-325] is the prominent chiliasm [i.e., premillennialism]. ... Indeed, [it was the opinion of distinguished teachers, such as Barnabas, Papias, Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Methodius, and Lactantius.

The Bible spoke often in prophecy about this coming kingdom of Christ on the earth, but not until here in Revelation 20 are we introduced to it being 1000 years in duration.

However, note that the kingdom of Christ is an eternal kingdom, but that it has two phases. The first phase will be for 1000 years on this earth, and then it will segue into the eternal state with the new heavens and the new earth.

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What is in view in Rev 20 is the first phase – the 1000-year reign of Christ upon this earth as we currently know it.

However, after the first 300 years in the church age, a man by the name of Augustine [354-430 AD] came on the scene, and he decided that when it came to prophecy, it should be interpreted allegorically or symbolically. Many in the professing church have never recovered from this error!

In the Bible, the word for “year” is NEVER used symbolically – anywhere. And numbers in the book of Revelation are consistently shown to be used in their literal/normal sense.

“The fact is that no number in Revelation is verifiably a symbolic number. On the other hand, nonsymbolic usage of numbers is the rule. It requires multiplication of a literal 12,000 by a literal 12 to come up with 144,000 in 7:4-8. The churches, seals, trumpets, and bowls are all literally seven in number. The three unclean spirits of 16:13 are actually 3 in number. The three angels connected with the three last woes (8:13) add up to a total of three. The seven last plagues amount to exactly seven. The equivalency of 1260 days and three and a half years necessitates a nonsymbolic understanding of both numbers. The twelve apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel are literally 12 (21:12-14) The seven churches are in seven literal cities... [C]onfirmation of a single number in Revelation as symbolic is impossible.” – **Robert Thomas**

There is nothing in the text to render the conclusion that “a thousand years” is symbolic. Never in the Scripture when “year” is used with a number, is its meaning not literal.” – **John MacArthur**

The denial of a literal one thousand years is not because of the exegesis of the text but a predisposition brought to the text.
- **Harold Hoehner**

Now it is interesting that Revelation does not give us many details about this 1000-year period, but that the rest of the Scriptures do. Revelation just gives the summary version, but it does emphasize two major facts: 1) The duration will be one thousand years, and 2) SATAN will not be a part of it.

“Many of the details are missing from the Apocalypse because they have been told again and again in the OT, and the Apocalypse has other and greater themes to discuss. But if the details are missing, the duration is not.” – **John Phillips**

Following the GREAT TRIBULATION at the coming of Christ, is it like the world will enter a golden era – a period of GREAT CALM for 1000 years where Christ rules supreme without any interference as King of kings and Lord of lords (cf. Isa. 2:2-4; 11:6-9; 35:1-2).

It is interesting that the non-canonical book of Enoch, written about 200 years before Christ, said that the history of the world will run for 7000 years, with the last thousand being the millennium of blessing. So this is not a new idea.

Martin Luther believed the world's history would last **6,000 years** before the judgment of Christ. Various people have thought that since “with the Lord one day is as a thousand years” (2 Pet. 3:8), that the history of the world therefore corresponds to the 7 days of creation. In this theory, 6000 years of world history correspond to the first 6 days of creation, and then the 7th day of rest corresponds to the 1000 years of the millennium.

It is interesting that we are about 6000 years into world history, but the Bible is clear we are not to set any dates. Jesus was clear that no one knows the day nor the hour of His return (cf. Matt. 24:36).

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Acts 1:7 (NKJV)

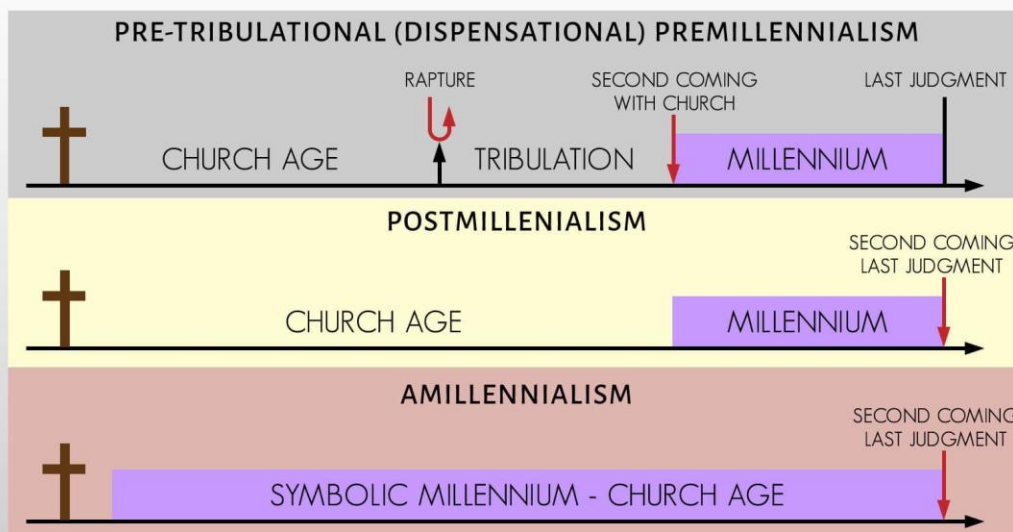
7 And He said to them, “**It is not for you to know** times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.

