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Enough!
Revelation 20:1-10

Have you had enough? A quick read through the Sunday morning paper reveals too much suffering. Too much starvation. Too much terror. Too much death. Too much indignity. Too much prejudice. Too much hatred. Too many lives trapped in hopelessness. Too many politicians acting in evil ways. Too many brides. Too much deception. Too many lies. Too much sickness. Too much pain. Too much crime. Too many destructive drugs. Too much loose sexuality. Too little commitment. Too many sad faces. Too much poverty. Too much conflict. Too much sin. Too little joy and hope. Have you had enough? I sure have. Wouldn't you like to live in a nation free of crime? Free of suffering? Free of hatred. Free of danger? Free of immoral politicians. In fact, wouldn't you like to live in a nation where the President and judges are actually more moral and righteous than the people they lead. Wouldn't it be great to live in a world where there was not sadness. No sickness. No problem in paying bills. Plenty of wealth. No poverty or homelessness. No babies with birth defects. No nations at war with other nations. In fact no need at all for bombs or armies. Peace reigned and people lived in peace and kindness..all of this producing some of the greatest relationships and productivity ever known. Wouldn't you love to live in a world like that?

Our world is a far cry from that right now, but one day, Jesus will say enough and will return again to set up a righteous kingdom. Jesus will reign on this earth and rule as it should be. Perfect laws, perfect justice. It's people will be the saints of all ages, and Jesus shall reign. Wouldn't you love to live in a world like that? In order to get there Jesus must first deal with Satan. Read with me Revelation chapter 20:1-10
READ.

For thousands of years man has searched for the "golden age" Every year politicians promise a perfect world, but it never comes. One day Jesus will say "enough" and will deal with Satan and establish His kingdom and righteous rule on earth. I believe this will happen during a one thousand year period, or millennium. The passage we just read this

morning is one of the more theologically debated passages in the Bible because it describes a period of Jesus rule during a 1000 year time, or period. This is the only reference to a millennial period in the New Testament, yet in this chapter one thousand years is mentioned six times in six verses.

The word millennium is simply the Latin word for 1000. We are at the end of the second millennium or year 2000. Let me try and give you a very brief description of the debate on the millennium. There are those who believe in a literal 1000 years of Jesus acting as king of the world. Premillennial refers to Jesus returning again to this earth, pre or before the millennium, followed by the resurrection and judgment of the unsaved. This was the view found in many of the earliest church fathers writings, Papius, Justin Martyr, Iraeneous, Tertullian. When the disciples were instructed on how to pray in Luke 11 they were told to look forward to "Thy Kingdom come."

Another view is called Ammillennial. This is not a big scary theological word. The "A" in front of millennial, simply means no or not. Just like one who is amoral, has no morals. An ammillennialist does not believe there is a literal 1000 year time period of Jesus ruling on earth. Thus, those who hold to this teaching are called ammillennialist. Augustine in the 4-5th century held to this view. The amills believe there is no literal millennium or 1000 year reign of Christ. They would see this 1000 year period as a spiritual reign in the hearts of all believers. They would see the millennium as beginning when Christ first visited this earth, as a baby in Bethlehem. The ammillennialists are optimistic about the church, growing and maturing and getting better and more spiritual. The church then inherits all of the promised millennial blessing originally given to Israel in the Old Testament. This is a common view of those who hold to the reformed teaching.

A third view is labeled as post-millennialism. As opposed to pre-millennialism where Christ returns before the millennium. This view believes that Christ returns post, or after the millennium. The 1000 years represents the triumph of the gospel in the period leading up to the second coming of Christ. During this time, Christ reigns spiritually on the earth through the church and preaching of the gospel. This view holds that the world will eventually all turn to Christ where upon Christ

will be invited to come to the earth and rule and reign. This optimistic view was very popular until W.W.I and WW2 when it became painfully clear that the world was not getting better and better.

As you probably know by now, I hold to the doctrine of premillennial reign of Christ where He will literally reign on the earth for 1000 years and Israel will be prominent and Gentiles will be blessed. While the post mil and Amilentialists say that Satan was bound up at the first coming of Christ, it's pretty hard for me to believe that we are currently in the millennial bliss that the Old Testament speaks so much about. Even the Bible says that Satan is very active. I Peter 5:8 warns believers to be very careful for "Satan is an enemy, prowling about like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour." Ephesians 6 tells us to put on the armor of God in order to stand against the attacks of the devil. II Corinthians 4 Satan is a deceiver of the brethren. One look around this world tells us Satan is alive and powerful. The Amilentialist say that Satan is chained in the way that Satan is limited by the power of God, but that has always been true. Satan had to ask God's permission to afflict Job back in the Old Testament. To describe Satan as currently locked up is really stretching things. If he is, he must have a very long chain. This passage is easier to understand if it is taken in its normal literal reading, as if you were trying to understand any other book.

As we walk through this passage I want us to be aware of several things. One, God will deal with Satan. Two, God has planned a great nation for us to live in. Three, No matter how perfect the world might be, Christ is still needed.

