Victory Everlasting Gospel Church

Sabbath June 3, 2017

**“Revelation Chapter 20”**

A Power Point Presentation

The title of today’s sermon is Revelation Chapter 20.

Let us pray …

In the 20th chapter of Revelation, John’s mind was projected into the future and we need to examine the different time periods in this chapter.

Vss. 1-6 occurs at the beginning of the millennium; vss. 1-3 will happen on earth while Vss. 4-6 will happen in heaven. Vss. 7, 8 and vs. 9 the 1st part occurs at the end of the millennium; verse 9 (2nd part) and vs. 10 are the executive judgment. Vss. 11-13 are the great white throne judgment; vss. 14, 15 the second death.

Revelation 20:1 **“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.”**

Revelation 20:2 **“And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,**

**And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more** **till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.”**

We need to **Review verses 1-3** and decipher what is really being said as we know that much of Revelation has symbolic meanings and these three verses are no exceptions.

In verse 1 we need to understand this ‘key of the bottomless pit.’ First the word key, what does it represent?

Here the symbolic Key represents literal power over something to be locked up. And the angel is symbolic of something God is about to do to the adversary of souls.

**The Bottomless Pit -** Greek word abussov, abussos, ab'-us-sos "abyss":--deep, (bottomless) pit. It means abyss, which is interpreted “deep.” It has the same meaning as the Hebrew word “teh-home” in Genesis 1:2; *“darkness was on the face of the deep*” an abyss, deep (place), depth.

Genesis 1:2; says, ***“And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep.*”**

This was the condition of the earth at the beginning of creation. Jeremiah 4:23 is the condition of the earth after the 7 last plagues. Listen,***“I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.”***

The earth once warmed by the light of the sun

Shall no longer receive its rays for the sun has burned out and the planet has been left, cold and dark. Jeremiah goes on to say in verses 24-28:

Jeremiah 4:24, 25 **“I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. I beheld, and, lo, [there was] no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.”**

**“…I beheld, and, lo, [there was] no man,…”** No living person that is.

Nothing but corpses strewn all over the face of the earth.

Jeremiah 4:26 **“I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place [was] a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, [and] by his fierce anger.”**

Total destruction of the earth. The many thousands of cities around the world were completely destroyed by the fierceness of God’s fury.

Jeremiah 4:27 **“For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.”**

When we studied the seven last plagues in Revelation 16, we read the following in verses 18, 20, 21:

**“…and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. “**

**“And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. …And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, [every stone] about the weight of a talent:”**

1 Thessalonians 5:3 says, **“… then sudden destruction cometh upon them, … and they shall not escape.”** See how Isaiah describes the same event in chapter 24;

Verse 1 **“Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, …”**

Verse 3 **“The land shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled: for the LORD hath spoken this word.”**

Verse 6 **“Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate:therefore the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left.”** Only bodies heaped like dung on the earth. Isaiah goes on to say in verses 19-22;

**“The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.**

**The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; …”** The mighty earthquake has knocked the earth out of its orbit and caused it to reel like a drunkard.

**“… and it shall fall, and not rise again. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high,** **and the kings of the earth upon the earth. And they shall be gathered together, [as] prisoners are gathered in the pit,** **and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited.”** The Bible makes it clear that the unrighteous dead would not be raised until the thousand years are finished.

And so this is the condition of the earth when the angel comes down to confine Satan.

Now let’s talk about the **“…great chain in his hand.”** You cannot bind a spirit being with a literal chain.

So what are these chains that bind Satan? God has removed Satan’s ability to leave planet earth.

He will remain here on this dark, cold, planet for 1,000 years and not have a single living soul to tempt.

He is bound by a chain of circumstances. He will be in prison and it will be a maddening hell to him. He cannot leave the earth, cold, dark, lonely, destroyed planet with no one more to tempt.

As he has plenty of time to consider what he once had in heaven and what he did to planet earth and mankind for the last 6,000 years.

Revelation 20:2 begins the 1,000 literal years of Satan’s confinement.

He will not be like this artist’s rendering falling into a never ending hole, but he will certainly be in a position where **“… he should deceive the nations no more, …”** as everyone is either in their graves or dead upon the face of the earth.

Deceiving is his skill and being unable to practice, that will be part of his punishment; but at the end of those thousand years, he will have a short time to once again work his deceptions.

Revelation 20:4 **“And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.”**

Did you notice that in the first part of verse 4, there will have been martyrs that were beheaded for not worshipping the beast and receiving his mark? This is future, after the National Sunday law is passed

Revelation 20:5 **“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This [is] the first resurrection.”**

Revelation 20:6 **“Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”**

Revelation 20 is indeed the millennium chapter as a thousand years is mentioned 7 times in the first 7 verses. We need to put this in perspective.