However, since the time of Augustine, three main views have been held about the one thousand years referenced in Revelation 20.

The great divide is over whether or not one thousand years should be taken literally, which I would argue that it should be. But there have been principally three schools of thought that have developed.

Slide # 16

Comparison of Christian Millennial Teachings



Premillennialism: This is the view that Christ will return to earth BEFORE the 1000-year kingdom on this earth. In my view, this is the RIGHT view. It is the literal, consistent view. It was the view of the early church.

Postmillennialism: This view holds that a golden age of righteousness will precede Christ's return to the earth. The spread of the gospel in this age will usher in this golden era until the world is essentially "Christianized" and therefore ready for Christ to come. This is the very opposite of what the Bible teaches. The Bible shows that prior to the return of Christ will be increasing apostasy – not the world getting better and better. This view did not get any traction until the 16th and 17th centuries. It gained traction under Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758).

Amillennialism: Is the view that there will be no 1000-year earthly kingdom before the eternal state. The millennium is being fulfilled spiritually in the Church age. Christ's millennial reign is happening right now in the hearts of believers. They "spiritualize" away huge amounts of Scripture to arrive at this position. This view came into prominence under the leadership of Augustine (354-430).

The fact is, 6 times in this chapter (vv. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7) we have reference to this one thousand year period of time.

A "literal" interpretation comes to the position of a premillennial return of Christ followed by a literal 1000-year reign on the earth which then gives way to the eternal state. Every other view must "spiritualize" the text. And that is to wrongly divide the Word!

Slide # 17

The Natural Flow of the Text...

The Second Coming (Rev. 19:11-21).
 Millennium/Satan Bound (Rev. 20:1-6).
 Satan Released/Final Rebellion (Rev. 20:7-10).
 Great White Throne Judgment (Rev. 20:11-15).
 Eternal State (Rev. 21-22).

3 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.

To “**cast**” means to thrust with force. People speak of being “thrown into the slammer.”

Shut him up is such a fitting phrase. Finally, Satan is going to be “shut up” for 1000 years. No more cruel destruction and undermining of people, no more cunning deceitful strategies being implemented on people, no more slanderous and malicious attacks, no more the influence of the great adversary. No, finally HE HAS BEEN “SHUT UP”!

The idea of shut up here is not just verbally, which certainly is part of it, but the idea is one of restrained and confined to a prison house, namely the bottomless pit also known as the abyss.

“Set a seal on him” is the idea of making the holding place secure. They set a seal on Daniel in the lion's den. They put a Roman seal on Christ's tomb. The idea was to make it as “secure” as possible. So the idea here is that of making this a tight seal so as to make escape impossible. Satan is not going to be able to pull a “Houdini” and somehow get out.

Note the incredible emphasis at this point:

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“bound him” – v. 2

“cast him” – v. 3

“shut him up” – v. 3

“seal on him” – v. 3

But here is the major point of WHY he is confined with absoluteness at this point:

so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished

The major activity of Satan is one of DECEPTION! His deceptive activity is over the truth of God! He misleads people, tricks them, fools them. He deceptively misleads them away from God!

They are led to think one thing when in reality TRUTH is something completely different. And the horrible thing about deception is that people don't realize they are being deceived. He completely fools them!

"A New York couple received through the mail two tickets to a Broadway musical. Oddly, the gift arrived without a note, and they wondered who had sent it. But they attended the show and enjoyed it immensely. Returning to their apartment, they discovered that their bedroom had been ransacked. Valuable furs and jewels were missing. On the pillow was this simple note: "Now you know".

– ***Our Daily Bread***

We need to realize DECEPTION is the major activity of Satan, and he is very good at it. He deceives the nations and the masses of people therein. The only thing I know for sure is the Word of God! Romans 3:4 says, "Let God be true; but every man a liar." I don't ultimately trust anything else! Jesus said to God, "your word is truth." (Jn. 17:17). The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of truth" (Jn. 14:17). Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man that He should lie." Titus 1:2 says, God cannot lie! The word of our God shall stand forever (Isa. 40:8).

"If any angel should appear on my window sill, I would tell him to wait a minute while I got my Bible to check out what he says."

– **A.W. Tozer**

Slide # 19

Revelation 12:9 (NKJV)

9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, **who deceives the whole world**; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

His influence is great and very pervasive. Put depravity together with a master deceiver, and you have the whole world deceived! It is amazing the sway the devil has over the entire world. 1 John 5:19 says, "the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." Ephesians 2:2 says the course of the whole world is according to "the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience." Paul called him "the god of this age" (2 Cor. 4:4), and Jesus called him "the ruler of this world" (Jn. 12:31; 14:30; 16:11).

Take him out of circulation, and the world will be completely different. People need leadership. Without the leadership of the devil, the world of unbelievers (that will again emerge in the kingdom through reproduction) will flounder. Satan is the great organizer of rebellion in the hearts and lives of unbelievers. He is their great leader, and they don't even know it!