Lets look at God dealing with Satan. Verse one in chapter 20 begins with "and" this is the Greek word kai, often used to describe continuation in flow of thought and time. In the previous chapter we saw Christ returning, the hope that the King is coming, was finally realized and the Beast and False Prophet, the political and religious rulers of the Satanically empowered Tribulation government are defeated. Verse 20 tells us the Beast and false prophet are tossed into the lake of fire. Now the events continue, it is a natural progression that God is now ready to deal with Satan Himself and usher in the millennium. Verse one, John sees an angel coming down out of heaven, holding a key to the bottomless pit or Abyss and a great chain. When God decides to deal

with Satan, He can even use an angel to grab him and chain Satan up and toss him into the Abyss, or bottomless pit. Note, Satan is not in the same place as the Beast and False prophet. They are tossed into hell or the Lake of Fire, eternal burning. Satan is in the temporary jail or Abyss. This was also the place where some of the demons were sent after the fall. Verse 2. The time Satan will be bound up and sealed up and locked down? The millennium. 1000 years.

Why is Satan shut up? Verse 3 so that he will not be able to use his Satanic power to deceive people for 1000 years. Although at the end of verse 3 it says that Satan will be let loose for a short time at the end of the millennium. We will discuss that in a few minutes. So here's the progression. At the end of the tribulation, Christ returns with his white robes army of saints, defeats the Antichrist, or beast and false prophet and all the rebellious armies of the world. The beast and prophet are thrown into the lake of fire and Satan himself is bound up with chains and thrown into the Abyss. Christ has banished Satan from any influence on the earth for 1000 years and now sets up His righteous kingdom on the earth.

The natural progression after God has dealt with Satan is to set up His righteous kingdom and place his righteous leaders in power. Jesus will demonstrate for the world what it is like to live in a place with Godly and perfect leadership. Won't that be an exciting time, having endured our present imperfect world? I can't wait to be a part of a nation with Jesus as President.

250 years ago Issac Watts wrote a song based on Psalm 98 called, "Joy to the World." It is usually sung to celebrate the first advent of Jesus when He came as a baby to Bethlehem. In fact, our church almost always sings this song to conclude our Christmas Eve service by turning out the lights, holding up our burning candles and singing "Joy to the World" but Watts never intended this to be a Christmas song. This better fits the second coming, or millennial reign of Christ. Let me read the words, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king. No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessing flow, Far as the curse is found. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness."

While this passage is the only place in the New Testament that refers to the millennium, there are many passages in the Old Testament that talk of the millennial reign of Christ. This period is sometimes called the Kingdom of heaven, or kingdom of Christ or kingdom of God or times of refreshing of the times of fullness. What will the millennium, the 1000 year reign of Christ be like? It will be a time of unprecedented peace. No wars. In Micah 4:2-3 it describes people beating their swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation and never again will they train for war. Sounds like a great place to live doesn't it? The United Nations has these verses inscribed over their doorway, but they won't be the ones bringing in this kind of peace. Only when King Jesus is installed as president will we see such a time, 1000 years of peace.

Even the animals will notice the difference of who is in charge. I guess it makes sense, because Jesus was co-creator of them. Isaiah 11:6-9 "The lion will dwell with the lamb and the leopard will lie down with the kid and a little boy will lead them. The cow and bear will graze together." There will be no need for zoos, for all the animals will be at peace with each other and be at peace with men. Sorry Bill there must be something even better than hunting in the millennium. I guess I will get exciting about catch and release fishing with barbless hooks.

The millennium will be a time of great prosperity. All greed will be eliminated. Isaiah 35:1-10; "The desert will blossom profusely as a rose" What a time. No worries about how you are going to pay those bills that are sitting on your desk. No over extended credit cards. No more debt. No more fights over how to spend money. No more cities filled with homeless street people begging for money. No more need for the Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity. The millennium under the reign of Jesus will be one of great prosperity.

The millennium will be a time of great purity. Sin and disobedience will be swiftly dealt with. It will be a holy kingdom operating in perfect justice. No more heresy, No more cults. No more false religion. NO more fortune tellers, no more satanic ritual abuse. No more psychic hotlines, no more red light district, no more horoscopes, no more crystal balls. The millennium will be a time of great health. Isaiah 65:20 "The one who dies at 100 will be thought to be accursed." Long life spans such as

happened before the flood seem to reappear. No more aches and pains. No more need for doctors or dentists. When the great physician is our leader and available, what need do we have of anything else?

The millennium will also be a time of great joy. Isaiah 35:10 "Everlasting joy upon their head they will find gladness and joy and sorrow and sighing will flee away." It will be filled with deep joy, like the warm sun after a winter of cold and rains. It will be filled with contentment like a comforting cup of hot chocolate in front of a crackling fire. It will be filled with exciting joy like children opening gifts on Christmas morning.

Isn't this the kind of world you would love to live in? Wouldn't you love to live in a world like that? Perfect laws? perfect justice? And we in our glorified bodies are perfected by Christ. Look now with me back in Revelation at verse 4. Believers will have significant roles with Christ during His reign. We believers will have a part in that sitting as judges. I Corinthians 6:2 tells us that we will be given the authority to judge. "Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?"