The word millennium is not found in the Bible. It’s actually an English word derived from two Latin words, “Mille” meaning one thousand and “Annum” meaning years. Hence a thousand years.

What events mark the **beginning** of the thousand years?

John 5:28, 29 where Jesus said **“Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.“** So Jesus confirmed the fact that there would be two reurrections.

Two resurrections separated by 1,000 years.

The resurrection of the righteous when Jesus comes; And the resurrection of the lost 1,000 years later.

There are 4 classes of people before the millennium begins. The righteous living and the righteous dead who are in their graves. Then there is the wicked living and the wicked dead who are also in their graves.

When Jesus comes the righteous dead are raised and the righteous living join them in the air as they go to meet the Lord as we have learned in the following scripture:

1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17 **“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:**

**Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”**

So all the righteous will go to heaven.

What about the lost when Jesus comes? It’s going to be like those poor souls trapped in the floors above the fires in the towers on 9-11. One minute it is life as usual, the next, realization sets in that this is your final hours of life and only death can bring the release from the terror being faced.

Revelation 6:14 **“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”**

Verse 15 **“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;”**

Verse 16 “**And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:”** I think of those who were jumping out of the towers to escape the tremendous heat as there was no possible rescue.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 **“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”** Who are some that are not obeying the commands of Jesus?

Isaiah 66:15 **“For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, … and his rebuke with flames of fire.** Isaiah 66:16 **“For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.**

Isaiah 66:17 **They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one [tree] in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.”** In China, fried rat is eaten by many.**eating swine's flesh, and the abomination,**  **and the mouse,** and baby mice are a delicacy in China.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 **“Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”**

2 Thessalonians 2:8 **“And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:”**

Revelation 6:17 **“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? ”**

Death, that is the lot of the living wicked at the time of the second coming of Christ. They will join the wicked dead and slumber in the darkness of death for 1,000 years,

Life, glorious eternal life to the faithful of all the ages, for Jesus kept His promise, in John 14:3,

**“… I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.”**

As the redeemed ones become the co-heirs of the New Jerusalem.

Let’s review the events that will be happening during the millennium.

The righteous are all in heaven;

The wicked remain dead;

Satan and his angels are bound on earth;

And the earth remains in a desolated state.

Now we will look at what events happen at the END of the millennium.

Revelation 3:12 **“…the New Jerusalem which cometh down out of heaven…”** will rest on planet earth.

Revelation 20:5 says, **“But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished.”**

Revelation 20:7 **“And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison.”**

Revelation 20:8, 9 **“And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea.”**

**“… the number of whom [is] as the sand of the sea.”**

Every lost person who has ever lived on planet earth will be resurrected in their whole bodies as they were before they died.

Revelation 20:9 **“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city.”**

**“…the beloved city:”** New Jerusalem which living inside are all the redeemed inhabitants, and for a short time all of the people who have ever lived on planet earth, multiplied billions of the saved and the lost, will all be alive at the same time

So all the lost are outside the city and all the saved are inside the city. At this crucial moment, what will stop everything?

Revelation 20:11 **“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”**

Verse 12 **“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is [the book] of life:** **and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.”** This is the time that all the lost of all the ages see their whole life’s record pass before them and they will understand why they are outside the city in their lost condition.

Jesus rises above the New Jerusalem and every eye is fixed on Him. Then Philippians 2:10 and 11 comes to pass, **“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;**

Verse 11 **And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Even Satan himself and all the evil angels are with bowed knees acknowledging Jesus.

Revelation 20:9 **“… and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”**

The fires from above come down upon the lost, mingling with the fires from below the surface of the earth. It’s the punishment of Sodom on a grand worldwide scale.

Revelation 20:14 **“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”**

Verse 15 **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

At this time the earth will burn with fervent heat and the atmospheric heavens will burn also. Every trace of sin will be destroyed and every piece of space junk that man has sent from the earth will be pulled back into the earth to be destroyed and the earth will be purified. The New Jerusalem will ride the waves of fire as Noah’s ark once rode the waves of the water that covered the earth.

2 Peter 3:10 **“… the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

2 Peter 3:12 **“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat.”**

Let us now summarize the events at the end of the millennium:

Christ, the redeemed and the New Jerusalem descend to the earth;

The unrighteous dead of all the ages are resurrected;

Satan is loosed for a little season;

The final judgment takes place;

Satan and all sinners are destroyed.

The earth is finally cleansed and renewed. This is the day, the re-creation, that we look forward to, when the meek shall inherit the earth. We will cover that subject in more detail when we do the final two chapters in Revelation; 21 and 22.

Once again as God’s people, we need to continue our search in matters pertaining to the prophecies of the last days.

Let us pray…