He is constantly trying to deceive people concerning the truth of God as ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ. And his strategy of deception is very consistent as implemented from the very beginning. Note in verse 2 it says “the serpent of old.” His strategy and tactics are very consistent.

Slide # 20

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “**Has God indeed said**, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden’?”

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The serpent did not tempt Adam and Eve to steal, to kill, to commit adultery; he simply tempted them to question God's Word.

Satan’s whole thing is to try and get people to not believe God. At issue is a TRUTH WAR! God’s people side with the truth of God as found in Christ; the devil’s people are deceived and therefore don’t believe the truth. The whole issue is over TRUTH!

The devil is not omniscient, but he and his demonic forces do interact with what goes on in the heart. Jesus said when the word is sown, the devil comes and takes the word out of the hardened heart (Lk. 8:12). Paul said the god of this age blinds the minds of those who do not believe (2 Cor. 4:4). Even for us as believers, the battle is in the mind and heart. Putting on the full armor of God means applying the TRUTH of God as a full covering as we wrestle with the forces of darkness (Eph. 6:11-13).

In Acts 5, Peter said to Ananias: “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?” (Acts 5:3) That is such an interesting text because it involves the activity of Satan in the heart, the Holy Spirit, and human responsibility! The point is Satan’s major work is all about DECEPTION! This is his specialty! God is the God of TRUTH, and Satan is the god (small “g”) of DECEPTION! And yet people are responsible!

Slide # 22

FIVE PREVALENT LIES OF THE DEVIL

- 1) ***I am a good person!*** God says, “There is none who does good, no, not one.” (Rom. 3:12)
- 2) ***You are saved by FAITH plus good works!*** God says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith...not of works...(Eph. 2:8-9).
- 3) ***All that matters is sincerity – there are many paths to God!*** God says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” (Prov. 14:12)
- 4) ***You have plenty of time – deal with it later.*** God says, “now is the accepted time... today if you will hear His voice do not harden your hearts” (2 Cor. 6:2, Heb. 3:7-8).
- 5) ***You are the master of your own fate!*** God says, all things are “naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Heb. 4:13)

Over and over the Bible warns, “Do not be deceived.” The only way to not be deceived is to know the TRUTH of God from the mouth of God as revealed in the WORD of God!

Slide # 23

John 18:37 (NKJV)

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say rightly that I am a king. **For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come** into the world, that I should bear **witness to the truth**. Everyone who is **of the truth hears My voice.**”

Jesus brought the TRUTH in full view to us. And as He Himself said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (Jn. 14:6) The truth war is over the TRUTH of Jesus! Satan deceives the world about God’s truth in Jesus, ultimately with his great counterfeit, the Antichrist, through whom he deceives the world!

Few things are more hurtful and harmful than being deceived. It absolutely is hateful, with no thought or concern about the individual being deceived.

NO MORE! During the one thousand year reign of Christ, God’s TRUTH will prevail upon the earth.

Slide # 24

Isaiah 11:9 (NKJV)

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

But note that Satan is only bound “**till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.**”

After the thousand years have passed, Satan will be released for a little while, and he will go right back to his work of deceiving the world of unbelievers who have been born into the world since the time of his confinement. (We will consider this in detail in verses 7-10).

But under these ideal conditions of the kingdom, we might expect that people everywhere would applaud the goodness of God, and love Him for His goodness! Surely such an environment would change the hearts of people – right? WRONG!

As we will see when Satan is released, the population explosion of the earth follows Satan once again in MASS, proving that no matter the environment or circumstances, the depravity of man is thoroughly hopeless apart from regeneration.

What this does is magnify the depravity of man and at the same time the GRACE of God who has given every opportunity – every arrangement possible for man to prove himself and to make good. But once again man proves Himself to be a total failure. We always are a TOTAL FAILURE apart from the GRACE of God!

At the coming of Christ, Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit. This will bring a complete cessation of the activity of Satan on planet earth. God's truth as found in Jesus will prevail!

In the meantime, Satan is still on the loose, and we find ourselves in the midst of a TRUTH WAR!

Which side of the WAR are you on? Unbelievers are the deceived children of Satan. True believers are converted to be the children of God because they have come to know and believe the truth as found in Jesus!

For us, as believers, our whole life now is about the TRUTH. To live according to the truth, to propagate it, to be faithful to it! I disagree with Martin Luther's “baptismal regeneration”, but I fully agree with this famous statement:

“If I profess with the loudest voice and clearest exposition every portion of the truth of God except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at the moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ, however boldly I may be professing Christ. Where the battle rages, there the loyalty of the soldier is proved. And to be steady on all the battle fields besides is merely flight and disgrace if he flinches at that point.” – ***Martin Luther***

God help us as children of the truth to faithfully stand for it. This is our calling! It's all about the truth – it's all about Jesus!

Jesus said, “the truth shall make you free” (Jn. 8:32), and then He said, “if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (Jn. 8:36).

Only the truth of Jesus can set you free from sin! Only Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life.” Every other way is a deceptive lie of the devil!

Come to Jesus! Embrace the truth.

Psalm 2:12 (NKJV)

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.

Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.