John sees a second group here in the last part of verse 4. These are the tribulation saints who have been killed for their standing up for Christ in the face of the antichrist and testified for Jesus. In the face of great pressure they refused to worship the beast or his image and refused to receive the mark of the beast on their forehead or hand. These too will come to life, resurrected at the end of the tribulation and will reign with Christ during the 1000 year millennium.

There is a parenthesis in the first part of verse 5, go ahead and write parenthesis around "The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed." John wanted the readers to know what was happening to the unshaved dead, but the verse break is unfortunate. This is not the first resurrection. That line refers to the previous and following verse. The first resurrection refers to the believers who are raised with Christ. Those who hold to the post tribulation view point to the verse as proof that there can be no pre-tribulation rapture of the church because it calls this one first. But is this even number one? No. Christ was raised from the dead after having been crucified and sealed up in a tomb. Back in Matthew 27 when Christ was raised from the dead the Bible tells us there were many other believers that were

resurrected at that time as well. These people were called the first fruit of many to follow. Lazarus was raised from the dead. In Thessalonians 4 it speaks of the dead saints begin caught up or raptured to meet the Lord in the air. Then it says the living saints follow close behind in being caught up to be with the Lord in the air. In Revelation 11 we studied about the two witness who were resurrected during the middle of the tribulation. And here the martyred dead of the tribulation are resurrected after Christ returns in His second coming, this is called the first resurrection. How? In what way can this be called the first resurrection? This is first in the sense that it is contrasted with the last or final resurrection. The first group to come to life are the believers. The second or final resurrection is left for the unshaved people to meet their maker and receive their judgment. It is called first in the sense that all of God's righteous are resurrected first before the unshaved. The first resurrections are only for believers. The second resurrection are only for unbelievers. Just as most people will endure the first death, or physical death. Believers do not have to endure the second death or spiritual death of eternal separation from God.

Verse 6 "Blessed and holy are all who take part in the first resurrection." For these, the second death, or spiritual death has no power over them. All who are part of the first resurrection will be saints and will reign with Christ for 1000 years.

What happens in the next verses makes very little sense to me. But God knows what He is doing. Verse 7 At the end of the 1000 reign of Christ on the earth. God lets Satan out for a short time. V.3 calls it short in relation to 1000 years. How long that will be specifically? The Bible doesn't say. But Satan is released. He doesn't escape. God lets him go back to doing what he has had thousands of years to work on. God allows Satan to do his work of deception of people on this earth. He is the great Deceiver, that is what he does best. The question is why? Why let Satan out? It doesn't make much sense to me.

Lewis Sperry Chafer the founder of the seminary I attended was asked this very question by someone. He answered, "If you tell me why God let him loose the first time, I will tell you why God loosed him a second time."

The people believers who are still living on the earth having survived the terrible seal judgments, bowl judgments and trumpet judgments. The believers who were not murdered by the antichrist, will go into the millennial kingdom with mortal, unglorified bodies. They will have children and repopulate the earth. With extended life-spans and a thousand years, it will rapidly multiply. It from these children of believers that Satan will do his work of deception to convince them that obedience to Jesus is optional and even rebellion might be a good and healthy thing. The terrible thing is that many, millions will again be deceived and gather to rebel against the good and righteous king Jesus. It is unbelievable to we who have known such terrible leadership. It's hard to imagine such actions against God in the face of such favorable circumstances having grown up in the kingdom of Jesus. Yet, they will be all born with a sin nature and the Bible tells the heart of man is desperately wicked, who can know it. Even perfect government will not solve the heart of rebellious man.

It could be that God allow Satan to be loosed for a short time, in order to demonstrate that man even in the most favorable, best of righteous circumstances will fall into sin if left to their own choice. Just as Adam and Eve fell to sin in the garden. Satan will deceive to expose the shallowness of some faith. It will be an easy time to be a obedient believer, but sometimes when faith is untested it is difficult to grow a strong faith. This will all be proof that following Christ is needed for salvation. It is only His death that will save all men.

So what happens. Satan gathers them together to fight. They surround the camp of saints, surround the Beloved city...possibly rebuilt Jerusalem. And are quickly, defeated as all are devoured by fire from heaven. Verse 10, The Devil, the deceiver will be thrown into the lake of fire, now joining the Beast and False prophet, never to be allowed to deceive again, tormented in pain forever and ever.

God deals with Satan. God then prepared a perfect place for us to live. Are you ready for a change in government? Are you tired of all the sin, all the deception, all the injustice, evil, murders, hatred, poverty, wars, murders, abuse? Are you tired of the hurt, sickness, pain, terror and fear? One day, God will say enough and send His Son to be our leader, our king, our president. I am looking forward to that time of joy.

That time of refreshing. Time of praise. Are you prepared? Are you ready to be there? Have you joined yourself with Jesus side? Now is always the right time. For there is salvation in no other for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby you must be saved. Jesus is the only answer for the world today among him there is no other. Jesus is the way.