

Revelation 20:9-10 – Satan’s Final Defeat

Beloved in Christ: Hitler, when he was retreating in some parts of Europe, tried to booby-trap important buildings and installations so he could destroy as many allied soldiers as possible. Hitler thought: “We will lose, but we will take as many lives as we can as we lose. The allies might win, but we don’t want them to enjoy victory.” And in a way, this is how the Devil will act at the end of the world. He will know that he lost and that his judgment will be coming soon so he, his fellow demons, and his people will make one last effort to destroy God’s people.

But he and his cohorts will fail to destroy you. Why? Christ loves you, he gave you eternal life, and he equips you with everything you need to fight the Devil, your flesh, and this world and win. And you would think these things were enough. **But then Jesus will totally defeat Satan, send him to hell, and protect you in the fullest sense.** This is what God will declare to you today.

Our headings are:

Satan’s Final Stand

Satan’s Final Defeat

Our goals are: That you will learn **not to give in to Satan’s temptation as you spread Christ’s kingdom, but boldly live for Christ’s glory,** knowing that Satan will be defeated by the Lord who bought you with his own blood.

Satan’s Final Stand

9 They went up on the breadth of the land and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city...

1. With Satan loose for a while after the Gospel has spread to the ends of the earth at the end of the millennium, he will make one final stand...one last attempt to destroy Christians.

He knows he is going down...but like a losing army, he wants to take as many down with him as possible.

How can you know that the Devil knows he will be condemned forever? The Bible tells us. Demons know their end.

Luke 8: 31 And they begged Him that He would **not command them to go out into the abyss .**

At one time begged they begged Jesus **for extra time before their final torment in hell!**

Matthew 8:28 When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. 29 And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to **torment us before the time?**"

2. You may ask: Since the Devil is presently bound and only loose just before the world ends, is he inactive today?

Answer: When Satan killed Christ through his surrogates – the Jews and the Romans - he shot himself in the foot. Instead of destroying Christ, he himself was condemned and limited - chained. **But Satan’s present binding is not as if he has no active part in man’s affairs.** It simply means he was limited – much more than in the past. Yes, God always puts limit on Satan.

Job 1: 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not **made a hedge around him, around his household**, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

This is why you see fewer people possessed by evil spirits today. (Pre-millennialists have a hard time explaining this.)

3. John then described the visual of Satan’s last stand against God’s people.

He said Satan will surround God’s people – meaning he will attack them on every side. **This was similar to the Assyrian invasion of Israel in 722BC. Readers of the OT understood this similarity.** Let’s read!

Isaiah 8:7 Now therefore, behold, the Lord **brings up over them The waters of the River, strong and mighty**—The king of Assyria and all his glory; He will go up over all his channels And go over all his banks. 8 He will pass through Judah, He will overflow and pass over, He will reach up to the neck; And the stretching out of his wings Will fill the breadth of Your land, O Immanuel.

Israel belonged to “God with us” – Immanuel, so Immanuel – Jehovah God- Jesus Christ – would destroy and scatter the enemy of his people. In Isaiah’s case, the enemy was Assyria. Look what happens to them after they attacked God’s people.

Isaiah 8: 9 "Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, but it will come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us."

At the same time the readers of Revelation would remember God’s promise of surrounding them with his love...like Job above.

4. But what are some of the ways the Devil and his army of friends will attempt to deceive the nations when he is loosed?

They will do so not by directly contradicting God’s Word as most people would rebuff them, but they would do so...

a. By using doubts: Eve, did God really say: Don’t eat? Are you sure? Isn’t that too restrictive?

b. By using substitution: It is good to pray...but you can pray to any god alongside Jehovah. You can pray at home, you don't need church.

c. By using excuses: Adultery is wrong, but temptation is too strong. I'm too busy. It's too hard. It's someone else's fault. You don't know how cold my wife is or she is getting old.

d. By elevating man: Because you are wise, you know best how to worship God. You are so intelligent, you don't need God and religion.

e. By pretense: He encourages you to think that because God is making you successful in life, it is his approbation of your lifestyle. These people forget that God sends the rain on the just and the unjust so monetary success is not a sign of God's approval.

These types of deceptions are worse than putting a gun to one's head and demanding that one sins against God. They are worse because **they make sins appear more acceptable.** The Devil knows these are good because he uses them today.

5. So though surrounded by the Devil and his army as the sand of the sea shore, God's people will win.

The victory is promised to Jesus alone, Son of Abraham, who would have children as the sand on the sea shore. God's Word always comes true.

Genesis 22:17 - "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your **descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.**

Remember also Jesus' words that should make you look optimistically to the future:

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and **the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**

6. Lessons:

a. God truly loves and protect his people always.

Psalms 125:2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem, So the LORD surrounds His people **From this time forth and forever.**

b. And you need this protection. It is naïve to think the Devil and his cohorts are indifferent about your state. They want to kill.

Satan's Final Defeat

9... And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. 10 **The devil, who deceived them,** was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where **the beast** and the **false prophet** are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

1. Because the Devil will not leave God's children alone, fire will down on him and his human (Rome and Israel) and his evil angelic army.

This is the fire from God. During the Millennium many wicked people will hear the Word of God and will be pierced with the Sword of the Spirit and will be converted. But the Devil has no such hope...and no such desire. So he dies in God's judgment.

2. This fire is a draw back to Sodom and Gomorrah which were consumed in fire for their wickedness.

Sodom's fire was also for the protection of God's people. Isn't that wonderful?

Genesis 19:24 Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens. 25 So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **28** Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.

This was similar to the fire in Numbers upon Moses' enemies (Korah and the rebels) and for Israel's protection.

Numbers 16:33 So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly. 34 Then all Israel who were around them fled at their cry, for they said, "Lest the earth swallow us up also!" 35 **And a fire came out from the LORD and consumed the two hundred and fifty men who were offering incense.**

This was similar to the fire which burned up Elijah's enemies and protected the godly Elijah.

2Kings 1:12 So Elijah answered and said to them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men." **And the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty.**

This fire was similar to God's judgment on Edom – totally destroying them and saving Israel.

Isaiah 34:9 Its streams shall be turned into pitch, And its dust into brimstone; **Its land shall become burning pitch. 10 It shall not be quenched night or day; Its smoke shall ascend forever.** From generation to generation it shall lie waste...

3. Is it a literal fire that comes down from God to destroy Satan and his army?

We don't know. Whether it is a literally fire or not, (Can fire burn spirits?) it shows the true love that Christ has for his children. What we do know is ultimately the fire is brought through Jesus Christ alone.

4. And it is interesting: The Devil is released from being bound in hell...and all his forces

join him and then they are all defeated.

It is almost **like God set them up** to come against Christ and his people in order to destroy them. Imagine how this must have comforted the suffering saints – knowing their enemies would be finally defeated!

5. And remember, this destruction of the Devil is in the future when God's kingdom has spread and the knowledge of God has filled the earth.

This also means those who come up with name times and dates of judgment (like John Hagee did last year and he turned out to be a liar), lack true understanding of the text, the language, and the purpose of Revelation. They really need to leave the Chinese Premier, Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump out of Revelation. They need to see Christ's victory over his enemies, including the Devil.

6. What do Christians say?

Pre-millennialists say: The world will get worse and worse, Christ will come to snatch his people and the world will continue for a time after that for 7 years and Russia and China will fight Israel, around then etc. Then Christ will rule on earth for 1000 years. But their chronology is mixed up. They are easy to disprove.

A-millennialists say: We don't know how much God's kingdom will spread. The future is uncertain. (But what lacking comfort that would have been for the readers of Revelation!) This interpretation goes against the tenor of the book that was intended to comfort saints under trial! It is a book of glorious victories.

Postmillennialists say: The world will eventually largely be conquered for Christ and the Devil will be humiliated and destroyed at the end. What glorious revelation! Christ will have dominion. He will do what Adam was commanded to do but did not do.

7. Lessons:

a. Christ and Christians will win. We read this in the back of the book.

b. Don't fear. Patiently endure whatever suffering you may be called to do. Worship him. Work for him.

Conclusion:

The Devil with his army will make a final stand against the Lord's people but he will be absolutely and totally destroyed in the end. This knowledge would have given the persecuted church much comfort during John's time.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Be encouraged again with the Lord's words through Isaiah. *"Isaiah 8:9 "Be shattered, O you peoples, and be broken in pieces! Give ear, all you from far countries. Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces; Gird yourselves, but be broken in pieces. 10 Take counsel together, but it will*

come to nothing; Speak the word, but it will not stand, For God is with us." What does this mean to you?

2. Be assured that God did not save you and abandon you. He is always with you. You are secured for eternity. He will ultimately and totally destroy your enemies in the end. What amazing love!

3. You can boldly face the worse situations in life...personal struggles – like divorce, difficulty raising kids, death, depression, disasters of all kinds...knowing they cannot overwhelm your faith and hope.

4. You can fight for the glory of Christ knowing none of Christ's elect will ever be lost. You will evangelize fiercely so the Lord will bring to himself those who are his.

Finally, Satan will die in hell with all those who refuse to believe in Jesus. But burning in hell is not the only thing that is bad. What is actually worse is the torture of the conscience (Their worm does not die) knowing that they will be eternally separated from God with no hope of salvation. Does this make you afraid? If it does (I hope it does), ask God to make you his child on account of Jesus. He will remove your fear and adopt you as his child.